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The Perthonian



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PERTHS ARRIVE IN ITALY

The following is an extract from the Regimental File dated 8th Nov. 1943 suitably revised for publishing

The morning of 8th November 1943 dawned bright and warm. The placid surface of the Tyrrhennian seemed only disturbed by the cleaving prow of the John Errikson. Not many of the troops were as yet awakened and the odd soldier who was abroad was drinking in the full splendour of the moment. In the far distance and to the star-board one could see through the blue haze of early morning the dim outline of the rugged coast of Italy. We were travelling North from the toe of Italy to the Port of Naples where we were informed we would disembark.

The word Italy meant no more to us other than that here was war and war at that time held no horror for us because till now we had experienced no actual contact with it. So we contemplated Italy as being just what we had derived from books, a land of wine, woman and song, of dark lovers, romance and mystery, of suave long haired artists and late trains. Little did we realize just what disillusion lay before us. It was not to take us long however, for after a hasty breakfast all ranks joined in the hustle and bustle of rounding up their own particular equipment and adjusting their web preparatory to landing. Then after filing through the various ship's kitchens and obtaining a haversack lunch which little did we know at that time was to last us the course of the day, we were ready to disembark.

As we steamed into Naples Harbour one was reminded of the old adage "See Naples and Die". After seeing Naples many of us were truly prepared to die, the reasons we shall discuss later. Small punts, row boats and skiffs manned by swarthy tattered and hungry looking lites came out to meet us. We cannot say, Greet Us because the sole purpose of their venture was to and end which would benefit themselves. They were a hungry lot as they intended to be and their appearance was the cause of the great handout which immediately began. The troops threw sandwiches, hard boiled eggs and coins into their midst. The occupants of these small craft would scoop the articles from out of the filthy harbour water and cram it into their hungry jaws munching and grunching and all the while scrambling with their fellow man over a

crust of bread that had not yet been snatched up.

And then we were in. The movement ashore had been well arranged and there was no time to linger about the docks and watch all the interesting intricacies of dock hands and stevedores unloading. Eighth Army vans were handy for the purpose of transporting our heavier equipment such as office boxes and kit bags to our destination. We were quickly formed up and attired in battle order we began our wearisome trek through Naples to the suburbs of Afrigola where an area in the midst of a vine yard had been segregated for the Regiment.

Huge crowds of curious lites lined the thoroughfares and gaped as we marched along. Hefty M.P.s. would not stop short of using their Billies on the rump of child and adult alike if they happened to obstruct our progress. Some of the lads resented this sort of treatment to the populace but those same individuals would gladly have carried out similar treatment after a few weeks in this God forsaken country. The buxom Italian wenches with their own peculiar and graceful style of walking looked appealing to the eye but of course, after a few weeks aboard ship anything with skirts on looked good to us.

One need not go farther than a block off the main streets of Naples to see how the other half lived. For here thrived a dog eat dog existence and it was surely the survival of the fittest that ever managed an out from this hole of uncleanness and poverty.

It was common to see a street corner urinal neglected for the simple reason that it meant walking another five feet or so. Bare bottomed bambinos could be seen squatting at the curb enjoying the act of excretion to their heart's content whilst an expansive and proud Mama would stand smiling a toothless smile from a nearby doorway. The stench of these streets is something we wish to forget so we will not dwell on the subject.

Finally after several hours we reached our supposed camp. It seems there had been no arrangements made for tentage or grub, so after

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EDITORIAL MILITARY CROSS

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The Perth Regiment C.A.

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SIMONDS ON REPAT

On Thursday, 4th October 45 a review of the Repatriation situation was given to the Officers and NCOs of 11 C.I.B. group by Lt-Gen. G. G. Simonds.

The eternal optimists and rumour mongers regained their perspective but fast when the Army Commander said that the Atlantic gap was still the bottle neck and that there was nothing in the way of any extra shipping.

The Repatriation Plan which was taken over by Gen. Simonds when he assumed command late in July has been revised and will be carried out as it now stands. In the first place it was found necessary to delay the movement date of 1st Div. to allow 6,000 men having 150 points or over who had been released for Repat. purposes from their Units but had not yet been put on Repat Drafts. At the same time, early in August, it was found that it would be necessary to abandon the policy of Territorial cross posting except within individual divisions. This was done because it had caused discontent and uncertainty among the troops and because it had failed in its purpose of getting the bulk of men with relatively high points into the 1st division.

