

"A" COMPANY SETTLES IN AT SIEGEN

C.O. Visits Company at New Location

The C.O. visited "A" Company in its new location at Siegen yesterday. Before leaving he was able to make a number of valuable suggestions, and spoke to all N.C.O.'s.

NOTES & NEWS

On the Road

Selfish driving is not a purely German characteristic it seems. In spite of the present campaign against selfish and careless driving, the C.O. found his way blocked for ten miles when he went to visit "A" Company at Siegen yesterday. A large tank-transporter with no unit markings occupied the centre of the road, forcing oncoming traffic into the side and preventing all efforts to overtake.

Catching up with it eventually when it was slowed by a policeman, the C.O. got out expecting to find a German driver. He pulled the door open violently, but was amazed when three R.A.S.C. men tumbled out.

They continued on their way afterwards somewhat chastened.

Messing Meeting

A Messing Meeting was held at 1430 hrs. on Tuesday in the Music Room of the Iron Duke. The Messing Officer, Lieut. Stavely, briefly explained the points which had been brought up for discussion at the recent Divisional Messing Meeting, a report on which has already appeared in these columns.

The "D" Company representatives brought up a few points for the attention of the Messing Officer. There was the usual complaint about too much sausage, and dehydrated egg and roast potatoes were discussed. "C" Company put in a request for curry, and were immediately promised an ample supply.

Comments were then invited from the Meeting about the working of the present system of serving. The question was whether to adopt the "family" system or continue with the queue system as at present. All companies decided that the queue system was by far the best.

Lieut. Stavely closed the meeting with a few words on the good work being done by the Battalion cooks.

Classical Concert

A concert of works for soprano, piano, and violin is to be given on Friday at 1930 hrs. in the Camp Concert Hall at Neheim. Music by Schubert, Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart and Tchaikowsky will be played.

If anyone wishes transport to be arranged he should contact the Education Officer now.

When the C.O. arrived at Siegen it was obvious that the standard of accommodation was much below what "A" Coy had left. Washing and heating arrangements were unsatisfactory, and it was apparent, as the C.O. told the N.C.O.'s, that there were two or three weeks of hard work ahead before a bright and efficient layout with comfortable billets could be achieved.

Special Shows

Although Siegen itself is badly battered, the surrounding countryside is very pleasant and will be particularly attractive when better weather comes. There is a good cinema and canteen, and special arrangements for shows are being made by Brigade.

An Effective Striking Force

Made up to a strength of 140, none of whom are below group 28, "A" Coy is ready to spend the maximum time, training in ideal country, with platoon and section teams which will not be broken up by immediate releases. The object of the training will be to produce an effective striking force.

Although the C.O. was able to reduce some of the commitments as a result of his visit, "A" Company is to be responsible for the internal security of the Siegen and Wittenberg Kreis, as well as the administration of two D.P. camps containing 6000 Poles and a dump of 2000—3000 tons of coal.

C.B.E. for Brigadier Wilsey

Those who remember Brigadier J. H. O. Wilsey D.S.O., Commanding Officer of this Battalion until he was appointed to command a brigade early last year, and now Commandant of the Staff College, Haifa, will be delighted to hear that he has been made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire by His Majesty the King in the New Year Honours List.

Repatriation outside the U.K.

If before joining the Army you were living outside the U.K. (Great Britain and Northern Ireland), the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or Eire, you and your dependants may in certain circumstances be entitled to be returned at government expense to the country from which you came.

Soldiers who are in this position do not pass through the normal Class "A" machinery, but should submit an application for repatriation immediately the release date of their age and service group is announced.

Full details can be obtained from company office by anyone who is interested.

WIRELESS NEWS

Russia and Persia to Settle by Negotiation Commons Throw out Opposition's Coal Amendment

U.N.O. NEWS

The Security Council decided yesterday after a four hour argument that Persia and Russia should attempt to settle their differences by negotiation.

Vyshinsky stated that the complaint before the Council was an affront to Russia's dignity, and finally Bevin asked if Russia would agree that the matter should be thrashed out by the Security Council if negotiations failed. Vyshinsky agreed, and the deadlock was broken.

Progress Reports Demanded

With Persia's agreement it was decided that as the problem was a matter for the continual concern of the Security Council, the latter should have the right to call for progress reports at any time as well as to receive a final report.

During the discussion Bevin said that he hoped the Council would not leave a small power to negotiate under adverse conditions.

HOME

Government To Proceed with Coal Bill

The Opposition amendment to the Government's Coal Nationalisation Bill was defeated last night by 359 votes to 182, and the motion to give the Bill a second reading was then carried without a division.

Food Facts

The Minister of Food, Sir Ben Smith, stated yesterday in the House that he hoped to increase the allocation of ordinary milk soon. Output was rising, and in addition, more workers were returning from the Forces.

The allocation of domestic fats and dried egg was to end, he stated, on the 2nd of February, owing to the cessation of financial agreements with America, which was the main source of supply. However, more shell eggs were expected, and it was hoped that dried egg could again be obtained later in the year.

