

YORKSHIRE PUD

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The DAILY NEWSPAPER of the 7th Bn. The DUKE of WELLINGTON'S (West Riding) Regt.

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C.O. SAYS GOODBYE

Farewell Message to Battalion

Today the Battalion said goodbye to its Commanding Officer Lt.-Col. C. D. Hamilton D.S.O., who is leaving on a short period of sick leave before his normal re-leave from the Army.

C.C. Welcomes New Arrivals

The Commanding Officer gave a talk to, and interviewed, 97 reinforcements which have arrived during the past week, on Monday morning in the Hall of the "Iron Duke."

These reinforcements have come from such Regiments as the North Staffs, Green Howards, West Yorks, Royal Welsh Fusiliers and the K.O.S.B. They are some of the 300 men from 19 different Regiments which the Battalion has received in the last eight drafts.

Most of these men have seen action in Burma, Italy, or France, Holland and Belgium. Some are ex-prisoners of war, and one or two have been decorated for gallantry.

The C.O., explained the world situation as seen by the Rhine Army to the men. He told them why so many British troops were needed in different parts of the world; in Greece, Japan, Indonesia and Germany. The scaling down process, now in full swing in Germany was explained to the men. The C.O. said that he knew the men had been shuffled about from one place to another but now, most of them were here to stay until they finished their service. He explained to them what he expected of them and said that he felt sure they would have a happy stay with us.

The C.O., concluded his talk by having a few words with each man.

C.O.'s Vocational Training

Colonel Hamilton, to whom we said "Good-bye" today is a peacetime T.A. Officer and is returning to journalism on his release from the Army.

He has lately been doing some vocational training, helping with the launching of the "Polar Bear News" and the "Yorkshire Pudl."

His address in the future will be 1, Belvedere, Alnwick, Northumberland.

The new Commanding Officer is expected to arrive any day. In the meantime the command of the Battalion is in the hands of Major J. W. Pyrah.

Yesterday the C.O. spoke briefly to the men of the battalion saying how proud he had been to have been with them for so long. He came to the battalion just before the battle of Le Havre in September 1944, shortly after the disbandment of his own battalion, the 11th Bn. The Durham Light Infantry, in which he had served since 1939. He took over command of the 7th Dukes when Brigadier J.H.O. Wilsey, C.B.E., D.S.O., left for 158 Brigade.

In a farewell message, the C.O., said to a representative of the "Yorkshire Pud," "I would normally have been leaving the Battalion in a week or two, but on the advice of the Medical Officer and the kind sympathy of the General I am hoping to have a complete rest before my return to civil life."

"I leave when my job is done. Most of the men who fought with me are released and a new battalion is now being rebuilt. Obviously the C.O., should now be the man who will have to retrain it to its old war time efficiency—and an efficient army we must have, if we are to impress the Germans and prevent any other Hitlers in the world thinking we are weak and ready for military defeat."

Many men would prefer to be in civil life rather than the army, now that the war is over but there are big jobs to be done and efficiency must be maintained before we finally hand over to the peacetime Regular army of men making the Army their career. What matters now is that whatever job you are doing in life you must do it well as a matter of pride. You will get out of life and the Army what you put into it.

Once again I would like to say how pleased I will be to help any man or give advice in the future."

The C.O.'s farewell Order of the Day is also published in this edition together with his address in civilian life. He would like any man requiring help or advice to write to him there.

Captain Evans back from Berlin

Captain Evans M.C. has just returned from Berlin after an attachment lasting some two or three weeks to an American Battalion located there. He has had a very enjoyable time with them and has come back with some very interesting stories.

We print on our back page today his impressions of Berlin and the Americans there.

