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THE REGIMENTAL PAPER
OF THE BUFFS.



No. 552 November, 1945

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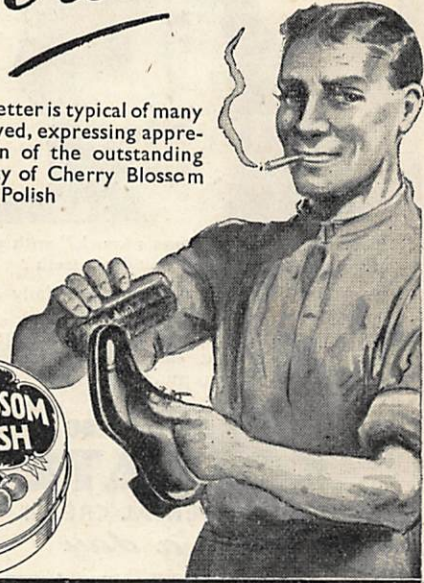
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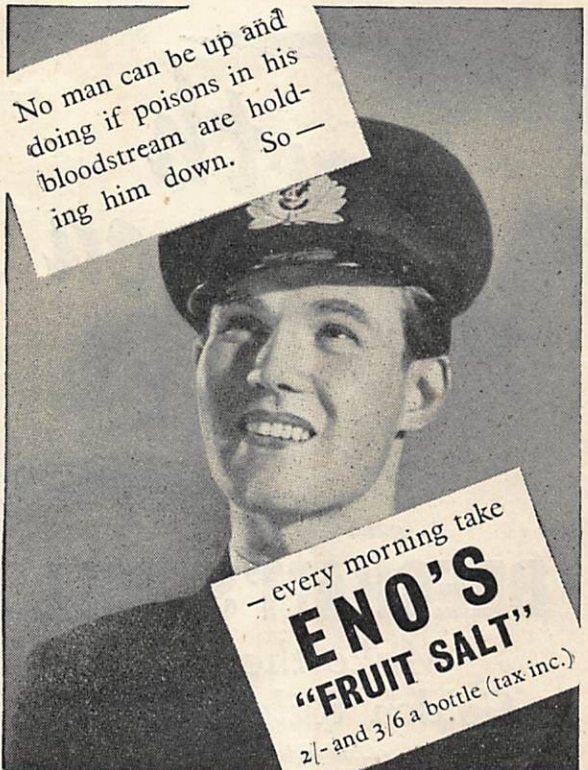
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No. 552

NOVEMBER, 1945.

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Personalia.

THE Colonel of the Regiment stayed at Canterbury in order to greet the officers and other ranks of the 2nd Battalion returned from India. Unfortunately he contracted a chill and was unable to do so, but was represented by Lieut.-Colonel C. E. Wilson who acted on his behalf.

Major-General the Hon. and Mrs. G. Scarlett have gone into residence at Stonegreen Hall, Mersham, Nr. Ashford, Kent. They will not, however, be settled in for some time to come.

On November 9th a detachment of three Officers and 114 other ranks, The Buffs, from The Training Centre, under command of Major P. Dare, proceeded to London, accompanied by a party of Buffs Cadets, to take part in the Lord Mayor's procession. The Detachment, The Cadets and the Band and Drums, are reported as having conducted themselves very worthily, the Drum Major by his precision in the use of his mace, very favourably impressing old Buffs who watched the procession. The event was unique in that it was the first known occasion on which detachments from the five units privileged to march through the City of London with bayonets fixed and drums beating, had done so together.

Colonel D. A. Wilkins has been appointed O.C. No. 1 Military Disembarkation Camp Group H.Q.

Brigadier J. G. Nicholson is Brigadier Intelligence at SACSEA where Major B. J. Harris-St. John is DAAG and Major B. Horley, G11.

We are sorry to hear that Lieut.-Colonel R. Groves Raines has been in hospital recently with a duodenal ulcer, a trouble from which he has been suffering from periodically the whole war.

His son Julian is a Lieut.-Colonel now in the R.A.P.C. and his other son a Captain in the Intelligence Corps.

Lieut.-Colonel J. F. Connolly is now Commanding the 1st Battalion the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment in India.

Major F. W. B. Parry is on embarkation leave prior to proceeding to take over the appointment of 2 i/c. of the 5th Battalion. Captain H. R. Grace is under orders to proceed to the 1st Battalion as 2 i/c.

We are glad to hear from Major B. H. Craig that he has made a satisfactory recovery from his wounds and is, at the moment, Category "B". He is with his family in Ireland and, so he says, being kept in good order by his small son.

Major N. C. Norris has recently moved from H.Q. Rhine Army and is now Brigade Major 115 Ind. Infantry Brigade.

Major C. Bossom and Lieut. C. Hamilton are with the 2nd Battalion.

Mr. G. Brooks, late 6140130 Pte. "A" Company, 1st Battalion, recently demobilised, sends his best wishes to his old friends in the Battalion.

Recent arrivals in the U.K. include :—

T/Lieut.-Col. H. P. Williams, Lieut. S. A. S. Cowell, T/Major N. T. Bailey, Capt. F. B. Plumptre, Lieut. J. D. Taylor, T/Major R. D. L. Wells, Lieut. A. J. A. Bonamy Morris, T/Major C. B. Smallwood, T/Capt. M. J. Hearn, Lieut. A. S. B. Juul, M.C., T/Capt. S. J. H. Davis, T/Maj. J. Thorpe, T/Capt. J. M. Bryan, A/Major K. R. Ashby, Lieut. E. Kraunsoe.

It is requested that official correspondence to the Secretary, Past and Present Association, The Buffs, or the Editor, "The Dragon," be addressed as such, and not by name. It will be of assistance to the Staff if correspondents will quote the file reference number when replying to letters from the Secretary or Editor.

Engagement

Lieutenant-Colonel K. J. Price and Miss J. H. Slessor.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant-Colonel Kenrick Jack Price, D.S.O., M.C., 9th Lancers, Rhiwlas, Bala, Merioneth, only son of the late Captain and Mrs. Robin Price, and Juliet Hermione, daughter of Air Marshal Sir John Slessor, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., and Lady Slessor, of 27 Chester Street, S.W.1.

Births, Marriages, Deaths.

DEATH.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

Louis.—Previously reported missing at Arnheim, now officially presumed killed in action on September 24th, 1944, Capt. Percy Louis, R.A.M.C., H.Q. Airborne Troops, youngest son of Mrs. R. Louis of Highfield, Crawley Down, Sussex. Formerly M.O., 4th Battalion, The Buffs, France, 1940, Malta, 1940—43. Mentioned in despatches, France, 1940.

Regimental Gazette.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12TH, 1945, DATED TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16TH, 1945.

REGULAR ARMY.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS.

THE BUFFS.—The undermentioned Cadets to be 2nd Lts. September 15th, 1945 :— 14861981 Michael Hugh Rose (354585), 2666798 William Ian Harvey Faulder (354603).

R.W.K.—War Subs. Lt. R. J. Galilee (308526) from The Buffs, to be War Subs. Lt., 3rd October, 1945, retaining his present seniority. (Substituted for the notifn. in Gazette (Supplement) dated 3rd October, 1945, under the Queen's R.)

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16TH, 1945, DATED THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18TH, 1945.

War Office, October 18th, 1945.

The King has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Italy :—

The Military Medal.

No. 3767668 Sergeant Stephen Hawtrey, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) (Shanklin).

No. 894884 Sergeant John Francis Northwood, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) (London, S.E.11).

War Office, October 18th, 1945.

The King has been graciously pleased to approve that the following be Mentioned in recognition of gallant and distinguished Services in Italy :—

The Buffs.—14800514 Pte. H. W. G. Hill.

SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16TH, 1945, DATED FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19TH, 1945.

PIONEER CORPS.—The undermentioned having exceeded the age limit of liability to recall, ceases to belong to the Res. of Officers :— 21st September, 1945 :—War Subs. Lt.-Col. E. F. D. Strettell (14392) and is granted the hon. rank of Col.

REGULAR ARMY.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS.

THE BUFFS.—The undermentioned Cadets to be 2nd Lts. 15th September, 1945 :— 14859689 Kenneth John Baddeley Teesdale

(354423), 2724432 Ralph Alec Notley (354485), War Subs. Lt. J. E. Harsant (276361) relinquishes his commn., 2nd August, 1945.

TERRITORIAL ARMY:

THE BUFFS.—War Subs. Lt. E. A. Knowles (69620) to be Capt. 11th April, 1945.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23RD, 1945, DATED, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25TH, 1945.

War Office, October 25th, 1945.

The King has been graciously pleased to approve that the following be Mentioned in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the field :—

The Buffs.—Capt. M. P. D. Dewar, M.B.E. (34749).

SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23RD, 1945, DATED FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26TH, 1945.

REGULAR ARMY.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS.

THE BUFFS.—14990955 Cadet Henry Cecil Hobbs (357365) to be 2nd Lt. 26th August, 1945.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26TH, 1945, DATED TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, 1945.

REGULAR ARMY.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS.

THE BUFFS.—The undermentioned War Subs. Lts. from Ind. Army to be War Subs. Lts., October 1st, 1945, retaining their present seniority :—W. A. Cooper (356489) S. J. Huntley (356463).

TERRITORIAL ARMY.

THE BUFFS.—Maj. G. H. Mount, T.D. (35459) is restored to the rank of Lt.-Col. 27th October, 1945, on ceasing to be employed.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, 1945, DATED, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST, 1945.

The King has been graciously pleased to approve that the following be Mentioned in recognition of gallant and distinguished services while Prisoner of War :—

The Buffs.—6279322 W.O. I. R. H. Wickham.

SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, 1945, DATED FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND, 1945.

REGULAR ARMY.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS.

THE BUFFS.—The undermentioned cadets to be 2nd. Lts., 29th September, 1945 :—6296511 Ronald William John Sparks (354790), 6291393 Clifford James Waddington (354819), 14413814 Peter John White (354779).

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND, 1945, DATED TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, 1945.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

THE BUFFS.—Maj. E. W. Hamilton (16504) is restored to the rank of Lt.-Col., November 4th, 1945, on ceasing to be employed. Capt. A. A. West (35730) having exceeded the age limit, relinquishes his commn., November 5th, 1945 and is granted the hon. rank of Maj.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, DATED THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, 1945.

The King has been graciously pleased to approve that the following be Mentioned in recognition of gallant and distinguished service in North-West Europe :—

The Buffs.—Maj. (actg.) E. G. Wake (217716), Capt. (temp.) S. W. Palmer (42000), Capt. (temp.) F. G. C. Papworth (171453), Capt. (temp.) D. W. Spiers (228341), 6280056 C.Q.M.S. A. V. Letts, 6297984 Pte. L. T. Finnis.

Pioneer Corps.—Lieut.-Col. (temp.) E. J. Evans (106308).

The King has been pleased to grant unrestricted permission for the wearing of the following decorations which have been conferred on the undermentioned personnel in recognition of distinguished services in the cause of the Allies :—
Decorations Conferred by the President of the United States of America.

Bronze Star Medal.

Colonel (temporary) Trevor Hicks Spear, O.B.E. (6710), The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment). Lieutenant-Colonel (temporary) Stanley Roy Pawley, O.B.E. (27993) The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).

SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, 1945, DATED FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 1945.

REGULAR ARMY.

THE BUFFS.—The undermentioned 2nd. Lts. (War Subs. Cpts.) from Suppl. Res. of Offrs., to be Lts. November 10th, 1945 with seniority as shown :—

James Bernard Worts, M.C. (77844), March 3rd, 1942. John Patrick Nash (78316) February 18th, 1943. 2nd Lt. (War Subs. Lt.) Geoffrey Earle Dubois (333657), from Emerg. Commn. Ind. Army, to be Lt., November 10th, 1945, with seniority, March 19th, 1945.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

THE BUFFS.—War Subs. Lt. V. Collins (85873) from R.A. to be War Subs. Lt., November 10th, 1945, retaining his present seniority.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 1945, DATED TUESDAY NOVEMBER 13TH, 1945.

REGULAR ARMY.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS.

THE BUFFS.—S/6282986 War Subs. W.O. Cl. 11 James Henry Stone (356560) from R.A.S.C. to be Lt. (Gr.-Mr.) October 5th, 1945.

TERRITORIAL ARMY.

THE BUFFS.—War Subs. Lt. P. C. B. Davisson (73288) to be Capt., August 9th, 1945.

WAR OFFICE ORDERS.

No. 42 ISSUED OCTOBER 18TH, 1945.

REGULAR ARMY.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS.

The undermentioned War Subs. Lt. (T/Capt.) (A/Maj.) to be T/Maj. and War Subs. Captain :—

THE BUFFS.—J. G. Iggulden (162004) 9th August, 1945.

The undermentioned War Subs. Lt. (A/Capt.) to be T/Capt. (21 A. Gp.) :—

THE BUFFS.—F. E. Stokes (251239) 20th June, 1945.

The undermentioned War Subs. Lt. (A/Capt.) to be T/Capt. :—

THE BUFFS.—L. Forbes (303362) 7th October, 1945.

The undermentioned War Subs. Lt. (T/Capt.) relinquishes T/Capt. :—

THE BUFFS.—S. N. Shepherdson (219091) 17th June, 1945.

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

THE BUFFS.—H. G. Hendon (341880) 10th September, 1945.

The undermentioned War Subs. Lt. has been re-granted T/Capt. in A.F.M.T. Orders :—

THE BUFFS.—A. M. Webber (210717) 30th July, 1945.

WAR OFFICE ORDERS.

No. 43 ISSUED OCTOBER 25TH, 1945.

REGULAR ARMY.

THE BUFFS.—War Subs. Maj. (T/Lt.-Col) (A/Col.) R. W. Craddock, D.S.O., M.B.E., to be T/Col. and War Subs. Lt.-Col. 1st October, 1945. (Not remunerated from Army Funds).

THE BUFFS.—Lt. (T/Capt.) (A/Maj.) A. E. Majendie (85914) to be T/Maj. and War Subs. Capt. 19th October, 1945.

The undermentioned Maj. is re-granted T/Lt.-Col. :—

THE BUFFS.—E. H. Allen (8453) 19th June, 1945.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS.

The undermentioned War Subs. Lt. (T/Capt.) (A/Maj.) to be T/Maj. and War Subs. Capt. :—

THE BUFFS.—M. D. N. Cobbold (124502) 2nd May, 1945.

The undermentioned War Subs. Lt. (A/Capt.) to be T/Capt. :—

THE BUFFS.—R. A. Furlong (189882) 14th October, 1945.

The undermentioned War Subs. Capt. is re-granted T/Maj. :—

THE BUFFS.—J. H. Creaton (162301) 19th January, 1945.

The undermentioned War Subs. Lt. is re-granted T/Capt. :—

THE BUFFS.—M. C. Bollon (99786) 7th August, 1945.

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

THE BUFFS.—20th October, 1945 :—H. W. Bodman (346372). 21st October, 1945 :—A. D. Coote (346138).

SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

The undermentioned War Subs. Lt. (T/Capt.) (A/Maj.) to be T/Maj. and War Subs. Capt. :—

THE BUFFS.—T. A. N. Bruce (87444) 18th September, 1945.

TERRITORIAL ARMY.

The undermentioned War Subs. Lt. (T/Capt.) (A/Maj.) to be T/Maj. and War Subs. Capt. :—

THE BUFFS.—P. C. B. Davisson (73288) 25th October, 1945.

THE BUFFS.—The notifi. regarding War Subs. Capt. D. A. Boyd (70347) in W.O. Orders No. 38/1945, is cancelled.