A consignment of bitter oranges, for distribution in the North and West, has arrived at Liverpool.

Training for Local Government Officials

A scheme has been announced for the recruitment and training of local Government officials. The scheme will embody provisions for the conditions and conduct of the service, and for a national wage scale.

R.A.F. Enquiry

A full enquiry has been ordered into the causes of the recent R.A.F. strikes. The committee of enquiry will examine causes and the extent to which the outbreaks were justified, and will report to the Air Council and to Parliament on the circumstances of and responsibility for the disturbances.

GERMANY

French Continue Nuremberg Trials

Yesterday the French prosecutor continued the case against the war-criminals. A letter from Goering to Himmler was produced asking for workers for the underground aircraft plants, to which Himmler replied he would send 100,000 workers.

Evidence was also produced of the murder of 50 British airmen after an escape attempt in Silesia.



Now We Can Finish This!

A last we have received instructions to collect a quantity of timber, which we applied for early in November, for the roofing of the two brick sheds at the back of the "Iron Duke." These sheds were required as a D. and M. Workshop and an indoor bricklaying shop for practical use during the winter months.

Now this work, which had to be abandoned last year, can be resumed under the direction of the woodwork and bricklaying instructors, Sgt. Burns and L/Cpl. Nicholson. It may be a slow process as the majority of the woodwork students now are attending the class for hobbies and minor house repairs, rather than as prospective entrants to the building trades.

If you wish to take a hand yourself, now is the time to join the Bricklaying and Woodwork Classes.

The Gate of Opportunity

There is a room-full of good radio and electrical equipment in the "Iron Duke" waiting for a man who is willing and qualified to take elementary classes in domestic wiring or radio. Since the release of Sgt. Lownsborough, these materials have been lying idle, and the class has been closed down.

We do not often confess that we are licked for instructors. Will any potential instructor come and see the Education Officer, and help us to keep up our educational tradition in the Battalion?

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COMPASSIONATE LEAVE

A large number of applications for compassionate leave are received by Orderly Room, and it is remarkable how many of them are delayed by the fact that applicants seem to be ignorant of the steps they ought to take before going to their Company Commander.

The plain fact is that very few applications are of sufficiently urgent a nature to justify despatch of a man on compassionate leave without confirmations. All cases which do not require the immediate presence of the soldier—all cases which are not, in fact, urgent—must wait for confirmation from the appropriate authorities at home.

Urgent applications, are as a rule based on medical grounds—serious illness of wife, children or near relatives, and the like.

In these cases the soldier, has in the past usually been despatched on leave before confirmation from the doctor in the U.K. is received. True, the matter did not end there. The necessary confirmation had to come through. But so many men have been sent on leave for reasons which afterwards failed to be proved, that it has now been ruled by higher authority that only in the most exceptional circumstances will men be sent on leave without confirmation beforehand.

This is not a hardship. The proper procedure to avoid difficulty should be well known to everybody. There is a postagram service operating both ways, which takes little more than 24 hours as a rule. Urgent messages can be sent by your wife or other relatives in this way. Obviously medical confirmation cannot be sent at the same time, but the postagram from home must state that this confirmation is on the way by ordinary mail.

It is up to you to ensure that all those near and dear to you know of this procedure; that they know it is not sufficient to say so-and-so is seriously ill; that they must first get the doctor's confirmation that your presence is necessary, and state in the postagram that it is on its way.

Heard in the Officers' Mess

"He had eyes like dandelions floating in a gin-pond."

TONIGHT "They Were Sisters"

STARRING
Phyllis Calvert
James Mason
at 1930 hrs.

ADMISSION: 1 AND 2 MARKS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reply to "Also Disgusted"

Sir,—I did not myself see the film "On the Mellow Side," but I must reply to "Also Disgusted," because I rather like crooners. I certainly intend to defend the one referred to for the poor fellow is threatened with a "nice rotten egg," and is not given a chance to defend himself. Your correspondent might have at least written his caustic remarks direct to the "Budding Bing," and given him a chance to reply, instead of taking up valuable space in my favourite daily, besides wasting my time.

You see, the words "particularly revolting," which "Also Disgusted" so carelessly uses, have been applied, too, to Epstein's sculptures, and are now being hurled at Picasso because of his impressionist paintings in London. Perhaps if our friend withheld the egg a while and tried first of all to understand these "horrors" a little more, who knows, the "insult to his intelligence" might prove to be a "light in his darkness." Why, he might even put the egg in his own humble pie! For let me remind him that Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata" caused the Parisians "mental agonies" when it was first performed, and it was only after the composer had been long dead that its qualities were appreciated. Why, I even prefer it myself to some crooners!

And finally, a question to "Also Disgusted." Would he and his friends suffer "mental agonies" by watching the 14 year old chess champion (who is now amazing the world with his play in the London Tournaments) play a game lasting nineteen and a half hours? If so, what would he do with his rotten egg then?

"Tolerance."

It's a Nice Thought, Ley West

Sir,—It is a very nice thought to have, knowing that men of the lower Age and Service Groups think about us young 'uns. Yes, "Ley West," it was a decent gesture on your part to remind the others of lower groups that there would still be many others left here in Germany, and many other parts of the world.