A survey of the 1st division showed that to raise the point minimum for repat from 50 to 80 points would have removed 5,000 men of which 4,000 were Infantry. It was found that the Infantry had borne the brunt of the fighting and casualties thus ending up with an average point score uniformly lower than that of other services, thus any attempt to scale up the minimum would react against the arm most deserving of repat. For this reason it was decided to retain a 50 point minimum.

Repatriation of the medium point men was speeded up by the decision to reduce the point level of the C.F.N. by inserting drafts of men

H/Capt. D. C. Smith has been chaplain of this unit for upwards of two years. Throughout the entire period his cheerfulness, example and devotion to duty has been an inspiration to all with whom he has come in contact.

His every interest has centred in the Regiment as a whole and in each man as an individual. The high regard in which he is held by all ranks and his spirit of self sacrifice has been increasingly evident since the unit has been in action. He is constantly to be found in fwd. pl. and sec. areas living with the men, cheering them and conducting informal services for small groups.

On 17 Jan. '44 the unit attacked along the Arielli R and suffered extremely heavy cas. H/Capt. Smith went forward with the attack before dawn and did not rest until the last cas. was evacuated long after dark. With utter disregard for his personal safety and always with a word to inspire all ranks he dressed wounds under shell and mortar fire throughout the day. Not one of the seventy cas. evacuated passed without a cheery greeting from "The Padre". On the following day he returned to the scene after the Bn had been withdrawn and, despite the fact that he was under enemy observation, attempted to recover and bury cas. left on the field.

On 5 Febr. '44 while the bn. was in the ORSOGNA sector. extremely heavy cas. were suffered in a fwd. coy area, 14 being killed and 23 wounded. "The Padre" went fwd. immediately and worked without faltering for hours sorting the wounded from the dead and greatly assisting in the evacuation of the wounded over most difficult country. Due to the rough terrain it was impossible to evacuate the dead for burial and H/Capt. Smith, with only a small volunteer party available to assist him, conducted burial services in a posn. constantly under heavy mortar and shell fire.

His actions and devotion to duty have been at all times far beyond that called for in the normal course of duty.

with 130 points or lower, if feasible, between the division moves.

Present shipping forecast indicate that 3 div. will start to leave the continent around the 31st of October and 5 div. will commence to leave at approximately the turn of the year.

Gen. Simonds disclosed the fact that Premier King had been consulting President Truman on various post-war subjects and he hinted that possibly more shipping might be the topic of one of their subjects. This however remains to be seen and no confidence or false hopes should be placed in it.

Troop movement home is now well ahead of the schedule which was laid down in the first few days after the cessation of hostilities.

"CLUB 61" CALLING

The event of the week which should receive "Honourable Mention" was the dance at the Amicitia Theatre sponsored by members of "Club 61" for guests of all the Messes in the "Great Maroon Machine". Guests included Lt. Col. M. W. Andrew (DSO), Major H. A. Snelgrove and members from the Irish Regiment, C.B.H., 12 C.I.B., 24 Fd. Amb., 11 C.I.B. Wkshp. and 5 C.A.D. Wkshp whose presence helped make this venture a great success. The souvenir dance cards provided the feminine element with much happiness in securing autographs from each and every one. Some of the "wolves" complained next morning of having "writers cramp" but such is the price of popularity. Your duty is to your public fellows!! The waiters from the Cafe Onder de Linden kept the guests well supplied with liquid refreshments in their usual competent and efficient manner. The music by the Amalfi Band was well enjoyed and it was with sorrow we had to say Good-Night at 1.00 a.m. Everyone reports a good time and it is hoped that in the near future, more get-togethers may be had within the Division.

After holding a special parade to find out who had removed the Daily Orders from "A" Coy. Mess Hall on Friday, it was found that they had not been stolen but that Bro. Bob had only removed same to send home to his folks as he had signed same that day while acting in capacity of C.S.M.

