

YORKSHIRE PUD

No. 246.

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

JULY 6th, 1946.

Five Shilling Telephone Service For B.A.O.R.

WARNING ORDERS FOR 36 and 37 GROUPS

Two more Age and Service Groups, 36 and 37, have been 'warned-off' for release. 36 Group, which affects 2 N.C.O.s., and 10 men is scheduled to start on the 3rd of August and is to be completed by the 15th August, approximately. 37 Group also affects a similar number although 5 N.C.O.s., are included. Three of the N.C.O.s., belong to the R.E.M.E., Cpl Thorpe, Sgt Secley and L/Cpl Smith. This group commences on 15th August and is to be completed by the 31st August, approximately.

★ ★ ★ ★

HONOURS AND AWARDS

It is our great pleasure to congratulate one member and one ex-member of the Battalion on their awards of the Commander-in-Chief's Certificate in the Birthday Honours List.

Sgt J. Marshall is the member of the Battalion and Pte. A. S. Wharton is the ex-member who was despatched on Class 'A' release some time ago.

Telephone Home From Iserlohn

British personnel in Germany are now able to telephone their relations and friends in the U.K. and Northern Ireland from kiosks installed in a large number of NAAFI Clubs and Canteens throughout the British Zone at a charge of ten Reichmarks (five shillings) for three minutes.

Initially there will be fifty telephone kiosks installed at selected Clubs and Canteens, and this number will be increased as experience is gained and difficulties overcome.

In choosing the places at which to start the scheme, the aim has been to provide the fairest possible distribution, and the following NAAFI establishments are amongst those selected:—

Bad Oeynhausen—Other Ranks Canteen (The Old Vic)
WO's and Sergeants Club
Officers Club (The "21" Club)
Bad Salzuflen—Officers Club
Lubbecke—Other Ranks Club.
Officers Club.
Minden—All Ranks Club
R.N. All Ranks Club
Oldenburg—Other Ranks Club
(The "Astoria" Club).

Dusseldorf—WO's and Sgts Club.
Iserlohn—All Ranks Club
(ENSA Theatre.)

In the above NAAFI Clubs and Canteens ladies of the Womens Voluntary Service will act as kiosk attendants and be in charge of collecting payments. It will be possible to book calls up to four days in advance between 12.00 and 14.00 hrs daily.

All details of how to book calls and other important points to remember in connection with the scheme, can be obtained from the NAAFI Manager or Manageress, or the W.V.S. at any of above Clubs or Canteens.

In order to help to make the system a success and avoid difficulties, it is important that everyone intending to use it should be familiar with the rules beforehand.

MEN BEHIND THE SCENES

John Glyn Lloyd, popularly known as "Taffy" by his co-workers, has been Linotype operator on the "Yorkshire Pud" staff since the Battalion came to Büren.

Aged 32 and Age and Service Group 49 "Taffy" came into the Army in May, 1944 and first served with the Royal Welch Fusiliers. He came out to B.A.O.R. in



February 1946 and was transferred to this Battalion last March.

Before the war he was a linotype operator on the Liverpool Daily Post and he intends to return to his work on demob.

(Editors Note: This is the first of a series designed to bring the "men behind the Pud" to the public eye. Next week will be the story of a man who has seen action in Burma and who is now the chief machine-man producing the "Y. P".)

THE MOHNE SEE REST CENTRE

"A" Company is to have the Mohne See Rest Centre vacancies for next weekend. The Battalion now receives four vacancies for the period Thursday to Saturday and two for Saturday to Monday.

Each Company is to take in turn to have the vacancies. "C" Company the week ending the 15th July, "D" Company the 22nd July, H.Q. Company 29th July and "Sp" Company the 5th. August.



New G.O.C.-in-C. for Rhine Army

Ex-8th. Army Commander Takes Over

Is there such a person as a typical English General? I have been talking at the Cavalry Club in London to Lieut-General Sir Richard Loudon McCreery, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., who this summer has taken over the post of GOC-in-C, British Army of the Rhine. I have looked up Sir Richard's life in the reference books. He is Eton-educated, a Cavalryman, a polo player, a family man with five children. Surely he should fit in with the average Englishman's conception of a typical English General? But I doubt it.

"Dick" McCreery is tall, agile, brown-faced and diffident in manner. A Russian war correspondent who met him soon after Alamein described him as having a velvet voice and clever eyes—which is exactly right. A peppery, bad-tempered person? General McCreery smiles easily and swiftly. There is nothing even remotely Blimpish about him.