WIRELESS NEWS

New Food Facts. No Decision Yet On Greece

HOME

Today the Minister of Food, Sir Ben Smith, announced that there would be a quick return to the wartime loaf. Other food changes included an increase in the milk ration for non-priority consumers; this to take effect from 17th February, with the prospect of a further increase at a later date. There would be no increase in the meat, bacon or egg rations and a cut of 1 oz. per week would be made in cooking fats. Suet, previously on the fat ration, would be put on points. Sir Ben drew attention to the world shortage of wheat the production of which had been reduced by a half during the war. This meant that we had five million tons less than we required.

Pig and Poultry ration cut

The Minister for Agriculture reports a cut in the amount of food allowed to commercial pig and poultry farmers for their stock, but the ration for domestic pigs and poultry would remain the same.

U.N.O. NEWS

The Security Council resumed its discussions on Greece at 8.30 p.m. yesterday. By 11.30 p.m. no decision had been reached. The Chairman, Mr. Makin, opened the proceedings by suggesting that no real threat to world peace existed and if members were of that opinion no action was necessary. The Council then adjourned for a five minute recess, but at the end of 45 minutes showed no sign of resuming the discussions.

Syria and Lebanon protest

A joint protest has been received by the Security Council from Syria and Lebanon about the presence of British and French troops in those countries. The matter will be examined at a later date.

RUMANIA

Rumanian Government Recognised

The British Political representative in Bucharest has informed the Rumanian Government that the British Government is prepared to receive a representative of the Rumanian Government in London.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE
EXHIBITION
OF PLASTICS
IN THE QUIET ROOM OF THE
IRON DUKE

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY BY LT.-COL. C. D. HAMILTON D.S.O.

It is with great regret that I leave the Battalion today on a short leave before my release from the Army. I have been with you since September 1944 and from the day I joined I dreaded the day I would have to leave so many friends.

I go at a time when a new peace time 7th is being built; now many of the old faces have gone. I have tried in the last few months to ensure that in each coy and especially H.Q. Company there would be a good foundation on which to refashion the new battalion.

But what matters is that each one realises that you have to carry on in peace the spirit of the war-comradeship. What a finer world and what a great battalion the 7th will be if we put into peace all the energy and sacrifice we showed in the wastefulness of war.

To all those who have served with me I give my thanks for their constant devotion to duty and my best wishes for a speedy return to normal things. And to the battalion I wish the best of luck in times ahead.

Visit from H.M. Inspectors of Education

Yesterday morning we received a visit from two Ministry of Education officials who are touring units in the Rhine Army, with a view to seeing for themselves how the Army Education Scheme is working, and to give help and advice when and where it is required.

Mr. Allington and Mr. Wilson, H.M. Inspectors of Education for East London and Warwickshire respectively, were much impressed by the way the Vocational Training scheme had been tackled in the "Dukes" and showed a keen interest in the workrooms and the classrooms. They very much admired the "Iron Duke" and the work which had been put into it, and praised the unit library. They appeared surprised to find that we published a daily newspaper.

In the afternoon Mr. Wilson gave a talk to all the Education Officers and instructors in the Brigade and imparted some very useful information to those who intended taking up teaching after release.

This was followed by an interesting discussion on instructional methods.

The inspectors are to make a report, both to the War Office and the Ministry of Education after they have completed their tour of B.A.O.R.

OUR CHANGED ENGLAND

Many soldiers, on returning from U.K. Leave, have been heard to say "It's not worth it." Why do they say this? Is the remark prompted by the memory of a long and uncomfortable journey involving much loss of sleep? Partly, yes; but not entirely.

They find conditions in England vastly different from what they were before the war—and they are disappointed. Commodities are difficult to obtain and if obtainable, demand a fantastic price. To some extent these conditions are accepted as a legacy of the war; but there are other things which our soldier on leave does not like about his country.

He finds that civilians in general are not so friendly or so cheerful as they used to be. He finds many of them quick tempered and even rude. This attitude he takes as poor thanks to a returning soldier for the work he has done for his country; but does he try to think of a reason for this behaviour?

Firstly a country cannot be deprived of the presence of some four or five millions of its finest manhood and womanhood for a number of years without feeling the effect socially as well as in many other ways.

