

BATTALION TO HOLD A CADRE

Young Men to be "Frozen" in B.A.O.R.

NOTES & NEWS

Release Programme

Exactly how long does it take to pass through the release "sausage machine" and to become a civvy once again? It took Major Thomlinson just under five days from the time he left the Battalion to the time he stepped into the train on the last lap of his journey home. Perhaps some people may be interested in a more detailed account of one's adventures after leaving Gevelsberg.

Good Food and Good Accommodation

Major Thomlinson left the Battalion on a Monday afternoon. After spending the night at Neheim he went on to Munster and, after a meal at 40 R.H.U., caught a train for Tournai. This was reached on Wednesday morning, and after a little documentation the day was spent changing all the money into sterling and collecting N.A.A.F.I. rations. In common with all the camps, this provided plenty of good food and comfortable accommodation.

Aldershot Release Camp Praised

Leaving Tournai on Thursday morning and crossing from Calais, the party was in Dover by 1400 hrs. Major Thomlinson writes that the Customs officials were very good if people declared all dutiable articles, and very few people had to pay any duty. From Dover he went to Aldershot for the final release procedure. Documentation was completed in thirty minutes, and he spent the night in what he describes as a "very well laid on show." Next day he was taken to Woking, fitted out with clothes in twenty minutes, and by 1000 hrs. he had left the Army and was in a train bound for home.

Where Will One be Released?

Major Thomlinson states that he has no idea why his party was sent to Aldershot. Actually he declares that it is quite impossible to estimate where you will be sent, for it all depends on the availability of accommodation and the size of other release parties from other parts of the world. But one thing does emerge from his experiences—that it was all "a damn good show."

German Police Carry Arms

German regular police can now carry arms at night. Sufficient weapons have been issued to arm up to 20 per cent of the strength of the local police force. Only in special cases, such as the round-up of armed civilians, will German police be allowed to carry arms in daylight. If, however, the police are guarding V.P.s they will carry arms at all times.

A new scheme to ensure the efficiency of the Battalion next year, even if drafts have to be sent to S.E.A.C., was announced by Divisional H.Q. to-day. This is the "Remain" scheme. Under this new policy the Battalion is to be allowed to "freeze" about forty N.C.O.s and men of S.E.A.C. age groups.

Size of Minimum Cadre

To-day's announcement says, "The problem of the retention within a unit of a minimum cadre of soldiers eligible for S.E.A.C. but vital to the continuity of the unit has been under discussion for a considerable time. A solution has now been reached. It has been decided to lay down a maximum scale of personnel which each unit will be entitled to 'protect' against drafting demands." In the Battalion this will go up to a scale equivalent to the number of sergeants on the war establishment—i.e., about forty.

Selection Lists Being Made

The Commanding Officer is now considering which men he is going to earmark amongst the N.C.O.s and specialist ranks. A nominal roll is being forwarded to Records, and the individuals selected will have the fact recorded on their conduct sheets. Should any man fail to continue to show promise his name will be removed from the list.

Just one word of warning! This scheme does not affect retention or release in the slightest way. It is purely intended to ensure that Rhine Army battalions, which have lost such a large number of promising N.C.O.s on drafts to S.E.A.C., will lose no more and will be efficient next year.

POPULAR C.S.M. LEAVES BATTALION

Company Sergeant Major E. Chadwick leaves the Battalion on Tuesday under the Release Scheme. Widely known as "Uncle Ned," C.S.M. Chadwick was called into the Army on September 1st, 1939, as a private soldier. In November, 1939, he was promoted Sergeant, in December C.Q.M.S., and in April, 1943, C.S.M. He has served with this Battalion throughout the war, having been in every Company except "Sp." He was married under the Battalion Colours in St. Mary's Church, Greenfield, in August, 1942. The officiating minister was Cary Davies, well known by many members of the Battalion.

Prowess in Many Fields

C.S.M. Chadwick is by far the oldest member of the Sergeants' Mess, having been a member since November, 1939. He has played regularly in the Battalion Soccer team and also led the "H.Q." Sergeants' team to victory in the Basket Ball League. His versatile acting in "H.Q." Company Concert Party's "Cottage Pie" will long be remembered. We wish him the very best of luck in civilian life.

