

AWM52
2nd Australian Imperial Force and
Commonwealth Military Forces unit war
diaries, 1939-45 War

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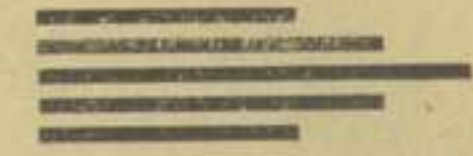
2/7 Infantry Battalion
September 1942, Appendices

6

WAR DIARY.



THE



**WESTERNLANDER
FIGHTING FITTER**



MARCH 25th 1942

" THE WESTERNLANDER FIGHTING FITTER "

Composed and published
in friendly cooperation
between
the Australians and the Dutch
on board
H.M.T.
" WESTERNLAND "

— 0 —

Composed by :

I. J. Ferguson
(I. J. Ferguson)

J. Laird
(J. Laird)

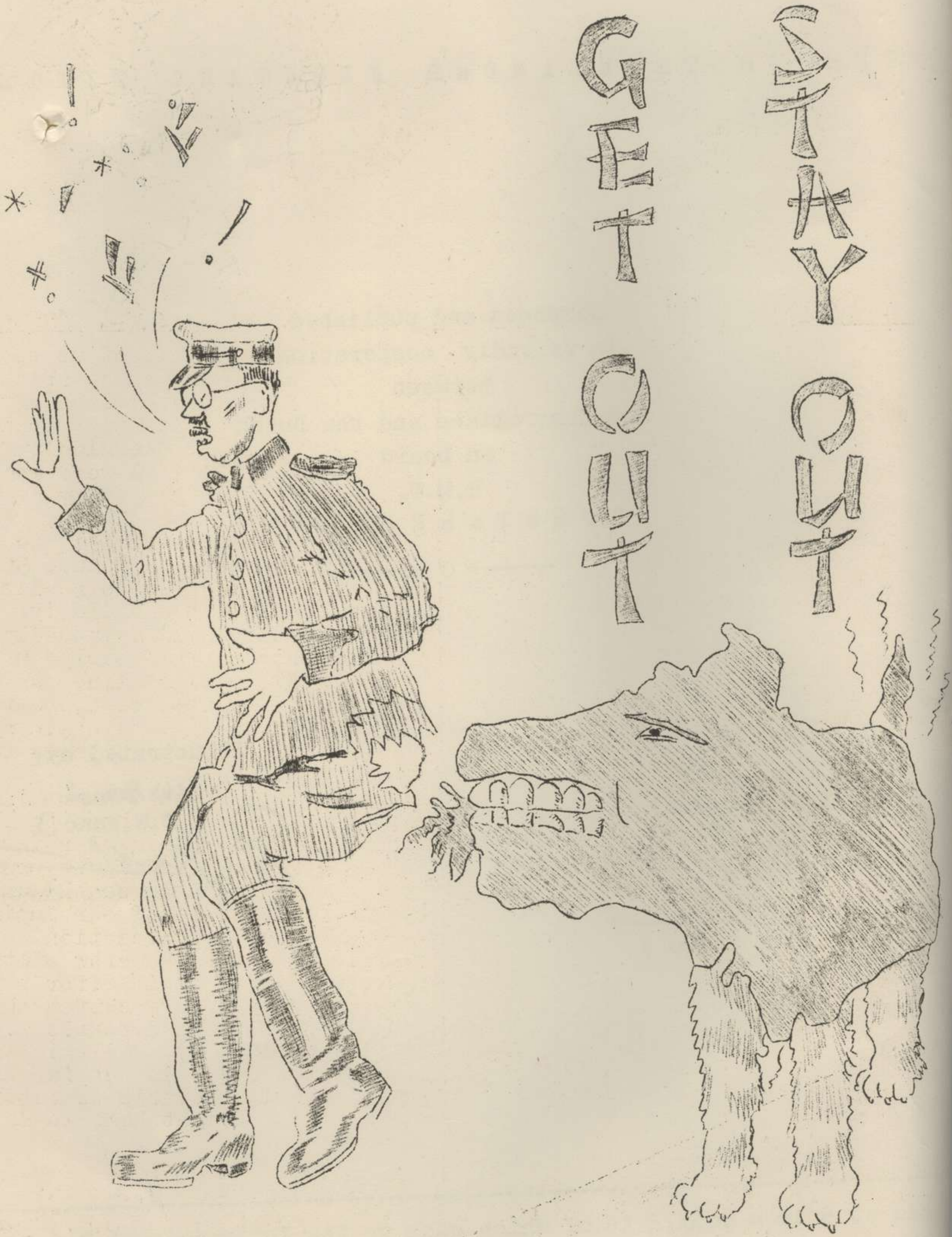
J. J. de Leeuw
(J. J. de Leeuw).

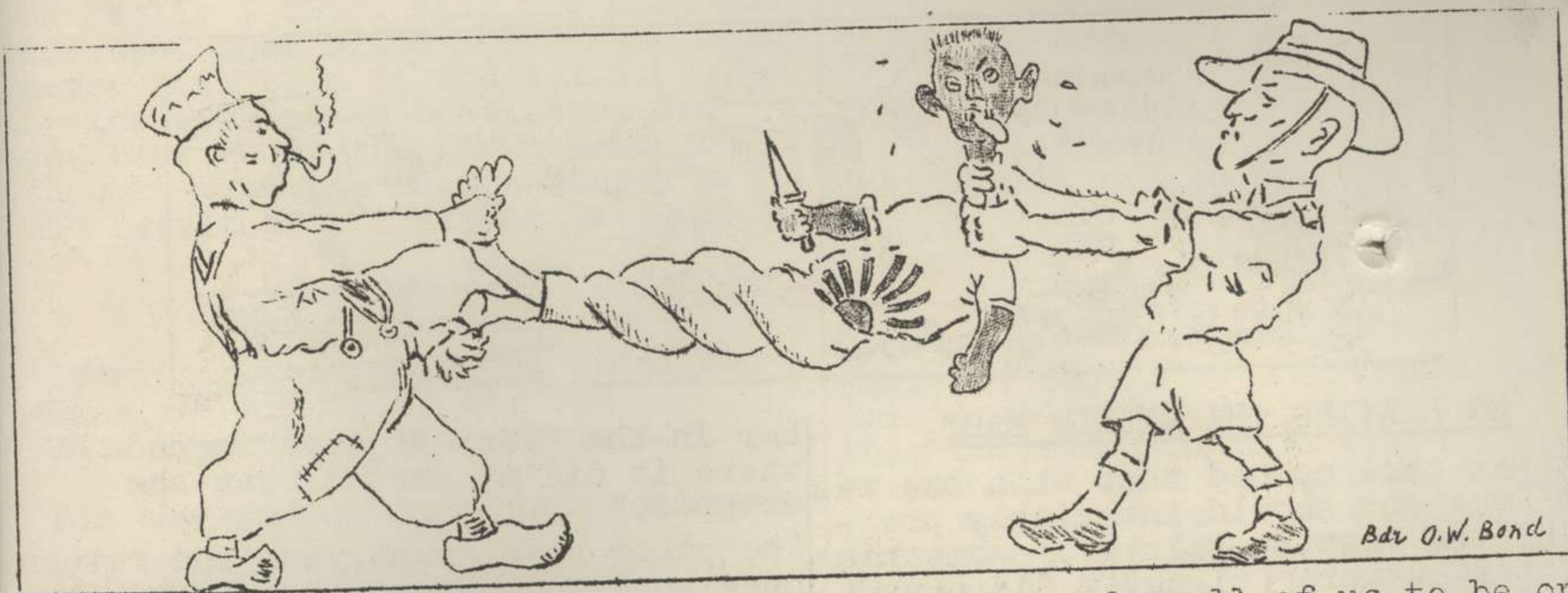
Illustrated by:

O. W. Bond
(O. W. Bond.)

W. van Grootheest
(W. van Grootheest)

Sold at 8 As. a copy, 2 As. of which goes to the International Red Cross.





NAVAL MESSAGE.

Old Abe Tasman was a good scout,
Oh, what a good scout was he.
Because he discovered Australia,
As a blessing for you and me.

-o-

Three hundred years later on
another Dutch ship,
You're sailing on the same sea.
But Tasman had more sleeping space,
More space than you and me.

-o-

You sleep on deck and everywhere,
On benches, on the steps.
Australians do not care for sleep,
When going for the Japs.

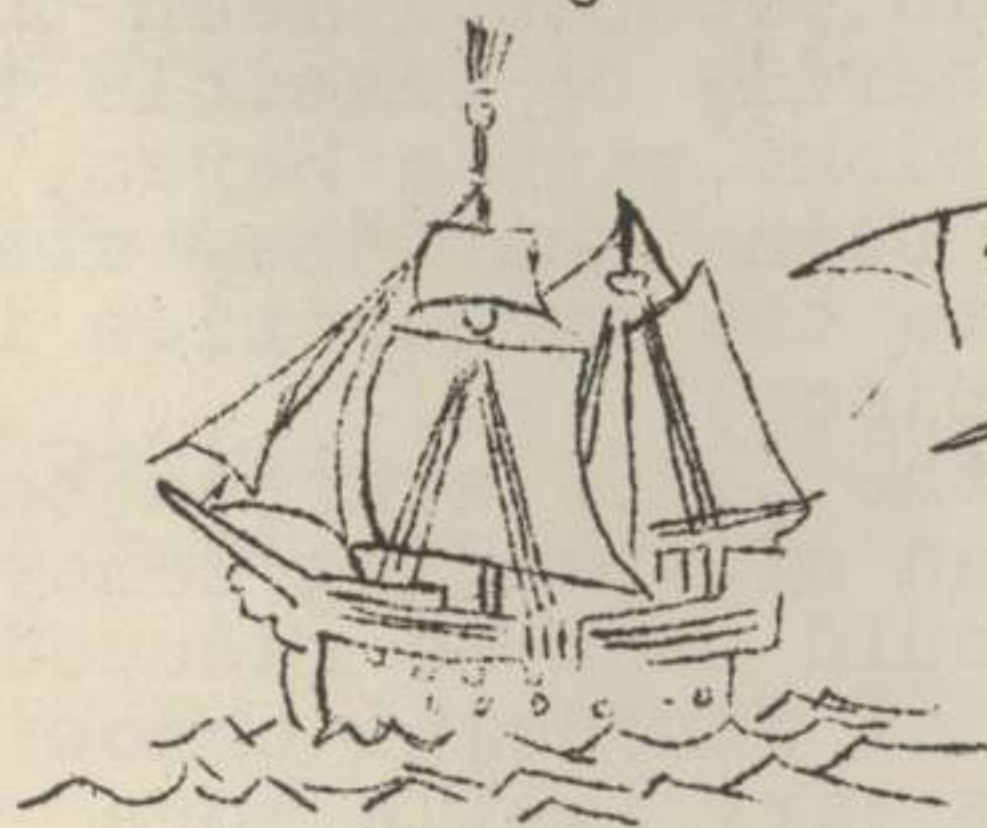
-o-

A yellow skunk is at your door.
Attack and break his neck,
Then you will keep AUSTRALIA,
And w'll get HOLLAND back.

-o-

W'll send the devils back to Hell
W'll disinfect the sea.
Thanks for your help AUSTRALIA
In making HOLLAND free.

-o-



CAPTAIN.

Thragg

How pleasing for all of us to be on
the move again and to be able to in-
hale the fresh sea breezes after so
many months of wandering through the
filth and dust of the Middle East.
Movement, that magical word which
brings with it the mystery of what
is next.

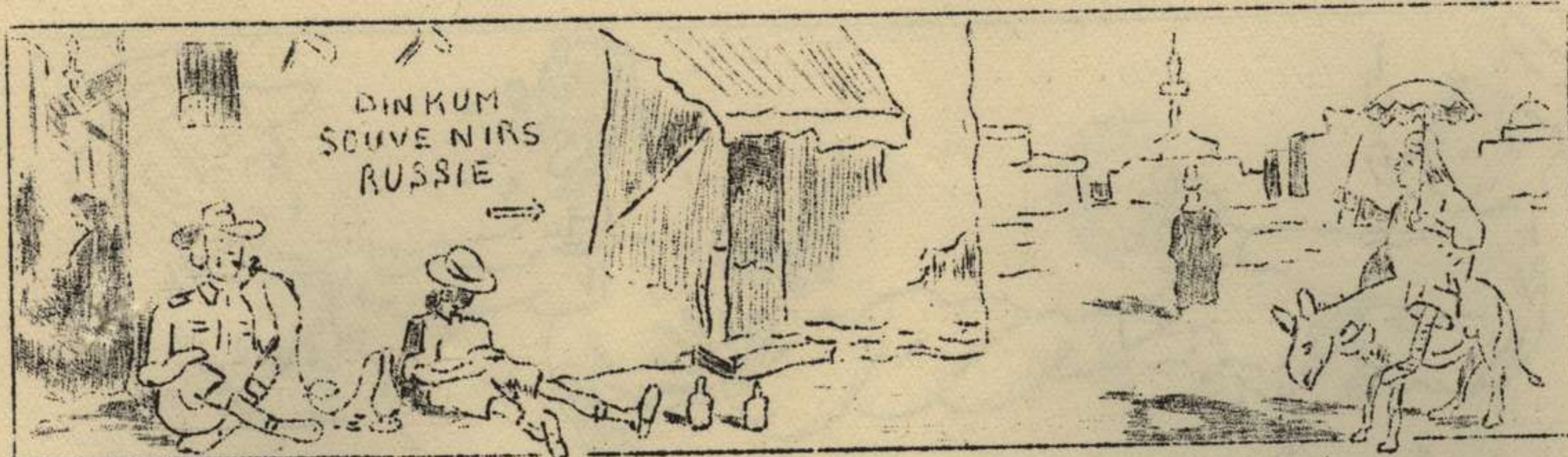
It is difficult to make an accurate
forecast of what the future holds
in store, but what we do realise is
that victory, although elusive for
the time being will eventually be
ours. To shorten this period we all
have a duty, to discipline our minds
and bodies and to accept orders with
a good grace and to maintain a high
standard of physical fitness to see
us through.

All personnel on this ship will join
with me and extend a hand to the gal-
lant Mercantile Marine for its unti-
ring service, often without protec-
tion, maintaining the sea lanes which
are the life lines of our Empire.
We express our appreciation to the
Captain, officers and crew of the
Westernland for their efforts to
make the voyage more comfortable
than at first seemed possible.

We wish them every good thing and
hope that the day is not far distant
when they will be able to return to
their loved ones at home in Holland.



Henry S. ...
O.C. TROOPS.



ON LEAVING THE MIDDLE EAST.

It was once opined that when one was in Rome one should invariably present the Fascist salute or something of that nature (I never did have a head for figures-and speaking of figures there was once a V.A.D., but we'd better skip that). To continue it occurred to me after a few weeks in Palestine that the above principle if adopted in that fair country might cause some considerable inconvenience to those who pull the strings.

I have to date, kept the thought strictly private, but with the shores of Aden fading on the horizon I feel the time is ripe to cast my pearl. Let us set the clock back to August '41 when the Middle East was teeming with troops. The scene is Jerusalem, the Holy City (some say the city is wholly on the nose but that's beside the point.)

