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THE DRAGON

THE REGIMENTAL PAPER
OF THE BUFFS.



No. 553

December, 1945

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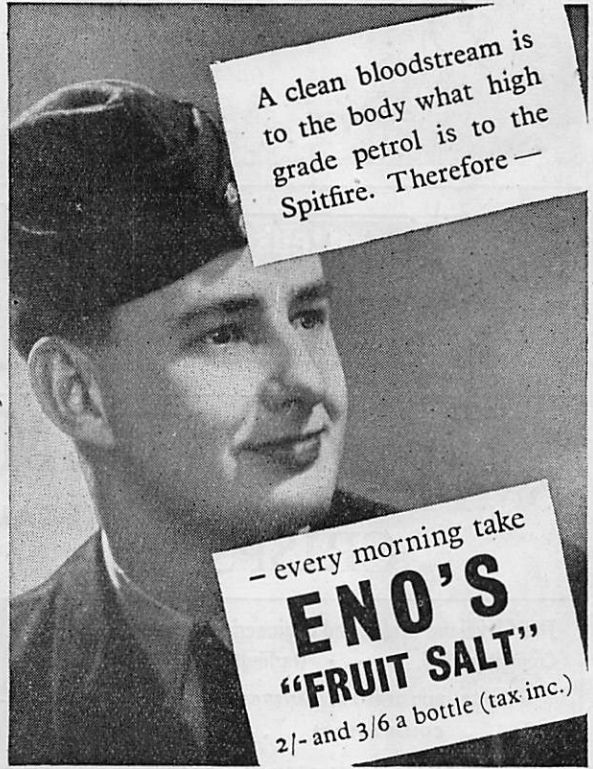
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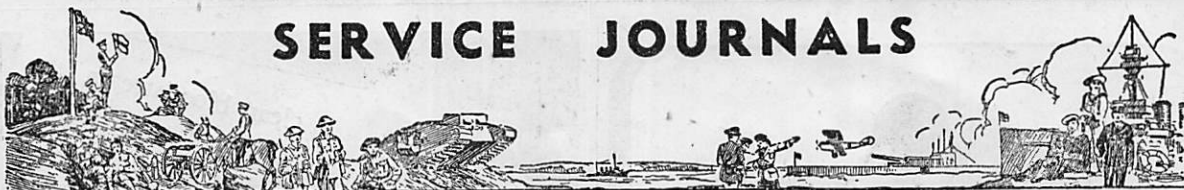
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No. 553

DECEMBER, 1945.

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Personalia.

IN this first year of Peace after six years of War, we wish our readers a Happy Christmas and a New Year of better things to come. We live in difficult and troublous times and it is our earnest hope that the affairs of the world may improve during the forthcoming year.

We thank our subscribers, contributors and advertisers for their support during the year 1945, and ask that their support may be continued.

The death of the late Alderman C. Lefevre, Mayor of Canterbury, was a great loss not only to the City of Canterbury but also to soldiers and their families. He took a keen interest in Army Welfare both as regards the Rose Club and in individual cases which came to his notice.

We regret to record the deaths of Colonel J. Body, Major A. R. L. Kelham, Major W. R. Stainforth, Lt.-Col. H. de L. Walters, ex-Cr.-Sgt. F. H. Wright, ex-C.S.M. E. Lamb, and offer our sympathy to their relatives.

On the Armistice Day Parade, after the Service, the salute on the march past of the troops from the Training Centre was taken by the new Mayor of Canterbury, Alderman A. Baynton.

We hear from Lieut.-Colonel R. E. Power that he and Mrs. Power are now fairly well settled in their new house and are very pleased with it. June Power has had a very good job

in Brussels but is likely to be demobilised soon: Vivie Power is at Frampton. Colonel Power sees Brigadier-General C. L. Porter fairly frequently and reports that he is wonderfully well considering how ill he was a few months ago.

Brigadier T. H. Spear is in Brussels as head of the British Military Mission to Belgium. Address: 24a Boulevard du Regent. He hopes that his old friends passing through Brussels will look him up there.

Lieut.-Colonel T. N. Penlington is commanding a detachment, Civil Affairs, and is in Schleswig-Holstein. He hopes to be home on leave about Christmas.

Lieut.-Colonel J. E. King informs us that Bds. Butler and Pte. Beaney, who were with him, have left on release; Bds. Hardwick is still there. The following are in his detachment at Woolwich:—6288262 Cpl. Marsh, 6287234 Pte. Bedford, pre-war members of the 4th Battalion; 6288609 Pte. Mabbott, 5th Battalion; 4398166 Pte. Palumbo, 4th Bn.; 6288193 Pte. Ward, pre-war 4th Battalion, captured with 5th Battalion; 6289057 Pte. Stoneham, posted to a unit called "Davis' Rifles" and captured with them.

Major Ransley reports that his son Eric is now with the 5th Battalion. Captain-Fryer, M.C. (ex-Cpl., 2nd Battalion), R.A.C., is in Major Ransley's office at the War Office. He was commissioned from the ranks, pre-war, and will be remembered as a high jumper.

The undermentioned officers successfully completed the fifteenth Camberley Staff Course and have been awarded the Certificate "(S.C.)".

T/Captain A. E. Majendie, T/Major N. F. H. Norris, T/Major J. P. W. Samuelson.

Major R. J. Tuke moved on December 20th to Little Beredens, Kenton, Devon, where all old friends will be assured of a hearty welcome. He has finished with the sea and hopes that the Army will soon release him.

Captain A. J. Parish, who finished his Army career as Second-in-Command, London District Provost Company, has recently been released from the Service. He is shortly going back to the legal side of the Civil Service.

Captain Francis Morgan has arrived at Kumasi, where he has joined the 6th Battalion Gold Coast Regiment. He reports that his surroundings are very comfortable and include an excellent squash court and swimming pool.

We congratulate Captain K. P. G. Harbord on his marriage to Miss Lelia Brabazon, of Rangers Lodge, Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare. The ceremony took place in Dublin on December 18th.

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. P. R. Asprey on the birth of a son.

Bandmaster Foster writes that his Band is very much reduced in members and that he hopes to be home, with the remnants of the Band, sometime in January next. His last tour finished in Beirut after a visit to most of the towns in Syria and the Lebanon. He and the Band send their best wishes to all for Christmas and the New Year.

We congratulate Mr. V. W. C. Hewson, late of Folkestone and the 4th Battalion, on his marriage to Miss Lexton of Bury St. Edmund's. The ceremony took place on November 15th at Bury St. Edmund's, part of the honeymoon being spent at Folkestone, when Mr. Hewson paid a visit to "D" Company at the Drill Hall. He sends his best wishes to his old friends in the Regiment.

Sgt. Horace E. C. Petts, one of Canterbury's most popular Police Officers, retired during the month after 37 years' continuous service under the Crown. A native of Canterbury, he joined the Regiment, serving with the 2nd Battalion

in Singapore and India and in the Great War 1914-18. Leaving the Army after ten years' service, he joined the Canterbury Police Force, in which he has served 26 years and 7 months.

Recent arrivals in the U.K. include :—

Captain A. H. Bishop, T/Captain L. E. L. Coates, T/Major M. Cranfield, Lieut. G. H. Cobham, Major W. I. Percival, T/Major P. J. How, W.S./Capt. L. P. W. T. Slark, T/Major R. H. Ardagh, T/Major H. J. Nelson, T/Major R. W. Croucher, T/Major P. M. Kellett, T/Capt. L. E. Palmer, Lieut. J. Paine, Lieut. V. S. Holt, Lieut. G. Y. Richardson, T/Major L. M. G. Harris, T/Major S. G. Smith, A/Major K. Le P. Knowles, T/Captain R. T. Lawson, T/Captain K. R. Wilson, Captain J. E. Wills.

Recently two regiments which had their origin in battalions of the Regiment have been disbanded. 141 Regiment R.A.C. (The Buffs), formerly the 7th Battalion, fought with great distinction on the Western Front, its squadrons operating with the British, Canadian and American Forces.

89 L.A.A. Regiment R.A., formerly the 11th Battalion, also took part in the operations following "D" Day. In addition to operating in its primary role as anti-aircraft gunners, it also operated as infantry, and acquitted itself right well.

We are glad to say that many of the officers and other ranks of these two regiments have decided to maintain their connexion with the Regiment by becoming members of our Association.

Recently we met Mr. and Mrs. Stroud, both in good health. Mr. Stroud is now in his 45th year of service, having served 21 years with the Regiment and the remainder with the Recruiting Branch.

His son, an Armourer Staff Sergeant, R.E.M.E., not long home from the Middle East, has recently married.

Births, Marriages and Deaths

BIRTH.

Asprey.—On November 28th, 1945, at Mays Hill, Worplesdon, to Evelyne (*nee* Cockshutt), wife of Philip Rolls Asprey—a son (Nicholas).

MARRIAGE.

Beazley—Tritton.—On November 30th, 1945, at Holy Trinity, Brompton, Captain J. M.

Beazley, The Buffs, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Beazley, to Theodora, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Julian S. Tritton.

DEATHS.

Body.—On December 5th, 1945, at Wittersham Court, Wittersham, Colonel John Body, D.S.O., O.B.E., Deputy Lieut. and J.P. for the County of Kent, the dearly loved husband of Mabel Body.

Kelham.—On November 21st, 1945, peacefully, Major Arthur Robert Langdale Kelham, O.B.E., D.C.M., aged 80, late The Buffs, and the Egyptian Police.

Stainforth.—On November 28th, 1945, at 66 Offington Avenue, Worthing, Major Wm. Réde Stainforth, late The Buffs, aged 78.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

Walters.—On November 13th, 1945, in India, as the result of an accident, Lieut.-Colonel Hugh de Lancy Walters, The Buffs, dearly loved husband of Pamela, and only son of Mrs. Poe, of Le Valnord, Guernsey.

ENGAGEMENTS.

Major J. E. Body and Miss N. Scott.

The engagement is announced of Major J. E. Body, The Buffs, younger son of the late Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Body, of Winchester and Tadworth, and Miss Norah Scott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Scott, of Calgary, Alberta.

Mr. C. Bruce Hervey and Miss Bright.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place early in January, between Clifton Bruce Hervey (late R.E.), son of the late Colonel Charles Hervey, Bengal Sappers and Miners, Bangalore, and Catherine Eva (Kitty) Bright, Subaltern, A.T.S., only daughter of the late Lieut.-Colonel R. Bright (The Buffs) and Mrs. F. E. Bright, of Upper Ridgeways, Sherborne, Dorset.

Obituary.

Hugh de Lancy Walters.

BORN MAY 16TH, 1906. DIED NOVEMBER 13TH, 1945.

EDUCATED at Wellington and the R.M.C., Sandhurst and commissioned into The Buffs on September 3rd, 1925.

He served in Gibraltar, India (twice), Bordon and Palestine, before being selected as an Instructor at the Small Arms School, Hythe,

in June, 1939. He remained there until January, 1942, when, after a short tour with his Regiment, he was selected to attend the Small Arms Long Technical Course.

Technical appointments followed, first at the Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield, then at Ichapur in India, and finally under the Director of Armaments, G.H.Q., New Delhi, where he was A.D.A. (Small Arms).

He was an expert in the knowledge and usage of all Small Arms Weapons and he took with him to his Technical appointments two great qualities, unbounded enthusiasm for weapons and unique user experience; he himself was a Bisley shot of high order.

He was a great athlete, played full back for Wellington, a runner of high order, an excellent golfer and a tennis player of really high class. But he would always say that he excelled most of all as a swimmer. He had also been a boxer and hockey player of no mean calibre.

