

"THE BRITISH ARE STARVING US"

Truth About German Allegations

NOTES & NEWS

No Film Tonight

It is regretted that owing to circumstances beyond our control there will be no film show tonight. "Medal for the General" will, however, be shown tomorrow, and "Farewell, My Lovely" on Saturday.

There will be no admission charge to "Farewell, My Lovely" which is a 16 mm film.

More Official Answers

Question:— How are men in Class "B" block releases selected?

Answer:— The Ministry of Labour notifies the War Office of the occupations in which Class "B" block releases are required. The War Office then picks out from its records the appropriate numbers in those occupations in order of A and S Groups, beginning of course with groups higher than those about to be released in Class "A." The men concerned are then offered immediate release in class "B."

Question:— What are my rights if I accept a class "B" release?

Answer:— It is not compulsory to accept a Class "B," and the advantage is that you get back to work, and probably your home too, before your normal group. To make up for this you will get 21 days paid leave and allowances, instead of the full 56.

You will still be entitled to one extra day's leave for each month spent abroad, however, and your entitlement to War Gratuities, post-war credits and civilian clothing will remain the same as if you had waited for Class "A."

If you are released in Class "B" in this way, you may be sent back to your former job if it is one which has priority for labour in the reconstruction programme. But you may be sent elsewhere, in which case every effort will be made, but no promise given, to send you to a job near your home.

New Leave Route Opened for 49 Div.

An interesting announcement was made yesterday by the Commanding Officer in his lecture, when he mentioned that men going on leave in future would sail from the Hook of Holland.

After a comparatively short rail journey from Münster, men will embark in the evening at the Hook of Holland. The sea-trip to Harwich takes about 8 hours, but sleeping accommodation is available on the steamers. The usual special trains will run from Harwich, which is actually nearer to London than Dover or Folkestone.

Training in the N.E.

"I live on Tyneside. Where should I have to go for a Government Training course?"

Besides the old-established training centre at Wallsend, new centres are being opened at Aycliffe, North Tyne, Spenny-moor and Low Felling.

"We are being deliberately starved by the British." Over 90 per cent of the Germans believe that this lack of food and coal is the result of the British plans to humiliate them and punish them during the winter.

Causes of the Food Shortage

In the course of his talk to the Battalion yesterday morning the Commanding Officer explained why food and coal were short in the British Zone of Germany. Much of the food problem was the result of the war and the artificial partitioning of the land into four "water-tight" zones. Even in peacetime the great industrial districts of the Rhineland depended for over 50 per cent of the food upon Eastern Germany and Denmark. The supplies of food from these areas have ceased and even if they were available, there is not the transport to move the food.

Transport Problems

Thanks to the work of the Ruhr miners coal is plentiful, at the pit-heads. But the railways are in such a bad condition, and so few of the great canals are working that it is almost impossible to get the coal out of the Ruhr.

Library Record

A library record was set up last night when a total of one hundred books were taken out by members of the battalion. The average number is in the region of 35 per night.

Most of the borrowed books were fiction of one sort and another—and they say truth is stranger than fiction!

Oranges and Lemons?

The N.A.A.F.I. issue today contrived an orange per man. These were distributed free of charge, P.R.I. bearing the cost to the unit.

Bananas cannot be promised yet, as they are restricted at present in Britain to 18 year olds and under.

WIRELESS NEWS

Troops Killed in Explosion Hitler's Will at Iserlohn

HOME

Official Welcome to United Nations

It was announced last night that the King will make an official speech of welcome at the State banquet to mark the opening of the United Nations Conference in London next week.

Farm Wage Proposal Rejected

The Agricultural Wages Board has turned down the union's proposal of an increase of £1 a week rise in agricultural wages. It has agreed however to an increase in wages for women workers.