WAR OFFICE ORDERS.

No. 44 ISSUED NOVEMBER 1ST, 1945.

REGULAR ARMY.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS.

The undermentioned War Subs. Lt. (T/Capt.) (A/Maj.) to be T/Maj. and War Subs. Capt. :—

THE BUFFS.—J. E. Chapman (233209) April 27th, 1945.

The undermentioned War Subs. Lts. (A/Cpts.) to be T/Cpts. :—

THE BUFFS.—E. T. Rother (251775) June 17th, 1945. L. T. Andrews (240375) July 10th, 1945. J. A. Harrison (180051) November 1st, 1945.

National War Pictures.

AT Burlington House, London, there is an Exhibition of over a thousand paintings and drawings (with a few pieces of sculpture) which were either commissioned or purchased by the War Artists' Advisory Committee. It is a formidable array and covers the field most thoroughly.

Judged as a pictorial record of the Nation's ordeal and endeavour, it is undoubtedly of great interest and value. As evidence of artistic achievement it is imposing, if a shade fatiguing. There are a great many vivid representations of action, at sea, in the air and on land, and also many studies of the results of enemy attacks on our cities and towns. There are hosts of portraits of distinguished people of all ranks and types, particularly of airmen and sailors. The soldiers did not seem to me to be so much "in the picture", but that seems inevitable in these times. This is not to say that they are neglected, but merely that they have less of a show.

It was difficult to resist comparing this show with one which occurred after the war of 1914-1918. Then Augustus John and Sir William Orpen dominated things and there is nothing comparable with the magnificent portraits they produced in those far-off days.

I found much to interest me, but I came away with the definite feeling that the modern movement in art has by no means "stolen the show". In fact the honours seem to me to have been carried off by the veteran Sir Muirhead Bone, whose colossal drawings, especially that of the City of London from a point above the ruins of St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street, are astonishing feats of graphic draughtsmanship. Richard Enrich's recon-

struction of the scene at the evacuation of Dunkirk is also a remarkable *tour de force*. But there are many pictures to interest all types of spectator and I warmly recommend a visit to Burlington House and, if possible, more than one visit, for such a huge collection puts a great strain on the brain, the eyes and also on the legs.

S.M.

Obituary

Colonel F. M. Dunstan.

Died October 22, 1945.

"LAST POST" and "Reveille" were sounded by a Buffs' bugler at the funeral of Colonel F. Mainwaring Dunstan, T.D. (ret.), at Margate on Thursday, October 25th. Lieut. Col. C. S. F. Witts represented the Regiment.

One of Margate's best-known residents, Col. Dunstan, aged 73, served as an officer in the old Cadet Volunteer and Territorial units of The Buffs, and as a member of the Kent Territorial Association. In 1914 he accompanied the 4th Bn. to India and later to Arabia, and brought the battalion home as C.O. in 1919. Later, he raised a new Territorial 4th Bn. and commanded the amalgamated 4th and 5th Battalions. He retired from the T.A. in 1925.

In his younger days Col. Dunstan was a keen sportsman and gymnast, and was active in the promotion of youth organisations. He was a talented amateur actor, and for 55 years was in All Saints' Church choir.

As a youth he joined the staff of Cobb and Co's Bank at Margate (later Lloyds), and became cashier, retiring in 1937.

The Meeting of "The Big Three" in Teheran 1943

A JEEP and one 15 cwt. Truck were conveying Major Sharpe, Major Falloon, Captain Abbott and Lieut. Wright along the road from Iraq to Syria, when at Rutbah, a lonely checkpoint 250 miles from Bn. H.Q.'s, the party was stopped by the Military Police with a signed message marked "Immediate," which stated that Majors Sharpe and Falloon had to report back to Bn. H.Q. With a few well chosen, but alas, unprintable words, we turned our Jeep around! Our disappointment was quite understandable for we were originally bound for a very pleasant three week's umpiring duties with a Polish Brigade up in the Lebanon Mountains!

On reaching the PAI Force frontier post, we halted for a few moments to pay our salutations, this remark will only be appreciated by those who have travelled along this route! Eventually, after having motored day and night we reached Bn. H.Q.'s only to find a small rear party with Major Donald Whitcombe, the P.R.I., our "Financial Wizard," in charge. The only "griff" he could give us was that the battalion had moved off under a "Most Urgent operational order." So, on we moved towards Qum; at this stage of the journey, we were fully alert and prepared for any eventuality, for it was in this vicinity that the Persian Army had been annihilated by the Tribesmen! But alas! we reached Qum without incident, and the only "Party" that we saw was the remnants of a "Bottle Party" thrown by the Town Major to our battalion the night before! After having a "quick one" with the Town Major, we gathered from him that the battalion had moved on up to Teheran, and we were soon on the road again following in their wake; and arrived there, only a few hours after the main body! This was not bad going on our part for we had given them 2½ days start plus 250 miles! Two very dusty and hungry Majors reported to the C.O., and we soon heard the reason for our sudden re-call, for the "Big Three" were due to meet, and the Presentation of the Stalingrad Sword to Marshal Stalin. This was indeed to be a momentous occasion for it was the first time that Marshal Stalin had set foot outside of Russia, and at the same time, decisions of the utmost importance would be made at the Conference in bringing about the defeat of the Axis Powers.

Major Larry Falloon was selected as the officer i/c of the Guard of Honour at the ceremony of the presentation of the Stalingrad Sword, with two other officers, Lieut. Ken Horder and Lieut. Jesse Paine and 120 O'R's

The ceremony was originally intended to be an open-air affair in the grounds of the Russian Embassy. The Commander-in-Chief of P.A.I. Force, his interpreter, and Major Falloon set off next morning to the Russian Embassy in order to submit his plans for the ceremony to Marshal Stalin, and the Russians agreed to have a similar Guard of Honour. At 1400 hours, half an hour before the great occasion, word came through from the Russian Embassy, that owing to security reasons it would not be possible to hold the ceremony in the open-air and that it would have to be held indoors! This provided a very hard and unenviable task for Major Falloon, for

it meant that the Guard of Honour had to be reduced from 120 men to 20 only! Names went into the hat very quickly, and the lucky ones were drawn out.

Fifteen minutes later the Guard of Honour, together with the Stalingrad Sword, arrived at the gates of the Russian Embassy, but so great was the Russians' Security, that even the presence of "The Sword" itself, was not sufficient proof to the Sentry at the gates that this select party had permission to enter! The timely arrival of a Russian General enabled us to enter and we soon found ourselves inside the State-room where the ceremony was due to take place. The C-in-C placed our Guard of Honour in position, and we waited for the great moment. This wait was not without a certain amount of amusement, for one or two press photographers about to make one of their greatest "Scoops," went to great pains to secure an advantage point, and one very calmly took up his position complete with camera between Major Falloon and Lieut. Horder's legs in order to get his photographs! But the Commander-in-Chief soon told him that "you can't do that there 'ere!"

Winston Churchill with his Chiefs of Staff, were the first to enter and a moment or two later Marshal Stalin and his party entered by another door. Lieut. Horder (an ex-cavalryman) carried the Sword very correctly to Winston Churchill, who in turn, after the playing of National Anthems and his short speech, presented it to Marshal Stalin. During the ceremony, President Roosevelt slipped very quietly into the room in his wheel chair. Stalin, on seeing him walked over to him and showed him the Sword. After a short tête-à-tête between the "Big Three" they all departed.

The Guard Commander having obtained permission to march off, marched his Guard back to the British Legation, having felt that he had witnessed a great and historic ceremony, and it is believed that this was the first Guard of Honour ever to be found by the British Army for Marshal Stalin, which adds another chapter to our Regimental History.

L.F.

Officer who Refused to Join Ina

HUNG up in a cage in Bangkok for 88 days because he refused to join the Indian National Army, Capt. Hari Badhwar, Third

(Indian) Cavalry, has just returned to India from a prison camp in Singapore.

Only a man of exceptional courage and physique could have survived this ordeal. Exposed to the heat of the sun by day, with a spotlight turned on him by night, unable to sit or lie down, Capt. Badhwar got food and water from the Siamese only when the guard's attention could be distracted. The only furniture in the cage was a sanitary bucket, emptied once a week.

Nevertheless Capt. Badhwar persisted in his refusal and survived. Sent to Singapore, he was, according to all Indian P.O.W's imprisoned with him, one of the greatest upholders of their morale.

When found in a prison camp by an old friend, he merely said that he had had "rather a rough time." The full story of his ordeal was only revealed in a personal message from Gen. Christison to Adm. Mountbatten.

Capt. Badhwar, who will be 36 in November, was at school at St. George's, Mussoorie, Sherwood Naini Tal and at Col. Brown's school at Dehra Dun. He subsequently went to Christ's College, Cambridge, and to Grenoble University in France.

After being in business for some time, he decided to join the Army and, being then too late to get a commission in the ordinary way, enlisted in the ranks of a Rajput Regiment and worked his way up to become a cadet and, later an officer.

(Note.—Captain Badhwar will be remembered by those of the 1st Battalion serving in Lucknow in 1937, when he was doing his attachment to the battalion. He was a noted athlete being a very fine hockey player. *Ed.*)

The German Plan for the Invasion of Britain.

DOCUMENTS discovered among the archives of the German General Staff in Berlin have revealed the enemy's plans for the invasion of Britain in the autumn of 1940. The first warning orders for this operation were issued in mid-August, about a month after the fall of France, and it was then stated that a further order for its actual execution would follow later; but this order was in fact never given, and the invasion never took place.

The forces allotted for the operations numbered 23½ first line divisions with 17 more in reserve; assuming these to be all at full

strength, as they doubtless would have been, and adding the usual proportion of corps and army troops, this would represent a strength of about a third of a million men for the first line forces and a quarter of a million for the reserve—say 600,000 in all. Of the 22 first line divisions, 14 were infantry, 6 armoured, and 2 motorised; in addition, there were 1½ airborne divisions, which were to carry out a special operation of their own.

The first line force was to be divided into three armies. The 9th Army on the right, starting from bases on the Belgian and French coast, at Ostend, Dunkirk and Calais, was to land in Kent and Sussex between Margate and Hastings. In conjunction with its operations, an airborne landing was to be made north of Romney Marshes. The 16th Army in the centre was to start from the stretch of French coast between Dieppe and Havre, with the British seaboard between Brighton and Portsmouth as its objective, and two airborne landings in conjunction with it were to be made on the South Downs. The 6th Army on the left was to start from the Caen-Cherbourg area and to effect a landing in the vicinity of Bournemouth and Weymouth.

The plan of operations after the securing of the beachheads was to link up the forward troops of the three armies on a general front from the north bank of the Thames estuary about Tilbury across to Gravesend, thence along the ridge of the North Downs south-westwards to Caterham and westwards to Aldershot and thence southwards to the coast about Portsmouth. The 9th Army was then to advance northwards into East Anglia as far as the Colchester area, and the 16th Army into the East Midlands, pinching out London between them, while the 6th Army pushed up to the estuary of the Severn. From that line mobile forces were to push further northwards into the Midlands towards Birmingham and the industrial areas of Lancashire and Yorkshire.

This German force allotted for the invasion of Britain was about the same strength as that used by the Allies later for the invasion of Normandy, though in the latter case the reserves were larger. On the other hand the forces which Britain had available for defence were pitifully weak. General McNaughton, in command of the 7th Corps, had under him our only completely organised and armed formations—the 1st Canadian Division, part of the 2nd Canadian Division, and certain British units; there were a few Regular troops and Home Guards manning the beach coastal

defences, and that was all. The total strength of these forces was probably under rather than over 50,000 men so that the defence would have been out-numbered by over five to one by the German first line armies alone, and by more than ten to one when the German reserves were thrown in.

Our plan of defence was for the coastal garrisons to resist as long as possible, making use of such various secret and surprise devices as were available to inflict the maximum losses upon the enemy. When the inevitable penetration inland took place, the Canadian troops and any others available were to be thrown in for a counter-offensive in the area of the North Downs; but the final result of this battle could hardly be in doubt, in view of the crippling disparity between their numbers and those of the enemy.

As far as could be foreseen at the time, therefore, the German invasion of 1940, had it been launched, would have been as certain of ultimate success as any operation of war could well be. Heavy losses might have been suffered, but certainly not as heavy as those subsequently incurred in the invasion of Russia in the year 1941 alone. Why the enemy never undertook it, despite the tremendous odds in its favour, of which he must have had a reasonably accurate idea, still remains a mystery. It is probable that his failure to do so was the most fateful of all the many blunders which lost him the war, for with Britain conquered and helpless, Russia could hardly have survived the subsequent attack on her, and America would have been deprived of her only possible forward base from which the re-conquest of Europe could have been effected. It was the most perilous hour of all our history, and one which we must never allow to recur.

The Naval War Against Japan.

THE U.S. Navy has now given to the world the detailed story of its war against Japan, which reduced her in three years and nine months from a first class sea power to a nonentity. During this period more than 320 hostile warships were destroyed, including 18 battleships, 15 aircraft carriers, 56 cruisers and 138 destroyers, together with practically the whole of the hostile merchant fleet of over 5½ million tons.

During the first five months of the war from December 7th, 1941, the date of the enemy

attack on Pearl Harbour, to the beginning of May, 1942, the Allies were everywhere on the defensive, and the Japanese were able to establish and maintain forces in all the main islands of the Southern and South-western Pacific and to threaten Australia with invasion. Their first setback came in the battle of the Coral Sea early in May, 1942, when the aircraft of two U.S. task forces attacked the hostile warships, sank 1 light cruiser, 2 destroyers and 4 gunboats, and destroyed 104 aircraft, with a loss to themselves of the aircraft carrier *Lexington* and the destroyer *Sims*. By this victory an enemy attack on Port Moresby, to be used as a base for the invasion of Australia, was prevented. A similar fate befell the next Japanese naval stroke, this time in the Western Pacific near Midway Island, a month later. In this battle, U.S. naval aircraft operating from carriers, assisted by Army aircraft from bases on the island, turned back a strong hostile squadron, with a loss to it of 4 carriers with all their planes, 2 heavy cruisers, and 4 destroyers, besides 3 battleships and 4 cruisers severely damaged. This was the last occasion on which the Japanese Navy sent a strong force to sea on an offensive mission; from that time on the initiative at sea passed gradually into the Allies' hands.

Their first blow was the landing of U.S. marines on the islands of Guadalcanal and Tulagi in the Solomons Group on August 7th, 1942. In a series of naval engagements the Japanese were beaten off in all attempts to rescue or reinforce their garrison there, but these were spread over a period of twelve whole months, the last of them being the battle of Vella Gulf on August 6th, 1943. Prior to this the outstanding episodes had been the battles of Save Island, August 9th, 1942; of the eastern Solomons, August 23rd-24th; of Cape Esperance, October 11th-12th; of Santa Cruz Island, October 25th; of Guadalcanal, October 13th-15th; of Tassafaronga, November 30th, 1942; and the two battles of Kula Gulf, July 6th and 13th, 1943. Most of these were night battles between surface craft, in which it was difficult to estimate hostile losses accurately, but at least 4 battleships, 13 cruisers, and 19 destroyers were believed to have been sunk or heavily damaged, while the toll taken of transports, coasters, and landing barges was severe.