He always liked to have a go at everything rather than specialise at any one particular game.

His hobbies included stamp collecting, bee keeping and gardening. Of his writings *The Dragon* is well aware, for many articles of his have been published therein. But in later days, chiefly under the pen-name of "Labori", he produced a number of excellent text books on weapons which were published by Gale and Polden. He had also completed a full length novel which is now awaiting judgment with the publishers.

With all these qualities he was the most modest of men, with a very great personal charm that is rarely met.

Nothing would ever worry him. I well remember his frequent saying: "Oh, you don't want to bother about that, it's just too absurd".

The best natured, kindest, cheeriest and most thoughtful of souls, he was a delightful companion and the truest and staunchest of friends, who can never be replaced.

He died in trying to solve a problem that had been the cause of many accidents, and had baffled the authorities for some time. I think it was the way he would have liked—in doing good for others.

He leaves a widow and three children and his mother, to whom the most heartfelt sympathy is extended by all who knew him.

G. E. THORNTON, Lt.-Col.,
Royal Sussex Regiment.
Asst. Comdt. S.A.S., India.

William Rede Stainforth, D.C.M.

BORN SEPTEMBER 13TH, 1866. DIED NOVEMBER 28TH, 1945.

Served for 16 years and 276 days in the ranks, being promoted to Lieutenant and Quartermaster on December 14th, 1901, 2nd Battalion.

In 1905 he proceeded to Harrismith with the battalion and in 1908 to Hongkong and, later, became Captain and Quartermaster of the Depot and 3rd Battalion.

He served throughout the South African War with the 2nd Battalion and during the first World War 1914-18 was stationed at Dover with the Reserve Battalion.

He was promoted Major on December 14th, 1916, leaving the Regiment on May 28th, 1919 on appointment as Camp Quartermaster, Aldershot, which appointment he relinquished on September 13th, 1921, on retirement.

Cr.-Sgt. F. H. Wright, D.C.M., M.S.M.

The death occurred at his residence, "Oban", Cox Hill, Shepherdswell, near Dover, of Cr.-Sgt. F. H. Wright (Freddie), D.C.M., M.S.M., after a short illness the day following his 83rd birthday (November 29th, 1945).

Cr.-Sgt. Wright enlisted with The Buffs in the year 1882, being posted to the 2nd Battalion, and served with this battalion both in Hong Kong and Singapore, returning with the battalion to this country.

He was later posted to the 3rd Battalion at Canterbury and proceeded with them for the South African Campaign, being awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, the Queen's Medal with four clasps, and King's Medal and two clasps. He returned with the battalion on the conclusion of the campaign, acting in the capacity of R.S.M.

He was later posted to the Permanent Staff of "I" Company Volunteers at Wingham, a post he held until transferring to the Ramsgate Company, a voluntary exchange, where he remained until retiring to pension in 1911.

He re-enlisted at Canterbury in 1914 for the Great War, and took over the duties of Orderly Room Cr.-Sgt., later being appointed C.S.M. in the same capacity until his final discharge to civilian life in 1919.

In addition to the above-mentioned decorations, he was in possession of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and Meritorious Service Medal.

He resided at Shepherdswell, near Dover for the past 23 years, where he is now laid to rest.

He leaves a widow, four sons and five daughters to mourn his loss.

He was carried to his last resting-place by four members of the British Legion, to whom he had held the office of Treasurer for the past 15 years.

It was his express wish, before passing away, that his burial should be of the simplest nature, with no flowers or mourning, to avoid all pomp and show. This was carried out according to his wish.

Another grand old Buff passes on, leaving the glorious traditions of the Regiment in the care and keeping of those that follow on. His memory will remain endeared to all who knew him during his long term of 34 years with The Buffs.

J.F.W.

The Late C.S.M. Edward "Ted" Lamb.

The death of Ted Lamb cast a feeling of gloom throughout the London Branch of our Association and we feel that a vast circle of old friends will also mourn his passing. Ted, joined the 2nd Battalion in 1898, (having previously served for 12 years in the Dorsetshire Regiment) and proceeded with the Battalion to South Africa in 1899. During the South African War and whilst the Battalion was engaged guarding the line from Pretoria to Delagoa Bay, Ted made many rail journeys by truck to bring in and distribute the stores collected at Pretoria. The Boers were blowing up these trains at the rate of several each week and Ted had many hair breadth escapes. On one occasion, he with an escort of six men, kept the Boers at bay for three hours and—saved the stores.

On return from South Africa he was posted to the 1st Battalion at that time just arrived home from India. During the war of 1914—1918, he served throughout with the 7th Battalion, The Buffs and gained the rank of Company Sergeant Major.

In civilian life he was employed by one of the big banks. Ted was a true Buff; generous and kind hearted and was never so happy as when amongst his old friends.

We feel deeply for his widow and family. The funeral took place on Thursday 15th November last, following a Requiem Mass at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Mortlake. The London Branch was represented by Captain R. W. Waby, Messrs. G. Austin W. Coveney and J. Kennedy.

In addition to the family wreaths, floral tributes were from London Branch, The Buffs, London Branch Ladies Guild, 7th Bn. The Buffs Major and Mrs. Enright and Mrs. Spinner, Mr. and Mrs. Austin.

And so passes a great Buff. R.I.P.

J.E.E.

Regimental Gazette.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH, 1945, DATED, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH, 1945.

The King has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following promotions in, and appointments to, the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Burma:—

To be Additional Members of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:—

Captain (temporary) Claude Adrian Roberts Schooley (174153) The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) (Finchley N.3.)

The Military Cross.

Major (temporary) Christopher Powell-Cotton (113571) The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) (attached The King's African Rifles) (Birchington, Kent).

SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH, 1945, DATED FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH, 1945.

REGULAR ARMY.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS.

THE BUFFS.—7627485 Pte. Douglas Gordon Drysdale (274300) to be 2nd Lt. 25th October, 1941. (Substituted for the notifi. in Gazette (Supplement) dated 25th June, 1943 under "Royal Army Ordnance Corps".

War Subs. Lt. L. F. Seymour (225519) relinquishes his commn. 2nd August, 1945.

TERRITORIAL ARMY.

THE BUFFS.—Capt. (Qr.-Mr.) T. Burt, M.B.E. (89213), from A.A.C. to be Capt. (Qr.-Mr.), 17th November, 1945, retaining his present seniority.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH, 1945, DATED TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH, 1945.

REGULAR ARMY.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS.

THE BUFFS.—The undermentioned Cadets to be 2nd Lts. :—

September 23rd, 1945 :—5126805 Frederick George Holliday (357903), 6845754 Douglas Livingstone Roy Carrott (357905), 956627 Michael Barton (357910), 14778913 David Curzon Ball (357926). October 13th, 1945 :—14873530 Kenneth Wilson Bradley (357235), 14873566 Kenneth Douglas Moore (357266).

War Subs. Lt. D. P. L. Jones (226418) relinquishes his commn. on account of disability, 21st November, 1945, and is granted the Hon. rank of Lieut.

TERRITORIAL ARMY.

THE BUFFS.—The undermentioned to be Capts., 11th April, 1945 :—Lt. K. T. Snelling (62820), 2nd. Lt. (War Subs. Capt.) M. G. N. Moore (71268).

SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH, 1945, DATED FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD, 1945.

REGULAR ARMY.

THE BUFFS.—2nd Lt. (War Subs. Lt.) David Peter Rigaud Barrett (358569) from Emerg. Commn. Indian Army, to be Lt. 24th November, 1945, with seniority, 16th Nov. 1944.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS.

THE BUFFS.—War Subs. Lt. E. H. S. Cornwall-Legh (141536) is granted the Hon. rank of Capt., 23rd November, 1945, on ceasing to be empld.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD, 1945, DATED TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH, 1945.

REGULAR ARMY.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS.

THE BUFFS.—14494158 Cadet William Oswald Sandford (357272) to be 2nd Lt., October 13th, 1945, with precedence next below 2nd Lt. K. D. Moore (35266).

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH, 1945, DATED THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH, 1945.

War Office, November 29th, 1945.

The King has been graciously pleased to approve the following award *sine cognitione* of gallant and distinguished services in the field :—

The Military Cross.

Major (temporary) Erracht Pryce Cameron Bruce (31881), The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) (Sherborne, Dorset).

Captain (temporary) Ernest Lorne Campbell Edlmann (63568), The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) (Cheltenham).

The Military Medal.

No. 6283737 Warrant Officer Class I Harold Ernest Surridge, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) (Chichester).

No. 6279288 Warrant Officer Class II Herbert Osborne, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) (London, W. 4).

No. 6284696 Sergeant Cyril Robert McKay, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regt.) (Oldham).

No. 6285207 Private Frederick Dan Best, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regt.) (Chatham).

No. 6279333 Private Timothy Pilcher, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) (Faversham, Kent).

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.—Maj. (Qr.-Mr.) P. Dare, M.B.E. (36044), Maj. (actg.) R. J. Murphy, M.C. (44112) (killed in action), Capt. (actg.) P. W. Ransley, M.B.E. (105988), 6282987 W.O. III J. W. Taylor (since commissioned), 6280189 C.Q.M.S. H. J. West, 6285573 C/Sgt. F. A. McCormack, 6283493 Sgt. A. H. Catt, 6734127 Cpl. A. C. Brookman (posthumous), 6285064 Pte. L. S. Parry, 6283899 Pte. E. White.

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

The Buffs.—Lt.-Col. (temp.) C. R. Tuff (41222), Lt.-Col. (actg.) J. G. Sweetman (113570), Maj. G. H. Mount (35459), Maj. (temp.) J. E. Body (145017), Maj. (temp.) M. A. Bompas (92686), Maj. (temp.) J. E. Clarke, M.B.E. (145016), Capt. G. Allen (101925), Capt. (temp.) K. J. Gardiner (201397), Capt. (temp.) M. B. Whitlock (138693), Lt. A. W. N. Anderson (307382), Lt. K. H. Bird (229735), Lt. S. A. S. Cowell (321121), Lt. A. D. Lambert (303804), 6297411 Sgt. S. Cooper, 6289502 Sgt. H. Hellis, 4189151 Sgt. J. King, 6289239 Sgt.

G. Parker, 6288655 Sgt. H. Todd, 6102444 L/Sgt. L. Ferris (killed in action), 6295041 Cpl. J. Clark, 4981165 Cpl. D. H. Davies, 6299469 Cpl. W. A. Palmer, 6288866 Cpl. D. Wyatt, 6300294 L/Cpl. F. A. G. Cochrane, 6292706 L/Cpl. F. Kinch, 14539708 L/Cpl. D. Mackinnon, 6299735 Pte. M. Hoadley, 6286043 Pte. W. C. A. Kimmings, 4981422 Pte. A. J. Moore.

SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH, 1945, DATED FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH, 1945.

REGULAR ARMY.

THE BUFFS.—2nd Lt. (War Subs. Lt.) Ewen William MacDonald (358333) from Emerg. Commn. Ind. Army, to be Lt., December 1st, 1945, with seniority February 6th, 1945.

REGULAR ARMY.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS.

THE BUFFS. — 4925802 Cadet Eric Richardson Elliott (352907) to be 2nd Lt., August 25th, 1945 (Substituted for the notifi. in Gazette (Supplement) dated October 9th, 1945).

THE BUFFS.—2740346 Cadet Harry Douglas Smith (357898) to be 2nd Lt., October 26th, 1945.

THE BUFFS.—War Subs. Lt. D. A. Crerar (274286) relinquishes his commn., July 27th, 1945, on appointment to S. Rhod. Forces.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH, 1945, DATED TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 1945.

