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The Berthonian



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VENICE WITHOUT MARCO POLO

Lieut. J. Fleming gives us a word picture of a trip to Venice from the Nuremberg Camp of which he was second in command.

We left Nuremberg at nine on a dull gray Wednesday morning, wondering if the Jeep could carry four characters and a deck load of gas and fags through the Brenner Pass to that famous floating asset of the Adriatic — Venice or Venezia. By autobahn to Munich, a high pass to climb over into the valley of the Inn at Innsbruck, we started to climb the Brenner in a fitful snowstorm on a very winding road indeed — with the railroad going through tunnels far below and the mountains going through clouds far above.

There are two surprising things about the border, apart from going down instead of up. The first is that there is nothing there but a barrier and a British guard in a scene taken from the "Last Outpost". The second is that in spite of the mountains, it is hardly what you would call a border — the people of Innsbruck in Austria look like Italians and the farmers on the southern slopes right down to Trento speak German. So what's in a border?

We slept in Bolzano, a tremendously old Italian Tyrol town, drove south to Trento in the morning and on to Padua by the high mountain road to the east, arriving in Venice about three o'clock.

The heap was left in a garage on the island side of the causeway, fags were flogged, we boarded a gondola and San Marco square was reached without casualty. Gondolas have no horn and no keel so the fellow in the rear with his oar hooked in an outrigger has to use his lungs and cut the corners wide, since all the corners are built to the edge and are over four or five stories high. Contrary to general belief the canals of the city are clean and quite free of floating bodies; the water is choppy, especially if there is a wind coming in from the sea. The largest piece of open paving in Venice is a small sized parade square in front of St. Marks Cathedral which is known as the tourist centre of the city and the remainder is a densely packed mass of stone houses separated by lanes of stone four feet wide or water which is ten feet wide. Every spring the cities entire ground floor is flooded to a depth of one foot or so which

increases every year by a small margin due to the gradual sinking of its muddy island foundations. The Venetians far from being "blind" to this state of affairs, carry out methodical alterations and look at their floundering flower of the Adriatic with a timeless aspect. Next door to the Basilica of St. Marks is the Ducal Palace where the Doges used to live, it is full of old masters, including the largest painting in the world — Paradise, measuring two hundred square yards and painted by Tintoretto at the age of ninety seven with the help of his pupils.

Venice is peculiar for its beautiful women, its few Allied troops and the large numbers of Cameras displayed in the shops at huge prices. It was bombed once only — in 1916 when an Austrian Plane dropped one bomb in the square, the spot now being marked by a commemorative tablet in bronze. The wealth of the city is large and seems to be drawn from sea trade and tourists equally. The people are a finer type of Italian than those in the south, many of them being fairhaired which to most of us was quite a surprise.

The return trip was made by way of Verona and Lake Garda — a rugged place with Olive Trees growing on rock outcroppings and the mountains climbing away to the North. It was a beautiful warm sunny day, becoming cooler on the drive back to Bolzano where we arrived at seven thirty, remaining for the night.

The next day — Saturday — we drove for two hours in a snowstorm through the Brenner Pass where we were told it had been snowing since Wednesday, a short stop for snowballing was made at the barrier.

We arrived in Munich at three o'clock and Nuremberg by six o'clock which finished the round trip of about nine hundred and fifty miles. Going through the gate, the Jeep — of which it is said there are still a few remaining parts that wear the Africa Star — was heard to mutter to itself, "Where will they be going next?"

It was a good trip and four days later I was talked into doing it all over again.

EDITORIAL

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THE PERTHONIAN is a weekly newspaper compiled and published by members of The Perth Regiment C. A. O. through the kind permission of the Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. M. W. Andrew, D.S.O.

ANOTHER SOLDIER

Apologies to a Canadian Author

I'm sitting here and thinking
Of the years that sped behind,
And it's hard to analyse the thoughts
That are running through my mind.
I'm thinking of the fun we had
Back there in thirty-nine
Steaks were thick and juicy
And we had our choice of wine.
Our favorite brand of cigarette
Was the only thing we'd smoke;
When anyone would roll his own
We thought it quite a joke.
When Gasoline was eighteen cents
And all that you could use;
When each and every one of us
Had a dozen pair of shoes.
Remember, Bill the fun we had
On thirty-five a week
A guy who drew down more than that
Had really hit the peak.