Meanwhile U.S. carrier forces had commenced their sustained offensive against hostile bases and shipping in the Western and South-western Pacific area from New Guinea to Marcus Island; and by November, 1943 the U.S. Navy

and its air service were prepared to tackle the problem of expelling the enemy from his various island bases by amphibious landing operations. The first of these, in the Gilberts at Makim and Tarawa, led to costly and bitter battles, in which, however, the Japanese fleet made no attempt to rescue their comrades on shore; nor did it appear in the course of the battles for the Marshall islands of Kwajalein, Rei, and Namur in February, 1944, in which the U.S. combined forces only had to deal with strong ground and air opposition. Only in the far North, in the Aleutians, did hostile naval units venture out to interfere with the U.S. reconquest of Attu and Kiska islands, and these were turned back by aircraft attack without any surface contact. U.S. submarines were meanwhile adding daily to their toll of hostile shipping, which by the end of the war totalled 146 warships and 1,041 non-combatant vessels.

The U.S. Navy, which now had the 3rd and 5th Fleets operating in the Central and Western Pacific and the 7th Fleet in the South-western Pacific, was now able to send out fast carrier forces to strike virtually anywhere at will. The 5th Fleet, after the conquest of the Admiralty Islands and the final clearing of eastern New Guinea, proceeded to neutralise the hostile bases and forces in the Cardine Islands and to assist the landings in the rear of the enemy in western New Guinea in April, 1944, which were covered by the 7th Fleet. The next objective was the hostile stronghold of the Marianas, and in mid-June the first landing there took place on Saipan. The Japanese naval and air forces now made a resolute attempt to intervene, but the result was their complete defeat, with a loss of 400 planes, and of 4 carriers, 2 tankers, and 1 destroyer sunk, and 3 carriers, 1 battleship, 3 cruisers, 1 tanker and 3 destroyers badly damaged. The U.S. losses were 16 aircraft only. The capture of the minor Marianas islands—Saipan, Tinian, and Guam—meant that Allied aircraft were within easy striking distance of Japan itself, and that fast naval squadrons could range or sweep the seas from the Kuriles in the North to the Philippines in the South. The whole of the Carolines group was cleared by the end of September, 1944, and it was decided to carry out the long-projected attack on the Philippines forthwith. This was the most ambitious of all the U.S. amphibious operations, and for it the whole of the available surface and air forces in the Pacific were assembled; the 7th Fleet covered the disembarkation itself, which took place on October 20th on Leyte Island. This brought out the Japanese fleet for what was to prove its final

and most disastrous battle. In three separate engagements between October 23rd and 26th it suffered such losses that its remnants were never again able to come out of hiding. Four battleships, 9 carriers, 4 cruisers, 6 destroyers and large numbers of smaller craft were sunk, and 7 battleships, 10 cruisers and 17 destroyers were damaged more or less severely. From then onwards the operations in the Philippines and at Iwojima and Okinawa met desperate and prolonged opposition on the ground and in the air, but at sea only sporadically from light surface craft and sometimes individual suicide swimmers. The residue of the heavy Japanese warships were discovered and accounted for in the harbours of the Inland Sea in July, 1945; the U.S. Navy in the last ten months of the war could go more or less where it pleased, and do what it liked with only the feeblest opposition, if any, from the enemy, and it was able to play an essential and decisive role in the final defeat of Japan.

It was discovered after the conclusion of hostilities that Japan had entered the war with 12 battleships; and subsequently built 7 others; of these, the only one left afloat, the *Nagato*, was found heavily damaged and without a crew in Yokosuka harbour; 9 first line aircraft carriers, and later added 8 others, of which the last two, the *Hataka* and *Katasuragi*, both also badly damaged, lay at Sasebo and Kure; at the latter port were also the two remaining light carriers; all the 5 escort carriers had been sunk. Only 4 of the original 19 heavy cruisers were still afloat though damaged at Singapore, and only 2 of the 24 light cruisers; 17 war-time built cruisers were also sunk. The destroyer force was reduced from 164 to 26, only 22 of which were still seaworthy, and of 140 submarines there only survived 16, with 6 German U-boats which had been operating in the Far Eastern waters. History will probably confirm the conclusion that this complete destruction of the Japanese Navy as a fighting force was a primary, if not the principal, factor in bringing about her collapse and surrender, though she still had a considerable air force left and the main portion of her army had never been engaged and was as yet undefeated.

Correspondence

The Editor, "The Dragon"

Dear Sir,

My eldest son, Capt. P. L. Money—late 5th Battalion, captured in France 1940 and

continued on p. 211

Past and Present Association.

Headquarters : DEPOT, THE BUFFS.

Telephone : CANTERBURY 2513.

Secretary : MAJOR A. J. PEARETH.

BRANCHES

Branch	Chairman	Secretary	Meeting Dates and Places
1. 1st Bn. The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
2. 2nd Bn. The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
3. 5th Bn. The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
4. 9th Bn. The Buffs	Second-in-Command	R.S.M.	
5. ASHFORD	Mr. F. H. Harrison	Mr. W. Earl, 132 Osborne Rd., Willesborough, Ashford	First Saturday in each month, Invicta Hotel. 7 p.m.
6. LONDON		Major J. E. Enright, 26 Oswald Road, London, S.W.17	Third Saturday in each month, Prince Alfred Restaurant, Tufton Street, Westminster. 7.30 p.m.
7. DOVER	Lt.-Col. J. Crookenden, D.S.O.	Mr. C. Collins, "Haven", Meadway, Minnis Lane, Dover	First and Third Thursday in each month, "Eagle Hotel", London Rd., Dover. 7.45 p.m.
8. WEALD	<i>In abeyance</i>		
9. MEDWAY	Mr. F. C. Cox	Mr. W. King-Holt, 5 Brasenose Road, Gillingham, Kent	Last Saturday in each month, Unity Club, The Brook, Chat- ham. 7.30 p.m.
10. SITTINGBOURNE	<i>In abeyance</i>		
11. RAMSGATE	Mr. E. H. Swendell	Mr. B. E. Knott, 33 Brunswick Street, Ramsgate	Last Friday in each month, Drill Hall, Wilson's Road, Ramsgate. 8 p.m.
12. MARGATE	<i>In abeyance</i>		
13. HYTHE	Captain D. V. Cooté	Mr. J. E. Down, 15 Cobden Rd., Hythe	Last Saturday in each month, British Legion Hut. 7.30 p.m.
14. CANTERBURY		Mr. H. A. Newman, "Almora", Littlebourne Rd., Canterbury	Rhodaus Town, Canterbury
(a) Herne Bay Sub-Branch		<i>In abeyance</i>	
15. FOLKESTONE	Lt.-Col. C. E. Wilson, M.B.E.	Mr. H. H. Wilkinson, 30 The Bayle, Folkestone	Second Tuesday in each month, Drill Hall. 8 p.m.
16. SANDWICH		<i>In abeyance</i>	
17. DEAL		Mr. W. F. Oram, 344 Middle Deal Road, Deal	First Tuesday in each month, Deal and Walmer Working Men's Club, West St., Deal

LADIES' GUILD.

President : HON. MRS. G. SCARLETT

Branch	Chairman	Secretary
London	Mrs. D. E. Spinner	Mrs. M. Lamb
Dover	Mrs. J. Crookenden, J.P.	Mrs. J. Moyes
Folkestone	Mrs. R. J. Wood, J.P.	Mrs. K. Mantell
Deal	Mrs. East	Mrs. G. Maxted
Medway	Mrs. King-Holt	Mrs. M. Sellens
Ashford	Mrs. King	Mrs. L. Hale

Donations.

APRIL—SEPTEMBER, 1945.

		£	s.	d.
May	16. Capt. M. Steincke	1	1	0
June	4. "B" Company I.T.C.		8	6
	5. 6285064 L/Cpl. Parry		8	0
	12. J. Dray		2	0
	21. British Legion Club, Chartham	6	10	0
Aug.	1. C. Burnap	1	0	0
Sept.	17. P.R.I. X Reinforcements Tr. Centre Cmd.	25	0	0

Benevolent Fund.

APRIL—SEPTEMBER, 1945.

		£	s.	d.
April	9. Mrs. D. C. Cresswell	1	7	0
	25. Mr. A. C. Burgess	6	0	0
	26. Lieut. A. A. Godwin		10	0
	28. Sale of Kit	1	0	0
May	2. Mrs. D. Finch Hatton	2	2	0
	16. Capt. M. Steincke	1	1	0
June	4. Capt. G. A. Cox		7	0
	15. Capt. T. Wheler	5	0	0
July	7. O.C. "F" Company, 23 K.H.G.	7	0	10
	12. Mr. Wallace	1	1	0
	26. Capt. G. A. Cox	1	12	6
	28. Report and Control Centre, Canterbury		10	0

		£	s.	d.
	30. 6290935 Cpl. Rosenberg. ...		10	0
	31. P.R.I. 2/Buffs ...	10	10	0
Aug.	10. Lieut. R. E. K. Sistrerson ...	10	0	0
	13. Capt. J. J. Slattery ...	1	1	0
	31. Major General H. de R. Morgan	25	0	0

Ashford Branch.

Our Victory Parade was held as arranged on Sunday, October 21st. Although the weather was not very kind to us The Parade as far as we are concerned was a great success.

We were pleased to see such good numbers from other Branches, viz. Ramsgate, Dover, Folkestone, Hythe and Medway.

Our thanks are due to several for the success of the parade. First Lieut.-Colonel C. E. Wilson for coming along himself and for letting us have the Band under Bandmaster Salmon. This we all know was the mainstay of the Parade, on the march, in Church and at the Drill Hall on our return. We all hope to have the pleasure of meeting these bandsmen socially in the near future.

Second Colonel Bland and his Cadets, for all they did for us and for the use of the Drill Hall.

Third Rev. H. Duncan S. Bowen, Vicar of Ashford, for the splendid welcome he gave us in Church, and the beautiful service which he arranged.

Next, the A.U.D.C. for the erection of the Saluting Base, and last but by no means least, the Police, for their part in keeping the route clear, having the traffic lights off for us, which gave us a clear right of way.

We were pleased to see several Officers there, both serving and retired. Especially our "dear old friend," Colonel J. Body, who is well known to all Ashford men and most of the other branches.

We are always very pleased when we have the opportunity to be in Colonel Body's company. We were also glad to see Major Peareth (Association Secretary). Here we must add a note of regret that the Colonel of the Regiment was unable to be with us. We wish him a speedy recovery. Also Captain G. Denne, our Vice-President, who was in hospital at that time.

A splendid tea was provided at the Drill Hall under the management of Sergeant Rawcliff. Our thanks are due to the ladies who helped with the tea; also members of the committee and all who helped to make our Victory Parade a success.

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Our monthly meeting was held at the Invicta Hotel on Saturday, November 3rd. The usual business was carried and before a good number of members, which we were

GRANTS.

APRIL—SEPTEMBER, 1945.

		£	s.	d.
April	9. ...	3	0	0
	27. ...	2	0	0
May	1. ...	9	2	0
	3. ...	5	0	0
June	25. ...	3	0	0
	25. ...	5	0	0
July	4. ...	5	0	0
	10. ...	4	0	0
	13. ...	5	0	0
Aug.	6. ...	5	0	0
	8. ...	1	12	0
	20. ...	5	0	0
	27. ...	1	14	6
	29. ...	2	10	0
Sept.	5. ...	3	0	0
	10. ...	3	3	0
	17. ...	5	0	0

World War 1939 Charitable Fund.

GRANTS.

APRIL—SEPTEMBER, 1945.

		£	s.	d.
April	19. ...	2	17	6
	27. ...	4	0	0
May	14. ...	4	0	0
	16. ...	4	0	0
	22. ...	10	0	0
	26. ...	2	10	0
	30. ...	2	10	0
June	5. ...	10	0	0
	6. ...	3	0	0
	14. ...	1	0	0
	23. ...	2	10	0
	26. ...	1	0	0
	26. ...	3	14	8
July	5. ...	3	6	0
	13. ...	3	5	0
	13. ...	3	6	0
	17. ...	3	10	0
	30. ...	2	10	0
Aug.	3. ...	5	0	0
	6. ...	2	0	0
	6. ...	2	0	0
	7. ...	4	0	0
	9. ...	3	0	0
	9. ...	3	5	0
	18. ...	4	0	0
Sept.	4. ...	7	10	3
	5. ...	4	3	4
	10. ...	5	0	0
	10. ...	5	0	0
	17. ...	4	0	0
	21. ...	5	0	0

very pleased to see, as this was the meeting for election of Officers. After the minutes had been confirmed several letters were read, one from the Hythe Branch inviting us to Hythe for a Social Evening on Saturday, December 1st, but owing to this being our meeting night we had to decline and ask them for another date. We were all very sorry we could not accept this date as we were looking forward to this meeting, because we always have such a good time with the Hythe Boys.

We are glad to say that Captain Denne is progressing satisfactory.

Next came the election of officers. The office of President was left over for a later date as we are short of officers, but hope to find one in the near future. Capt. Denne and Capt. Crothall were elected Vice-Presidents, Mr. F. Harrison was re-elected Chairman for the ensuing year. We all feel we owe a lot to Mr. Harrison, he has kept the Branch going, keeping in touch with the members also the Association Secretary during those dark days of war, thus enabling us to start our meetings as soon as V.J.-Day arrived. Mr. F. Harrison thanked the members saying he would carry out the office as he had always tried to do, he had heard it said that the Association was only for men who served in the 1914-1918 War. This was wrong it did not make any difference if it was War or Peace, the Association was for any man, Past or Present, that served in the Regiment and everyone had the same chance and treatment.

Mr. Marsh was elected Vice-Chairman, Mr. W. Earl, Secretary and E. J. Sharrard, Association Secretary.

A Boobey Prize, which was given by a member, was drawn for and won by Mr. Bingham.

Mr. Coleman presented two beautiful bunches of Chrysanthemums, which were won by P. Godden and W. Earl.

We then enjoyed several items by our pianist, and a very enjoyable evening closed at about 9.30 p.m.

E.J.S.

London Branch.

Our rendezvous on the 20th ultimo was again the "Two Chairmen", where a fair number turned up in the hope of meeting others. An informal meeting and chin-wag took place in the room placed at our disposal by our genial host.

Major Enright (after we had stood in silence for our fallen Buffs) gave the gathering best wishes from the Colonel of the Regiment, also Colonel Guy Lee, Majors A. J. Peareth, H. G. James, R. T. Monier Williams, H. V. Duffy, Captains E. A. Carter, T. O. Cook, Messrs. Talbot Harvey, E. Lamb, E. Shute, Joe Green, J. V. Philpot and others.

We welcomed Colonel J. R. P. Williams, whom it will be remembered was badly wounded with The Buffs in North Africa. He gave us news respecting the "Book of Life" for the war of 1939-45. The idea appealed to all present. He also gave us some useful information about the new Army Benevolent Fund, and his interest in seeing that the young Buffs now entering civil life were kept together and took an interest in their branch activities.

We also welcomed for the first time, R.S.M. Bell, late 5th Battalion, who will, we feel sure, become an enthusiastic and keen member of the branch.

It was nice to meet Colonel J. Whitacre Allen again; it is this splendid spirit of our late battalion commanders which will keep alive the comradeship moulded in battle for the betterment of those who fought to make our England a better land for this and future generations.

Those present included:—Messrs. A. E. Grant, looking very fit, who has now returned to London and sends his best wishes, particularly to the 6th Battalion.

Captain R. W. Waby, who we regret to say may lose the sight of an eye.

Tommy Tutt, who says he will never miss. Tommy is now 73 years of age.

Postman Martin, who now becomes a Life Member.

Erny Tong, just as dapper as ever.

Major F. Sidwell, who is now on the Inventory Board.