The Post-Office is certainly being pestered by a certain Sgt. Smith who is patiently waiting for a special booklet from New York which he sent for. Apparently this booklet is published by a certain Arthur Murray and is entitled "Learn To Dance In Ten Easy Lessons". After Tuesday evening's performance, we are wondering whether Bro. Smith received a wrong pamphlet for the way he was hollering out numbers as he moved about the floor, one would be inclined to believe that he was calling out rugby signals as all that could be heard was a continual "One, Two, Three, Hep, One, Two, Three, Hep"!

"Limpy" may excel in many sports but we are wondering whether he was trying to create a new dance sensation the

other evening or is it his usual style to crawl around on his knees and elbows! S'pose it was too many lemonades that gave you that woozy feeling, Bert!

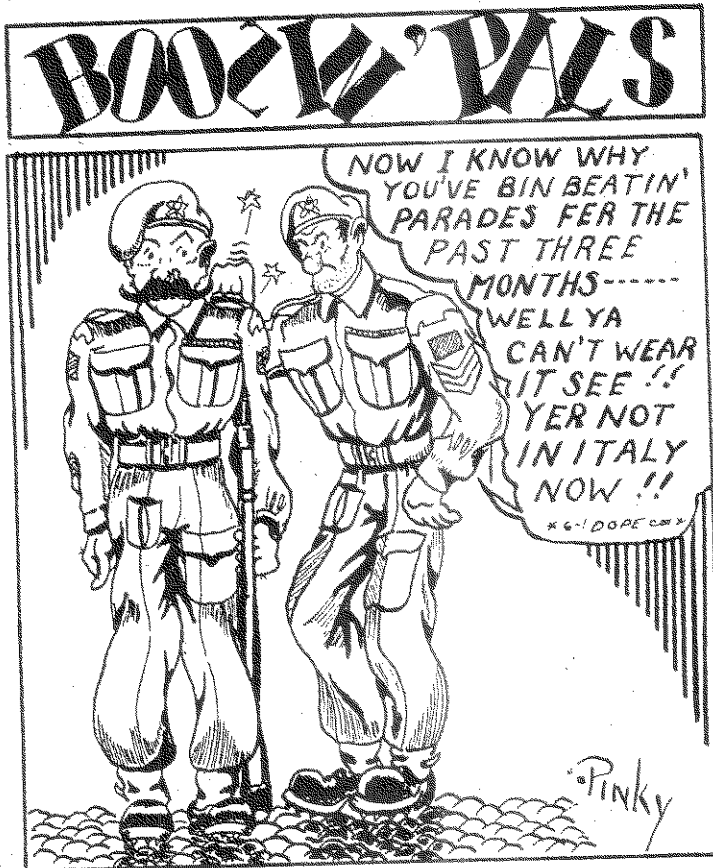
"Woody" sure must be slipping for it only took him fifteen minutes to take his young lady home.... yet, it took him an hour and fifteen minutes to get a certain C.S.M. known as "Muscles" home. My Bill, what charm you must possess!!!

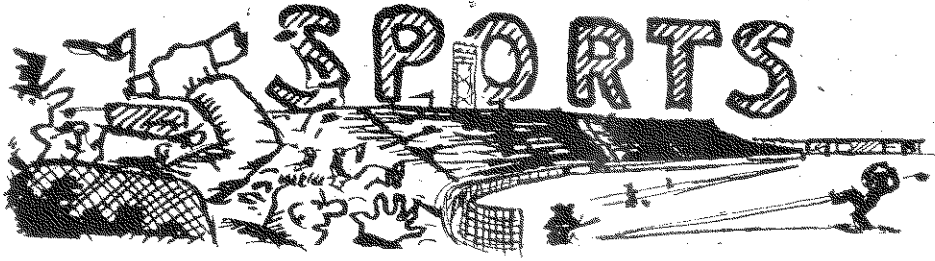
"Fearless" our one and only, seems to be close-mouthed as a clam on a certain calamity which nearly befell him the other afternoon. Not having any eye-witnesses, we have to leave him with his "sobriquet" but "The Truth will out"!!! Bill says "And I was only armed with a trusty baseball bat".

Why does "Clout" Mulligan call "Nifty", "Pal" these days? What's a few drinks between friends?