WIRELESS NEWS

Amazing Statement by Hess British Export Trade Growing

GERMANY

At the Nuremberg trials the defence is expected to start cross-examinations to-day. A sensation was caused yesterday when Hess announced that he had been shamming loss of memory. Although he said he had no real interest in the

trial, he had made his announcement to avoid being considered irresponsible or an imposter.

Eleven Germans have been arrested following the discovery of the body of a British soldier in a quarry outside Cologne. The murder had been committed in a well-known "Black Market" area.

Three former U-boat officers were executed yesterday after being condemned to death for machine-gunning ships' crews in lifeboats.

HOME.

Latest figures show that British export trade is far above last year's, but is still well below pre-war figures.

More food is being received from overseas. Over 330,000 cases of herrings are being sent from British Columbia, and many food parcels are being obtained from South Africa.

Nail varnish and nail varnish remover are now to be on sale again.

Food shops will be closed for two days at Christmas—on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

The Queen Mary is bringing back thousands of toys for London children, the gifts of a New York manufacturer.

Indomitable, one of the largest aircraft carriers, arrived back yesterday at Portsmouth after four years overseas. Two smaller carriers are expected to reach Britain next week.

Ex-P.O.W.s from Brunswick Camp have decided to form a Boys' Club in East London. Already £13,000 has been donated and £700 in annual subscriptions has been promised.

A small advance party of civilians has left London to reoccupy their homes in Alderney.

Still more of Britain's secret weapons have been disclosed. One of the most interesting was the special buoy which enable aircraft to hear U-boats. This buoy, containing a hydrophone and a small radio transmitter, was dropped by aeroplanes in areas suspected of containing U-boats.

The 1928 class of young men register to-day.

UNITED STATES

The liner Queen Elizabeth docks next week in New York with a load of Canadian troops. During the winter months it is proposed to use New York instead of Halifax.

ITALY

After a four-hour meeting the former Italian Foreign Minister has agreed to form a new Government.

C.Q.M.S. MAIDEN JOINS THE G.P.O.

When C.Q.M.S. Maiden was released he had no intention of returning to his old job in the cotton mills. Armed with a letter of recommendation from the Commanding Officer, he went to the G.P.O. in Oldham a few days after he was released. After an interview with the local inspector of postmen he was asked when he would like to start work, and very wisely he decided to begin at once. So now, to use his own words, he has a "steady job of sorting and delivering letters and parcels. I rather like the job and just now will be one of the heaviest periods with Christmas almost on the doorstep, so if I can survive that rush I've no doubt I'll manage anything else that comes along." Mr. Maiden sends his best wishes to all his friends and companies in the Battalion and hopes to see many of them in the future at Old Comrades' Reunion dinners.

A YEAR AGO . . .

November 29th, 1944—cold, bleak weather, and the Battalion climbed into its trucks for the long drive to Nijmegen, the famous bridge and the salient beyond. Remember our first sight of that bridge, towering high above the swollen river? Remember the notices, "Don't Dilly-Dally on the Way"? The A.A. sites, the two Baileys which one always bumped over in the hurry to get across? Remember the move into Haalderen in the white beams of the searchlights, the huge bund with the floods behind it? The floods, water, water everywhere! The ruined houses, and never have houses been so ruined. Haalderen, where we all crammed together. Haalderen, where the church bell swung aimlessly in its ruined tower. The water was rising when we got there—three to six inches a day, said the Intelligence Log. At Haalderen one got the impression of isolation, of being cut off from the outside world, represented by Nijmegen, of a deadness and a loneliness never before experienced in the ruins of the lands through which we had passed.

Winter on the "Island"

Haalderen was the beginning of our five-month stay in the salient, 50th Division had stayed there twelve weeks, and had told the people of Nijmegen that no Division would stay longer—we stayed so long that we got the title of the "Nijmegen Home Guard." Five months of waiting, of gales, blizzards, temperatures below zero, not to mention Boche. It will be many years before any man will forget the five months he spent in the "Nijmegen Salient."

