

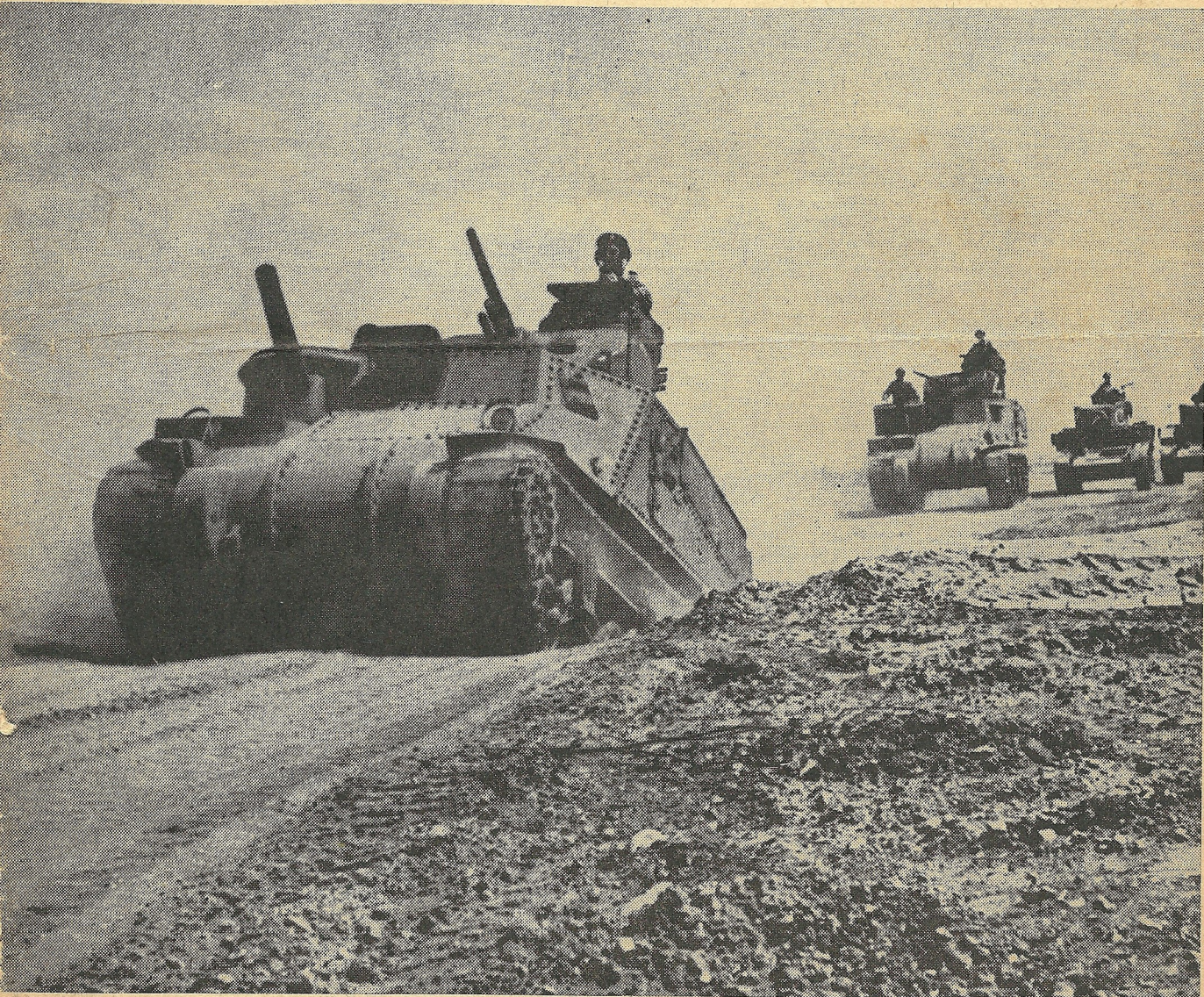
THE 8th MUSSAR

**PUBLISHED WEEKLY
BY THE 8th PRINCESS LOUISE (NB) MUSSARS**

Vol. 1 No. 8

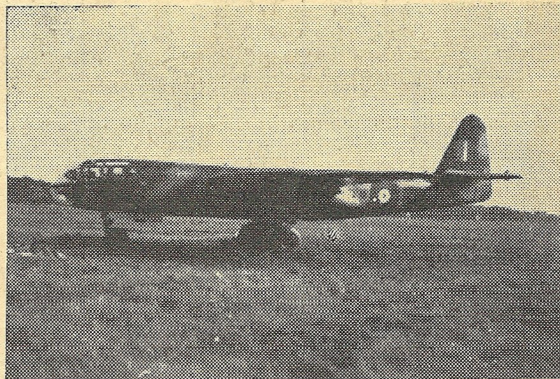
GRONINGEN, HOLLAND

13 Oct. 1945



Training On Thursley Common

Forced Landing at Eelde



In the recent past Eelde Airport, alias Finito Park, has been mainly used as a marshalling area for the turn-in of div vehicles. Last week, however, it was suddenly and unexpectedly thrust back into its wartime operational role when a „mystery” plane appeared out of nowhere to make a forced landing on the track torn, cratered surface.

A large throng, attracted by the sight of the aircraft circling the field, watched with bated breath as our visitor negotiated a series of contours and finally came to a standstill, in more or less intact condition. However, the payoff was still to come. Onlookers really rubbed their eyes when there emerged from the cockpit a figure, resplendent down to the last detail, in the working attire of Hitler's Luftwaffe. Our Intelligence Officer, hurriedly summoned to the scene, confirmed the fact that it was a genuine specimen, even to the Iron Cross, third class.

While rumor rose and debate raged, our alert Guard Room operatives took advantage of the opportunity to swell their POW bag by a total of one — the first capture reported on the Western Front since V-J Day. After he had been established behind bars RAF and RN representatives arrived, and the facts relating to the episode quickly came to light.

The plane, an Arado 234, was identified as a late Germanjet model being delivered to the RAF for experimental purposes. Enroute from Stavanger Norway, the Jerry flier had lost his bearings in a fog and couldn't maintain contact with his escort. Over Appeldoorn he encountered fuel difficulties, and decided to come down at the nearest field. So, after consulting his map he set his course for Eelde. However, he didn't bargain on its present condition, and only good fortune permitted his survival.

After one look at the surface, the RAF decided further take off wasn't feasible under any circumstances so the plane will remain here until it is ferried out by vehicle or a temporary strip constructed. Meanwhile, souvenir hunters are having a heyday.

After thirty-six hours of Hussar hospitality, the Jerry was released to RAF custody, and proceeded on the balance of his journey by jeep.

THE 8th MUSSAR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY
BY THE 8th PRINCESS LOUISE (NB) HUSSARS

This is an unofficial organ, primarily intended to record the current activities of the Regiment, for the information of those remaining on overseas service, and all former personnel who have returned to Canada. The opinions, and views, expressed herein are those of the editors and staff, and not necessarily those of the unit. Reference to higher authority is made only in matters which are specifically concerned with military policy.

Letters, suggestions and contributions are invited from all regimental personnel, and should be forwarded to squadron representatives.

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Inter - Squadron Horse Show

The combined equine resources of A and C Sqns. went on display last week in a horse show which lacked only spectators to be a complete success. Undaunted by the absence of cheering sections, the competitors went ahead to stage six thrilling packed events with no lack of skill or enthusiasm. By the end of the programme the judges scorecard showed "C" Sqn — 34 pts, "A" Sqn — 20, but the latter expect to reverse this verdict at the earliest opportunity.

The afternoon got underway with a single jumping contest in which "Buck" Bradford, "C" Sqn Orderly Room mainstay, piloting "Sheba", demonstrated his versatility by taking top honors. L/Cpl. Archibald (A Sqn) aboard "Queenie" was another who caught the judges eye in this event. The pairs jumping which followed always stayed a little off key due to the horses lack of training.

True western technique came to the fore when Ed Kruse ("C") demonstrated his skill at throwing the saddle together to win hands down. A Sqn staged a comeback in the potato race. In this event the riders equipped with 4 ft sticks, were required to make nine trips down the field and pick up nine potatoes. In the finale "C" Sqn increased its margin by taking the straw race.

Riders and mounts for both teams were as follows; "A" Sqn - SSM Wallace (Tan Tornado) L/Cpl. Archibald (Aga Khan) Tpr Bill Parks (Scruffy) Tpr Bruce North (Rusty) Spare (Queenie). "C" Sqn - Cpl. Bradford (Sheba) L/Cpl. Kruse (Brownie) Tpr Ed Sinclair (Lightning).