Picture hats are not the vogue for these windy evenings, at least not the latest Parisian despatch. But one of the boys insisted she wear it all evening — maybe it was useful as camouflage. eh, Freddie?

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SOCCKER -- 4 Oct. 45

Saw the greatest game that our foot-ball team have ever played, when they took the Civilian Team of Sneek, the Orange-Nassaus on a scoring of 6-1 with Tullock scoring 4 of the goals and the rest going to Sgt. Willis and White, while our goalie, Pte Birrel was unbeatable by all but one goal which he couldn't stop. There was some lovely passing done by all the team with Pop Grierson doing the sensational again, but falling down in the last half with the nicest Charlie-Horse I have ever seen and Mr. Smit, the teams trainer, playing for the second time with the team, is doing a good job with the boys and they should capture the Div. Championship quite easily, as under the strenuous training of Mr. Smit they have become Brigade Champs. By the way I shouldn't forget Bill Flood, MacDonald, Jacobs and Couture who played like Champs with some lovely passing.

So don't forget, your Soccer Team plays their first game of the Div. Playoffs on Friday, 12th October. Let us all turn out and give the team plenty of support — they will do the rest and go a long way in the Finals.

HOCKEY PRACTICE - 4 Oct. 45

The Regimental Hockey enthusiasts held their first practice of the season on the 4th October 45 in the Maple Leaf Arena at Amsterdam.

Pre-season form was quite obvious and it will take a lot of ironing out before the lads reach tip top shape. Only half the ice surface was allotted to us as other teams were also engaged in practices. This being the case what secret plays we did have, had to be neglected as the other teams as well as our own had spotters in the Arena.

A few of the lads who seemed to be in fairly good condition were Moffatt, Bustedo, Hunter, Beecroft and 4 X 4 Domianczuk. Domianczuk in the role of Goal-Keeper is turning in a performance similar to his grand style behind the plate in Softball. More players are expected to turn out for the next practice and as the word gets around it should search out some fairly good material. Herchenratter will be one of these players and the reason for his absence at the first practice was his enjoyment of a spot of leave in good old U.K.

"A" COY:— Well, I guess "A" Company is on the way to another championship if they keep up the good work. On Thursday "C" Coy. were the victims by a score of 10-1. If anyone wants to see some long passes thrown, just came out to our next game. Keep up the good work, fellars!!!

CHIT AND CHATTER

"B" COY:— We in "B" Coy, wish to say "Bon Voyage" and good luck to these lucky so and so's who are returning to Canada this week. CQMS/ Puckering is on pins and needles at this time of writing and just raring to go. Keep your chin up "Chubby" you'll be home for xmas yet. From the G. O. C. talk of last week the majority of us will be cooling our heels here in the Netherlands or in England. Bright outlook isn't it? Cheer up fellers even the best of us can be wrong and maybe the G. O. C. is looking too much on the dark side of things.

Could it be that the Regimental butcher isn't giving A Coy enough meat these past few days. A certain CQMS. was leading a cow on the street of Sneek the other nite, eventually trying to get her into his quarters. We aren't quite sure what happened to the cow but a civilian police was in the vicinity waiting 'till the horse play was finished, to take her home. Better luck next time Willacy.

Soon we'll all be, if we're lucky, seeing the Perth Hockey team in action. Selection of the team is underway and promises to be crack one. Cpl. Beedroft must be out of condition when one practice in Amsterdam left him limp as a dish rag for three or four days or was it Amsterdam "Biff".

What short, dark, handsome L/Cpl. returned from a short leave in Amsterdam looking like the Wrath of God. From all appearance one must be the rugged type to endure one of these leaves eh "Dick". Is that inducement of yours blonde, brunette, red headed or short haired.

The Corporals Canteen has taken on a more business like appearance these days. After an election of President, Committees, etc. the canteen promises to be a going concern. The support given it hasn't been so good lately. So Corporals get behind your canteen or one of these days you will be minus one.

"B" Coy wishes to take this opportunity of congratulating Lt. Col. M. W. Andrew, D. S. O. on his award.

STOP PRESS NEWS.

The Officers and Sgts. pried the lid off the second half of the Regimental Touch Rugby Schedule. It appears the Officers were in top form and their razzle dazle plays had them out on top when the final whistle blew to the tune of 10 to 6.

