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# The Perthonian



PRINTED IN FRIESLAND, HOLLAND

No. 19

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

NOVEMBER 1945

## A NETHERLAND'S CHRISTMAS

The origin of Santa Claus and a typical Holland Xmas as explained by Dr. H. de Vos of Sneek, in the following article.

The whole Perth Regiment is invited by the C.C.C.S. to a Dutch Santa Claus feast which will be held in the Church Hall at 8 o'clock on Monday 26 November. We sincerely hope that you will all come, however, before you do you must know a little about the feast because you do not know it in Canada and Santa Claus in Holland is not the same as Santa Claus in Canada.

The feast here is a feast in honour of Saint Nicholas who was a Bishop of Dyrain, Asia Minor, where he died on 6th December 3rd of 343. It is on the day of his death that his feast is kept. During his life he did many miracles which all showed his charity and kindness, towards men, especially towards the poor and the children. This may be the origin of the feast as it is kept now.

Centuries ago the people here celebrated the feast of "Sainter Klass" (Saint Lord Claus). It was a feast especially for the children. During the night of 5-6 Dec, he rides over the roofs of houses on his white horse. — This by the way reminds us of Wustan who rides through the air on his white horse — Through the chimney Santa Claus, clothed as a Bishop enters the house, there he finds wooden shoes and shoes with bread, hay and some water for the horse. He replaces the food with presents. The children having sung their songs to the chimney the evening before awake very early, anxious to know what Santa Claus has brought to them, they came out of their beds and when they have their presents they sing their songs of gratitude again. Only the naughty child gets a rod, but on the feast of Santa Claus there are very few naughty children.

When the children grow older they wait with their families for Santa Claus, who comes in person to bring the presents. He is accompanied by a little Negro called Black Peter who is his servant. Santa Claus who arrives from Spain, his home, has a big sack and a rod. He puts the naughty children into his sack. When the children grow older and no longer believe in Santa Claus, the evening is spent by playing games, drinking chocolate and eating "taai-taai" (a kind of ginger bread) "speculars" (a sort of cake) "pepernoten" (ginger bread nuts).

The finest moment of the feast is when the presents which are all put together are distributed. Each package contains a poem, maybe a very bad one, but that does not matter with everyone joking at such a time. On the feast of Santa Claus you may say more than at any other time, but only joking and not love.

We cannot give you exactly such a feast, but you shall have your feast of Santa Claus. Santa Claus and his servant Black Peter will be there in person, there will be something to eat and drink and a small present for each of you, there will be jokes, and a revue, with bits played by Canadians and others played by "Sneekians". There will be lots of fun and we hope you can all be there.

## POP A QUESTION

This being the last issue of The Perthonian due to our repatriation to Canada we took the opportunity of changing the subject and obtained interviews from men of the Regiment on the following: "A SHORT STATEMENT OF THANKS AND FAREWELL TO THE PEOPLE OF SNEEK"

Pte Robinet, U. J. "A" Coy — Windsor, Ontario.

I wish to thank the fine people of Sneek for their kind hospitality and generosity. They gave me a home that I could really call a home. I could not have it better if I were in my own home in Canada, except that I would be with my family. May God Bless them with a great prosperity and a speedy return to normal life again. I will always have them in my memories as long as I live.

Pte Wise, C. J. "A" Coy — Wallaceburg, Ontario.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the people of Sneek who have been so kind to me, especially the people who I have become acquainted with and who have so generously opened their homes to me. These homes are a home away from home and nothing seemed too much for any of them. It was rather difficult with

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# EDITORIAL

## The Perthonian Staff:

Editor in Chief . . . . . Capt. J. M. "Duffy" Dent  
Business & Circulation Manager . . . . . Lieut. V. E. Fryer

### SUB EDITORS

Pte R. A. Prashaw . . . . .	A. Coy
Cpl. C. R. Betridge . . . . .	B. Coy
Pte. J. Bayrak . . . . .	B. Coy
Pte H. A. MacKay . . . . .	C. Coy
Sgt. J. Landriault . . . . .	HQ. Coy
Pte L. St Louis . . . . .	HQ. Coy
Pte A. L. Holle . . . . .	HQ. Coy

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.