The Campaign In Italy

On 14 Nov 43 HMT Samaria, carrying more than three thousand troops, this regiment among them, put out from Liverpool and sailed north through the Irish Sea. No one knew what our destination was, though all were certain that it was not Northern Ireland, as we had been told. The optimists claimed we were going to Canada, the extreme pessimists said India. Our course was west for several days, then south-east until, late one night, we slipped through the straits of Gibraltar and into the Mediterranean Sea. On the morning of 24 Nov., the Samaria left the convoy and docked at Algiers. The convoy in which our advance party had sailed these waters a few weeks before had been heavily attacked from the air and had lost several ships. On arrival at Algiers, RHQ and HQ Squadron were ordered to move immediately to another ship to sail for Italy, while A, B, and C Squadrons camped a few miles from Algiers in the Forest of Ferdinand. HQ boarded the French ship "Ville d'Oran" and, the following night, sailed along the Apricon coast to Phillipville. Here we quit the Ville d'Oran, walked across the dock, and, after the six hour delay required by the Army in such cases, boarded HMT "Cameronia", a sister ship of the "Samaria". The O. C. ship aboard the "Cameronia" took life-boat drill very seriously. There were umpires and obstacles and imaginary fires at each drill, in consequence of which the drill was at least as exciting and almost as dangerous as being torpedoed. We sailed from Phillipville eventually and on the morning of 1 Dec 43, entered Naples harbour.

Having waited until after dark and until sufficient rain was falling, we disembarked in lighters and moved to a staging camp a few miles north of the city. Our first impression of Italy, gained at the camp, were of mud, filth, and stench, and it was here that we had occasion to change these impressions during the next fifteen months.

The glistening new American equipment which had been promised arrived in the shape of transport of the 7th British Armoured Division-vehicles which were old at El Alamein. Less than half would run at all and not one could be relied upon to move twenty miles without the ministrations of a fitter. Within a few days we moved across Italy to Matera near the Adriatic coast driving these vehicles. No one in the regiment is held in higher esteem than the fitters, but, of all their feats, none was more nearly miraculous than their work in making those vehicles run two hundred miles and cross a mountain range.

A, B, and C Squadrons rejoined RHQ in Matera a few days before Christmas; and it was there that our third Christmas overseas was spent. Tanks arrived — new Shermans — and several weeks were spent in gunnery practice. At the end of January the regiment was ordered to move to the Ortona front for its baptism of fire.

We concentrated in a field about two miles west of Ortona and remained there in a counter-attack role. For a month rain fell incessantly and the mud, in some places, was more than a foot deep. General Crerar visited us and likened the weather conditions there to those on the Somme in 1916.

In this place the good fortune with which this regiment was blessed through all its campaigns was first evident. Though we were harboured in the middle of the gun and constantly subjected to the enemy's counter-battery fire, and though the narrowness of some escapes were incredible, no casualties were sustained from shell fire.

Indirect fire from tanks was then in vogue, so this regiment studied the matter thoroughly and experimented extensively. At the beginning of March, after much preparation, and with the help of the survey regiment, we fired a concentration on the enemy-held town of Tolls, firing more than seven hundred rounds into the place in less than two minutes.

A few days after this shoot we were on the move again — back to a concentration area near Costelnuova. Though not known by us at the time, this move was the first phase of a plan to make the Canadian Corps disappear, so far as the enemy was concerned, preparatory to the great spring offensive. Here our squadrons paired off with the infantry battalions of the 11 Cdn Infantry Brigade and, through constant training together, began the close co-operation with these units for which the regiment was celebrated through all its actions.

At the end of April we began a series of moves, under strictest secrecy, toward the Cassino Front where the main effort was to be made that spring. Eventually we concentrated at Pignataro, fifty miles north of Naples, thoroughly camouflaged to await our turn to move into the attack.

On the 11 May 44, the 8th Army offensive began, backed by eleven hundred guns on the Army group front, to breach first the Gustav Line, then the Hitler Line.

About the 19th of May the regiment began to move to an assembly area just west of the town of Cassino, prepared to exploit any break-through which the infantry might make. On 24 May the Hitler Line was breached by 1 Cdn Infantry Division near Aquino and this regiment passed through with the remainder of the Armoured brigade. Behind the town of Aquino a brief engagement was fought with enemy from 1 German Para Division, during which we lost tanks but killed or took prisoner many of the enemy. Sporadic fighting continued throughout the day and at night fall the Melfa River had been crossed by the motor bn. who established a bridgehead of very narrow frontage and little depth. The task of this regiment the next day was to cross the river and extend the bridgehead with the infantry brigade.

The Melfa crossing began at 1630 hrs 25 May 44. The line of the river was on enemy D.F. line and extremely unhealthy. While still within the limits of what had been stated to be a firm bridgehead, our leading squadron met heavy anti-tank fire and sustained casualties. The attack was pressed home, however, and night-fall left us in possession of a large bridgehead.

During the days following, fighting continued as we advanced north through Pofi, Ceprano, and Ceccano. Enemy rear-guards, operating in close country, fought stubbornly to delay the pursuit. At Ceccano we made contact with the French corps of the 5th Army operating on our left and were able to assist them. On 2 June 45, the enemy south of Rome had been completely destroyed or routed and we were withdrawn into reserve.

This action in the Liri Valley was our first Armoured battle and an extremely successful one. For a loss of less than forty casualties, we had driven nearly thirty miles, had destroyed many of the enemy and much equipment and had taken, with the infantry, more than a hundred prisoners. Never again in Italy were we to enjoy the superiority in all types of equipment that we had in the Liri Valley.

During the months of June and July the regiment rested and re-equipped near the village of Dragoni about twenty five miles north of Caserta. Every officer and

man contracted dysentery, though, owing to the strictest discipline preventive measures were largely successful in combating the malaria with which the district was infested. The Italian summer was blistering hot and squadrons were sent each week to the sea-shore to bathe.

In the last week of July all our distinguishing patches and the markings on our vehicles were removed and away we went again. The Germans had been retreating with great skill all summer, intending to stop for the winter behind the powerfully fortified Gothic Line which covered the valley of the Po. The attack on Northern France was robbing the Italian front of many troops, so it was necessary to obtain surprise in the Gothic Line to compensate for lack of numerical superiority. The Canadian Corps was again made to disappear, this time by rapidly moving all over the country and at last appearing on the Adriatic coast near Rimini. We moved through Rome and up to Lake Trasimene with our wheeled vehicles, while our tanks took a different route. Almost daily the announced route would be changed. The enemy was probably confused — we certainly were. After nearly three weeks of movement we all concentrated a few miles South of the Foglia River which ran in front of the Gothic Line on the Adriatic Coast.

On the afternoon of 30 Aug 44, the attack on the Gothic Line in our sector began. As usual our A Squadron was supporting the Perth Regiment; B Squadron, the Cape Breton Highlanders; and C Squadron, the Irish Regiment of Canada. The Gothic Line was a very formidable defensive position. It had many concrete emplacements, tank turrets, deep-sunken mortar positions, wire, minefields, and every other form of defense work. To break the line in our sector it was necessary to pass through a mine-field, cross a river, pass through another mine-field, across an artificial anti-tank ditch, and then attack up steep slopes against an enemy well dug-in. The line was in depth and all enemy positions were mutually supporting. In addition the enemy, artillery and mortars had an accurate survey of the ground and almost unlimited observation.

One of the key points in the line was the village of Montecchio perched on a steep, rocky, crag three hundred feet above the bed of the river and strongly defended. Our infantry, with close-range fire support, from the tanks attempted three times to take this position of the night of 30—31 August. They were thrown back by the enemy, though once they had nearly reached the summit. Casualties were very heavy to both sides. Another key-position, called Point 111, was taken by our tanks and infantry after heavy fighting.

The next day another strong-point, Mount Marrone fell to our tanks, and Montecchio was finally stormed by the infantry, taking more than one hundred prisoners, after we had outflanked the town and placed our tanks to its rear in a commanding position.

On 1 Sep 44, fighting continued as fiercely as before until, at last light, the fortified town of Tomba di Pesaro fell to us. With the capture of this town the main prepared defense of the Gothic Line had been broken.

The fighting in these three days was as heavy as any in which the regiment was ever engaged and casualties were fairly heavy. The enemy sustained a total defeat and lost hundreds killed, many hundreds of prisoners, and much equipment.

During the daylight hours of 2 Sep 44, the regiment was reinforced and partially re-equipped. We ceased to be under command of the infantry brigade and rejoined

the other armoured regiments for the pursuit. Following another sleepless night, the fourth consecutive one, we moved at first light and forded the Conca River, meeting the enemy near the town of Misgano. During the day two enemy tanks attempting to make their way back to their own lines, suddenly appeared in the middle of our area, nearly running over the C.O. who was walking along the road, and causing great excitement until they were both destroyed by our tanks.