McCreery, one of the architects of the Eighth's victories in the Desert, victor of Salerno when he commanded X Corps, hammer of the Germans through Naples and Rome, began his soldiering young. He was in the 12th Lancers when he was a lad of 17 and by the end of 1915 was in France. When the Armistice came, he had been wounded and had collected an MC.

Continuing soldiering, he took part then, as now, in the occupation of Germany and later was in Ireland during the "Troubles", where a brother, also an officer, was murdered. Back at Tidworth in the "twenties", Dick McCreery found that things were happening. The "New" Army was in process of creation and his own Regiment and the 11th Hussars had been selected as the first to be mechanised. Of course, in some ways he regretted the changes—like his father and brothers, he had loved horses all his life—but that did not prevent him taking up the new soldiering enthusiastically. The Regiment went to Egypt but McCreery stayed behind at the Staff College at Camberley and afterwards spent four years as brigade major of the 2nd Cavalry Brigade at Tidworth. The Regiment had remained in Egypt, completely mechanised and trained in desert fighting. But it was now due for a tour at home, and when the Abyssinian crisis meant a return to the Western Desert only a year later, Lt-Col

McCreery was in command. Times were anxious. To the sound of Fascist war-cries by Italy's sawdust Caesar, McCreery's Regiment took part in the British Army's biggest Desert mechanised training exercises. The period was really the start of the famous "Desert Rats". The 7th Armoured Division was born soon afterwards. There was no trouble at all in British Territory but Abyssinia which had only spears, was conquered. The 12th returned to England for some peace-time soldiering.

When World War Two broke out, McCreery was G 1 of the First Division, a full colonel. He crossed to France and after the "phony war" period went into action again on the familiar, blood-stained fields of the Somme front. Towards the end, on two of the worst days of the fighting, he was under the command of a stern, cool, efficient French colonel named de Gaulle. "I remember de Gaulle well" General McCreery recalls. "The French were on the point of collapse. They were on their last legs. But I was very impressed by the bearing of de Gaulle. After directing a strong counter-attack at Abbeville, he was rushed off to Paris as military secretary to the French Prime Minister.

By this time, nothing could save the British troops in France, and after fighting a bitter retreat between the Somme and the Seine, in which he earned a D.S.O, McCreery and his men came out through Brest. A fresh, frantic start had to be made. New divisions were formed and McCreery still commanding the 2nd Armoured Brigade and recognised as one of the Army's tank experts, was picked to take over the 8th Armoured Division. Equipment was pitifully short, but McCreery saw that his men made the best use of what they had and his new division came very well out of the big exercise "Bumper", held in October, 1941. "Monty", then C-in-C, Home Forces, singled out McCreery for special commendation after the exercise and he spoke of the "skilful and decisive way" McCreery handled his tanks.

But it was the Middle East, North Africa, and later Italy where McCreery's reputation was made. First as Middle East GHQ's tank adviser, he had a big job trying to keep the Eighth Army supplied with AFV's suitable for action—"a thankless task because of the unreliability of the Crusader", says General McCreery until the Shermans began to arrive in numbers before the El Alamein

victory. And secondly, as General Alexander's Chief of Staff, he played a decisive part in planning the campaigns which threw the Nazis out of Egypt and overwhelmed them in the Western Desert, Tunisia, Sicily and Italy.

Between service in North Africa and Italy, McCreery, now a knight, had a short spell at home. He hardly had time to get acclimatised. In July 1943, he took over command of Eight Corps in Yorkshire. A month later, on the eve of the Italian landing, Lt-General Horrocks commander of Ten Corps was badly injured in an air raid on Bizerta. McCreery flew out to succeed him and led the attack on Salerno, and after the landings, the thrust through Italy. Salerno, originally planned against only light opposition, developed into a grim defensive struggle. At Salerno General McCreery had one of his narrowest shaves of the war, when he was ambushed while on a reconnaissance.

"The bridgehead position was very restricted at the time" he said, describing the incident to me, "but about on the boundary between the two Divisions there was a considerable 'no-mans-land', where I thought we had established reconnaissance patrols. I wished to have a look for a good OP in this area. We drove forward and I suddenly suspected that we had gone rather far, I got out and ordered the scout cars to turn round while I looked through my glasses. Just as they were doing it, anti-tank guns opened up at very short range on the vehicles, setting them on fire and small arms fire made it pretty hot for us. We had almost done what has been done so often in this war, motored straight into the Hun".

