

We now look forward to our new home. My last words to you constitute an appeal to all officers and men—and I address it with equal urgency to myself. Let us take up our task with courage and cheerfulness, seeking at all times to foster a new spirit of loyalty and co-operation until our work is done.

HOW IT ALL BEGAN . . .



How the Yorkshire Pud is printed

September 6th, 1944 was just another of those bright sunny days we had in Normandy that year. There was nothing special about that day. The Battalion was resting and refitting ready for the coming assault on Le Havre. The Companies went cheerfully about their business, the cooks cooked, the B.O.R. clattered cheerfully away on typewriters, the Intelligence Section assumed it's daily strain to look and act intelligently.

It has been said that the Intelligence Officer had an egg for breakfast that morning, possibly he had, eggs were plentiful in those days. Sufficient to say that, even if he did not have an egg, he certainly had an idea. In fact he had two ideas. The first idea was that of creating a Battalion paper so that the men who couldn't get near a radio could be kept in the same. The second idea was often more like a game. The second idea was good fun and enjoyed by both players and spectators. We have had a German team 4 times and a British team 4 times. The next thing was to find someone to write the paper.

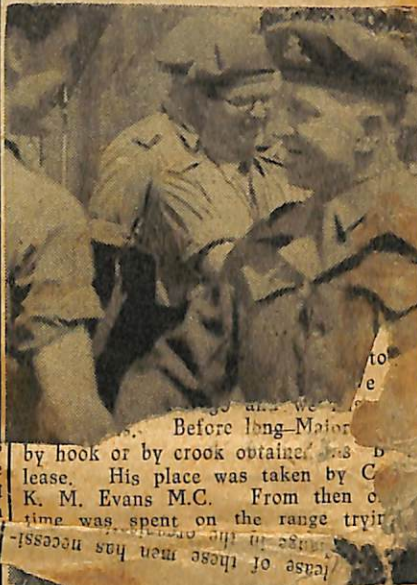
The eagle eye swivelled to a new, buckshee Lance-Corporal who had only the day before joined the "I" staff from the B.O.R. The name was Smith, Said Tristan, Belfort Bax, "know anything about Army newspapers?" And the buckshee answered "Well, I've had a bit-of-a-do before, don't mind again, sir."

So was born the "Yorkshire Pud," the only Battalion Daily in the British Liberation Army. The only time we missed an issue was when the Battalion was on the road and in the attack. Every day, wet or fine, when the Battalion halted for a couple of days the "Yorkshire Pud" came out between 1130 and 1200 hours. Until we reached Holland. It was at Ressen Bommel that the B.O.R. insulted the "I" section.

Bert Howe, Widow Twankey in the Christmas Pantomime drew a Cartoon depicting the "I" Sec gone mad. Needless to say the "I" Sec immediately retaliated. And as the "I" people had the edge on B.O.R., with the "Yorkshire Pud" they managed to win that battle. Cartoons changed into print. Tris Bax had many a headache in the old days because the paper was too outspoken. Every day he expected a Court-Martial and death by firing squad.

No-one deserving of mention on the back of "Yorkshire Pud" was missed. We insulted, ridiculed, publicised and unmercifully strafed all sorts of people. Doc Somerville who has recently left the Batta-

lion could tell many a tale of how he woke up in the R.A.P., to see a buckshee Lance-Corporal taking the news. Of how, unwittingly, he unburdened his heart to the man with the pencil and the notebook. Of how amazed he was to find most of the conversation accurately reproduced in that days "Yorkshire Pud." If you want confirmation ask any member of the old Battalion who remains with us today. If the word of a private soldier isn't good enough for you, ask Major Kavanagh M.C., the Second-in-Command. If you want to set the Q.M.'s stores on fire ask the Lieut.-Quartermaster "Who was the 'Great One'?"—he'll tell you if you ask him nicely. Possibly if Major Burke had been



Major Farrar (Background) Says Goodbye to Q.M. Captain Temple

with the Battalion in those days he too would have appeared in our columns under a similar nickname. The Battalion, like Little Audrey, laughed and laughed and laughed. Most people took the leg-pulling in good part.

So was the legend of the "Snoop," the eyes, ears and nose of the "Yorkshire Pud." If anyone said anything then you could be sure of seeing it in the paper—providing of course that Tristan, Belfort, Bax didn't censor it—as he very often did.