## AND SO --- FAREWELL

As usual, the Army has done it again. Our date of departure has been moved up and has, more or less, caught us with our columns down. Our original intention was to publish twenty issues of The Perthonian but with this new and advanced Repat date we have been forced to discontinue, rather abruptly, with a mere nineteen. Our previous plans of a "super-duper" effort for the twentieth number have consequently fallen through and we are afraid this normal copy shall have to be accepted.

The staff trust the paper has served its purpose and that in the future it will be a source of fond memories as you occasionally reminisce through the pages of back copies.

It is with mixed feelings that we bid farewell to Sneek which has been our home away from home since the cessation of hostilities. Predominant amongst these feelings is one of sincere gratitude. Here in Sneek we have gone through a stage (and a very important one) of tapering off. Working in conjunction with the Town Council we have endeavoured to swing our thoughts and deeds back into civilian channels and with wonderful results indeed. The Townspeople were most patient during this period of adjustment and often when the situation necessitated it, they had to practically become soldiers themselves to understand our viewpoints. As their customs amused and tried us, ours must have appeared similar to them but this they accepted and jotted down to experience simply because, we were the guests and they, the hosts.

Many friendships have been established and some intimate. These friendships will not soon be forgot but will be cherished and re-kindled at the mere mention of Holland in our days to come. Although some persistent characters, commonly known as "jokers", have at times strained the relationship with our Dutch friends, we nevertheless feel that on our departure a clean taste will be left in the mouths of all concerned. We give our humble thanks to a most kind and understanding host for a prolonged but immensely enjoyable visit. FAREWELL SNEEK.

"DUFFY".



On behalf of all ranks of The Perth Regiment I want to express to the people of Sneek our most sincere thanks for their kindness and hospitality during our five and one months enforced stay in Sneek. Most of us dreaded the period after the war ended in May of waiting to return to Canada. However, due to our good fortune of being stationed in Sneek the time has not only passed quickly but it has been a most enjoyable period as well.

I would like to thank the Burgomaster of Sneek, Mr. L. Rasterhoff, Dr. H. de Vos, Chairman of the C.C.C.S. and the other members of the C.C.C.S. for their untiring efforts in making us feel at home and arranging various activities to help us pass the time. Very few difficulties arose and these were always solved in closest harmony between the Civilians and ourselves.

The City of Stratford, Ontario, Canada will always welcome our good friends from "Stratford" Friesland and we will look forward to meeting again. In the meantime we say au revoir. The Perthians will take back to Canada happy memories of Sneek days and may the good will between our two countries which has been fostered here in Sneek continue to grow during the coming years. Maj. H. A. SNEELGROVE.

## MILITARY MEDAL

A. 11100 Sergeant John Robert SPENCER  
THE PERTH REGIMENT of CANADA

On the night of 28 April 1945 Sergeant SPENCER was a member of "B" Company of THE PERTH REGIMENT, which was holding a position on the WESTERN side of the canal in the town of HOLWEIRDE. A portion of the town on the EASTERN side of the canal was held by the enemy.

At about 2230 hours Sergeant SPENCER observed an enemy patrol on the WESTERN bank of the canal SOUTH of the town. On his own initiative and alone, Sergeant SPENCER stalked the enemy and succeeded in capturing all three members of the patrol.

The enemy patrol provided information which enabled Sergeant SPENCER to cross the river to the enemy-held part of the town, where with great skill he moved about the enemy positions in darkness and returned to his Company with detailed information of the enemy's dispositions and strength. With this information the Company Commander was able to plan and carry out an attack on the morning of 29 April. The attack was successful despite strong opposition and the enemy were driven from HOLWEIRDE.

During the attack Sergeant SPENCER was in the vanguard, at all times, clearing enemy from one basement strongpoint after another, during the course of which he personally captured thirty five prisoners.

The dash, initiative and determination displayed by Sergeant SPENCER was largely responsible for the success of the Company attack.

