

The29thUNIT HISTORY

A MESSAGE FROM THE C. O.

There are many aspects of our army life that will be talked about long after this war has ended. Will there not be endless yarns and arguments over the odd mug of beer or in our homes whenever two or more ex 29th Bn. men meet?

We have been asked to prepare for such eventualities and to facilitate the task of whoever finally undertakes the writing of the history of this Battalion. Official histories are of necessity somewhat uninteresting to all but the military student, but the unofficial and unexpurgated story of a battalion is usually the basis of an interesting book and often the only authoritative work on the doings of a battalion. Such a work is the diary of the Long Range Desert Group, of which the New Zealanders formed initially the larger part.

While I realise that the facilities at hand are meagre and many of the stories told are unprintable, we would be pleased if everyone who can would send in items of interest about our Battalion from its inception.

There must be many stories concerning officers, N.C.O.s and men worthy of being recorded for our own use in future years. As a newcomer I hear vague and unsatisfactory accounts of a Battalion mascot, of the unwitting slaughter of some prize cattle, of memorable football matches and route marches and so on. Yet few can put time and place to these stories or can remember all the details.

What will it be like in ten years' time when Fiji, New Caledonia and so on are but short memories in a long life. Things that seem mundane and uninteresting at the present will be pleasant or pleasant memories - the basis of tales yet to be told to old coppers, to families or to ourselves.

We have formed a committee to try and establish an unofficial record of all our doings - a record that will be available to every one of us whenever we wish to consult it. What we need now is the co-operation of all who can sketch or paint, give interesting snapshots or describe the more serious or amusing incidents in the life of the 29th Battalion.

Many New Zealand units have already compiled interesting and valuable scrap-books and records such as we now hope to start. Are we to remain out of it and trust to our fickle memories for our history? If we are proud of our unit, and we have good cause to be proud, we must see to it that such history as we have made or are yet to make is incorporated in the annals of New Zealand.

Such records as we manage to put together will be safely kept and made available to any member after our return to New Zealand. In addition the I.E.W.S. is asking for this material to be available for their use in painting a more correct and adequate picture of life in the New Zealand Army in this war of 1939 ---

In conclusion to those of you who have pictures, cuttings, stories to relate or any other material that would be of interest, will you please help the committee by making the material available as early as possible.

AND THE COMMITTEE SAYS...

Do you want to win your smokes instead of paying for them? Well, here's a way to do it, and at the same time help along the Battalion unofficial history.

Send us an account, long or short, of some incident or phase of army life that occurred in the period before the initial departure from New Zealand - i.e. before May, 1941. Long time ago? I know, but you can remember. Rake out that diary; smoke a few of the cigarettes in advance and think it over.

It may be happy or sad, beerish or sober, critical or contented. Don't worry about the style or the spelling, but send something along.

Prizes of 400 and 200 cigarettes (U.S. pattern) will be awarded for the two best entries, and if you have something in a later period think it over. We'll be asking for it.

Part or whole of the winning entries will be published in "The 29th" in the next issue. Entries to be in to your company representative by Wednesday, July 14. And he'll accept anything else you have to offer.

STILL ON TOP

HOCKEY marches on!

Once again our Battalion Rugby representatives succeeded in "bringing home the bacon". The vanquished side was the 38th Battery, and at "stumps" the score was 42 - 10.

The Battery have been on the island for only a few days and Saturday was the first time they have played together.

However, once they have settled down to conditions among the niaouli trees, we shall see in them a good team, for there are some good players in their ranks. Give the new battery several weeks to see the beauty spot of Necal, oh! -- then watch 'em go.

For the Battalion Eastwood was in great form and delighted the crowd with determined dashes down the side line. The executive of this paper intends to enter him in the next meeting of the Niaouli Jockey Club.

In the early stages of the game the battery went well. Their forwards attacked in great style and it looked as if our side would have to play hard to win.

After the first 15 minutes the newcomers to the island decided that, when all was said and done, Necal was a rotten place in which to play Rugby. From then on it was just a question of whether Jordan or Barlow would cut through to make openings for scores.

Unfortunately Waugh was injured in a determined dash for the line, and he was replaced by Greathead.