Chapter II in the history of the "Yorkshire Pud" opens at Milspe. After lapsing for some six weeks it was revived by Major G. V. Fancourt M.C., the then Battalion Education and Welfare Officer. It was typed and duplicated by Pte. Horner, then and now, Education Clerk.

It wasn't until September 7th that our first printed number was published. The event was the opening of the "Iron Duke" and issue No: 47 of the "Yorkshire Pud" was a single sheet, blank on one side. The paper was in the throes of teething where printing was concerned. Issue No: 48 reverted back again to the duplicated foolscap sheet but Issue No: 49 bearing the headline "The Dukes Return to Nor-

mandy" was published in time to be placed in the dining rooms for the tea meal. The paper was small when compared with recent issues. It had three columns back and front which contained news of the Battalion tour to Normandy, Sport, a "breakdown" of Age and Service Groups within the Battalion and wireless news.

The first four column issue was published on October 23rd, 1945. The sheet had been reduced in size but the four columns contained more news and greater variety. The standard size "Pud" was first published two days later and it has not materially changed since then.

The 100th number of the "Pud" was published on November 8th and the paper became a picture paper as well as a newspaper. Number 100 had a front page picture of Brigadier Wood inspecting the Band and a back page picture of Lt.-Col. Rollin, Major Kavanagh M.C. and Captain Evans M.C. From that day we have gone from strength to strength. Still the only Battalion Daily in the Rhine Army, never a day has passed that the "Yorkshire Pud" hasn't brought you up-to-date news of the Battalion.

At Christmas a special 8-page number was published which contained 25 photographs of the Battalion area, canteen, educational facilities and sports. Some of the photographs are republished in this issue for the benefit of the new members of the Battalion who have joined us since Christmas.

On January 7th of this year we published our first pin-up—Frances Gifford, a young lady of the M.G.M. studios. Since then twelve pinupious young ladies have appeared in your paper—and there are more to come. Our reporters have covered everything—from weddings to rugby matches. Swimming, basket-ball, cricket, hockey, food, every subject under the sun has appeared in your paper. The Companies supply notes, one Company to each day of the week. They sometimes cause the

editorial staff to tear their hair at the briefness of their reports on Company life. Sometimes we even have to write the Company notes in the "Pud" office—fortunately this is not often.

We have interviewed a goodly number of the men released and practically every officer that has left the Battalion has given his life story to be published. Photographs of Battalion life appear regularly and will continue to appear as long as the paper is in circulation.

Our first loss was Major G. V. Fancourt M.C., the man who "made" the Iron Duke. He left on Class A release on January 14th and was succeeded by Capt. R. A. H. Farrar. Both their photographs appear on this page. Captain Farrar continued the good work until he too was released on March 25th. Lieut. N. Tilley, who is to be released on the 26th of this month has been Editor since then.

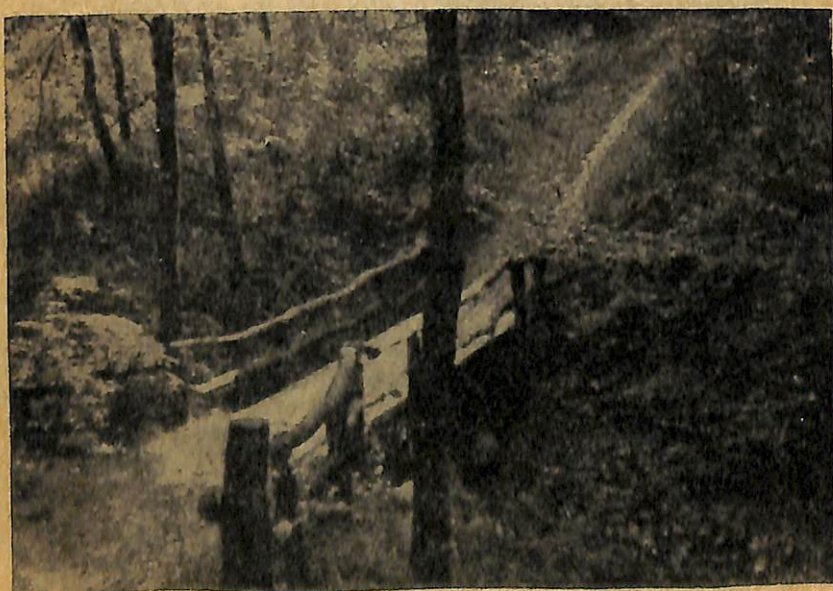
"Yorkshire Pud," besides being distributed among the members of the Battalion, finds its way to all corners of the globe. It goes to Palestine, Greece, the Middle East, it has even been to America. It occupies a position among all the other Army War Newspapers in the Imperial War Museum in London. In England alone it has a circulation of well over 100 copies. The name of your Battalion paper appears frequently in the "Yorkshire Post." It has been described as "professional journalism" by Mr. W. L. Andrews, Editor of that paper. William Hickey of the Daily Express has also publicised our paper in his column. The "Yorkshire Pud" may soon go "on the air" when the details of the proposed B.B.C. broadcast are completed.