DIVINE SERVICE

at the

GARRISON CHURCH

1130 - Morning Service

1200 - Holy Communion

1830 - Evening Service

R.C. SERVICE

Tomorrow

at 0830. hrs.

In the Hall at the
IRON DUKE.

U.S. DICTATION ?

The long-drawn-out financial talks between Britain and the U.S.A. seem to be no nearer a final agreement. Indeed, if the recent reports of the latest American proposals are correct, it would appear that there are little hopes of reaching any decision that would be palatable to the British public. According to these sources of information the United States will give aid to Britain only if this country is prepared to submit to a "Means Test" whereby the American Government will be able to satisfy itself that we really need the assistance we ask for, and that we are not attempting to squander American funds.

This is downright American interference in British home affairs. In giving assistance to other Allied nations the U.S.A. has not imposed such restrictions. Why, then, is it considered necessary to treat Britain in this way? Whether President Truman or Congress may say, it is obvious from the comments of the American press that the people of the United States, whether through ignorance or political bias, distrust and dislike the present British Government. To use their own words, "they refuse to subsidise British experiments in Socialism."

The United States is obviously free to withhold its aid to Britain if it so wishes. But no one in Britain, whatever his political beliefs, is prepared to tolerate American dictation of our home and imperial policy. The present Government was elected by a majority vote of the British people, and the Americans have no right to tell us how or where we should vote.

If, as is most likely, American attempts at dictation are rejected, then we may lose all financial aid. The future will be gloomy and life will be hard, for, unable to buy from the United States, we shall be forced to restrict our purchases to the sterling countries within the Empire and in liberated Europe. But the Empire and its liberated parts will also suffer. Many of the United States industries depend for their prosperity on their exports to Britain and the British Empire. If these markets are closed, through our inability to buy, then the United States may face a depression as bad as that of 1929. Faced by this prospect, many American manufacturers are beginning to realise the value of the British market and are exerting pressure on their Government to take a more generous attitude towards the present financial talks.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,—Can anything be done about the N.A.A.F.I. beer? It's much worse than the Belgian beer, and when it's the only kind we can get, as is promised, we shall be in a bad way. If we've got to pay for the stuff, I think we should get our money's worth.

"Wanderer."

Sir,—I would like to bring to your notice the following. As each Age and Service Group becomes "frozen," automatically their leave is stopped. But this seems to me that it depends upon whom you are.

I know cases where men have been brought forward the necessary days to escape the dead-line. Now this practice is quite commendable where a man would miss his leave by a very small margin of three or four days or even a week. But why should this action be taken for some and not others?

These kind of practices breed distrust and discontentment, and I would very much appreciate it if you would give me a reasonable explanation in your next issue of the "Yorkshire Pud."

"Had It."

The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
A line of cars winds slowly o'er the lee.
A pedestrian plods his absent-minded way
And leaves the world quite unexpectedly.

The old lady who asked the librarian for a nice book was offered one about a Cardinal.

"I'm not interested in religion," she replied.

"But this is about a bird," protested the librarian.

The old lady had the last word. "I'm not interested in his private life, either," she retorted.

A man entered a crowded bar, walked up the wall, walked along the ceiling, walked down the wall near the bar, and ordered a pint of mild.

Having quaffed his mild, he walked back up the wall, walked along the ceiling, down the other wall, and out.

"Extraordinary!" said a surprised stranger to the barmaid.

"Isn't it?" she replied. "He always drinks bitter."

BATTALION SOCCER TEAM



Back Row (left to right). — Ptes. Batters, Lowe, Sgt. Hazeldine, Ptes. Elliott, and Ogden (linesman).

Front Row. — Pte. Tyldesley, Sgt. Hall, Ptes. Hogg, Knight, Sgt. Webb, Pte. Whitehouse, and C.S.M. Chadwick

H.Q. VIEWS (2)

PURITY LEAGUE TO BE BANNED?