Three or four Diggers sit cross legged on the pavement on or low stools. They pull happily at their hookahs and occasionally refresh themselves with a bottle or two of Arak. Faint Wog music and the hoarse cries of the shoe shine boys in a side street provide a soothing background fitting with this scene of Oriental life. Now and then an M.P. truck trundles by. The diggers blink lazily after it and absentmindedly wet their bayonets.

A veiled sister passes her bundle of washing on her hand. One of the Aussies glances at her disinterestedly but after a short pull at his hookah remarks " Sister Brown is developing quite good poise lately. She was so bad at first they were forced to put

her in the "Very Hygiene" squad where it didn't matter what she dropped."

The other boys grunt, yawn and return once more to their trance. A stately colonel rides past on his trotting camel. Hardly is he level with the pavement cafe when all the boys are around his camel, holding unto his saddle cloth and running beside him "Buckshee. Buckshee."

Or perhaps the scene should be in a camp.... The boys are riding round the parade ground on donkeys hitting each other with sticks in indulging in some other typical Easter recreation. A bugle blows and a sergeant major shouts. " Time to start the days work, boys."

Simultaneously (in accordance with the best traditions of the Army) all cease their activity, lie down and go to sleep. Now and then they spit, bl..., sorry, beg a cigarette or chew grass, but mostly they sleep. Lunch of the best herbs and pastry is brought out by de V.A.D.s and we leave them after a hard days work grovelling on the hard baked earth, bowing to the East by numbers on the command: "posteriors, East". You can see what difficulties such procedure would produce. I mean to say it would hardly be feasible to provide each bloke with a harem, (Australians being what they are and furthermore the authorities in Jaffa might object).

And again if the A.I.F. started collecting instead of spending money the country would soon be reduced to that state of financial chaos where there is very little more than enough for everybody.

So really I think that the chap who
invented that crack about Rome could
never have been in the A.I.F.
By the way and in conclusion did
you hear about the Lieutenant who
thought that the "Companionway" was
the result of a Platonic Friendship.

— 0 —
AIR RAID

L.A.D.

Everything was quiet at midnight,
Each man asleep in his bed
When there came the droning of
engines
For the bombers were just overhead.

It's moonlight, my God, there's an
air raid
Each man has a feeling of dread
And he reaches for gas mask and
helmet
And quickly springs out of his bed.

They dived for the dugouts and
trenches
Up above is the whine of Ack Ack
shells
There are moans from the wounded
and dying
The earth is a shattering hell.

The Bren guns are swung into action
Tracers make streaks in the sky
But this kind of defence they find
useless,
The raiders are flying too high.
A raider dives down and starts
strafing,
Letting loose a salvo of bombs
Only to find he's run into trouble,
For the Bofors are using Pom Poms.
Comes a rending and tearing of
metal
And a bomber spills out of the
sky
Flames creeping back to the cock-
pit,
Trapping men who are destined to
die.

At last the air raid is over,
The bombers head back to their
dromes
Leaving tangles of wreckage behind
them
Of planes that will never go home.

There's death and destruction
behind them,
There are comrades killed off by
the score
That's the penalty exacted by
air raids,
That's part of the fortune of war.
--Aussie

— 0 —
W.O's THERE

Maybe we should be charitable and
forget all about it but we cant
help noticing the dark complexion-
ed A/B.S.M. of a certain Regt. who
goes to the stern of the ship
every day and sings "Oh !
Masmira el Kabira, I'll be coming
back to you." Yeah, maybe we
should forget.
Maybe its the New Order but we
noticed the stern street singer
acting as steward stooge to the
Ship's R.S.M. to the tune of six
bottles and four glasses. We
wouldn't be knowing what they were
wanted for, would you. Oh, Johnnie.
You tell me who had the argument
as to who would be the first to
dive off the boat deck at the
coaling port. There's a prize of
four extra guard duties for the
first correct answer.
Maybe I'm wrong but this ship must
be more than half full of Irishmen.
That's if you can believe the lad
who said that the three lounges
held Finnigans or Callaghans or
something. Maybe he's right, it
may have been Hooligans he meant.
We are all in favour of the
medical people taking their time
over things but when the R.Q.M.
of an A.G.H. takes thirty seven
minutes to go from the boat deck
to his bed in the lounge we think
it's stretching things a bit too
far. Or is he? Lets skip it.
There seems to be a spot of
dissension in the ranks of the
Engineers. Two Sappers cleaning the
Lounge were overheard arguing
whether Peg Leg was a ---- or
just a plain----- . We'll leave
it to them to sort it out.
--The Ears of the Mess.

THE TRUTH-ABOUT-SAILORS

SAILORS are what some women marry. They have two feet, two hands and sometimes two wives but never more than one dollar or one idea at a time.

All sailors are made of the same material, the only difference being that some are better distinguished than others.

Plainly speaking, sailors may be divided into three classes: husbands bachelors and lovers.

Lovers are the ones who are surrounded by women. The husband is the one who goes ashore in the ship's boat; the bachelor is the one who has a bank account.

Making a husband out of a sailor is a high plastic art. It requires science, sculpture, common and uncommon sense, faith, hope and charity. It is hardly psychological that a dear, sweet, tender, violet scented thing like a woman should enjoy kissing a big, awkward, bayrum scented thing like a sailor---but she does.

If you flatter a sailor you frighten him to death and if you dont you bore him to death. If you permit him to make love to you, he gets tired of you in the end. If you dont he gets tired of you in the beginning. If you believe him in everything you soon cease to interest him; if you argue with him in everything you soon cease to charm him.

If you try to reform him he thinks you are babying him.

Gosh darn the sailors, here today and gone tomorrow, and still we love them.... MAYBE ! ! !

0 0 0 0 0 0

SLIP ?

The young husband arrived hom and, to his dismay, found his spouse knitting a small garment.

"By the way, darling" he said "what is that you're knitting?"

"It's alright " she answered, "I'm only making a slip."

"Thank Heavens "he breathed fervently, "for a moment I thought you had."

--NX53009

THE 43rd L.A.D.

If a truck has had a breakdown
Or the Colonel wants a second cup
of tea

Then they grab a luckless gunner
And convert him to a "runner"
And he runs for the L.A.D.

If the cook has lost his ladle
Or his watch shows half past four
instead instead of three
Then he leaves the stew to burn
In the bottom of the urn
While he runs to the L.A.D.

It's a very old Army custom
To quietly "pass the buck"
But while all the boys are shirk-
ing

We just keep on working
That's the --- luck of the L.A.D.

So if you ever find you're detailed
To make a bomb, a kitchen or a key,
Or if you really fear
That you cant drink all your beer
Then send for the L.A.D.

---L.A.D.

SPELLO

The nags are glad the girths are
slack
Then, free'd of saddles, reins and
crop
Roll and plunge to forget the track
And 'morrrows job, clippity-clop

Cross swollen streams where 'gators
bake
Through bush and rock we've run
Now dampers bake, our thirsts we'll
slake,
A man's work, tired and done.

So sing, the billy's boiling near
We're free and will be ever,
Sing praise as did the Pioneer
To land of Never Never.

--Gnr Tom Harrison
2/I Fd.Regt.

DIALOGUE

He: You affect me like the ocean, you
are deep, dark and mysterious
She: You affect me like the ocean, to
--you make me sick.

PRELUDE AND CONCERT



A few weeks ago the 2/2nd Army Ed. Workshops personnel, in camp in Palestine, had, among other things, a kettle drum, an Italian trumpet found in Tobruk, some spare time and a healthy spirit of cooperation.

From those mixed ingredients they produced their concerts on ship board during the week, giving the troops their initial musical entertainment on the voyage. It was a highly creditable effort on the part of a single unit to fill so many hours with brightness to relieve the tedium of the trip.

Sgt. Lance Wood, who trumpeted with the Malvern Tramway Band back in Aussie, supplied the trumpet and Lt-Col. G.G. Hayman, C.O. of the Unit scoured the Middle East for the remainder of the instruments. Beirut, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem yielded some of them. The piano used in the early rehearsals was a salvage job. A fall from a truck didn't do it any good. In fact, the keyboard parted company from the rest of the instrument but a little thing like that didn't deter the 'tiffys.' The halves of the piano were nailed together with boards and the keys then set in their proper alignment.

Then there was the question of music. Lt Jim Davidson supplied a few numbers while members of the orchestra made copies of musical scores from albums sent by relatives at home. Lt Jasson supervised the work and cooperation did the rest. They hope you liked it as much as they enjoyed playing for you.

It is far cry from leading a highly trained band in Newcastle to conducting on board a troop ship

lying in the shadow of the great rock at Aden but Lt. Bardsley made it comfortably. He did a good job with the band in the few weeks at his disposal and they did a good job for him during the week.

Cpl Frank Andrews sang the straight versions of "Home on the Range" and "Boots and Saddles" so by way of contrast Pte Bill White who writes his own parodies and some of his own songs said it with parody. Sgt Lester gave "The House that Jack Built" an amusing twist--he made it a nursery rhyme for adults. Capt. R Pilcher with his "squeeze box" accompanied Cpl Dover who was in the news with "The Road to Mandalay."

Pte Col. Stuckey who tap dances because he "likes rhythm" found that others like it also. The Moon Shiners shone in harmony, Pts Mills and Docking found a new and amusing way to make easy money while in Tangled Wires, a comedy of cross purposes involving a wireless set it seems that at one stage "the baby was washed carefully in sump oil." With the labels bearing the right brand and the bunks down Pte Len Waddell would be welcome in any tent with his mouth organ.

The shows were arranged by the Ship's Amenities Committee presided over by Major Douglas Donald. The generous assistance of the ship's staff lightened the duties of the committee considerably and Lt-Col Hayman paid them deserved tribute when opening the show. The performances were compered by Staff Sergeant N. Thompson.

It was all good fun and the boys deserve a lot of credit for their good work.

SAY IT WITH PARODY

(Sing to the tune of "Home on the Range")

Oh ! Give me a home where no army
can roam

Where no brass hats nor provosts
stay

Where there's no dress parades, and
no more air-raids

And no Adjutants forfeit your pay

Oh ! Give me a land where I know
where I stand

Where I wont be annoyed by those
stripes,

No more waiting in queues while
they fill me with stews

And plum duffs that give me thr
gripes

Oh ! For that land I pray, though
I'm far, far away,

But I'll get there some day I'm
sure

And if I join an army again, I'll
be balmy

For I've had all I want to of war.

(Change to tune of "There's a
bridlehanging on the Wall")

Now there's a tin hat hanging on
my bed

And a bomber's flying overhead
There's a lot of curses being said
And a lot of prayer books being
read.

There's a searchlight shining in
the sky

And the Ack-Ack shells begin to
fly,

But that Dago bomber's up too high,
And I think that someone's gonna
die.

Though I've heard that hits are few
Somehow I knew 'twould be me
So I waited for that bomb to blow,
When it burst beneath my nose
I found I suddenly rose
And I went where all good soldiers
go.

(Change back to tune of
"Home on the Range")

So now I've found that home where
no Army can roam

Bully beef is a thing of the past,
And though the atmosphere's hot
in this new home I've got,
Yet I'm out of the Army at last.

--Pte W.White

2/2 Fd W/Shps.

A CLUSTER OF WARS

First of all, abject apologies---
the subject is War or rather, Wars.
From benighted infancy I have
attempted to cram historys of our
wars into my unreceptive brain. The
impression left is not so much an
historical review as a Cavalcade
of incidents.

First there was the regrettable
affair at Hastings---probably the
first aerial attack, Bill the
Conqueror's theme song being "I
shot an arrow into the air."
The details of the somewhat optim-
istic attempt to invade England
are somewhat obscured by an import-
ant game of bowls.

Trafalgar, apart from its "immortal"
message seemed to emphasise the
fact that our illustrious Admiral
applied a periscope to his least
effective eye.

There was a mutiny ages ago in
India from which we elicit the
information that a certain lass
by the name of Jessie, of Scotch
descent, having supped too heavily
(we assume) had a dream, the dis-
closed details of which served to
forecast a happy ending. There was
the occasion when too many people
were forced to inhabit a particul-
arly small apartment without air
conditioning.

The Zulu War----Kipling's "Fuzzy
Wuzzies" crowd the stage.

Early in this century whilst
encountering slight difficulties
with the Boers, Australia made her
debut into the playground of Mars.
World War No I (to save confusion)
indisputably the "plum and apple"
War.

Here and now, this more topical
fracas we are indulging in will go
down unquestionably as the
"Marmalade" War---ask the Troops

--SX7956

SHUIBOARD

LOLIE by
Bdr O W Bond

BATHROOM
WASHING
IN BASIN
ONLY
ALLOWED



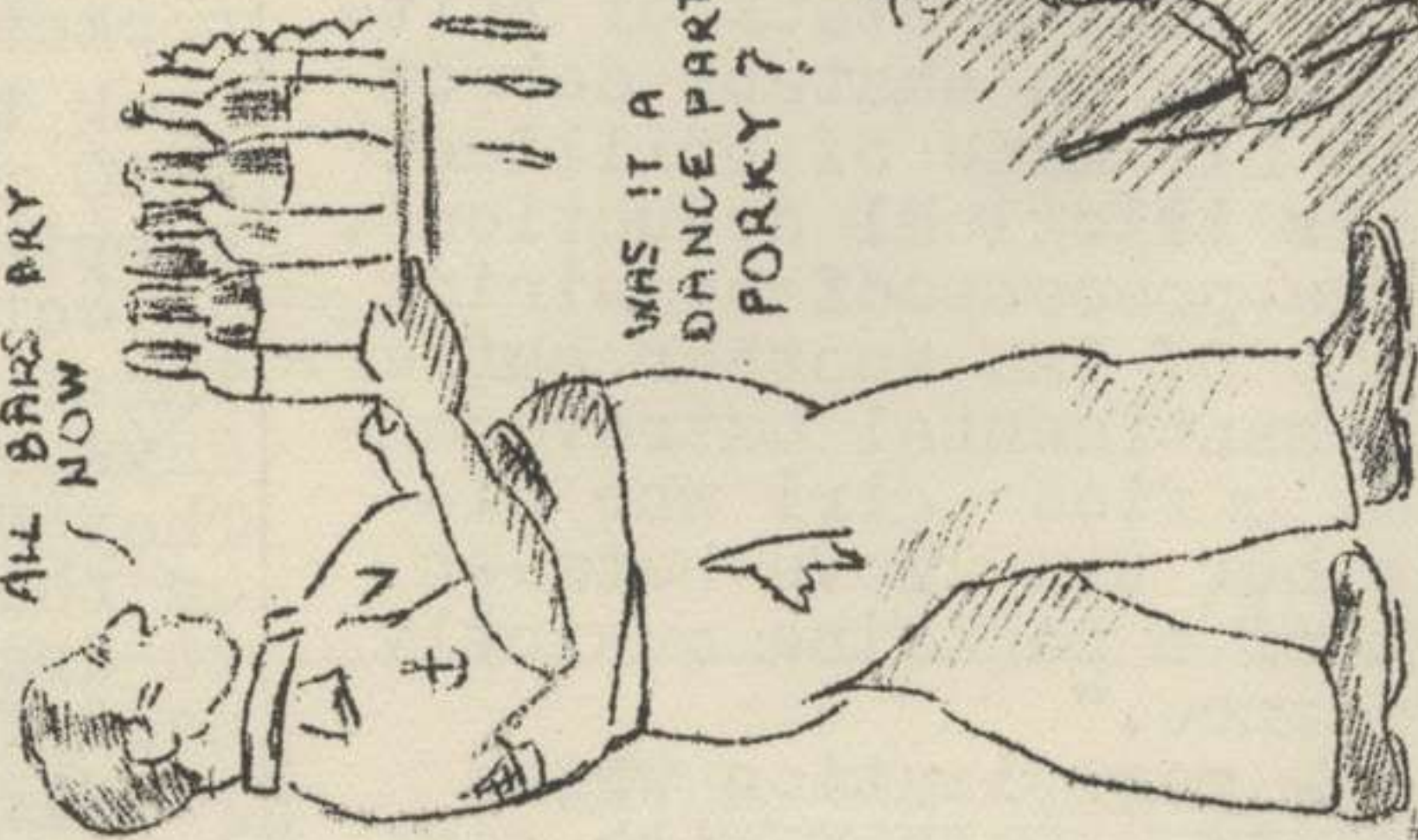
THE BLOKE
THAT CAME IN
THE WRONG
DOOR!