The day that we enlisted, Chuck
It seemed like quite a lark
And now we're dodging buzz bombs
And cringing in the dark.
The guy who married my old girl
Makes fourteen bucks a day;
He's already bought a house and lot
And cached a bit away.
But somehow I don't envy him
Though at first I near went wild.
She's happy now (I'm glad for that)
They even have a child.
It's not the things we missed, Joe,
It's the chance we've had to see
The different sights and peoples
Of the lands across the sea.
We've drunk our mild and bitter
Though we longed for Ballentine
But anything's good drinking
When you're dug in on the Rhine,

When our nerves got raw and ragged
And time began to lag.
We even chewed tobacco
Cause we couldn't get a fag,

They've never stopped our forward march
And casualty lists will tell
We've seen our share of blood and guts
And served our hitch in hell.

I'm glad to be a soldier
Yet it's hard to tell you why,
But I think of Iwo Jima
And a hill that rose so high.
My mind runs back two thousand years
To another skull-strewn mound,
Where Another Soldier took a hill
To save His buddies 'round.
He gave His life when He took that Hill
For guys like you and me
And I don't think He'll be too hard
On men across the sea.
A soldier's more the image of
Christ, than is a king,
And I feel we'll see Him face to face
When our soul at last takes wing.

I'm sitting here and thinking
Of the good and bad behind
And it's hard to analyse the thoughts
That are running through my mind.

Come quick you back to Amsterdam???

Rembrandte Plein,
Or Damm Square,
September 9, 1945.

My Darlink:

How you are, maybe good, I'm think so. I have three letters write already yet, but you not, is it not so. How come so? You forget I think. when come you back to Amsterdam? Every auto along street, or soldier, I think is my Fearless one, but NO, NIX, NEFFER. I have not other soldier, I no like that. You is the loveliest boy in the world for me. ONLY YOU!! I would it like very much if you go to the shop where photograph. I am glad the war is finish, then much kissing!! Is good, no? It is yammer that Sneek is so far from Amsterdam, then others I was by you. I don't like other boy now, I hope you are the same so I am. It is good when we are together out, but it cannot. It is now time to go with this letter and then in the afternoon I help my Mother with sewing. It is very nice work, it likes me, a girl must can that or not, for her own family. When go we marry, I hope soon, You also? My parents say, you must know it for yourself, then it is good. But I cannot believe it of you, it is all future-music, but we talk about it when you comes. Why you not station in Amsterdam, then it is good, but it is not so. On the radio is now playing, Amor-Amor., a very nice song for us, you like it also?

I hope that you can read my writing, Dear one. and excuse the mistakes who I have made. Answer my letter soon and hope that you receives it this week. Don't forget me, and I hope to see you next week as always.

Ending now with the best wishes and love.

Your gurl friend
AMSTERDAM ROSE.

P.S. please forget not the blanket who you promised me!!

CHIT AND CHATTER

"B" COY:— "B" Company was happy to welcome some of her characters back from a short but pleasant stay in Germany. From all reports it was a real go. A few had some real souvenirs while others had a sort of far away gleam in their eyes that could mean most anything. A good time was had by all and we're glad you're back, fellars.

We in "B" Coy would like to congratulate those who have prohibited smoking in the Avon Theatre. It's a much more pleasant place to spend a few hours than before. There are, however, a few who think they can catch a quick drag and have to be told different. The method of telling, as we heard it, a week or so back, was very crude. After all we're still human beings and although we need checking up now and then it might be a good idea for the checker to check up on his methods of checking. His intentions are the best even if his methods aren't.

"B" Company comes through in great style once again. In regards to the latest Victory Bond drive we're away over our objective and thereby upholding "B" Coys traditional way of doing things. Nice going!

Two of the numerous Amsterdam beauties were seen around "B" Coy area last week looking for two "Canadese" boy friends. There is one thing to be said for these two boy friends and that is they sure can pick them. Nice going, "Wolves".

Congratulations are in order for the Regimental Basket Ball team over the results of the game with Brigade. Nice work, fellars.