• TERRITORIAL ARMY.

THE BUFFS.—2nd Lt. (War Subs. Capt.) L. F. Parratt (72821) to be Capt., July 1st, 1945.

WAR OFFICE ORDERS.

No. 45 ISSUED NOVEMBER 8TH, 1945.

REGULAR ARMY.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS.

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

THE BUFFS.—W. McBride (211413) 1st February, 1945, J. E. Chapman (233209) 27th April, 1945.

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

THE BUFFS.—T. C. Williams (138680) 30th November, 1944. J. E. Harsant (276361) 8th February, 1945. G. S. Fawcett (254386) 12th October, 1945.

The undermentioned War Subs. Lts. (T/Capts.) relinquish T/Capt. :—

THE BUFFS.—R. P. Edwards, M.C. (163456) 23rd August, 1945. J. B. Neame (156128) 27th August, 1945.

The notifns. regarding the undermentioned in W.O. Orders (1945) are cancelled :—

THE BUFFS.—No 29 :—War Subs. Maj. (T/Lt.-Col.) (A/Col.) E. A. Airy (31232). No. 35 :—War Subs. Capt. (T/Maj.) A. C. J. Van Ammell (104848).

War Subs. Lts. (A/Capts.) to be T/Capts. :—

THE BUFFS.—P. J. How (165599) 23rd November, 1943. M. J. Hearn (138202) 1st October, 1944.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

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

THE BUFFS.—F. G. B. Wills (67366) 27th August, 1945.

TERRITORIAL ARMY.

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

THE BUFFS.—A. J. Smithers (71544) 28th November, 1944.

WAR OFFICE ORDERS.

No 46 ISSUED NOVEMBER 15TH, 1945.

REGULAR ARMY.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS.

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

THE BUFFS.—H. J. Nelson (189159), 15th May, 1945.

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

THE BUFFS.—J. M. H. Ferry (148195) 9th November, 1945.

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

THE BUFFS.—C. H. M. Greig (189161) 6th June, 1945. G. V. Baker (243036) 11th August, 1945. J. Bonham (184433) 22nd August, 1945. A. W. Edney (294450) 14th September, 1945.

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

THE BUFFS.—H. Cohen (346856), B. H. Johnson (346880).

The undermentioned have relinquished T/rank in A.F.M.T. Orders :—

THE BUFFS.—L. P. Critchley (145020) 2nd June, 1945. (Substituted for notfn. in W.O. Orders No. 31/1945).

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

THE BUFFS.—P. Dullea (180046) 30th July, 1945.

The undermentioned have been re-granted T/rank in A.F.M.T. Orders :—

War Subs. Capts. re-granted T/Maj. :—

THE BUFFS.—L. P. Critchley (145020) 29th July, 1945. I. A. Pearson (235658) 27th August, 1945.

THE BUFFS.—War Subs. Lt. P. Dullea (180046) is re-granted T/Capt. 20th June, 1945.

WAR OFFICE ORDERS.

No. 47 ISSUED NOVEMBER 22ND, 1945.

REGULAR ARMY.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS.

The undermentioned War Subs. Lts. (A/Capts.) to be T/Capts. (B.A.O.R.) :—

THE BUFFS.—F. E. Stokes (251239) 20th June, 1945. C. F. Turner (293263) 28th September, 1945. E. J. Reynolds (197717) 26th October, 1945.

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

THE BUFFS.—A. H. Bishop (296523) 12th October, 1945. M. J. Pym (164388) 22nd November, 1945.

The undermentioned War Subs. Capt. is re-granted T/Maj. (B.A.O.R.) :—

THE BUFFS.—G. R. Lanning (138690) 10th March, 1945.

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

THE BUFFS.—7th October, 1945 :—W. Knight (343732).

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

THE BUFFS.—R. A. Phelps (220643) 19th November, 1942. (Substituted for notfn. in W.O. Orders No. 9/1944).

TERRITORIAL ARMY.

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

THE BUFFS.—J. Swift (88897) 20th May, 1945 (B.O.A.R.)

WAR OFFICE ORDERS.

NO. 48 ISSUED NOVEMBER 29TH, 1945.

REGULAR ARMY.

THE BUFFS.—Lt.-Col. (T/Col.) N. D. Rice (5783), relinquishes T/Col., January 1st, 1945.

The undermentioned Maj. (T/Lt.-Col.) relinquishes T/Lt.-Col. :—

THE BUFFS.—N. E. Hoare (5915), September 28th, 1945.

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

THE BUFFS.—N. D. Poulsen (112915), September 16th, 1945.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS.

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

THE BUFFS.—P. E. S. Fawcett (245992), October 17th, 1945.

The undermentioned W.S./Capts. (T/Majs.) relinquish T/Maj. :—

THE BUFFS.—W. B. E. Petersen (281724), June 27th, 1945 ; A. G. Vercoe (160801), October 2nd, 1945.

The undermentioned W.S./Lts. (T/Capt.) relinquish T/Capt. :—

THE BUFFS.—G. D. Werner (214533), October 7th, 1943 (Substituted for notfn. in W.O. Orders No. 36/1945) ; F. E. Rowland (226505), July 19th, 1945 ; N. G. H. Taylor (182144), September 8th, 1945 ; D. G. Minnis (304305), September 14th, 1945.

The undermentioned W.S./Lt. is re-granted T/Capt. :—

THE BUFFS.—W. P. Stanbury (243907), September 1st, 1945.

The undermentioned 2nd Lts. to be W.S./Lts. :—

THE BUFFS.—R. Ainsworth (349159) and R. A. G. Keown (349184), November 25th, 1945.

The undermentioned have been granted T/rank in India Orders :—W.S./Lts. (A/Capt.) to be T/Capt. :—

THE BUFFS.—G. D. Werner (214533), February 1st, 1943 ; A. E. Bates (229738), May 15th, 1943 ; A. J. H. Morris (174151), November 20th, 1944.

The undermentioned W.S./Lt. (T/Capt.) relinquishes T/Capt. in C.M.F. Orders :—

THE BUFFS.—B. J. F. Howard (149172), April 27th, 1945.

The undermentioned has been re-granted T/rank in C.M.F. Orders :—

THE BUFFS.—B. J. F. Howard (149172), April 27th, 1945.

TERRITORIAL ARMY.

The undermentioned Capt. (T/Maj.) relinquishes T/Maj. :—

THE BUFFS.—G. R. D. Hews, M.C. (66886), September 14th, 1945.

Round and About.**By The Tramp.****Christmas.**

ONCE again the irresistible festival is upon us. Although it is to be an austerity Christmas in more ways than one, it will be welcomed by most people. There will be little to drink and smoke, few turkeys to grace the festal board, fewer toys to fill the children's stockings, but—the war is over and the few days' holiday which most of us enjoy will be worth it.

The commercialisation of Christmas which has grown steadily for the past fifty years has received a temporary set-back. I fear that it is only temporary. We must expect it to break out again when the promised prosperity is upon us or upon our children, to be more exact.

Nuremburg.

In this city where once the toy-makers flourishes something very different is happening now. Although we are sated with revelations of the infamy and duplicity of some members of the human race, we cannot fail to be interested in the progress of the greatest trial in history. I have heard people impatiently complaining of the protracted legal processes. These belong to the "why-not-shoot-them-and-have-done-with-it?" school. Even they must be beginning to see that what is happening at Nuremburg is more than a trial of a set of murderers and racketeers. The elaborate case that has been built up, supported by the most damning documentary evidence, has a purpose far beyond the conviction and sentencing of the abject creatures in the dock. It is the raw material of history to be written long after anyone living to-day has passed into the oblivion that is the fate of all.

We have yet to hear the defence, but I can think of no more uphill task than that which confronts the lawyers who represent the

defendants. The plea that all were unwilling instruments of the Fuhrer's will and purpose won't get very far.

Invasion of England.

To me, some of the most interesting revelations are those relating to what was happening behind the enemy's lines in that late summer of 1940 when we were scraping together the forces and the materials with which we hoped to repel the invader. It all looked pretty grim in that glorious August weather, especially down in Kent, where we were very much in the front line. The precautionary manning of road, blocks, the invention of Heath-Robinson-like weapons and devices, the stand-to on many nights, and the routine training that went on all the time are still vivid in my mind.

I suppose that the question of what would have happened if the Hun had tried it will exercise the highest military minds at the Imperial Defence and Staff Colleges for years to come. We have Field Marshal Montgomery's word for it that he expected Canterbury and its environs to have been the scene of bitter fighting. And yet I also remember that we assisted the farmers to pick their hops just about the time when the *Luftwaffe* was making its first attacks on the fighter stations of S.E. England. It is incredible that the great German war machine should have been so completely out of gear after Dunkirk that it could not follow up with an immediate onslaught against England. But there it is, plain for all to see. It all happened before. Napoleon stood on the cliffs at Boulogne lowering at the Straits of Dover. He couldn't manage it, and in his weary exile at St. Helena he must have spent much of his ample leisure in the unprofitable occupation of kicking himself. It happened in 1915 at the Second Battle of Ypres. The British Line was mended by cooks, A.S.C. men and anyone who could hold a rifle and the Hun either didn't know it or he had shot his bolt. So near and yet

1066.

It has lately been my duty to make some researches into an invasion of England that did succeed. I mean the affair that became known as the Norman Conquest. I am by no means convinced that given a little luck—so necessary an ingredient of military success—King Harold and his splendid infantry might not have held Duke William's onslaughts until the Normans had broken themselves against the solid Saxon positions. But William was a bit more clever. His bluff—the feint retirement—worked, and the English couldn't resist

leaving their inviolate positions to have a go at the damned Normans.

That changed our history, no doubt very much for the better, but there is something fascinating in the speculation as to what might have been.

Incidentally, the forced march from Stamford Bridge in Yorkshire to Sealac Field, near Hastings, must surely rank as one of the greatest in military history.

Residential Training Courses.

Opportunities for Ex-Service Men.

THE Ministry of Labour has already put into operation a vocational training scheme to enable ex-service men to start civilian life equipped with the special kind of knowledge and skill required for particular jobs. We now have news from "The Beeches College," Bournville, of an enterprising plan to help those who are interested in the Grocery and Confectionery trades.

After the last war many ex-service men invested their gratuities and their capital in shops without previous knowledge or experience of the industry. With this in mind, Cadbury's have planned a series of residential training courses to cover both Grocery and Confectionery shop management. The College is sponsored by Messrs. Cadbury Bros., Ltd., and have the support of the Government departments concerned with the re-settlement of ex-service men.

Already a number of men from the Royal Navy, Army, R.A.F., Marines, Merchant Navy, Friends' Ambulance Unit, and the Ministry of Production have enrolled for one or other of these courses; and it is hoped that there will be others who, on reading this article, will wish to make application to the address given at the end of this article.

These courses have been so designed as to help both those who were in business before the war, and need a "refresher" and those who may be considering entering the trade for the first time.

Take the Grocery course now running. "We have included in the programme", said Mr. C. W. Gillett, a Director of Cadbury Bros., at the opening ceremony, "those features of present trading conditions which are new—such as rationing, P.A.Y.E. and the changes in Grocery practice resulting from war-time restrictions. The syllabus, he explained,

covered Shop Practice, Book-keeping, Food Values, the Study of Grocery Commodities, Business Calculations, Legal Aspects of Trading, Salesmanship, Display, Income Tax, and Practical Shop Works.

Men who are experts in their subject have been engaged to lecture and demonstrate on the very latest methods of shop-keeping.