For the present "Yorkshire Pud" is closing down due to circumstances beyond our control. We say "for the present" because we hope to continue this paper which has been published for over a year entirely for your benefit.



Captain Farrar Taking Leave of the "Iron Duke" Staff

SUMMER AND WINTER IN GEVELSBERG

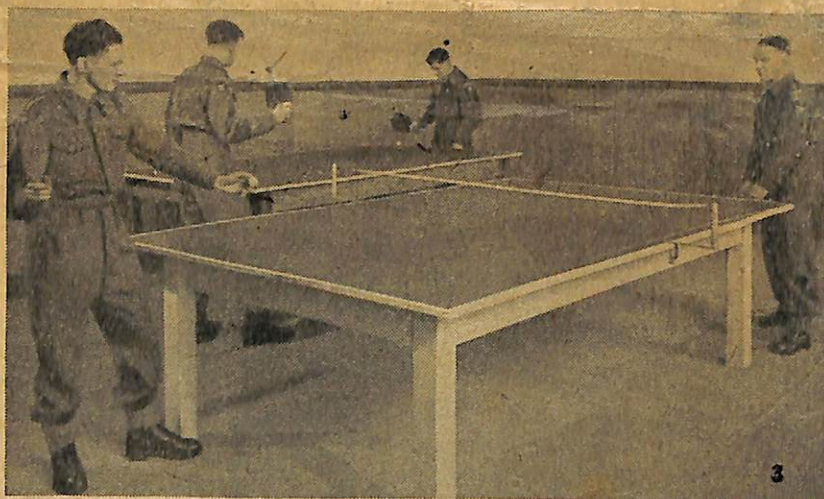


THE IRON DUKE

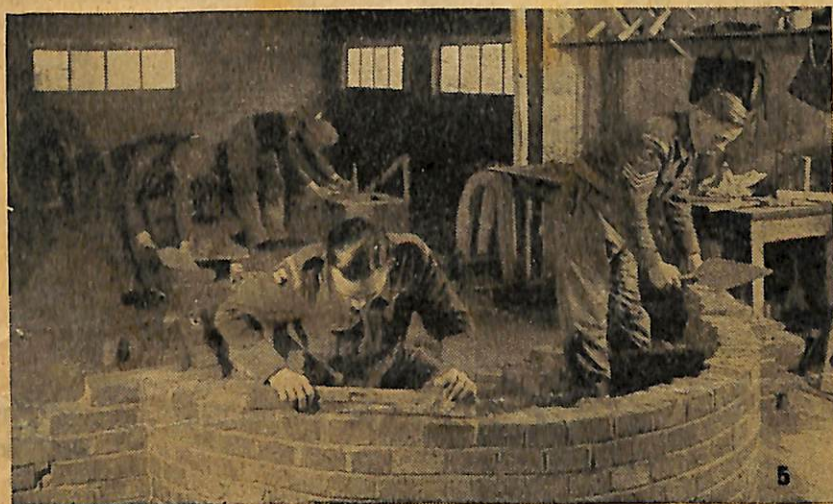
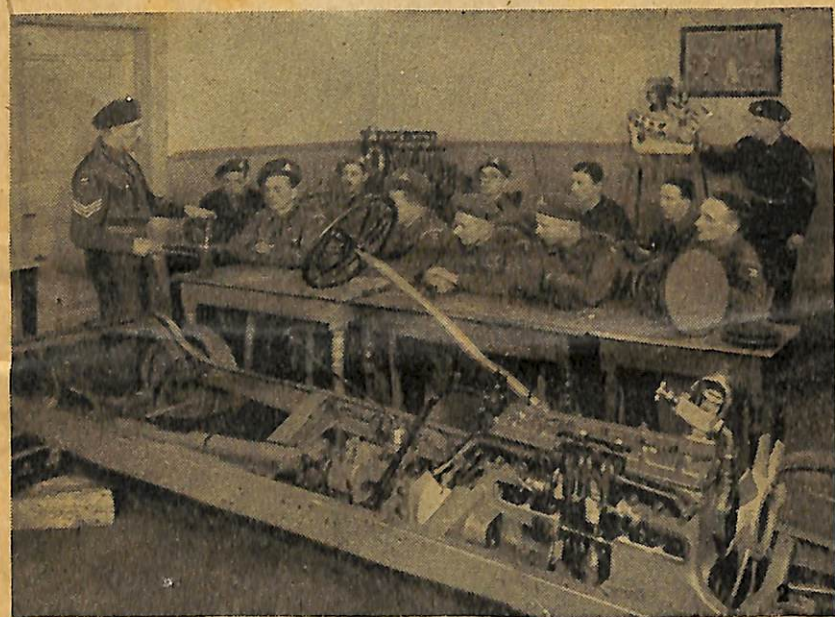
- 1 THE SWINGING SIGN
- 2 THE LIBRARY
- 3 TABLE TENNIS ROOM
- 4 THE BAR
- 5 "BEER GARDEN"
- 6 THE READING ROOM
- 7 THE CAFE