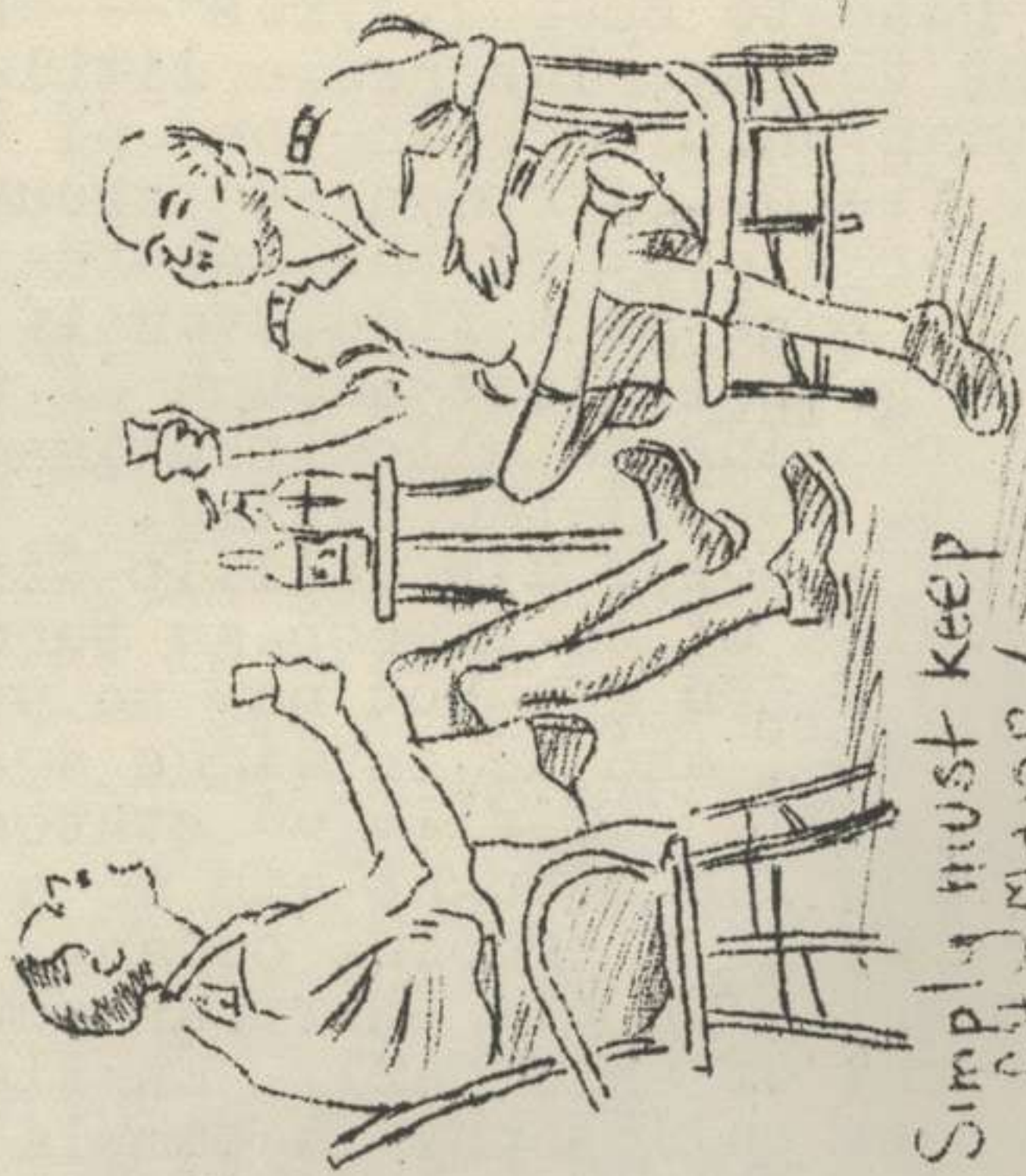
POULTRY
FOR
BREAKFAST

GIRPI

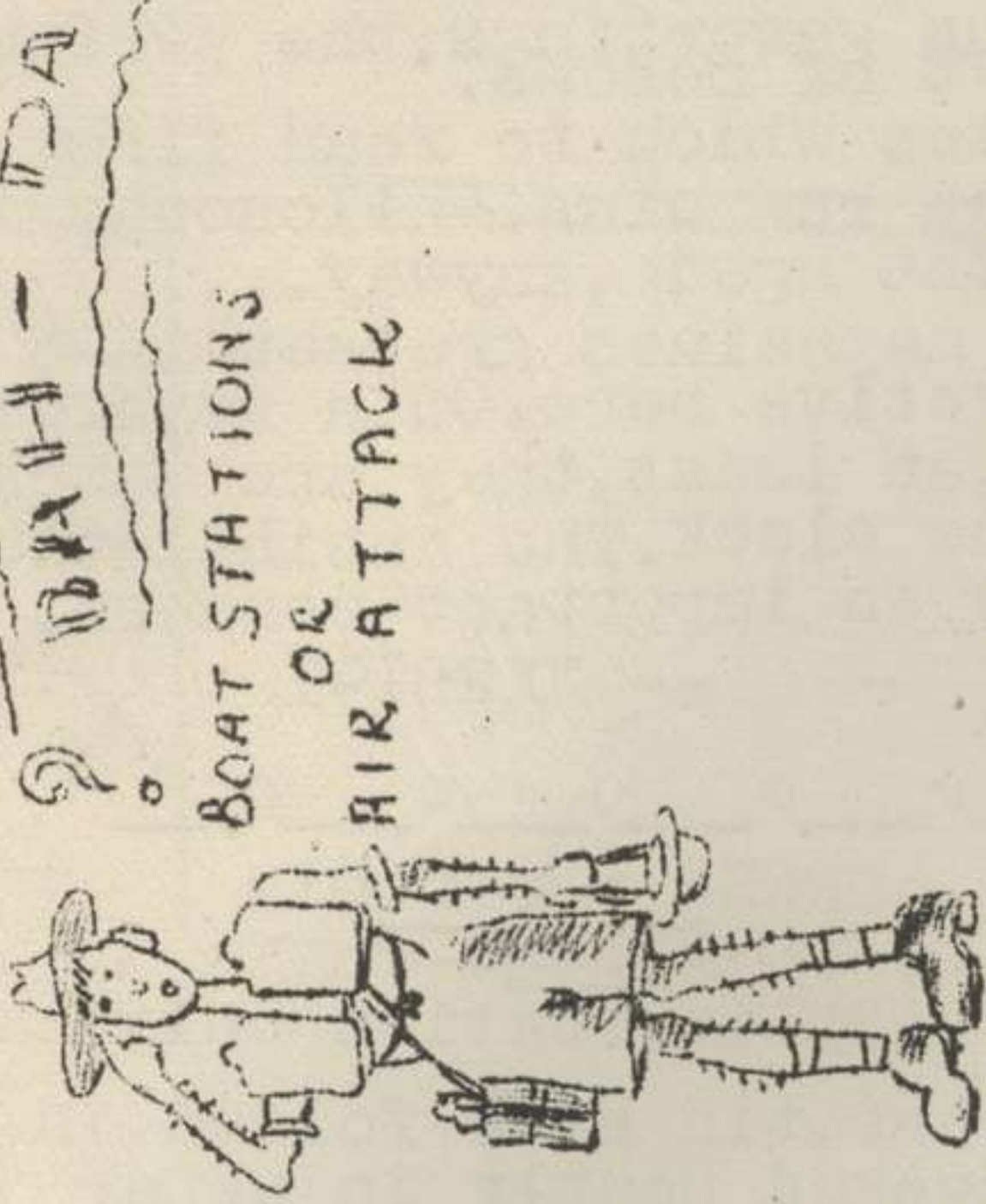
ALL BARS BRY
NOW



WAS IT A
DANCE PARTY
PORKY?



Simply must keep
fit Major!

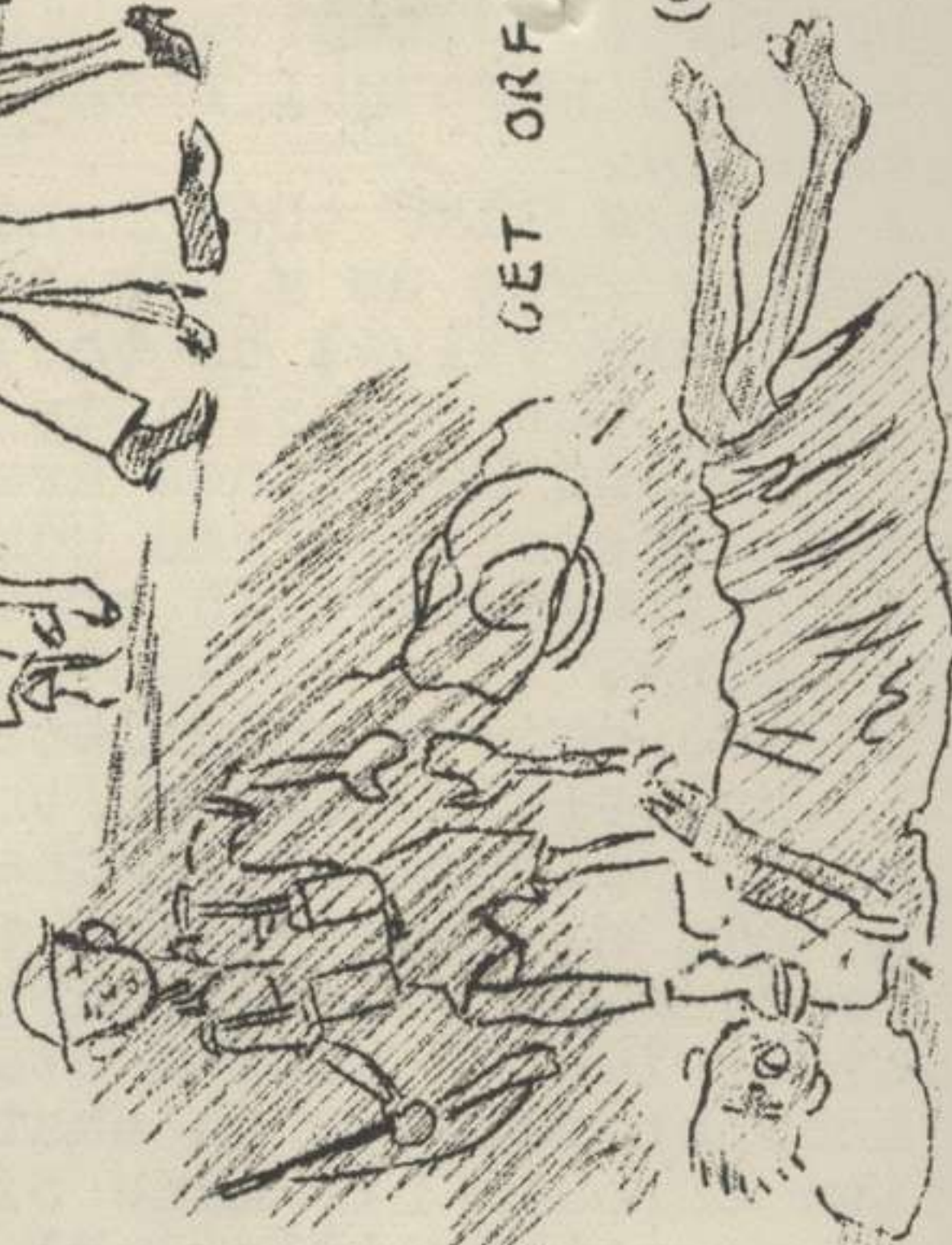


BOAT STATIONS
OR
AIR ATTACK

A GOOD TIME WAS
HAD BY ALL -
OH YEN!



GET ORF MY NECK
YOU
(CARELESS THING)



BOND

Books versus the Clock.

In the face of the great issues of whose ships are being sunk and whose armies are advancing and retreating we lose sight often of the minor things which contribute so unobtrusively to the other conflict-the battle with tedium-which is alive on each personal front, reading for example.

A voyage like the present one certainly sets up a new standard in literary values as the average Digger is not catholic in his tastes. Books and magazines are set in a new perspective and some authors find themselves in strange literary company.

On one deck a shirtless Australian is quietly intent on the "Economics of Inheritance." Another lies on his stomach poring over "The Wonders of Science". Squatting cross-legged atop a stack of rafts another follows an amateur detective through his maze of brilliant if sometimes illogical deductions. While in the process of acquiring a quick coat of tan another suffers the turgid sentimental extravagances of some office girl who almost loses her true love between the covers of a magazine quaintly termed "romance."

Ignoring the perspiration which drips from him another with time to fill follows the lost souls on "The Road to Buenos Ayres"---and claims to have learned a little of human endurance in one of the lower fields of human endeavour. A tattered copy of the Saturday Evening Post is a find. Even if half a page is lost enough of the story remains to allow the imagination to supply the ending.

Another studies Sir Phillip Gibbs' prophecies of the European turmoil written years ago but now so painfully true, and he inveighs against the folly of alleged statesmen which has brought him to a troopship in a tropic ocean.

One carries in his shirt an autobiography of an elderly Englishman whose philosophy is simple and serene, and in his hip pocket

in paper covers, are the erotic and amorous savortings, the perfumed indecencies of morons.

He hesitates which to read first. Life in the raw wins. Philosophy is more for the aged, anyway....

Books and magazines are set in a new perspective here. On a voyage like this, at least, they are matched against the clock. The annihilation of time is an important concern.

-- NX26I9I

o o o o o

DRESS for C.O's
PARADE

(By invitation only)

Service Dress, tin hats folded in four and packed neatly in upper left tunic pocket.

Chin strap tied in a bow and worn on the nape of the neck.