Particular consideration has been given to the whole question of fees, so that as many as possible may be in a position to take advantage of these exceptional facilities. Apart from an enrolment fee of four guineas for the Grocery courses and three guineas for the Confectionery courses, all tuition, board and lodging are provided without further charge. A number of bursaries are being provided by Messrs. Cadbury Bros., Ltd., so that applicants who would have difficulty in paying the enrolment fee can attend the College.

The Grocery courses, which last about four weeks, have been planned with the close co-operation of the Institute of Certified Grocers. Mr. Austin Hudson, Chairman of the Council, spoke at the opening of the first Grocery course on November 19th, when he made the interesting announcement that 32,000 students had passed through their Institute exams.

The next course will cover Confectionery Shop Management (Chocolate and Sweets) and will start on **15th January**, ending on the **2nd February**. Other courses for both Grocery and Confectionery Management are being arranged and candidates should **Please Apply Now**, stating whether they are interested in Grocery or Confectionery, to :—

The Bursar,
The Beeches College,
Selly Oak Road,
Bournville.

When writing, kindly give approximate dates as to when you expect to be free to attend the College.

The Air War Against Germany.

THE report of the United States Strategic Bombing Survey, established by the American Secretary for War and recently published, has been only briefly summarised in the British Press and is so full of interest and value as to merit more detailed treatment. Over 1,200 people were concerned in the investigations and the production of the report, which was based on inspection of the area

of Germany affected by the bombing, masses of documentary and official material, and interrogations of thousands of Germans, including all the surviving leaders. The result is probably as complete a picture as can be arrived at of the effect of the air war on Germany and on the course and results of the war in Europe.

In the Allied air operations against Germany nearly $2\frac{3}{4}$ million tons of bombs were dropped by the British and American airforces, in the course of over 4 million sorties, in which $1\frac{1}{2}$ million men took part. The maximum number of Allied machines available for use at any one date was 28,000; personnel casualties totalled 160,000, half British and half American, and over 40,000 planes, of which 18,000 were American, were lost.

The destruction wrought in Germany by these attacks was tremendous. Over $3\frac{1}{2}$ million houses, a fifth of the whole, were rendered uninhabitable or destroyed; over 1 million civilian casualties, a third of them fatal, were inflicted and $7\frac{1}{2}$ million people were rendered homeless. This is the general picture of the air war and its results. The detail of it shows many interesting and sometimes surprising conclusions.

The German strategic plan for the war, which regarded the airforce primarily as an arm of the blitzkrieg, had up to the battle of Britain met with complete success; even the failure in Britain was considered only of minor importance, and in the attack on Russia, which was decided on in the Autumn of 1940 and was planned to take four months only to complete success, first results were so promising that in September 1941 Hitler ordered large cuts-back in war production. When defeat came before Moscow, January 1942, German industry was so incompletely mobilised that its production was below that of Britain. Thereafter production increased rapidly; yet all resources were never fully utilised, and it remained substantially under-mobilised throughout the war. Thus it was always possible without serious diminution of production to call on machinery and labour for repair of bomb damage and clearance of debris.

In the Allied plan for the war victory from air attack alone was never hoped for; the necessity for invasion and land occupation to achieve it was always regarded as primary and from early in 1944 all available airforces were used to prepare the way for such an invasion. Air operations against German

industries and war economy were an essential but subordinate part of this overall plan of war.

The R.A.F. began with attacks on industrial and urban targets as early as 1940 but despite the success of its 1,000 bomber raids in the early Summer of 1942 and the great raids on Hamburg in the later Summer of 1943—the most devastating single city attacks of the whole war—all its city attacks up to the Autumn of 1944 were not sufficient seriously to affect the rate of German war production, which steadily increased all this time. From that date on however the total bomb tonnage dropped mounted considerably and industry in the areas affected became more and more disorganised. The morale of the people too deteriorated; they had less faith in the prospect of victory, and in their leaders' propaganda and promises, and only desired the war to end; but there was no effective opposition from them and workers continued to work to the last.

The U.S. Army Air Force plan was to attack Germany's industries and services, which for accuracy would have, it was believed, to be done in daylight; but weather and battle conditions was found to cut the figure of accuracy so low that on an average only some 20% of the bombs fell in the target area, though at certain periods a much greater degree of accuracy was obtained, and this tended to grow towards the end of the war. Up to June 1943 our critical position brought about by the hostile air and submarine war at sea called for the main weight of our air bombing to be directed against submarine bases, pens, and construction plants; results were poor, but by mid-Summer 1943, the U-boat menace had been conquered at sea and German aircraft industries became our target No. 1.

The first of these to be attacked was the ball-bearing industry and though these raids were successful up to a point, they proved very costly in personnel and machine losses, the industry was quickly refitted and dispersed and such good use was made of substitute bearings and reserve stocks that the results of these raids were in the long run only small and transient, and essential war production of ball-bearings was hardly affected.

The attack on airframe plants was the next step, and this was found to have a low production efficiency, but substantial excess capacity. By the Autumn of 1943 it had suffered considerably but the culmination

did not come till February, 1944 when every known plant was hit. Yet production was never stopped for long, and in 1944 40,000 airframes were turned out—more than three times as many as in 1942, before the plants had undergone any attack. Moreover the figure continued to rise, thanks largely to the excess capacity of the airframe industry and effective repair and recovery measures. But the enemy's losses in machines, and especially in first-class pilots, were so heavy now, and the shortage of petrol so acute, that by early Summer, 1944 the Luftwaffe's opposition to Allied operations had ceased to be effective; on D-Day it had only 40 machines in action, and never subsequently rose above that figure during the battles in Normandy. Production figures continued, however, to rise until September, 1944, but by January, 1945 all work except on jet types was discontinued; by the end of the war the Luftwaffe had 1,400 of these, and but for the delay caused in September by an ill-judged order from Hitler to convert the best of these, the ME 262, into a fighter bomber, it would have had many more—in which case the Allied victory would have taken longer and cost more to achieve.

From D-Day onwards German oil production became our primary strategic bombing target, and the attacks on this had more decisive results than any other. Once the supply of crude oil from Rumania had been cut off in August 1944 by the Russian conquest of the oilfields, Germany had to depend entirely on her 16 synthetic oil plants, and all of these by then had been hard hit. By September oil output had fallen from a monthly production maximum of 316,000 tons to 17,000 tons only, and that of octane aviation spirit from 175,000 to 5,000 tons. Despite frantic efforts, this disastrous state of affairs could not be remedied. By May, 1944 consumption had begun to exceed production; in six months reserves were exhausted and operations at the front were help up or adversely affected by lack of petrol, which was one of the main causes of the failure in the Ardennes in December. Production of nitrogen, methane, and rubber was also seriously affected by this attack on the synthetic oil plants, for those plants were also the largest producers in these fields. All nitrogen had to be diverted from agriculture to munitions and even then supplies were insufficient. The production of methane, a necessary compound for high explosives, had to be abandoned altogether, and this led to a sharp decline in explosive output. Synthetic rubber production had fallen by the end of the war to a sixth of its peak figure.

Another heavily attacked target from mid-1944 onwards was the German Steel industry. This, with the plants in the occupied countries had a full capacity of 40 million tons, of which the Ruhr furnished the main part. The Ruhr was very heavily attacked and its production quickly fell by 80% and continued to fall right up to the end of the war, though the steel supply was never so low as really to cripple the military effort.

Other subsidiary industries attacked were those producing tanks, armoured vehicles, lorries and submarines. Tanks were still being turned out in reasonably large numbers up to February, 1945; lorry output had fallen to 35% of its former average by December 1944; and all five of the major submarine yards were put out of action during the last Winter of the war.

Perhaps the most important of these subsidiary attacks was that on the V-weapons. The bombing of the V-1 launching sites delayed the commencement of their use for nearly a year, but that of the experimental station at Peenemund contrary to earlier belief, was less so, for V-1 was already in production elsewhere and work on V-2 had been transferred to an underground plant.

Much more important and decisive was the intensive bombing of communications and transportation; indeed, this was the final blow that completed the paralysis of the German war economy by limiting production in all categories, making it difficult to move what was produced to the front, and reducing the strategic and tactical mobility of the German Army. Germany entered the war with an excellent and well-maintained railway system, supplemented by a strong network of inland waterways carrying nearly a quarter of the freight traffic, whereas road freight transport carried less than 5%. Up to the Spring of 1944 the railways had been able to cope with all demands made on them; but the attacks on them prior to and during the Normandy battles were highly effective and their intensification in the Autumn and Winter produced a complete disruption of traffic all over western Germany. Between August, 1944 and March, 1945 wagon loadings fell from 900,000 to 214,000 and after the latter date so great was the disorganisation that no statistics could be kept. The raids on the waterways were even more successful, all traffic between the Ruhr and outside areas having been cut off by mid-October 1944 and that within the Ruhr itself narrowly restricted.

The general result of this destruction of transportation was that from December, 1944 onwards to the end of the war production in all industries was on a sharp downgrade. An early as February, 1945 reserve coal stocks had dropped from 18 to 4½ days supply, and the Ruhr was cut off so that no more could be got in; and as the German economy was powered by coal, this state of affairs was catastrophic; even military movements were being seriously hampered. Equally great results might well have been achieved had the electricity power system been subjected to a planned attack, of which the German authorities were always fearful. The destruction of less than 100 plants would have cut down its capacity by over 50%, and Germany's war production must have suffered severe curtailment. But owing perhaps to defective intelligence on the Allied side, this opportunity was missed.

As regards the effect of the air raids on the civilian population, figures of casualties have already been given. Shelter accommodation, though it afforded better protection against direct hits than that of Britain, was provided only for about 8 million people; the rest had to seek refuge in basements and cellars, and casualties in these were so heavy that no attempt even to free trapped people, let alone recover the dead, was usually made after a heavy attack. Incendiary bombs proved to be nearly five times as destructive, weight for weight, as high explosive, partly because water supplies for fighting fires were inadequate, and the fires quickly became so fierce and widespread as altogether to escape control. On the other hand the people at the opening of the air war were well-provided with food and clothing and generally remained so throughout its course to its end. Air attack also caused from late 1943 onwards greatly increased losses among the armed forces on the battlefield, so much so that casualties from aerial weapons eventually became more numerous than those from infantry and artillery fire. At the same time, owing to the disorganisation of medical services and supplies the interior by reason of the Allied air offensive, the proportion of wounded to killed changed from 8 to 1 in 1940 to that of 3 to 1 in 1944, while fewer patients could again be made fit for duty and for those that could be the process took longer.

Allied air power, though in some respects it might have been used better and more effectively, undoubtedly played a decisive

part in the defeat of Germany. The victory in the air was complete and it powerfully aided the Navies and the Armies to win on sea and on land. It ruined the enemy's war economy and brought it to virtual collapse, and it brought fully home to the German people the full impact of modern war with all its horror and suffering. Its imprint on the German nation will be long lasting, and may powerfully help to exercise that spirit of militarism and aggression which for three-quarters of a century has been the curse and the nightmare of Europe.

Village in Ceylon.

OPENED by Naafi a year ago as a residential leave-centre for other ranks, Craighton Village, Ceylon, has proved its popularity by its accommodation waiting list stretching months ahead.

No newcomer believes Craighton Village was once a barracks, for Naafi has planned it on the lines of an English Village.

Let us imagine we are spending our leave there.

Leaving Colombo by a special train which runs thrice weekly for Servicemen going up-country for leave, we travel to Nanuoya, nearest point to Craighton Village (Nuwara Eliya), where the village 'bus meets us.

At Craighton House, centre of organisation, we are met by the hostess, enter our names in the book, and follow a Cingalese boy who carries our luggage to our dormitory.