ITS ENTERTAINMENT

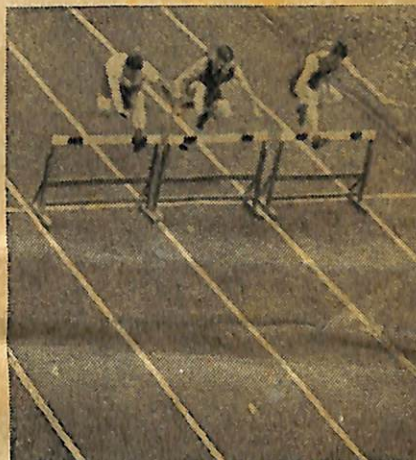
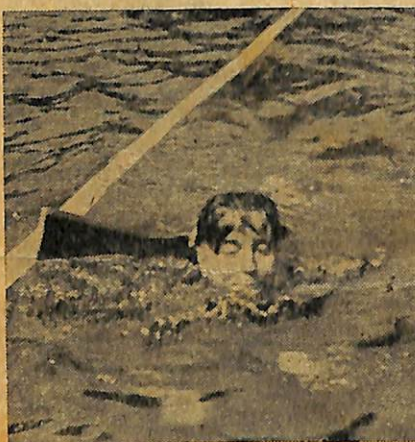
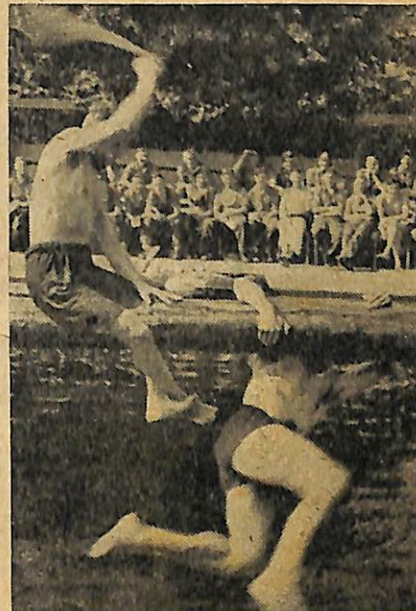
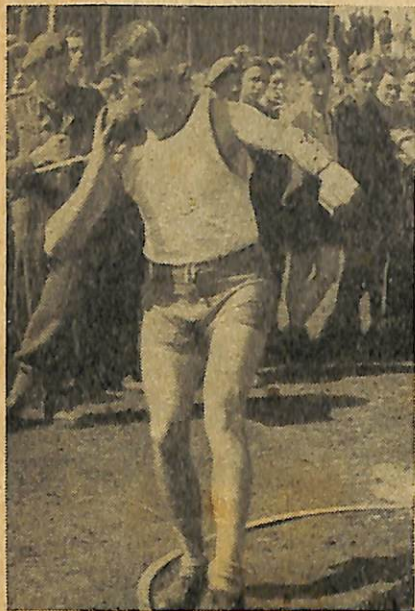


--- AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES



- 1 THE BAND IN PEACETIME
SCARLET
- 2 THE D AND M CLASS
- 3 THE WOODWORK CLASS
- 4 THE RADIO CLASS
- 5 THE BRICKWORK CLASS
- 6 ROOFING THE BN. GARAGE
- 7 THE METALWORK SHOP

BATTALION SPORTS ACTIVITIES



Above are some illustrations of the Sport activities of this Battalion. The three photographs running across the top are of Major Kavanagh M.C., putting the shot in the Battalion Athletic Meeting last September, the first Battalion Soccer Team, and two exponents of the art of keeping one's balance on the greasy pole in the Battalion Swimming Gala. The next block of three are of Sgt. King, then Intelligence Sergeant, in the Battalion Swimming Gala, Signalman Holmes winning the mile in the Athletic Meeting and a group of hurdlers. A boating expedition is shown on the left, in the centre is Captain Bax coaching H.Q. Company tug-o-war team, on the right is "B" Company hockey team. Completing the review is a photograph of the Battalion Soccer Team which played the Yugoslavs recently and also a shot from the match.



ELEVEN MONTHS IN GEVELSBERG

American-occupied Gevelsberg may have been surprised on June 2nd, 1945 to see a long stream of vehicles of all shapes and sizes moving through the town and into Kernerstrasse where British soldiers soon began the task of unloading. Battalion Headquarters set up in the building which is now occupied by the Sports store and Messing office. "A" Company was at Wengern, "C" Company at Milspe and "D" Company had moved into Schwelm. "Sp" took over in Voerde.

The first main problem to be dealt with when the Americans had left for their new zone was that of the Displaced Persons. We had between 25,000 and 30,000 in our area. A supply dump was set-up in Gevelsberg to supply food for these luckless people. "Sp" Company, since disbanded, looked after 6,000 Russians in Voerde, there were Poles at Sprockhovel, Hattingen, Altendorf and Wengern. As soon as we had moved the 6,000 Russians from Voerde they were replaced by 4,000 Italians. We had the main task of feeding them, clothing them and seeing that order prevailed. Some members of the Battalion found their future wives among the Polish girls and more than one Duke of Wellington has been married in the Garrison Church. Guards were heavy and the order of the day last summer was "Work and Guard." This Battalion did a magnificent job of work.

Operation "Bazooka" was the name we gave to our first great salvage drive of the war. There were bazookas everywhere. There were thousands of army trucks, mines, rockets, searchlights, artillery, smashed tanks and hundreds of tons of ammunition. It all had to be collected by the Infantry last year. And it was.

The first Battalion Canteen was opened in what is now the Sergeants' Mess. Brigadier Wilsey C.B.E., D.S.O., who commanded this Battalion during the greater part of the Campaign, opened the Club. He admitted having unofficially opened it on the morning of that day when he sampled the beer. The first "Iron Duke" had a bar and café counter downstairs and a Library and two Quiet rooms on the first floor. Every night it was packed to capacity and D.P.s, had to be employed to do most of the heavy work. A two-man German Band was employed to "Let the People Sing" and most every night the long-suffering patients in the R.A.P. tossed uneasily in their beds at the strange noises which came from the house across the road.

The Battalion area at that time was over 400 square miles and we had a population of over 500,000 to control. Companies, however, were soon able to concentrate in Gevelsberg. "A" Company and "Sp" were the first to arrive and they were followed later by "C" and "D." Major Thomlinson, during the time he was waiting to be released organised the building of many prefabs so that Company Dining Halls would not become overcrowded and uncomfortable. Age and Service Group releases began to take their toll. By the middle of February over 500 men had returned to civilian life and reinforcements were still at a trickle.

Education and Unit Vocational Training became the order of the day. In August the Gevelsberg Secondary School building was requisitioned. The building had previously been used as a D.P. hospital and badly needed painting and decorating. Major G. V. Fancourt M.C., the then Education Officer set to work. By September 7th the school had been completely re-decorated from top to bottom. Windows were repaired and replaced. A Bar was fitted. Two rooms were made into one so that a large enough Café would be available. Shields were made by the Pioneer Section and painted by Plummer of the "I" Section to decorate the walls. Captain K. M. Evans M.C., loaned his war photographs to hang in the Bar. In the café there was and still is a mural of London.