The battery's total of 10 came from tries by White and Hasemore, both of which were converted by King.

For the Battalion Jordan scored 3 tries, Barlow 3, Eastwood, 2, Waugh 1, and Burke 1. Jordan, with fine kicks, converted 6 tries.

At fullback Gillespie played his best game to date. As usual all the forwards did their fair share, with Bill Wright, our Glaxo baby, always in the thick of it.

Once again we suspect that the opposition mistook George Bolt for Capt. Conder; poor old George left the field with a badly battered face.

However, it was a bright game, punctuated with patches of excellent rugby.

Let us hope that the score 42 - 10 will reach the ears of the 30th Bn.

From the outset it was obvious that once again the 29th team had the measure of their opponents in the game against the 34th Battalion. The final score 4 - 1 indicated a clear superiority, for only once did the 34th have a shot at goal. It went hard and high and gave the keeper McCann no chance.

With the reorganised forward line consisting of Lawton, Borrks, Simon, Cox and Howard, the attack was even stronger than in the first game and some beautiful movements started from the right wing.

A number of penalty corners went begging, largely owing to the grass slowing down the hit from the line.

The B team did not disgrace itself against a strengthened 36th side - which went down badly against the 29th the week before. Although beaten 8 - 4, the side went down fighting, and with better team work might easily have won.

SOCCER

The 38th Fd Regt inflicted the first defeat on our soccer team to the tune of 4 goals to 3.

Within 30 seconds of the kick off the regiment had scored, and during the next ten minutes our opponents added a further three goals. One of these was a result of the ball flying off one of our own players.

From then on play fluctuated until Wood got a shot home making the score 4 - 1. The 29th were now making great efforts to catch up the looney, but the opposing defence played excellently and saved time and time again. At half time the score was still 4 - 1.

During the second half the Battalion worked hard, but could not equalise, although Sproule and Forrester added points.

The 29th team is looking forward to a return game. The usual combination was lacking, the team having to be reorganised with Benton and Penswick away.

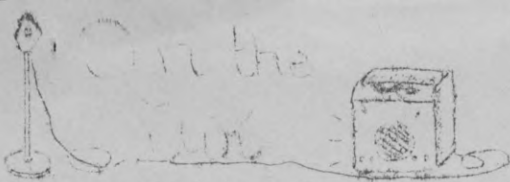
RUGBY SCOREBOARD

With the conclusion of the fifth series of games the points in the inter-company rugby competition show D Coy in the lead, 6 of their points coming from the old D (s) Coy.

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Pts
D Coy	5	4	1	0	9
A Coy	5	3	0	2	6
C Coy	5	3	0	2	6
H.Q.(1)	5	1	3	1	5
B Coy	5	1	2	3	2
H.Q.(2)	5	1	2	3	2

COMPANY TRIES AGAIN

In the absence of their leap A Coy turned out with a Command Cap in their game against C Coy. It showed up in the rough going, but broke a spring at half time. A Coy won on its back play, the score 6 - 0 being made up of tries by Stubbing and Williams. Jordan lost his dignity during the game, thus joining the ranks of the Wows.



HIT OF MISS #
BY WINCHAM

WHO IS the soldier in B Coy who consistently walks away from the gongophone with the tin cover under his arm. Better billies, we suggest, could be found at the H.Q. Coy dump.

APPALLED at the prospect of "roughing it", a high quarter-bloke sent back on the first night of recent manoeuvres for his pillow. We presume he had his sheets with him already.

B COMPANY took to their holes when "mortar" bombs started to fall round them. Subsequent rumours suggest that A Coy might have been having them on. In fact Sgt Jones was seen with some "jolly".



OFFICER (interested in latest wireless set): What's that waterproof switch for? Operator (a bit vague himself): To keep the water out, sir.

EIGHT out of nine D Coy sergeants have been regular attendants at the R.A.R. recently. Time off for the concert!

GOING into open order with rare zeal, one Carruthers of B Coy r discovered a ditch. Absent from parade, no doubt...