The 4th of September was a most memorable day. After breaking through light opposition just after first light, the regiment suddenly encountered a very strong position on Coriano ridge. Enemy anti-tank gun fire was intense and shelling was every heavy. About noon one of our squadrons was cut off. The remainder of the day was spent in attempting to extricate these tanks from the extremely exposed position in which they were. Two tanks could not be reached, however, though a few survivors from the crews returned to our lines, some as much as six days later. Seven of our tanks were knocked out that day and many others damaged. By night-fall on the 4th it was apparent along the whole Army front that a very strong position had been encountered which would require a full-scale prepared attack. The British Corps on our left was also completely stopped at their end of the ridge. For nine days we remained in that position owing to difficulties on other parts of the front.

At 0100 hrs on 13 Sep 44, the attack on Coriano began. The old team of 11 Canadian Infantry Brigade, supported by this regiment, made the assault. After tremendous artillery preparation the infantry went in and the tanks crawled forward in the darkness to be in position at dawn. Infantry casualties, as usual, were very heavy, and during the street fighting in the town we lost tanks and men. By last light on 14 Sep the ridge was clear and the town had fallen.

After Coriano, the division was relieved and for eight days the regiment rested and refitted. On 23 Sep 44, we were off again — this time to drive to the Rubicon and cross the river. The enemy had taken full advantage of the respite he had won at Coriano to move an immense amount of artillery to the Canadian Corps front, and during the weeks which followed we were, for the only time in our experience, out-gunned. We still hoped for an armoured breakthrough which would take us to the Po, but soon the rain began to pour and Italy took on the familiar appearance of a mud-hole. The operations around the Rubicon were difficult and carried out in appalling weather conditions. Enemy shell fire and mortar fire was constant and extremely heavy. As the rain increased, the rivers rose to flood, washing away bridges and making the ground like soup. Many stiff action were fought against the enemy tanks which appeared on the front in some numbers. Progress was slow, costly, but steady. At last as 13 Oct 44, the regiment was withdrawn to Riccione to rest. During the fighting here described, from 30 Aug to 10 Oct, we lost 43 tanks, 8 officers and 85 men.

After a short rest, the regiment moved to the Savio river for the attack on Mensa. This action was a repetition of the one at the Rubicon — bad weather, mud, mines, and shell fire.

During the month of November 1944 the regiment was quartered at Cervia — the best quarters we had in Italy. The front was static owing to the weather. About the end of the month indirect shoots were fired on the enemy in Ravenna just north of Cervia. It had long been rumoured that, owing to the serious shortage of infantry reinforcements, each armoured regiment might have to

fight on foot for a time during the winter. At the end of November we were ordered to prepare immediately for an operation on foot.

The winter fighting began with the attack upon and capture of Ravenna. Following this, on 8 Dec we moved into the line with a few tanks, and with two dismounted squadrons. Lt.-Col. G. W. Robinson had been promoted Brigadier and the 2 i/c, Major (now Lt.Col). G. R. H. Ross E.D., was temporarily in command.

On 11 Dec 45, the regiment crossed the Senio river passed through the 11th Brigade bridgehead and began the infantry attack upon the town of Mezzano. Somewhat to everyone's surprise since we were completely out of our element fighting on foot, our advance was very successful with few casualties. In one day the regiment advanced three hundred yards, captured a town and exploited beyond, taking prisoners and capturing equipment. We then settled into a defensive position, continuing to act as infantry. Lt.-Col. J. W. Eaton O.B.E., came to the regiment to command shortly after the Mezzano attack. Our fourth Christmas overseas was spent in the line, in bad weather, but some effort was made at festivity.

We were holding a long salient and it was decided to attack east, with tanks, to straighten out the winter line. Once going we became an armoured regiment and on 2 Jan 1945, began the attack towards the town of San Alberto. This operation entailed heavy fighting and our casualties were surprisingly heavy. The enemy shell-fire was very heavy and he was well supplied with anti-tank guns. We were supported by fighters of the Desert Air Force and a very high level of co-operation, ground-to-air, was attained. During the middle of this operation the enemy made a surprise counter-attack in an attempt to cut our L of C. Our fitters group was squarely in the path of the counter-attack, a lively battle ensuing. The counter-attack was smashed with extremely heavy loss to the enemy. After four days of fighting, San Alberto fell and the winter line was established.

The attack on San Alberto was this regiment's last operation in Italy since, within a few weeks, we were on the move again — to Leghorn, Marseilles, Belgium, and Holland.

This is the second (of three instalments) summarizing the history of the 8 NBH from arrival overseas to the conclusion of operations.

Dutch Hospitality

Monday, 15th Oct. 19.30 hours.	Social Evening. (Bridge, table tennis, chess, checkers, music and songs.)
Tuesday, 16th Oct. same time	Danceparty (added attraction) The Globetrotters, Two boys, one girl and a guitar in a ten minutes ramble round the World.
Wednesday, 17th Oct. same time	Social Evening.
Thursday, 18 Oct. same time	Danceparty (added attraction) English folkdances by Groningen amateurs.)
Friday, 19th Oct. same time	Piano-recital by Pte. Brown— Canada classics.
Saturday, 20th Oct. same time	Danceparty (added attraction) An Amateur accordionplayer with Canadian songs.

Canadian soldiers can obtain tickets each day at any time, Inquiry Office MZwanestraat 28 (near the Big Square).

Recent Wedding



Sgt. and Mrs. Ralph Eveleigh (Ruth Wilkins) married at the Red Hill Congregational church, on the 22nd Sept. 45. All hands join in wishing them success and happiness.

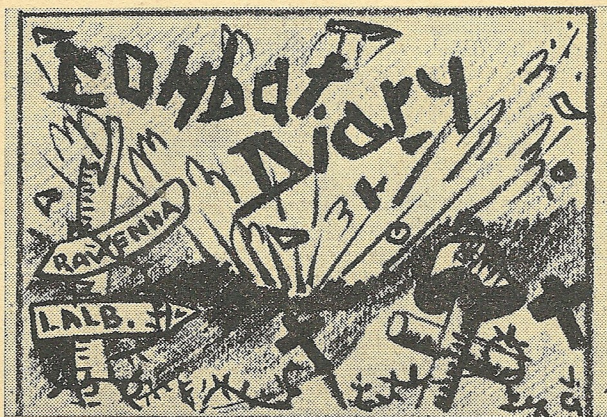
MOVIE REVIEW

Next Week At The "8" Club

NONE BUT THE LONELY HEART - Based on a recent novel by Richard Llewellyn (author of "How Green Was My Valley"). This is the story of Ernie Mott, a product of London's East end, whose rebellion against the hopeless grind of poverty turns him into a cold-hearted vagabond. In spite of its depressing picture of London's underworld, this picture should hold your interest. The outstanding cast is headed by Cary Grant, Ethel Barrymore, June Duprez and Jane Wyatt.

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE - As the title indicates, this is another of those courtroom dramas in which the mistaken testimony of eye witnesses almost results in landing an innocent man in prison. A gift axe owned by little Billy Cummings is the murder weapon which several people claim they saw his father (played by Michael O'Shea). That this picture rises above run-of-the-mill rating is due to the capable acting of O'Shea and that established favorite, Lloyd Nolan.

PRACTICALLY YOURS - A thoroughly enjoyable comedy reuniting Fred MacMurray and Claudette Colbert as a starring team. Fred is the returned flier who finds himself, through a misunderstanding, engaged to a girl he hardly knows while Miss Colbert is the unwanted fiancée. Which all takes place because a dog and a girl have practically the same name. Gil Lamb and Mikhair Rasumny supply the humour element.



(This series, titled Combat Diary, consists of excerpts from letters written by an officer of the regiment during operations in Italy and appears here in its original form.)

(Part VIII)

We have been molto busy but are momentarily enjoying a spot of sea-side air out of the line. Damned nippy air too, in fact, to politely translate the apt description of one of our troopers, it is colder than the heart of a female inmate of a house of ill-repute. Temperatures are not so low, although ground is usually frozen and we have some snow, but the sea-level damp and the heatless buildings combine to make it a spot uncomfortable at times. The native ingenuity of our fitters, motor mechs, dvr mechs, electricians, etc., has however, blossomed forth in a weird and wonderful variety of contraptions for burning wood, petrol, der, kerosene or anything else that will burn. Some of them work very well indeed but explosions and sections of home-made pipe whistling past ones head, are of sufficiently frequent occurrence as to bring forth no comment whatever. The large stove (oil-drum) in the hall-way of our mess blew up twice the other evening with a fearful racket but no one bothered to open the door of the ante-room to see what had happened. Probably afraid they might be called upon to effect repairs. Our situation at the moment is rather posh; we have taken over a summer hotel and for the first time in over a year we have all the officers together. The C.O. and myself even have rooms with private baths; that is the baths, basins and usual furniture are there and the fact that there is no water in the pipes is of small importance. We can look at them can't we? As a matter of fact one can do wonders with four or five 4 gal petrol tins filled with water. We have even had the luxury of hot baths in a real bath-tub, the water being heated on the beach over an open petrol fire.

