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# The Northonian

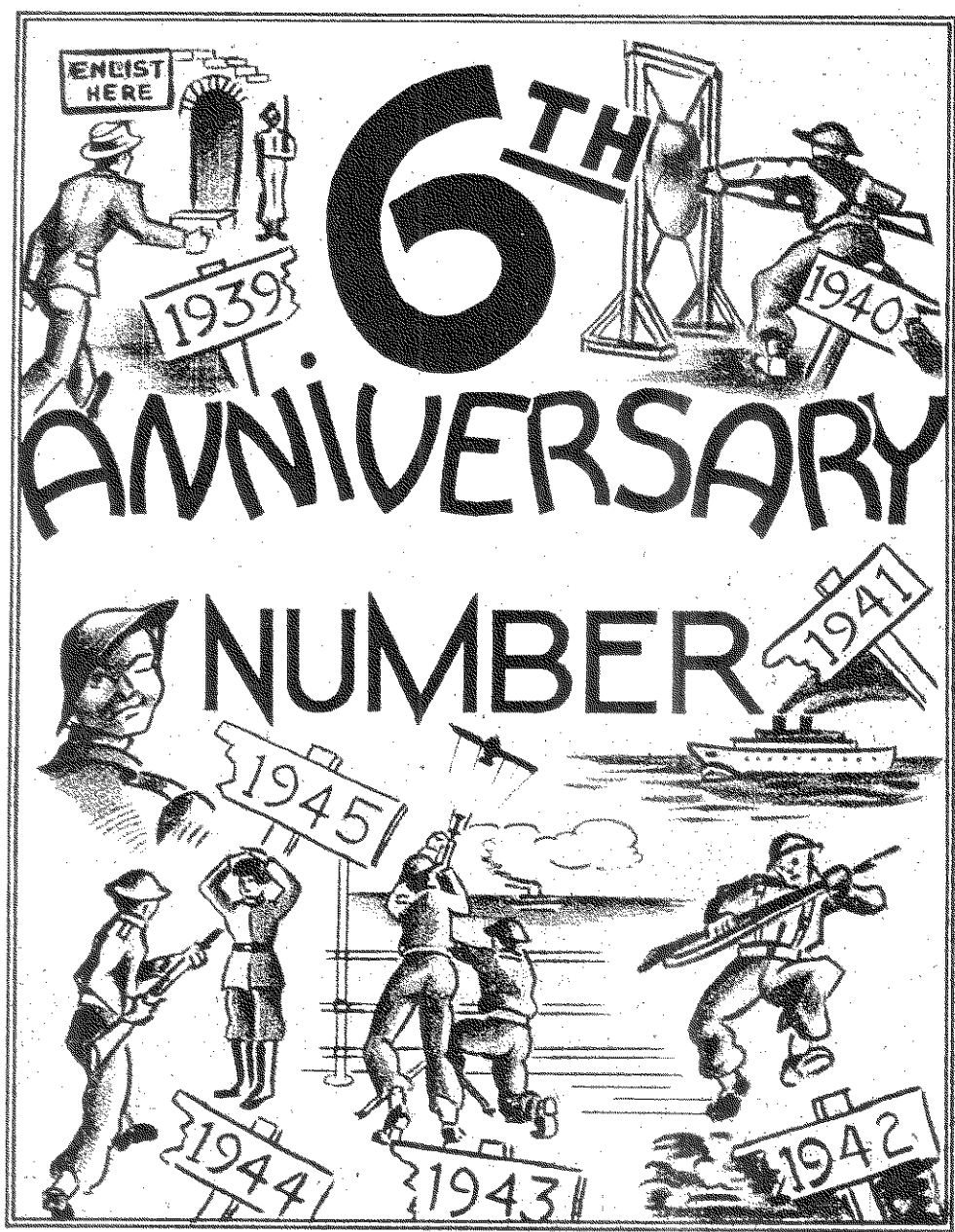


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# EDITORIAL



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

## THIRTY NINERS

It was back in September of 1939 when the first Official call for Active Service Volunteers was put before the Canadian Public. Our Thursday night soldiers began to fully realize their playing at soldier was swift coming to an end, and this talk of Canada going to War was not just another rumour. No more excuses for a weekly get-together, this new business meant being together at all times and the uniform which they wore once every seven days would be their constant dress.