"WILD BILL" England has now donned his artillery and is gunning for his would-be assassin at Bourke. When interviewed he said, "Well, I didn't mind the first six bullets which spouted dust into my face; I can even forgive the one that grazed my head, necessitating R.A.R. treatment. But, damn it all, when they put a shot into the working parts of my rifle, then I see red."



THEN AGAIN there were then men who fired so fast that they shot away the recoil reducers of their Elephant Guns.

NELSON, of B Coy, had a rare time the other dark night. Looking for his tent, he found all the wrong platoons and finally ended up in C Coy lines.

HEARD on a T.E.W.T. "I am going to take that ridge in two phases". Easy, eh?

AND that recalcitrant motor-bike...

What a thrill! We were at last going down to record our greetings home. Feverish preparations had preceded the day. Not all were like Sgt Bill Lovaridge, who wrote his script - and then drew a marble.

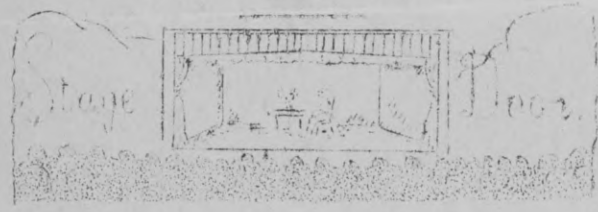
On arriving we found the unit truck in what seemed a state of overhaul, but this was really a final jack-up test. The mike stood out a few feet from the recording machine. All noises of camp work had been stilled. The camp was waiting breathlessly for zero hour.

That nice man from the Radio world lined us up in eights - all to fill up one side of a record. He introduced us one by one and as we read our messages over, kept an eagle eye on his watch. Thirty seconds seems a long time in front of a mike, believe me.

The only hitch was caused by a man minus false teeth, who wanted to postpone the show for a week until they arrived.

However, when all eight had said Hullo Mum and Dad or something like that, the nice man said he would play the record over and let us hear ourselves speak. When I heard my recording I could have sworn it wasn't me talking.

What a thrill the folks will get about six months hence, when they hear their little Wallie make his radio debut.



The long sought full Battalion parade materialised on Friday night when the sergeants held their Command Performance in the newly finished Plagary Theatre. In fact the theatre was so new and the sergeants so fresh that, by the sound of the hammering, the moon was being nailed up as late as 7.10. By this time most of the victims were in their beds - and the sound of whistling could be heard afar off.

As you all saw it, and I myself was most gravously labelled, I shall not go into details of the very bright programme. But enough was said to make the officers' concert, if it should materialise, a real whopper.

Especial credit goes to Pte Kendall of D Coy for his impressive stage setting to Sgt Dodds, for his versatility, to W.O.H. Jones for his liquidity and to the unknown genius who provided Sgt McLeod with his beer.

Many requests have since been made for publication of the finale song by Sgt McLeod. But as usual they were too late. We already had it in type.

LEGION of the LOST

(Finale of the Sergeants' Concert)

Hail New Zealand's Third Division,
Victims of doubt and indecision,
Sent upon a labourer's mission
To Pacific shore.

First we wandered off to Suva,
Might as well have been Vancouver,
Now and then we heard a rumour
That we were at war.

See our shirts grow older
Torn across the shoulder
At our store

There are no more,
And we grow daily colder.
Heark unto our tragic story,
Ours is not the path to glory,
We know not the battle gory
Tho' we are at war.

To hell with party, sect and faction,
We want nothing more than action;
Here we're but a minor fraction
Of the U.S.A.

In the Middle East our cobbors
Smashed Von Ropmol and his robbers,
While Bonito got the slobbers
As he ran away.

Kiwis, march together,
Fair or foul the weather;
But let us go

To fight the foe
And we will show them whether
We can fight for old New Zealand,
Keep our flag bright o'er our free land,
So that when it's over, we land
Soldiers of the war.

O. Key

There is a man in our company called O Key,
although it may not be true O Key knows all about you.
about gambling O Key knows quite a lot
especially who wins and who loses and such not;
his laugh is so loud and so long;
if you want to know anything ask O Key, he is never wrong;
His system of botting seems quite good
but if he would only play he would make himself understood;
How much money you have got O Key knows
and whether you have made it with cards or dice throws O Key knows
about race horses he knows quite a bit,
and Rocksie he's trained and everyone knows
he won his race by no more
than a nose

ask O Key

..... he knows!