# Perth's "Herbie" is "Pinky" "PINKY"

SPECIAL:— The Maple Leaf may have reaped laurels from the efforts of Staff Artist "Bing" Coughlin but certainly no more than the Perthonian for the side-splitting cartoon, "Boozin' Pals". The originator of the two loveable characters in "Boozin' Pals" is our own Pte M. L. Pincombe of Headquarters Coy. Better known as "Pinky", Pte Pincombe can be seen doing his daily chores in the Regiment's Quarter Stores.

Pte Pincombe was raised in London, Ontario and although he took a great fancy to cartooning and sketching, his civilian efforts were limited to electricity. Pinky, at the moment, has no future plans for his talent which in our estimation seems to be something good going to waste. However, whatever line of work he undertakes, if the results are half as pleasing as his cartoons, we know his employer will be more than satisfied.

To "Pinky", we say, "thanks a million chum, your cartoons have been a chief factor in keeping us amused during our term of waiting".

A large vote of thanks is also due our many and faithful contributors without whose help, The Perthonian might on many occasion never have gone to press. Chief among those admirable

individuals is C.S.M.

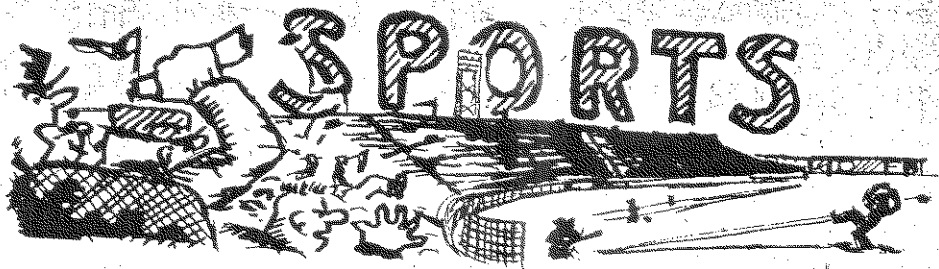
"Nifty" Crawford the author of "A Letter To Me Mudder" and Pte L. St. Louis who kept us laughing with Jean Baptiste. Then there is Pte A. L. Holle the patient clerk of the Perthonian whose untiring efforts always sent the sheet to press on time. The various Coy editors are also to be remembered for coming through with the material when it was required. These notable characters are; Pte R. A. Prashaw, Cpl C. R. Betridge, Pte I. Bayrak, Pte H. A. MacKay, Sgt J. Landriault. We must also take time out to thank the man of many tasks Lieut. V. E. Fryer, who operated with us as Business and Circulation Manager although at times this was rather doubtful.

To all these swell people we wish "all the best" and good luck in any and all of your future undertakings. (providing they are above board.)



Here is the chap responsible for the weekly cartoon, "Boozin' Pals". We owe him much for the diversion his work has afforded.





## 5th DIV SOCCER CHAMPIONS 1945



Front row left to right: Ptes Jacobs, Bell, Birrell, Land and White. Back row left to right; Ptes (Brinen, Grierson, Cowan, Couture, CQMS Willis, Ptes Flood, Tullock, MacDonald, Derbyshire and Mr. Ary Smit (trainer). We are sorry that Lieut G. G. Getty (Sports Officer) was not present when the above photograph was taken. We thank you Mr. Getty and hope to have you with us again in the near future.

**SOCCER:**— Tuesday, Nov. 6th saw our Soccer Team again defeat the G.G.H.G's by a score of 3 to 1 and thereby capturing the Div. Championship. They played a very hard fought game, both teams refusing to give an inch of ground, however the Perth boys proved themselves the better in the second half with Pte Flood scoring two goals to the one and only for the G.G.H.G's throughout the whole game. Pte MacDonald came back in the second half with another goal for the Perth Team which put the finishing touch to the game and made the Perth boys champions.