Now to bring the ebb and flow of regimental changes up to date. As you know Col. Robinson received the Croix de Guerre avec palme and later was promoted to Brigadier and went to Holland. I have had a letter from him and he reports he has arrived and settled in after spending the odd night in ROME, NAPLES and PARIS. The Brig says that their quarters are reasonably comfortable but that they must consider the civilians a great deal more than we have to here. That should be the case without a doubt, but even here the thoughtful consideration of our former enemies is growing into a long suit and except in actual action we have to be very

careful about treading on the toes of our co-belligerents. The letter also advises that ex-Sgt Everett is at Bde for a tour of duty as L.O., and that ex-Cpl Kay is at their Delivery Sqn (Both of these lads are now commissioned). Too bad they couldn't have come out here to us. We could use them. The Brig states that his wheeled equipment would turn us green with envy, and I have no doubt that that is the case. However our situation in that regard has improved considerably in the last few weeks.

Brig Robinson was replaced in the unit command by Lt. Col. J. W. Eaton formerly our G-1 at Cdn Corps and also formerly our B.M. in this Bde so he is far from being a stranger to us. We moved into a show very shortly after Brig Robinson left and had considerable fun both horsed and afoot; Col Eaton arrived in the middle of the show and under his comd we had some first class actions both infantry cum tank and some swanning out in straight armoured actions. It was a good show and the Regt has again been commended for its work. Will try to bring this action up to date either in this letter or the next when the censor's keen interest has subsided a bit.

We have lost more of the old hands recently. Frenchy Blanchett has left comd of "A" Sqn for a tour of duty as an instructor at Training School. Jack Boyer (Capt-St. Martins — Comd A-1 Echelon) got a punctured ear drum from firing a PIAT and as the condition got worse instead of better he has been evacuated through medical channels. The M.O. says that any more shell fire might ruin the hearing permanently so I am afraid that we will not see Jack again for some time. Jack, as usual, during our last action did another cracking good job and kept the ammo and petrol rolling up over the most preposterous roads and tracks and through some of the heaviest shell-fire yet. His echelon had a number of casualties but day or night we could be sure that the stuff would be there and on time. Bill Wood (Capt-Sackville) has left the adjutant's job and has taken over comd of "A-1" Ech replacing Boyer. Our new adjutant is Capt Tom (Long Tom) Robertson of St. John who longs for the life of a Sqn Offr but is doing a good job as adjt. Lloyd Hill (St. Catharines) (formerly 2 i/c "A" Sqn, latterly comdg H.Q. Sqn) has taken over comd of "A" Sqn and Bob McLeod (Penobsquis) now comds H.Q. Sqn. Tim Ellis has "B" Sqn and the McEwen, "C" Sqn. Jack Angevine who presently comds "G" sqn of our Armd Delivery Regt, hasnt been entirely well and is going back tomorrow through med channels for a going over. We are having a bit of a party for him tonight and I am afraid that his condition will be far from improved when he arrives among the meds tomorrow morning. I don't know what the devil we are going to do without Jack. He has kept the supply of tks, sct cars, personnel reinforcements, etc., rolling up as they have never rolled before and naturally being an old 8 NBH' er he has done his best for the unit. At a recent inspection of his set-up he received high praise from the Brig and inspecting offrs; he is going to be a difficult man to replace.

One of the results of all these changes is that the "originals" are now whittled down to two, viz; yours truly and Stiff Cliff the Quiff McEwen. Herb Logan (Fd. Hygiene Sec) who landed in Italy last November was in to see us yesterday and over a bottle of stout, inquired as to whether he could see some of the old members of the Regt and was informed (Brother, you're looking at them). Herb is with First Div now and is stationed only a short distance from us.

(To be continued.)

M.M.

Cpl. (Acting Sgt.) A. G. BAUGHAN - M.M.

On 3rd Jan. 1945, "C" squadron 5 C.A.R. (8th N.B. Hussars) was ordered to capture a bridge over the CANALE BONIFICIA just SOUTH of SAN ALBERTO. Sgt. Baughan's troop was the first to arrive and on reaching the vicinity of the bridge came under heavy anti-tank gun fire. Sgt. Baughan ordered two tanks to move as close as possible to the bridge under cover of the high bank while he took his own tank up to the road on top of the canal bank in an attempt to rush the bridge before it was blown. He immediately engaged an anti-tank gun at close range and knocked it out. Before he reached the bridge a small section at the SOUTH end was blown by a prepared charge and he was forced to halt in an exposed position. The enemy made four separate attempts to blow the balance of the bridge but each time sustained and accurate fire from Sgt. Baughan's tank drove them off with heavy losses.

This gallant non-commissioned officer remained with his tank in this completely exposed position, guarding the bridge until relieved by the infantry over two hours later. During this time, he was under continuous artillery, mortar and bazooka fire. The outstanding leadership of this N.C.O. made it possible for the bridge to be captured with very little damage and as a result of courageous action, 15 of the enemy were killed, 8 bazookas were captured, and one anti-tank gun was destroyed.

M.C.

Lt. (now Capt.) W. D. GERRARD - M.C.

On 1 May 1945 this officer was leading his troop down a road in the attack on DELFZIJL. Ditches, minefields and barbed wire on both sides confined tracked and wheeled movement to this road. When about nine hundred yards from the town, the troop was engaged by three 88 millimetre guns in cement positions; Lieutenant Gerrard knocked out one gun but his tank was hit by two others, he advanced to a side road where he positioned his tank so that the only existing road would not be blocked. From this position he continued to engage the enemy although his tank was continually being hit and had caught fire. Although two of the crew were wounded he knocked out another gun before evacuating the blazing tank. During this action Lieutenant Gerrard passed back information as to the location of the enemy guns and the best method of neutralizing them. The guns of his other two tanks having been damaged, this officer carried on entirely without support or covering fire.

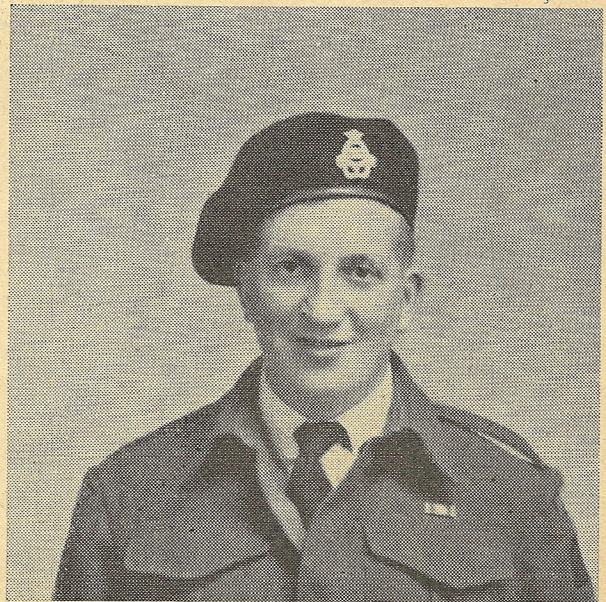
Lieutenant Gerrard's courage and determination in the face of heavy enemy opposition were of the highest order and the assistance rendered to the attack was invaluable.

M.I.D.



MQMS W. G. COUTTS

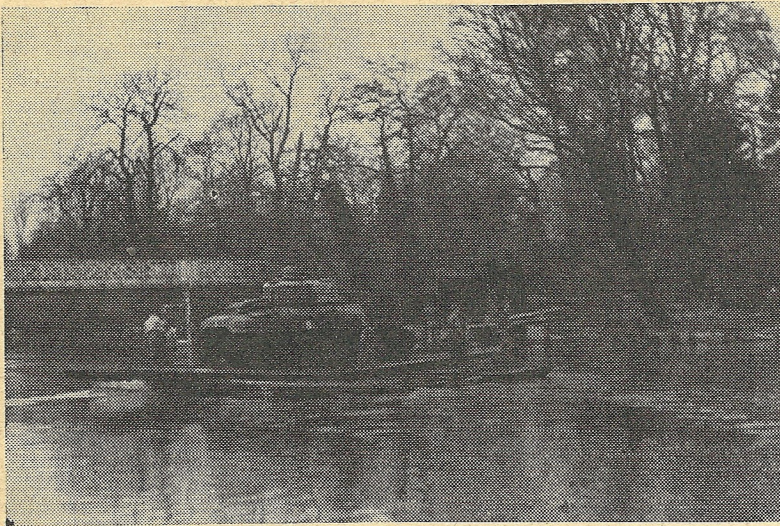
M.I.D.