Secondly, think of the hardships which the civilians have had to suffer during the war and, unlike us in Germany, are still suffering. The only true hardships suffered by us in Germany now is the fact that we are separated from our families. Our families suffer this hardship too and have many others to bear in addition.

Civilians have rationing problems of fuel, food and clothing, coupled with an acute shortage of labour for all the everyday jobs to be done about a house and the maintenance of it. They have had these same difficulties for 6 years and are still having to endure them. Is there any wonder that they are a little short tempered?

FULL CIRCLE by G.F.D.

"Of course I was in the last show—Wipers, Mons, Arras; I had a belly-full." He remembered how often he had said that in the pubs to the young soldiers of this new army. He thought about the spirit in which he and his pals had gone out. They were all volunteers then. There were no conscripts in those first years.

Now this latest war was finished he saw the whole sorry tale repeating itself. He had come home a hero last time—local band out, dinner given by the mayor, and all the rest of the quick dying gratitude. He was seeing again the self respect of the returning soldier fading away before a civilian population who only wanted to forget the war. "A country fit for heroes," they had said then. He had been in the first hunger march of the unemployed, and now you could count on one hand the number of newhouses which had been built for the returning warriors. After his war he had seen sympathy extended and loans given to an undeserving people to get them in shape for another war, and all because they had whined and yet had no guilt brought home to them. Now history was repeating itself.

When the League of Nations was founded he thought at last something was being built from all those bodies lying in the Flanders mud. Now the nations were bringing their axes for grinding at the United Nations Conference.

True, they had rationing this time and it had not been so easy to get a nice steak at the butchers in return for a bottle of whisky. Whisky was too dear and too rare anyway.

But there had still been the profiteer, flaunting before the soldier his indifference to everybody but himself.

He had seen in the 20's the Bright Young People trying to forget in a jazz-mad round of dissipation. They took their pleasures more quietly now but the world was still full of escapists.

That afternoon he had paid a visit to the zoo and he had watched a child offer some monkey nuts to the chimpanzee. As it tried to take the nuts the child had hit it with a stick. The next time the nuts were offered the chimpanzee ignored them.

It made him very sad to think that even a chimpanzee could show some common sense.

Tomorrow's Radio

THE LIGHT PROGRAMME

1830 : Swing Club.
1900 : J.H. Squire Celeste Octet.
1930 : Record Review.
2015 : Music From The Movies.
2100 : A Case for Paul Temple.
2130 : Music In Miniature.
2200 : Northern Music Hall.
2230 : Rocky Mountain Rhythm.

THE HOME SERVICE

1930 : Dick Whittington.
2000 : BBC Northern Orchestra.
2130 : ITMA.
2230 : Under the Barber's Pole.

"CHARLIE CALLING" (We Become A Transit Camp)

Again we torment the readers of our Daily Rag with the comings and goings of what is now called "Green Area" of 62 R.H.U. and we certainly have earned the name, because our Company was used as a Transit Camp for nearly all the recent reinforcements and from my own experience as "Receptionist" I dare not print the remarks that our newcomers have passed, on arrival, about our German home. The general and most polite remarks are "What's it like here? Is there much Bullshine? Roll on 62 Gp.!" Still in spite of all this we hope that all the new arrivals soon bed themselves in and settle down and enjoy themselves. A word for our friends from the K.O.S.Bs; please don't pine too much over the loss of your Balmorals because Caps G.S. are just as comfortable and look just as good. Aye mon the do noo!!!

Jack the Ripper takes up Ski-ing

Jack the Ripperkin was on the verge of a nervous breakdown caused through hitting the typewriter too hard so he has gone to Winterberg on a Ski-ing expedition. I suppose when he returns to the madhouse again he will be telling us stories of how he got caught in a blizzard, or that the Ski-ing instructors are U/S.