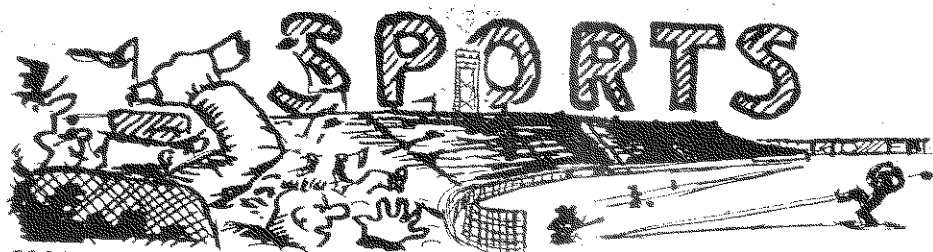
Now that Sgt Mulligan is on his way to the "Promised Land" a new face is to be seen around the dances these nights. "Sammy" has taken over the job of chaperon and doing a good job so we hear. Keep an eye on the "wolves", Sam, 'cause there's lots of them and no guff.

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS



A lady civilian of Sneek presents the acting G.O.C. Ian Johnston with a token of flowers after the completion of a recent march past by The Perth Regiment. Seen standing on the extreme right is our own C.O. Lt.-Col. M. W. Andrew DSO.





SOCCKER:— On Wednesday, 24th October 1945, amid threatening showers and high winds, The Perth and G.G.H.G. Soccer teams met for the second time this season. As usual both teams played a very close hard blocking game and the first half ended with neither team scoring.

In the second half the Perths started off by taking the ball into the G.G.'s territory. Several very fine scoring chances were missed mostly because of the fine defensive playing of Sgt

Dobson and Cpl Lee full back for the G.G.'s. Again the ball went from one end of the field to the other and from team to team until in the dying minutes of the game Sgt Willis took a pass from Pte Lang, relayed it to Pte Tullock who while still 35 yards from the goal drove a high fast shot into the upper right hand corner for the only score of the game. Pte Jacobs played a very fine game at right half for the Perth team.

LINE UP OF THE TWO TEAMS:

G. G. H. G.'s

Lieut MARTIN	Toronto
CSM THOMSON	Toronto
Tpr KENDALL	Port Perry
Tpr TOMISON	Toronto
Tpr MORRIS	Toronto
Tpr BEVINGTON	New Westminster
Tpr McLEAN	Sidney, Ont
Sgt DOBSON	Toronto
Cpl LEE	Toronto

POSITION

Right Half
Left Half
Centre Half
Inside Right
Inside Left
Outside Right
Outside Left
Left Back
Right Back

THE PERTH REGT.

Pte JACOBS	Montreal
Pte WHITE	Peterboro
CQMS WILLIS	Tillsonburg
Pte TULLOCK	Chatham
Pte MacDONALD	Hamilton
Pte COWAN	Holstein
Pte COUTURE	Chatham
Pte LANG	Smith Falls
Pte JACOBS	Montreal

Referee: Sgt SAVAGE, E. Toronto, Ontario.

SOCCKER:— Friday, 26th October 1945, saw our Soccer Team again defeat the 8th Field Regt with a score of 4-1 and some very remarkable playing was carried on by both teams with the Perth boys proving to be the better team throughout the game. Pte Bell, W. W. was the star of the game with some of the most sensational and remarkable playing done throughout the whole game. Pte Tullock came out on top with three goals and the other going to Pte Couture to make the total of 4 goals for The Perth boys. Lieut G. G. Getty played an outstanding game after replacing Pte Grierson in the last of the first half and the boys say welcome Mr. Getty, you did a fine job and we hope to have you with us again. Our goalie Pte Birrell did a very good job of stopping the ball, but one which couldn't be stopped was the one and only for the 8th Field Regt after several attempts which came to nought at the hands of our goalie. I must also mention the great playing and passing done by Sgt Willis, Ptes, Lang, White, Cowan, MacDonald and Jacobs who played a very good game and made victory possible. Mr. Smit the teams trainer was on the job and the boys say "Thanks" its sure a good one you're doing.

The times and places of the remaining games in the Div Playoffs will be posted on orders. Give the boys all the support you can.

Soldiers are reminded that there is no charge for attending any Regimental games which are

played in the Sports Field. There is a small charge for the use of the Grand stand.