Sgt. A. H. ENGELHART

We are pleased to announce the recent Mention in Despatches of MQMS Coutts and Sgt Engelhart, for outstanding service and devotion to duty during operations in North West Europe.

Pictorial



Rafting tanks at Wallingford, on the Thames, England —

June 1942

This was a new experience for tank drivers which proved to be invaluable in later actions. This particular shot was taken in RAM 11 scheme, on which a major portion of the regiment participated.

Close up of Sgt. "Kelly" Bellamy (C Sqn) in the drivers compartment of a Stuart Tank —

December 1941

The above model was one of the original AFV's received by 8th Hussars during the early phase of UK Training, while the unit was stationed at Ogburne St. George. The chief armament was a 37 mm cannon mounted in the turret



A "break" period in the days of working with LEE Tanks —

England 1942

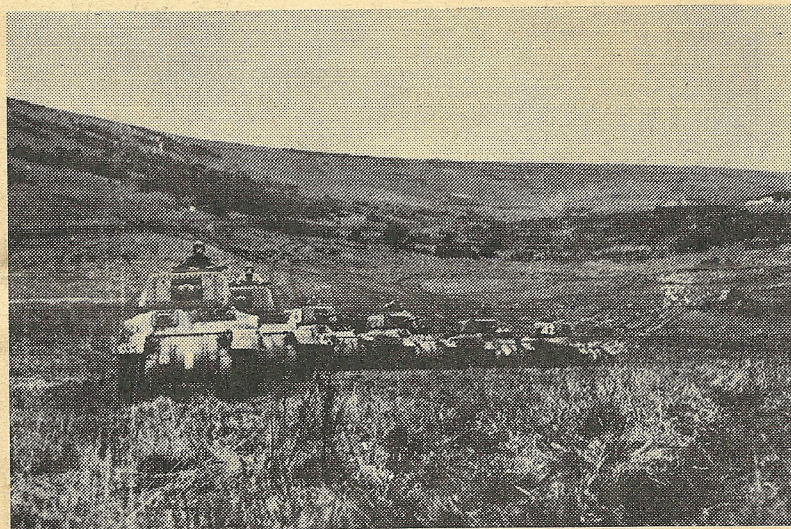
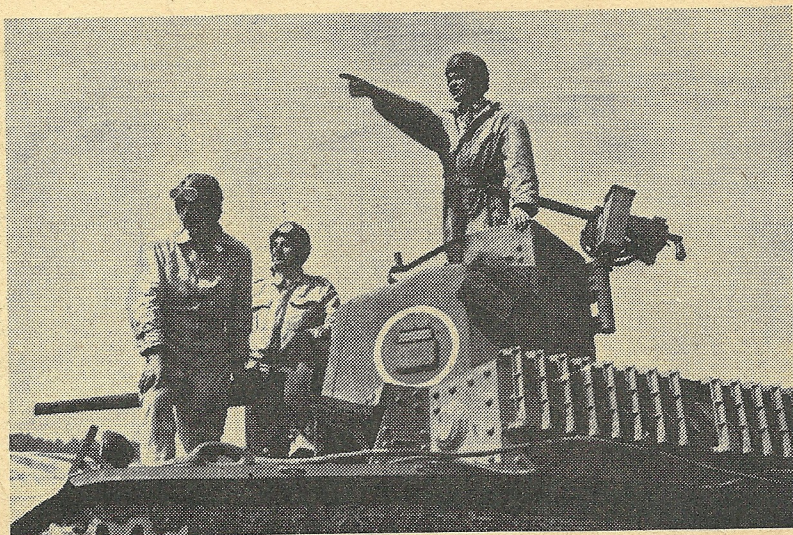
A composite group of Hussars snatch a brief respite from the prescribed syllabus to pose for a quick study.

Review

Crew training near Aldershot, England —

July 1942

Capt. Lewis indicating a target during an exercise on Thursley Common. The photograph was taken during a series of small scale schemes designed to stress the fundamentals of individual crew training.



Inter-squadron scheme with RAM tanks at Aldershot —

July 1942

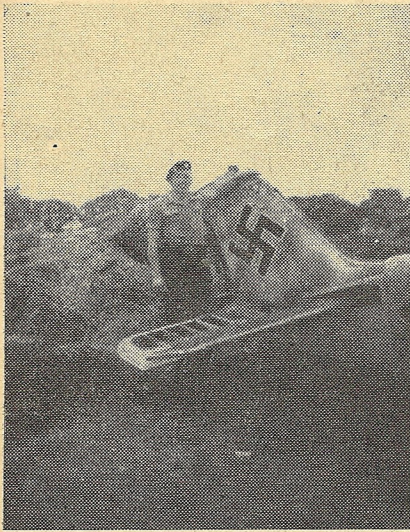
"B" Sqn. tanks are shown advancing in line during an exercise typical of the days in the dust bowls of Surrey and Hampshire.

Time out during training at Aldershot —

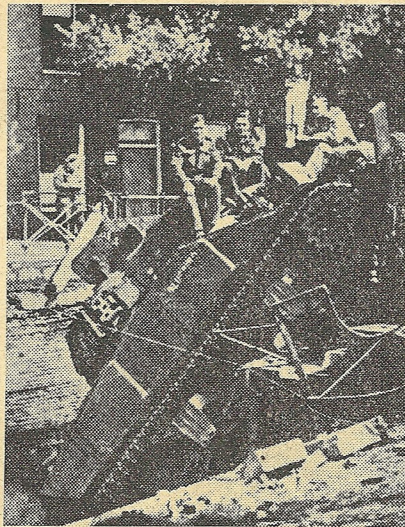
July 1942

The occasion of this shot was a visit by Canadian Army photo unit to the training area. Many well known present and former unit members are included in the group which was mainly drawn from RHQ and Recce personnel.

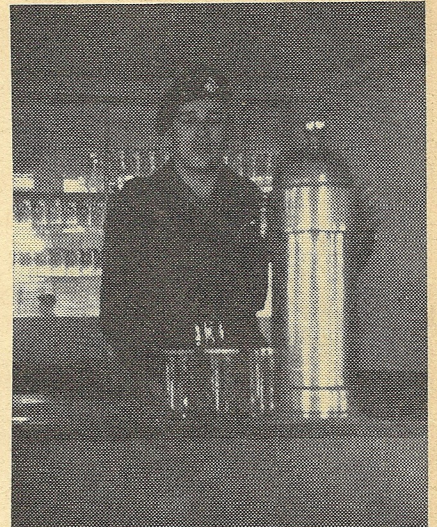




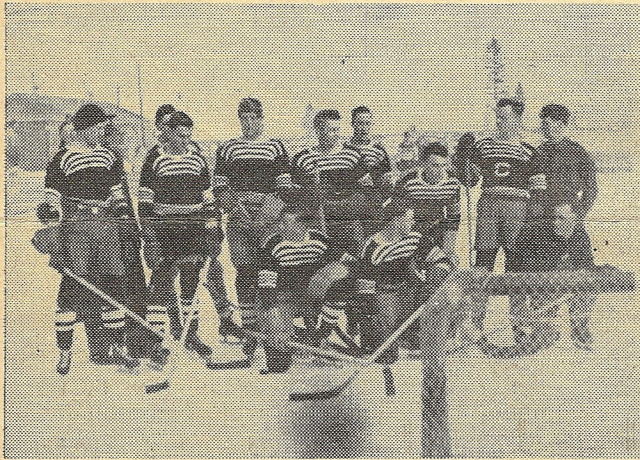
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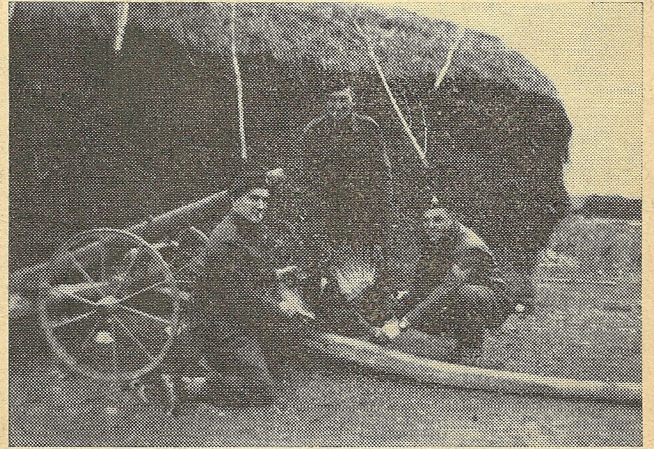
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Candid

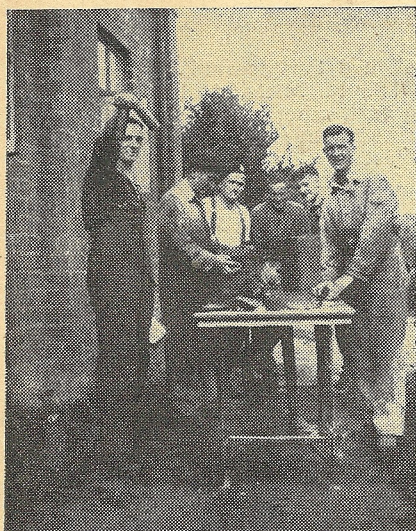
1. War Relic at Eelde.
2. In The Drink.
3. Belgian Beer Please.
4. Hussar Hockeyists, Sussex.
5. Ration Slingers.
6. Yuletide Operation.