Special mention goes to CQMS Willis, the Captain of the team. Pte Jacobs and Pte Flood who played an exceptionally good game and contributed greatly to winning the game. Pte Birrell our goalie, did a marvelous job when many attempts were made by the G.G.H.G's to get into that goal, but we knowing how reliable and dependable Pte Birrell is with his hands knew they would come to nought. We must also mention Ptes Bell, Land, White, Cowan, Tullock, MacDonald and Couture who

played very well and helped make victory possible. Our thanks go to Mr. Smit, the trainer, who was on hand and whose hard work in training the boys made victory possible.

The team went into the game with the fighting spirit similar to the showing of the Perths in former sports.

The Soccer Team will be playing for the Army Championship in the near future, lets see a good attendance and give the boys all the support you can. The times and places of future games will be posted on Orders. Come one, Come all, the boys will do their part of the work.

**POP A QUESTION** contd. from page 1  
the difference in languages but the Sneek people have picked up the English well enough to keep an ordinary conversation. Now that I say "So Long" I wish you a speedy turn for the better and hope everything will be back in normal swing again. I hope I can repay the hospitality

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# CHIT AND CHATTER UP AND DOWN STATION STREET

"B" COY :— The foggy weather last week had disastrous results as far as one of "B" Coy "characters" was concerned. With his eyes wide open this particular "character" walked straight into the canal. Fortunately he was able to get out without help and suffered no more than a ducking. Best carry a fog light after this, Skerritt, either that or a pair of water wings.

Congratulations and good wishes are in order for "B" Coy's Cpl Gater. One of Friesland's beauties has consented to be his bride. After a great deal of trouble and waiting he finally received his permission and plans are well advanced. We hope you will be very happy and in the not too distant future your wife will be able to join you in Canada.

For the past week or so "B" Coy mess hall (Knorr Cafe) has been well patronized. The proprietor put up two stoves, the Army supplied the coal and the interior of the Cafe has the appearance of the corner grocery store with the fellows sitting around the stoves soaking in the heat and comparing stories and experiences. You should hear some of the stories.

## POP A QUESTION

contd. from page 4

shown towards me when you are able to visit our fair Dominion in the near future.

Cpl Mitchell, G. T. "HQ" Coy — Regina, Saskatchewan.

It is with great pleasure that I thank the people of Sneek for the hospitality afforded me during my prolonged stay here. My few contacts with these people have been very enjoyable. Everyone went out of their way to make our stay a happy one. Particularly I would like to thank those with whom I have visited spending many pleasant evenings in their homes. No one could have been friendlier. These people will always remain in my memory and I hope to hear from them often. Thank you all again and may you have many years of peace and prosperity.

"A" COY :— Why the wan look Bob? Was Paris too much for you or is it because you are not sure whether she is steady or unsteady.

There sure must be something nice in Leeuwarden these days for the men to want to volunteer for Brigade Guard. What has she got Petrinka?

We still say this Company has the best meals in the Regiment. Having fresh pork three and four days a week. Thanks to the whole company for co-operating.

We wonder why a couple of men meet the ten to six special every night from Leeuwarden. Are they afraid to go home in the dark Frankie and Dick?

## SPORT GUFF BY DUFF

"He used to be a "Bow Gunner" in the Air Force"

## THE PERTH PLAZA OFF THE RECORD

**TEA SHOP** — Owing to our departure in the near future we have found it necessary to cut off the supply of fancy cakes, etc. However from now until we move the tea-shop will be in operation at the regular hours with tea and biscuits. So don't forget to drop around and visit us.

**TOURNAMENTS** — Winners of our tournaments in the past week are as follows:

1. Amateur Ping Pong — Pte Ricks with Pte Roseborough runner-up.
2. Cribbage — The winner was Pte G. Peat with 176 points, the booby prize going to Pte Cowan with 41 points.
3. Shuelbak — Winner — Pte McNabb with Pte Beltz and Pte Rieb tied for second place.

**REPORT TO YOU** — No doubt all members of the Unit would appreciate a report on the Perth Plaza which is operated by the Canadian Y.M.C.A. for you.

Briefly the operation consists of the Tea-Shoppe, Writing and Games Room, Book-Nook, Shoe-Shine Bay, Kapper-Snapper, and Perth General Store (Canteen).