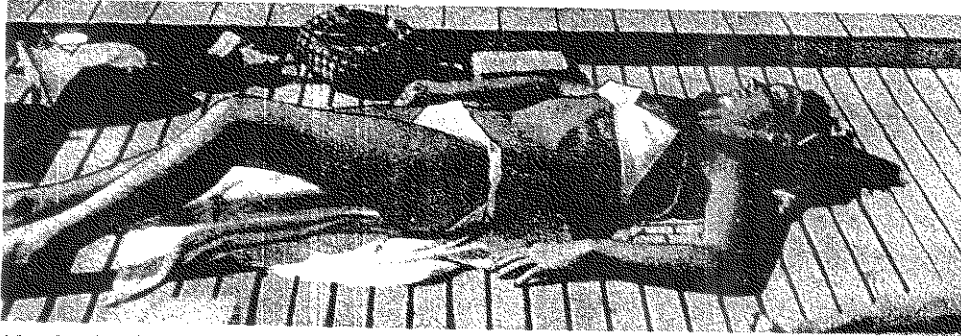
The Gymnasium which is located in our R. Q. Store Building has been loaned to our Sports Committee for soldiers who are interested in Gymnastical work. Mr. Smit (well known to many of us as the Reg'l Soccer Team Trainer) will act as Instructor. Personnel using the hall and equipment will be responsible for cleanliness of the hall and for breakages to equipment. Gymnasium will be open on Thursday evenings from 1800 to 2130 hours and Friday evenings from 1900 to 2130 hours.

BRYANT TAKES HONOURS

Pte Bryant, F. C. of The Perth Regiment splashed home to some new water records in The Canadian and Dutch Swimming Meet at Leeuwarden early in October.

It was an eventful evening and the contest was bitterly fought out to many a breath taking finish. However when the clock on the wall said finish we found the Canadians out in front by the fine margin of one point. The complete evenings scoring was Canadians 17, Netherlands 16. This score indicates the keenness of the competition.

The Leeuwarden Ladies Swimming Club was present at the Bay Pool during the evening and besides displaying some shapely gams they turned in an admirable performance of precision



It's the height of ambition when one of the higher priced help brings back from his Paris Leave such a pictorial collection of bebies so scantily clad as the one pictured above. Of Course we understand his interest.

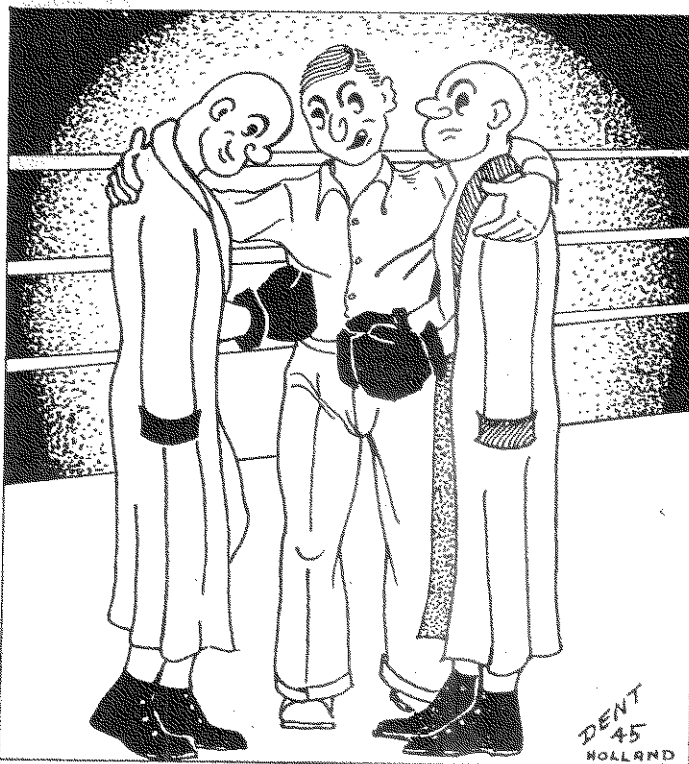
swimming. Dutch comedy teams also offered a little relaxation to the taut nerves of the spectators as they

broke the tense atmosphere with some laughable water comedy. Not to be outdone, the Canucks reeled off a slap happy episode from the ten metre board which had the folks roaring in the aisles. Cpl Wejch and Pte Bryant both of The Perth Regiment and Pte Grabara were the three lads who bore the brunt.