E. Gould, whose security duties are well carried out—he has the names of all who enter the joyful precincts.

Spud Austin, whose eyesight causes a great deal of anxiety.

Captain Shorter, looking very well and fit, met several old friends.

Snowball Manning, who came along with the aid of two sticks all the way from Eltham.

F. Harvey, who is employed under the Treasury. We understand he had nothing to do with the nationalisation of the Bank of England.

E. S. Sharpe, who wears in his collar the emblem of being a Government servant.

George Cobb, who says he would sooner be stationed at Brighton than London. Must be thinking of 1899!

Frank Odell, who looks very fit and well.

Woolwich Taylor, who appears to be putting on more weight.

Joe Hawkins gave us news of Joe Green.

Major Ransley, looking very fit, came along and was soon settled down in conversation.

Jock Clayton agreed that there "was" a beer shortage in London, but a note to the brewers might help matters on the third Saturday.

G. Gilfillan, who came home from India with the 2nd-Battalion with Postman Martin.

In-Pensioners March and Mount, whose red coats do add a little colour to the gathering.

Reg. No. 2881 H. Warner writes: "Remembrances to all enquiring friends". The same to you, Darkey.

Leslie De Vroome sent a wire from Jersey: "Had hoped to attend to-night, but leave postponed. Best wishes to all". It's the worst of these Civil Affairs—one often gets tied up.

Our grateful thanks to Major Monier Williams for his interest in a case concerning one of our returned prisoners-of-war.

"Front line Dan" (a term of endearment given by the troops to Major Duffy) writes and informs us that Paddy Scallan has left the unit for demob. He would like a situation in a block of flats.

Major Duffy also tells us there was a farewell dinner in the Sergeants' Mess in honour of Scallan, Summers, Scufield, Grace and others leaving for Blighty.

We are pleased to welcome home 6289040 Cpl. S. A. Cross, late 5th Battalion, after five years in captivity.

We recently had a visit from Captain Pitkin, who will be well-remembered in the 1st Battalion before the war. Called up from the Army Reserve, he has served continuously overseas, and has merited the promotion to commissioned rank which he now holds.

By the time these notes appear in print we shall be on the verge of Christmas. We wish our Colonel of the Regiment, and all ranks of our battalions and branches of our Association,

and all friends, wherever you may be, all happiness and a bright and prosperous year in 1946.

J.E.E.

LADIES' GUILD.

Amongst those present at the "Two Chairmen" on October 20th last were Mrs. Spinner, Mrs. Enright, Mrs. Odell, Mrs. Sidwell, Mrs. Waby and Mrs. Gilfillan.

We regret to say that Mrs. Ricketts is suffering from a broken wrist and trust that she will soon be on the mend.

We also deeply regret to inform members of the death of Mrs. Towse, who was well-known to many.

Mrs. Guy Lee, Mrs. Lamb and Mrs. Wittering send their best wishes to all.

We are pleased to hear that Mrs. Redman is now keeping fairly fit. Her son John, we are pleased to hear, is safe, and expected home shortly.

D.E.S.

Medway Branch.

LADIES' GUILD.

The monthly meeting held on Friday, September 29th, Mrs. King Holt (Chairman) presiding.

A Whist Drive was held followed by a Bring and Buy Sale, the proceeds of which were for the Memorial to All Ranks of Buffs who have given their lives during the war.

The sale was opened by the Mayoress (Mrs. H. Cox), who was presented with a bouquet tied with Regimental Colours, by Mrs. Skinner in the name of the branch.

The Mayoress, on declaring the sale open, said the Branch had every reason to be very proud of the beautiful Silver Rose Bowl which was to be placed in the Warrior's Chapel, Canterbury Cathedral. The Mayoress then presented Whist Prizes to Mrs. Valpy, Mrs. Vicary and Robinson Nunn.

Tea was served by Mrs. Sellens, Mrs. Rowlands, Mrs. Birch and Mrs. Skinner. Mrs. Griffiths acted as M.C. Whist.

Mrs. Sellens proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayoress for coming to open the Sale and for her kindness to the branch and trusted she would accompany them to Canterbury for the dedication of the bowl. Mrs. Sellens also thanked Mrs. King Holt and Mrs. Skinner for organizing the Sale. Mrs. Rowlands (Treasurer) seconded the vote.

Stall holders were Mrs. Skinner, Mrs. Rowlands, Mrs. Sellens, Mrs. Griffith.

A toy dog given by the Mayoress was won by Rex, a bottle of Whisky was won by Mrs. Spikin.

It was proposed by our Treasurer, Mrs. Rowlands, at our August meeting that as we had worked for the prisoners of war, did we not think it would be fitting if we had a memorial to those of Medway towns who had given their lives in the War. All present agreed so we held a Bring and Buy Sale in September.

The memorial was to be placed in the Warriors Chapel, Canterbury Cathedral after obtaining the consent of the authorities.

A TRIP TO CANTERBURY.

On October 31st, a party of 30 accompanied by the Mayoress (Mrs. H. Cox) and Mrs. Medhurst, went to Canterbury for the dedication of their Memorial to All Ranks of Buffs who had given their lives in the war 1939—45.

On arriving at Canterbury they were met by Mrs. H. Findlay and her son Capt. N. Findlay, Irish Guards. After the ceremony of turning a page in the Book of Life, a short service was held in the Warriors Chapel by the Dean, who said in his short address how all connected with the Cathedral were very pleased to accept the beautiful Silver Bowl. He was sure the branch had every right to be proud of it, and it was a lovely thought to remember those who had given their lives. Mrs. King Holt then handed the Bowl to the Dean for dedication. The first flowers to be placed in the bowl were to the memory of Colonel H. Findlay, whose many kindnesses will always be remembered by all in the Medway Branch.

During the afternoon Miss Mills escorted the party over the Cathedral and in the name of the branch, Mrs Sellers thanked her for her kindness and trouble.

After a very happy day the party returned home at 6 p.m.

Thanks are due to all who had helped to make the day such a memorable one.

The sum raised at the Sale was £28.

[The Colonel of the Regiment hopes that any such memorials will, in future, be included in the Regimental Memorial for which an appeal will shortly be launched. Ed.]

Ramsgate Branch.

It is an interesting feature to read news of other Branches in *The Dragon*, which brings names to us of many old comrades of whom we have pleasant memories.

The Ramsgate Branch takes this opportunity to wish all Branches further success and progress.

To our members who are serving and cannot get to our meetings we send our best wishes, and look forward to the time when we can welcome them again.

Joe Elson came along to our meeting, Joe wears well and still looks fit for the next war. He was in Africa with the Buffs in 1900 and was nearer seventeen than twenty years at that time. He gave me Sgt. L. S. R. Hoyle's life membership card and asked me to place the Sergeant on the Ramsgate Roll. This I have done. Through *The Dragon* notes, we welcome him and hope the time will roll on when he returns from the C.M.F. to attend our meetings.

F. Reeves 6285012, has returned to civvy street and we were pleased to have him with us at the "Woodman." Dick Atkins of the Freeman's Inn must be informed of the date of our meetings. If he has time for fishing with Major Martin he must find time to give us a look on the second Friday of the month.

The Ashford Visit made a nice afternoon trip for twenty-eight of us on Victory Sunday; I was pleased to see Messrs. Page and Orchard of the Folkestone Branch. Talking about Ashford, I wish to thank Mr. Earl for satisfying my chairman's tea thirst. It is not in Edward's line to stand in queues (besides the ladies got there first).

Alf Moys cannot get about much these days, I paid him a visit. He is quite cheerful and makes the best of circumstances. He sends his best wishes to old friends.

Now for the meeting report:—

That the Past and Present Association, The Buffs (Ramsgate Branch) is going from strength to strength, is shown by the enthusiastic support of new and old members in all its activities.

In addition to a bus-load of members wishing to attend a Victory Parade at Ashford others are travelling by rail, so that the Ramsgate branch will be well represented.

There was an attendance of 61 members at the monthly meeting held on October 12th, at the "Woodman Inn," Hardres Street, Ramsgate.

Mr. E. H. Swendell (chairman), presided, supported by Capt. A. J. H. Taylor, Lieut.-Col. Backhouse, Major H. D. Rose, Messrs. E. Birch and B. E. Knott, secretary.

The chairman extended a welcome to Colonel Backhouse whose attendance that evening was much appreciated, and said he was pleased to see many new faces and hoped that support would be continued.

Mr. Swendell stated the branch had sustained a great loss in the death of Capt. J. G. Smith, and he would like to thank Major Rose for representing the branch at the funeral of Captain Smith. As a token of respect he asked the members to stand for two minutes silence.

Lieut.-Colonel Backhouse thanked the branch for his welcome. It gave him great pleasure to be with them. The word "Buff" spelt comradeship and he saw a splendid Buff spirit in the Ramsgate branch. He felt sure that any old Buff or repatriated or disabled soldier in necessitous circumstances would get advice and assistance from the association. The colonel congratulated the branch on their progress and wished them further success.

Letters of apologies were received from Messrs. D. Side, K. Blake and H. Martin.

Capt. A. J. H. Taylor and Mr. E. H. Swendell were elected Welfare Officers for the branch.

Messrs. J. Bugden, W. Bell, A. Hollands, H. Setterfield and E. Stead, were elected to serve on the social committee.

Messrs. T. Gibbs, D. Coles, E. Goldsmith, and A. G. Simpson, were enrolled as new members.

Following the meeting refreshments were served by Mr. W. G. Lowe and the remainder of the evening was spent in reviving old memories.

B.E.K.

Folkestone Branch.

The monthly meeting of the Folkestone Branch was held on Tuesday, November 13th, 1945, at 8 p.m., at "D" Company, 4th Buffs Club, The Drill Hall, Shellon's Street. About fifty of us managed to pack into the Back Room. It gave us all great pleasure to welcome as chairman of the branch, Lieut.-Col. C. E. Wilson, who was accompanied by Major A. J. Peareth.

The chairman addressed the members and Major Peareth gave a very interesting War History of the various battalions.

Sergt. E. Little, late of the 5th Battalion, exhibited a streamlined motor boat made from scraps whilst a P.O.W.

We were all very pleased to see Captain Tyrrell of the 5th Battalion, after his long spell of captivity.

The business side of the meeting being finished the members spent the evening playing darts, cards and billiards.

H.H.W

Deal and Walmer Branch.

Our monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, November 13th, at the Working Men's Club, West Street, Deal.

The chair was taken by Captain P. B. Backhouse, supported by Messrs. C. Hare, G. Maxted, E. S. Hunt, J. H. Collins, F. T. Peddington and a fair number of members. Apologies were received from the Hon. Secretary The Hon. Treasurer gave a financial statement of the branch, which showed that the Bank Balance was still creeping up. The chairman recalled many familiar names connected with the Regiment and a very interesting hour was spent in a general exchange of experiences.

The usual "Whip-round" was made with the result that 9/- was added to the Branch Funds

It was proposed that a very hearty vote of thanks be accorded to Capt. Backhouse for coming to the meeting and filling the vacant chair. This was done in the true Buff fashion.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed and the remainder of the evening was spent in various games and frequent visits to the Bar.

I would like to remind all members of the Branch that *The Dragon* is on sale at the meetings (price 6d.) and it would help me a bit if those who wish to avail themselves of this monthly record of the doings of the Battalions and branches would place a standing order for one.

W.F.O.

Employment

Required a man and wife.

Wife to cook. Man to do general duties such as cleaning shoes, classrooms, changing rooms, etc. in the morning, and to garden in the afternoon.

For particulars apply to Captain B. E. T. Meyrick, St. John's, Berkhamsted. Tel: Berkhamsted 209.

1st Battalion



DURING the last two months the whirl of activity included visits to our friends the 5th Battalion in Vienna, the departure of some of the veterans and youngsters claimed by release, and last but not least "Darts."

The first visitors to Vienna were the Commanding Officer and Geoffrey Cox, who were invited to attend a ceremonial parade in honour of Marshal Koniev followed by

a Regimental Dinner at which the Guest of Honour was to be General McCreery. Unfortunately the former was cancelled at the last moment, but the latter was a huge success. Apart from renewing many old acquaintances with the 5th Battalion, the Commanding Officer met Henry Van Ammel, who is looking very fit but over-worked, and also said farewell to Stanley Millar and John Swann, both of whom were leaving for civilian life.

This visit was returned by Pat Rance, who, full of exuberance, stayed a few days with us en route for Milan, where he is to take up a new appointment as D.A.Q.M.G. 53 B.L.U. He seemed extremely loathe to leave Vienna and we rather gathered the Blue in the Danube was not the cause of his sadness.

The next move in this game of tit for tat was a trip to Vienna by "Critch" and John Price. They managed an unconduted trip through the suburbs of the City and finished in a Russian Tram Depot. However they eventually reached the 5th Battalion, with whom they spent a pleasant week-end.

One advantage we gain however over our Viennese friends is that our present station allows liberal liaison with the Senior Service. Our first Regimental Guest Night was duly launched by friends from *H.M.S. Arethusa* and *H.M.S. Cardigan Bay*. This followed various visits by members of the mess to many units of the Mediterranean Fleet including the *Sirius*, *Liddisdale* and *Magpie*.

Since being decisively defeated at darts by the Sergeant's Mess the standard is now steadily mounting, ably led by the Commanding Officer. The dull "plonk" of steel on wood and the clatter as they fall to the floor may be heard ceaselessly in the Mess.

As with everybody else, "Release" is making itself felt among our ranks. This has caused the loss of two veterans, namely Bill Moriarty and "Dicky" Bird, to whom we send our best wishes for the future.

General.

Now that the days of sea and sun-bathing are over for all but the most Spartan amongst us, our thoughts have turned towards more manly forms of exercise. First and foremost in our effort strives the Battalion Football XI, so far most successfully. Out of four games played, three have been won and the fourth drawn, thus placing the team second in the Divisional League. Attempts to form a rucker side were not quite so hopeful, although we provide three stalwarts (Captains Price and Woodward and Sgt. Ward) to the "Nomads." The newly-formed hockey team hopes to steal some of the limelight in the future, but at present it is still in embryo form.

Like most other units in C.M.F. the battalion owns a racing stables, but so far has not produced a "first." However, the Flying Chetnik is still a strong favourite amongst Tipsters and may yet run true to form. Our latest arrival, an enormous German Cavalry charger, took our grooms completely by surprise—they have yet to solve the puzzle of how to satisfy its prodigious appetite.

To please our shipping experts we have taken on strength one German E Boat, at least it was proudly thought to be an E Boat, and capable of 40 knots, until the arrival of a Naval Engineer confirmed it as being just seaworthy; but when the engine eventually works an ambitious crew has made extravagant promises of day-trips to Venice and tours of the Adriatic.

Night life stirs the camp twice a week, and at the all ranks dance, maidens, both bella and otherwise, provide a stirring spectacle as they whirl ceaselessly from Buff to Buff.

Even our dog lovers are catered for, although their numbers have been sadly reduced by many rules and regulations, at least licences are still free but this is the only concession.

This completes a short sketch of the battalion's activities and we hope to prove in the next instalment that we add to our laurels in peace, as in war.

INVASION OF GIBRALTAR, 1945

No careful planning nor detailed briefing aided this operation. A detachment of Buffs with a party of 10 R. Hussars in support, carried out Operation "Sherry"

under the wing of the Royal Navy and although the withdrawal was badly behind schedule brought it to a successful conclusion. The warning and operational orders were received jointly eight hours before sailing. At 0900 hours the *H.M.S. Liddesdale* steamed out of Trieste harbour, our departure accompanied by the Royal Marine band of a neighbouring cruiser. The harrassed "No.1" watching with apprehension the antics of the paying-off pennant which signified that her tour completed she was off to England to go out of commission.