There were many things to consider. Families, jobs, dependants, privacy and so on. Many got out, some with good reason and some with possibly no good reason other than what the word WAR truly meant. A grand percentage however stayed, and when the question was put to them, they stepped proudly forward and volunteered their services. Here was the foundation for the Canadian Army, World War II.

It is to this original small group that we dedicate this column. True, there are not many left with us, but their names will long be remembered, by us, and by people where Canadians had occasion to do battle in this War. It was daring and unselfishness such as theirs that has brought the reputation to our Canadian Army as being one of the finest Fighting Machines in the entire world. To all 39ers, we salute you.

"Duffy".

## SIX YEARS OF ACTIVE SERVICE

On the evening of 4 September 1939 the NPAM unit of the Perth Regiment paraded at the Stratford Armouries. We were told by our C.O., Lt. Col. A. Garrod MC. that the unit had been selected to be mobilized as a machine gun battalion in the Canadian Active Service Force. The next day medical examinations began on those characters who had made the great decision of signing up "for as long as His Majesty shall so require our services". There followed difficult days recruiting and training the embryo soldiers. Lt Col Andrew was appointed recruiting officer which meant raising considerable money to promote recruiting in the counties of Perth, Huron, Bruce and Waterloo. By the end of September we were up to strength in men if not in equipment. It was necessary to raise further funds by public subscription to purchase boots and even hats for the would be soldiers. Headress in those days varied from the peace time S.D. cap to khaki berets.

Units mobilized in the early days of the so called "phony" war did not receive the full cooperation of the general public or the government. It was an uphill battle all the way to get the Regiment into a reasonable facsimile of a fighting unit. There are some incidents we would just as soon forget in our glorious history. But to-day we can look back with pride on the past six years knowing that our service record is second to none in the Canadian Army.

Major H. A. Snelgrove.

## ONE MAN INVASION

Special: The offices of the Perthonian were invaded last week by a one man gang, namely Sgt. Jim Bows, a representative of the Canadian Army Newspaper, The Maple Leaf. Sgt. Bowes in his assault was armed only with pencil and pad and the smile that wreathed his face as he withdrew seemed to confirm the fact that he reached his objective.

He explained to us that he was visiting most all the units in 5th Div. in search of hidden news which might be of interest to soldier readers of the Maple Leaf. We gave him a few highlights on our Contact Committee Canada Sneek, a few words about our energetic Educational Programme and the story of the foundation of your paper, The Perthonian.

Sgt. Bowes was rather envious of the Regiment's set up and it's facilities for both sport and entertainment. He said that we, The Perths, had by far the best organized conditions he had yet come across. Whether this was one of his standard phrases, he did not however

Contd. on P. 4.

# WHAT COOK'S WITH DUFF'S BOYS

Sp. Coy: — And the girl friend said to the boy friend, "Let's play lion"

You had better hurry if you want that new suit, cause time is fast slipping away and Sinatra who is at the moment in supreme command will returning to the good ol' Coy. They tell us, the temporary position which Sinatra holds, has so gone to his head that he is using it as a return address on the back of his letters home.

The nights are getting longer and the lads with the brush cuts are starting their night offensives. Cosatick can give you the dope on the dapper boys latest operations. Can't you Gord?

"The horses are now on the track" and "Shnozz" Matthewson borrows another ten to help the cause. Curly MacLaren set the pace for the final heat. My, what condition that man is in.

Sounds in the night. Bert Plouffe explaining to the locals how he won his medals.

The Acting C.S.M. trying to find out which of his civvy pals has the nicest sister.

Sinatra removing his "stay slim girdle" before turning in for the night.

You can't say our clerk "Snarl" isn't trying. He takes lessons every night from a school-teacher. What course are you on now "Snarl", or better still, what phase of what course?