The general store handles the regular Y.M.C.A. and NAAFI allotments along with such services as telegrams, cable flowers, bulb orders and Unit plate and mug orders.

Equipment such as chairs, tables etc. were requisitioned along with the building, Table Cloths, Chesterfield Chairs were generously donated by outstanding collaborationists with the aid of the Sneek Burgomaster. Stationery, Radios, P. A. System, Pennants, Cups and Saucers are provided by the Y.M.C.A.

Nothing can be accomplished without a willing staff of helpers. The Perth Plaza and "Avon Theatre" Staff are as follows:

1. Tea Shoppe — Cpl Art Gale  
Tom "Doc" Savage  
Norm Wilson (Baker)
2. General Store (Canteen)  
Don "Lipstick Kid" Darby  
Fred "The Form" Lovett  
Mac McNabb
3. Avon Theatre — Rhody "Muscles" Wunder  
Jess "Amsterdam" Mitchell
4. Drivers — Oscar "Zombie" Schram  
Joe "Piccadilly" Rohrbacher
5. Administrative Staff  
Supervisor Erle Ulley  
Sgt J. Lockington

### REHAB PROBLEMS AND THE PADRE

When you arrive home you will find that many of the Rehab problems will prove to be "stickers". This situation should not discourage you. There will always be an Army Padre somewhere in your vicinity. Go to him, he may be able to assist you. He has gone to bat for you before and he will undoubtedly do it again. Remember, if you require help, visit your nearest Padre.

Hon. Capt. ALOX RAPSON.

**"C" COY:** — The Staff wishes to thank the two boys who took such a personal interest in the cleanliness of our kitchen to wit: They have (compulsory) volunteered to scrub it at least twice in the past week. If there were more willing workers like good old Dinsmore (Flannel to his friends) and Palmer, his side kick, this life would not be so hard on the rest of us.

Spark in the Company, for social life is fading away. At the dance on Wednesday night there were only two familiar faces to be seen. Big Time Operator Kosowan lets it be known that he can mug and dance with any nation. Glamour Boy "Yak" carries a far away look in his eyes.

Our friend Osborne has found out his manly charms were not enough to hold on to his sweetie-pie, because when he was let out of the bakery shop, he was also given the go bye by his girl friend on Amalia Straat as she now finds her hearts delight in a certain Sgt.

We have now come to the end of our "Off the Record" script. In the short life of "The Perthonian" we have not had the opportunity to get items on all personnel of our Company. For those of you who have been lucky in keeping your name out of the scandal column, we wish you the same luck on Civvie Street, (whenever you finally get there).

The members of "C" Company wish to thank their Editor for the good work he has done in their column of the Perthonian, however they expected more scandal in this issue after seeing him in the car park in an ambulance. We thought it was news you were on the scrounge for but evidently we were mistaken.

### OR ELSE



Straining to gain the attention of the fair damsel pictured above, a certain N.C.O. from the Educational Office forced your editor, practically at pistol point, to come through with a reproduction. SO. — here it is and not bad, Mitch.

## "CLUB 61" CALLING The last letter to me Mudder

We should like to take this means of conveying to the many friends whom we have made in Sneek our sincere thanks for their many kindnesses and to wish them all the very best of luck. To Mr. and Mrs. Braam and the Staff of the "Cafe Onder de Linden" we extend our grateful thanks for their ever present hospitality. May our valued friendship be continued in the years to come. It is hoped that all our friends read these few words as it applies to each and everyone and our stay here shall always be one to class among our souvenirs. Our thanks is also extended to the Staff of the Perthonian for their untiring efforts to give us a "news sheet" with which to brighten our stay in Holland.

Club 61 was host on Saturday and Sunday to five original members of the Regiment now serving with the C.A.O.F. (Active), namely: RSM S. J. M. Halliday, CSM W. J. Hall, CQMS D. Fisher and Sgt B. Guymer of 3/H.L.I. of C; and Sgt. L. C. Smith of the S.D. & G.H. of C. They were entertained at the usual haunt "The Roma Club", Leeuwarden and were not long getting re-acquainted with old friends.