Command Performance!

The night was bright with theatrical light,
There was moonshine on the stage
As each sarg. discharged to the world at large
His share in the sacrilage.

Where dung was flung in each chorus sung
And rubbed in hard at that;
And jokes were pokes at officer blokes
And not even the beer was flat.

With chaffs and laughs from lugubrious Staffs
And a bass from the R.S.M.
Their name can claim no more lasting fame
Than "We will remember them".

Our Rugby reps had another victory on Saturday, defeating the 208 L.A.A. by 50 points to 3. The battery's 3 points came from a try by Crompton.

For the benefit of those interested we give you below the score board at the end of the day's play. Tries:- Barlow 3, Waugh, 2, Conder 2; and 1 each to Wright, Burke, Lieut McKenzie, Thurston, Campbell. Five tries were converted by Barlow and one each by Meadows and Thurston.

Although it took him several minutes to get his eye in, Barlow 1st 5/8 was our chief scorer, most of his points coming from shots through slips.

The good sportsmanship of the battery was a feature of the game, and not once did it enter their heads to appeal against the light. However, they can console themselves with the thought that in the process of the evening of battle the 29th had to draw heavily on reinforcements. Lieut McKenzie replaced W.O. McKenzie, Ward replaced Bolt and Thurston replaced Waugh.

Decorating the sideline were both Eastwood and Jordan. Had they been playing the battery, in all probability, would have had to follow on. Thurston, who replaced Waugh on the wing, played well considering the extra weight on his shoulders.

Let us trust that for next week's game Sgts Hones and Strang will have the field in better order. We would suggest the hose over night, or say, a sweep at the afternoon tea adjournment.

SOCCER

By beating the Engineers 4 - 1 the Battalion soccer team made amends for its lapse last week. Red kicked off and within 3 minutes Neal tapped the ball through the goal to draw first blood. Shortly afterward Neal scored his second goal. White retaliated and scored nicely from close in. Red had the advantage in the second half, two more goals being obtained by Neal and Forrester.

HOCKEY

The Hockey B team had a successful day on Saturday, defeating the 36th B team by 4 - 0 (Goals to Crawford, 3, and McWherson), and the beating an ambulance side 2 - 0.

The following decisions were reached at a meeting of the Battalion Regimental Institute last week.

Two men were assisted financially during their absence from base camp.

The committee decided to assist the Publishing Committee by way of donations of prizes for best contributions concerning the early history of the 29th Battalion.

It was reported that the matter of refunds on beer bottles had been satisfactorily settled.

The two irons recently purchased out of Battalion funds are to be made available to personnel through C.Q.M.S.'s

A further supply of Coleman lamps is to be purchased for use in mess huts, etc.

It was decided to purchase 200 dozen mandarins and 200 dozen oranges on the best market.

THINGS TO COME

Following our policy of "half price is not enough" the 29th Publishing Committee has recently been reinforced into a stronger team. The management committee as it stands, excluding several people whom we are trying to interest, and think we will, is: H.Q. Coy: S/Sgt Sturmer, Sgt Barlow; A Coy, Sgt Irvine; B Coy, Cpl Grey (secretary) Sgt. Renai; C Coy, 2/Lieut Sale, Sgt. Loveridge; D Coy, Sgt. McLeod.

This is materially the same committee as is handling the unit history, although it is hoped to organise sub-committees to handle the varied phases of life we must cover.

Home issues should become more frequent, and we are aiming at one about a month hence. A feature will be a "Cheerio" column, in which any contributors will have the first option.

OFF TO THE RACES

Preparations for the Battalion blue-blood race meeting are going forward, but while awaiting approval of certain aspects from higher up, little can be done in deciding its exact form on the glorious day. It is considered that three weeks would be needed to train the horses up, so the prospects of having the meeting this month are diminishing rapidly. Bourne and La Foa are likely locales.

submit
ready by rtg

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Sgt Mc Ivot.
Editor Dozerdust
CRE Works
X7 APO 150.