Water bottles filled with S.R.D. and worn in right upper tunic pocket.

Pack to hold rifle and Bren Gun and 1000 rounds of ammo.

Respirator to be worn with bustle effect at the rear.

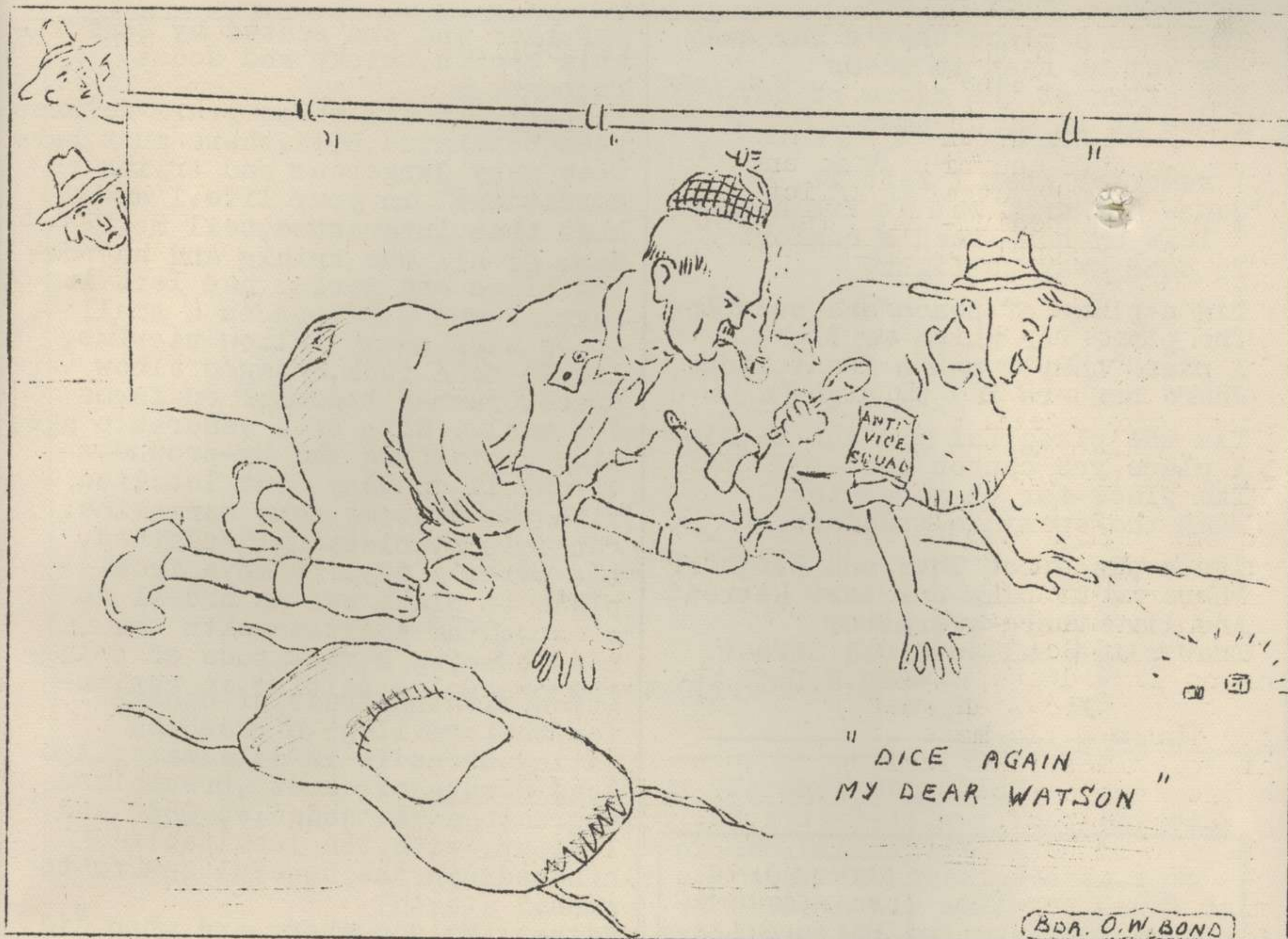
Three will be selected for seven days special leave to Grant Road. They will report to the Pay Sgt. on the morning following the parade to draw at the rate of time and a half for their period of leave (oh yeah).

(Oh Hell ! Is there a war?)
Your guess is as good as mine.

o o o o o

A travelling salesman, caught in a heavy rainstorm, stopped overnight at a farmhouse. In the morning he looked out on a flood-coursing through the front yard. He watched pieces of fence, chicken coops and an old straw hat float past with the current. Then he saw the straw hat come back upstream past the house. Then he saw it go down again. By now he wondered if he had gone crazy.

So he called the farmer's daughter. "Oh" she said, after a glance out of the window. "That must be Grandpa. He said yesterday that in spite of hell or high water he intended to mow the lawn today."



A SOLDIER'S FAREWELL TO EGYPT.

Land of heat and sweaty socks,
 Sin, sand and tons of pox,
 Streets of sorrow, streets of fane,
 Streets to which we give no name.

-o-

Street of filths and slinking dogs,
 Harlots, thieves and pestering wogs,
 Clouds of choking dust that blinds,
 And drives poor blokes clean out of
 their minds.

-o-

Aching heart and aching feet,
 Gyppo girls and camel meat,
 The Arabs Heaven--the soldiers Hell,
 Land of bastards--Fare ye well.

An English comedian's definition of
 a brassiere: Something which makes
 molehills out of mountains.

AFTER THE CENSOR HAD PASSED

XYZIOOOOO
 Anyunit

Dear Maggie,

What do I think of
 the Army? Well, to continue-----
 --- there is really nothing to com-
 pare with it .First of all we were
 at---- then we went to---- now I'm
 damned if we are not back at----.
 During that time we have been----.
 The food has been absolutely----.
 The quarters we sleep in are----.
 I went on special leave two months
 ago. It is called A.W.L. and I went
 to ---- but some ---- sons of----
 ---- picked me up. No, I didnt
 fall over, and I was crimed, yes,
 again. The Colonel said I was a
 loafing ---- but he was very
 gentle with me, as gentle as a wolf.
 Soon we move to ----.

--NX7356

Love from Bill

CIVIL STREET

There is a place that's far away
But yet so near it seems
For often at the close of day
I see it in my dreams

I remember when I left it,
'Cause the crop was at its height
I left my homestead's comfort
To come away to fight.

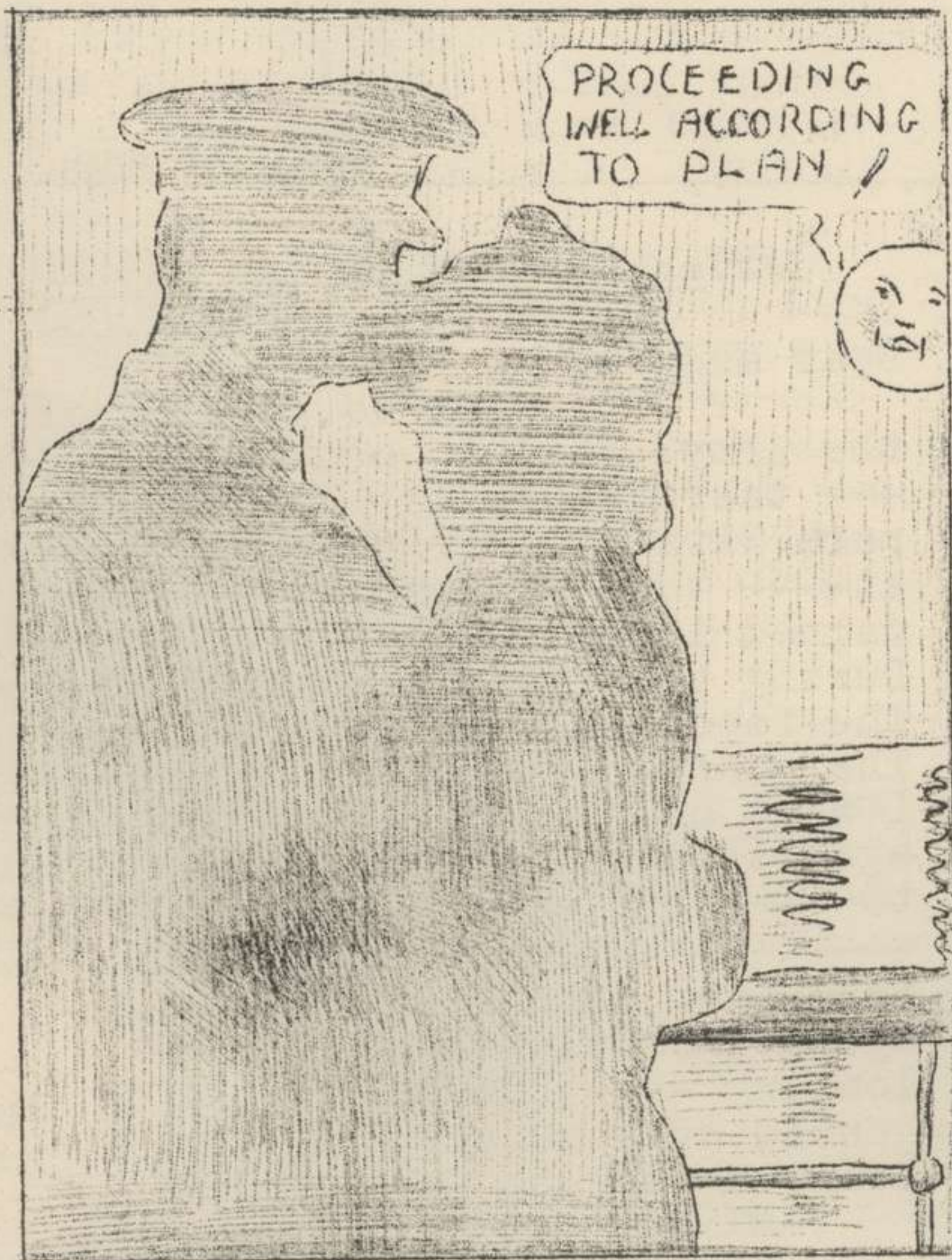
'Tis a place of peace and sunshine
The place for which we fight,
A place that's not a front line
Where bombers fly by night

'Tis the place for you and me, Dig
A place you cannot beat
The place for us to go to
When the enemy meets defeat.

Its a place of love and laughter
Where we'll play our last Retreat
And live there everafter
That place called Civil Street.

--Sig.H.Luff

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1955

Father and son seated by comfortable hearth, whisky and sodas rampant.

Father: "In all these years we have been separated, Bill, there must have been many dangerous and trying conditions in your life. I am more than interested, tell me.

Son: Of all the trials and harrowing times one period has left its scar. I was confined in a small-space with many fellow victims, little head room, cramped elbow space, crammed together on forms for meals. Eggs of a venerable age, tins containing the by-products of an oil company but labelled with the awesome name margarine. Potatoes everlastingly clothed, tea twice a day. To move from place to place was an ordeal in a crouching position with the head bumping a multitude of swinging obstacles, waiting in resignation with hundreds of others for the privilege of washing eating utensils in cold water. Age long nights of heat, breathless hours to awake jaded at 0530 and line up with the inevitable hundreds in the hopeful desire to wash."

Father: My son where and when did you have to survive such conditions

Son : I travelled tourist, sir, on the ' ? ' "

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A TOAST

Here's to the girl in the high
heeled shoes
Who eats your grub and drinks
your booze
And then goes home with her
mother to snooze.
STINGY ! ! !

0

We neither question nor criticise the quality of food aboard. We refrain from any reference to its preparation ---but suspicion becomes active in our minds when we discover that a SgT. Cook is in sick bay suffering from dyspepsia.



THERE'S GOLDFISH ON THE MENU FOR TODAY

There's an odour in the pantry and it's really rather strong,
 There's goldfish on the menu for today,
 The patients all can smell it and they're bursting into song,
 There's goldfish on the menu for today
 They catch the little fishes while they're swimming in the sea
 They float them in tomato sauce and call them mungaree
 But the thing we like about them is there isn't any fee
 When there's goldfish on the menu for today.

We've come from good old Aussie and we've travelled many miles,
 There's goldfish on the menu for today
 We've learned to love (?) the Army food in all its varied styles,
 There's goldfish on the menu for today
 But once or twice, or more, a week we get our favourite dish,
 The cook is feeling generous and he thinks "we'll have some fish,"
 Then the herring in its glory comes to grant our every wish,
 There was goldfish on the menu for today.

When this beastly war is over and we all go home again,
 There WONT be goldfish on the menu any day,
 You'll see the boys all grinning as they utter this refrain
 There WONT be goldfish on the menu any day,
 I'm not a poet, really, and I'm often rather shy,
 While the thoughts of home and sweetheart often make me want to cry,
 But when I've got that fish inside me I feel I'm going to die,
 But, then, there WONT be goldfish on the menu, any day,

---A Nursing Sister

SAINT FERGUSON

Midst worries and anxieties
A magazine to print
A poor old bloke named Fergie
Rushes like an Arab bint

He hates any word of "Goldfish"
Or things of amorous strain,
Things like "The Chinese Maiden"
Make him raise Old Cain.

He carries filthy poetry
We know from his own lips
He nearly shocked the Colonel
And proved who had the pips.

We say to him "Good Hunting"
All success to the Westernland Mag
It ought to be called another name
But Ferg. objects to "rag".

Let's hope the humour's buoyant
The poetry a hit
That it has'nt any "shockers"
That it's full of Aussie wit.
---Anon.

Five minute radio play by the
O/Rs: "How the Other Half Lives."

Said one pot of paint to the other
"Darling, I think I'm pigment."

He (asking a riddle): Why is it
you have so many boy friends?
She: I give up.



NURSERY RHYMES

Blast you Goering,
Have you any planes?
No Sir, No Sir, they're all in flames,
The British have the best half,
The rest are in the sea,
Now was'nt that a dirty trick
to play on you and me.

Sing a song of Petain
A pocketful of Marks
Four and twenty deputies
Up to Hitler's larks
We rounded up their navy
Before his bells could ring,
Now was'nt that a dainty dish
To set before our King.

Oh, mother may I go out to swim?
Why not, my darling daughter,
You're so damned near naked anyhow
You'd look better in the water



Defining the French attitude towards Britain a leading French film actor said recently, "We are both pro-British and anti-British. Those who are pro-British say each night in their prayers, 'Please, God, let the gallant British win quickly.' Those who are anti-British say 'Please, God, let the dirty British win right away."

De Hollanders wenschen hun Australische vrienden een behouden thuishkomst... and: the Aussies wish their Dutch friends the best of luck and 'good sailing'.

7

MAP
SINGLINGTON

1" TO 1 MILE

8

CEYLON AND ITS PEOPLE

*Published specially for and issued free to all
Ranks and Ratings of the Fighting Services
in Ceylon.*

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CEYLON AND ITS PEOPLE

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I. The Island

The name "Ceylon" is a corruption of the Sanskrit **Sinhala-dipa**, the Island of the Sinhalese. It is often called **Lanka**, or the Island, by the Sinhalese themselves. Though legally it is still a colony, it is not a Crown colony, and the word is therefore never used. It should be called "Ceylon", or "the Island." Though originally it was the island of the Sinhalese, minority communities now make up a third of the population. Accordingly, the generic name for the people of Ceylon is not Sinhalese, but Ceylonese. "Sinhalese" is pronounced as if the two words "Sing" and "Halese" were run together and the aspirate made almost guttural. The spelling Singhalese is equally permissible but less common. The anglicised form, Cingalese, is never used.