But I am afraid I have to disagree with one view of yours. I was called up (or should I say volunteered?) in January 1942. So as you can see I have four years service in and belong to 44 group.

What severe training did you do before 1942? Have you forgotten, that Battle Training did not come into operation until 1942. When you were called up, there was hardly a rifle a man, to say nothing of ammunition. When I got here, we had many things, all up to date equipment. Yes, Ley West, can you imagine coming straight from "Civvy Street" into a battle trained Army?

When you came you had to contend with homesickness alone; we young 'uns had a far tougher reception. It is very nice of you to talk about us making a very efficient Army—we have to stay on here so I expect we will do our best. But to talk about further training makes me sick—I consider myself proficient.

A and S Group 44.

"D" COMPANY DIARY What We Think of Gevelsberg

Well, we are now almost settled down in our new Gevelsberg billets. Admittedly we had become quite attached to Schwelm, but a change of scenery is always a good thing. We are now gradually seeing the advantage of being under the parental wing of Battalion Headquarters. When we get some paint and can change all the B's into D's on our sign-boards, we shall feel quite at home.

From Suppers To Periodicals

We can now appreciate to the full the advantages and amenities of the "Iron Duke," from its suppers to its periodicals;

and the entertainments are now on our doorstep, as it were. In addition, too, we hear the good old bugle regularly, which saves a lot of argument as to the time of the day and night.

In the field of sport we have not much to report of general interest, except that as we write these notes we are thinking of the soccer league match we are playing against Charlie Company. The formidable Lieut. Horne M.C. is in the opposing team, and, knowing this, we have sent for reinforcements from our small detachment at the Iserlohn Gauleiters' Gaol. It will be a good and breezy match in two senses, but apart from that we are not going to say anything to commit ourselves at the moment.

"D" Company Remembers

Talking of Lieut. Horne, though, we would like to wish him all the very best of everything in his ventures in civilian life, to which he departs on Friday this week. He has had a long, eventful and intimate connection with "D" Company, and these good wishes for his future are genuinely heartfelt ones from every one of us.

To our old Company Commander, Major Kavanagh M.C., who is still languishing in hospital, we also send our kindest regards through the medium of the "Yorks hire Pud." We are glad to hear of his improved health, and hope to see him again soon.

News has been received from Messrs. (formerly Sgts.) Curry, Gilworth and Johnson. They are apparently settling down in Civvy Street despite the civilian rations and other disadvantages. They wish all friends and rivals in the Battalion "God speed you home, soldier, and a safe passage through the customs."

Interpreter Gets Salute

Our interpreter, Flohr, is in the news. The other day riding in the front of one of our 15 cwt. vans, and wearing a white macintosh, he got a very smart salute from the Battalion Guard. He has been warned to show a bit more of his trilby next time. Personnel of future guards, please note.

"Ebineeza" and the Release Book

Now that our O.C. has gone on leave we are able to locate Captain Popplewell, who is carrying on the duties of O.C. Cow and Gate. We hope Major Vickers doesn't decide to go absent, as "Ebineeza" is awaiting his return so he can get hold of that Release Book.

In conclusion of this article we would like to add that we have just received eight new arrivals to the Company. They are new-comers to the Dukes and we hope they will soon settle down.

DON'T MISS
the exhibitions
"PLASTICS"
and
"BRITISH AIRWAYS"
in the Quiet Room of the
IRON DUKE

Tomorrow's Radio

THE LIGHT PROGRAMME

1800: Ambrose And Anne.

1900: By Gaslight And Hansom.

1930: Just William.

2010: Quiz Team.

2025: Here's Wishing You Well Again.

2110: Ring Up The Curtain.

2200: Merry-Go-Round.

THE HOME SERVICE

2000: Star Variety Bill.

2030: This Modern Art.

2130: Flotsam's Follies.

2230: The Old Order Changes.

Please don't Squeeza da Banana

The lady of the house heard a ring at the front door, but just as she was about to open it she noticed that the caller was an Italian hawk.

Being somewhat nervous she quickly retreated and called to her maid: "There's one of those Italians at the door. You go, Ella."

This was too much for the Italian, who stuck his head into the hall and shouted indignantly "You go 'ella yourself."

SPORTS NEWS

H.Q. Inter-Platoon Soccer League Officers' Mess and Band Draw with Pioneers

The first match of the new H.Q. inter-platoon league was played on the 29th January between the Officers' Mess Staff and Band and a combined side of the Pioneers and Q.M.'s staff. On a greasy pitch a well contested game ended with a score of 3-3. Both sides went all out and the game was very fast.

At half-time the Q.M. and Band team was leading with a score of 2-1, goals being scored by L/Cpl. Partleton and Rigby, and Pitt for the Pioneers. Shortly after the interval the Q.M. and Band increased their score to 3 with a good shot by Wright. Nothing daunted, the Pioneers fought back and succeeded in drawing level with goals by Pitt and Cordingly. There was no further scoring up to full time.