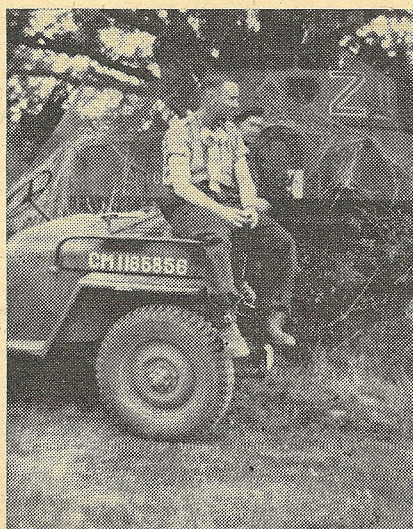
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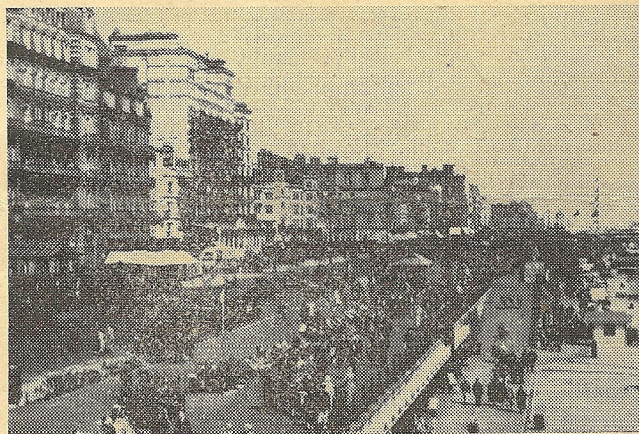
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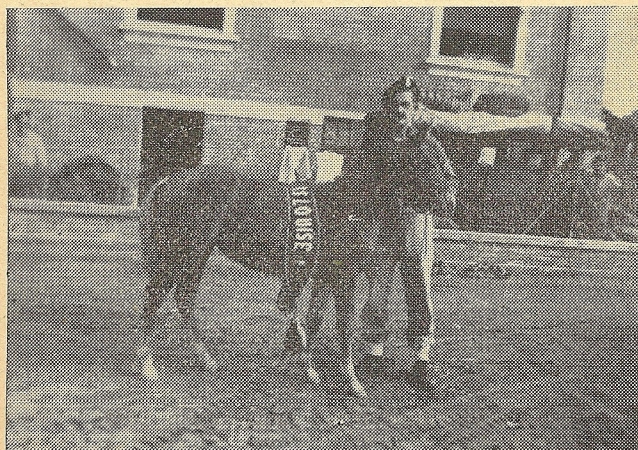
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Camera

- 7. Blanco Kids.
- 8. Observation by G.W.
- 9. Ortona Dug-out Dwellers.
- 10. The Front-Brighton.
- 11. The Hussar Mascot.
- 12. Hut 4 - Crowborough.



10



11



12

Transport Travelogue

Business had slowed down considerably here until last night, but this morning our chief despatchers board again shows "52" vehicles within the borders of 5 different countries. Latest deal swung by the transport moguls was with the Danish Government, who acquired thereby the loan of one truck in conjunction with a course in Modern Farming being held there. Tpr. Bishop is the lucky driver who nails down a five week assignment in Copenhagen and vicinity.

After a fifteen day (we check things here) leave, punctuated by regular trips to the paymaster. Cpl. Rankin and "Fitter" Boone returned to the fold on Sunday. They visited friends in the old stamping grounds of Brighton. Boone complained that you still get taken for a down payment on the taxis, while on certain occasions Rankin found transport quite easily and cheaply by disagreeing with the Guv'nor on closing time.

Back again with the fitters is Sgt. Arnold Woodard, after spending some six weeks undergoing a successful operation. Arnold explained that although he was used pretty well there, it was great to be back with the gang again.

If you have any of the new guilden parcelled out by the paymaster, stay away from the Sgts Mess. The World Series wagering sponsored by Joe Thomas just doesn't pay any dividends.

"Buzz" Wishart's idea of taking an interpreter with him on Paris leave produced mixed results. Cpl Boudreau, who was elected for the duty, maintained it was pretty tough, especially when the conversation got amorous. Both claim they had a very nice time, even tho' champagne set them back two "ten spots" a bottle at some of the gayer night spots.

"H.Q." Squadron

HQ Sqn passed another uneventful week. Nothing of importance transpired to add any sensational touches to the normal routine of regular army life; were it not for the fact that Arnold Jackson took another spill down the stairs of his billets (the third in about two months), there would not even have been a laugh. Chances of securing another at Arnold's expense are extremely slim, as a sympathetic landlord has now moved him into a room in the house, thus leaving the hay-loft vacant. Arnold says he was dead sober, undressed, put the light out and then started back to his bed, on his way there he lost his bearings, resulting in his undressed and dizzy descent.

Ralph Eveleigh, Fred Leeks and Metro Sopiwnyk all returned from the U.K., last week-end after the first round of matrimony. From many quarters came advice to them to see the Q.M., and get better-fitting uniforms, as the ones they are now wearing-perfect fitting as they were when they proceeded on leave are now several sizes too large; on the C.O.'s inspection last Friday it was hard to differentiate between Ralph and his shadow, while Fred looked like a perfect specimen of the "Thin Man."

Undaunted by the spectacle of his three Sqn Comrades, John S. Curwain technical advisor to the Tech Adj., and M.Q.M.S. Coutts' right hand man, has secured the necessary permission and will journey to U.K., early in December "for better or for worse".

We were glad to see the smiling countenance of Sgt. Bill Sheppard in our midst once more. Sgt. Sheppard had been in hospitals all over the continent for several weeks.

Tpr. Sam McDowell had the pleasure of meeting his sister-in-law Lieut (N.S.) M. Michaud last week-end. After vainly chasing each other around in England for some months, and again on the continent, a meeting was finally effected last Sunday when the lady visited Groningen on a brief respite from her C.O.F., duties.

Drivers Dilemma

On the morning of the nineteenth day there gathered together a body of men in a place called the vehicle park. Each man, called a driver i.c. had with him an iron chariot which had various markings in yellow and white according to R.O. 10453.

And when they had all gathered in one place, there came one among them Stirling called Abbott, who was blessed with three stripes. Stirling called Abbott was ruler of these men called drivers i.c.

When these men had gathered around him he spake unto them saying: "according to the glorious gospel of the blessed routine order 85746354 it is written that at the end of one and twenty days you will bring before me all that which has been assigned unto you so that I may see if it is complete thereof".

And when they they had laid out all the articles in the manner laid down, Stirling called Abbott came unto the first man and taking his MB96A, named the articles given unto him, one of which he found missing namely, Chisels, cold. "Where is that article which has been given unto you and of which you have not." "Sire" said the man, "Even while I slept some one has taken it". And Stirling called Abbott condemned the man and speaking in a manner becoming good sgts, said, "Go ye then to the place called the orderly room and there will be set before you a C.D.V. on which you will place your Mark so that the right amount of silver may be taken from you.

And when he had finished the first man he came unto the second and continued thereon. And when he found the second man in possession of all that had been given unto him he was amazed and called one of his elders, who was adorned with three golden pips. And this elder spake unto the man saying, "How is it that you have all that which has been given unto you". "Sire," the man replied, "I am new to the ways of the land and I do not know where I can dispose of these articles so that I may become rich," and the elder with three golden pips comforted the man saying, "Go ye to one Major called Kierstead and he will teach you the ways of the land so that you may become rich in silver and gold, for it has been truly said that this Major called Kierstead knoweth all things that are evil and you will benefit much thereof."

Capt. J.S. Boyer (England "42")

Because of recent requests, we wish to announce that copies of Nos 1, 2 and 3 of "The 8th Hussar" are no longer obtainable at the Newspaper office. Copies of later issues are available in limited quantities for those who misoed out on them,

From One Hussar To Another

First contributor to the column this week is Vern Pearson, former QM employee who writes from Highfield, N.B.

"Well at long last have arrived in the land of peace and plenty and have 40 days leave but it's going fast. I've been taking it pretty easy sleeping, eating, and just roaming around."

It's beginning to look and feel like fall, although the leaves have only started to turn color. I haven't had much time to hunt as yet but may get out for awhile this week. There seems to be lots of game around."

Hope you fellows will soon be on your way home but the shipping seems slow as usual. We've had a wonderful welcome, and its a swell feeling to be back again."

VERN

James Parlee,
Box 114,
Barrie, Ont.

Next on the list is "Jim" Parlee, former unit carpenter, whose civvy street address is Box 114, Barrie, Ont.

"Just a few lines to thank you for sending me the magazine. I really enjoy reading it. Sometimes I wish I was back there with the 8th - being a civilian is not all it's cracked up to be. I was discharged Aug. 10. I am now going to the Rehabilitation School in Toronto taking carpentry.

I saw several of the chaps who were at Camp Borden. I saw young Birch from A Sqn the other day. He is on 30 day's leave.

Say hello to the boys for me."

JIM

G. E. Sparks,
36 Metcalf St.,
Saint John, N.B.

Arrived back and am enjoying the best of health. Am working in the Post Office now and doing fine.

I have seen a copy of your magazine and if possible would like to have a subscription to it, starting from the first issue.

Give my regards to all the boys.

Ed.

Merlin Halliday,
Box 113
Springhill, N.S.

Arrived home August 5th, had my discharge on Sept. 5th and will be back on my old job, by the twentieth. Henwood and Rolfe arrived home and we had a few parties (miss the old vino). Give my regards to all the boys especially A-1 Echelon.

Best of Luck to all.

Merl.

R. Ashton,
New Glasgow,
N.S.

Probably when you receive this note there will be quite a few of the older fellows away from the Regiment, but to those that are still there, kindly convey my best regards.

I have seen quite a few N.B.H. fellows. Murray Clark and I meet often, and we were both talking to Mr. Chapman in No. 6 D.D., and he was asking about all the boys. So Long, and the best of luck to all of "A" Squadron.

R. Ashton.

George Coleman,
Hampton N.B.

A party including Sgt. Billy Bell and Cpl. Jack Scribner motored to Halifax and visited Sgt. Leo Morrissey in Camp Hill Hospital and found him in good spirits. Leo expects to get partially mobilized and be on crutches by Xmas.

I had a pleasant week-end when the large draft from the 8 N.B.H. arrived home, with Sandy Merritt, Billy Bell, W.S. Beyea, Mike Kelly, Jack Scribner, Lloyd Brown and others. We are waiting for the balance of the Regiment to arrive.

Hoping this finds the personnel, from the C.O. down the line, in good shape, and having a good time in Holland.

George.

O.H. Howie,
Sandy Point Road,
Saint John N.B.

I arrived home on the 9th of September, and I'm on leave until the 12th of October, at which time I go to Fredericton to get a discharge. In a hurry, I hope. Then I shall have to go to work for a living — and that isn't funny.

It sure is good to get home to the wife and children. My little girl is going to school now, and the little boy that I hadn't seen until I came back took to me as if he had known me all his life.

I met quite a few of the boys from the 8 N.B.H. on the boat coming over. It was the first time that I had seen most of them since I left the Regiment.

So Long Now.

Howie.

L/Cpl. R.H. Ryan,
Bloomfield Sta,
New Brunswick.

I received the copies of the "Hussar" and it makes me quite a bit homesick for the Regiment.

Now that the hunting season is open I've been trying my luck, but the deer seem to be hard to get, not at all like the ones over there.

I would have had my discharge, but my documents are lost, so I've been hanging around Fredericton for the last seven weeks.

I have met quite a few of the boys that have returned, and by the looks of it, there can't be many of the old boys left.

Give my regards to the boys, and I hope to see them all again soon.

Cheerio Roy.

Jim Baker,
Kentville,
N.S.

I received a few copies of your paper, "8th Hussar" the other day, and it is a real good job. Of course, the N.B.H. never did do a poor job at anything anyway. It was great to get all the news of the Regiment.

I guess the Regiment has changed some since I left it, as I saw a lot of new names mentioned.

This isn't the same country it was 4 or 5 years ago, for it's drier here than the pubs up around High Ash on a pay night.

Well fellows, this isn't much of a letter, but even if I can't write you a good one I do think of you all the time and wish I were with you.

Best of luck to all, Jim.

POET'S CORNER

Front-Line Johnnies

"Twas a sultry day of battle
Muddy Melfa flowed below
And all hell was apoppin'
'Bove the water's undertow.
When thru' the smoke-filled valley
Charged two men chock full of guts
Blasting for themselves an alley
Thru' the truck and trailer ruts.
Remember, Hell was breaking loose
Hot missiles screamed around
But our heroes, both undaunted
Streaked for ever higher ground
It wasn't that they shunned the noise
Or yet the flying lead
They simply wished to occupy
A slit-trench straw-filled bed.
Diving o'er the parapet
They heard the Spandaus rattle
And Taylor said to Heahy
B Ech is in a battle
We must advance to give them aid
If only as a favor
Besides I left with Georgie Pitt
My gum and last Life Saver
The battle soon was over
As down the line they came
And they were really "toasted"
These undaunted guys gained fame.
And now they lounge at well-earned ease
Swilling beer and Vino
As they wait their two V.C.'s
These heroes of Cassino.

Buster (N.B.H.)

Victory Loan Drive To Open

With the 9th Victory Loan drive set to get underway on Oct 22nd, we're beating the gun by a few days to give you the "gen" on some new details which apply to this campaign. These are especially designed to provide a sound financial investment for personnel who want to ensure themselves a flying start in the coming period of readjustment to civilian life.

The Bonds of the Ninth Victory Loan may be purchased in the following manner;

- (a) Assigned pay either on a six months basis or a twelve months basis. The monthly amounts to be assigned for one Bond of the various denominations are as follows;

Six Months - from Nov 45 tot Apr 45 inclusive;

\$ 50 bond - \$ 8.40 \$ 100 - \$ 16.80
\$ 500 bond - \$ 84.00 \$ 1000 - \$ 168.00

Twelve Months - from Nov. 45 tot Oct. 45 inclusive;

\$ 50 bond - \$ 4.20 \$ 100 - \$ 8.40
\$ 500 bond - \$ 42.00 \$ 1000 - \$ 84.00

Hussar Scrapbook

Three Years Ago This Week

In the men's mess hall, Little Warren Camp a celebration was held to mark the anniversary of the voyage from Halifax. Later in the week the regiment was transported to Marlpits, and marched from there to Nutley in preparation for an inspection by Col. Rolston, Minister of National Defense. The parade terminated in a march past before General Sansom.

Two Years Ago This Week

The week began with exercise "Attack" in progress on Lambourne Downs. On the 10th of October the unit commenced "Ditto", but spent the night at Hungerford due to a washed out bridge. Following a move to a cohcentration area at Old Haywood, and then to Peers Downs, a scheme was carried out on Hilden Down. For the next, two days the regiment remained concentrated in the wood at Swinley Downs.

One Year Ago This Week

Warning order issued that the 8 N.B.H., would support 11 CIB across the RUBICON. At 0630 hrs on the 6th sqns moved up to concentration area. "B" Squadron suffered several casualties, through shellfire. Bad weather and ground postponed the attack for several days, which were characterized by intermittent enemy shelling. On the 10th 6 NZ Inf. Bde took over the sector, and the unit moved out of the line to Area C, Maggioli and subsequently to Riccioni, where billets were taken over from 12 Bn RTR.

The only available method of instalment purchase is by means of assignment of pay.

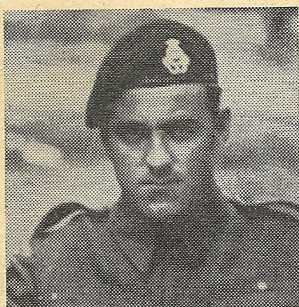
- (b) Fully paid purchase.
- (c) Purchase from War Service Gratuity.
- (d) Purchase from Deferred pay.

The latter two are new innovations in the method of purchase, and should appeal to many. The 3 % interest available on bonds should make them a more attractive proposition than deferred pay or the Basic Gratuity (which is not interest bearing).