At the end of September 1944, General McCreery succeeded Lt-General Sir Oliver Leese in Command of the Eighth Army, when it was within sight of the "promised land", the Po plains. He will always regard their great pinch offensive in April 1945, when the Germans were overwhelmed in 12 days heavy fighting south of the river Po, as one of the Eighth Army's finest achievements. Never have veteran soldiers responded more gallantly to their leader's call. He became GOC-in-C, British troops in Austria and British member of the Allied Control Commission in Vienna, last summer. "But my present job is as difficult as any I have done", says General McCreery. "It is not easy for a soldier to become politician-cum-diplomat".

But the General has done his

"diplomatic" job very successfully indeed. He has an Anglo-American family background and has got on well with the Americans, who gave him their D.S.M., in 1945. And the Russians have not withheld their admiration for such an efficient administrator and outstanding horseman.

General McCreery has no illusions about the job of the troops of his new command. But neither has he any doubts about the way they will do it. When he went to Austria, he told his men, "Our job is just as important as the work we did in the war". Many months have passed since he made that remark but he believes his words still apply equally to the job of the men who will serve with him in the BAOR.

With acknowledgements to the "Soldier"

OPEN LETTER FROM A YANK

Dear Tommy's— There are so many ways I desire to express my appreciation that I would surely need a book to fulfil it properly.

However, I would try to give you my heartiest thanks. First off, I must admit that I have wanted for exactly nothing. My very smallest wish has been carried out even to having coffee.

Your courtesy and whole hearted friendliness I shall never forget. I only hope that other Yanks can obtain such an opportunity as I did, to have a wonderful time. As far as changes and differences in our Army life there are few, basically the two are same though I do see firmer discipline, better control and excellent Soldiering conduct with your men than with us. You constantly maintain a very high quality of behaviour which is becoming to any well trained Army. All your Ranks have a keen respect for higher authority plus keeping a true comradeship spirit amongst all fellow Soldiers.

In all, I would not exchange my knowledge and experiences gained here for anything, nor shall I forget the most enjoyable times I have had with you here. Truly, each of you are yourselves capable of Soldiering Conduct befitting any English Gentleman.

The other Yanks join me in extending my very deepest gratitude to you, and wish you only the best in future years.

Gratefully Yours,

Mich Du Bas,

Sgt U.S. Army.



Sport & Entertainment

The Battalion Sports Meeting

And The Swimming Gala

"H.Q." Coy. Romps Home

The Battalion swimming gala, held at the Büren pool last Saturday, was a great success. Unlike the sports meeting, which was marred by heavy rain, it was held in brilliant sunshine.

"HQ" was the winning Company, beating their nearest rivals, "C" Company, by a very comfortable margin. "SP" Company was third, with "D" and "A" Companies tying for fourth place.

We were treated to a graceful exhibition of diving during the course of the afternoon, those distinguishing themselves in this being: CQMS Chetwood, Mr. Bush, Cpl. Sweetman, Ptes. Hogan, Lister, Doherty and Cundcliffe. The "Plunge" event was won by Pte Betchetti, who covered a distance of 38ft 10ins. Sgt Parker Smith,

balancing his potato with masterly dexterity, romped home first in the "egg and spoon" race.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was water polo. Here the outstanding figure was the 2 I/C, whose adroit dribbling brought 'HQ' Company into the final against "C". This resulted in a 0-0 draw, after both teams had several times been within an ace of scoring.

The greasy pole event provided some sparkling slap-stick comedy which everyone enjoyed, including those intrepid souls who ventured on to the "pole". Another amusing event was the F.S.M.O. race which may have brought back memories of more serious moments to some among us.

There was never a dull moment on this crowded programme and all came away feeling that it had been an afternoon well spent.

"A" Company's Success.

The Battalion's annual Inter-Company Sports Meeting was held last Wednesday at the sports ground of the BAOR School of Infantry. Although several times interrupted by heavy showers—which however did not damp the enthusiasm of those taking part—the events continued to take place according to the programme.

It soon became clear that the honours of the day would go either to "A" Company or to "C" Company. The issue was not finally decided however until after the last event had taken place. This was the final of the tug-of-war, in which "A" Company just managed to tip the scales in their own favour by beating "C" Company's team, after

a hard struggle.