There are several dormitories, accommodating a total of 200. Our own dormitory houses eight. Beds are of polished Ceylon wood, with mattress, four blankets, two sheets and pillow. By each bed is a curtained wardrobe, dressing table, locker and shelf. Individual mirrors, combined ashtray and candlestick, bedside mat and chair complete the furniture for each guest.

The dormitory has bright yellow curtains, red pelmets, orange and green mats, green furnishings, orange and green light shades, brick fireplace.

A "boy" brings morning tea, polishes shoes, makes beds and cleans the dormitory. A free-valet-service copes with loose buttons or torn clothing and we can get a shirt washed and ironed in 24 hours.

We visit the hairdresser and enjoy the "whole works," shave to face-massage. After a wash, bath or shower (baths and basins are

in imitation marble), we hire slacks and sweaters from the reception office and go forth to sample the other amenities of this unique village.

A drink? There's the "pub"—"The Royal Stag"—with beer from the wood. "Craighton Ales" (fictitious brewery) is painted boldly on the cream walls to lend atmosphere. There are Saloon, Public and Jug and Bottle bars.

The Public Bar, with its footrail, shove-ha'penny, wooden settles, old prints and antlers on the wall, is a wonderful sight for men from jungle areas. Beer at 35 cents—6d.—a pint is served in tankards. The Saloon Bar has inglenook fireplace and log fire, dark blue three piece suites around polished tables containing bowls of flowers. The oak floor is carpeted, yellow and blue curtains screen the windows, antlers and Pickwickian prints adorn the walls. There are piano and radio. Salted peanuts are free.

The "Royal Stag" has a lawn with garden furniture. A rustic seat is built around a fir tree on the lawn. A hedge surrounds the "pub," and there is a country gate with rustic arch and rambler roses.

At dusk we wander down a lane to the restaurant. In a warm, cheery atmosphere suggesting a high class country-town restaurant, we find tables to seat four or two. Each table has a white cloth, gleaming cutlery, serviettes, a vase of flowers. There are Cingalese waiters. A wood fire burns in an old style fireplace. Pictures of English hunt-scenes adorn the walls, and the glow from green shaded lights reflects pleasantly on heavy yellow curtains.

Five thousand meals are served here weekly—breakfasts, lunches, teas, suppers—to men on leave and their guests. A typical dinner consist of Consume Quenelles, roast lamb, green peas and roast potatoes, steamed pudding and sauce, cheese tea or coffee, and rolls and butter ad lib.

After dinner we retire to Craighton House, to deep armchairs and blazing fires. There are four lounges, with blue and yellow suites, polished tables and teapots, beige folkweave curtains, Bangalore carpets, red and gold lampshades. All kinds of periodicals are ranged on a shelf. There are radiogram and records, a library of over 300 books, and Ceylon daily papers.

We find a writing room, with pens, ink, blotters and stationery, and even a post-box. We find cards, draughts, chess, dominoes, Monopoly, and even snakes and ladders.

Well, it has been a full day, so we can retire to bed. Having slept on the service issue bed (hessian stretched on wood) the delight of sinking into a mattress can be imagined. Some come to Craighton Village just for the bed.

Next morning, after breakfast, we stroll around the grounds. Gardens have been laid out around every building, and turves have been brought from the racecourse to make the lawns and banks along the drives. Here is a corner of England—with salvias, begonias, hydrangeas, lilies, rhododendra, honeysuckle, creeper, and morning glory. Naafi is indebted to the Curator of the Hakgalla Gardens for the overhaul and maintenance of the grounds.

We arrive at the village hall, one half of which is a concert hall and dance floor, and the other a recreation room. For the dances, servicewomen are invited from the Diyatalawa Rest Camp and the Naafi Maysland club for servicewomen. The recreation room has billiard-table and card-tables.

Continuing our stroll, we find two tennis-courts, and a badminton court. Racquets and balls can be obtained from the reception office.

Guests who play golf can obtain clubs and have the Nuwara Eliya Golf Course at their disposal. Others can obtain fishing tackle to go fishing on the nearby lake, one of the beauty spots of Ceylon.

All kinds of articles may be purchased at the Naafi "General Store" in the village "High Street," where there is even a sign-post pointing the way to the various village amenities.

When we finally leave Craighton Village, we have a feeling that we are stepping out of a Surrey hamlet, and back into a part of Asia.

By permission of Chief Press and Public Relations Officer, Naafi, Ruxley Towers, Claygate, Esher, Surrey.

On All Battlefronts.

War Record of United Kingdom Troops. By Major John North.

SINCE the summer of 1940, with only one interval of six months, United Kingdom troops were continuously in action on one or other of the world's battlefronts. Let us see how the British Army occupied its time from Dunkirk onwards.

In the first winter of the War Britain sent to France every available division and every

man she could arm. After Dunkirk the British Isles were weaponless; but, for the best of all reasons—*ultimate* victory—Britain, having to choose between being moderately strong in all three elements and being predominantly strong in two, had chosen the sea and the air. At sea she remained unchallenged by any surface fleet; and she was sufficiently well equipped to win the air battle over Britain.

Both before and during that battle—which lasted until the October of 1940—the British Army at home trained intensively for its return to Europe. Meanwhile the Army overseas continued to safeguard the vital ports on which the Empire's communications depended. The route to Australia and to New Zealand passed through the Mediterranean; and it was to Egypt that Britain sent the first contingents of her newly-equipped Army and her first modern tanks—reinforcements that were dispatched even during the crisis of the battle of Britain and while the island itself stood in peril of invasion.

Within less than six months of Dunkirk the British Army was ready to resume offensive action. In December of 1940, United Kingdom and Dominion troops opened an armoured offensive which in 62 days drove the Italians out of Egypt and Cyrenaica. By 6th April, 1941—when South African forces entered Addis Ababa—the huge Italian Army in rear of Britain's desert army had been completely liquidated.

In mid-February of 1941, when United Kingdom troops were still in occupation of Benghazi, mid-way point to Tripoli, Britain honoured her promise to send an expeditionary force to Greece if Germany threatened that country's independence. The promise could be honoured only at the expense of the British forces in Libya; and in April the first fruits of Britain's first desert victory had to be relinquished.

In this same month immensely powerful German armies, supported by a virtually unchallenged air force, blasted a path through Yugoslavia and Greece; but the United Kingdom and New Zealand troops who continued the fight on the island of Crete until 1st June secured a six weeks' delay in the opening of the German attack on Russia. That offensive, originally planned for the middle of May, was ultimately launched on 22nd June. It was too late by a margin of days rather than weeks. The icy fury of the Russian winter fell on the German armies at the very moment of their arrival at the gates of Moscow.

On 2nd May, 1941, a German-instigated rebellion broke out in Iraq. It was speedily quelled by United Kingdom forces. Shortly afterwards, United Kingdom and Free French troops were compelled to take action against the Axis elements in Syria. The successful conclusion of these two comparatively minor campaigns during the following month brought results out of all proportion to the effort involved, for they effectively forestalled any possibility of a German "drive to the East" by the Syrian-Iraqi route. Moreover, the success of these campaigns prevented Russia from being encircled from the South; and it was to ensure the safety of the Persian Gulf aid-to-Russia route that United Kingdom troops entered Persia on 25th August, 1941.

Japan's entry into the war on 7th December, 1941, threw new burdens on that small portion of the British Army which was on garrison duty in India and the Far East. Singapore was garrisoned only for defence against sea attack. Moreover, the Far Eastern front could have been reinforced only at the expense of the vital theatre of operations—the Mediterranean.

It was because of the threat to India by the Japanese advance into Burma that Britain was compelled to forestall the Japanese in the occupation of Madagascar. Here United Kingdom forces landed on 7th May, 1942. The British and Indian forces who had withdrawn from Burma into India were to return at a later date. On 3rd May, 1945, after a succession of arduous jungle campaigns in which a quarter of a million British and Indian troops were engaged against a skilful and ferocious enemy, Rangoon was re-occupied.

By the autumn of 1942 Britain was no longer under the necessity of waging a series of delaying actions; she was ready to move to the attack, on the largest scale. On 8th November the British First Army—exclusively composed of United Kingdom troops—inaugurated the battle of Tunisia, at a time when the victorious advance of the British Eighth Army from El Alamein was already in full spate. On 23rd January, 1943, the Eighth Army entered Tripoli; on 8th May, the First Army entered Tunis. On the same day an American corps entered Bizerta. Five days later Africa was completely liberated. The final battle had proved to be of that rare and perfect type which ends in the complete encirclement and elimination of the enemy; and the hand of the general who directed it was that of the future Field-Marshal Alexander.

Two months later, on 9th July, 1943, the Eighth Army landed in Sicily; on 3rd September, now part of the 15th Army Group under General Alexander, it crossed to the Italian mainland; on 9th September its 10 corps, alongside the U.S. 6 corps, landed at Salerno. Together these two corps composed the U.S. Fifth Army under General Mark Clark. It was the three United Kingdom divisions and one United Kingdom armoured brigade of the British 10 Corps that finally forced the passes through the mountains North of Salerno.

At the beginning of 1944, British troops in Italy outnumbered the Americans by three to one; and at the Anzio landing, on 22nd January, 1944, the U.S. 6 Corps consisted of three American and two United Kingdom divisions. The Eighth Army, with a Canadian Corps, a Polish Corps, and two British Corps under command, was secretly switched from the East coast to the Cassino front; and it was the terrific pressure exerted by this Army that assisted the break-out from Anzio on the 23rd May.

One hundred and seventy miles to the North stretched the Gothic Line—the chosen German positions for the defence of Northern Italy. Again the Eighth Army was secretly switched—this time to the Adriatic coast. In the autumn it pierced the Gothic Line; and Field-Marshal Alexander was able to launch the U.S. Fifth Army at the enemy's centre when it had been weakened to deal with the threat in the East.

One last task remained to the Eighth Army in Italy—to break into the valley of the Po, to cross the river, and to join hands with the Yugoslav forces of Marshal Tito at the head of the Adriatic. This meeting was destined to be Trieste. These men of the Eighth Army—or as many of them as had survived—had marched some three thousand miles; and behind every battle they had fought, from August, 1942, onwards, the same directing mind had been inflexibly at work—the mind of Field-Marshal Alexander.

Even before the Italian campaign had reached its triumphant conclusion, many of the United Kingdom divisions which had fought through Africa and Italy returned home to join those other United Kingdom divisions which, together with the Canadian First Army, were to form Field-Marshal Montgomery's famous 21st Army Group. The main burden of the hard fighting was to fall on this army group in the battle of Normandy. Its two major attacks receding the American breakout from the Western sector of the bridgehead served to draw and to hold the bulk of the German armour.

The liberation of Belgium was secured at a stroke by a British armoured drive; but the battle for the Scheldt estuary by United Kingdom and Canadian divisions was to witness some of the hardest fighting in the whole course of the land operations in Western Europe. To this same army group fell the task of fighting the main battle that was to take the Allied armies to the left bank of the Rhine.

That battle in the northern extension of the Siegfried defences was fought out, and won, by ten United Kingdom divisions and between three and four Canadian divisions. As at Caen, with wisdom or unwisdom, the Germans allowed their reserves to be sucked into what were to prove merely defensive actions. On each occasion American armour brilliantly exploited its opportunities.

As part of the vast Allied war machine now bearing down on Germany, the United Kingdom divisions under Field-Marshal Montgomery's command were allotted the task of crossing the Rhine in its most strongly defended sector, and of seizing the North German ports, the future administrative pipe-lines for the Allied armies in Germany. By 3rd May, 1945, their fighting mission was completed; organised resistance had ceased. On 4th May the German armies in North-West Germany, Holland, and Denmark surrendered to the British commander.