**ORCHIDS OF THE WEEK:** To RSM G. F. Curtis and RQMS W. J. Hansford who were awarded the Military Medal last week. Heartiest Congratulations, fellars!!!

**SCENE OF THE WEEK:** CSM W. J. Hall (3/H.L.I. of C.) surrounded by six beautiful Meisje at the Roma Club.... we noticed that you were without your club, Bill!

### PERSONALITIES:

By the way George and "Nifty", how did you find things in Nijmegen?

The Brigade Guard being held over for an extra twenty-four hours was received with great approval by the Guard Commander. He also saw to it that the party on Saturday afternoon went over with a "Bang".

What did you lose at the Club the other night, "Squire"? When last seen, you were diligently burrowing underneath the table! Was it your nerve?

One more Westerner gone wrong!! "Chico" is now a full fledged member of the "Royal Order of the Purple Goons".

"Do you take this woman" - Congratulations Gordie and Barney.

## ME JEAN BAPTISTE

St. Philomene on de lac  
In Canada Nov. 1945

Dear Baptiste:

I'm receiving your letters all de time so dis time I write to you. Everything on de farm she is okay. The rhubarb she is flower and the cow with the spots on de back she is having de calf in de spring. There be a lot of them return fellows here in St Philomene and they have drink all de beer what is come to dis town for one month. They very funny them fellow, all de time they sell something on de

Dere Maw:

This is the last letter I will be able to write from Sneek as the Regiment will be going home soon - me also. We have all had a wunnerful time here except for a cupple of fellas who have fell into the canals. The peepul have bean swell to us and with the excepshun of Beljim the only place we found it eazy to make frends since leaving England. Sins we cant be back into Canada for xmas I wish we could stay in Sneek until Janooary. I spoke to the Jeneral about that, but he said, quote "Joseph my boy, I valoo yore opinyun very much, but I mus remind you agen that you are not running this (sensored) army and if you want to stay here for Xmas you can transfer to the Dutch Army". I have bean thinkin of doin that anyway, but I think he was ony foolin and I best go with the rest of the fellas. Like always I am very short of muneey wich we will need plenty of in England, so I must take my surplus kit down to the black mark - excoose I meen to the QM stores. Best I close erly Maw as I mus attend a big 'do' in town. I have been informed by the Bergomaster that I am the principul character in wat they call a Spandau wedding. I think it is jist a big joke - I hope, but will give you all the horribel particklers later. The Bergomaster was jist in and he borrowed a cupple of magasines of mashine-gun bullets - no doubt he is goin duck huntin - agen I hope.

So long for now,

Yore second eldest,

Joseph.

P.S. The town undertaker was jist in to mesure me fer a pine gratecote wich I think they will also present to me at the town hall. He must also be the town taylor.

side. They not seem very happy. One fellow she say to his comrade "the peoples here they don't do the business and all them cigarettes in the magazen that is not good for the business", all de time they talk about dis business me I am thinking that it be funny business. One night in the taverne I was drinking there, when them soldier fellows they show the peoples how they have take Cortiano. Dis Cortiano I don't know what it is but I think she tough place because the taverne she is now close for the repairings. Them return fellows all the time they have two or three bars chocolat in the pockets, whats that for I don't know but I think that also is funny business because they never eat that chocolat, also when they look at my gurl Rosalie, I'm not liking how they look so I'm tell to them "whose belong dat gurl!" but they say something what I don't understand and my Rosalie she go with them. She say to me to be a patriot but I think I'm damn fool to let her go because I'm thank there is some more funny business. You can see Jean that me too have the worries, so don't come back so soon.