Thus with "A" the winning Company at the end of the day, the rest of the Companies were placed as follows: "C" Company second, "HQ" Company third, "SP" Company fourth, and "D" Company fifth.

Among the outstanding individual performers were: Pte. Bennie, whose 82ft 10ins throw won for him the Discus event; L/Cpl Tiani, who came first in the high jump by clearing 4ft. 6ins; Lt. Maw, who, in spite of being handicapped by a very nasty boil on his neck, easily took the long jump, clearing 17ft 7½ins. and Pte Woby, winner of the "Shot" event with a throw of 32ft 3ins.

Some Facts About Clubs in B.A.O.R.

The soldiers habit of giving some appropriate nicknames to people, places, and things which form a part of his everyday life, will never pass away. The "Stinker", The "Marble Arches", the "Pig and Whistles", and the "Hellfire Corners" travel with the Forces wherever they are. Long live this healthy disregard for strict formality. With a polite or even impolite nickname one feels that the C.O. is more approachable, the Tavern produces sweeter beer, the long journey has tangible landmarks rather than a boring succession of mile-stones and crossroads.

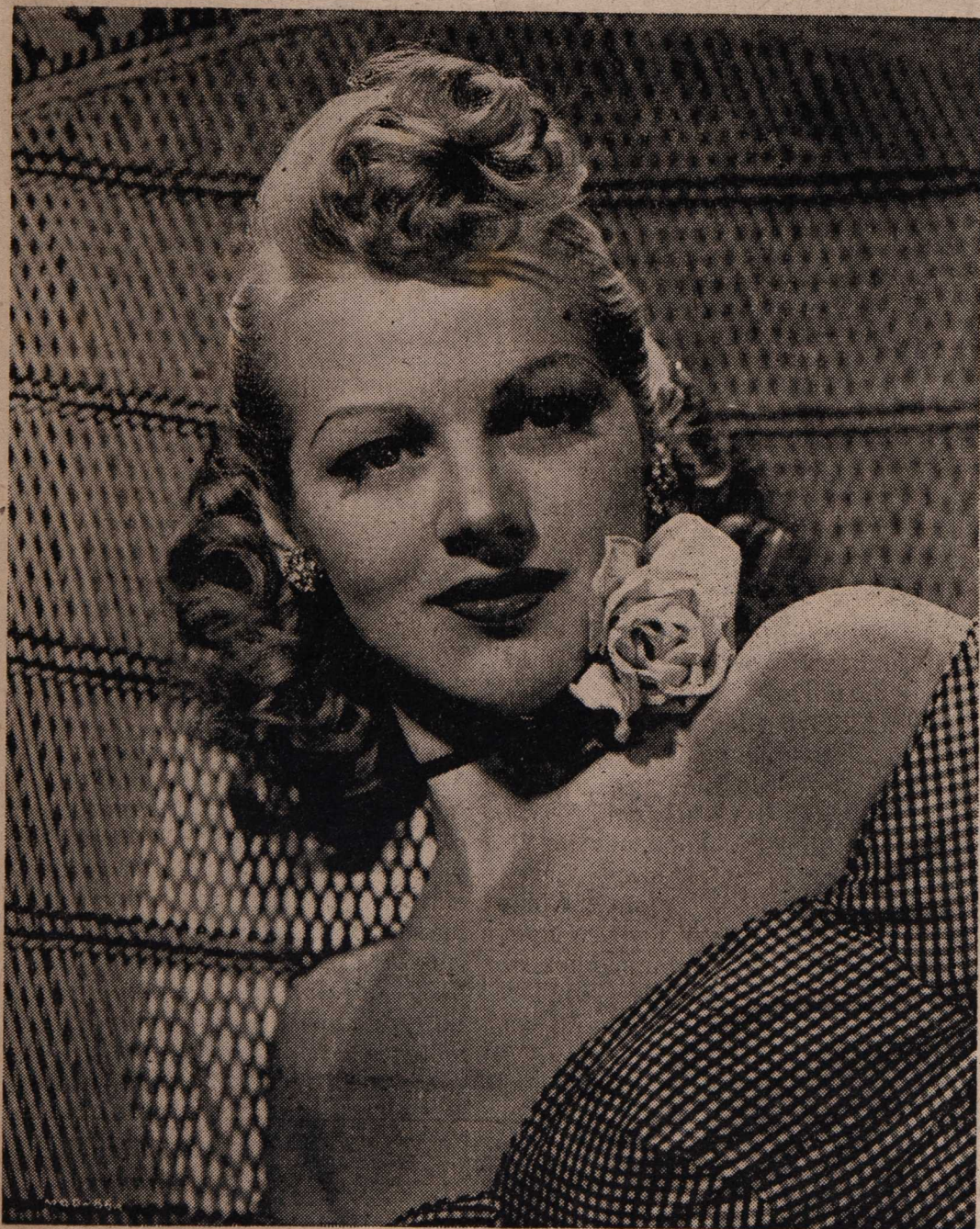
The lightsome spirit is not lacking in the BAOR. From high-falutin' titles like Wentworth Barracks one travels happily through the perennial Tooting Broadways and Mile End Roads to lesser known establishments in the tradition of the "Better 'Ole".