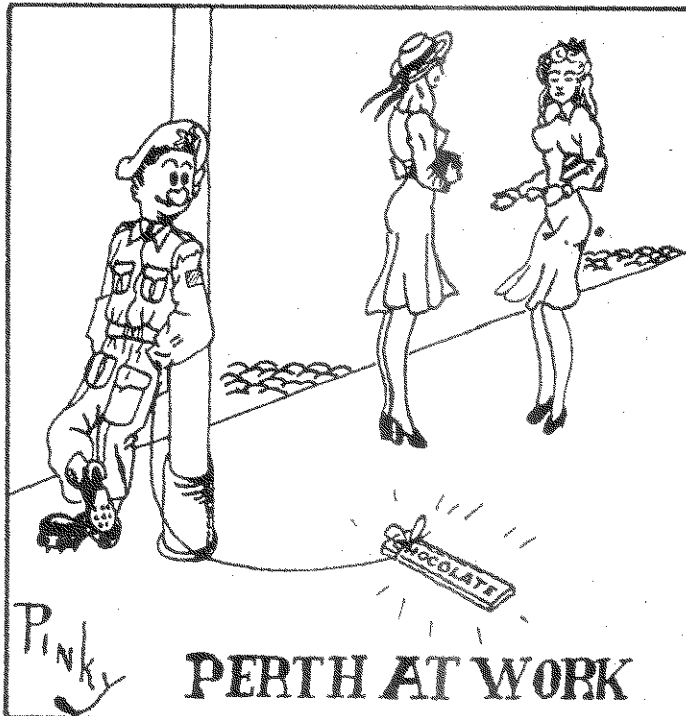
It seems the "boss" was on his toes the other day. Noticing a decrease in the usual crowd about the kitchen he pulled a quick flanking movement down to the corner billet and did a little house-clearing. He caught our old friend "Dehyd" Joe and Hock literally with their pants down, for they were both in the flop after struggling through the breakfast parade. He eased off on them after a quick reprimand because they tell me he also knows what it is to have a hang-over.

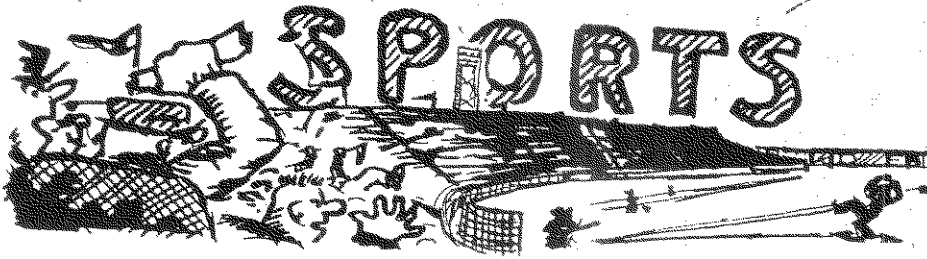
# TWO LIP INDUSTRY



Here we have something other than tulips which the Dutch also have a habit of raising

# BOOZY PALS





## 5th DIVISION CHAMPS

By Lt. G. G. GETTY

If you were wondering what all the shouting was about last Thursday afternoon about 1730, take it from us, the racket originated at Groningen at Be Quick Stadium just at the moment TUBBY DOMIANCZUK squeezed on the pop fly which spelled finish to the second and last game with 5th LAA. That's right, we said second. After five years of being beaten out of the Div. Championship by the Ack Acks, our boys turned on the pressure and took them to camp in two straight games.

Due to weather conditions, transport problems and a few other things, the spectators were conspicuous by their absence. So here is a quick picture of those two games.

The toss for first Home Game went to 5th LAA, who decided to take the field. Carson was pitching and Houle (recalled from the Bombers) went in catching. The battery for the PERTHS was as usual, Joe Natyway on the mound and the little fat boy behind the plate.

Since Rohrbacker was in hospital, we see Shorty Weiss leading off. It's a pop fly to third and he's out. Now Mousseau clouts one for a single and the fight is on. We go around the circuit once and Weiss comes to bat again with four runs having crossed the plate and three still on base. Weiss hits what looks like a sure thing but the center fielder is under it for the out. In the Ack Ack's half, Joe sent them down in grand fashion, two flies to the infield and a strike out. The second and third innings were scoreless for both teams.

In the 4th Weiss scored on a single by Post thus adding another one to the total. The Ack Acks however came back in this inning and scored a couple on two singles, this made the score 5 to 2. In the 7th our lads added a couple more and to cinch things they piled up four more in the ninth. A total score of 11 to 2. Mousseau led the hitting for the day with four hits in six times up. Herchenratter clubbed the only homer of the day and what a beaut she was. Clear down to the far end of the field and smack dab into the football goal post.