I have caught glimpses of the British Army in action on many of the fronts on which it has fought in this war, and I find that my clearest recollections are not of war's destruction, or of rubbling armour, or of gun flashes in the night sky, but of the British soldier himself, sturdily, almost remorselessly, going about his job. Infinite in his variety, but always sturdily himself, whatever his surroundings, in whatever clime! And if I were asked, "What is his chief characteristic?" I should reply, "His good humour and his good manners." Talk of martial ardour one can leave to the German Army.

Correspondence.

Finsbury Barracks,
City Road,
London, E.C.1.
November 12th, 1945.

The Colonel, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regt.).

Sir,

I am directed by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor to ask you to be good enough to convey his grateful thanks to those who took part in his Procession

on Lord Mayor's Day, 1945, and so brilliantly contributed to the great success of the revival of a National ceremony which is centuries old.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
D. JACKSON, Lt.-Col.,
Secretary.

The Mansion House,
London, E.C.4.
November 13th, 1945.

*Major-General the Hon. P. G. Scarlett, C.B., M.C.,
United Service Club, Pall Mall, S.W.1.*

Dear General Scarlett,

I am writing to acknowledge your letter, and to assure you of my very real thanks for your kind wishes. It was a privilege to have The Buffs here in the City last Friday, and the show they put up must have brought great pleasure to you. It was greatly appreciated by those of us here who so much value our association with the ancient Regiment.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES DAVIS,
Lord Mayor.

20 Sandhurst Lane,
Ashford, Kent.
November 23rd, 1945.

The Editor, "The Dragon".

Dear Sir,

On the 4th of this month I met a very old Buff in the person of Major Kelham, who left the Regiment in 1893; and as he informed me that he had not seen a copy of *The Dragon* for twelve months, I forwarded some back numbers up to last issue.

I regret to say that I have had them returned to-day with a note from his daughter to state that he passed away on the 21st instant at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, aged 82. She also tells me that on Monday last she read extracts to him from *The Dragon* as he was not able to manage to do so.

As possibly this may be of interest to others of the Old Brigade, will you please insert the information in *The Dragon* if space is available?

Yours faithfully,
H. COLEMAN,
Late 6th Battalion.

Campaign Stars and Clasps and Defence Medal A.O. 108/1945.

The order in which the Stars will be worn is as follows:—

1. The 1939-45 Star.
2. The Atlantic Star.
3. The Air Crew Europe Star.
4. The Africa Star.
5. The Pacific Star.
6. The Burma Star.
7. The Italy Star.
8. The France and Germany Star.
9. The Defence Medal.

Past and Present Association.

Ashford Branch.

Our monthly meeting was held at the Invicta Hotel on Saturday, December 1st, with Mr. F. Harrison in the Chair. There was a good attendance.

We were very pleased to welcome Major Bompas, who has just returned to civilian life; also Captain Denne. I am very pleased to be able to state that Major Bompas has accepted the office of President of the Ashford Branch. He said he would do everything in his power to fulfil that office.

The Minutes were read and confirmed. There were several letters, one from the Hythe Branch cancelling our visit to them on December 8th owing to several of their members being on the sick list. We were very sorry to get this letter for two reasons. First because of their members being sick, and second because we had a nice party for Hythe and were looking forward to that outing. But never mind, Hythe, better luck in the New Year! We all wish Captain Coote and all other members of Hythe a speedy recovery.

We hope to have a change after our January meeting. Instead of songs, a small whist drive. So roll up, boys, and do your best to get the top score.

We in Ashford hope to start our Rifle Club again in the New Year, so look out, other branches, and get your rifles ready.

I was sorry to see in last month's *Dragon* that Lieut.-Colonel R. Groves Raines had been in hospital. I am sure we all wish him a speedy recovery, especially all who knew him.

We have heard from outside sources of the splendid show by the detachment of The Buffs and also the Band and Drums in London on November 9th. Well done, boys! Keep the old flag flying!

A booby prize was given by one of our members—a set of darts, won by Mr. E. J. Sharrard. Songs were rendered by Mr. Stace and others, with Mr. Salmon (our pianist) at the piano.

A very enjoyable evening closed at 9.30 p.m.

It is with deep regret that we learn of the death of our dear old friend Colonel J. Body. We all, in Ashford, extend our deepest sympathy to his widow and his brother.

E.J.S.

London Branch.

RECEIVING a last minute invitation to resume our activities at the "Prince Alfred" brought quite a number of Buffs along to Tufton Street. We were delighted to have with us Brigadier Adrian Marshall and Colonel J. F. Whitacre Allen, also several other members recently home from the two wars in Europe and Asia. Amongst these were Captains C. Lummis, G. J. Emery, Major Harry Fines, Captain Tutt, Major Sidwell, R.S.M. J. Bell, Pte. E. Carter, Cpl. Coates, G. Skinner.

Major Enright announced the great loss sustained by the Association and particularly the London Branch, in the death of Mr. E. Lamb; he also announced the death of Mr. A. Flavell. The members stood in silence to their memory and to the memory of all Buffs who have fallen.

Brigadier Marshall, in reply to a few words of welcome said, it was the first time he had attended London Branch Meeting, and was pleased to be present; he spoke of the time when he commanded 4th Battalion during the war, and spoke highly of their magnificent fighting qualities. They were plunged into an almost impossible situation in the Island of Leros and fought heroically against terrific odds. No great acclamation has been made about their deeds—neither does the battalion want it—but it was one of the finest feats performed in this or any other war. He had travelled a lot, and everywhere he went from officers of high rank and many others, the deeds of the 4th Battalion stand out in their memories. He told us of his recent visit to Denmark and of the great interest the King of Denmark takes in our regiment.

Colonel Whitacre Allen gave us an interesting talk about old Buffs and spoke highly of Major Duffy and the grand little soldier he was. There were many in the room he knew personally and was pleased to see and meet them again.

Captain Lummis gave a brief review of his war time activities with the 5th Battalion and 4th Battalion, mentioning he served under Brigadier Marshall.

Major Harry Fines told us of his travels, good times and bad times, and how he eventually got a staff appointment; he was, however glad to be back again at Tufton Street.

Captain Emery in a few words gave members a resume of what he had been doing and spoke how, as an officer in the R.A.S.C., Major

Duffy's amoured unit (7th Buffs) came within his purview of administration. He also spoke of old memories mentioning both the senior officers present.

The run round the room was full of interest; the Bear's den was in occupation and all "select" members were warned NOT TO PUT THEIR HEADS IN IT. On this occasion it was occupied by Bears Austin, Clayton, Nolly Marshal, etc., and we have an impression, Colonel Whitacre Allen was enticed into it.

We were pleased to welcome home Pte. Skinner, who will be well remembered in the famous Cross Country Running Team of the 2nd Battalion; he had only just arrived from Burma. Also Pte. E. Carter, who went out with the 2nd from Sutton; R.S.M. Bell of 5th Battalion fame came along. We also had Captain Tutt (son of Tommy Tutt) G. Godden, all looking very fit.

Major Frank Sidwell informs us that he is to become, on the 29th November, "Mine Host" of the Queen Victoria Hotel, London Road, Cheam. Not too far out, and hopes old friends will visit him and purchase really good refreshments at usual prices—no black market tolerated.

Joe Hawkins gave members the good wishes of Joe Green; the new address of Joe Green is 54 Spray Street, Woolwich, S.E.18.

Erny Tong was present and did a useful spot of work—our thanks Erny.

Tom (Woolwich) Taylor, appeared to be having a good evening seated in the corner. In-pensioner J. Marsh, came along without his usual butty—In-pensioner Hammond.

Geo. Hovey (Underneath the Arches) tells us he is moving permanently to Lincolnshire; have no fears—we shall keep you in touch.

We noticed "Dick" Wickington seated with some pals; just like old times to see old faces once again.

We were also glad to see Mr. R. W. Billings looking very fit.

If Mr. Harvey puts on any more additional weight it will mean lifting him by a crane through the window; the door will not be wide enough.

Mr. Cyril Sharpe is now residing near the Prince Alfred; evidently to have a quick one before we arrive.

Major Enright spoke to the meeting and asked all to support the Christmas appeal. With regard to the future, there would be

another gathering on the third Saturday in December, but what he was aiming at was a really Great Muster for the first meeting in the New Year. That would be on the Third Saturday in January. All would be notified and he particularly requested the attendance of those now leaving the Army. It is they, who will have to run the Branch eventually and they must play a big part. He hoped, health permitting, to have the Colonel of the Regiment with us on that occasion and a large muster of past and present officers and all other ranks of the branch. Everybody must remember two words "Get Cracking." It was also hoped to revive Cenotaph Sunday and, if a place in London can be found big enough, the Ladies Festival Re-union Dinner and Ball; we shall attend Remembrance Sunday at Canterbury and also have a plot in Westminster Abbey for the Regiment as formerly on Armistice Day.

Letters and expressions of good wishes were received from the Colonel of the Regiment, also Colonels J. Williams, E. V. Argles, Guy Lee, Majors A. J. Peareth, A. C. Jennings, Captain E. A. Carter, Major H. G. James, R. Knott, Joe Green, and Captain T. O. Cook also from numerous others of all ranks.

We have heard from Mr. Hughie Borland and regret to say he has been recently too unwell to attend gatherings or even to undertake a lot of correspondence. We all wish you Hughie a speedy recovery and that next Summer we shall have the pleasure of seeing your bright smiles frequently.

Will Sailor Cooper forward his new address to 26 Oswald Road, (as the legal profession says) he will hear of something to his advantage.

Our best wishes to the Colonel of the Regiment, and all members of the Past and Present Association for Christmas and the New Year.

J.E.E.

LADIES GUILD.

Amongst those who came along to the Prince Alfred on Saturday, November 17th last were Mrs. Spinner, Mrs. Enright, Mrs. Coley and daughter, Mrs. Waters and daughter, Mrs. Waters and daughter, Mrs. Sidwell and daughter, Mrs. (Woolwich) Taylor, Mrs. Hawkins, Mrs. Waby, Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Tutt, Mrs. Austin.

The Guild sincerely sympathises with Mrs. Lamb on the death of her husband; a wreath was sent in remembrance of one who at all times was a great friend to the Guild.

The Chairman, Mrs. Spinner made enquiries about the commencement of the Guild Teas and was informed by the Landlord, that he had the greatest difficulty in catering for ordinary luncheons and that teas, at present, are an impossibility.

We hope by the time these notes are in print Mrs. (Cissie) Redman has her husband back home.

Our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all other Guilds and to all past and present of our Regiment.

D.E.S.

Dover Branch.

Since my last notes we have held several meetings which have been well-attended. Our Annual Meeting was held on November 1st, and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—*Chairman*: Col. J. Crookenden; *Vice Chairman*: Major J. Sherwood; *Treasurer*: Mr. W. Frost; *Committee*: Messrs. H. E. Frost, R. Joyner, J. Mead, R. Carter, A. Steel, T. Holloway, J. Abbott, E. Tonbridge, W. Plater, T. Hopper, A. Bushell, C. Mills; *Hon. Secretary*: C. Collins; and the writer thinks that with this team of workers the branch will be able to regain its old place in the town and the Association.

We are very pleased to be able to report that we have good news of one of our members, H. Millington, badge No. 2895, who was reported killed in action at Hong Kong on Christmas Day, 1941. He is on his way home after being in hospital in New Zealand.

On December 11th, 1945, a few members visited the Folkestone Branch and spent a very enjoyable evening, and would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Folkestone Branch for a good time, and hope that this is only the beginning of many such gatherings, not only at Folkestone but with all branches in the South-east.