By 3 p.m. we were picking up a pilot at the entrance to the Grand Canal, and shortly after tied up a few hundred yards from the Piazza San Marco. During the past few months I have visited Venice several times, approaching the City by jeep from Mestre, but never have I felt the beauty and spirit of the place as I did seeding the delicately woven tapestry of spires, bridges and canals from the bridge of the destroyer as she slowly moved into position through a charm of gondolas.

Next morning the voyage to Malta began after a whirlwind visit to the Doge's Palace before breakfast, a most godless hour even for a hard-boiled globe-trotter. The cavalry and infantry by now had proved the stability of their legs and stomachs and were detailed by the captain to earn their passage by learning the rudiments of navigation and watch-keeping. Far from any modern methods, they were only taught to apply the simple sextant and to unravel the mysteries of the Navigational Almanack, a most lengthy calculation which took us far into the night and confirmed our position to be in the wastes of the Sahara, a desert apparently dissimilar from any ever previously met by the battalion. The Navigator, an Australian, was appointed Schoolie and obviously was determined to make the despised Pongoes work, our names appeared with suspicious regularity for the midnight to 0400 hours watch.

Shima Creek, with its attendant disasters was our introduction to the George Cross Island. By midday we heartily disliked Malta. Field cashiers, Naval paymasters and R.A.F. cashiers were all in league and refused to exchange our crisp, clean but doubtful Italian lire. Another morning of fruitless pleading, convinced me that the prevalent rock had even entered the hearts of the Garrison and we retired to *H.M.S. Liddesdale*, disillusioned.

From Malta we skirted Pantelleria, Tunis and Algiers, and then turned towards Gibraltar, steaming through dead calm seas. Off Bougie, the Captain foolishly invited us to steer the

ship for an hour; at the completion of the period we were a mile off course. Then followed the only incident of the voyage—the look-out spotted a floating mine and the oerlikon crew was called out and the mine sunk.

Nine days after leaving Trieste, the *Liddesdale* reached her destination and, following a farewell party, she sailed for Chatham leaving us with a precarious foothold on the Rock. Twelve hours later the whole Garrison knew that we had successfully invaded the Colony—without an authority! The A.P.M. prepared a cell for us and the D.A.A.G. thought of a court-martial to brighten his day, but we retained our freedom, mainly because the A.P.M. was not sure whether he could arrest persons officially not recognised as being in the area; instead, he arranged for our entainment. A conducted tour of the Rock, a visit to the Apes and to Spain. (For anyone considering a visit to Gibraltar, a word of advice—do not announce in an audible voice to the habitués of the Yacht Club that the Apes are known as the "other Gunners"—the immediate forming of the traditional British Square to resist the onslaught was a frightening spectacle).

A week passed in alternating days of wild optimism or of deep depression. The original plan for the Operation included a return passage in *H.M.S. Liverpool*, a cruiser. Two days after our arrival, Navy House reported her "Not Calling at Gib" and explained they could not stop her for us. The next day a trawler was reported to be leaving for Malta in about 10 days. Following one or two further alarms, the *Liverpool* signalled her intention to call to pick up some sherry from Saccone and Speeds. By now Navy House was determined to rid the Rock of our unwelcome presence and guaranteed a passage to Malta, rashly promising to despatch us with our accumulation of drink.

The voyage to Malta was a grand recuperative interlude. "Q" Movements, Malta, firmly laid down that we should leave for Italy after two days, aboard the *Attilio Reggolo*, an Italian Cruiser.

The Italian First Lieutenant was visibly shaken by the sight of two passengers arriving alongside with a lighter amply filled with wooden packing-cases. He rose to the occasion and the crew stacked them on deck, but had no illusions regarding the attraction of our cargo. Half-an-hour later I was presented with a Baretta automatic and asked to arrange a continuous guard.

Naples saw us once more back in our native land and three days journey from Trieste, once again under the auspices of the Army and far removed from the dangers of the Navy's superb efforts at entertaining Pongoes.

Tailpiece.

Thanks to St. Christopher, the journey was completed safely, and, with no further incidents in the allotted three days. A few hours after this Officer's return, an urgent message arrived ordering his immediate return to U.K. for release, mercifully even before his hard-won prize could be used to quench a new-found Naval thirst.

K.H.B.

A WEEK-END VISIT TO THE 'CITY OF DREAMS.'

Few people would have been stupid enough in pre-war days to travel four hundred miles for a week-end trip; still times have changed and money and distance have lost their meaning.

The "Work Ticket" was made out by the M.T., I looked at the entry and had to chuckle, it read "Officers Recreation, Trieste, Vienna and return." I know that most of my readers will believe me when I say that the trip was made solely for duty reasons. The M.T. always did have a good sense of humour.

We broke the journey up and spent our first night at Klagenfurt. To those that do not know Klagenfurt my sound advice is "Don't you have missed nothing, and to those who do know it I am sorry but I have suffered too." We got away from Klagenfurt early on the Saturday morning in order to arrive in time for the races at Vienna. Before going to bed on Friday night we arranged for a call at 0530 on Saturday. This was promised us, and we went to bed quite confidently. Next morning there was a knock on the door followed by a peculiar noise something like "Funfund-fundf." I turned over in bed and looked at... and asked what the noise was about. After a great deal of thought and checking of watches we reckoned this was our early call, and the noise was the German for 5.30.

The road from Klagenfurt to Vienna is for the most part a good one and we made good time, arriving on the Racecourse at about 1.30, just in time for the 2nd Race. It was a fine day and the British soldier had obviously appreciated this and there was a good

attendance. The Races were over just after five o'clock and I may say I left in high spirits yes, I made a little money, very little I must admit, but what a wonderful change to leave a Race Course with any money at all!!

Until now we had seen little of the City, but for the next two and a half hours we got hopelessly lost in the maze of rubble and in the different zones of occupation. Still I did learn how to say "Straight on, Left and Right." We arrived at the Officers Mess of the 5th Buffs at about eight o'clock, had dinner and went to bed.

Sunday was spent by attending a Speedway Meeting in the park, and a party given by the French in the evening.

The old Austrian couple at whose house we stayed woke us up next morning and we left the City of Dreams soon after it got light. I regret I am unable to tell you if the Danube is blue as it flows through the Russian zone, forbidden territory as far as I was concerned.

We decided to make the return journey through Wolfesberg in order to buy some ski boots; our luck was out, as on reaching the picturesque little town and after waiting for the town Major for an hour we were informed that all shoes and boots were frozen. We made feeble attempts to argue but it was of no avail. After a quick lunch at a pleasant little Gasthof we pushed on to Klagenfurt and to Northern Italy. At Udine we pulled up at the D.A.F. Officers Club and filled ourselves with a good dinner. A very good point about the club was that it had a drivers room where drivers were able to feed. Why more Officer's Clubs don't do this I can't think.

We did not hang around after dinner as it was beginning to look like rain, and we decided that a dash for home was the best thing. I feel that anyone who has travelled in Italy on wet roads would have taken this decision.

We climbed into bed shortly after eleven having covered nearly a thousand miles over the weekend. It was good fun and well worth while.

Thank you 5th Battalion for your hospitality.

J.G.M.P.

Headquarter Company.

The activities of the company during the past few months can be recorded quite briefly :

"For men may come and men may go,
But the company potters along just the same as ever."
Ask that hive of industry, the Orderly Room, all about it. The "Queen Bee", Sgt. King, is back in office once more and with his able assistant, L/Cpl. Harry Wilcock (both refreshed by 28 days' leave in Blighty) is rapidly clearing up the devastation following the brief reign of Sgt. "Stacker" Neeley and Ptes. Morris and Webb, who took over the reins of administration with an enthusiasm equalled only by their lack of experience. These three have now retired, steaming, from the limelight and carry out a daily paper chase in a new and most necessary institution—"The Release Room". Carl Kurstein—the Great Dane—still resides in the Orderly Room (look out! right hand corner as you go in) and continues to issue dire threats to all and sundry. Nobody has been bitten yet, but poor Ken Horwood fell from his seat with fright when performing on the "Mighty Wurlitzer" one day. Rumour has it that Kent Horwood has the blue prints of a "jet-propelled Mighty Wurlitzer" in an advanced state of production. There is one empty seat, lately occupied by our tame schoolmaster, Arthur Browning. We are sorry to hear that he may not return to us, and we offer him our sincere condolences on his illness and best wishes for a quick recovery.

Now for the "Gestapo", ably led by Sgt. Coward (Group 23). These denizens of law and order have lately taken to prowling the foreshore after dark armed with powerful torches, a service not much appreciated by that section of the community which draws its pleasures from the civilian element in the local village. Not so long ago the section decided to join the current craze for riding. L/Cpl. Jackson made the maiden voyage. Alas and alack! he returned one evening, weary and footsore! Oh, Corporal—where is thy horse? The "mystery of the missing steed" was solved the following day with the usual "Coward" efficiency. It is significant, however, that nothing more has been seen or heard of the Provost equitation since that day.

The "I" Section is sadly depleted. Cpl. Donnelly resides like a hermit in the office. With one hand he writes his latest instalment of that thriller "The War Diary"; with the other he dishes out weekly instalments of the N.A.A.F.I.

Our "Keep 'em rolling" M.T. Platoon has a new transport "Fuhrer", so energetic and hard-working that he is wearing himself to a shadow. It is told that he can already enter the office without opening the door. His release testimonials are greatly prized. With one of those we would not look at a job worth less than five thousand pounds per year. In one day, Pte. Beck, our "Bird Man", proved that our 3-tonners won't fly, and contrary to that old maxim, "Accidents don't pay," they do—he did!

Who is the R.E.M.E. sportsman who is seen so regularly walking in the next village on battalion dance nights? I hear that one of the bandmen has a most attractive wife in that same village. Surely there can be no connection!

Our Signal Platoon Commander, Lieut. "Dickie" Bird, has pulled a very fast one and has disappeared home in a pile of luggage labelled "B" Release. We are very sorry to see him go and can only presume he found someone nicer than us when recently home on L.I.A.P.

The lonely exchange in that outpost of the Empire, Muggia, has threatened to break off all relations. Last heard, they were practising the "Red Flag".

We now pay tribute to that longstanding character of the company, R.Q.M.S. "Nobby" "I had a horse" Clarke, who was last seen leaving the course in a hurry a few weeks ago, running hard for home and release. Good luck and happy hunting. I wonder if we will get more out of R.Q.M.S. Excell?

According to the prodigious length of the Quarter-master's whiskers, Christmas must be near, so we conclude by wishing all readers a very happy Christmas and a quick return to "Civvie" Street" next year.

Sergeants' Mess.

The Mess to-day seems to be fast losing its old members. R.Q.M.S. "Nobby" Clarke is now wearing civvies, having got away from us to a beautiful start by having to be carried on a truck (Demon Vino again!) under the care of Harry Proctor, who himself was rather the worse for wear.

C.Q.M.S. Cyril Hawes was so much "under the influence" that it became necessary to get the "Flying Chetnick" out to tow him away. His pound note did a roaring trade. He even signed it himself with his famous uttering "— my luck!".

C.S.M. George Terry, we imagine, is now wearing the spats and carrying the umbrella of the gentleman once more.

We wish them all the very best wishes in their new adventures and really do hope that we hear from them in the near future.

Congratulations to R.Q.M.S. "Jumbo" Excell on his rise to fame in the Rogues Gallery. (We now know what it was like in Belsen Camp!)

The mess has been spreading itself just lately by issuing challenges to all and sundry in the darts and table tennis world and have had successful nights against the Officers (the "Cavalry Pair" have to be seen to be believed), the Cheshires, and the 2/6th Queen's. We were also very soundly beaten "on the table" by the Corporals. On the whole the attendance at the mess is fairly good. Naturally, the Muggia "Shalomers" consistently fail to put their names down, but we expect the novelty will soon wear off and that some of them will give us the benefit of their skill.

Our S.S. Group have started their customary winter efforts, headed by the one and only John Coward. It is rumoured that he has worked with Himmler. He certainly has had experience somewhere.

Last, but not least, R.S.M. Percy Smith is still his same good self. He has now been elected President of our newly-formed Chevrons Club in Trieste and can often be seen wandering around the mess with that "harassed look" peculiar to the busy man. We congratulate him on the great improvements in our mess of late, although the R.Q.M.S. still thinks the drinks are too dear. Keep it quiet! Jumbo may buy a round of drinks!

On his visit to Graz in Austria a short time ago, the R.S.M. ran into an old member of the peace-time battalions, to wit Harry Pinnock of drummer fame, who has now landed a steady number by becoming C.S.M. to the Military Governor of that town. He expressed the wish to be remembered to all those that know him, and hopes that any old drummers of either the 1st or 2nd Battalions would not be backward in dropping him a line.

Corporals' Mess.

Having now been in existence for a couple of months, we find the Club is beginning to settle down and find its feet.

The main event of the past month was our match against the Sergeants at darts and table tennis, which we duly carried to victory, thanks to those worthy players "Stone-Wall" Howard and "Smash-'em" Howard. We hope to meet the Sergeants again so that they may have the opportunity of getting their own back. The battalion having had a darts competition, we naturally entered a team, which was fortunate enough to reach the semi-finals. Better luck next time.

Dances having become the fashion in the battalion, we find that we have quite a number of the local signorinas visiting the club in company with their corporal friends, the club being so close to the dance hall that quite a number of the members have the habit of nipping in for a "quick one". We notice that Edmonds, King and "Shorty" Crowley are still ordering mussels, even though their partner-in-crime Sam Muskett is away on leave. It has been suggested that "Edmondo" becomes a naturalised Italian. We wonder what the attraction is to a certain member of the club who can be seen wandering around the streets of Muggia any evening with that "Hunter's" look on his face. We are "Shaw" that he must know something that we evidently do not.

Alan Shorter has suddenly developed quite an interest in photography. We wonder if this can have any connection with the Bella Signorina who works in the studio!

Social evenings appear to be in great demand these days, therefore we are hoping that next time we write there will be an account of our first step in this direction.

In closing, we offer our congratulations to Tibby, Solley, Babbington, Powis, Hemmett and Page in their transfer to the Sergeants' Mess. Also to Mean, Wilkins, Muskett, King, Hawkridge and Hunt on their promotion to Corporal.

"A" Company.

Since our scribe last posted a communique of the struggles and hardships of peace-time soldiering, the company has had a month of "rest" (?) in the sanatorium with Battalion H.Q. Buckets, whitewash, brushes, large boulders and small pickets were all procured from various sources, and we really got down to changing the face of the company billet. Out of nowhere sprang small clusters of white stones which from their beautifully roped off squares of sand declared to all and sundry the fact that this was the habitation of "A" Company. Grinning black cats of slate and stone inferred that in some way or other the company was also associated with the famous London Division. And as satisfied N.C.O.'s stepped back a pace to view their latest artistry, our Company Commander surveyed all from his office window with that indefinable air that only company commanders seem to acquire.

We played our first football match of the season against "D" Company in Trieste and managed, to the accompaniment of gas rattles, to win 3-1. But then we knew we would!

One morning the sun was shining, the birds were singing, the Company Commander was away on an audit board. In fact, everyone should have been happy. But no! a compulsory cross-country run had been arranged for the whole company and was due at

11 o'clock and, horror of horrors, Lieut. MacKelden was going to rush backwards and forwards along the course to pick the team—on horseback! What jeers! What wailing and gnashing of teeth! The bloods of the company vied with each other thinking of schemes to frighten the horse! But it all ended very well with L/Cpl. Flux winning quite easily. He said he would! One stalwart, feeling rather warm, threw himself over the sea wall into the briny only half-way round the course.