OFF THE RECORD Y.M.C.A. NEWS

"C" COY:—I see the Jones, Dingmore element united again after a long separation. And the slams and slurs once more fly around Charlie Coy mess hall at every meal. Flannel mouth and Red never miss a chance to rib and ride one another. Red always seems to shade the Digger who never will learn to keep that Detour closed.

Did anyone see the Lance-Jack who aquired a 36 hrs pass to Leeuwarden. For the sole purpose of squiring around a Friend (from Amsterdam). What goes on, why won't he let us get a look at this creature. Is she shy Cas?

The men of Charlie Coy, had the honour and privilege of having members of the 5th Div. Army Show to dinner. It's rather unfortunate that these lads didn't wear skirts of C.W.A.C. insignia. For had they, they may have dined amid the splendour and succulence of the Sgts Mess.

Have you been knitting little things, McCart, or did your Fairy Godmother send you those infant's clothes, that you so very thoughtlessly displayed before the wolves at dinner on Wed. last.

That Blonde portly menace currently employed at a certain Bakery joined in the table tennis tournament, and to all accounts did rather well on the game. But! his little bunny, and I use the word little, loosely, had to be chaperoned by one of his associates during her wait for chubby. Are you sure you can trust that Cpl. Norm?

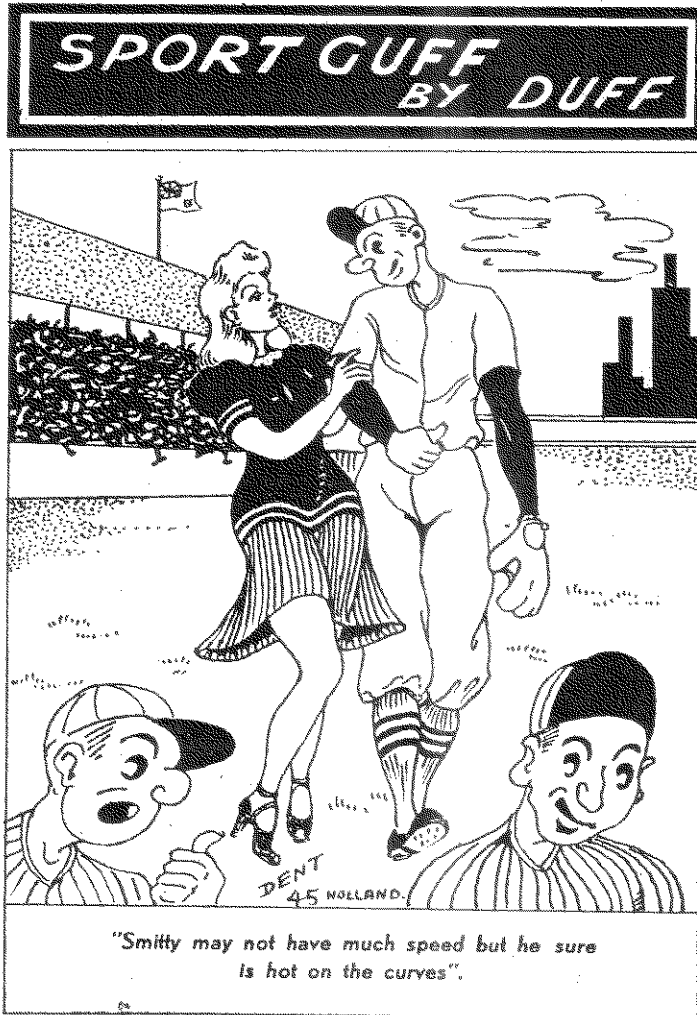
To all accounts the critics gave quite a bouquet to the Boys of 5th Div. Army Show for their stellar performance on Friday last. To quote "Bone Woods". An outstanding critic in his own right. The best show I have seen in months.

In the interests of sportsmanship Charlie Coy, acknowledges a touch rugby defeat. But owing to space limits, details are not forth coming.

"H.Q." COY:— No grass grows under "Butch" Orr's feet. He couldn't wait for the regiment to form a band, so he got one of his own together. Now nearly every night one can hear "Butch and his Hayshakers" pounding out a few tunes in Studio "B". ("B" for Butcher-shop).