We are looking forward to our next meeting, which is to be a social event with the Dover Ladies' Guild. To close, we wish all branches and members a very happy New Year.

C.C.

Ramsgate Branch.

In December, 1944 we were hoping to resurrect the Ramsgate Branch. By this December we have realised our ambition. We are not stopping at this and I look forward to further progress in 1946. This year we have

enrolled over one hundred members and are also getting our lapsed members to pay up subscriptions.

I sincerely trust these new members keep their subscriptions paid to date, and then progress will be sure.

As Secretary, I must thank my Chairman, Officers and Committee. Nothing has been too much trouble. They have always been ready to assist in the welfare of the branch.

This month we have had the pleasure of making Captain R. S. J. Morgan a member; also Mr. T. Dorman and Ted Hougham. All three of these Buffs each have a war record to be proud of.

Ted Hougham lost a leg and injured his arm in a blitz when he was Head Warden in the C.D. Now, in spite of his disabilities, he carries on a successful printer's business.

I must say a word about Dorman. To me his age is a mystery. He tells me he is a great grandfather, served in the last war, and joined the Royal Engineers in this war, having a good record in each war.

Captain R. Morgan has a good war record and was awarded the M.C.

W. Adams, ex-P.O.W., is in Civvy Street, and has now got a good job at a local builder's merchant. Bill wishes to be remembered to old friends.

One can always meet a Buff up at Charlie Taylor's at the Coach and Horses, High Street. Bill Belsey tells me it tastes like wine—quite a nice drink and good company.

The branch thanks Lieut. W. Wotton for taking charge of the Past and Present on Armistice Sunday Parade. I trust his clothes are dry "it did rain". It was very nice of Colonel Witts, O.C. of the whole parade, when we reached the Church to dismiss the Parade and save us sitting in Church with wet clothes.

I take this opportunity of wishing all battalions and branches the best of wishes for the New Year.

Now for the meeting report:—

There was a good attendance of 63 members of the Past and Present Association, Ramsgate Branch at the monthly meeting held on November 9th, at the Woodman Inn, Hardres Street, Ramsgate.

The Chairman (Mr. E. H. Swendell) presided, supported by Captain A. J. H. Taylor, Lieut. W. Wotton, Major H. D. Rose and Mr. B. E. Knott (Secretary).

The Chairman extended a welcome to the officers, said he was pleased to see many new faces. The branch was increasing in strength, and he hoped that this progress would be maintained.

Mr. Swendell mentioned that for the Annual General Meeting, larger accommodation would be found.

Letters of apologies were received from Captain H. H. Knight, Messrs. R. Durrant, J. Elson, W. Playford, S. Willmoth and Major A. J. Peareth.

The Secretary read a letter from the Ashford Branch thanking the Ramsgate Branch for the splendid number which attended, and gave their support to the successful Victory Parade held at Ashford.

Captain A. J. H. Taylor (President) stated the Association and the Regiment had sustained a great loss in the death of Colonel F. Mainwaring Dunstan, of Margate. Many old Volunteers and the 1/4th Buffs would especially remember him. As a token of respect he asked the members to stand for two minutes' silence.

The Social Committee reported that Mr. W. Bell had been elected Chairman, and Mr. H. Setterfield, Secretary.

Messrs. J. Stupples, F. Clifton, W. Darby, W. Bowen, R. Grainger, J. Joynson and L. Miles, were enrolled as new members.

Following a very successful meeting, refreshments were served by Mr. W. G. Love, and the remainder of the evening was spent in reviving old friendships.

B.E.K.

Beneath Bell Harry



HAVING barely recovered from the effort of producing the November notes, your correspondent has been told by the Editor that with Christmas coming *The Dragon* must be ready for press again. So readers will appreciate that these notes will be extremely brief.

Christmas is the main topic of conversation, and everybody is looking forward to it, and may it be a very happy Christmas for everybody—and a merry one too, as far as possible. The Messing Officer thinks of little else but turkeys, mince pies, and all the other traditional foods; the thoughts of the P.R.I. are mainly with beer, and what could there be better to think about!

The Beerhawks gathered together a short time ago to celebrate the arrival of the Founder-Secretary, Geoffrey Cox, on leave from the C.M.F., and a small and select gathering met at Fordwich for one of the usual "extraordinary" meetings. It was a most successful evening, and all the brothers and sisters enjoyed themselves, although it is regretted that one or two of them incurred just censure for

drinking wines more ersatz than "esoteric". The Secretary has proposed that an official tie should be produced, and any suggestions about the design will be welcomed. We were glad to see Dick Holman and his wife there, and hope they will visit us as often as possible. Ernest Chambers, home on leave from B.A.O.R., was also there, and we were very glad to see him looking so well.

We have had few other visitors since my last notes, but Major Cranfield came to lunch a few days ago, just home from abroad and about to be demobbed.

Major Terry has just joined us again, and we are very pleased to see him back after his long spell by the sea-side.

We have had the usual number of arrivals and departures, but we especially wish the best of luck to John Taylor and Tony Allen, who are leaving us in the near future.

The hockey and football teams continue to flourish, and before we close, very many congratulations to Major Dare and John Taylor on their mentions, and good luck to all during 1946.

"B" Company.

Other companies are amazed at the vitality of "B" Company Tomahawks on Cavalry Square, under the able leadership of Big Chief Whoopee!!! Feathers are discouraged from head-dress, but bowie-knives are allowed if carried at the slope. It is rumoured the officers spend a good deal of time hiding in a cave, the location of which is not known; there is noticed a complete absence of the Company Passion truck around 10.30.

The company emerged from a Quartermaster's check with but a few scratches. Certain surpluses in the Sergeants' quarters will now be taken on charge!

Our romantic Admin. Officer has shown great fight in the battle of rations, and is now carrying out a tactical withdrawal from the scene of operations. Carry on, Captain Godwin! You've got a strong case!

Sgt. "Inky" is of the opinion that a honeymoon is a good thing, and has recently returned to his castle for further manoeuvres.

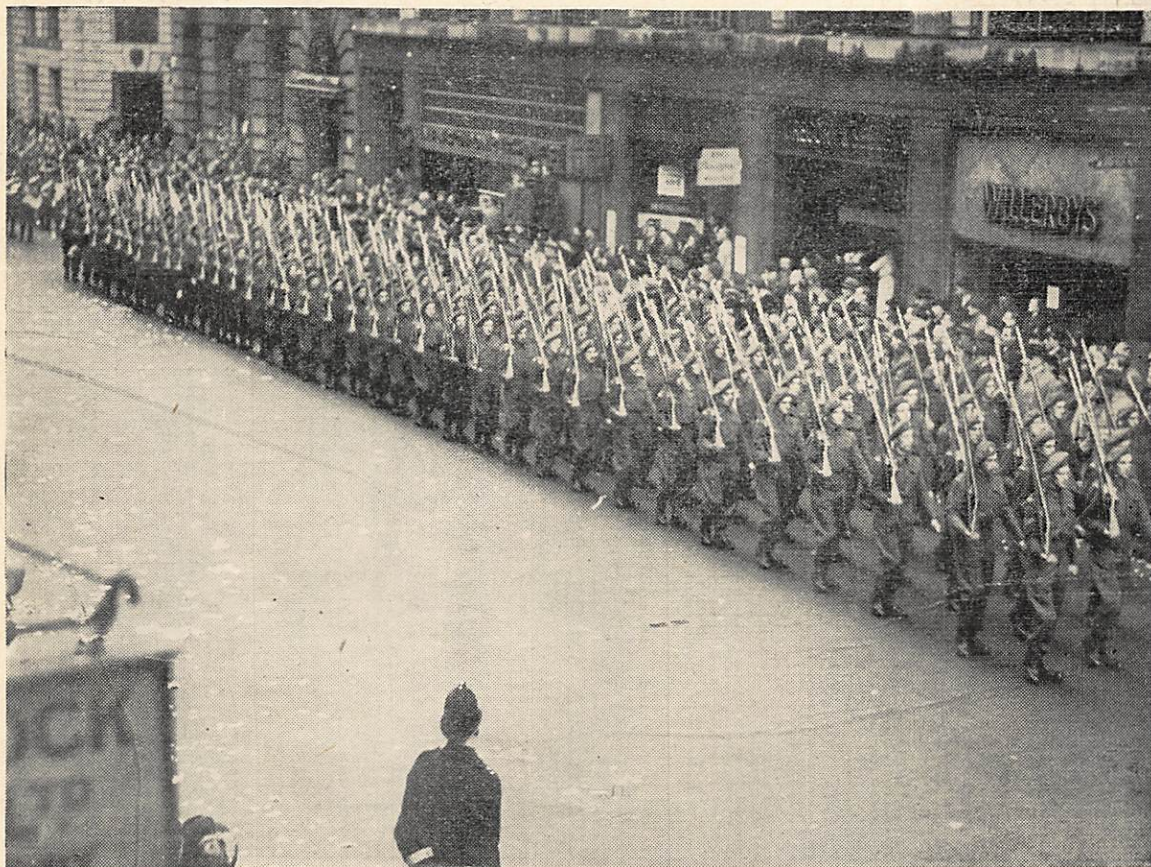
Moustache and glasses, capably handling the company's leave, is reducing morale to mud level. However, we do see signs of improvement.

Our concentration must be to restrict his escapades in "The Bell" to the minimum. Rumour has it that these evenings are usefully spent in snake hunting.

The whole company send their best wishes to all who have left for service in the land of harems and pig-sticking. We hope their stay will be a pleasant and short one, and that the supply of buckets and spades will be adequate.

Sgt. Scott and his Polar Bears managed to appear on parade one morning, much to the amazement of the Big Chief. This will be entered in Unit records as an unusual occurrence, but will not be taken as a precedent.

THE LORD MAYORS' SHOW, 1945.



The Detachment.

In the year 1936 the Regiment was represented in the procession by a detachment from the London Branch, both regular battalions being overseas.

The detachment, dressed in uniforms of the year 1666, comported itself most admirably and was greatly admired by the onlookers. [Ed.]

Sgt. Doyle, having wandered hopelessly in the wilds of the Yorkshire moors as a lost sheep, has now returned to the fold. The length of absence was not due to the London fog.

In future, personnel for the Big Chief's orders will parade in three ranks. This queue is not to be confused with the pay parade!

At last we have found the meaning of the designation "Colour-Sergeant". Ours is red!

The Tomahawks reverted to nature for 48 hours at West Wood. We refrain from comment on the tactical location of fires. We must mention, however, that there is still a certain amount of the wood in existence which is not used. Movement under "Fire" was commendable.

The company are looking forward with eager anticipation to the Christmas festivities, which has been promised as a "feast of all feasts". The menu for dinner will be: beer, roast turkey, beer, brussel sprouts,

beer, roast potatoes, beer, savoury stuffing, beer, roast pork, more beer, apple sauce and yet more beer—not forgetting beer and Christmas pudding. This will, of course, be at home!

In passing, we must mention the two gallant "Braves" who have volunteered to stay behind. We need hardly mention that their names will appear in the New Year's Honours.

In closing, we wish all the happiest of happy Christmases, and the very best for the New Year. Good luck to those who have left us, and welcome to those about to join.

"C" Company.

Once again we start off the month's notes by wishing good-bye and good luck to someone returning to Civvie Street. This time it is to Pte. Phillips, our Sanitation Man, who according to statements made by himself, was the busiest man in the company.



The Band and Detachment.

The Drill Competitions were won by Sgt. Jackson with No. 65 Squad, who incidentally thinks he had very little opposition, and Sgt. Newton with No. 66 Squad, in their respective syndicates.