Classrooms were fitted out for Driving and Maintenance Courses, Radio and Domestic Wiring, Photography, Metalwork, Woodwork and Cobbling. Classes were run in French, English, Shorthand and Typing. Later a Book-keeping class was started. The "Yorkshire Pud," more about which you can read on another page, assumed printed form and became a regular feature of Battalion life.

The Band, having been supplied with instruments from the Regimental Depot Store at Halifax, were also supplied with their peace-time scarlet uniforms. The beating of Retreat became a colourful ceremony with the Commanding Officer and other officers taking the salute.

In the Sporting world the first event was the Battalion Swimming gala. Much hard work had been done by Captain E. W. Mattock (released recently) to get the pool into decent shape. The gala was held on July 18th and "B" Company carried the day. They were awarded a shield by Brigadier Wood, Commander of 147 Brigade. By the end of July "B" Company had also won the cricket competition. "C" Company just beat "D" Company in the Battalion Athletic meeting and were well on their way to winning the Basket-Ball League Competition. The

Divisional Swimming Gala was held in pouring rain. Over 20 Battalions and Regiments took part in this Gala and the Battalion finished fifth. We had the doubtful honour of being the first to enter the water. In the Divisional Teams we were represented by Captain K. M. Evans M.C., and Ptes. Gentle and Machin. Pte. Gentle came second in the 400 metres free style swimming to a Belgian champion who beat him by about 6 metres. Battalion Soccer and Rugby teams were formed with the approach of cold weather and there were many games played on the Battalion grounds.

On the Entertainment side Companies were busy forming their own Concert Parties. "Fox's Follies," "A" Company, got a terrific reception at the Wellington Theatre. It was followed by two "helpings" of "Cottage Pie," the H.Q. Company show. Ex-Orderly Room Sergeant Bert Howe and ex-C.S.M. Ned Chadwick will long be remembered for their parts.

Christmas came and we celebrated the festive season in true Army style. The officers brought the early morning tea. The cooks, as is usual at Christmas time, excelled themselves. On Boxing Day there was a mad soccer-cum-rugby-cum-what-have-you match between the Officers and Sergeants refereed by Captain Evans on a horse. Flame-throwers and smoke bombs were in action and each side made it a point to steal their opponents goal-posts.

The old year went out on the news that you would have to pay for your 35 mm films. The Divisional photographic competition was in full swing. Government Training began in the Rhine Army on January 1st. 26 Group was interviewed by the Commanding Officer. A winter sports centre was opened at Chamonix on the 15th.

Group 22 Officers left in January. Among them were Major G. M. M. Smallwood M.C., O.C. "B" Company, Captain W. L. Denton M.C., Adjutant, Captain Horsfall, Major G. V. Fancourt M.C., Education Officer, and Padre S. H. Chase M.C. 25 Group other ranks left the Batta-

lion between the 10th and 19th. Major A. B. M. Kavanagh M.C., 2 IC spent Christmas in the 6th British General Hospital at Iserlohn.

The Battalion Pantomime "Aladdin," produced by Captain Evans M.C., showed at the Wellington Theatre on the 8th and 9th of January and was a tremendous success. Bert Howe as Widow Twankey raised gales of laughter from the audience. Sgt. Bonsall as the Princess Jenin was most captivating and looked amazingly feminine.

A W.T. circus visited the Battalion on the 9th of January to give us a two and a half hour lesson in the correct and incorrect ways of handling the various Infantry weapons.

Training became the order of the day. Route marches once more came into their own. "Sp" Company was disbanded and was to be followed by "B" Company.

A new Brigade Commander, Brigadier R. P. Cottrell-Hill, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., succeeded to Brigadier H. Wood D.S.O., on the 17th of January and made his first job a visit to this Battalion.

At the end of February 26 Group took its departure. 132 men left the Battalion on three days. An officer and three Sergeants joined us for a couple of weeks from the American Army under the exchange scheme. "A" Company moved south to Siegen where it was responsible for the care of 6,000 Poles. By now most of these have been repatriated.