Ceylon is geographically a shelf projecting southwards from India. The water covering Adam's Bridge in the north-west is in fact so shallow that ships cannot pass round the north of the Island. The shelf ends abruptly ten to twenty miles from the coast for two-thirds of the coast-line, with the result that from Puttalam round the south of the Island and up the east coast as far as Trincomalee there are practically no tides. In the south the daily fall may be only a few inches, while the spring tides for Colombo, Galle and Trincomalee are about 2.6 feet, 2.3 feet and 2.1 feet respectively. Consequently, strong points built near the water's edge would remain near it throughout the twenty-four hours and throughout the year. It follows also that the river mouths get silted up, and even the Mahaweli Ganga is not navigable except for very small boats in some sections. The natural harbours at Galle and Trincomalee are rock harbours, not river mouths, and Colombo Harbour is almost wholly artificial. The currents sweep round the coast from west to east during the south-west monsoon and from east to west during the north-east monsoon.

Ceylon is a lump of crystalline rock or granite, about half the size of England, in the shape of a pear. In the centre of the widest part is a stretch of hill-country occupying about one-fifth of the Island, from Kandy in the north to south of Adam's Peak. The division between the Low Country and the Hills is the fundamental division and has had important effects economically and politically. Ceylon lies wholly within the Tropic of Cancer, and stretches roughly from 4 degrees north to ten degrees north. Consequently, the sun passes directly overhead twice in the year. It is

directly overhead Colombo, for instance at noon on the 8th April and the 5th September. It follows also that the days are almost equal throughout the year, the difference in Colombo being only 48 minutes between June 22nd and December 22nd.

Climate. The climate is determined primarily by the latitude; it is always warm because the sun's rays fall on the earth at a high angle from the horizontal and therefore with considerable intensity. It is, however, an equable climate because of the proximity of the sea and the high moisture content of the air, which among other consequences cause clouds to form in the heat of the day. Hardly a day passes without some cloud, but hardly a day without sun. There is very little variation in temperature between day and night or between one part of the year and another. The only way to get cool is to go into the hills. A blanket is seldom needed in Colombo, but two blankets may be required in Nuwara Eliya.

The two monsoons also play a large part in the climate. Ceylon is in the Doldrums or Equatorial Belt of Calms, so that winds rarely attain gale force and pressure variations are small. Strong winds will be noticed only along the coast and on the edges of the hills. The south-west monsoon is the more important of the two monsoons. During the summer month the land mass of India becomes heated and a belt of low pressure is set up, with the result that air moves in from the Indian Ocean. Ceylon is on the edge of this movement and for about three months of the year, from about the middle of May to the middle of August, the wind is almost consistently in a south-westerly direction. Six months later the reverse process sets in, so that from the middle of November to the middle of February the wind is generally from the north-east.

The importance of the monsoons can however be exaggerated. The north-east appears to be a cool wind but in fact the variation in mean temperature in Colombo is only 3.6 degrees while in Trincomalee it is only 7 degrees. Nor does it vary with the winds. As in most countries with equable climates it lags behind the sun. Also contrary, to the popular belief, the monsoons do not "break" with heavy rainfall. The heavy rains set in before the monsoons, though it is true that the heaviest rainfall of all in Colombo generally coincides with the beginning of the south-west monsoon. The monsoons may cause some rain to fall, but the rainy season is in the main the result of other causes. The rainy seasons in Colombo are from April to June and from September to November. In Trincomalee there is only one, from October to January. These are

not coterminous with the monsoon periods. The normal rainfall is in any case high because the air is always moist and any variation in pressure causes rain to fall. In particular, the heavy evaporation causes clouds to form during the day and, when the cooling of the earth towards evening sets up vertical air currents, the rain begins to fall. Hence for several months of the year "it always rains at sundown." This is likely to be so in Colombo from October to April. For most of the year there is least rain in the middle of the day.

The rainfall is, however, spread very unevenly over Ceylon. Most parts receive more rain than, say, London. London has about 25 inches in the year, whereas in Ceylon most parts of the dry zone have more than 50 inches. The rate of evaporation is so high that 50 inches is not enough to keep a "green and pleasant land" throughout the year except by tank irrigation. Drought conditions generally prevail in two coastal belts, from Chilaw to the Jaffna Peninsula in the north-west, and from Tangalla to Pottuvil in the south-east. The hinterland of these forms the dry zone.

The "wet zone," where there is often too much rain, is south-west of the hills, and includes the coastline from Colombo to Galle.

The following chart gives the average monthly rainfall in inches and the mean monthly temperatures in Colombo, Kandy and Trincomalee :—

Monsoon	Colombo		Kandy		Trincomalee		
	Rain	Heat	Rain	Heat	Rain	Heat	
N.E.	January	3.45	79.0	5.18	74.5	6.67	78.7
	February	1.97	79.8	2.21	76.0	2.07	80.4
	March	4.72	81.4	4.00	78.3	1.67	82.6
	April	7.99	82.6	6.66	79.0	1.92	85.2
	May	13.38	82.6	5.69	78.7	2.44	86.2
S.W.	June	8.25	81.6	9.45	76.6	1.25	85.6
	July	6.71	81.0	7.49	75.8	2.08	85.2
	August	3.25	81.1	5.76	75.8	3.99	84.8
	September	6.38	81.0	6.02	75.8	4.41	84.6
N.E.	October	13.09	80.3	11.71	75.8	8.34	82.6
	November	11.71	79.6	10.59	75.4	14.03	80.0
	December	5.38	79.0	8.95	74.5	14.16	78.6

Water Supply.

Except the Jaffna Peninsula, which is formed of limestone, Ceylon is composed of crystalline rock or "granite." In the

low country, however, the granite is covered by a thick layer of a sort of porous clay known as "kabouk." At normal times in the hills water can be obtained from numerous springs due to folds in the granite. In the low country the kabouk holds the water, which can therefore be obtained easily by digging wells. The limestone in the Jaffna Peninsula also holds a great deal of water, but in many places it is so strongly impregnated with salt as to be unusable for drinking purposes. The amount of water available depends, of course, on the rainfall. There is almost always a shortage of water in the two very dry areas, the north-west coast from Puttalam to Jaffna, and the south-east coast around Hambantota. The central area, including the west coast from Negombo to Galle, always has enough water and often too much. Elsewhere in Ceylon there may be periods of drought. The general rule is that areas with an average annual rainfall of at least 75 inches always have plenty of water, while those below 50 inches usually have too little.

The heavy rainfall in certain parts of Ceylon added to the silting up of the rivers makes flooding a frequent occurrence. It is possible for Ceylon to have in a day as much rain as London has in a year. At Nedunkeni in December, 1897, there fell 31.72 inches of rain in 24 hours. Nearly all the rivers are capable of being flooded but the most serious floods generally occur in the valleys of the Kelani Ganga which flows into the sea north of Colombo and of the Mahaweli Ganga which skirts Kandy and flows into the sea in the region south of Trincomalee. The Mahaweli floods may cut off the direct route between Kandy and Colombo and make the Trincomalee communications difficult. The A. A. of Ceylon has a flood service through which the latest information is available.

Disease.

For an island less than ten degrees from the Equator Ceylon is a healthy place. Neither cholera nor smallpox is endemic though there are occasional outbreaks due to infection brought in from outside. There is very little plague and not much sleepy-sickness and leprosy. Care should always be taken over the water supply since there is a fair amount of enteric fever and dysentery. There is a substantial amount of hookworm and the troops should be forbidden to walk about with bare feet. This is also necessary to prevent the minor affection known on this Island as "Ceylon foot" though elsewhere it is known as "Singapore foot" "Hong Kong foot" and various other names. After bathing the feet must always be well dried. Venereal disease is unfortunately as

prevalent as in any other country of the world and 10 per cent of the urban population is believed to be infected.

The great scourge is, however, malaria. The dry zone is almost entirely malarial, at least at some seasons, the exceptions being the tip of the Jaffna Peninsula, a small area around Trincomalee, and a coastal strip from Batticaloa to Pottuvil. It is, however, possible to get malaria anywhere. Stagnant water should always be oiled and the banks of rivers and slow-moving streams should as far as possible be avoided. Old tins and other receptacles capable of holding rain water should be systematically buried.

II. The People

The majority of the inhabitants of Ceylon are **Sinhalese**. They are of Aryan stock: that is they belong to the group of nations speaking an Indo-European language. Sanskrit is the oldest of these languages among the others being Persian, Greek, Latin, Celtic and Gothic. In other words, if one can speak of "race" at all, the four nations of the British Isles, the Germans and the Sinhalese, among others, belong to one race. Linguistically and culturally the affinities of the Sinhalese are with North India. There is much less affinity with the **Tamils** and other South Indian peoples, who are of Dravidian stock. There has, however, been much Dravidian influence on the Sinhalese. In particular, their caste system (such as it is) came from South India; the language has been somewhat influenced by Tamil and their religion contains many Hindu elements. It is perhaps a purely sentimental factor, but educated Sinhalese often say that they feel more at home in North India than they do in the South.

The Sinhalese make up about 67 per cent. of the population. They are, however, divided into two sections, the Low-Country Sinhalese and the Kandyan Sinhalese, the people of the plains and the people of the hills. The Low-Country Sinhalese inhabit the most densely populated and the richest part of Ceylon in the western and southern provinces. They were more easily overrun by western nations, and they have in consequence been more westernised. They form the majority of the population in the districts of Chilaw, Colombo, Kalutara, Galle, Matara and Hambantota. The Kandyans put up a much stouter resistance to the Europeans and in fact may be said never to have been overcome. Their territory came under British control in 1815 with the assistance of their chiefs. They form the majority of the population in the districts of Anuradhapura, Kurunegala, Matale, Kegalla, Badulla and Ratnapura. Since 1818, however, there has been a large influx of Low-Country Sinhalese into most of these districts, and in Kurunegala and Ratnapura they form over ten per cent. of the population. The districts of Kandy and Nuwara Eliya, which historically are in the centre of the Kandyan country, now have such a mixed population that the Kandyans are in a minority. It is one of the grievances of the Kandyans that, since they are a conservative people, positions of affluence in the Kandyan

Kingdom have been taken by other peoples. Also, they feel strongly about the intrusion of the plantations, which are generally European owned and are worked by Indian Tamil labour. The tea estates are almost entirely in Kandyan territory, and so are a majority of the rubber estates.

The Sinhalese are almost all Buddhists, though the Low-Country Sinhalese, especially among the urban and coastal population, have been much affected by Christianity. Their caste system is not highly developed, having been taken over from the Tamils and not being wholly consistent with Buddhism. Their family system is strong, and they are particularly tenacious of their family and ancestral lands and paddy fields. Care must therefore be taken not to make too ruthless encroachments on them even for military purposes. The position of women is comparatively free for an Eastern country: The purdah system is neither Buddhist nor Hindu, and thus has no application to Ceylon outside the Muslim community. At the same time, it must be remembered by European troops that any oriental woman is easily insulted or offended, and that the kind of badinage which would be permissible in a European country will meet with disfavour in all but the most westernised parts of Colombo. The Sinhalese women have adopted the Indian saree for more formal occasions, but the ordinary villager wears a blouse (said to be of Portuguese origin) and a long skirt.

Speaking generally, the reputation of the Sinhalese as labourers is not great. Where they take to skilled trades, they are usually very good at them; but many of them do not take kindly to constant manual labour. The cultivation of their paddy fields is limited to the production of food for the homestead. Being strongly attached to their ancestral soil, they can rarely be attracted away from their villages by promise of better land, and they are certainly not prepared to leave them for the dry zone merely on the prospect of greater affluence in the future. Higher wages even will not always tempt them. For these reasons, the Sinhalese is generally said to be lazy. It is perhaps truer to say that he is a "gentleman." He works to keep his family (a very wide term which will include all his dependent relatives); and when he has done that he does not want more. This has been one of the reasons for the importation of Indian Tamil labour. It should also be remembered that the quality of all Ceylonese labour has been much affected by malnutrition, malaria and hookworm.

The **Ceylon Tamils** are of a different stamp. They are of the same Dravidian stock as the Tamils of South India. Strictly speak-

ing, it is not a racial stock. The early Dravidians mixed with other races in India, some of whom adopted their language. Accordingly, the word designates a language group made up of those who speak the four Dravidian languages, Tamil, Malayalam, Kanarese and Telugu. The Tamils came to Ceylon from the earliest times, but mixed with the Sinhalese and adopted their language. Consequently, there are no great physical differences between the two races, though there are facial differences which are more easily noticed than described. In the later period there has been less mixing of the races. This is due to the invasions from India, which pressed the Sinhalese back from the "tank country" of the North Central Province and Eastern Province into the hills and the wet lands of the west and south. The Ceylon Tamil thus developed a territory of his own, in which his innate conservatism and the pertinacity of his customs enabled him to maintain an existence largely separate from that of the Sinhalese. In some respects, as in language, the Ceylon Tamils have been less affected by outside influences than the Indian Tamils.

The Ceylon Tamils form some 12 per cent. of the population. They are more than half the population in the districts of Jaffna (which is over 90 per cent. Tamil), Mannar, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee and Batticaloa. In other words, they mainly occupy the northern tip of the Island and the eastern coastal belt. The Tamils are mostly Hindus of the Saivite cult. There is however, a high proportion of Christians, partly because of the greater activity of the Christian missions in the North, and partly because it was easier for the theistic Hindus than for the non-theistic Buddhists to change to the mono-theism of Christianity. Nevertheless, Christianity has not seriously interfered with the intense family life of the Jaffna Tamil, as his kadjan fences bear witness. The seclusion of women of the upper classes is much more common. The saree is the ordinary dress for women of all classes. Tamils almost always abstain from eating pork or beef, and many are strict vegetarians.

Both in their country of origin and in their country of adoption, the Tamils have lived in a dry inhospitable climate where Nature has not been bountiful and a living can be obtained only by hard persistent labour. The Ceylon Tamils are therefore remarkable for their thrift and industry. In fact, they are often called the Scots of Ceylon, and the joke about Aberdeen is in Ceylon a joke about Jaffna. The Jaffna man who "goes in for" education does it with the same thoroughness and persistence as he uses to wring a living from his lands. He is, however, a stern individualist

and, often, a materialist. If he is set to do a job he wants a **quid pro quo** but if that is forthcoming, he can be relied upon to do it with thoroughness, intelligence, perseverance and initiative. Nor must the assumption that he wants something for his trouble be pressed too far. Among the more educated Ceylon Tamils there has been a considerable development of public spirit. The Jaffna man will help his own people in much the same way as the Scot.