This month's football started badly for us. We lost to our old rivals, "B" Company, in a very keenly-contested game, the score being 4 goals to 3. They still seem to manage that extra little bit that matters, though some of our supporters say they saw some very peculiar play in "B" Company's goal-mouth. However, we managed to reverse this score with "D" Company, winning by 4 goals to 3 this time. Also, our A.T.S. (Army Trade School) boys gave "D" Company Danes a licking in a challenge match, winning by 3 goals to 1. Our Sports Officer (Lieut. Bodman) is keen for a crack at the Russian Dynamos, so I have heard, providing of course that they stay here until we can get a little more practice in. We also had our first cross-country run of five miles last Thursday afternoon, and this accounts for the number of N.C.O.'s limping round and feeling quite sorry for themselves.

Three guesses to anyone who can name the Sergeant who gets his squad dressed in F.S.M.O. for the Company Commander's Inspection half-an-hour before time and then with his N.C.O.'s goes round blanchoing packs, etc., which are not up to standard.

This is all for now, so I will dry up by wishing all old friends, both at home and abroad, the best of luck and the compliments of the season from Charlie Company.

"I" Company.

First I want to say how glad we are to see the return of our Company Commander, Major L. W. Williams, after his period in hospital and convalescence.

Christmas is not far away now, and I think everyone is looking forward to spending this one at home this year, if all goes well. It will be the first time since the war began for many people.

We welcome to the company Lieuts. Faulder, Smith and Simons, who have all taken command of a platoon, including one platoon of Danes. We also welcome Colour-Sergeant Smith, who has taken the place of Colour-Sergeant Butler, who is awaiting his demob.

We offer our congratulations to Sgt. Holmes on his becoming the father of a son last month.

C.S.M. Johnson has now left the company for service in India with the rank of Regimental Sergeant-Major. We all wish you the best of luck, Sir.

DANISH PERSONNEL.



On Parade.

As I said in November's notes, the Corporals would offer a return challenge to the Sergeants to another series of tournaments on the billiard table and the dart board in the Corporals' Mess sometime in that month. Well, this event took place during the latter part of November, and once again the poor old Corporals took a beating, the Sergeants gaining 22 points against the Corporals' 17. The evening was a great success and we hope to have more of these "get-togethers" in the future. The Corporals are thinking of running a "Quiz" between the two messes if we can fathom out enough questions and answers. So the two messes had better start thinking very hard.

We are sorry to see the departure of Cpl. Gilbert, who has been released under the Class B Scheme to take up his civilian occupation in the building trade. After being in the Army for nearly six years, he has now exchanged his No. 4 rifle for a plasterer's trowel.

This is all for this month, but before I close, I would like to wish all Buffs, wherever they may be serving, a very happy Christmas and all good wishes for the New Year.

Danish Personnel.

A few months ago the Danish Government asked the British Government if it would like some volunteers for the British Army—about five thousand of them.

The British Government gladly accepted, and so on October 16th the first 34 Danish volunteers arrived at No. 12 I.T.C. (two days late owing to a gale), but they were none the worse for their bad trip.

They were posted to "D" Company and since the majority of them could speak the English language fluently, they soon settled down to do the six weeks' primary training which everyone who joins up or who is called up has to do in our days.

Their average age was 23 years, and a good many of them had seen service in the resistance movement. Like our own intakes, they came from all walks of life—journalists, bank clerks, warehousemen, and even a stacionian. They were a jolly and enthusiastic crowd who worked and played hard.

After they had completed their Army training they were posted to various units—some went to The Buffs, others to the R.A.S.C., Intelligence Corps, R.E.'s, R.A.'s, and R.A.C.

Since then, 150 more have come to "D" Company and others to other companies, and they all have the same high state of enthusiasm as did the original 34.



On Parade.

Cadets on Parade at the Lord Mayor's Show.

Another Red-Letter Day, for the Buffs Cadets.

A FEW weeks ago the 1st Cadet Battalion, The Buffs, commanded by Lieut.-Col. H. L. Cremer, M.B.E., had the honour of providing a Guard of Honour for one of the most distinguished soldiers in the British Army, Field-Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery, when he came to Canterbury to receive the Freedom of the City. A contingent of one hundred strong, preceded by their own band, escorted this illustrious soldier from the Westgate Towers through the main thoroughfare, flanked on either side by a vast crowd of people, to the historic Guildhall.

It was a fitting climax to a parade that filled every boy taking part with a keen sense of pride in their parent Regiment, The Buffs, when a select contingent of twenty-four cadets,

representing Companies from Canterbury, Bekesbourne, Herne Bay, Whitstable, Sandwich Aylesham, Dover and Deal, were briefed to take part in the recent Lord Mayor's Show. The cadet detachment was under the command of Lieut. Blaxland. The great champion and friend of the cadets, Major P. Dare, had previously directed the training of the cadets and brought them up to a pitch of proficiency, worthy of the great occasion.

On the night before the Lord Mayor's Show, the boys adjourned from the parade ground in Canterbury, to a nearby restaurant and ate a meal consisting of all the known vitamins—bacon, chips, vegetables, pudding and cheese, washed down with tea. Subsequently they proceeded to their sleeping quarters, at the Barracks, as the guests of Lieut.-Col. C. E. Wilson, a staunch friend of the cadets. After more vitamins they retired to their bunks, only to be awakened a few hours later by reveille at the unearthly hour of 3.50 a.m. Notwithstanding their natural excitement, the

DANISH PERSONNEL.



Off Parade.

cadets were able to eat a hearty breakfast and were soon on their way along with a detachment of The Buffs, led by Major Dare, to the station, where a special train was waiting to take them up to London.

Arriving at Cannon Street Station, the contingent was conducted to the forming-up ground, where the cadets took their place in the mile-long procession of 2,500 strong. The boys were much attracted by the splash of colour provided by Yeoman Warders of the Tower in their Tudor scarlet and the Pikemen of the Honourable Artillery Company, in their brick red cassocks and armour of the Regiment in Charles I's time, and each shouldering several yards of steel-tipped pike. The Buffs with their own band and the Cadets, all bore themselves worthily as they marched past the Lord Mayor. The bells of St. Paul's were ringing and all along the route people were cheering lustily. The piece de resistance was reached when the cadets on approaching Mansion House were given the command "Eyes Left," a salute taken by the Colonel of

the Regiment, Major-General The Honourable Scarlett. The Cadets had been marching without a break for just over an hour, but their vitality and fitness, stimulated by the martial strains of the Buffs band, were sufficient to keep them marching all day. It was truly a red-letter day for the Cadets who took part in this centuries old procession, and one they will never forget as long as they live.

The following message has been received by the Battalion Commander, Lieut.-Col. H. L. Cremer, from Lieut.-Col. Jackson, Secretary of the City of London Territorial Army and Air Force Association:—

"I am directed by the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor to ask you to be good enough to convey his grateful thanks to those who took part in his Procession on Lord Mayor's Day 1945, and so brilliantly contributed to the great success of the revival of a National ceremony which is centuries old."

Let us hope that the Army Cadet Movement responsible for training these boys, will in the years ahead go from strength to strength.



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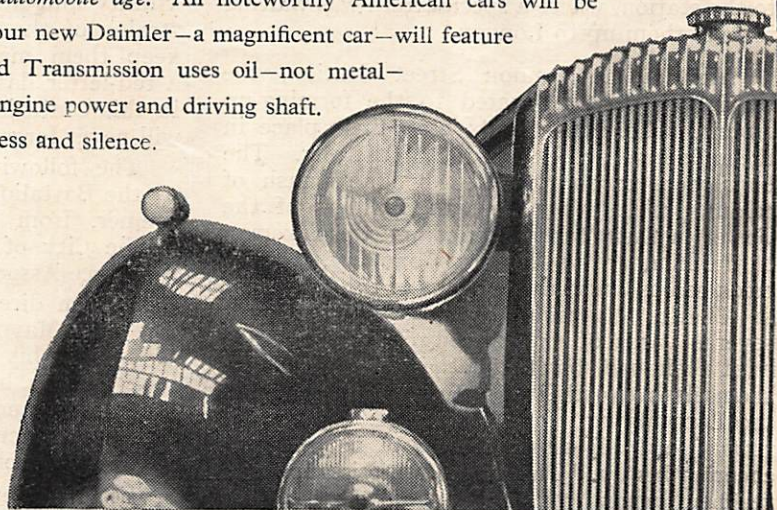
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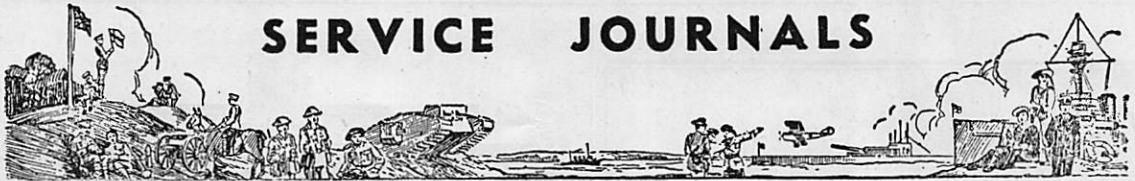


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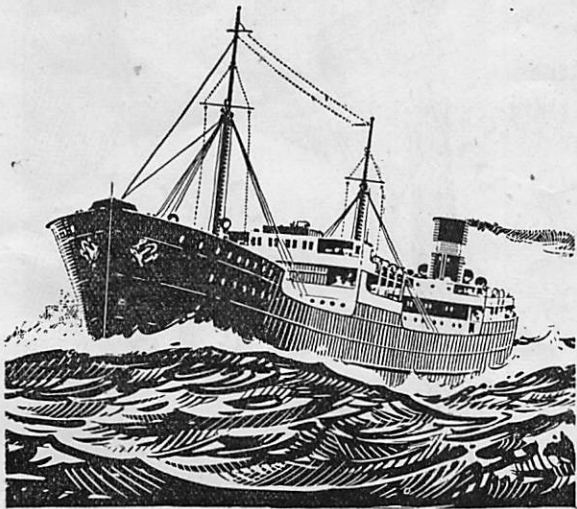
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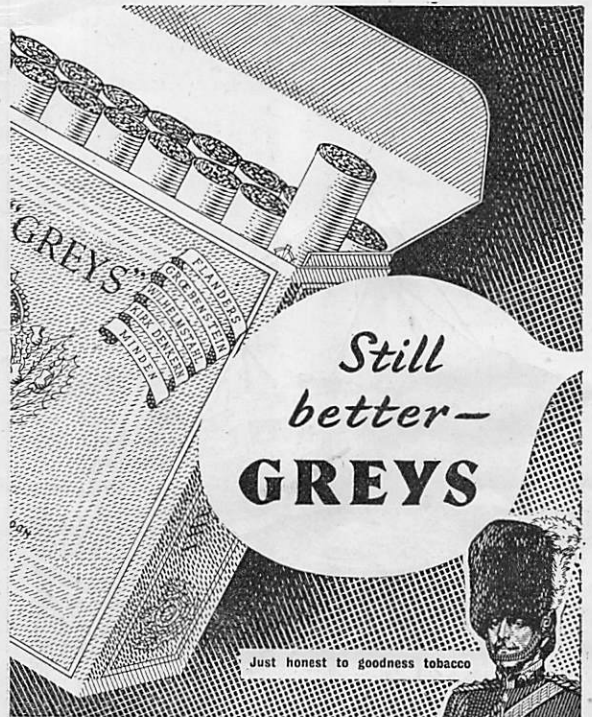
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