SIGNALS

Not much to report this week. Several members of the Platoon arrived back from U.K. leave a few days ago looking more as though they'd been on an arctic expedition. Callaghan didn't seem at all keen on relating his recent experiences on the route from Calais to Munster; he was more concerned with finding if his radio worked. He switched on, went for a wash, and after about twenty minutes came back again and began to very carefully manipulate the various controls. For several minutes not a sound was heard; and then, very far away, strains of a band—or was it just imagination?—no, he'd done it, he was receiving the B.F.N. (strength 3 and distorted). The great moment for which he had waited so long had arrived!

SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES

This week we welcome a number of new members to the Mess; we hope they will soon settle down and become part of the "Family."

Our friend Sgt. West, who was due for release on December 4th under A. and S. Group 22, has received the bad news of the sudden death of his mother and has left for England on compassionate grounds. We all sympathise with him and wish him the best of luck in Civvy Street.

"Mr. Maiden Writes . . ."

News has been received from ex-C.Q.M.S. Maiden. He is working for the G.P.O. and playing dance music in the evenings. He wishes to be remembered to all his friends (C.Q.M.S.s do have friends) and reminds them that if they do not like the Army they can always return to Civvy Street in their old rank!

In the absence of R.S.M. Cook, C.S.M. Ned Chadwick, President of the Purity League, is now to be seen daily outside the "Iron Duke" in the capacity of R.S.M.! It is suspected that during the course of this duty he breaks his Purity Vows. He also wishes it to be known that his "people"—both the Cholmondeley-Chadwicks and the Chadwick-Forsythes—think it is rather a bad show

that the family name should be given to a "person" of a bad type who seems to spend his entire life suspended from the top of a wall by his elongated nasal organ. They deny any relationship with this person, and suggest that it is more probable that he is in the employ of an editor of a certain notorious newspaper.

Heard in "H.Q." Company Office, 0100 hrs. Thursday: "Get up — its burning." (Entered with apologies to Milkman's Matinee.)

BAND GOSSIP

The following conversation was overheard in a Canteen in Nijmegen some time ago:

Manageress: I am afraid you will have to leave now as it is closing time, but you may go into the Recreation Room, where you will find table tennis, billiards, and cards to play with to enable you to pass the time away.

The Big Drummer: If Kamerad coma with ze auto with ze icy Bear on the front, you spreken Ich in Recreation Room, Yah?

Manageress: Very well, I will inform him as soon as he arrives.

Wanted, a Bus

Once again the Band have been visiting 146 Brigade. Remarks made by individuals cannot be repeated, but if some brainy fellow could suggest a method of heating an almost open three-tonner, then we should be very much obliged. Otherwise I'm afraid the M.O. will have his work cut out signing Sick Reports and the Band will not be able to play their instruments up to standard, for it is rather difficult to blow one's nose and an instrument at the same time. "Men may come and men may go, but I go on for ever"—who is the witty fellow who remarked that that was the Bandmaster's theme?

You, Too, Can Shine

"Shake" Rogers seems to be using far too many clothes these days. He thought of a way to save electricity, and his instrument seems to be suffering. The reflection from this, his boots and buttons light the whole room. "I'm beginning to see the light" is his signature tune.

Group 22 will soon be leaving, and amongst them is Bandsman Sid Melbourne, the Band clerk; we shall miss him very much. Before joining the Dukes Sid originated from the 1st Air Landing Brigade, 2nd South Staffs. All the Band wish him the very best of luck and hope that he will soon settle down to civilian life again.

New Band Recruit

Yesterday we welcomed yet another new arrival to the Band, Pte. Dennis from the 4th Lincolns. Very soon we hope to see him in the Bus Conductor's uniform. If he is unable to tell you the time of the next bus please excuse him, for it is only by very expensive lessons can one hope to learn the running of such a great organisation.

Why is it that false teeth have a habit of breaking on Officers' Mess nights?

The shortage of material for clothes can easily be rectified. Just look at the waste of cloth in the seat of Bandsman Fisher's trousers.

The Wellington Theatre
PRESENTS
PHANTOM LADY
With
Franchot Tone &
Ella Raines
Tonight & Tomorrow