Several records were broken during the evening and in one instance J. v. d. Veen turned in a spectacular effort in winning the 200 metre free style in back stroke. His time for this thrilling feat was 3 minutes 6 and one-fifth seconds. The fastest time ever to be made in the Leeuwarden pool and the breaking of three Friesian records go to a Perth lad, Pte Bryant. F. C. Bryant established new records in the 50 metre, 100 metre and the 200 metre contests.

Actually the only instance during the entire evening when the Canadians made a poor showing was in the Water Polo tilt. The Dutch lads nailed this event with a 4-0 win. It was a most enjoyable evening and there was a fair sprinkling of soldier spectators in the crowd. If in the future another such exhibition takes place we shall be sure to let you know well in advance so that you too may enjoy the thrills.

SPORT GUFF BY DUFF



"Where in the devil did you scrape up enough dough to buy a five hundred dollar WAR BOND?"

JEAN BAPTISTE

In Holland
Someplace Overhere
Hoctobre 30, 1945

Hallo Philleas:

Diz is me Baptiste. I am writting to you again some more. Dat turkey, you know, whose belong to me for Christmas, you better keep some more for Easter because I not getting dere before dat time. The big fellows here have change their mind again some more. I can understand nothing anymore. One day every body is excite because we have the ship she's call the "Lizabeth". Next day they give away two oder ship, dat poor buziness, what you think? Also diz "Lizabeth", she must be on diet (I think dats what you call dat when you eat for to get smaller). When I come here on her from dere, we was 22000 peoples, now when we go back to dere she is only 12000 peoples, dats lot of diet.

If you understand dat Philleas, write to me the hanswer quick, because me, I understand nothing no more. Also they be telling us we have Christmas in England. I think maybe they be lonesome over dere but who is lonesome for me dere I don't know because I was dere three days only, maybe I tell dat to the Kernel and he feel sorry for me but I don't think so.

Well Philleas I must stop because the lamps she is rationed here. Please tell me if Ernestine is still talking to dat brush salesman, if she do, tell her I will do nothing more to her.

So Long,

Dats me,

JEAN BAPTISTE P.D.Q.

UP AND DOWN STATION STREET

"A" COY:— What's the matter with all you "Heart Breakers" in the Regiment? Very few soldiers are seen walking around with the local girls these days. We hear Leeuwarden has many cute drawing cards.

"A" Coy welcomes the boys back from Germany. We hear that it is a good go. 'Eh Fellows'.

For once the lads had an excuse for being late 'on parade. When asked, the answer is, "Sir, the breakfast was late".

We hear a certain young fellow in the Coy is attending night school. How about it Niels?

Why are the boys in the Coy falling for school teachers these days? Eh, Frankie?

Congratulations on the opening of your cafe on a certain corner, Roy. The beer is very good. "Niet Verstaan".

The canals are all "OUT OF BOUNDS" to troops. How about that Hicks?

CSM Woodward has returned to the fold after a week spot of leave. Why the bags under your eyes, Woody? You are so pale.

THE PERTH PLAZA

TEA ROOM — There are still the odd few who are bringing more than one lady-friend with them. We are sorry, fellows, but we must be strict about this matter as our rations are quite low, so let's have 100 % co-operation, please.

We have also noticed in the past few weeks that the boys are not removing their hats when in the Tea Shoppe, make it a habit to remove your hats even though there are no ladies present.

PING PONG — It is quite noticeable many of you are improving daily at Ping Pong, so let's see more of you at the tournaments, eh? Remember professional night is Thursday nights at 1900 hours and amateurs play Friday afternoons at 1430 hours.

Winner of our amateur tournament this past week was Pte Drynowski who beat Pte Radtke in the finals.

Our professional team, consisting of Ptes, Woods, Wilson, Luxenburg and Lund did very well in the Brigade tournament, placing second to the Brigade Team.

SHOWS — Remember, Friday nights are set aside for band concert parties, when available.

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS — Keep an eye on our notice board, to see what's cookin' at the "Plaza" for the week.

BOOK NOOK — We now have a large supply of books on hand, so take full advantage of the bad weather and snuggle up to a book.

Times are getting hard when Sergeants have to brow beat O.R's into taking them to the Granite Club! What do you think, Sam?

Wood-ie? You bet he wood! Just give him the chance!!!