It must be remembered, too, that the Ceylon Tamil is generally a high-caste man. This is one of the points of distinction from the **Indian Tamil** found in Ceylon, among whom representatives of the higher castes are rare. Sinhalese labour for the estates, the roads, harbour work, etc., being difficult to obtain large numbers of Indian Tamil labourers have been imported. These labourers have in some cases been in Ceylon for three generations. They belong to what the planters call "the Coast," *i.e.* the Coromandel Coast of South India. The Carnatic is over-populated, and the standard of living is appallingly low. Wages in Ceylon are comparatively high, and it was therefore possible for "kanganies" to recruit gangs of Indian Tamil labourers for periods of service in Ceylon. They lived in "lines," with or without their families, but they returned periodically to "the Coast." When they had saved enough, they returned home, perhaps to live on their savings, perhaps to eke them out by the cultivation of the family lands. In recent years legislation both in India and Ceylon has altered conditions. In particular, the Indian Tamil has no guarantee that he will be able to return to Ceylon if he goes home. Accordingly, he is tending to stay in the Island. Also, he is beginning to claim "rights." He has had the vote since 1931, and is developing a sense of his own importance. In fact, of course, he is extremely important, because if the Indian Tamils went home there would be insufficient manual labour in Ceylon. What stops him from going home is the certainty that he would be unemployed and the probability that he would not be able to return because of the restrictions imposed by the Government of India. Since most of the labour employed on military works is Indian Tamil, great care must be taken to give them adequate protection, sufficient food and attractive conditions generally.

The Indian ban on emigration of unskilled labour to Ceylon has also produced another result. The Tamil labourers were governed by a paternal system. They are generally docile people, capable of running amok, but generally responsive to kindly treatment

from the "dorai" or master. The dorai's remedy for insubordination was dismissal. The labourer then returned to India and, in due course, joined another gang. Now, he cannot be certain that he will return and must therefore hold his job. This makes him not more submissive but less, because if his dorai dismisses him he is not prepared to go without complaint, as he would do if he could be certain of getting another job. This, combined with his political importance, has led to the formation of trade unions. The name is misleading, because they bear little relation to English trade unions. They are not run by genuine workers and are in competition with each other. Their main purpose is to stop dismissals, and the labourer joins for no other reason. He therefore joins the union which is most successful in preventing dismissals, and this makes the unions take up even the cases where there is every justification for dismissals. On the one hand, therefore, the employers have lost their old powers of control. On the other hand is a labour force, supported by trade union "leaders" who make a living from their jobs, which is no longer docile. Hence the numerous labour troubles. The solution lies in persuading the trade unions to act as such, and on the other hand in persuading the employers that the old days have gone for good and that they can no longer treat their labourers as children. As great care must be taken of the labour force as would be taken in Great Britain. They should not be regarded, or spoken of, as "coolies"—the term is in fact forbidden. In addition there are in normal times many Indians engaged in trade in Ceylon. The Pettah or bazaar section of Colombo is largely Indian. The wealthier Indians have, however, tended to return to India in the present emergency.

The Sinhalese and the Tamils together make up about 86 per cent. of the population of the Island. The only other large group consists of the **Ceylon Moors**, of whom there are some 300,000. They are descendants of Arab traders who came to Ceylon from the earliest time for the purpose of trade. Hence they were particularly numerous in Colombo and Galle, the two seaports used for the export of cinnamon, pepper, and other indigenous products. The Pettah a generation ago was almost entirely Moor, but has now passed mainly into the hands of Indians. With the opening of the Kandyan Kingdom after 1818, the Moors gradually developed trade in the districts of Matale and Kandy. They are also fairly numerous in the north-western and eastern coastal belts.

The Moors are generally traders, wholesale and retail. It will generally be found that the shopkeepers, and especially the keepers

9

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

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CIPHER OFFICER
H.Q., A.I.F. (CEYLON)

of boutiques (*i.e.* small shops) are either Ceylon or Indian Moors. The boutique-keepers, especially the Indians, are not particularly popular. Retail trade in Ceylon is carried on largely by credit, the purchaser being always in debt. The boutique-keeper may also be a money-lender. There is much ground for saying that the riots of 1915 had primarily an economic cause. It is true that the original outbreak in Kandy was due to religious disputes between Sinhalese celebrating the Buddhist festival of Wesak and the Muslims, but the subsequent looting of boutiques, which was the cause of the declaration of martial law, was due to the fact that the more lawless elements seized the opportunity to attack the most unpopular people in the Island. It must not be assumed that there is any likelihood of a repetition of the early stages of the 1915 riots; but it would be wise to remember that if looting occurred during air raids the first attacks would probably be made on the boutiques operated by Indian Moors. The home language of the Ceylon Moors is mainly Tamil, though some speak Sinhalese. Their religion is invariably Muslim, and they have hardly been touched at all by the efforts of the Christian missionaries. The Muslims generally practise the purdah system. The Moors are easily distinguished by the red fez.

The small community known as the **Afghans** must be mentioned particularly because, though few in number, they are extremely unpopular and the slightest relaxation of law and order would produce attacks on them. They are Muslims from North India engaged mainly in money-lending in Colombo. They stand about the streets waiting for custom or before the doors of their debtors waiting for payment. They are tall, look rather fierce, and generally carry a stick. They are also easily distinguishable by their costume. They wear the cloth in Indian style so that it looks like a pair of baggy trousers. Over it is a long loose coat of white or khaki cotton reaching almost to the knees. On top of that is a waistcoat of black velvet or dark cloth, generally with a watch-chain. On the head is a large turban with a flowing end.

The **Malays** are a small group of Muslim descendants of a Malay Regiment brought in by the Dutch. They make good troops and good policemen, and they are also largely represented among the motor drivers. They are nearly all Muslims and in their homes speak a form of colloquial Malay, but outside the home they speak Tamil and some of them English also. They dress like the Sumatran Malay in a skirt (*sarrong*) and coat with a cap of Sumatran patterned cotton cloth.

The **Burghers** are descendants of Dutch settlers brought in during the Dutch occupation of the seventeenth and eighteenth century. They were encouraged to inter-marry with the Sinhalese and Tamils, and most Burgher families have some admixture of oriental blood. On the whole, however, they have kept their European habits, and only in a few cases do they look and speak like the Sinhalese or Tamils. They generally wear European clothes and speak English, though many of them also speak Sinhalese or Tamil. They retain the solid reliability of their Dutch ancestors and have a long tradition of Government service under British rule.

III. History

It would be wearying to the reader to traverse the 2,400 years and more since the Sinhalese arrived in Ceylon. The history of Ceylon is, however, an important element in the present relations between the Ceylonese people and the Imperial troops. The educated Ceylonese is aware that there was a flourishing and highly cultured civilisation existing in Ceylon long before the Anglo-Saxons were established in England, and that while Europe was in the dark ages Ceylon had a culture which was known from Egypt to China. The Tamil tends to look back even further, for he regards the history of Ceylon as part of the history of India, and points to traces of a great Dravidian civilisation throughout India before the Aryan peoples, from whom sprang the Greeks, the Romans and the Sinhalese, were heard of.

For more than a thousand years there was a great Sinhalese civilisation centered around Anuradhapura. It was based on agricultural prosperity due to thousands of "tanks" or reservoirs, built with immense engineering skill. Engineering principles which are of comparatively recent discovery in Europe were known to the Sinhalese, who were famous for their irrigation system throughout the East. On the basis of this prosperity, a notable culture developed. The Buddhist religion which reached Ceylon some two hundred years before the beginning of the Christian era was, and is, highly philosophical, requiring for its understanding a very high intellectual training. Anuradhapura thus became not merely a centre of a great agricultural industry, but also a centre of culture. With it came the great arts of peace—painting, sculpture, and architecture above all. The city, with its vast monuments and great parks, must have been one of the wonders of the world. A country so rich was naturally a prey to invaders, and in any case the history of Ceylon during this period, as in most others, was one of constant internal conflict.

The infiltration of Tamils from South India did not, however, result in what would nowadays be called a minority question. The Sinhalese and the Tamils intermarried and created a new Sinhalese civilisation strongly impregnated with Dravidian elements. Agricultural developments had been taking place southwards and eastwards, and in the early part of the eleventh century the capital was shifted to Polonnaruwa. Around that city there developed a

second Ceylonese civilisation, not purely Aryan like that around Anuradhapura, but a Sinhalese civilisation under strong Tamil influences. The Sinhalese kingdom thus created was powerful enough to unite the whole of Ceylon and even to capture part of South India. The frequent wars and rebellions, however, sent it rapidly in decline, the "bunds" or walls of the tanks were breached and the irrigation channels silted up. Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa are now mainly ruins in the jungle, and what prosperity there was in Ceylon before the coming of the Europeans was based on the products of the jungle in the wet lands on the western seaboard.

These forest products brought in first the Arabs or Moors and then the Europeans in search of trade in cinnamon and other valuable spices. They established themselves on the sea coast and gradually extended their jurisdiction. Meanwhile, however, the Tamil infiltration had continued: but whereas the Tamils had previously mixed with the Sinhalese, they were now separated by the jungle and the desert. After the middle of the fifteenth century there were always at least three kingdoms in Ceylon, a Tamil kingdom at Jaffna, a Sinhalese kingdom at Kandy, and another Sinhalese kingdom based on some town in the maritime provinces. The Portuguese and the Dutch brought Jaffna and the low country under European control, but Kandy held out until the Convention between the British and the Kandyan in March, 1815.

The history of this Kandyan kingdom is important because for over three hundred years it kept the Europeans at bay. The Kandyan became adepts at jungle warfare, and every European expedition from the first Portuguese expedition in 1594 to the second British expedition in 1804 was unsuccessful. Though there was rarely any great difficulty in getting to Kandy, there was always great difficulty in getting out again. The Kandyan tactics were thus described by a Dutch officer: "Conscious of their inability to resist the regular attack of European troops and aware of the advantage they possess in being familiar with the country and inured to the climate, the Kandyan generals avoid close combat, preferring an irregular and desultory warfare. They harass the enemy in his march, hanging on his flanks, cutting off his supplies, interrupting the communication between his divisions, and occupying the heights which command the passes, they fire with perfect security from behind rocks and trees....." Under strong kings, they were not only able to repel invaders, but even on occasions to descend into the low-country and besiege Colombo. The only conqueror of Kandy was a Sinhalese, Rajasinha King of Sitawaka.

(in the low-country outside Portuguese territory), who captured Kandy when it was supported by the Portuguese. He was described by the Portuguese themselves as "a mighty general, endowed with a military genius akin to that of Hannibal, Alexander and Caesar."

The final subjection of Kandy came about not through conquest but through internal dissension. The first British expedition to Kandy never got back, and the second had to beat a masterly retreat. In 1814, however, some important Kandyan chiefs rebelled against their king and took refuge in Colombo, where they sought the aid of a British force. The Kandyan king found himself bereft of all support and was captured. The Convention of 1815 maintained the essence of Kandyan independence, but the chiefs found that they had exchanged a Kandyan King who depended on them for a British King who depended on his own troops. A rebellion in 1818 was too ill-organised to succeed and, after it had been ruthlessly put down, Kandy was for practical purposes incorporated into the colony of Ceylon. The process was completed in 1834. Meanwhile, the British administration had carried out the policy of Governor Barnes: "first, roads, second, roads, and third, roads"; and the roads ushered out the era of Kandyan chiefs and ushered in the era of European planters.

The lessons to be learned from the history of Ceylon may therefore be stated as follows:—

- (1) The Sinhalese and the Tamils are the heirs of civilisations far older than any that have flourished in Europe, civilisations which have attained and retain a high degree of culture. Even the villager who cannot read and write passes down from father to son by word of mouth a vast store of knowledge. It would be foolish and insulting to speak of "ignorant natives."
- (2) This civilisation has entailed a high degree of technical skill and taste still exhibited, for instance, in Sinhalese pottery and Kandyan silverware, but shown far more by the vast irrigation systems of the dry zone.
- (3) There has never been any real conflict between the Sinhalese and Tamils. What history shows is the inability of the Ceylonese to combine against the foreigner. At no time since 1200 have they been united, but the conflict has never been communal. It was a struggle for power among powerful chiefs. Consequently, there are no historic antagonisms to be overcome, but there is a firm foundation on which a spirit of national service can be built up.

(4) While Hinduism and Buddhism (unlike Mohammedanism) are essentially pacifist religions, the history of Kandy does not suggest that the Sinhalese tradition is lacking in martial spirit. Comparatively few in number, ill-equipped, and often led by self-seeking chiefs, the Kandians made it impossible for the Portuguese and too troublesome for the Dutch, to overcome them. They assisted Nature to fight for them for three hundred years.

The aid of a British force... The Convention of 1815 maintained... the essence of Kandian independence... they had exchanged a Kandian King who depended on them for a British King who depended on his own troops. A rebellion in 1818 was too ill-organised to succeed and after it had been crushed out down Kandy was for practical purposes incorporated into the Colony of Ceylon. The process was completed in 1815. Meanwhile the British administration had carried out the policy of Governor Barnes: "first roads, second roads, and third roads" and the roads opened out the eyes of Kandian chiefs and showed to the eyes of European planners. The lesson to be learned from the history of Ceylon may therefore be stated as follows:—

(1) The Sinhalese and the Tamils are the heirs of civilisations far older than any that have flourished in Europe, civilisations which have attained and retain a high degree of culture. Even the village who cannot read and write passes down from father to son by word of mouth a vast store of knowledge. It would be foolish and misleading to speak of "primitive" or "barbaric" civilisations. (2) This civilisation has attained a high degree of technical skill and taste still exhibited for instance in Sinhalese pottery and Kandyan silversmith work, but shown far more by the vast irrigation systems of the dry zone. (3) There has never been any real conflict between the Sinhalese and Tamils. What history shows is the tenacity of the Ceylonese to combine against the foreigner. At no time since 1500 have they been united, but the conflict has never been communal. It was a struggle for power among powerful chiefs. Consequently there are no historic antagonisms to be overcome but there is a firm foundation on which a spirit of national service can be built up.

IV. Ceylon Products

Ceylon derives its wealth from agriculture. There are no accurate figures of the area devoted to the various crops, but the following figures (in acres) will give a general idea :—

Coconuts	...	...	...	1,100,000
Paddy	...	...	...	850,000
Rubber	...	...	...	604,000
Tea	...	...	...	557,000
Chena Products	...	...	...	77,000
Arecanuts	...	...	...	69,000
Palmyra	...	...	...	50,000
Cacao	...	...	...	34,000
Citronella	...	...	...	33,000
Vegetables	...	...	...	32,000
Other grains	...	...	...	28,000
Cinnamon	...	...	...	26,000
Tobacco	...	...	...	14,000

Coconuts are to be found nearly everywhere, but the important areas for their cultivation are the coastal belt from Puttalam to beyond Matara and the districts of Colombo and Negombo. In the Jaffna Peninsula they rival with palmyra. In these and many other areas the land-owning villager usually has a few trees in his compound, but for the most part coconuts are grown in large and small estates, owned either by Ceylonese companies or by individual Ceylonese proprietors. The small individual proprietor lives on his estate and cultivates it with the assistance of his family, and perhaps also with a little hired labour. The coconuts provide food and drink. The kernels are rich in oil, though they are used rather as a relish than as a staple food. The young green coconuts provide an excellent drink, though the yellow or "King" coconuts are better for this purpose. This drink is known as coconut water, not coconut milk, as the water from mature coconuts is called in England. Coconut milk in Ceylon consists of grated kernel beaten up in coconut water. It provides an excellent sauce for stewed or tinned fruit or sago.