To those who have still not been home, L.I.A.P. is still the chief topic of conversation, while we others can now only count the days to our age and service group coming up! Cracks about knees being brown have been violently replaced by such sneering remarks as "Oo! The Sergeant-Major! He's only bin back from L.I.A.P. a fortnight!"

Now the company have relieved "B" Company on the road block again and our daily task is a twenty-four hours guard, with twenty-four hours off being as far as we can see the trivial round! But in the words made famous by Mortimer Snuur, "We loik it up 'ere," and have elected to return for Christmas.

Last night we held a village dance in the dining-hall and from near and far the peasant girls came to charm us. Some arrived with their shoes strung round their necks like small boys with new football boots, but it was of secondary importance, and diving headlong into the whirling mass of humanity, they emerged at the other end with a triumphant glare at those unfortunates who had accidentally happened to impede their progress. Hovering on the edge of this human whirlpool we observed Captain Ede, who was in the act of inviting a rather dainty "Frippet" to take the plunge! She eventually agreed—to dance! But it must have been too hot for them, for more than one of us saw him glance furtively round, and having satisfied himself we were out of earshot, hoarsely whispered to his perspiring partner, "Voi piace un poko a bere Si Si?", at the same time nodding his head in the direction of the Officers' Mess.

We welcome to the company all those who have joined or rejoined us since our last notes, and especially those who have joined who have previously served with Major Ian Pearson in his combined Operations Company.

We also wish *bon voyage* to such stalwarts as Sgt. Briscoe and Pte. Baker, who have left us for Blighty and Civvie Street, and to Lieut. Cobham and those who were taken prisoner with him at Commachio and have now been repatriated. And with this we must close and say *au revoir* and a very happy and merry Christmas to you all.

"B" Company.

We are thinking of calling "B" Company "The Bare Company" as we are losing so many of the old lads daily. C.Q.M.S. George Terry, Sgts. Jack Raggett and Bill Davey, and Pte. Esberger have all been bowler-hatted.

Sgt. Doug Horn should improve the housing situation now that he's back in the building trade again (not very fast on the old trowel, is he?)! Major W. G. Blaxland is home on L.I.A.P. and has left the "Flying Chetnik", that stalwart stallion, to hibernate in the shack. So we wait the Major's return so that we can win our beer money for Christmas.

Two cases of marriage have occurred in the company recently, due to L.I.A.P., and both victims seem pleased with themselves. It just goes to prove what they'll

get up to when out of the Sergeant-Major's fold for five minutes. However, our sincere sympathy and good wishes to L/Cpl. Hoare and Pte. Haselton for putting their heads in the noose.

Congratulations to C/Sgt. Flatt on "pulling" C.S.M.; to Cpl. Babington on promotion to Sergeant; to L/Cpls. Hewitt, Hardy (drink pints), Mean and Bendry on putting two up, or wangling another one! (hope the "rookies" soon arrive so that they can get their own back).

Generally the routine jogs along fairly "steady", with 24-hour guards and 12-hour guards (for the benefit of the M.T., who *work* by day), and interesting fatigues to cheer us up, and break the monotony of what might otherwise be a series of boring days spent N.A.A.F.I. crawling, and picture hunting, in some hell of a place like Venice or Florence. By the way, talking of fatigues, we have a new and really interesting one now, that of making a road, and we all vote it second to none compared with "spud bashing" and "area cleaning" because it will give us an opportunity to qualify for professional posts on our local Councils when our release numbers come up. So we merrily plod along waiting for the day—for some it's L.I.A.P., for others "Python", but for the 22's and 23's it's "Heaven", and jolly good luck to them all!

"C" Company.

The past month, despite the many changes of faces due to L.I.A.P., etc., has been a successful one, particularly in the field of sport. The record of our unbeaten football team of the Roman days was upheld with a gallant victory over a local Italian team, whilst the battalion soccer team's excellent performances in the past month warrants a word of praise for Cpl. Lucas, L/Cpl. Wood and Taylor, and Pte. Hill.

The sports spotlight must really go to our darts team, who, under the management of L/Cpl. Hawkridge (now Corporal—congratulations) proved themselves worthy of representing the battalion in an inter-unit competition. The fact that their game was broadcast, like the beer, might have gone to their heads, for they returned after their evening's play agreeing that the winners were not only just that little bit better, but they had a thoroughly enjoyable evening. It is regretted that Captain Woodward and the Quartermaster, after setting out several hours before the match, only managed to arrive in time to be invited by the B.B.C. to join in the celebrations. However, it is hoped that the same team under the same management will prove themselves successful in the forthcoming Battalion Darts League.

Our cross-country running team, led by Pte. Proud, ran a most excellent race in the recent battalion trial, and we hope that this company will help to represent the battalion in future events. Our pet runners, Ptes. Hucks and Gabbeday, after their return from England, will have to work hard to lead the way in future runs. Those who saw Pte. Novell run during the training periods now refuse to believe that the absence of vinegar in the company messes is due to the fact that no white vino is allowed to go bad because Pte. Novell drinks it all.

Sgt. Ward's nomadic tendencies have earned him a place with Captain Woodward in the Nomads' rugby team. It is surprising how married life affects some people!

Our successes in the various sports really make the month a very happy one, the only sorrow being the loss of many "old timers" on repatriation.

We wish Cpl. Turner, L/Cpls. Taylor and Wootton, Ptes. Watling, Pratt, Shone, Clark, White, Peapell, Monaghan Owen, Gee and Fordham every success for the future and hope they will remember us to other old friends and that they will write and keep us informed of their whereabouts.

We were very sorry to lose Lieut. Collins, our only consolation being that no longer is there the necessity to hold on grimly to our seats for fear of being swept away by the rush of wind caused by his entry into the office. Our loss is a gain for the M.T. They even organised a fire to celebrate the occasion.

Fires seem to be popular. The battalion cookhouse had its own little fire. This was probably to celebrate the departure of Captain Moriarty who, having cut off his moustache, eventually found sufficient courage to convince the authorities that Group 21 should go on L.I.A.P. We shall miss him in the coming festive season, but send him our best wishes on his return to civil life.

"D" Company.

Dog Company barking. Not very loudly, I'm afraid, as we are under strength in the canine line, although we pride ourselves on having the best dog in the battalion. He is an Alsatian, and certain personnel of the company think that he has more of the wolf strain than the dog in him, as he doesn't seem to differentiate between friend or foe. One gets a peculiar feeling in the region of the pants when passing him, as he is temperamental.

Whilst speaking of being under strength in the canine line, reminds us that we are not exactly overcrowded in the ranks owing to so many of our comrades being on L.I.A.P. Not that we are grumbling about that, but we did hear somebody quoting Shakespeare the other day; something about "Oh, that we now had here, but one ten thousand of those men in England that do no work to-day". Slim chance of that now, as we read that the dockers have gone back to their labours.

One of those people in Blighty not doing any work at the moment (at least we do not think so) is our Sergeant-Major Fisher, on L.I.A.P. Of course it may be an effort constantly raising the hand, to which is appended a glass, from the counter to the mouth, but I shouldn't think he minds that. We wonder if he is singing "Quanto ti voglio bene" to that gorgeous creature whom he tried to have us believe he didn't care about.

Cpl. Sharp, our ex-Orderly Sergeant, is also on leave. How quiet things seem! No Sharp, no rumours, no gags, no vember. Since he has gone, the influx of news has dropped considerably. What the Company Clerk didn't know, Cpl. Sharp knew, and what he didn't know, he made up. What a combination! However, we are all keeping well, although some people are gradually emerging from the bomb-happy stage to the group-happy one.

Since our last *Dragon* notes we have lost some old friends, departed on release. Sgt. Bicker, Cpls. Hallington and McDonald, Ptes. Wood and Curnow, have all attained the one-way ticket, and very soon Ptes. Howe and Fitzsimmons will be going the same way home. Good luck to you all, and here's hoping sincerely that you will be starting life again in a better and cleaner world than when you joined up.

Our previous Company Commander, Bill Moriarty, has also left us. We hear that he is not coming back to join us again, but wherever he is, we wish him the best of luck.

Major Pearson is now our Company Commander, joining us just before we left the Sanatorium. He is very keen on hockey, and during the past week has been giving us a little tuition on the ethics of the game. I am afraid that most of the pupils should yell out "Fore" before striking the ball, as the danger zone is anything up to ten yards all around the point of impact. Shoulder height doesn't count with these lads, and I'm sure that Henry Cotton would get a great kick out of watching them. However, we shall improve and then we will betide our opponents.

Our footballers are coming along, although one seldom notices the "Finney" touch. Ginger Pridgeon is still our stalwart goalkeeper, and when he has grown about two feet taller—oh, boy! oh, boy!

The boys enjoy their trips to Trieste, but complain that certain articles are very dear. However, it seems to be a static rate, so what can one do.

Incidentally, speaking of Trieste, the population at the present moment are troubled with the wind. Don't misunderstand me, we are talking about the natural elements. They tell us that when it gets really cracking it can lift a tram off the line. We tremble to think of the Company Commander in the jeep.

We are speaking the Italian language wonderfully now, although one chap who was overheard speaking to an Italian was using English and "Iti" mixed, with the result that when he had finished, we didn't know what he was talking about, and neither did the Italian.

We took Cpl. Cannon to the opera the other night. Right in the midst of "On with the motley" he was discovered sound asleep. Damn it all, old man, that's not done!

We are all looking forward to Christmas and hope that friend Smewin and a few more of the chaps, at present with "A" Company, will be back with us by then. If they aren't, what the heck are we going to do with the vino?

Roll on November, and here's wishing the best of luck to all our old friends who are now in Blighty.

"S" Company.

Time has passed surprisingly quickly since last we chronicled our past adventures, our present doings and our future hopes and fears, but quickly as the days have gone they have not been without their moments, and before our memories grow dim we feel it incumbent upon us to contribute this next chapter in the history of "S" Company.

First then we have a letter from our Road Block, where, despite the rigours and the dangers, they seem to be in good heart.

FROM "S" COMPANY ROAD BLOCK.—During the last two months the engineers have been active up here, and we are now the proud possessors of two Nissen huts, one for the guard and one for a cookhouse and dining-hall. In fact, our home is very comfortable at present and our fears for the winter are not very great. Of guard duty we need only say that it is full of interest if one is fond of gazing for interminable periods out to sea in day-time and equally fond of star-gazing at night; for the odd ones who do not come into this category it has its tedious moments.

Our daily life is administered by Sgt. Adams and we live amicably together under his rule, although he appears inordinately fond of whitewash and paint, both of which are liberally plastered all over our area;

from our previous acquaintance with Sgt. Adams, we feel that there is perhaps an unseen hand behind him which metaphorically wields the whitewash brush.

Our Guard Commanders are Sgt. Strickland, L/Sgt. Hemmett and Cpl. Reed. We congratulate L/Sgt. Hemmett on his recent promotion. There is not enough space for all our names, much as we should like to see them in print, but mention must be made of Doell, now on L.I.A.P., who won our darts competition; of Bacon, who would be practically a millionaire after his visits to the Aiello Race Course if only the "Flying Chetnik" could win a race, "Boozer's Gloom" didn't run out and "Entertainer" hadn't fallen at the first fence. As it is, urgent memos from the Paymaster and our own slight anxiety about various hundred liras are giving him a rather worried look. Of Marsden, who has unanimously elected himself sports organiser and played a dashing game in goal for us against the rest of the company. Of Finn, who has left us to rejoin the civilian ranks; we wish him all the best. And of Gedge, who persuades us weekly to contribute a shilling to his welfare in the guise of a football sweep. And now before we finish, we'd like to take this opportunity to send our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all those we know.

So much for the Road Block. Returning to the main company, L.I.A.P. still continues to take its toll and recent enquiries at Trieste Yacht Club elicited the fact that C.S.M. Phillips has gone. But not only have we to deal with L.I.A.P. Release is beginning to rear its "ugly head", and despite our protests, we are beginning to be conscripted into civvies. L/Cpl. Chapman (Group 23) is back from L.I.A.P. but spends most of his day ringing up the Education Office for new pamphlets on how to be released, and the Orderly Room to ask "Is anything through yet?". We managed to persuade him to lead our team in a football match with the Road Block, and under his adroit management we emerged victorious by 2 goals to 1.

Our music lovers, having used up their own requests, have now begun a disturbing practice of sending in requests for other people to our local radio station, and many of us hear our names read over the air requesting numbers we have never heard before and never wish to hear again. The perpetrators of this scheme must remain anonymous for their own safety. And now to sport.

C/Sgt. Purdy won our company cross-country run from Cpl. Ord and Pte. Warner, but Cpl. Ord managed to reverse the order in the Battalion run, which the company won easily. In other sporting activities darts seem to be the most popular. A most enjoyable evening was spent recently at the Road Block, where the Main Camp personnel of the company were the guests of "The Guards". Judging by the number of times 26's were scored, this number must be getting firmly implanted on some of the men's brains. After a very close game, Main Camp ran out winners by 3 games to 2.

Dances are now in full swing in the camp every Wednesday and Saturday, and many a member of the company can now "swing a nifty foot". The "Question" dance is undoubtedly the most popular, but we are still wondering why Cpl. King turned so red in the face during one of the most intimate questions.

The fitters have now housed themselves in their winter quarters, an excellent "Barnett pre-fab." dwelling complete with all modern inconveniences. The walls are decorated with numerous photographs of local "beauties", the work of our enthusiastic photographer, "Shorty". I have heard rumours that he has more than one interest in his many visits to the "dark room" at the local developing studio.

The favourite rendezvous of Ptes. Eaton and Davis at the moment appears to be the *Restaurante Amore* in Muggia, where scarcely an evening goes by without seeing them with a veritable mountain of mussels piled up on plates in front of them. Pte. Eaton has recently taken up boxing. Is this the reason, Dicky, for your sudden liking for "mussels"?

Recently we were issued with "comforters cot", a kind of woollen eiderdown. Is this the reason Sgt. Woodbridge has suddenly decided to sign on for another period of "time"?

On our return from Trieste one evening, we discovered the Company Commander had laid a magnificent "stone" at the entrance to our billets. We have yet to discover who this commemorates, but I am sure Billy Morrell's handiwork will be admired long after we have "passed away".

There has recently been a purge of dogs within the battalion. Unfortunately this means that many of our "best friends" will either have to go on extended "leave" or else be painlessly "released".

A considerable number of the company have now spent a "short rest" in Blighty. Congratulations to L/Sgt. Page, Cpl. Wood, L/Cpl. Handscomb and Pte. Neen on acquiring a "better half" during their stay there.

Congratulations are extended to C/Sgt. Purdy, L/Sgt. Hemmett, L/Sgt. Sid Powis, L/Sgt. "Pug" Partridge and newly-wed Arthur Page on their recent promotions. Also to the inseparables, "Sam" Muskett and "Shalomer" King, who have now reached the dizzy rank of Corporal.

STOP PRESS. "B" RELEASE.

The following is an extract from the *Poole and East Dorset Herald* :—

POOLE BOATING LAKE.—Mr. Phillips will be returning to take over the duties of helmsman after over five years' war service. Recently he has added more certificates to his already long list while serving with the *Gazelle* Yacht Club.