With everyone going home on accelerated releases these days, "Pop" Teare is wondering if he could qualify. It seems his uncle Pete has an idea to cross mink with black snakes so they will shed their own skins once a year, and is waiting for "Pop" to come home before getting into production.

We wish to say Hello at this time to our new RQMS. A new broom sweeps clean Bill, so everyone is expecting a new deal, but we hope it doesn't turn out to be a raw deal.



"Smitty may not have much speed but he sure is hot on the curves".

UP AND DOWN STATION STREET

"A" COY:—Well Woody's prayers have finally been answered but it was too bad it rained on Wednesday morning as he was certainly looking forward to chowing up the Battalion Parade. Meanwhile, Gallaghers' Commandos are having a little peace with no route marches etc.

Freddie Noon will be passing out free beer for the next couple of weeks as he was just told he was on repat draft. Zombie Schram is going around with a long face now that his partner is going home.

It is pretty grim when the Provost have to come up to Sneek to retrieve a well known girls jewellery. What are you doing Westlake, making a collection?

Now that the fellows know we are stuck here for a couple of more months, there is a big scramble to get a new partner for these long winter months.

We would like to congratulate our C. G. on the new bit of stuff he picked up the other night. Too bad Bessie wouldn't "get up them stairs", John, but never mind you got a free bath out of it. "Moo Moo"!!

Bouquets of Roses to the new Y.M.C.A. It is a privilege to go into a Canteen such as ours and be able to take the lady friend in for tea and a dance. The good work of the entire staff is perfect and we say "thanks fellows and keep it up".

Unconfirmed reports have it that Bro. Prashaw will be spending several lonely evenings around "A" Coy area within the near future. It's too bad you can't get four or five weeks leave, Dick, but she may have a change of heart. After all, you didn't tell her when you were going away.

POP A QUESTION

This week's question was WHAT'S THE DUTCH GIRL GOT THAT THE CANADIAN GAL HASN'T GOT. — OR HAS SHE? The answers are as follows:

Pte Barr, W. R. of London, Ontario, H. Q. Coy says that the little experience he has had with local belles does not qualify him to give an opinion. But what he has seen is plenty O.K. and not quite as expensive as the Canadian brand. (Oh Yeah! Have you tried getting any new gliders yet?)

Pte Deuel, J. W. of Montreal, Quebec, "C" Coy says: They have it here and boy that is all that counts. (About what you would expect from a Montreal joker.)

"Tuffy" a "D" Coy lad from London, Ont., when asked the above question mumbled something about "Amsterdam, Out of Bounds, No Sleep, Provosts, the Old Man, 14 days C. B., No Justice, I don't know, signs too small,..... I wonder when they will let me go again.

Pte Stabler, F. T. of London, Ontario, says being a married man I am not in a position to comment on the merits or demerits of the Dutch girls. "Pte Stabler also thinks that the single fellows have not had a fair chance to meet all types of Dutch girls due to the government "Out of Bounds" sign, on the short hair type.

Pte Pawley, K. "A" Coy Jeep driver says: Other than wooden shoes, nothing. Believe me I know, being a Jeep driver I encounter the "higher priced help type" and they all leave me cold. (Pawley is going home this week maybe that has something to do with it.)

WHAT NEXT?



Introducing the new Burgemeester of Sneek—"A" Coy's own Denton Massy. He is getting used to the new styles that we will be wearing in the near future.

IN THE DOG-HOUSE

It seems as though a couple of our friends thought they were in Italy once more indulging in Vino Rossa again. But on the other hand they tried turning River Rats on us. What kind of sleeping do the big barge make Johnny? And I hear the bunks are none too comfortable across from the square Ernie.

Say Study where are the fraus from Amsterdam shacking up now? Hedy Lammar has nothing on those babes. And what a voice too, or was that the fire water they were drinking that made the one's voice sound like a rusty gate.

By all reports our Sgt Maj. Mr. Jack is doing OK with the fraus in Germany but says he hopes to be back with the Carbs in SNEEK soon.

I see all the boys from Dog Coy are visiting the "Y" quite often even the cooks seem to be enjoying the games they have over there or is it the grub.