Coconut buds and palmyra buds are "tapped" for the liquid known as toddy. Unfermented or "sweet toddy" is a very refreshing and nourishing drink, though it has a somewhat musty

odour which Europeans find objectionable. Toddy contains a good deal of sugar, which can be refined as "jaggery" and converted into a very attractive sweetmeat. If toddy is left to stand without lime, however, the sugar ferments and makes a potent alcoholic drink. It should be remembered, however, that most Buddhists object to alcoholic liquors, and drunkenness among the troops would not be well received.

Coconuts provide more than food and drink, however. The trees are very tough and are used for building. The leaves (like palmyra leaves) are woven into "kadjan," which provides excellent protection against rain and sun. Under rain, the kadjan swells and so provides good cover. The simplest and in many cases the best building is the kadjan shed. Kadjan is also used for baskets. The fibre from coconuts is spun as "coir" (pronounced almost in the French manner as "kwar"), which is used for mats, brushes, mattresses (though kapok is better for this purpose) and rope. The pressed kernels are used for fodder in the form of coconut poonac and coconut oil is used for lighting purposes. In short, the coconut tree is "the Universal Provider of the East."

There is a large export trade in coconuts and coconut products. In 1938, 16 million fresh coconuts were exported. Dried coconut kernels are known as "copra" and are exported in that form, chiefly for the extraction of coconut oil, the manufacture of margarine, oil cake, etc. In 1938, 75,000 tons were exported. The kernels are also chipped and dried so as to be exported as "desiccated coconut," of which 30,000 tons were exported in 1938. In the same year, 75,000 tons of coconut oil, 36,000 tons of coconut fibre, 36,000 tons of coconut poonac, and 4,600 tons of coir yarn, were exported. Accordingly, a substantial section of the population is dependent on the growing of coconuts and the manufacture of coconut products. In substantial measure the manufacture of coconut products is a village industry ancillary to agriculture, so that the owner of a paddy field may also be a kadjan weaver or a maker of coir yarn and coir products.

Paddy is unhusked rice and forms the staple diet of the villages. Most varieties must be grown in water and therefore only where the supply of water is good. The early Sinhalese settlers cultivated paddy in the dry zone by building huge "tanks" or reservoirs in the region around Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa, but a great part of these areas has reverted to jungle, and only in the later British period has there been any serious effort to restore the tanks. There are very few large rice estates, and paddy is rarely grown

on a commercial scale, though it can be bought in the village fairs. The rice from Ceylon paddy is known as "country rice." It is more nutritious and better food value than the polished rice which hitherto has been imported from India and Burma. Also, the exclusive use of polished rice is said to cause beri-beri. Nevertheless, the popular taste is for imported rice of various kinds. In particular, the Indian Tamil workers who do most of the manual labour in Ceylon have hitherto refused any other kind. Hence arises one of the major difficulties of the present war. It was not uncommon for manual workers to get through ten measures of rice a week. Under the rationing scheme only two measures a week are given. One of the reasons for the evacuation of Indian labour to India is the shortage of rice, and much Ceylonese labour has returned to the villages in order to share in the village paddy.

Where there is plenty of water, there are two crops of paddy every year. The maha crop (monmari in Tamil) is sown from the end of August to the middle of October, gets the benefit of the rains before and at the beginning of the north-east monsoon, and is reaped in February or March. The yala crop (pinmari in Tamil) is sown in March or April, gets the benefit of the rains at the beginning of the south-west monsoon, and is reaped between July and September. The methods of cultivation are very primitive and the yields correspondingly low, though nothing can be done about it so long as most paddy fields are so small. A primitive plough is pulled along by buffalo and furrows the ground. There is a second ploughing some days later, and on this occasion green manure ought to be ploughed in, though generally it is not. In countries where the yield is high, transplanting is resorted to, but this is rarely done in Ceylon. The irrigation system which keeps water running through a paddy field is ingenious and complicated and should not be disturbed by military operations unless disturbance is absolutely unavoidable.

Rubber and **tea** are almost entirely in European hands. Rubber is grown mainly in the wet zone at the foot of the hills, the most important areas being the Kegalla and Kalutara districts. Tea is grown mainly on the sides of the hills. Thus, the road from Colombo to Kandy goes through coconut plantations from Colombo to Ambepussa, then through rubber to a few miles the Colombo side of Kandy, and finally reaches the tea country. Many estates, however, cultivate both rubber and tea, the former on the lower slopes, the latter on the higher slopes.

The raw rubber or **latex** is the juice of the tree, and is obtained by "tapping." A sloping cut is made in the bark so that, in the early morning while the latex runs freely, it can be collected in coconut shells and transferred to buckets. It is taken immediately to the factory, where it is strained, diluted with water, and poured into vats where acetic acid is mixed in. Having coagulated in the vats, it is kneaded, rolled and passed through a machine, from which it emerges as sheets which can be hung up to be smoked and dried. An alternative method is to secure quicker coagulation and to put through a machine which produces much thinner sheets almost like lace. These are dried by hot air and rolled into blanket crepe. Crepe rubber can be produced within twenty-four hours from tapping. Since Ceylon is now the only large rubber-producer not in enemy hands, the rubber is extremely valuable for war purposes, and every effort should be made to avoid interference with rubber estates and to give the planters as much assistance as they can be spared. In normal times, Ceylon exports something between a hundred million and a hundred and eighty million pounds of rubber a year.

Tea grows best above 3,000 feet and is therefore most common in the Kandy, Nuwara Eliya and Badulla districts. In the main (unlike rubber) it uses lands which otherwise would be unproductive. The tea consists of the tender young shoots of the tea bush, so that the best time for picking is in the early morning after a shower of rain (the story that certain teas use only the edges of the leaves is advertisers' licence). The bushes are kept low by pruning so that they keep pushing out new shoots. They are usually sheltered by trees, which also serve to conserve the soil. The "leaf" is picked by women, usually Tamils, and taken to the factory, where it is spread out on trays to be withered. The withered leaf is then rolled in machines and emerges as large masses which are broken up by a roll-breaker and the coarse leaf separated by a sifter. It is then spread on glass or mats and allowed to ferment and oxidise. At the required moment, it is removed to the drying machine and emerges as the "tea" known to the housewife. Something between 200 million and 250 million pounds is exported every year, mostly to Great Britain.

The resident labour of the tea and rubber estates is almost entirely composed of Indian Tamils from "the Coast". They live, with or without their families, in "lines". Many estates also use Sinhalese labour from the villages on a part-time basis. The estates therefore supply some means of livelihood to a compara-

tively few Ceylonese. It will also be found that many of the carpenters, mechanics and other skilled workers are Sinhalese. The superintendents or "planters" live their own lives in their estate bungalows and have their own clubs in Kandy, Badulla, Nuwara Eliya, and so on. So far as the Ceylonese are concerned, therefore, the tea and rubber estates are very largely foreign. The labour is foreign, the employers are foreign, the owners are foreign, and the profits go abroad. Yet tea and rubber account for over 80 per cent. of the export trade of the Island and are therefore fundamental in its economy. The prosperity of Ceylon is really determined by the prices of tea, rubber and coconut products.: but this means, mainly, the prosperity of the urban areas and the revenues available to Government. The prosperity of the villager is seriously affected by the price of coconuts and, in some places, by the demand for estates labour; but the villager depends primarily on the rainfall.

Other agricultural products are much less important. **Chena Cultivation** is the most primitive of all forms. A section of jungle is burned down under licence and quick-growing grains planted. If elephants, wild boar, and rats permit, a crop is gathered. The most common crop is a form of millet known as "kurakkan", which is very quick-growing, but maize, pulses, other millets and gingelly are also grown. In new chenas (where the soil has not been impoverished) two crops are grown. During the maha season kurakkan and gram (green peas) are generally sown, sometimes mixed with pumpkin, beans, melons, brinjals and chillies. During the yala season the crop may be meneri, thana and gingelly. Chena cultivation is most common in the dry zone. On the borders of the wet zone, most of the chena lands have been taken for tea and rubber. It is, however, important in many areas where the rainfall may fail and, with it, the paddy crop. It is an extremely wasteful method of cultivation, and it produces soil erosion. Government therefore gives licences sparingly, except when rain fails. The immediate solution of the shortage of imported food is an extension of chenas, but it will produce harmful long-term effects.

Arecanuts are not grown in estates, but a few trees may be found almost everywhere. These trees are the tall, slender trees which can often be seen by the roadside and which glint in the headlights. Thin shavings from the dried nuts are used with betel and lime for chewing, and there is quite a substantial export trade to India. The palmyra has already been mentioned in

connection with coconuts. It is said to have eight hundred uses and therefore to have been "transplanted from Paradise". Its timber is solid and durable, its fibre good, and its toddy and arrack excellent. The pulp of the fruit is dried and eaten. The familiar kadjan fences of Jaffna are mostly palmyra, not coconut.

Citronella oil is distilled from the leaves of a coarse grass and is exported for use in soap and perfumes. **Cacao** is cultivated mainly in the Kandy and Matale districts and produces two crops a year. The fruits are opened on the estate and the beans extracted. These beans are fermented and washed and then exported, to be manufactured into what the European, by a strange mistake, calls "cocoa." **Cinnamon** is the spice which was formerly in great demand in Europe before cold stores and refrigerators were invented. It was so valuable that it brought the Moors, the Portuguese and the Dutch to Ceylon. Other times, other manners; and it is no longer of great importance in the economy of Ceylon. The Cinnamon Gardens in Colombo are no longer gardens and there is no cinnamon. It is grown mainly in the Galle and Negombo districts, for the most part in small estates owned by Ceylonese. It is prepared by removing the bark from young trees or young branches of trees and scraping the bark after the outer cover has been removed. **Tobacco** is a comparatively recent development and is grown mainly in the Northern and Central Provinces. Most of the cured tobacco goes to Travancore. It is, however, not unsuited to the European taste. A by-product is the most potent weapon in Ceylon, the Jaffna cigar. **Kapok** is a minor product, but must be mentioned. The seed produces a useful oil, and the cakes obtained after extracting the oil make good food for livestock. The "down" which surrounds the seed is used for pillows and mattresses. It is excellent for lifebelts.

Ceylon produces many excellent **vegetables and fruits**, though they are not cultivated systematically and are therefore not readily marketable. They are, however, obtainable in the village fairs, very often at extremely low prices. There being no systematic cultivation, they come in a glut. Vegetables of the European variety are grown in the hills, though supplies are usually small. The European will, however, soon develop a taste for Ceylon vegetables, including such tubers as yams, sweet potatoes and manioc. Jak and breadfruit are important to the village population, and the large slice which the village housewife is carrying home from market will generally be found to be jak. Unfortunately, the jak tree is also the most important source of wood. Among the fruits, the

plantain, the oriental form of the banana, is the most important and is to be found everywhere. The plantain leaf makes a good umbrella or a good table-cloth. The mango is, for many, the most luscious of all fruit. The experts differ whether the yellow mango from Jaffna is better than the green mango from the Sinhalese districts. They also differ about the correct method of eating a mango politely. Mangosteens are most tasty fruit, but have a very short season. Some oranges and grape-fruit are grown. An orange is not unripe because it is green. The papaw is to be found everywhere and for the whole year round. The European may find it too sweet unless he takes it with a sprinkle of lime.

There is plenty of livestock in the Island, but it is used mainly for transport and labour purposes. The cattle is of very poor quality, due partly to the breed and partly to the absence of short, tender grasses. In fact, the European will notice the almost complete absence of grass-lands. The exception is to be found mainly around Kandy and in Uva Province. These **patana** lands, as they are called, are very often derelict coffee plantations—coffee was one of the great products of Ceylon, but it was almost entirely wiped out by disease, and tea took its place. In Uva Province there is also some **talawa** country—grasslands dotted with trees and not unlike English park-lands. However, these grasslands are rarely used for cattle, most of which are to be found in the low-country. The bullock wandering about the roads is a nuisance to transport, but the poor man's bullock is a large part of his fortune and has to be protected. There are also many buffaloes. The patient, long-suffering, stupid buffalo which pull carts should not be confused with the very dangerous animals to be found in the jungle. Tame elephants are used for heavy labour, and there are still a good many running wild in the jungle. The Ceylonese eat very little meat or eggs and have a prejudice against milk. Milk in Ceylon must always be boiled before use. Fish is good and plentiful, except occasionally during the south-west monsoon. The fishermen are to be found all along the coast and belong to a separate caste. They use outrigger canoes or rafts known as **katamarans**.

Among other natural resources, **plumbago** is the most important. It is to be found mainly in the low-country, and the mines are mainly in Ceylonese hands. It is extremely important in steel manufacture and for the manufacture of munitions. Since the other main source is in Madagascar, under the domination of Vichy, it is urgent that this industry should be kept going at full pressure.

Mica is another important mineral because of its use in wireless telegraphy. The deposits are not extensive and are to be found mainly in the Kandy area. Ceylon also produces many gems, both precious and semi-precious—agates, amethysts, aquamarines, alexandrite, beryls, garnets, moonstones, rubies, sapphires, topaz, tourmalines, zircons, etc.

There is very little **industry** of any magnitude in Ceylon. For the most part it takes the form of village handicrafts. Some, like kadjan weaving, basket making, coir-rope making, etc. have already been mentioned. Pottery of good design is made in many villages. The Kandyan silversmiths and coppersmiths are noted for their skill and the excellence of their designs. Village craftsmen also make excellent furniture, Moratuwa being specially famed for its carpenters. Brick-making (especially from kabouk—porous clay) is carried on in many villages. In the towns there are a few small factories for such industries as matches, tobacco, etc. Beer is made in Nuwara Eliya.

V. Daily Life

The survey in the preceding section gives a clue to the daily life of the real Ceylon, the Ceylon of the villages. The life of the people depends primarily on the amount of rainfall, though there are other factors, such as the height above sea level (which indicates whether there will be tea, rubber or cacao), the proximity of the sea, and the presence of plumbago. The narrow strip along the coast is dominated by fishing and coconuts. As soon as one leaves the sea, especially on the west, coconuts predominate; but in the wet zone it vies with paddy. Here, in the wet zone, the population is large, though not dense, because it is spread among innumerable villages. Something like a million people live near the sea-coast from Negombo to Matara. It is almost impossible to lose sight of a house, and there is hardly a stretch of road that has not somebody walking or squatting on it. Only where the coconut estates are large is there anything approaching solitude, and even such solitude is but temporary, for very soon a bullock cart will amble slowly round the bend. Near each village the ugly regularity of the coconuts gives way, in the right season, to the beautiful green of growing paddy. There are flowers in the compounds of the bigger bungalows, and in most there is a plantain, a few papaws, and perhaps a jak. As one moves away from the sea, and very soon in the Kalutara district, the coconuts tend to give way to the even less attractive rubber. Here the villages are fewer, and Tamils mix with the Sinhalese on the roads. There is, however, still plenty of paddy. As the road climbs into the hills, rubber gives way to tea, and the hill-tops are green with patana. In the valleys, however, there is still paddy wherever there is a drop of water, and always there are a few coconuts. Over the hills, on the eastern side, the tea gives way to jungle which stretches almost to the sea, and goes north far beyond the hills. Here villages are few, there is paddy only where there are tanks, and chena cultivation provides food. On the eastern side this "tank" country stretches almost up to Elephant Pass, while on the west the jungle gives way to desert scrub until the Jaffna Peninsula, where the palmyra vies with the coconut, and the wells of the limestone area provide the paddy. Four-fifths of Ceylon is uncultivated and, while there are over 1,000 people to the square mile in the Colombo district, there are less than 50 to the square mile north of the eighth parallel of latitude, except in the Jaffna Peninsula.

