

# C.O.'s Christmas Greetings

To All Ranks.

We conclude twelve months of mobilised training. The year has been an eventful one in the history of the Regiment. From the first hectic days of sorting and issuing equipment and vehicles, the selection and forced training of personnel, to find the specialists, signallers and various tradesmen required in a technical unit. Our brief residence in local schools, the extreme kindnesses of the local residents when our cooking was bad and administration poor, combined training with the other splendid units of the Brigade on manoeuvres through sunny Hawke's Bay, live shell practice at Foxton and in the Ruahines and Tararua, living under primitive conditions through an extremely wet and muddy winter, to our present comfortable quarters.

Throughout the whole period the spirit of the Regiment has been excellent, only falling below normal on the occasions when we have farewelled gunners transferring to other units with an apparently better future. My task in command has been made easy by the loyalty, cheerfulness and a keen desire to play hard and learn, continually displayed by Officers, N.C.O.'s and all ranks throughout the whole of the year. I am grateful to our late 2 I/C, Adjutant and Q.M. for the long hours they have worked and the very real assistance they have given in administering and training the unit.

From before and during the war the Regiment has given hundreds of gunners their initial training, has recently provided large numbers of Officers and N.C.O.'s to form new Batteries, and has always had the ambition to serve together as a unit. We hope we will, but although we train in Batteries, Regiments and Divisions, the real unit is the Royal Regiment of Artillery, and our duty as gunners is to serve the guns anywhere and everywhere the other arms require our assistance.

What the future has in store we do not know except that the hard part is waiting. Many thousands of regular soldiers in Britain have waited throughout the whole of the war and are still waiting. Our period of waiting is short compared with theirs. Kipling's best poem, which sets out the essentials required in a man, opens with the lines, "If you can wait and not be tired by waiting." Don't get tired, boys, there is always a lot to learn, even learning to wait. A Japanese will cheerfully spend a week tied to a tree waiting for a shot, and there are still millions of Japs and millions of Huns alive who have to be eliminated before our beautiful little country, our homes and our families can be assured of a future. The 25pdr. with you as its servant, and every other gunner we can train will be required to play a large part in assisting our friends the infants to decide the final issue. Keep at it, make our Batteries and Regiment one of the best among gunners, and don't be tired by waiting.

To each one of you, your parents, wives, families and sweethearts, I wish you all the best in the coming year.

CHAS. LOWE.



Photo by Lewis Studio.

C. F. LOWE, LT.-COL., E.D., N.Z.A.

## Our C.O.

Our C.O.'s history is mostly that of 5th, in which Battery he has served continuously since 1917. He joined the then D Battery, N.Z.F.A., in Wellington as Trumpeter at the age of 16, while serving also in Technical College Cadets as a platoon sergeant. The Battery was commanded by Major Petherick, with Capt., now Brigadier W. A. Stevens, as Adjutant. When he was 18, in 1919, he was officially taken on strength. He was coached for his commission by the late Major T. Farr, D.S.O., and passed in 1922, being appointed 2nd. Lieut. under Major G. Lyon, Battery Commander.

For three years he went to sea to obtain engineering certificates, being retained on active list of officers while absent. Whilst at sea he gained considerable experience whilst seeing the world. His anecdotes from this portion of his life are most interesting. His voyaging finished in 1926 when he again took up soldiering, attending all annual camps at Foxton and Waipukurau.

In 1932 he was appointed Captain and Battery 2 I/C and was responsible for training drivers in equitation and riding up to the time 5 Battery was mechanised in 1936. In this period he trained hundreds of drivers, spending almost every weekend riding at Seatoun.

Assisted materially in holding 5 Battery together during depression period when military training was abolished

# Christmas Greetings

To the Officers, N.C.O.'s and Men of the 2nd Field Regiment.

I wish to extend to you all my best wishes this Christmastide, and hope every man will have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, whether on leave or in camp.

May I, at this time, thank all those willing workers for help given in our various entertainments of the past year and say that anything I may have been able to do to make your camp life bright has been a pleasure and I will continue to take an interest and pride in the Regiment for as long as the need is there.

"REGIMENTAL MOTHER,"  
(F. M. Honore.)

for a year, carried on training with three officers and 20 n.c.o.'s until voluntary training system was inaugurated in 1932.

He has always been and still is a keen rifle shot, for many years holding Brigade championship. In June, 1939, passed his majority and appointed Battery Commander. It was largely his work that recruited 5 Battery up to war establishment prior to the outbreak of war.

Enlisted for overseas service with complete unit beginning of war and once each month afterwards until all officers and most of the unit had gone. Was not accepted, too large a family and reserved occupation as engineer in charge of a large freezing works. Of the officers then serving two only remain, Capt. S. Hardy, returned and instructing at Arty O.C.T.U. Trentham, and Lieut. S. Almao, taken prisoner on Crete. The majority of the O.R.'s surviving have now been commissioned. One Bdr. E. Sante held record for tanks knocked out with 25pdr. in Greece, was killed and awarded D.C.M.

Carried out several months intensive training in early part of war as B.C. 3 and 5 Btys under Lt.-Col. McQuarrie, D.S.O., M.C.; in and out of army and civilian occupation, building freezing works ever since. Still hopes to take unit on service. Attended first Staff College Course for senior officers. Appointed to command Regiment, November 1, 1941. Carried out mobilisation December, 1941, and training since then.

Awarded Efficiency Decoration for 21 years' commissioned service in 1940.