In the second tilt, the Ack Acks decided to hurl their best pitcher, so Ward, went to the mound and Prince filled in behind home. The PERTHS used Joe Natyway again, but only after a thorough check by the club trainer Mr. Smith of Sneek. The little fat boy looked over the opposition decided who were "plough

jockeys" and who would swing like "barn doors", turned to our boys, chowed them up, waddled out to the box for a few words with Joe then back again to take up his position and the best game of the season was on.

From the very start it proved to be a pitcher's duel. For three straight innings both sides went down in order. In the 4th the Ack Acks pushed across the first on a walk to Prince and singles by Brown and Ward.

We tied things up in the 5th when Joe worked Ward for a walk, went to second on Weiss's fly and scored on Lockington's double. In the 6th, the Ack Acks coupled two singles and an error for another run. This put them out on top by one. Tubby however ceased his constant babble long enough to even things up by socking a homer out between left and center field. It was here that our lads decided that the Ack Acks had hit enough balls for one game, so they commenced catching anything and everything that looked like a hit. The PERTHS eased the winning run across home in the last of the 8th. Herk had walked. Tubby had flied out, Post singled and Moffat singled loading the bases. Mulligan popped out and Joe made the old saying come true when he singled to score Herk.

All in all it was a game well played by each and every member of the team. Cpl. Sam was the big gun for the day getting 4 hits out of 4 times at bat. The final score was as follows:

PERTHS	3 Runs	8 Hits	1 Error
5th LAA	2 Runs	3 Hits	1 Error

We would like to congratulate the boys at this time for the excellent showing they have made and we will be pulling for you when it comes to the Army Playdowns. C. S. M. Woody will be in charge of transport for spectators in these Army games and the T. O. has promised lots of vehicles so let's get out and root the lads home with top honours. The time and place for the games will be published at a later date.

### One man invasion contd. from P. 2

disclose. He also mentioned, it would not be too long before we were reading of his visit to our unit in the columns of The Maple Leaf.

One item of interest which Jim left with us was the fact that the only time he can remember the staff of The Maple Leaf scrubbing web was just prior to the recent visit of General Crerar to their establishment in Brussels.

# "H Q" TID BITS

H. Q. Coy: — It seems that compulsory Church Parades are enlightening, whether to some the text may have been, "Come ye before me and rejoice", or "Abandon hope all ye who enter here". It was related by one of the higher priced help that he saw one of the lads in H. Q. on his knees before the desk of the tower of wisdom in the BOR, quoting scripture thusly:

"And there appeared on the streets of Sneek in the eventide, he of the Coat of Arms, who didst see three very indolent youths lounging and slouching thereon. Whereupon he pake unto the first one saying: "Oh ye of little faith, didst thou not read thy little booklet of rules which adorns the house of the Master? And does it not expound therein that whilst in pursuit of pleasures thou shalt encircle thy paunch with a girdlet of web, also about thy neck shall be a raiment of darkest hue; and thy cloak shall be drawn closely about thy body?" And the lowly one spake unto him saying: "Aye, Master, I have seen and have not believed. Yea even so, a bright light now dawns upon me out of this veil of darkness".

Whereupon, He of the Coat of Arms commanded, "Be thou at the dwelling of the purveyor of justice (?) at nine hours on the morrow, adorned in all thy grandeur and mark ye well, lest thy tongue do you treachery."

And there appeared before he of the twin golden pips at the appointed time, the repentent one, garbed as commanded and he was of faint heart lest he be cast into the chamber of darkness, for 28 days. But the Master, perceiving his sorrow, had compassion and spake unto his saying, "Son, thou hast strayed from the straight and narrow. Henceforth and for seven moons the straights and narrows of the Master's House shall glisten liken to the new fallen snow."

And the lowly one, retreating three paces and reverently placing his hand to his brow answered, "Aye, Sire, even as thou sayest, so shall it be donest".