London Gas-pressure Reduced

The three main London gas companies have had to reduce the pressure of the gas, owing to the 20% increase in consumption during the recent cold weather. They state that they have not the labour to cope with the extra consumption. One company alone, the Gas, Light and Coke, needs another 600 workers.

Ammunition Dump Explodes

11 soldiers were killed when ammunition being loaded into trucks at Savernake Wilts, exploded yesterday afternoon.

A YEAR AGO TODAY

A Year ago today we were enjoying our New Year's rest in Nijmegen. Battalion H.Q. was in the Missiehuis, which became known as "The Pagoda" owing to its distinctive shape. In the morning a ceremony was held at the Jonkerbosch Cemetery when the Commanding Officer, then Lt.-Col. J. H. O. Wilsey D.S.O., laid a wreath in memory of those who fell at Haalderen.

In the evening the first continental Battalion Dance was held in the Canistus College, as part of the New Year celebrations.

Brooklands Protest

A meeting of famous British motor-racing drivers last night protested against the proposed sale of the Brooklands racing track for building purposes. Copies of their protest were sent to the present owners of Brooklands and to the Government. They consider that the track should be retained as a national testing place for British cars.

Trade Recovery

Some interesting figures have been given by the Government about the progress being made in certain important British industries. In the coming year it is hoped to produce 470,000 new motor-cars, 1,000,000 bicycles and 1½ million radio sets.

GERMANY

A 3rd copy of Hitler's will has been found at Iserlohn. It was discovered in a glass jar buried in the garden of the German major who was one of the couriers who carried copies of the will out of Berlin shortly before the death of Hitler. This major was imprisoned last month.

The Nuremberg trials restarted yesterday, when the case against the Gestapo was finished. Hitler's order was read out, the order which demanded that all commandos and parachutists were to be immediately killed on landing. Later in the day the case against Kaltenbrunner, Chief of the Security Police, was opened. Amongst other charges, he is accused of allowing civilians to lynch Allied airmen.

A storm of Jewish protests has been caused by a statement of Lieut.-General Morgan, European Director of UNRRA. He declares that there is a well-organised movement of Jews away from Europe, especially from Poland.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Latest reports show that the black market has declined considerably in recent weeks, especially since the police introduced some rather drastic punishments.

PALESTINE

House searches have continued in Jerusalem and its suburbs. Over 10,000 people have been questioned, although only 100 have been held in custody. The 16 hour curfew in Jerusalem has been replaced by a 12 hour curfew.

INDIA

The last flight has been made over the "Hump," the dangerous mountain airway from India into China.

VOCATIONAL NEWS

SCOPE OF THE GOVERNMENT TRAINING SCHEME

A number of men are thinking of taking a Ministry of Labour vocational training course when they leave the Army. Here is a full list of the trades covered by the Government Scheme:—

Agriculture Baking Basket-Making
Boot-making Boot repairing Forestry
Bricklaying Carpentry Masonry
Painting Paving Plumbing
Slating Wood machining Blacksmith
Pipe jointing Timberman Cinema Projectionist

Clerk Shorthand Typist Cotton spinning
Caninet making Upholstery Wood finishing
Glove cutting Hairdressing Leather
Leather work Piano making Neon sign
Pottery Retail distribution Saddlery
Retail tailor Typewriter repairing Watch

Other trades are likely to be included in the scheme before very long.

ROTTEN APPLES

When 1945 began there was no prospect of an immediate end to the war. Runstedt was unbeaten, and there was no telling how long the war in the East would last.

When 1945 ended the situation was completely changed. The difficulties facing us in the year to come are correspondingly different. We have saved ourselves from defeat, slavery and death, but that is not enough. We are seeking after freedom from fear, in our international organisation, freedom from want, in our plans for social security, freedom from depression, in our Bretton Woods financial agreements.

But there are still rotten apples left in the barrel. In the person of Franco we have still one of Europe's earliest fascists at large, who now apparently feels himself strong enough to carry on with the political trials which were suspended a short time ago.