Au revoir

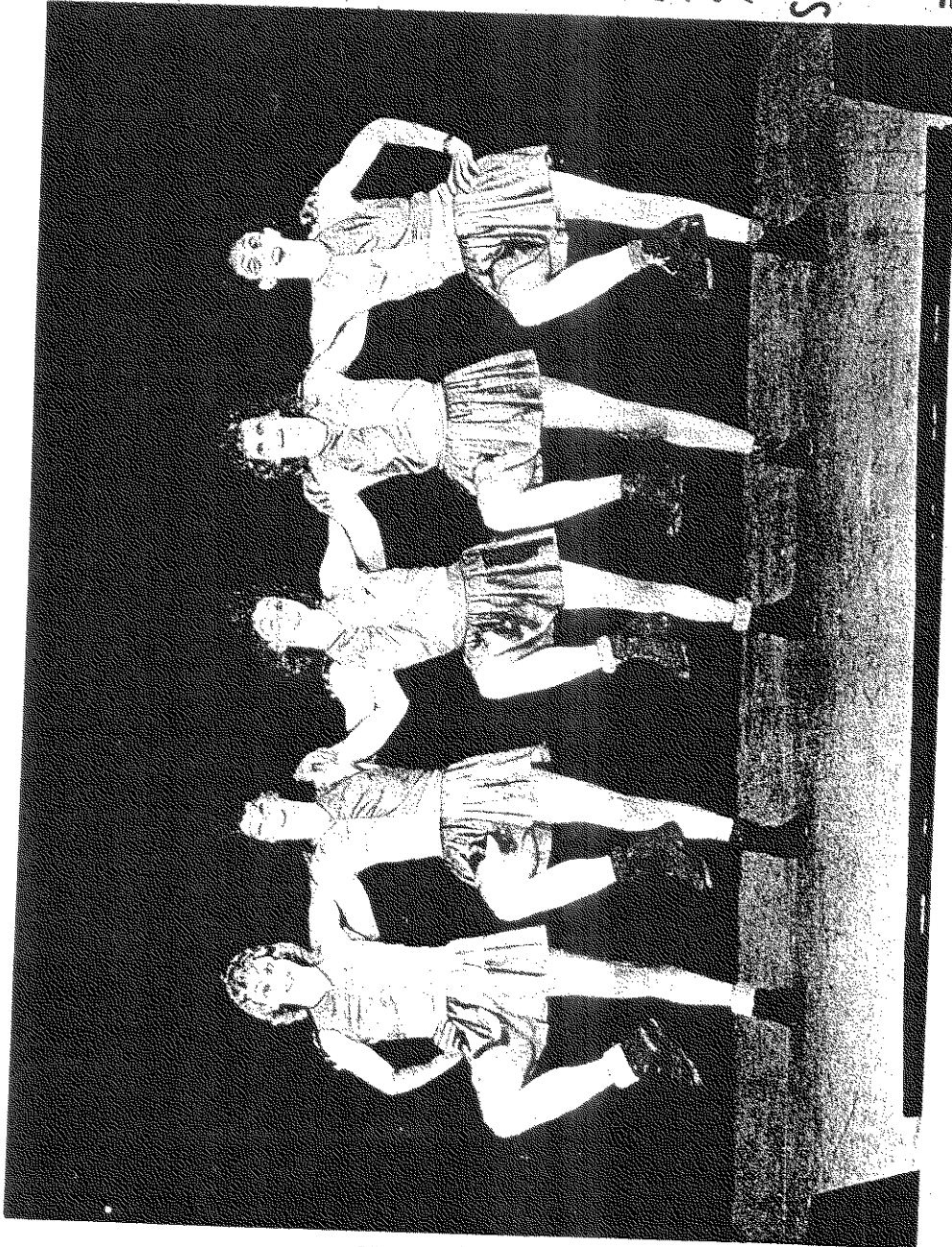
Your frand Phileas

# A COARSE CHORUS

This charming bevy of chorus gals goes to add zest to the already hilarious and lively All Soldier Army Show "Hold Your Hat"

Based on the "Hell-za-Poppin'" theme, "Hold Your Hat" has kept soldier audiences rolling in the aisles all across Holland for the past few months.

It is a 5th Division effort with members of The Perth Regiment included. We enjoyed it so much, we say, "Hats Off" to "Hold Your Hat"



Offset-printing Flach Sneek

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REFD NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
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