As the early months went by more and more new faces were to be seen in the Battalion. The classical crack of that time was made by one old member of the Battalion to another when he said "You know Horner, you and I will soon be the only two strangers left around here!" Many hundreds of reinforcements have joined us from some twenty or more different regiments.

Battalion Dances every Friday have become a regular feature of the Battalion life. The hall of the Zum Alten Postwagen has been completely redecorated for that purpose.

Companies hold frequent identity checks and house searches. One hundred of Gevelsberg's citizens found themselves behind bars recently for failing to be in possession of correct identity documents. Schwelm was similarly raided.

Now we have the summer almost upon us. The winter basket-ball league was scrubbed and a new league formed. The two outstanding teams, so far, have been the officers and the sergeants. 28 and 29 Groups will very soon be out and the early thirties are counting up the weeks.

Soon it will be a year since the Battalion came to Germany. It has been a year of many changes, very much hard work, some very good times. If the second year can be made to equal the first we shall have won our battle against boredom and monotony which can so easily sap the strength of an occupation force.



The Battalion Pantomime "Aladdin"

COMPANY CONTRIBUTIONS

"A" Company Announces.....

It seems many moons ago since gallant "A" Company sojourned to this far flung outpost of the British Empire. Our first impression on that cold January day was that we "had bought it," so to speak. Yes, it all looked very grim—from the outskirts of the town to the camp itself we saw only the remains of what had obviously been a beautiful town. One thought of the dreary months ahead in this Heap of Rubble. However, once again, the spirit of "A" Company survived and we were soon well organised with a good canteen and the not-so-good billets were soon made comfortable and warm. Our duties were numerous and 4 nights in bed per week were considered a luxury. One can understand how glad we were to receive reinforcements. These chaps soon settled in with the Company and although from various units, we now only think of them as "A" Company men.

The arrival of a good film show followed by some very good concert parties cheered us in the winter months. We well remember the arrival of the Div. Repertory Company in very deep snow to give us a really first class show. We think they were grand.

We remember the Curfew patrols when we ploughed our way through the snow to one of the isolated villages which are among the hills surrounding us. Sporting activities have been well-organised and although a football match with the Poles was often more like a mud bath, they were good fun and enjoyed by both players and spectators. We have played a German team 4 times and, with the exception of one disappointing match, they were first-class games.

The dances at the Monopole have always been well patronised and we certainly made it one bright spot in Siegen for at least that evening, (in spite of 2 per cent beer).

Yes, indeed, we shall remember the level crossing, the petrol pump, the wooden bridge and Hotel Monopole, all of which have become familiar to us at Siegen.

"D" Company Diary

Our departure from Gevelsberg with its happy (and otherwise) memories and the close-down (temporary) of our "Yorkshire Pud" seems an excellent opportunity to reminisce. Our experiences in the Ennepe-Ruhr-Kreis have been many and varied and we hope our new members will be as interested in reading about them as the older members will be in recalling them.

We recall the happy times spent in Baron's Bar. The name was derived from the pseudonym of our late Skipper who was designated, "The Baron of Schwelm" by our former Padre, hence the Baron's Bar. From the start, this was the scene of our social activities which were many and entertaining, particularly outstanding are the memories of our combined party for VJ Day and a farewell to many of our old and trusted friends and comrades who left us on transfer to 3rd Division.

The popular figure of our "Star" turn is sadly missed though the effects of his "fluence" seem to be felt still by some

of the Company. If Daniels should read these notes he will recall the time when he was so interested in watching a certain Major being "put under" that he too succumbed. You can't trust a hypnotist, as our pet white rabbit soon discovered.

Among our duties at Schwelm was that of keeping watch over hordes of Italian and Russian ex-P.O.W. We offered heartfelt thanks to those above when we saw the last of them. We played the Russians at football weekly and entertained them to tea afterwards. There's not much doubt which was the bigger attraction.

At one time visitors to the Company office were always asked these now famous words, "Have you got your pyjamas?" and, "What colour have you got?" At a certain hour we used to see a familiar figure who is still with us, hence he must remain anonymous, lifting the blankets and emulating Mr. Chad with the remark, "Wot! No pyjamas?"