Gascoigne sees the Light

Gascoigne is seeing life from a different angle since he won the binoculars in the P.R.I. raffle last week. We will have to warn all the actresses who appear at the Wellington Theatre to be careful because our friend Gascoigne has already remarked that they will come in handy when he goes to the Theatre. I suppose he thinks that they will make mountains of mole hills, sort of thing. Now I know what he meant when he said "I'm going to make a clean breast of things."

Ireland's Green Team

Daddy Sciafe has caught that disease called Riffitis from the Irish boy. Sciafe dare not take his hat off now because he has pulled all his hair out, but the Irish Boy still laughs and laughs except when Scotland beat Ireland 3-2, of course he couldn't laugh that off so easy. Ireland's team sure was green; wasn't it, Irish Boy?

Good Luck to Lieut. Horne

Talking about football, we are sorry to say that we lost our match to "D" Coy., let's hope next time we do better. In conclusion we regret to announce the loss of Lieut. W. Horne M.C. All Charlie Company wish him the best in Civvy Street.

IMPRESSIONS OF BERLIN

BY CAPTAIN EVANS M.C.

Berlin, the bomb-shattered capital of Nazidom where the soldiers of the four allied nations occupying Germany meet on common ground, where the black-marketeers run riot is called by some more imaginative journalists, the crime-centre of Europe.

Troops of four nations combine well

Some of these crimes can be easily assessed on a visit to this once great city, now, like all the great cities of the Reich, reduced to a mass of rubble. There isn't so much difference between Berlin and any other bombed city—Cologne, Essen, Dortmund—they are all alike. Because Berlin was the capital, it received more attention from our aircraft and newspapers, but now it still has the same worries as its sister cities. It is unique in having four nations occupying it, but their respective Military Governments, controlled by the Allied Control Authority, all act in similar fashion, though some of their younger members have different ideas. Those who have not been to Berlin will say that the four sets of troops are always at loggerheads and cannot get on together. Let him go and inspect the guards at the A.C.A. building where the military heads meet regularly. There he will see troops of the four nations standing together, dressed in their best, all looking equally smart and receiving high-ranking officers of all four nations with equal courtesy.

American troops busy

I was greatly impressed with the American troops I was stationed with in Berlin. Many of them were raw recruits, busy with their training all day. On the other hand there were battle tried veterans, fed up with doing guards and eager to go home. Most of us imagine that the Yanks are just "good time" soldiers, who do no parades, stay in bed as long as they like, never salute, and

ride around in jeeps as long as the jeep lasts; when it stops they just get another jeep. All these are quite untrue. They are probably the result of seeing American troops in Britain, who were merely back-room boys compared with these infantry (dog-faced amongst themselves) boys. These boys do have a good time when they can but that isn't until duty has been done. They are on parade in the morning long before some of you even get out of bed, I have seen them drill for a solid hour without a break, then on to P.T. and then Bayonet drill. Their duties in Berlin are considerably heavier than yours they have a whole Company on guard at a time, so work out how often they do duty. The American Battalion does not have nearly so many vehicles as ours; take three tonners, they have only five. Where would we be with those? Not far, I think. Their system of vehicle work tickets is even stricter than ours. Their rules of saluting are somewhat different to ours; I saw a training film on the subject, so I learnt the facts of the case. Some of the recruits had not yet learnt what Allied officers looked like, but those who had were perfectly courteous.

Plenty of chocolate

Of course, there are some things for which the G.I.'s do better than we do. Take their P.X. ration; they get in one week as much chocolate as we would in two months, but their ration of cigarettes is only 50 per cent more than ours, and they pay for all of them. Their Welfare arrangements are more advanced than ours. Their privates have at least three clubs run by the Battalion to which they can go, and this does not include clubs of higher formations.

Apart from basic differences, our two armies are very much alike with the same problems being settled in the same way. No wonder we get on so well together.

**TONIGHT AND
TOMORROW
AT
Wellington Theatre
"NATIONAL VELVET"
Mickey Rooney
Elizabeth Taylor
1930 hrs.
ADMISSION
1 and 2 Marks**