A study of these pet names is quite educative. Take NAAFI's for instance. At least 50 of NAAFI's dozens of clubs and Canteens in Western Europe possess honoured names given to them by the troops.

From the tented "Pop Inn" opened at Caen soon after "D" day and closed since, to the new "Winston" in Berlin there have been and still are many nostalgic gathering places. Paris still has its "Skittle Alley Club", and its "Imperial", "Cafe Blighty" itself is in Brussels side by side with the huge "Montgomery" and "21" Clubs whose halls perpetuate the epic journey from Alamein to the Baltic. At Grunew there is the "Southend" and at Keil the "Belle Vue", both striking a note of peace; but Celle with its "Tempest Canteen" and Iserlohn's "Spearhead", must surely be throw-backs from more martial times. The "Golden Dragon" at

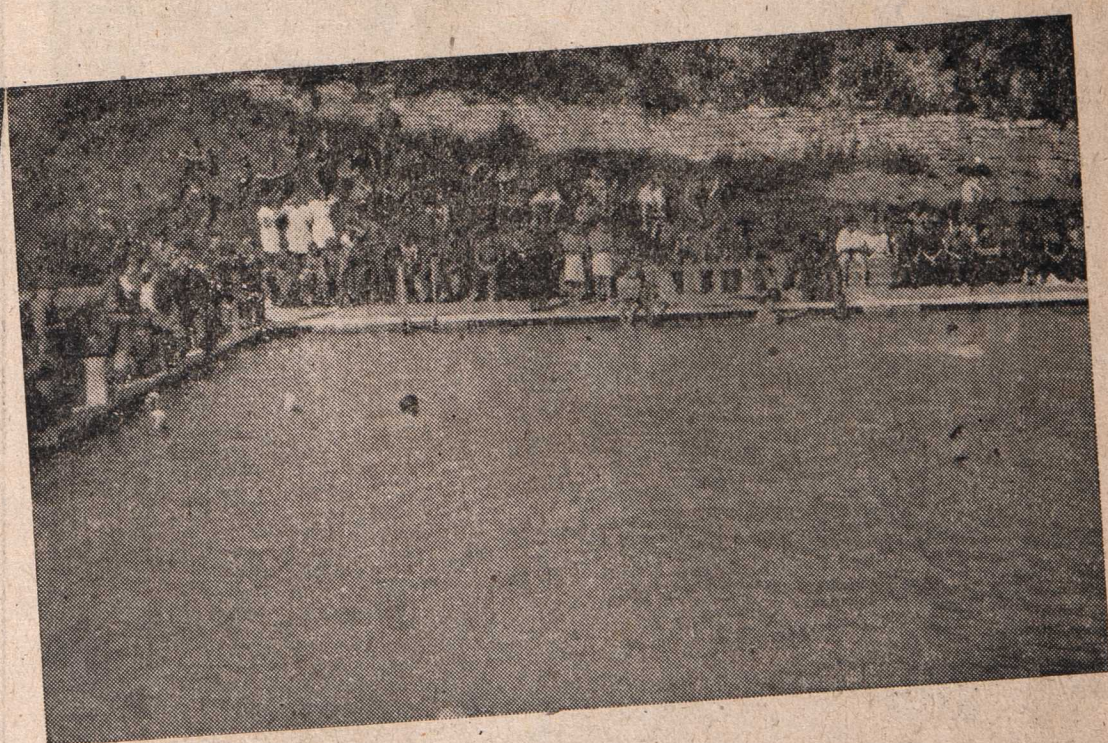
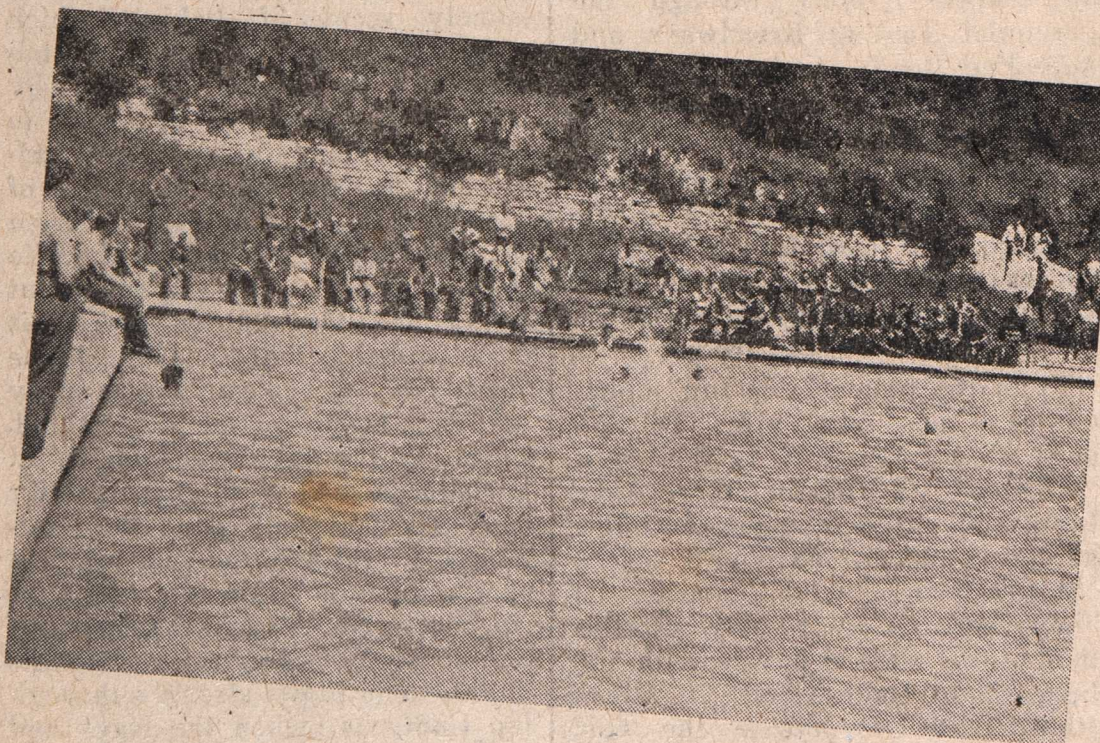
Saltau, and the "Blue Whale" at Cuxhaven, on the other hand, may be nebulous animals but there can be nothing mythical about the homely scent of baking which emanates from another of Celle's Canteens—the Tiffy—patronised by the R.A.F. One must also stop to wonder whether dreamers can really get the faerle atmospheres of "Alice in the looking Glass" from the "White Knight" at Lubeck while sipping their NAAFI "elevenes". But go to Bad Oeynhausen and it is quite probable that the scene in the "Old Vic" may awaken pleasantly realistic memories of theatreland. Certainly the "Starboard Light" at Wilhelmshaven with its faintly nautical air, will push the land-lubber to resolve the old problem of whether portside is green or starboard red. So will the Jade; for although Wilhelmshaven has its khaki, some blows strongly through the Canteens when the Navy and Marines come in for their evening pint.

And last but not least, the famous Victory Club in Hamburg visited by anything up to 20,000 troops everyday, the meaning of whose triumphant titles is understood by all men in the Army of Occupation.



Martha O'Driscoll. R.K.O. Radio.

Sports Photographs by Courtesy of Lieut E. E. BUSH,
Quartermaster, 7th Bn. The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.



As you will see, this page is entirely devoted to photographs of the Battalion Sports and Swimming Meetings a full account of which appears on Page 3. The photographs have been very kindly supplied by Lieut (QM) E. E. Bush who has helped us so many times in the past. If anyone in the Battalion has any photographs which he considers might be of some interest to others please send them to the Education Office. They will be returned, quite undamaged, as soon as blocks have been made.