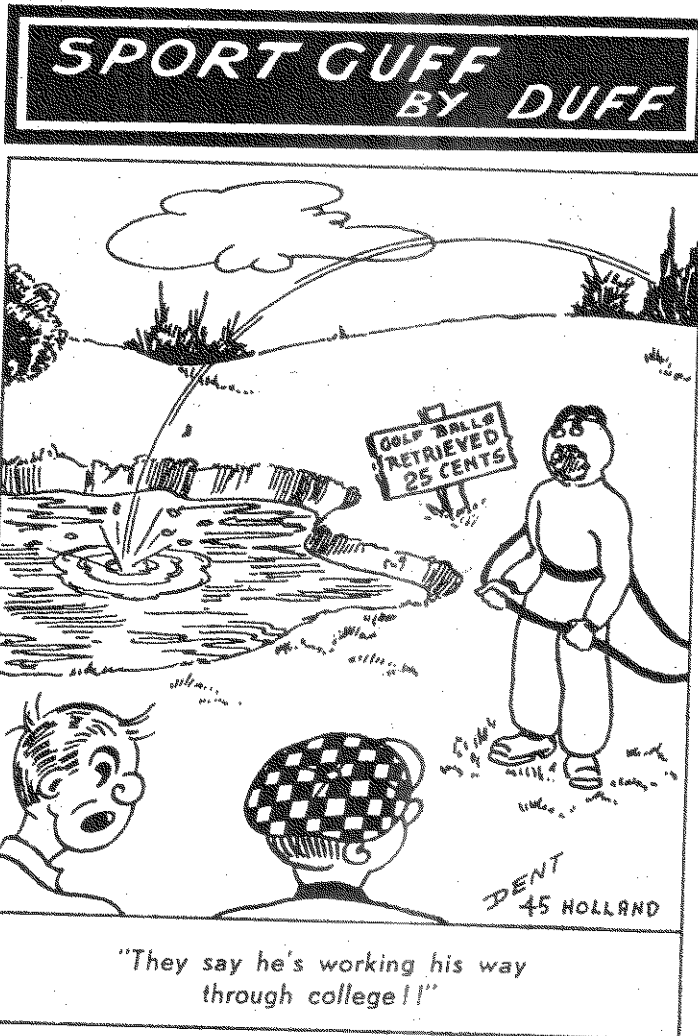
Then he of the golden pips sayeth unto him, "Go thy way and err no more"

The girls of Manchester have been given a seventy-two hour reprieve by the same token — that is the postponement of leave. Six Perth WOs and Sgts are meeting in "The Castle" in that renowned city come Saturday. We might say, there ought to be a law, but the presence of multi red caps will make that expression unnecessary.

Is there any special reason why Sgt Murch asks for a particular driver for his beer-gathering trips? There's never any trouble getting a driver for such necessary business. While we're on the subject, Murch has been missing his P.T. and reducing exercises these days.

Note: Read next week's issue, and there will be "Weeping and wailing and snatching for beef".

The Scribe



"They say he's working his way through college!"

## IN THE DOG-HOUSE

Do you remember?

D.COY:— Gone is the 8th. Army, but not forgotten by the old men of The Perth Regiment. For with the 8th. we had some of our happiest times and some of our most miserable. This week we would like to recall to you some of those times. Do you remember the march from Naples to Afrigola and the variety of smells encountered on it? Of course the rain didn't help matters at all or the fact that Colonel Andrews took us on an extended tour of Naples so that the inhabitants could get a good look at us.

The officers will always have a soft spot in their hearts for sheep skin coats, trench coat liners, and battered flat hats. Also they recall with pleasure and to their batmens' horror the brew pots in the "Waddies". Even "Monty" liked that.

Where else in the world could one find mud like we had in the 8th. Even the "Ities" couldn't cope with it and they had lived there all their lives' so what was a poor Canadisi supposed to do?

Never before or since have we seen such large quantities of Liquid Fire which they call wine, even though most of it was beyond human consumption. Some of the braver men in the Regiment did try to drink it but not many of them are left alive to tell about it.

You all remember Rome, Florence, Naples and Bari where one could spend seven days leave and several months pay, unless you were smart enough to take along a case or two of Bully-Beef.

And who hasn't a soft spot in their hearts for all those road signs composed by the men of the Provost Corps. Remember them? Diamond Up, Heart Route Down, Dust Draws Fire and Muddy Isn't It?

Men of The Perth's will all remember Urbino, for there we spent one of our more enjoyable months in Italy. More than one man lost his heart over a buxom Italian girl with flashing black eyes, and a knack for cooking spaghetti, and eggs and chips.