In Britain, where Oswald Mosley has felt safe enough to hold a fascist convention, there is no legal machinery to prevent the doctrines we have fought a six-year war against being spouted at us from every street corner.

Freedom of thought and speech must not perish, but some means must be devised of rendering illegal the spreading of doctrines of class and race hatred. Otherwise our comrades will have died in vain.

A.T.C.

For the second time in a week there has been a fatal railway accident. Although the actual cause of the Lichfield smash have not yet been revealed, it is almost certain that, like every other serious accident in recent years, this disaster was the result of one of two factors; either the driver or the signalman made a mistake. Human nature being what it is, mistakes will always occur. But steps can be taken to prevent them. And so far with one notable exception, the G.W.R., the British mainline railways have failed to develop safety precautions to remove the danger of the human element.

For nearly 20 years automatic train control (A.T.C. for short) has been available that prevents a mistake by the driver or the signalman from having fatal results. The London Underground railways, and more recently, the G.W.R. have used various forms of A.T.C. equipment with marked success, and, as a result, their accident figures have been much below those of the other Companies. After that large accident for several years past every large accident for several years past the Government Inspectors, in their normal reports, have stressed that A.T.C. would have prevented the disaster. The time has come now to insist on the adoption of the latest apparatus that will prevent fatal accidents in future.



WOT!
No Savings?
START NOW.

"D" COMPANY DIARY

The C. and G. Boys blow their own Trumpet

LIFE ON THE PLANETS

As long as man has had an intellect, he has gazed at the stars and the nearer planets in wonderment, and attempted to explain their existence and their meaning.

But it was not until 1610, when Lippershey, a Flemish spectacle maker, constructed the first telescope, which was later improved by Galileo, that these speculations could be translated into accurate observations and scientific deduction.

Burning at the Stake

It must not be supposed, however, that the new methods at first won general approval. To seek to know more about the universe seemed to many a dangerous and blasphemous interference with Divine Providence, and for many years the face of the Church was set against astronomers who suggested that our own world was not at the very centre and hub of the universe. The great Galileo himself was compelled to renounce his views publicly on the threat of death and more than one astronomer was actually burned at the stake.

When Will the World End?

Modern scientists, though they too meet with ignorant prejudice, have a less strong passage both at the hands of authority and of public opinion. Encouragement is given to research, and thousands of us who are not astronomers ourselves follow with eager interest the writings of such popular scientists as Sir James Jeans and Sir A. S. Eddington. For most of us the most fascinating problems are the past and future of our own universe and the possibility of life on other planets.

Is there Life on Venus and Mars?

As far as we know, it is only on the planets Mars and Venus in our own solar system that life is possible. Life cannot exist on the stars, which consist of immensely hot gases or liquids, and the evidence suggests that planets are freaks which may not exist outside our own system.

Between Venus and Mars, Venus seems the most probable, because it is undoubtedly surrounded by atmosphere. It is nearer the sun than we are, though probably not warmer. Unfortunately it is completely covered with mist which prevents observation. Mars is easier to observe. Here we know that air and water are present. In winter a snow cap covers the pole, and seasonal variations in surface colour suggest that life does exist in the form of vegetation.

No Proof of Animal Life

Can we infer that animal life also exists? No, we cannot say that at present. But as the world is likely to exist for at least as long as it has existed in the past—that is to say, about two thousand million years—and telescopic astronomy has only existed for three hundred, there is every chance that we are on the threshold of revolutionary discoveries.

Yes, we think we can say that we have had a very good Christmas. We are just about recovering now and can almost see across the road. No small part of the enjoyment was due to our cooks, to whom we all officially give our very best thanks for their splendid efforts. We have definitely felt the beer rationing—one of the few problems that "D" Company cannot solve. We can get decorations for the unit, cups and saucers for the Officers' Mess, and we even got a beard for the R.S.M. for the pantomime; but beer seems to be out of the question. Our Christmas trees were very presentable. On one we put two very attractive but empty chocolate boxes. We even caught the Company Commander having a sly peep inside when he thought no-one was looking.

