

The Colonel's Message

May I congratulate Gnr. Mist and all concerned with the production of this journal and add a warning to all ranks re behaviour "As now ye will find a man among ye taking notes and see your deeds in print."

Some really clever suggestions were forwarded in the Title Competition, the first prize has been decided as long week-end leave with a trip to Wellington. Second prize, a walk back with Gnr. McAvoy if he can be found.

With the talent available in the unit, Observation Post will provide both a humorous and serious record of the activities of the Regiment during this critical period in the history of our beautiful little country. Send your lines and sketches along boys, and give the paper every assistance. It is hoped to increase the size and scope of the paper similar to the publication Dial Sight of the last war. The unit is fortunately in possession of the blocks and records of this paper and can oblige the veterans with any reproduction desired.

To the hundreds of old gunners from the 2nd Brigade, the 4th, 5th and 6th Batteries, and in particular our old commanders Lieut. Colonel G. Lyon, M.C., and Lieut. Colonel McQuarrie, D.S.O., M.C. Greetings. I can assure you the Regiment is fighting fit, has excellent weapons, can shoot, and now only wants an opportunity to take some of the knobs off Mr Wattienobbie.

All the best for Observation Post, may you find the line, first round, with each series.

Retrospect

(By Major Nelson.)

With the rapid and continuous reorganisation of artillery units it is difficult to keep track of the antecedents of present Batteries. However, subject to minor exchanges with other Batteries the adding and subtracting of Troop, we find that 4th. Battery as at present organised incorporated D Troop of 8th. Battery and A Troop of 37th. Battery. In turn, the first-mentioned troop was formed from the 19th. Medium Battery, which connects the present organisation with that existing before the war.

The 19th. Battery was first equipped with 60-pounders and in those days was horse-drawn, thus a large part of the Battery personnel were drivers and as a result it was a "tough" unit. The last night in camp during the annual training was a hard experience, but, as the Battery had the pick of each year's batch of trainees, it was one of the smartest units in Wellington. The next innovation was the appearance of four 6-inch howitzer and two "Holt" tractors. Trill horsed as far as the Battery staff were concerned the unit clung jealously to its identity as a mounted parade, using its "advance in column of sections" against the infantry's "column of fours," rolling its puttees downwards, wearing its bandoliers instead of web, and clinking its spurs in high disdain. Hard days were in store, however, when compulsory training was abolished and the Battery mounted itself lucky if it could muster for its annual camp. This was all in numbers, every man knew his job, and the p. of a Golf Col. (then Capt.) R. S. a B. as Gun- nery Instructor was an extra incentive to do good work.

Then came the war and the recall to the active list of Major (then Lieut.) G. R. Powles to take over command from Major Jenkins who proceeded overseas with the First Echelon and later died

Lt-Col. C.F. Lowe "Our Colonel"

as the result of wounds received in the Greek campaign. As was natural, many serving members of the Battery joined the N.Z.E.F., and as far as is known three of these—Gnr. Livingstone, Gnr. Liidemann (later Sgt.) and Sgt. Bannerman have lost their lives on active service.

Mobilised in September, 1940, as D Troop, 8th. Battery, the unit underwent three months' continuous training concluding with a week of mud and snow at Waiouru which added the expression "when we did that show in Totem Valley" to the Battery vocabulary.

In January, 1941, the 37th. Battery was mobilised, A Troop being composed of Wellington men and in three months the Battery became a very efficient fighting unit. Reorganisation and N.Z.E.F. postings created some disorganisation until finally 4th. Battery with D.E. and F. troops emerged in May, 1941, and splashed its way through the manoeuvres held that month, adding incidentally, "Perin's Ridge," "Bidwell's and "Porirua" to our vocabulary with, of course, suitable adjectives.

Then finally with the Regiment reorganised into three two-troop Batteries, E Troop became the nucleus of 6 Battery, D and F became respectively A and B Troops of 4 Battery, while 3 Battery resumed its old number 5, and here we are.

Through all our wanderings and numberings and letterings we have gained and lost many fine soldiers, and it is due to our own self-respect that when they return as veterans of the Second Great War they will not be ashamed to claim association with their old unit.



Sergeants' Dance

R.H.Q. LEADS THE WAY.

The R.H.Q. Sergeant set a very high standard for the Batteries to copy last Monday evening when they ran a most delightful dance in the Linton Hall. A most enthusiastic committee of ladies under Mrs. D. Homer put on a supper that would have made a Hunt Club Ball look like a 1/- hop. A large body of beauty was supplied by the W.W.S.A. under the command of Mrs. White. These girls certainly disillusioned many members of the 2nd Field Regt. who had the wrong interpretation of their initials. In fact some males have been longing for the opportunity to revisit the city during the week-end and look advantage of the Pansy Parade to month dates for Friday, Saturday AND Sunday. It is rumoured that the Padre's text on Sunday will be the seventh commandment, R.S.M. Ruffall W.L. as Organising Hon. Secretary demonstrated his ability as organiser and piper par excellence.

The ladies' committee consisted of Mesdames Honore, Algie, Ash, Fowler, Smith, Sheridan and Miss Young. Sergeant Bill Harris was the most efficient M.C.

Now then B.S.M.'s Still, Glover and McCluggage a party each from you please!

Y.M.C.A.

Congratulations 2nd Field Regiment; So another newspaper makes its debut.

In this, the first issue of the "Observation Post", a word of appreciation of our worthy friend, Mr. Harvey of the Y.M.C.A. would not be out of place.

There are many difficulties associated with his work—far more than the average chap realises. Yet Mr. Harvey has always shown himself to be keenly interested in anything that affects the welfare and well-being of the Camp.

The fact that sports are now organised is just one way in which he has put his enthusiasm to practical use. There are many other instances also. Just bear this in mind next time you are in the hut and by accident walk away with an ink pad or pack of cards tucked away in your pocket. That has happened, you know, and is a very poor way of showing appreciation.

Arrangements are in hand for a night by the P.N. Repertory Society; details will be given later. Any suggestions for entertainments please leave, in writing, with the Editor and they will receive every possible consideration.

Pride of the Regt.

HIS IDIOSYNCRASIES

To a man, the Regiment is proud of 2/10—Rex, our mascot. He is friendly and not too proud; this admirable trait he derives from his aristocratic ancestry; it is only the social climber who has to adopt an unnatural demeanour to impress. Rex commands respect, never needs to demand it. But there are some things about him with which many are not familiar. Here are one or two examples.

Many of you may have noticed that the C.O. has been looking rather hurt lately; some have attributed this to "Orderly Rooms," but they are completely wrong. Those who have been escorted to the aforesaid "Orderly Rooms" will agree that the C.O. is always fair, and yet—and this is the cause of the hurt—Rex gave him a look the other day, expressing disgust that the Colonel should work such a fast one so unjustly. What happened was this:—The C.O. had occasion to visit the rumour department (so called by the officers, the men using a less polite name) accompanied, of course, by Rex, who, when the C.O. sat down, did likewise, but unfortunately HE sat on a lump of chloride. Hence the look. The poor old chap was last seen headed for Haumoana with everything turned down. Rumour has it that Bdr. R. Wilson is trying to overtake him with the object of handing in his stripes.

The Union Jack.

We all know that the composition of the Union Jack indicates the cosmopolitan character of the British Isles, but it was not until Rex went to work on it that we knew its history. It is further alleged that Rex is expecting a further supply of coin mats in the very near future. Thanks, Rex!

More news for the Army!

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