AT THE FLICKS

My Reputation

with

BARBARA STANWYCK and GEORGE BRENT

Monday & Tuesday November 5th and 6th

*

GIRL RUSH

with FRANCIS LANGFORD

Wednesday & Thursday November 7th and 8th

*

TITLE NOT AVAILABLE

Friday & Saturday November 9th and 10th

OFF THE RECORD

"C" COY:— We are interested in the Regimental Hockey Team, as Charlie Coy has the majority of players. They tell all that with Flash Hunter's razzel-dazzel play the team should go a long way. — Home to Canada likely.

After investing all his surplus cash in Bonds, our clerk left on a well earned "Paris Leave". We hope to see him come back with that same gleamy look in his eye. Some of the other low and high priced help that have been there had to wear dark glasses, at least that is what it looked like to us.

Our "Herbie" suggests that free beer night in the Mens Wet Canteen should be unexpected. He himself not being a drinking man, takes the opportunity to be present on the free Golden Night. It looks as if the lap is worried that one of these Wednesday nights he will be on his "Guard Duty" and cannot indulge.

One of our well known Cpls, J. A. Lawlor M. M. has gone on Repat. Every one in our Company wishes him the best, and hope to join him soon in a good old Canadian party.

POP A QUESTION

This weeks question was "WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE PERMANENT FORCE AS A PEACE TIME OCCUPATION"?

The answers which were obtained from various members of The Regiment are as follows:

Cpl. Mitchell, G. T., H.Q. Coy who hails from Regina, Saskatchewan says: To some people this might be a very good occupation. In peace time there is lots of leisure. A person does not have to worry about clothing or meals. Personally though, when I get back to Canada, I will be through with the Army. I have my old job waiting for me and the Army Life isn't what I desire. Just give me a nice sport suit and a new car.

Pte Deuel, J. W., "C" Coy who lives in Montreal, Quebec, says: It is a fair go for anyone who is interested in Army Career. Food, Clothing, Medical and Dental attention will be taken care of by the Government as well as beating the Income Tax which will probably apply to most of us when discharged. However, for me, there would be too much parade square work including various guards and of course the familiar phrase "Spit and Polish" which I have seen enough of in my day.

Pte Drier, C. J., "A" Coy., from Mount Forest, Ontario, says: It is a good occupation for anyone who likes soldiering, but I am not that type so think I would be better suited in some civilian kind of work.

Pte Bombardier, J., "B" Coy., who lives in Victoria, British Columbia but was employed in Montreal prior to enlisting says: For a young man who has not seen action it is a very good thing, as it will be quite different to being a soldier in war time. There are many chances in keeping up with your education etc. However, at my age and having seen three years of action I consider myself better suited for Civilian Life.

"CLUB 61" CALLING HOW YOU GONNA KEEP EM DOWN ON THE FARM

Dere Maw:

I finely got on a trip to Parea las week, unaccompanied by two Sgt-Majers and another dope and it was a wonnerful trip. It was a innorportune time to try out the French I learnt but the natives mus of been very igorant as they could not understand me at all, except for a bunch of beecootiful babes an they could speak some English like, "Wanna buy me a drink, Babe?" and thinks like that. Nacherly I didn't bother with them except to improve my French. I'm not sure what they tot me because when I tried it on a girl in the box office of a theaytre she slapped my face. Parea is a fine place and we visited all the hysterical spots there, like the Tower of Babel and Mount Vesuvius. We spent an interstin day in the liberry and Mooseum in Pigallee wich is the classier part of town, We was gonna visit the leanin tower of Pisa but couldn't tell wich tower it was as all the bildings was leanin more than somewhat after we had a couple soynacs. We went to see the Eollies Bergerre but it was not like what you expeck. I have seen riskier shows at the Casino in Toronto. I tried to get you some post card pitchers of the city but apparently the ony kind they make is dirty pitchers wich I bot a lot of for the fellows who cannot get to Parea. We would of stayed longer in Paris but the black market is very poor there and a fella needs quite some considerable greenbacks to stay in the game, so we took off for Brussels in Beljim and had a good time there too a very excitin time. We bot Naafi tea and buns and everything. I got tangled up with a blonde there who would not let go of me so we took her on rashun strength and brang her back with us. She does not like it here as she cannot speak the lingo so she is goin home again soon. I was very firm with her and gave her just two months to get out of Sneek. I am anqlin for anuther leave and will go back to Brussels to see if there is anythin we missed. Got a lovely soovoneer for you but don't know just how to send it home. It is a church steeple complete with chimes and is sixty feet high. I gess that's why people stared at us on the way back. Well I will have to close now Maw as there is six Beljin policemen at the door lookin for yers truly.