The Company left their happy hunting ground and rejoined the remainder of the Battalion at Gevelsberg. For most of the Company it came as a shock for it meant walking quite a long way if they wanted to visit their old haunts. As the days went by we settled down to training and beating the rest of the Battalion at football. Most of our time was spent in doing house searches and road checks in Schwelm.

The time came when we had to say goodbye to Captain "Pop." We were sorry to see him go and we missed his little tricks. Before long Major Vickers, by hook or by crook obtained the "B" release. His place was taken by Captain K. M. Evans M.C. From then on our time was spent on the range trying to make everyone a first-class shot.

One rather interesting job that we had was training a Company of Yugoslavs, by the time we had finished with them they were pretty good. All sorts of people came down to see them and they all left very impressed.

Lieut. Cree departed and Lieut. Senior was transferred to a Rest Camp. In their places came Lieuts. Pratt and Jones. After a time Lieut. Pratt was transferred to "A" Company and Major Mallinson assumed command of the Company. Major Mallinson had been commanding "A" Company at Siegen. We expect he felt the same as we did when we left Schwelm.

It came to our notice that the people of Schwelm began to think that we were not paying any interest to them so we organised a Company raid and identity check. Our efforts were rewarded, we put 35 people in "clink" and succeeded in putting the wind-up them. Every day since, we have been to Schwelm just to let the people know that we are still knocking about.

"Charlie" Calling

Many changes had taken place in the Company since we had the "Snoop" as our Company Clerk, but even more changes have taken place since we first came to Germany.

In June we occupied Milspe but before the year was out we had moved into Gevelsberg to the white house on the hill. Our first Company Commander, Major G. V. Fancourt M.C., had left us to take

over the Education Department and Capt. E. W. Mattock became his successor. Lieut. LeCornu M.C., left us in the early days for C.M.F., and we still get occasional letters from him.

We were soon to lose our second Company Commander for Captain Mattock went off to succeed Captain W. L. Denton M.C., as Adjutant. In his place we got Major Marett who stayed for a short while, left the Battalion and then returned to take over command of "A" Company. Our "Canloan" took over but only for a couple of days. Major J. Pickering arrived, complete with moustache and, so far, he is still with us.

The famous Cpl. Gascoigne, more familiarly known as "Arthur" is sweating on his demob line. Practically all he needs now is the word "Go." We shall be sorry to lose him. We have also recently lost "The Lyon," W.T. officer for recent range training.

We have lost a lot of personalities and we have also gained a lot.

Probably the most noticeable loss from "C" Company to the reader of these notes during the past few weeks has been that of the "Scribe" perhaps better known as Sergeant Buckley who is away on six weeks leave. If this has been noticeable to our readers how much more so has it been to us who, faced with the obvious fact that the only brain the Company has is away, and that on this particular occasion we have found it so impossible for the combined brains of the Company Office staff, platoon sergeants and members of the Company to compile even one line reviewing our stay in Gevelsberg, have been forced to ask the "Yorkshire Pud" Editorial Staff to write these brief notes for us.

H. Q. Views

H.Q. Company, in common with the Rifle Companies, has seen many changes in the last eleven months. Three times we have changed our Company Commander. Captain R. A. H. Farrar was the first to go, we lost him to Education. Major "Shake" Pyrah took his leave some months later for return to civilian serge. At present we have Major Burke, who will also be leaving to take command of Sp Company.

Most of the sections have completely changed since we arrived in Gevelsberg. In B.O.R., for instance, only two members of the old staff, Sgt. Eddie Lugg and Pte. "Dean" Dashwood are left. The Signals lost Sgts. Brennan and Stevenson along with a whole batch of Signalmen. The M.T. has lost most of its old personalities. The Company Office has been affected by the loss of no less than three Company Sergeant-Majors; Ned Chadwick, Eric Lawton and John Hector. One-time Company Clerk and now C.Q.M.S., Chetwood is awaiting his release in July with Group 34. Of the original R.A.P. staff only one member is left, Pte. Rigby of the Band. We even have a new Doctor. The Band, what there is left of it, contains very few members of the old Battalion. The saddest blow of all was when we lost our Cook Corporal Jock Haigh—those indeed were the days.

But enough of memories. We look forward to the future undismayed. We have almost a complete new Headquarter Company and we feel sure that the men who have joined us from other units to replace our losses will not only uphold the reputation of efficiency held by the old H.Q. Company, but will add to its already considerable laurels.