Those of you who passed through Avellino will remember the sign "Be High Fullutin Try Salutin" designed by the Old C.I. Major "BOMBER" Chamberlain one of the founders and practically a life long resident of the establishment.

Well thats all for this week so "Buona Note".

## CHIT AND CHATTER

B. Coy:— Lieut. Pattison has returned to the fold after a spot of leave in England. When asked the reason for the bags under his eyes, he replied, (Quote) "I had a very quiet leave". This of course is open to discussion.

Our threat to meet the Regimental Softball Team should be taken in all seriousness for our winning streak is daily becoming longer.

We have just trounced Charlie Coy. again, this time to the score of 8 to 2. The constant chatter of our first baseman "Beccroft" seems to have something to do with our victories. It is a treat to watch our smooth infield operate around the old "spark plug" Pop Grierson. We might mention here; Regimental Softball Team, please take note.

Many of us in Baker Goy. Have a much brighter out look on life since Lieut. Fleming came through with a lecture on gratuities. He put it over so well he has most of us believing we are millionaires. If the civilian shop keeps notice an increase in sale of anything from hot-water-bottles to kitchen-sinks they can thank our same Mr. Fleming.

For once the lads have an excuse for being late on parade. When asked, the answer is; "Sir, the bridge was up".

We welcome Cpl. Dick Powell back from a short sojourn with C.O.F. Anybody wishing to see him, will find him at the Canteen with the usual bucket of suds clutched in his hand.

## Y.M.C.A. NEWS

Special:— The Bingo last week was fairly well attended, and promises to be a big feature during the long cold and dull, yes, let's face it, winter. Join us any Tuesday at the "Y" around 1900 hours.

The new Movie Schedule gives us three pictures each week instead of the usual two. These pictures will be on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Tuesdays and Thursdays the show will appear in the Church Hall. The new schedule will make the Avon more crowded as each show will only run two nights. So please co-operate and only bring one civilian friend along. Last week's Beefs and Moans column seemed to be aimed in our general direction, and quite rightly, as all were good sensible beefs. So, here-under we will try to provide the answers. We looked up the "coke" situation and found that coca-cola is available only in the Brigade at the Granite Club in Leeuwarden. The amount of it on hand is not enough to make distribution to units. As for the promises re "cokes". I found the fellow who made them. At the time he was working on a new method of production, based on the principle of the Atomic Bomb. He hopes to have all the canals in Holland running with "coke" before the winter is out.

About our projector. At this moment of writing, our old projector is away for repairs, and on return, the sound should be better.

Thanks for the few words of appreciation for our operators it lets them know their work is not being ignored.

As for the question of talking and laughing during the film. We have tried to keep out the juveniles, and will continue to try. But how's about when a soidier brings a gal along who is under eighteen, and that often is the case? We will work from our end and you work from yours and just kinda make sure that your gal is not one of the offenders. O.K.!

Supr. D. E. "Scotty" Scott

# OFF THE RECORD IT'S A HIT

C.COY.— Well sir, I see Davidson our prize "Don R" has returned from his U.K. leave looking a little wan. I asked the young lad if he had been an over worked blood donor but he said, "No". Apparently the Kid has been a party to a marriage. It seems he met a certain young woman washing dishes in a service hostel in southern England about three yaers and four months aho. Since introductions are considered quite conventional he acquired one right suddenly and proceeded to lend a hand at the scullery. This young lady appreciated the "Shadows" (Davy) aptitude for pearl diving and so a romance started to flower, and climaxed at 2,30 P.M. on the afternoon of the Sixth of August in the year of our Lord 1945 at Royal Garrison Church for all gaints in Hampshire. There were four Bridesmaids in attendance and there was quite a splash all around. Ted Tanchuk carried off the honours of best man, a reception followed at the home of the Bride's parents and things were very well handled. There was much merry-making and kidding of the newly weds, and then Mr. and Mrs. Dave took off to Portsmouth.

Davie, joined the Regiment early in 1941 and hails from London, Ont., and plans to return there with the Missus as soon as she gets enough points. Well, congratulations and the very best of wishes Davie from all the jokers in Charlie Coy., and may all your troubles be little ones.