# The Conqueror

The following was written upon the outbreak of the Great War of 1914-1918 by Harry Kemp, a Bath railway porter. It might well have been written upon the outbreak of this Great War, 25 years later.

I saw the conqueror go riding by  
With trampling feet of horse and men;  
Empire on empire like the tide  
Flooded the world and ebbed again.

A thousand banners caught the sun,  
And cities smoked along the plain;  
And laden down with silk and gold  
And heaped-up pillage, groaned the wain.

I saw the conquerors riding by  
Splashing through louthsome floods of war;  
The Crescent leaning o'er its hosts,  
And the barbaric scimitar.

And continents of moving spears,  
And storm of arrows in the sky,  
And all the instruments sought out  
By cunning men that men may die!

I saw the conquerors riding by  
With cruel lips and faces wan;  
Musing a kingdom sacked and burned,  
There rode the Mongol, Genghis Khan.

And Alexander, like a god,  
Who sought to weld the world in one;  
And Caesar with his laurel wreath;  
And, leaping full of hell, the Hun.

And, leading like a star the van,  
Heedless of upstretched arm and groan,  
Inscrutable Napoleon went  
Dreaming of empire, and alone.

Then all they perished from the earth,  
As fleeting shadow from a glass,  
And, conquering down the centuries  
Came Christ, the swordless, on an ass!

—Harry Kemp.

## EAGER TO BEGIN

A small boy on his way to spend Christmas holidays with a friend was continually asking the guard if the train had arrived at Feilding. In fact, he asked at every station, and the guard's temper was becoming a little short.

At last the train actually did arrive at Feilding. "Here you are, youngster," said the guard. "Here's your Feilding for you."

"Thank you," said the boy without moving.

"Well," said the guard, "aren't you going to get out?"

"Oh, no," said the boy. "I have a long way further to go, but mother told me to eat my sandwiches at Feilding."

A doctor, in want of a strong lad, advertised, and, being a ventriloquist, adopted the following grim ruse to test the nerves of the applicants.

The first he sent with a basin of hot water to feed a skeleton he had in a dark cupboard.

During the process of feeding, the skeleton observed in sepulchre tones: "It's deuced hot."

The boy's hair stood on end. He dropped the basin and fled in terror.

The second applicant, a small, shock-haired lad, had to go through the same ordeal; but when the skeleton made his remark, he replied unconcernedly: "I could have told you that. Blow on it, you fool!"

He got the job.

Our modern plum puddings are but a small survival of a very gigantic old dish. This was originally plum porridge and was served from a huge turcen as a soup consisting of beef and mutton broth, well spiced and thickened with brown bread. During the pudding age of the Georges more bread was added; it was stiffened by degrees into a pudding, eaten at the end of the beginning of the meal, and so, at last, was called plum pudding.

Mince pies in olden days were known as "shredded mutton pies" and, composed of meats of all kinds and the costliest spices, meant to symbolise the gifts of the Wise Men.

They were originally oval in shape, to represent the manger in which the Holy Child was laid.

As sketch—MEN'S GIFT SET of Bardsley's Brilliantine and After-Shaving Lotion. Coupon-free.

3/11



"CADET" GIFT SETS containing Brilliantine and Shaving Soap refill.

4/6 coupon-free.

With Lotion, Brilliantine and Soap refill.

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Novel TRAVEL KIT containing Palmolive Soap and Shaving Stick, Protex Soap and Colgates Tooth Paste. Wonderful value. Coupon-free.

3/3

A Huge Range of SOLDIERS' MONEY BELTS to choose from, in Leather and Suede. Coupon-free. Priced from

8/6

WRITING COMPENDIUMS in leather case, containing Envelopes, Pad, etc. Coupon-free.

8/11

Larger sizes ..

17/6 and 19/6

Coupon-free comfort in MEN'S SLIPPERS, Green, Brown, Red, Black and Navy Leather with padded leather sole and heel.

15/6



SMOKER'S STANDS, useful and pleasing gifts for the home, styled in Chrome or Black and Chrome, coupon-free. As Sketch ..

47/6

Other Designs, 25/6 and 37/6

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With Sparkler Edge ..

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19/11

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CARD TABLES with strongly reinforced top and double braced legs, ensuring real steadiness. Coupon-free.

30/-

DECK CHAIRS in heavy duty canvas, gaily striped. Coupon-free.

19/6

With arm rest ..

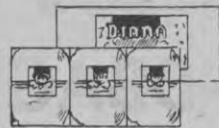
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"Early Colonial" GIFT SET of Pot Pourri Face Powder and Perfume. 8/- Coupon-free.



DORNEY'S LAVENDER BATH POWDER with pad as sketch. 8/3

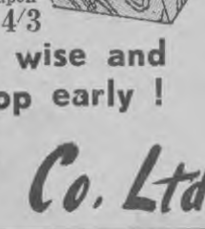


Also large square size with pad. Coupon-free. 4/11

DORNEY'S LAVENDER SALTS in 6 square packets as sketch. Coupon-free. 2/11



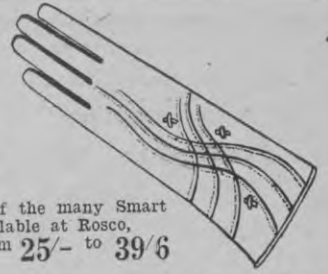
DORNEY'S LAVENDER SOAP in gift box of three cakes. Coupon-free. 4/3



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C. M. Ross Co. Ltd.

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