So you have worked it at last, Sergeant-Major. We all thought a month at home would be enough to fix everything. Still, you have succeeded where others have failed and we wish you and Pte. Wilson, who has been equally artful, the very best of luck.

The best of luck to Cpl. "Chunky" Wood, who has just left us on repatriation.

Finally, to end these notes, we join voices with the boys at the Road Block in wishing all past and present "Supporters" the very best of Christmases and the very happiest of New Years.

Correspondence—continued from p. 197.

now Ship's Adjutant in *H.M.T. Strathnaver*—writes on the 20th inst. from Malta, where he had just spent a morning ashore :—

"I had an extraordinary experience when I started off down the main street of Valetta. Everyone began to look at me and turn round and look after me: even shopkeepers peered out of their shops: the men all smiled and said "Good morning" with incredible affability, and the girls all smiled dazzlingly. I simply couldn't make out the form. There were plenty of other Army officers walking about all dressed

continued on p. 216

2nd Battalion

V.E.-DAY found the battalion with a fair amount of drink but little enthusiasm to celebrate; V.J.-Day with a fair amount of enthusiasm but no drink. Something wrong with the planning somewhere.

However planning is well to the fore now, and Prime Ministers forming new governments don't compare in the magnitude of their task with commanders at all levels. The battalion, recently arrived at a rocky, treeless area some 20 miles from Poona, is in the throes of losing itself (known as "repat" and "demob") and of finding itself again (known as re-organization).



Perhaps this is the moment, now that censorship restrictions have decreased, to outline briefly our more recent happenings.

England, Egypt, Palestine, Persia and Iraq all seem distant history. Since then a veil drawn over the journey down the Persian Gulf (in August with following winds) to India. There, near the West coast, after a sufficient period of training in jungle and rain (which out-jungled and out-rained anything in Burma), by tedious train to the North of Assam, and from there (Ledo), by air to Mawlu near Myitkina in the North of Burma.

We arrived in Burma with the two battalions with which we were brigaded in Paiforce, namely 1/19 Hyderabad and 1/1 Gurkhas. With the addition of 2/8 Punjabis all four battalions made up the third Brigade (26 Inf.) to complete 36 Div. This Div. did not form part of Fourteenth Army, but operated independently under S.E.A.C. While Fourteenth Army was advancing from the West, 36 Div's task was to work down from the North and operate to the East of the main Jap forces. The Div. eventually struck the Burma road in between Lashio and Mandalay at much the same time as Mandalay fell, having been supplied entirely from the air for a matter of many months. Three weeks later we were at Meiktila, flown to Kohima, lorried to India, promised leave and intensive waterborne operations and finally got the leave and then V.-Days.

As to our future: an occupational role "East of Singapore."

Back to the present. Censorship also allows it to be said that 36 and 2 Divs' have been merged into 2 British Divs'. This has naturally meant the "casting off" of 50 per cent of all units, and we count ourselves lucky to be kept alive in the capacity of the senior battalion of the senior brigade of 2 Div.

To make company notes intelligible it is necessary to say that the battalion is divided into "old sweats" due for home (goats), "young sweats" who were in Burma with us and are not due home—yet (sheep) and the numerous young entry recently arrived (lambs).

To the lambs, let it be known how welcome they are, and may all lambs, especially those from the Queens, and other Regiments and Services, settle down and come to appreciate this battalion.

To the Sheep, although few in numbers, a less wearisome future.

To the goats—every goat, much gratitude and the very best of luck.

(To the 1st battalion Austria has nothing on where we are going, and don't pinch everyone please).

Sergeants' Mess.

We welcome all newcomers to the Mess, and hope their stay will be a long and happy one.

Quite a number of things have been happening of late. First I mention the "Goats'" Farewell Party, which went down very well, the Commanding Officer, Second-in-Command and the Adjutant being present. Everybody seemed very happy until 3 o'clock in the morning, when the "Goats" led the way home.

We had a pleasant evening with the ENSA party, "Buffie" making enquiries as to where all the lamps were going. Ben (our R.S.M.) was seen leaving the Mess, taking two paces forward and one to the rear. "What is this, Major—a China move?"

We are very sorry to have lost our very good friend "Doughey" Baker. He did us some good service and we shall always remember him as the finest pianist this side of Poona; not to mention his funny ways.

The Sports Committee are doing a fine job, being all new members of the Mess. Keep it up, lads, you've a long way to go, and don't forget we've still the Officers to beat.

Ginger (our Cook-Sergeant) disagrees with the type of Charpoy issued by the Quartermaster, so he rests his weary body each night on the settee adjacent to the bar.

Calling 17, 17, 17. Stand by 18, 19 and 20. Well done, Alf. We'll still have another farewell party before we go!

Support Company.

Signal Platoon.

Now that active service, in the true sense of the word, is over, we find ourselves gradually getting back

to peace-time soldiering, bringing in many changes, including members of our platoon. The older ones have now dwindled to a mere thirteen, and not so unlucky considering we are hopefully awaiting repeat. L/Cpl. Maguire, the "Thin Man" and "The Twins" have acquired "soft" jobs, whilst others have been transferred to other platoons, including "Mum" Jones, who is busy arguing with unsuspecting members of "A" Company.

We understand "Crow" is still lining his wallet by his artistic efforts with paint brush and pencil.

In the sports world we are shining at football and hockey, and "Cas" Lowes may be seen walking about with a worried expression, and pencil and paper, trying to get teams together. The main hobby of one and all seems to be "charpoy bashing"; Ptes. Lyon and Major are voted by all to be champions, but the N.C.O.'s are a little busier training young hands in an effort to keep them interested long enough to classify.

We welcome to the fold new blood in the shape of our young intellectuals, Shadrake and Bradford, and several others who show great promise of being what every good signaller should be.

Congratulations to the many L.L.C.'s, and we hope they survive the various N.C.O.'s courses, and have not forgotten their W/T. procedure. Cpl. Scott should not be forgotten sweating away at the Signal School, Poona, and we all hope he comes back with a "DI"; and that "Mo" Best, our old Signal Sergeant, now instructing there, will give him a "big" hand.

Pioneer Platoon.

It must be months since we put our heads together for the purpose of these notes. Since we last did so we have welcomed a motley of new talent into the platoon, which includes ex-R.N., R.A.F. and Ack-Ack. So much Ack-Ack, indeed, that they have brought down the flying dhobi. We believe Tom Webster brought his gun with him. Some of the newcomers are rather young compared with us old "Goats", and this makes them subject to all sorts of cracks. One chap in particular is always greeted with the question: "Have you been to the cookhouse for your milk to-day?"

We recently repaired one of the char-wallah's urns, hoping to be rewarded with buckshee char. We gave him one or two hints, but he said in a loud voice imitative of one of us: "You've had it!"

We conclude these notes by wishing the best of luck to our sheep and lambs. I wonder what they will say about us after we're gone?

Mortar Platoon.

We of the old Mortar Platoon open this month's notes by wishing Sgt. Platter and his "Chicos" all the best for the future. The "Chicos" have put up a good show with their firing on the range. A few mishaps occur, maybe, such as a bomb entering the barrel in unorthodox fashion and causing a slight alarm and a scampering in all directions by the numbers.

To-day's platoon shows, as in the old days, a great interest in football. So far they have won one game and lost six, but an old hand is writing these notes and can't help rubbing it in. However, the team is coming along fast. The old boys are grazing in different companies now. Before leaving, they managed to win the Platoon Knock-out Competition. Captain Bench would have been delighted to see the final game, which was played against No. 6 Platoon, "B" Company.

We are very sorry he wasn't here to share in our triumph. (A word from the old boys, Captain Bench. Wherever you may be, good luck to you in your first job, and may you soon get home to your film star wife.)

To close these notes, let me wish the old 'uns jaldi move on to that boat.

Medical Section.

We bid farewell to Captain J. R. Fletcher, our amiable M.O., who fulfilled his task of sorting out sick wallahs to perfection, and wish him a speedy return to the U.K. We also welcome all newcomers in the shape of sheep and lambs to the fold to carry on the traditions of the S.B.'s.

We congratulate L/Cpl. "Ref" Pope on his recent jump to Medical Sergeant. Congrats. to our one-strippers, Buckman, Gardiner, Ellis and Beamont, on attaining their first. Congrats. also to future Medical Orderly L/Cpl. "Rasner" Rose.

We welcome back "Dodgy" Bill Halsey after his invasion of England, where he held his beach-head for 28 days before retiring to his own lines.

Our new rivals in the soccer world are the Mortars. What a barrage they put down against goalie Tyler, who arrived next morning less "tache". Query—did he lose it at football?

With the best of wishes to our successors, we make our departure.

Admin. Company.

We open this month's notes with welcome and farewell. First we welcome C.S.M. Moody to the company, and bid farewell to C.S.M. Baker and Sgt. Lampkin, who are on duties elsewhere. To Lieut. Shrubshall we extend our greetings and trust he will remain for some time. Our deepest sympathy goes to Support Company on the loss of their footballers. How strange to see the mighty company around the lower positions at football. Chests, however, are expanded in Admin. The reason? We have the best hockey team and one of the best football teams (this might be challenged in other companies). We welcome the thought that Admin. has at last risen from the ranks of the despised to that of the exalted companies.

What is the strange sight around the M.T. these days? "Educated Evans" can be seen in the centre of a ring of drivers explaining maintenance on a rickshaw, or perhaps a tonga. Arthur is still looking for tyres for his lorries (I wonder why they always have tyre depots in big towns).

Our shoemaker returned from leave with further tattoos—a large rock of ages on his back. Why the ages, Tutty. Jimmy, how's the bowler hat?

"A" Company.

The company has undergone a complete change during the past few months, chiefly due to training and sport. Training has been mostly for the new arrivals and has been most interesting, but they also took their place in sports.

The soccer team has come into its own again by winning the company league. In doing this we beat "C" Company 2-0, Admin. Company 3-1, Support Company 2-0, "D" Company 3-0, and drew with "B" Company 2-2. Some of the players who made names for themselves and got places in the battalion side are Sgt. "Reggie" Rutter, Cpl. "Blackie"

Blackwell, L/Cpl. "Badger" Cook, and Cpl. "Shoulders" Brenchley. The other sports in which the company took place were hockey, under C.S.M. "Binkie" Steward, basket ball and cricket.

We congratulate Lieut. "Mac" McGrath on his promotion to Captain and his return to the company. Another old member who has just returned is Captain "Dickie" Herbert.

We welcome to the company Lieuts. Hamilton and Hill, and hope their stay will be long and happy.

Not long ago we said good-bye to some of our old "sweats" who went out on demob., namely Cpl. "Tammy" Tampset, Pte. John Griffiths and L/Cpl. "Wag" Waghorn. We wish them all the best in Civvie Street.

The ranks of Lance-Corporals have been swelled by the new chaps who have taken willingly the rank of Unpaid Lance-Corporal. We wish them every success in the future and hope they will keep up the name of the company.

The "Lines Inspection" causes great rivalry in the battalion, but we walked away with it, much to the surprise of the other companies who, through their unceasing work, thought we didn't stand a chance.

In conclusion, we say good-bye and thank you to C.S.M. "Binkie" Steward for all he has done for the company. He will be leaving for the U.K. shortly, and that great new life, "Civvie Street".

"B" Company.

Many changes have taken place since the last edition of these notes. Some lucky people have gone home, others not so lucky have joined us from Blighty. To those who have now reached home we send all our best wishes; and we welcome the newcomers, hoping their stay will be as pleasant as that of their predecessors.

Congratulations to L/Cpl. Lane on his marriage while on leave at home. It is not true that he is going to give the company a lecture on his experience of married life.

Sports have occupied a big place in the battalion activities for some time now. "B" Company is Champion Company and looks like remaining so for a considerable time. So far we have been "placed" in every competition.

VJ Day was celebrated with a fun fair. We provided a booth called "Puggled Corner" run by the most "puggled" people in the company. The results of our efforts were also "puggled", as the competitors won all the money.

Hockey has now become popular, and as "B" Company has quite a few old stagers, we are doing quite well. Major Nelson and C.S.M. Nash select the team. Both play. 'Nuff said!

We wish to congratulate the flock of Unpaid Lance-Corporals who have appeared in the last few weeks. There may be some budding C.S.M.'s among them. We wish them the best of luck.

"D" Company.

Once again we come into the news with all the "griff". First we regret to have lost so many old faces, including Major Ardagh, our ex-Company Commander, and Dersey Taylor, his batman. Also C/Sgt. Tarrant and quite a lot more that would fill a page. We hope that they will be happy in their new jobs,

and better still, we hope to see them soon on the S.S. *Goat*, bound for Blyth.

Next we welcome our new Company Commander, Captain Gardiner, who appears very fond of sport (who said that kangaroo's could run ?).

We welcome to the company sheep and lambs. We hope they will enjoy their stay with us.

The S.I.M. is working very hard with his lambs these days ; in fact he's very fond of them. So much so that on the first parade he reports his squad as follows :—" 8 on leave, 3 on other courses, 3 sick, 5 attending treatment, 6 in bed, 1 washing pants, the rest excused parades." Sir !

Sports is very much in the news these days. We won three games of soccer and lost four, but we mean to get into the semi-finals yet. Hockey is also being played with great keenness, and we have won two games. The lads really do know how to make use of the sports ground, even though they have to maintain it.

Beneath Bell Harry



ONCE again the time has come for your correspondent to scratch his head in an endeavour to produce an article on the doings of the I.T.C. during the past month ; and a certain gloom, appropriate perhaps to the "sadder part of the year" descends upon him as in vain he searches his mind for something to write about.

For apart from the disappearance for various reasons of many familiar faces, life here continues very much the same as usual. The intakes come and go, the square echoes the "one, two, three-up," and people go off to the ranges as they have been doing for a good many years past, and presumably will continue to do so until the atomic bomb has been produced in sufficiently large quantities to make all this obsolete.

Canterbury had a visit a short time ago from Field Marshal Montgomery who was honoured with the freedom of the City ; the Commanding Officer and Major Dare were present, with Lieut. Maxwell and three Warrant Officers who had served with the 8th Army, and the Band of course, together with a detachment of the Buffs Cadets, took part in the parade.

On November 9th a contingent of Buffs with the 1st Battalion Band under the command of Major Dare went to London to take part in the Lord Mayor's procession, and exercised,

for the first time for a number of years, their privilege of marching through the city with bayonets fixed, and drums beating. More about this next month.

A number of Danes have come here to undergo training at the I.T.C., afterwards to carry out their military service with the Regiment, cementing still further the close connexion of the Buffs with Denmark. We hope they will enjoy their stay here.

We have had the usual number of visitors. Colonel J. F. Whitacre Allen, Humphrey Williams and Bob Pinhey came to lunch, also Raymond Grace, looking very fit on his way to join the 1st Battalion.

Geoffrey Cox is home on leave, and we hope to see more of him. It is felt that there should be a gathering of the Beerhawks in his honour. Unfortunately the Brothers are becoming very much scattered now.

We are glad to hear that Major L. J. Williams has made an excellent recovery from his operation, and we hope to see him back soon.

We must wish the very best of luck to Hutch (Capt. L. H. Hutchinson) who has now left us to be demobbed. He was P.R.I. here for several years, and will be much missed by everybody, not least the Hockey XI, which he captained so ably last season. Among his many accomplishments, he was one of the greatest of Stuka Puka players, performing with an éclat rarely seen nowadays. Enthusiasts of the Royal and Ancient game will be glad to hear that the tables have been newly covered, so the experts can no longer blame anyone but themselves when things do not go quite according to plan.