In the event of the purchaser being struck off strength by reason of retirement, discharge, etc., before completion of all payments he may elect to;

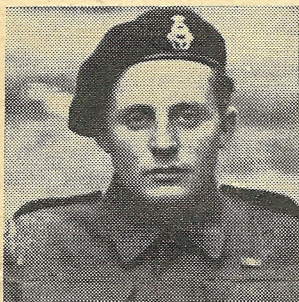
- (a) Have remaining payments deducted from his War Service Gratuity monthly cheques.
- (b) Settle outstanding payments direct to the Department of Finance, Ottawa.
- (c) Receive bonds to the nearest \$ 50. and the balance in cash.
- (d) Have all payments re-credited to his pay account before discharge.

Promotions



SQMS MacNichol H. R.

Better known as Harry to close "amigos", and has been a Hussar since that distant day when he took a last lingering look at St. Andrews-by-the-sea. He is strictly a H.Q. man, and before his present promotion was a troop Sgt. with RHQ Tanks.



L-Cpl. Boone D.W.

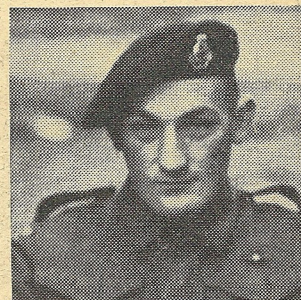
"Del" came to the Regt. in June 1944, just after the Hitler Line do. From then on was a "B" Sqn standby, tying it with 1 Tp, FHQ and 3 Tp in rapid succession. Transport Troop acquired his services when the blitz hit "B" Sqn. North Lake, N. B., is his civilian address.



L-Cpl. Eiriottle W.J.

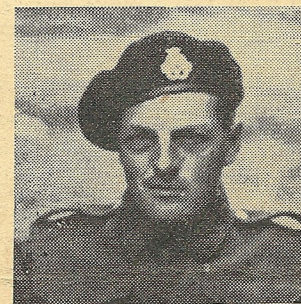
One of Jacquet River's native sons. Wendell became a Hussar at Arnhem, after fifteen months of varied adventures in Italy. He moved in with HQ after unemployment hit "B" Sqn. Has been an outstanding contributor to regt'l sports in boxing, softball and horseshoes.

The atmosphere of the press room was somewhat stilled during the past week when our managing editor, Sgt "Willie" Battah, took a hurried inventory of his bottled assets and then sallied forth for a fortnight in the flesh pots of Paris. No doubt about it, Gay Paree is providing the biggest leave lure for the Hussars these days. Last week we inadvertently omitted to record the return of our adjutant and education officer from leave spent there. The security on this sentimental journey



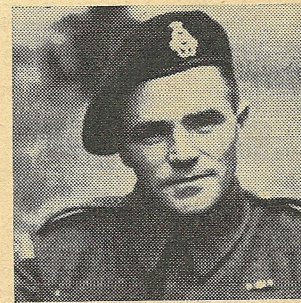
L-Cpl. Morraw L.F.J.

He arrived in the days when the 8th Hussars were playing the role of Aldershot Commandos. Since then has been circulating freely with the unit, and now operates as one of the hardy fitters group. Hails from Sussex, N.B.



L-Cpl. Turnbull A.R.

Found his way into the fold at Crowborough, and subsequently served with "C" Sqn until the windup of hostilities. Cpl. Turnbull can now be found giving his all for Transport. This bluenoser hails from Digby



L-Cpl. Mersereau M.R.

"Muzzy" is one of the originals, who transferred his services from "B" Sqn to A-1 Ech. when that band of renown rose out of the mud of Italy. Now passes the time at Transport until he can renew close contact with Blissfield, N.B.

was pretty good, so we were unable to secure anything of note for publication.

During the coming week two more tournaments will be staged at the "52" Club. Cribbage singles will take place on Tuesday afternoon, with doubles following on Wednesday. All you have to do to enter is present yourself there at 1400 hrs. Let's have a good crop of entries this time - cigarette prizes have been set aside for the winners.

"Toby" - A Sqn Mascot



Italy, Jan 2nd 1945, this day will bring back memories to many of the boys, both sad and happy, but to us in this squadron it was a memorable occasion. Yes, we had halted on the banks of the Senio River, near Lake Comacchio, for Jerry was a little too quick for us and had blown the only bridge in the vicinity. This gave us a chance to lick our wounds and take care of the few casualties, so we took up residence in the few battered houses left standing. It was in one of these structures that two (2) troop was sitting in, resting, and playing cards, when a "hun" shell struck the house, the boys dived for the floor. Tpr. Gheseger (who since has gone to CAPF) was lying with his nose buried in a corner. When a dark object dashed from under the stairs and ran over him. After the confusion was over, all eyes were turned to the corner. Here Gheseger had coralled what turned out to be a dog. Terrified, shaking and a little shellshocked, with a slight wound made him a pitiful picture. This was the first introduction of "Toby" to the squadron.

From that day on he was always on hand, he travelled in the tank that Gheseger occupied and in the future days to come his wounds healed and "Toby" became normal once more.

When the squadron moved out of the line, back to "Cervia" he accompanied us, riding as usual in and on the tank.

In "Cervia" "Tob" made quite a number of lady friends and to say the least, enjoyed himself immensely. As a favorite pastime of the boys was drinking "Vino", he also had to indulge and much to our surprise, he took his drink like a man. On this and other tasty morsels he became a fat, sleek and lazy gent.

When we moved from Italy to France old "Itie Tob" just wouldn't be left behind. The trip on the boat didn't quite agree with him and for the next couple of weeks constipation had a firm hold of him. Gheseger was getting worried, for Toby was doing his best to get results, but no dice, so, there was only one thing to do "Castor oil". Yes, we poured it to him with great results.

After landing in France we took up residence in "Rouleres" Belgium. Here he acquired a new pastime. It was a familiar sight to see a black and white streak tear after trucks and cars. It was on one of these days, that Toby was feeling especially frisky. Along came a truck and away he went straight for the wheels, then, with a little twist of his body, neatly missed the wheel but alas "Toby" didn't see the trailer on behind, and

over him it went. With a yelp, he put his tail between his legs and headed for home. Since then he always takes a second look.

The regiment was destined for action and into Holland we rolled but Tob had to be left with the cooks, much to his disgust. He was very lonesome for the boys of the squadron, wouldn't eat, just sat around mopy and in a stupor. This caused him to lose that slick appearance and he became thin. It was in this state that we saw him at Putten.

When we moved to the other side of the Zuiderzee to fight, we figured we might as well take him up to the front with us again. No sooner does he get up there, than he goes AWL for two days. For this little episode he was severely reprimanded. At the close of festivities the squadron took up residences at Paterswolde, as usual Toby was with us as big as life itself. Here again "Casanova Tob" made friends with the lady canines of the district.

One sunny day he was giving his slick coat a taste of good summer sun and reminiscing of old and present days. Major Shepard (then Capt) walked up, and noticing the state Toby was in, exclaimed, "its the troop leaders responsibility to see that this situation is remedied". As if in answer to his wish a Brigade church parade was called and in the midst was Tob. All during the entire service, in the main cathedral of Groningen, he stood and looked at the Padre, taking in all of the guiding words. After the service a very impressive march past was held, at the conclusion of which we returned in strength to Paterswolde but without Toby, where he had strayed to was a mystery. For one week he was AWL, the second offence. It was one day that a member of the Sqn spied him in Groningen. Toby immediately recognized him and willingly returned home to face the charge. His little outing cost him the C.V.S.M., and his wound stripe.

Toby isn't at all rigid about his religion, one Sunday he attends the R.C. Mass the next Protestant Church parade. This past Sunday, when the Regt., held a service at Eelde in conjunction with the Dutch population, Toby was in attendance occupying the front stall with A Sqn boys. Needless to say his manners were of the highest quality.

Here, he daily amuses himself by scaring the daylight's out of goats, sheep, horses and cows an aftermath of his car chasing spree.

Yes old "A" Squadron wouldn't be normal without the ever present Toby. Whether he will be along on our next move home remains to be seen, his present travelling record is outstanding, so lets hope it continues. Here's to you "Tob", from all your friends.

REPATRIATED

Last Tuesday saw the departure of six more of our unit on repatriation.

The staff of "The 8th Hussar" join with all ranks in wishing them a safe and pleasant voyage.

Sgt. W.W. Buckley	Saint John, N.B.
Cpl. R.W. Brown	Petitcodiac, N.B.
Tpr. J. G. Coles	Sussex, N.B.
Tpr. L. A. Hendsbee	Half Island Cove N.B.
Pte. G. Knuss	Calgary, Alta.
Pte. M. Cheshire	Edmonton, Alta.