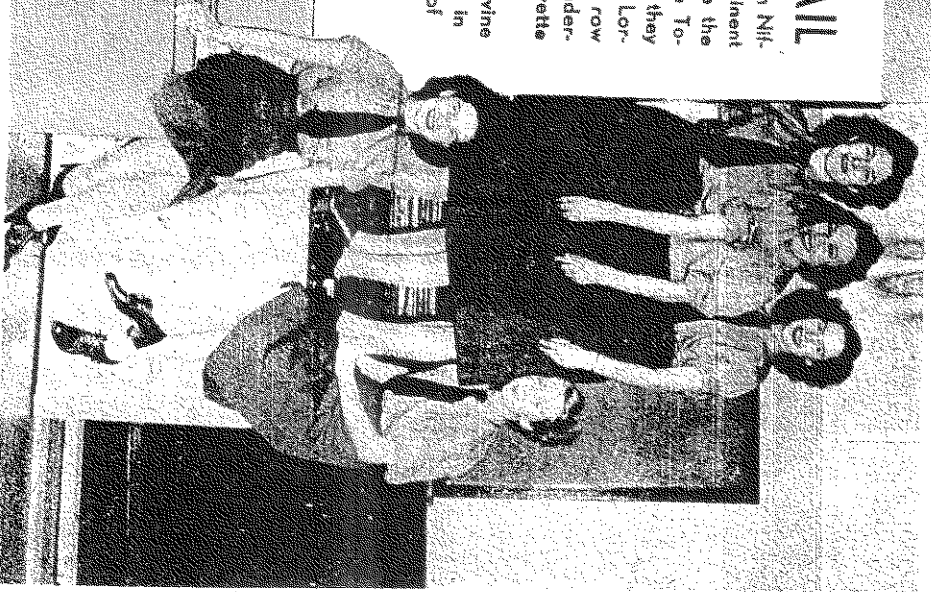
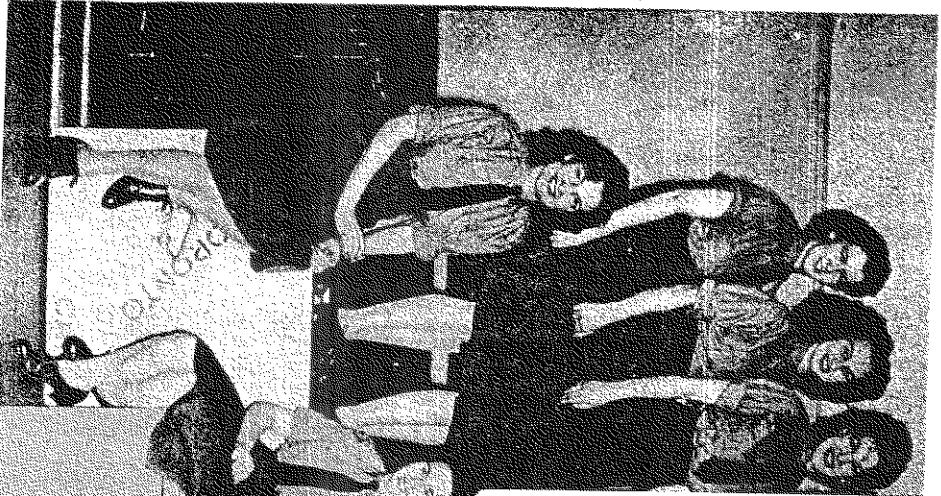
As usual ony worse,

Yer secund eldest, JOSEPH,

SOME SWELL QUAIL

Keeping you posted on the Canadian Nifties that have been touring the Continent for your enjoyment, we display here the female portion (some portion) of The Toronto Masquers. Sitting left to right they are Marguerite Etoy, Jean Gregory, Lorraine Deane, and Freda Lloyd. Back row and standing, Jean Smith, Shirley Anderson, Kay Baldwin, Allison Wallace, Yvette Poulin and Joyce Wilkie.

This particular group, as the grape vine has it, will be spending Christmas in Canada after a rather lengthy tour of performances on the Continent and in the U. K.



Offset-printing Flach, Snek