Our best wishes also to Jim Kirby, another fine player, who has also left us for civilian life.

It must be recorded, finally, that the officers' mess hens have now been brought up to strength and we look forward to a special effort in egg production in the near future. At the moment, a solitary gallant hen lays an egg each day, and the P.M.C. is considering awarding a special certificate of honour for this really praiseworthy performance.

"C" Company.

Congratulations to C.S.M. Cahill—his "crown" slipped and was caught by the "Laurie Wreath". Also to L/Sgt. Redman, who is preparing for "Civvy Street" by eating in the Sergeants' Mess.

We welcome to the company, Sgts. Newton and Rowe, back again from the 2nd Battalion Surreys.

Also Sgts. Randall and Antrobus, Cpls. Reynolds, Mapleston, Armstrong and Carling, and Cpl. Hawkins, who has now fully recovered from his spell in hospital.

The football team has shown some good form lately by beating "S" Company 4—2 and "R" Company 5—0. Watch out, other companies—your turn is to come!

The Sheriff did it again in the Drill Competition. That gave him a good start for A/C.S.M. Sgt. Trice pulled one out of the bag in the last Drill Competition.

We had a very hurried farewell from Chick Evans, our Orderly Sergeant, before he went back to Herne Bay prior to getting his "bowler hat". You'd be surprised how we all miss that melodious voice and untold energy at 06.45 hours.

Cpl. Watson took unto himself a wife on his last leave. Congratulations and good luck, Ken, for the future to you and Mrs. W. Hope she managed to get a good glimpse at the Meteor as it flashed by.

On Rouse Parade, Cpl. Meakin and his sextet have to keep a very wary eye, otherwise they get well surrounded and overpowered.

"Chest up and chin in—as you were!" Chin up at the Lord Mayor of London. It was regrettable that one Sergeant didn't have a wound stripe for the procession—he did try hard. There is every reason to believe that some members of the procession appeared with shining morning faces and boots, grasping rifle complete with bayonet in one hand, and haversack rations in the other. One has to be thankful for small mercies.

"I" Company.

First, I want to say how much we deeply regret the passing of a very old and well-loved friend, Sgt. Jimmy Dale, who was killed in an accident during training at Reculver. His absence is felt strongly by all who knew him, and especially in the Sergeants' Mess. He was given a military funeral from his home at Oare, Kent, and among those who attended were Lieut.-Colonel C. E. Wilson, Lieut. Dickson (Acting Company Commander), Lieut. Stringer, Lieut. Allen, six Sergeants from "I" Company Sergeants' Mess, who acted as pall bearers, Sergeants, Corporals and Lance-Corporals from this and other companies in the I.T.C., and all the members of the platoon he was training up to the time of his death. He was buried at Oare, Kent.

This month has seen quite a number of changes in the company. With Group 20 being demobbed, we saw the departure of two old friends, namely Bill Wigley of the Regimental Police and "Pop" Singyard, our very able Corporal-Cook. I am sure that "Wiggy" will be sadly missed by the remaining members of the "Gestapo" and also by the members of the Corporals' Mess. And "Pop" too, he was a very familiar figure making his way up and down the hill, burdened with a large kitbag upon his shoulders—but you should have seen his load the day that he left! We are all sorry to lose them both and wish them the best of luck for their future in "Civvy Street".

Another old friend who is shortly to leave us is C.S.M. Johnson, but he is not being demobbed just yet. He is "bashing" on for another couple. At the moment is awaiting embarkation for some distant land. We all wish you the best of luck and a safe journey, wherever you are bound for, Sir.

We welcome to the company, C.S.M. Bell, who is stepping into the breach in place of C.S.M. Johnson.

The company football team this year has lost quite a few of its regular players. Consequently we are not doing so good as we would like to, but as long as we can scrape up a team, we are willing to have a go! Our old medical friend, Charlie DeCourcy, had the fine spirit to turn out as goalkeeper for the company against a strong team on Sunday the 4th, and in his valiant efforts to make a save during the game, he had the misfortune to pull a muscle in his back which has rather restricted his mobility for the time being. "No more football for me!" says Charlie. Bad luck, Charlie—and thanks for trying.

We welcome to the company Sergeants Gilbert, Mercer and O'Gorman, who have joined us as instructors—you know, those rare things that are so hard to get hold of nowadays. The number of officers that have left, and joined, the company has been so large that I am afraid I haven't enough space to mention them all, but we here welcome all those who have arrived, and say "So-long" to those who have departed.

At the invitation of the Sergeants, the Corporals accepted a challenge to battle against them in a series of tournaments on the billiard table and the dart board in their Mess during the month. A very enjoyable evening was had by everybody, with the Sergeants coming out top with 24 points as against the Corporals' 18 points. We thank the Sergeants for this entertaining evening and will shortly be challenging them to a return visit to the Corporals' Mess and hope that we can make the evening as happy and friendly as they did.

One of the attractions of the Corporals' Mess is the wireless and strict silence has to be maintained, whilst Cpl. Sweeny listens to Paul Temple, the "Ace" detective, doing his stuff. A close study of Cpl. Sweeny's fingers has revealed that the nails have been bitten down to the quick. Venus would have nothing on him if Paul Temple was on every night!

Our Company Commander, Major W. L. Williams, is now out of hospital after an operation, and we all hope that he has a quick recovery.

To close, we would like to extend our good wishes to all Buffs, wherever you are, and may you have an early return home.

"D" Company.

I can almost hear Chad saying, "Wot, no notes!" So I'd better get on with my task (not self-inflicted) and produce some.

Intake, dispersal and the usual stalking the lamp have gone on without much undue excitement.

We have seen so many demob. suits that one might almost think the Company Office had moved to Guildford.

Doubtless all who used the 'phone to our office will miss the golden-voiced Simpkins' "Good afternoon—this is "D" Company", and more recently we miss our "Beast of Belsen", Cpl. Wright.

We welcome the Danish volunteers, and were most relieved to discover that they spoke such perfect English, but many were not so relieved to discover that it was with such an attractive broken accent that there may well be many broken hearts beneath Bell Harry.

Is it true that C.Q.M.S. Heinz now speaks broken Danish, or is there some other explanation for his success at so many dances?

Is it also true that "Liz" did not accept the dashing Sgt. Ridley's offer of a trip to London to see the Lord

Mayor? Incidentally, we learn that she is a budding actress and so may even change her name to Sarah.

Going back to the Lord Mayor's Show. Our gallant Admin. Officer (Lieut. Clarke), who nearly had to carry a sword, was last seen gaily swaying through London following the A.T.S. Band, closely followed by a W.O. and six Sergeants.

Football is in full swing. The company team beat "A" Company 8-1. We have quite a good team run by Lieut. Shears and ably supported by our Company Commander, Captain Tilleard, who relegates men at the right time.

Sgt. Rogers seems to have taken up writing Chad signs on N.F.S. pumphouses and on the Colour Sergeant's office door. I can think of better places to write them.

Our streak of lightning (Lieut. Penman) is now Rugby Football Officer. He has even been seen doing P.T. with his platoon, and his memory is getting better every day.

Cricket Season, 1945.

Since the last report, the I.T.C. cricket side had a bad patch and lost five games in succession, and although we may be criticised for making excuses, I might hasten to say that three of these matches were lost by as few as nine runs.

During the season we had some good tight games, and a grand sporting atmosphere prevailed, especially between us and St. Lawrence—Beverley, whom we managed to beat once and draw with once.

We are hoping to be able to field a team for the 1946 season and have started booking fixtures, but we are going to miss the weight of our team C.S.M. (Tom) Burgess, and Sgt. "Trapper" Mandeville, who have already left us in early release groups.

Other members of this year's team who will not be here for 1946 are Cpl. (Alfie, our Goalie) Harmer (unless somebody can persuade him to sign on or find him a job in Canterbury) and Pte. Clark of the C.R.S.

We hope we will have Cpl. Creese and Pte (now L/Cpl.) Slater for 1946 season, to do a lot of damage in the bowling line again.

Although the list of results as under looks rather on the losing side, we are certain that in the year 1946 our results will be far more promising.

Won 7 · Lost 9 · Drawn 2.

Correspondence—continued from p. 211.

as I was. I glanced furtively into shop windows to see my reflection, and could see nothing wrong. No funny notices pinned to my back or anything. Finally my nerve broke and I darted into a shop. All over me immediately. What could they show me. Did I have a good trip: and so on. Eventually I was able to get a word in and asked what was up. Why the public attention? "Oh, Sare," said the chap, "you are a Buffs. For so long we have seen no Buffs." The 4th Bn., which was here from 1940—1942 I think, certainly made a hit in Malta."

I thought you might be interested in this magnificent tribute to the Regiment.

Yours sincerely,
D. F. MONEY.

5th Battalion



SEVERAL times in the past we have been grieved to find little or no mention of our "activities" in *The Dragon*, and this was particularly noticeable in a recent account of the Italian campaign, which paid scant justice to our considerable role. The fault of course has been our own since we somehow assumed that everyone at home ought to know automatically all about the battalion. In future we

hope to remedy this neglect.

At the moment we are doing a spell of Garrison duties in Vienna, and until recently the battalion was the only British Infantry unit here. In consequence responsibilities have been considerable. Chief Ceremonial duty has been the guard at the great Schonbrunn Palace, famous former winter residence of the Hapsburgs, and now a hive of British Military Offices. Here crowds gather daily to watch the guard mounting, which is now well up to peace-time standards.

Besides this there are other guards and patrols all over Vienna, and also periodical special ceremonial parades. For these the Regimental Colours have been brought by plane specially for the occasion from Canterbury Cathedral, where they have rested since the other World War.

A great event was a Battalion Regimental dinner held on October 16th in the Park Hotel in Vienna. This was the first time, as far as we know, that the 5th Battalion has held such a function since it was re-formed. A list of guests and the officers of the battalion who attended the dinner follows:—

Guests.—Lieut.-Gen. Sir R. L. McCreery, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E., M.C.; Maj.-Gen. C. D. Packard, D.S.O., O.B.E.; Brigadier C. V. Palmer, O.B.E., T.D.; Lieut.-Col. H. H. Nicholls, The Buffs M.G.A. Vienna; Colonel F. H. Butterfield; S/Comd. C. I. Fell; J/Comd. M. Heggie; S/Comd. D. Kenchington; Lieut.-Col. G. E. F. Oliver, O.C. 1st Buffs; Major E. G. Cox, M.C.; Brigadier G. R. D. Musson, D.S.O., Comd. 36 Inf. Bde.; Major M. Roulette; Major H. Van Ammel, The Buffs A.C.A. Vienna; Sqdn./Ldr. Trevelyan; F/O. Lucas; Lieut.-Col. Marielle Tréhouard;

Lieut.-Col. Daviron ; Commandant Lallemand ; Major M. B. Scholfield, M.C. ; Captain M. E. Beilby ; Major L. H. Gagan ; Captain R. P. Anstey ; Maj.-Gen. R. K. Arbutnott, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. 78 Div. ; Capt. W. Jones ; Lieut.-Col. D. H. C. Worrall, M.C. ; Lieut. P. Wilson.

Officers of the 5th Bn. The Buffs.—

Lieut.-Col. A. J. Odling-Smee ; Major T. Dixon, M.C. ; Major P. L. C. Rance ; Major G. C. Piper ; Major B. McGrath, M.C. ; Capt. R. S. Taylor ; Capt. L. H. Lane ; Capt. R. C. Bengé, M.C., M.M. ; Capt. S. D. Millar ; Capt. F. E. Thorneycroft ; Capt. G. S. Gabb, M.C. ; Capt. J. de Vroome ; Capt. M. Leates, M.C. ; Capt. J. W. F. Swann ; Lieut. A. D. Lambert ; Lieut. E. R. Norris ; Lieut. A. D. Thorndycroft, M.B.E. ; Lieut. B. Lamacraft ; Lieut. T. H. Frost ; Lieut. H. R. Holland ; Lieut. J. Walton ; Capt. K. McGlashan, R.A.M.C. ; Major C. J. L. Simmonds ; Lieut. A. Webber ; Capt. D. F. G. Sillick ; Lieut. D. A. T. Butcher.

This was a memorable occasion for all concerned and served to set a seal on our stay in the Capital City.

The honour of bringing out the Regimental Colours from Canterbury went to Lieut. P. Wilson son of Lieut.-Col. Wilson of the Training Centre. Lieut. Wilson stayed with the battalion in Vienna for a week.

International Sports fixtures have been a constant feature here and members of the battalion teams have played for British Garrison against the French and Russians at both Soccer and Rigger.

The city itself like most occupied cities has many depressing aspects but war damage although severe in parts is presumably less than in some places in Germany. A quadruple occupation—as a Berlin—of a small area in the middle of the Russian zone naturally presents difficulties.

However, it has been worth while to have seen Vienna even if only as a shadow of its former self. And, of course, entertainment is more plentiful than elsewhere, whether opera, cinema or dancing and cabaret.

So feelings will be mixed when we return next month to Southern Austria, to the little villages strung out along the beautiful Drau Valley between Villach and Lienz. There we hope to settle down for the winter.

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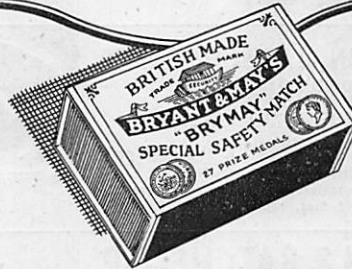
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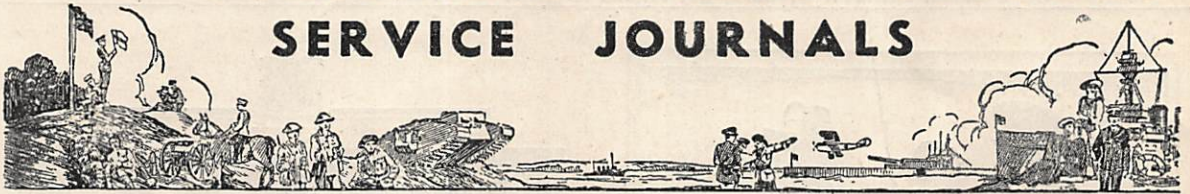
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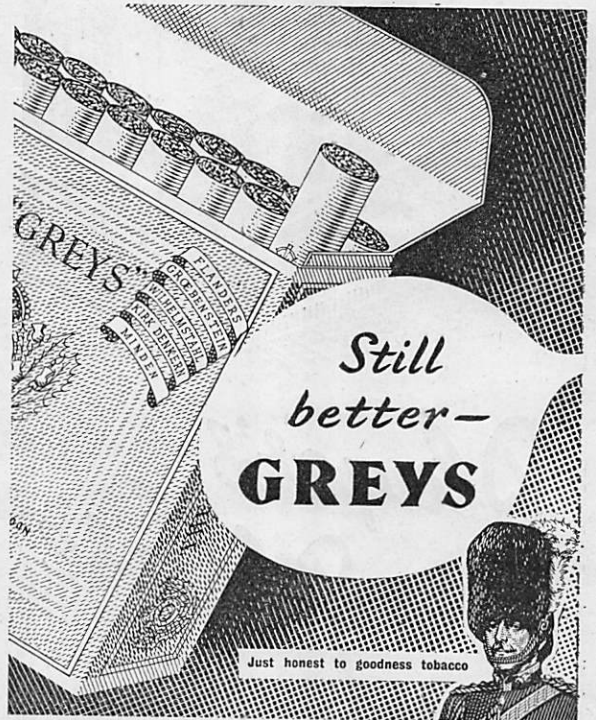
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