*From the interested look on the faces of the folks in the above picture, one would think they were witnessing a Regimental ball-game. And one is correct, for they werell!*

## Chit and Chatter contd. from P. 6

Take and tip and steer clear of the Regimental Provost Boys. Since Sgt. Lennox has taken over, the poor "jigs" just don't stand a chance. Anything he is wearing that has the appearance of Army Issue comes off. Lawd help the joker if he's completely outfitted in a soldiers garb.

Sgt. Lennox might also be set as an example of what the well dressed soldier should wear. All we can say at the moment to our old B. Coy. man is "Woo, woo".



*Awright, lets try that movement once more . . and stop playing hard to get!!*



## MILITARY CROSS

Lieutenant George Francis DOWNHAM  
The Perth Regiment.

At 0100 hours 13 September 1944, "C" Coy., The Perth Regiment began the advance to CORIANO ridge. The advance was over very difficult country, and in the intense fire and darkness the leading section became confused. Lieutenant DOWNHAM immediately went forward and moving well ahead of his men, led them bound by bound through heavy mortar and machine-gun fire to the top of the feature. Nearing the objective Lieutenant DOWNHAM halted his platoon and went forward alone to ascertain the best line of approach. The platoon then advanced, captured their objective and began to dig in. During the consolidation, a number of Mk. IV tanks approached the position from the left flank. Lieutenant DOWNHAM ordered his platoon to continue digging, took a PIAT himself and moved to a flank to engage the tanks. When he opened fire the tanks turned in his direction and returned his fire. Lieutenant DOWNHAM disregarded the fire and continued to engage the tanks with good effect, one tank being damaged and the remainder forced to withdraw.

Throughout the action, the skill, courage and utter unselfishness of this officer were an example to his men, and his inspiring leadership enabled them to seize and hold the vital left flank of "C" Coy's position.

## CLUB 61 CALLING

Sgt's. MESS.— Whether it was the aftermath of the party on Wednesday evening or the fact the Sgts. still don't know the difference between a baseball or billiard ball is hard to say. But whatever it may be, they certainly looked as if "Fearless Fosdick's" V-2s and Depth Charges had knocked them for a loop the same as the Irish did the other Thursday afternoon. The exact score is hard to determine but when interviewing the scorekeeper "Mr. Jack of Dog Coy", we noticed he had one shoe and sock off, so the score must have been between ten and fifteen runs.

Probably the greatest highlight of the game was when the Irish pitcher hurled a ball that hit Bro. Hall's bat and it bounced out to centre field for a single. After running as far as first base, the stretcher bearers had to be called to put Bill back on his feet again. To quote "Woody", I have seen a lot of palefaces way out West, but none can compare with the colour of Bill's face after the great effort.

We are wondering if Bro. Mulligan thinks he is only supposed to hit the ball when playing on the Regimental team because he certainly didn't know what to do with the ball on Thursday.... or was it simply because he had been the bar tender the night before the game?

The boss "Mr. George" apparently has five fingers instead of four after his superb catching job behind the plate.

Smitty pitched a great game but his fielders didn't have quite enough baskets. However it was a lot of fun, and judging from the laughter on the side lines, the spectators got quite a kick out of it too.

On Wednesday evening another enjoyable party was held by the boys out at the Pavillion. Owing to inclement weather conditions the sailing was cancelled and the evening was devoted to a swing session for jive-hounds. We thank Bros. Chris, Gil and Jack for laying on such a lively evening of entertainment.

We haven't quite decided whether "Muscles" was doing a snake dance or whether it was a stiff breeze off the lake that made him sway so. The boss naturally looked real posh in the wooden clodhoppers he was wearing and "Nifty" all smiles, looked like the proverbial cat who has eaten the mouse. The shine from Bro. Al's dancing pumps gave us ample light when darkness fell and through all this danced our "Squire". Gosh, it must be great to be young!!!

## AT THE FLICKS

### Animal Kingdom

Starring Ann Sheridan and Dennis Morgan  
Mon. & Tues. Sept. 3rd and 4th.

\*

### Dancing in Manhattan

with Ann Savage and Red Brady  
Wed. & Thurs. Sept. 5th and 6th

\*

### Between Two Women

Starring Gloria De Haven and Van Johnson  
Fri. & Sat. Sept. 7th and 8th

\*

Note-Remember, the films are shown at the  
Church Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays