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The Perthonian



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OPERATION-"FINITO"

The C. O. outlines a post-war Pattern for the Perths

BY LT. COL. M. W. ANDREW

I am sorry that I did not have the honour of the opportunity of contributing to the first issue of our weekly paper. Other duties elsewhere prohibited my doing so. It is a publication worthy of our utmost support. Major Snelgrove, 2 i/c and A/Comd at present has told you verbally in earlier issues certain thoughts he has had in mind and with which I heartily concur. However I wish to present to you and stress a few points.

We have finished our part in the war of Europe against Germany and the Satellite powers. We have made our small contribution to the freedom of Canada and the World. We have emerged from the conflict, as a unit, with a name and reputation that stands second to none in military annals either in the grand old 8th or the 1st Canadian Army. We are "The

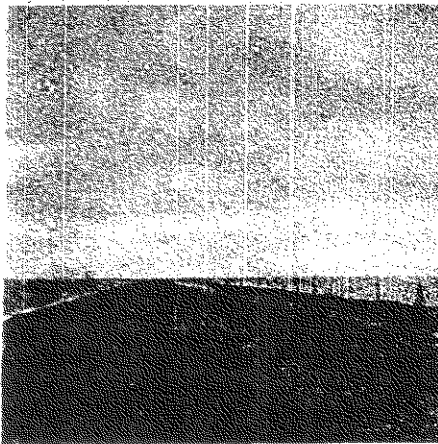
Perths"; a distinguishing appellation, won by the men of this Regiment who fought and died for that our just cause and the honour of this Regiment might live. We who were spared to survive will see to it that the glorious legacies and traditions handed to us by them will flourish in our possession. We as members of the Perth Regiment will do nothing to soil or tarnish them.

Recently I read with pride our war diaries and operational Reports together with those of higher formations. In no initial attack by 11Cdn Inf Bde were we ever in reserve. Despite great odds and what appeared to be overwhelming odds at times we never lost ground nor failed to gain an objective. We cannot fail now to gain our objective — — our return to Canada with honourable discharge to our civilian life leaving the Regiment with its name unscathed by any dishonourable actions on our part.

Many of you have joined our ranks since the cessation of hostilities. You have come from Regiments with grand records. You are proud of them and so are we all who belong to the brotherhood of Canada's fighting men. Many old "Perths" have joined your units because of the policy of territorial exchange. I hope sincerely that they become honourable and keenly interested members of your old and respected units and take the same pride in them and make the same contributions to them that I expect you to do in The Perth Regiment.

The greatest advantage of the policy of territorial exchange is the fact that it gives a man a centre for his military affiliation on his return to Canada, close to his own home. Your old Units will be many miles away from you back in Canada. As a member of The Perth Regiment in our own M D No 1 you will have your military home through which you can maintain the contacts and affiliations you have made in the past long years of war.

In our H.Q. City of Stratford, the members of this Regiment will find The Perth Regiment Association Headquarters. It is only for the old active members of this Regiment who will always find a welcome awaiting them there. It is not an association for reunions and parties only.



A view of the Great Causeway over the Zuyder Zee.

... rumour has it that 5 Div have volunteered to complete one across the Atlantic by Christmas.

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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.

FOR THE MEN-BY THE MEN

In publishing the Perthonian our sole purpose was to allow YOU, the soldier, to express yourself. We cracked off to an amazingly fine start, everybody doing their bit to make it the success it has now attained. Our endeavour was to include as many O. Rs. on the staff as possible. Their specific duty was to scout around the respective Companies and gather articles of humour and interest concerning YOU. And in knowing who your Company Representative was, YOU also could help by reporting any amusing incidents to him. The results for the first few weeks were very gratifying and our Regimental Newspaper took on a professional appearance. Favourable comments came back to us from far and wide and certain formations held us up as an example of how to keep a unit from becoming "browned off" in these long months of waiting. Other Regiments followed suit and formed their own news sheets. The habit was catching, but as in battle the Perths led the way. Even now they can't take that away from us.

Then came the lag. Company news became scarcer then hens teeth and we had to supplement with various articles. Some Companies remained true blue and supplied us with the necessary material but others failed and as the dead-line rolled around Officers from these Companies were asked to uphold the honour of the Company and give out with some news. They quite graciously complied and the paper goes to press with enough print to fill it but not the type of print that we should like to see. Granted, the Officer presents his material in good fashion but his material does not include you. Possibly the only time he sees you during the day is on the morning parade or in the Orderly Room. In this respect he is handicapped, it is therefore that we call upon you to supply us with the type of news we would like to print. News about YOU.

If you are not satisfied with the results of your Company Representative then volunteer for the task yourself. But whatever solution you arrive at make sure that we get some news about the Joe in the ranks. It is customary for material to be submitted by 1200 hours each Saturday. Places of submission are: The office of the Perthonian, next to the C.Os. office in Headquarter's building or the Officer's Mess in the Wynberg Hotel. — We expect to be hearing from YOU.

"Duffy"

IN THIS CORNER

Special:— Introducing two of the newer members of the Officer's Mess and with whom you will undoubtedly have much contact in the future.

Firstly, that all important character the M.O. Capt. A. D. Tompkins. Capt. Tompkins when at home lives in Saskatoon Sask. He is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario. Enlisting in May 1942 he was on the staff of the Military Hospital in Saint John N.B. that was prior to his coming overseas in 1944. While marking time in Blighty he was posted as R.M.O. at 3 CACRU. On coming to Holland he was posted as R.M.O. with the 7th Carrison Battalion and was later posted to the 24th Field Ambulance. From the 24th he has come to haunt us. He is known as a rabid enthusiast of the popular games, bridge and chess.

Secondly is the individual, popular every day of the week except on Sunday's, The Hon. Capt. E. C. Knowles. Our new Padre enlisted in St. John's Newfoundland and since that day has really been the rounds. He has been doing the good work in such places as Valcartier, Chicoutimi, Sherbrooke, Cove, Bramshot. In Italy he was with 4 Battalion in Jesi, Pesaro, Fano and Auzegam.

On coming to N.W. Europe he was posted to 2 C.C.D. at Knocke Sur Mer. prior to his posting with the Perths.

We welcome the above personnel and sincerely hope their stay with us, however long or short, will be an exceedingly pleasant one.

Operation "Finito" contd. from P. 1

but one of remembrance to those who have served and passed on and an aid to those of us who still serve Canada and have been spared to do so. It is an association to benefit and help us all.

At present we are waiting to return to Canada. It is a period of reflection and trials for all of us. These good people of Holland are understanding and sympathetic. Think a bit how you would feel under similar circumstances if you as a Canadian had the same situation to face as the people of Holland have with us here. Soldiers of a strange land forced upon your Society — not very pleasant — and yet these people have made us feel one with them. They are absolutely grand. Let us show our gratitude to them. As men and gentlemen let us become good citizens of Sneek. Let us above all maintain the good name of Canada which should mean as much to us now and always as it did to our comrades who gave all for her. Let us learn from them a lesson, we cannot think of ourselves alone; we must give the best in us; we must be men and we must always maintain the respect and high tradition not only of this Regiment but of our Canada, so fair, so absolutely dear to every one of us.

WHAT COOK'S WITH DUFF'S BOYS

Sp: Coy:— Robinson and Nadjwan our two Dutch Canucks have just come back from leave looking fine and exhausted. We can readily understand why they make us wait three months. It's for our own good.

If Haslem doesn't watch himself, the bonesnatchers will be using his frame to study anatomy. They say skeletons are scarce at the moment.

Now, now Brownie, what are you doing when all respectable little "soldatons" are in bed. First of all I bid you goodnight, this is at the back door. Next thing I know, out you comes via the front door, this time with a tunic. Tsh, tsh, it is cold these evenings, isn't it.

Now that the war is finished in the Pacific, I suppose they will need the ships to supply food to Japan.

By the looks of the parcels friend Frieburger is sending home, his Butcher Shop should be almost complete in detail.

"Dehydrated" Joe has been in good spirits of late, he has found new pastures in which to graze. I believe Hock knows where I mean.

If you call out "snarl" at any time, don't be frightened if our clerk Holle, answers you. Now how did he come by that name? It seems he and the cooks are good friends now, "Dehydrated" Joe even lets him eat off a plate, but just let Joe ask for an extra Canteen Ticket and the answer is a snarling: "NO". Consequently, "Snarl" is often seen leaving the kitchen closely followed by a piece of leather close to size 12.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kingma on their 12th Wedding Anniversary. The boys wish you all the best in the years to follow.

The cooks had a fairly good evening last week and succeeded in getting fairly well "tipsy". It's no wonder we experienced bully beef for two days. The old soak of the crowd, Wise, came through O.K. which is more than we can say for Willie and Joe: They are still looking for the „joker" who dropped the atomic bomb in their room. A report has it that "snarl" was also in on the shinanigans.

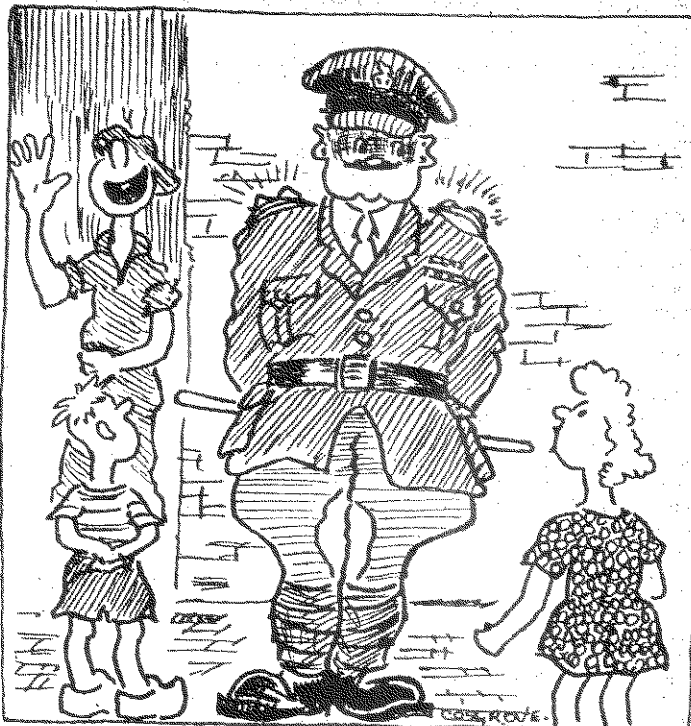
OFF THE RECORD

C. COY:— The other day we came across a letter written by one of "C" Coy's boys describing the CANADA CLUB in Rome. Here is an extract from the letter just as a reminder of the days when we marched with the 8th.

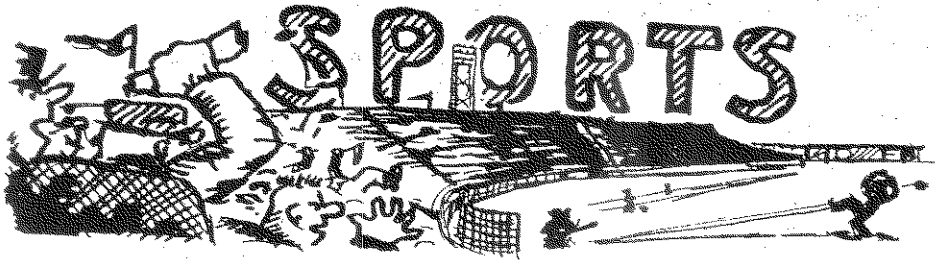
"It is furnished beautifully with chesterfields, comfortable chairs, hardwood floors and rugs. Upstairs is a restaurant and fruit bar, sleeping accommodations for staff and any soldier without a bed. Everything is free. The dance hall is a good size, a swanky girl orchestra (Italian) provides good music. Dancing partners - a few nursing sisters, CWAC's from Canada, also girls from England, New Zealand, Poland and U.S.A. Practically every allied force is represented. Hundreds of Italian girls, some very good looking but I am sadly handicapped, not being fluent enough in Italian to tell them how good-looking they are. To get into the dance hall they must have a Canadian escort. They stand at the door until a brave young lad steps up and invites them to enter with him. Some are very good dancers and as all Canadian soldiers are brave there is no shortage of dancing partners. All the free lemonade or orangeade for yourself and partner is provided at the bar upstairs!"

Remember those days fellows?

Maybe some of those "signoritas" would still look good even if Mumma, Papa and a couple of brothers did go along.



HELLO, BOY!!



Sneek Week, the greatest week of the year in this small populace has come to an end. To most of us, Sneek Week, was meaningless, but through the kindness of Mr. T. Kasemier, the genial and much travelled proprietor of the local Pavillon we begin to find out all about it.

Mr. Kasemier disclosed the other evening that Sneek Week was first held in the year 1934, and was held each year thereafter until occupation. The reason for it's origin was to allow sailors from the other provinces of Holland to rally in Sneek and test their dexterity in the art of sailing. Up until this time the annual sailing regattas held by the Sneek Sailing Club and The Royal Sailing Club of Sneek were only of a few days duration. This made it impossible for sailors who were interested, to travel from other points in Holland to engage in these races, and as you will admit, hardly worth while. It was therefore, in 1933, that the two clubs put their heads together and decided to promote an entire week of racing, this they called Sneek Week. The first year went over with a bang and consequently has been going strong ever since.

The participants, sailors of all classes set out in their own boats well enough in advance, to be in Sneek for the opening day. The Dragon and Rainbow class seemed to be the most interested and they usually came many miles to participate. As is the case this year. There were 6 Dragons which crossed the great Ysselmeer to enter in the contests. They came under very unfavourable weather conditions and had to tack most of the way. Upon arrival all members of their crews were dripping wet from the adventuresome crossing. The average time for the crossing was some 18 hours. One must admire such keen sportsmanship as this. Only one Rainbow made the crossing this year, this was owned by W. Bergsma of Voorburg. Possibly you noticed his craft in the past races, No. 67, the Eelko. Special permits had to be obtained this year for Rainbows to cross the Ysselmeer, this was the reason for such a limited field in the class.

Once again, we would like to thank Mr. T. Kasemier for his rather interesting and enlightening article.

CHIT AND CHATTER

B. COY ;— Pte Skerrit L.A. sometimes known as "Farmer" is now on his way to Canada. It is rumoured that he is to become a full time farmer. The food situation here in Europe should improve as a result. They say "Farmer" Skerrit owns and operates most of the country around Morriston.

Things are running rather smoothly these days at Ye Olde Tea Shoppe. Everybody seems to enjoy themselves and the two dieticians Mac and Art, are still wielding a wicked butcher knife. If you have any suggestions of betterment, be they pro or con, please give them to your Perthonian Representative or to one of the Cpls. in the Tea Shoppe.

One of the Baker boys got a little serious the other day while poling one of the numerous boats along a Sneek canal. It seems he walked right off the end of the boat and found himself suspended above mid-stream, up a pole as the saying goes. The redness has gone from his face now, but for a while we in B. Coy.

thought it was there to stay. Best watch yourself next time SPINNELLI.

Congratulations to our Sgts. on their splendid game against the Irish ball team. Unfortunately the Irish won but not through superior playing. They just had the breaks, that's all. The outstanding playing of our first baseman, C.S.M. Hall was superb. We understand he has been offered a tryout with the Regimental squad and would accept if it was not for a C.O.F. appointment which is pending.

We welcome two of our esteemed Sgts. back to the fold after a small smash of England. Sgts. Burgess and Lenoix say they spent a quiet leave touring such spots as museums, art galleries and zoos. Our only answer to this statement is: "Oh Yeah"!!!

What certain young Corporal in the Coy. hid his manly form under a civvie trench coat and dashed madly down the street to his billet, whilst a lovely visitor from Olde Pekela was anxiously waiting to snag him for reasons of affection, or perhaps for the watch he was wearing which belonged to her?

CLUB "61"

It is with regret that we say "So-long" to two of the members of our club-Sgt Lyons, G.A. (MM) and Sgt White, H.C.

They seemed to be quite happy about the whole thing, so we can only wish them "Bon Voyage" and God speed.

We wonder what Nifty will do about his deal with his pal Joe's girl, now that the other girl has returned from Amsterdam.

He seems to like the scenery around "B" Coy, as we see him doing all his walking around that vicinity.

Mr Jack's girl has come back and that look of despair has completely vanished from his usual smiling face. Was it Sneek Week that brought her home, John?

The girls in Germany are in for a treat when Bill gets there and turns on the heat. Now that "fratting" is legalized, watch those kilts swirl.

Fearless Phosgene, our genial and rotund caterer, has turned into quite the wolf, according to all reports. Lay off the honeymooners, Bill, although there is nothing like getting in on the ground floor.

Is it true that the R.Q. Stores are closed for two weeks while the new RQMS is taking stock? You look smart in the new uniform and shoes, Bill. How about getting in on some of the gravy?

Mickey Rooney isn't the only guy who had Blonde Trouble - Is he, "Woodie".

We shall soon be starting an "Advice to the Lovelorn" column. Already two of our members are contemplating taking the fatal step. Great things, those UK Leaves!!!

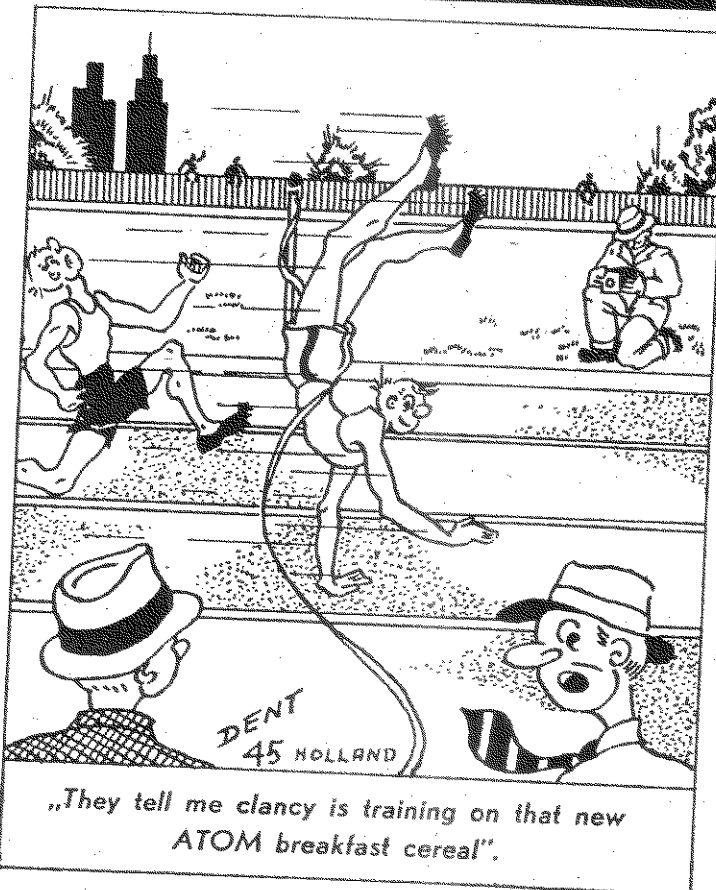
"HQ" TID BITS

HQ Coy: CPI Fenwick is not bearing down enough on his civilian commercial studies. His blonde teacher gave up and typed all his afternoon's work in five minutes the other day.

Will Sgt Bondy drop into the Pay Office tomorrow and draw his Dr.-Mech's trades pay. According to all reports, you qualify easily and had fun doing it too.

Nifty Crawford is rapidly losing patience with friend Joe Landerbolt. It seems there's a deal on. When Joe goes on UK leave, Nifty takes over Joe's property but the leave has been cancelled three times now. Stop drooling, Nifty, your chance will come. The consensus of opinion is that it's a poor substitute anyway.

SPORT GUFF BY DUFF



UP AND DOWN STATION STREET

A. COY:— In just what part of town does the Able Coy. runner live? We are wondering if he is a lover of the symphonic tunes or is it simply be "Kush", he has an ear for good music!!

It is rather hard to believe, but seeing is the proof. It seems that a one night's session at a Sgt's party is harder on a certain individual's constitution than a month in the "lines". What do you think, Bob?

Come clean now Smithie. Although we have yet to see it in orders, you have us guessing about the cute little blonde whom you persist on introducing to your friends as "the missus".

We hear that one of our Lance Jacks has volunteered to take over night duties on the jeep. You'll get over it Ken. Women are just

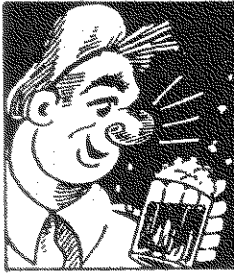
like street cars, "there is always another one coming along".

SPORT HIGHLIGHTS. — We finally went down to defeat on the ball diamond but not after a bitterly fought contest and a close one at that. Baker Coy. were the victors and the score was a narrow 6 to 5. Extensive practice has been the result and we are betting our bottom Glider the results will be different next game.

At this time we would like to give three lusty cheers for the spectacular playing of our Regimental Softball Team. Now that you are well into the finals, we want you to know that we are behind you to the limit and if the rest of the Regiment feels the same as we, they'll be out there rooting you to a victorious finish.

If there are any "local yokels" who feel they can play the strenuous game of Horse-shoes, just drop around to Able Coy any day in the week. Our esteemed C.S.M. will take on any and all comers.

PICCADILLY - PECCADILLO



Better I should of taken a job shovelling Holstein chips than go on leave had I known I would meet Falstaff. Privilege Leave it says in my Service Book; Bahl I sez, such things should happen only on F.P.

So I get up early to cadge a seat on the "60" for Nijmegen.

Lastly comes Falstaff with a case of cognac and a water-bottle full of Sneeker-Steam. Happen that all the way to Calais no Provost jokers thinks to look for no bodies in the coal-tender.

So at last it's London but not as usual--nix-niet. What has happened to the old town shouldn't never happen outside of Nagasaki.

Now it's O.K. to celebrate a noble victory but Admiral Lord Nelson shouldn't ought to of forgot his dignity. You should of seen the crowd gather when he and Falstaff started to do nip-ups right in the middle of Trafalgar Square. One of them chums in the black bowler hats and the pillow-tick pants sez, "Pon my word, the old chap's rather agile for his years what!"

Then too a navy bloke should stick to rum— There was no need to clap those lions in irons. All they did was get up and stretch theirself — no of course they didn't roar — V.J. Day or not — they still ain't seen one yet.

I been a flag-pole sitter once but I never seen such a curious mob as gathered around Falstaff when he hove to right in Piccadilly Circus dropped anchor and sat down. I guess people like to see a picture of contentment. Brother when Fat Stuff relaxes he makes Buddha look like an entry in a jitter-bug contest. Traffic got all snarled up for miles and some-body sez send for the Lord Chanticleer or the Lord's Mare and somebody else sez this situation should be a job for the Lord Privy Seat — but through the fog and the grog I sez to myself — this looks like a job for Superman.

Deuced reserved types these English but after three quarters of an hour, one tyke a little bolder than the rest, sez "Wot is the idear old top?" JUST RESTIN', sez Falstaff.

ATTENTION ALL—

Due to shortage of space in this week's issue, two articles were only partially printed. This is regretted as the material was class "A". To Club 61 and H.Q. Tid Bits go our sincerest apologies, we will include the remainder of your articles in next week's issue.



Y.M.C.A. NEWS

Every Tuesday evening at 1900 hours we hold our weekly BINGO session. Now is a good time to get into the swing of things, because from where we sit it looks like a long winter ahead. New blood is always welcome so come on out and pay us a visit.

All you guys who make it a habit of "hitting the pipe" are once again reminded that pipe tobacco (when available) is sold only on Thursday evenings between the hours of 1800 and 1830. So if you are out of said tobacco drop in and we will try to oblige.

In the future, anybody ordering flowers for the folks at home will have to do so with a money order made obtainable through the Pay Master. Think of Mom and the gal you left behind. There is no better way of expressing your feelings toward them than with FLOWERS. We will be only too happy to make the necessary arrangements.

We would like to ask the frequenters of our LIBRARY to please return their reading material when finished. Good books are difficult to obtain and it is therefore essential to remember "books are SCARCE and readers are MANY".

THANKS

On behalf of all those who enjoy the capers of the characters in the cartoons of "Pinky" and "Cosgrove" we say thanks. Your cartoons have gone a long way in keeping us supplied with smiles. Your close contact with your brother soldier makes these cartoons punch home. The happenings and situations which surround your characters are part of our every day life and they occur daily. Keep it up fellows, we love it. "The Staff".

BEEFS & MOANS!

Where is all the Coca-Cola going to that the Auxiliary Services promised us some three months ago?

How's about prohibiting civilians under the age of 18 years at our local Cinemas? Surely they should be able to find some other place in which to do their talking and laughing.

We are wondering if it wouldn't be possible to obtain a new loud speaker for our nightly films. The old one has fairly well "had it" and the volume is no fault of the operators. They are doing a grand and patient job and should be cheered rather than jeered for their noble efforts. "A" Coy.

Answer to one of last week's queries — In regards to having glasses for the men's canteen: At present it cannot be done, we have gone all over the country trying to obtain the same but there just aren't any to be had. As you know, class is in short supply, but nevertheless we shall keep on trying. The Bar.



MILITARY MEDAL

A. 11956

PRIVATE Anthony Joseph VERTULIA
The Perth Regt.

On 13th September 1944 at about 0230 hours, the two leading Companies of the Perth Regiment reached their objective on the CORIANO Feature. While consolidating, they were menaced by seven enemy tanks in the area who were using their automatic weapons on the troops and attempting to overrun the platoon position. The only available defence against them was the platoon PIAT Gun, manned by Private VERTULIA.

In a singularly gallant manner, Private VERTULIA moved forward to an exposed position under heavy machine-gun fire, in order to engage these tanks. By accurate fire from his PIAT, he succeeded in forcing the tanks to withdraw, two Mk. IV tanks having been damaged. Although this action drew the fire of the enemy tanks and infantry, Private VERTULIA remained in a position to cover the most likely ground of tank approach until all threat of a counter-attack had passed. This heroic deed enabled Charlie Company to dig in and establish themselves, thus contributing to the great success of the operation.

TWO GALS AND A GOB



This lucky lad although not a sailor seems to know all the naughty angles. Oh, please do pardon us. We meant nautical. Incidentally, he's a Perth.

BOOK - EN STEHMUNDKREUZ
PLACH - SUECK

CASE OF THE MISSING YEAR

(From Regimental History 1864)

Special:— It is very regrettable that the newspaper for the year 1864 is not available on the file in the Historical Section of the Public Library. It is also doubtful if this issue ever was handed over to the Library although it seems it must have been because all the other years are intact.

Hence it will be necessary at this time to forego the year 1864 as far as these Historical Records are concerned until some time in the future when more can be added as the material is found. Sufficient it is to say that the activities of the Stratford Rifle Company and the Perth Battalion of Militia which is mentioned so often during the years 1855—1863, did not suffer any during the year 1864.

As far as the following years show, the above mentioned units must have had a good year, at least as active as any before or after, according to the material available for the succeeding years. So at this time we must be content with the knowledge that the Stratford Rifle Company and the Stratford Infantry Company continued their activities, with the same if not more zest, as they had in previous years. And as soon as more definite information is forthcoming it will be inserted.

Note:— Anybody knowing the whereabouts of the Missing Year, please contact this Office

SOME CALL IT - SUCKER BAIT

(From Regimental History 1862)

Special:— Quite a military furore has seized the inhabitants of Stratford this week. The arrival of a drill sergeant has aroused the martial spirit and the general turn out every evening is highly satisfactory. First the Stratford Rifle Company under Capt. Service are perfecting their drill in order to be ready for the inspection, next, the militia officers are reporting in strong force and are making rapid progress under the able directions of the Drill Sergeant who appears to be exceedingly well qualified for his work. A Drill Association has also been formed which is open to everybody FREE OF CHARGE, and members of it have the privilege of attending the drill. The sergeant also teaches sword drill in the Town Hall at 7.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.

Note: Once bitten, twice shy!!!