THE PERTH "PLAZA"

CANTEEN SALES 1330 hrs. — 1630 hrs.
TEA SHOPPE 1500 hrs. — 1630 hrs.
1930 hrs. — 2145 hrs.

Tea Dancing each afternoon and evening, bring her along to share our fun.

A new and larger stock of books are now available to you. The limit on books is one week, please.

TABLE TENNIS is always in full swing at the "Plaza" and we're sure there are now a lot of sharks in the Unit— so, com'on fellows, lets have those names for a tournament. Speaking of "sharks" and tournaments we on the staff who so boldly laid open our challenge in last weeks paper are sorry to say we came out a "second best" but we're right in there practicing and once again are willing.

The "BINGO" was very successful last week after missing a week through moving we had an enlarged fifty waiting to get in on those prizes. Some of those gals are sure lucky to have a Bingo Playing Boy-Friend.

We notice now with an enlarged "Plaza" one can always be on the end of a challenge in Crib, Checkers, Bridge, Ping-Pong and just about any game you can play. So?

THE KAPPER SNAPPER.

We now have the finest in „Kappers" and for a small 50 cent piece you can be nicely groomed with a smile. For one quarter of that new Gulden your face can lose that five o'clock shadow. You will find your friendly "Kapper" waiting for you between 1330 hrs, and 1630 hrs daily.

P.S. With our Sgt. "John" away to the lass in Scotland we on the "Plaza" staff are wondering if it is necessary to place a shadow (in his interest) on Club 61? "Pietie" is nice, eh "Woody"?

"CLUB 61" CALLING contd. from page 3

"Chico" spent a few days leave in Amsterdam and to back up his claim that he spent the time around the Zoo and Museum, he has pictures to prove it. We concede that she looks like an "Old Master"!

To provide a serious side to their of enjoyment which pervaded on Tuesday evening. "Nifty" and "Bob" held an "O-Group" at one of the deserted tables. The outcome was that "Nifty" maintains it was Seagrams and "Bob" still claims that it tasted like Cognac.

Continued from page 1

PERTHS ARRIVE IN ITALY

preparing our mosquito proof flops of a Great-coat, one blanket and a Gas Cape under an overhanging vine, we partook of a meager supper consisting of apples and nuts which had been obtained by trading an international product "cigarettes" with one of the many Italian scroungers who were now infesting our lines, we settled down to the intense cold night so common at this time of year in Italy. It was the end of our first day, one which could not be classified as a perfect one.

AT THE FLICKS

Music for Millions

with

MARGUERET O'BRIEN

and

JIMMY DURRANTE

Monday & Tuesday October 15th and 16th

*

AFFAIRS OF SUSAN

with

JOAN FONTAINE

and

GEORGE BRENT

Wednesday & Thursday October 17th and 18th

*

Hangover Square

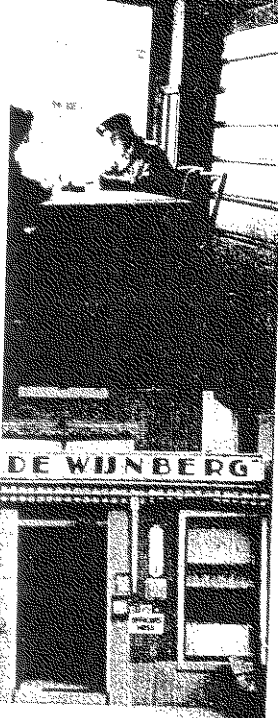
with

LAIRD CREGAR

Friday & Saturday October 19th and 20th

*

Watch for Concert Notices in the "PLAZA"



FAMILIAR EH?

Pictured here are various scenes of interest taken in and around the Regiment. Starting in the upper left hand corner and travelling clockwise they are; 1. Ye Old English Tea Shoppe sign outside the Sports Park; 2. The Mansion House entrance for Privates only; 3. The Sgts Mess or Club 61; 4. Theatre Avon; 5. The Stratford and Sneek Signs at the entrance to the town; 6. Signs over the entrance to the C.N.R. Sports Field; 7. Some of the home comforts supplied by the Perth Plaza; 8. A game of Table Tennis at the "Y"; 9. Entrance to the Officers Mess; 10. Writing a letter home at the "Y".



Offset-printing Flach, Sneek