Useless without his Specs!

Our Boxing Day Football match was quite a success. In the first two minutes the lads drew blood from the officers. Captain Popplewell's spectacles were soon in pieces and he had to be withdrawn into goal. Even then he was seen on occasions to be facing the local grammar school instead of the opposite net.

Many Changes

We are now rapidly turning over the personnel of the Company. By this time next week we shall have said "Goodbye" to ten men in 24 Group who leave us for Civvy Street on Saturday, and yesterday we welcomed to the Coy three N.C.O's. and ten men from the Royal Artillery. We hope they will soon settle in for an enjoyable stay. We are very glad too to have C.S.M. Mageean back from the 6th British General and all hope that he is fully recovered. We welcome Lieut. Cree and Captain Horsfall to the Company. Lieut. Cree is a former member of the 6th Battalion.

Guarding the Gauleiters

Our Company lines are rather deserted at the moment as it is our turn to guard the Gauleiters at Iserlohn. Captain Horsfall is over there with all the available. We took over a day earlier so that "C" Company could get back for New Year's Day. We hope they enjoyed their delayed celebration.

Second in Command Missed

We were very sorry not to have our old Company Commander, Major A.B.M. Kavanagh M.C., with us this Christmas, but are glad to hear from Frank, who has been up to see him, that he is as well as can be expected and as cheerful as ever.

Coming
ON SATURDAY
(16 MM. FILM)

DICK POWELL
and
CLARE TREVOR
in

*"Farewell
My Lovely"*

Tomorrow's Radio

THE LIGHT PROGRAMME

1845 : Knocking at Your Door.
1930 : Just William.
2010 : Quiz Team.
2025 : Here's Wishing You Well Again.
2110 : Anchors Aweigh.
2200 : Merry-Go-Round.

THE HOME SERVICE

2000 : BBC Northern Orchestra.
2115 : The Great Governor.
2230 : These Passing Shows..

SPORTS NEWS

"B" Company's Soccer win over H.Q.

"B" Company finished the old year by a 4-2 victory over H.Q. Company in the Battalion League. The game was full of entertainment from start to finish and was not without its amusing incidents.

"B" Company took the lead when a good centre by Smith was "noddled" in by the diminutive Thompson, who bobbed up from nowhere.

Elliott was the next to score for "B" with a good low shot which would have been a grass cutter if there had been any grass. The lead was further increased by Marsden who also noddled one in from a centre by Smith after several other players had bounced it on their heads. Soon after, to the accompaniment of surprised and delighted yells from the well-nigh frozen "H.Q." supporters, Headquarter Company put one into the net.

After that, Smith on the right wing for "B" Company grew tired of putting in centres for other people to score and decided to score himself. This made the score 4-1. By this time H.Q. Company were playing like men possessed (of what I know not) and, tearing the "B" Company defence to shreds, found Sgt. Jones, the "B" Company goalkeeper, well out of his area with his legs tied together (or so it appeared). However, Sgt. Jones valiantly tried to kick the ball with both feet, but failed with the result that H.Q. scored their second goal amid jubilant shrieks of delight.

Pte. Doncaster, in goal for H.Q. Company played an excellent game and had a busy afternoon, as did Cpl. Barron, who was perhaps the best player on the field.

Unclassified Ads

Wanted—Sports news from coy representatives. All platoon and coy games are of interest to us. Write Editor, Yorkshire Pud.

Wanted—Entries for the Div. Savings Poster and Photographic Competitions.

Don't be Bashful—If you want to get that worry off your chest, tell the "Pud."

The Wellington Theatre
PRESENTS

**A MEDAL
FOR THE
GENERAL**

ON FRIDAY ONLY
at 1930 hrs.

ADMISSION

1 & 2 marks