The life of the villager necessarily varies according to his environment. In the wet zone the family paddy field, if he has one, will be the basis of his existence. The field may belong to the father, to the family, or to several families. Owing to the system of inheritance, in which primogeniture is unknown, family lands must either be divided into small pieces, or they must be held in common. Joint ownership is frequent, and it is recorded that a particular jak tree is owned jointly by 96 people. It is easy to divide a jak-fruit, but not so easy to cultivate a paddy field in common. Sometimes, indeed, the field is cultivated in rotation, each looking after it for one year and taking what he can make out of it in that year. Joint cultivation produces frequent disputes, while cultivation in rotation impoverishes the land.

The owner of paddy lands will not rely on paddy only. He will probably grow yams and other tubers, and perhaps some curry-stuffs. He will have at least a few coconuts, a few plantains, and perhaps a jak or two. If he has a surplus, he will sell it in village fair or to the itinerant agent of a Colombo wholesaler. He, or some member of his family, may also do some work on an estate. The cash income derived from these resources will be spent in the local boutique, though perhaps "spent" is hardly the word, for nearly everybody in Ceylon lives on a month's credit, and the monthly income goes to meet the debit. In bad times, when the crop fails, or the price of coconuts falls, he will have to mortgage the lands. A wedding or a funeral may be another cause of debt. The boutique-keeper or a professional moneylender will often oblige, for a consideration. The Sinhalese villager is seldom very provident, and he has sometimes to go through hard times. In some areas there may be a shortage of water for several years in succession. He is much affected, too, by the price of coconuts. In one district, for instance, the price of coconuts in 1928 was Rs. 80 a thousand. That by no means gave him great wealth. If he had a two-acre estate, he would probably gather 3,500 coconuts, which brought him Rs. 280 for the year. By 1934, however, the price of coconuts in that district had fallen to Rs. 20, so that his income from that source had fallen to Rs. 70. The great depression thus hit very badly the villagers in the coconut areas, and much land passed to the boutique-keepers and moneylenders.

In fact, however, only a minority of village families have land. Ceylon is certainly an island of peasant proprietors, but there are many large estates, and the number is growing. A survey of 28 villages in the district mentioned above (Kurunegala) showed

that of over 2,000 families in the villages, only 373, or about 18 per cent. owned land in 1938. There were in addition a few tenant cultivators, but most of those directly engaged in agriculture worked as employees, especially on coconut estates. Those whose primary occupation was paddy cultivation generally owned the land which they cultivated; but those whose primary occupation was coconut cultivation generally worked for others. These others are, usually, absentee landlords living in the cities, or limited companies. The capitalists (most of whom are Sinhalese) break the fall of the depression for the villager, because they have to go on employing some labour, even at a loss. In the rubber and tea areas, of course, the peasant proprietor is a rare exception, and most of the estates are owned by European companies. This has little effect on the villager, however, because most of the labour on the rubber and tea estates is Indian Tamil.

Though the villager may thus suffer heavily from a general trade depression, he is less at the mercy of international economics than the industrial worker. The Welsh coalminer is either working or unemployed: but for unemployment insurance, lack of employment would mean starvation. The Ceylon villager is not in that position because he is, generally, a pluralist. Though his main income may be derived from the coconut estate, he may be able to grow a little paddy. In times of stress, too, he will find it easier to get a licence for chena cultivation. On the other hand, there is no unemployment insurance or national health insurance, though unemployment relief works may be organized in distressed areas. A great depression, or a succession of dry years, will thus weaken his physical resistance, and malaria sweeps in behind semi-starvation.

It is wrong to assume, however, that everybody in a village is engaged in some form of agriculture. In the main a village in the wet zone is dependent on paddy and coconuts, with some assistance from fruits and vegetables and chena cultivation: but many work on the roads (though until recently most road labourers were Tamils) and there may be plumbago mines or other minor industries near by. Also, agriculture carries with it village handicrafts, and in the village there will be kadjan weavers, carpenters, blacksmiths, pottery makers, tailors, cobblers, and the rest. They are of course dependent mainly on orders from the villagers or from the estates, so that their prosperity, too, depends on the rainfall and the price of coconuts. There are also the boutiques, generally in the hands of Indian or Ceylon Moors, whose prosperity similarly depends on that of the village, though they generally have capital to tide them

over a few bad years and, in fact, use that capital to acquire mortgages and even land in such a period.

Finally, there will be the "upper classes" of the village. There may be a few resident proprietors of coconut estates. One of the effects of depression (and of threat of bombing) is that the absentee proprietor gives up his house in Colombo and retires to his estate. Then there will be that mighty official, the police inspector, as well as his subordinates. There may be a Government dispenser or a midwife or even a sanitary inspector. There will almost certainly be an ayurvedic physician. Ayurveda is the traditional Ceylon system of medicine. Its scientific basis is almost completely lacking, in the sense that the physician often cannot explain why he prescribes a certain remedy. On the other hand, he carries on a long traditional experience of the local remedies for various ills. His great standby is herbs and oils, though he is also capable of little elementary surgery. Most educated Ceylonese go to a western doctor for serious disease or surgical operations, but prefer an ayurvedic physician for lesser complaints. For instance, they prefer to have a fracture set by a doctor trained in western surgery, but have ayurvedic treatment immediately the fracture has begun to knit. The ordinary villager, of course, knows nothing of western methods and must inevitably consult the ayurvedic physician on the spot.

In the village, also, will be the teachers of the village schools. The women teachers will almost certainly be married, because they are rich prizes—regular Government salaries even if there are no dowries—and the oriental tradition against female celibacy is strong. Thus the woman teacher may have a little cottage, an unemployed or occasionally employed husband, and several children. The other women of the village may work in the paddy fields, or take work as tea-pluckers, or even occasionally (though usually not among the Sinhalese) work on the roads: but generally the woman's place is the home, even (and even more so) while she is unmarried. Home industries like kadjan weaving, the making of coir products, and pottery, are of course perfectly proper tasks for the women of the village. Finally, there may be a Christian priest and almost certainly a few Buddhist monks attached to the village temple. The monks (**bikkhus**) will be fed by the villagers. If there are temple lands, they will be cultivated by the villagers.

The village has very little corporate life. There was apparently a good deal at one time, and there used to be an institution which in England would be called the parish meeting: but this system

fell into disuse, partly through the tendency of the larger land-owners to live in the towns, leaving only a superintendent behind, and partly through the imposition of a colonial system of government. The Village Committee has however been recently resuscitated and the present policy is to develop both it and the Village Tribunal, in which justice is dispensed quickly and cheaply. In the Christian villages, the church plays something of the part which the church or the chapel plays in an English village, but such villages are, of course, rare. In a few Buddhist villages, the monks play the part of the parson; but this is not their real function, and it is rather praise than criticism of a bikkhu to say that he spends his time in solitary contemplation. He has to attain Nirvana by suppressing all desire, and it is no part of his task to move among the villagers giving calves'-foot jelly to the sick and advice to the wayward. The larger villages have village halls in which public meetings are sometimes held, but the "trouser-karens" are apt to be inside and the villagers crowding round the doors and windows. The school is similarly available for meetings, but very largely with similar results. Also, many of the high officials who visit the villages may not know Sinhalese well enough to be able to speak fluently the language of the people, and a translated speech is neither so good nor so effective as a direct speech. In fact, one meets in the village as in the towns that fundamental division between the English-educated and the rest which is explained in the next section.

The great recreation of the village is gossip. Wherever two or more Ceylonese are gathered together there is talk. Little groups are always to be seen on the roads, standing or squatting, talking perhaps of the chances of rain or the price of coconuts or the scandalous behaviour of William Singho's daughter or the extortions of the boutique-keeper. The great centre for gossip is, however, the village fair, probably held once a week. To it goes everybody who is not actually working, and the process of buying and selling is much shorter than the gossip that precedes and follows. Between fairs the centre of attraction is the boutique, particularly the tea-boutique. Here there may even be a wireless set. There will almost certainly be a copy of a Sinhalese or Tamil newspaper, or at least somebody who has seen a newspaper. The proportion of men who can read is, for a peasant country, astonishingly high, generally somewhere in the region of 75 per cent. Among women of the older generation the proportion is low, perhaps 20 per cent. But the girls are in large proportion being educated, and a village is backward if fifty per cent. of the girls between the ages of 12 and 18

cannot read. Nevertheless, the cost of a newspaper is high, and there may not be more than two copies in a village. Besides, many of those who can read find it difficult, and they much prefer to listen. Particularly favoured is the man who can chant verses, traditional or invented, about the village and its people. A great deal of traditional learning is handed down in this way, and much of the news comes from chanted poems, not always in the best of taste.

This characteristic is extremely important in the maintenance of morale, for news that is passed by word of mouth loses nothing in the telling, and the man who has the news naturally calls attention to himself by dramatizing it. Much of the difficulty over the Colombo air raids arose because the stories that circulated in the villages were marvellous in their picturesque (and wholly inaccurate) details. Though this did not directly affect the morale of the towns, it had very important indirect effects. Ceylonese family ties are very strong, and the importance of grandmother in the scheme of things can hardly be exaggerated. If grandmother in the village heard that Colombo was in flames, she naturally became anxious for the safety of her grandchildren. Hence arose the plague of telegrams announcing the serious illness of aunts, uncles, cousins, wives, and children, and requiring the immediate departure of the men at work in Colombo. The telegrams were often genuine, though the illness was not, and even the most westernised Ceylonese finds it difficult to resist an imperious summons from his mother or grandmother. This was, of course, an exceptional case; but it has to be remembered that any incident may become grossly exaggerated as it travels round the village. Any slight excess by any of the troops may become a riot or a revolution in the course of its telling. If a bullock is killed on the road, the neighbouring villages may hear that the troops are killing all bulls. If a ripe papaw is stolen, the villages may learn that the troops are taking all the fruit. If a village maiden is kissed, the story may be that the troops have started to rape. The simplest way to stop these stories is, of course, to impose on the troops an iron discipline; but it will help if contact is made with the few English-speaking people of the village, so that instant denial can be issued of any wild rumour, and instant action taken to remedy any complaint. A villager will freely give a papaw or a handful of plantains, but there will be thousands of wild rumours if a plantain is taken.

It is true that the villages are becoming more sophisticated. Until the coming of the motor-bus, few villagers had travelled more than a few miles away from home. Even now there are villages

of that kind. Bus-fares are cheap, however, and a high proportion of the inhabitants can speak of Colombo or Galle or Negombo or Chilaw. Even so, the practice of gossiping remains and the circulation of rumours is one of the Island's major industries. Also, many of the prejudices remain. Buddhists object to killing and even the swatting of cockroaches should not be undertaken in their presence. The villager objects also to complete nakedness. Even though the worker in the paddy field may have the bare minimum of covering, he has that bare minimum, and he never bathes completely naked. He may, in fact, run away from nakedness. Accordingly, troops bathing should always wear slips.

Also, the villager is intensely superstitious. Apart from the fact that there are devils everywhere, it is important that there are auspicious days and auspicious times. Accordingly, the fact that a villager insists on making his complaint in the middle of lunch may be due, and probably will be due, not to stupidity but to the fact that, on this particular day, lunch-time is auspicious for presenting petitions. If on a certain day he decides to do no work, the explanation may be not that he is lazy but that the day is inauspicious for labour, and he would rather do without his rupee than run his head into unknown dangers. On the other hand, the explanation may be that the day is auspicious for weddings, and weddings and similar occasions are great events in his life and even more so in the lives of his wife and daughters. Besides, the Sinhalese villager is a gentleman. Other people, like Indian Tamil labourers, may be expected to work regularly, but there is no particular reason why he should work if he does not want to do so.

In short, the villager is an open-hearted, cheerful, generous person who will do everything he can to help anybody. He is capable of sudden passion but not capable of prolonged animosity. He is by no means a child. His store of wordly wisdom is immense, though his lines of thought will rarely be clear to a European without much experience of the country. He must be handled very gently, however, and due attention must be paid to his prejudices.

The towns are in a different world. Colombo and Galle are alien cities. They have developed under the Moors, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British. They have attracted to themselves a large part of the "English-educated;" but nobody else really belongs to Colombo. He belongs to some village, or to India. He goes back to the village, or to India, at the threat of danger. The attraction of the towns is not really the "bright lights" that

cause the depopulation of the rural areas in Europe and America. It is simply the prospect of work. On the whole, the villager is more comfortable in the village than he would be in the town; but it is in Colombo that the labour is needed. To what great extent Colombo is alien was shown after Easter Sunday. The Fort remained open because it was European, though the labour disappeared. The Pettah and the boutiques elsewhere were closed because they were occupied mostly by Indians. The Sinhalese and the Jaffna Tamils followed suit by escaping to the villages. Very soon, however, the Ceylonese came back.

Colombo is a seaport and a centre of government. The tea, the rubber, the coconut products and the plumbago pass out through Colombo Harbour. Much of the rice and most of the manufactured goods and other products pass in through that Harbour. The foreign trade turnover of Ceylon amounts in normal times to some six hundred million rupees a year. Rice alone represents 23 per cent. of the imports and tea alone represents 65 per cent. of the exports. Colombo grew as a result of its foreign trade and became the centre of government because of that trade. It is not too much to say that everybody in Colombo is employed directly or indirectly for the purpose of government or for the purpose of trade. Colombo has, so to speak, no other justification. Galle similarly is a seaport, though not a thriving one. Trincomalee is hardly anything more than a naval base. Jaffna, on the other hand, is in very large measure the abode of pensioners, not only from service in Ceylon but also from service in Malaya. Its increasing depression has been due very largely to the stopping of emigration to Malaya.

All this is due primarily to the fact that Ceylon has no major industries. It is a primary producing country. Large collections of people are therefore unnecessary except for foreign trade and government, and government depends for its finance almost entirely on the exporting industries. This explains also the attachment of the people to their villages. The village is home to the Ceylonese as India is to the Indian merchant and Great Britain to the European. Except in Jaffna, one has the feeling that the towns have no right to be there. Kandy is peculiar because it is a shopping and social

centre for the estates, but the presence of the Temple of the Tooth makes it a religious centre also. Nuwara Eliya is a European health resort, a piece of home from home.

These facts also explain why Colombo has such a cosmopolitan population. It contains more than one-third of all the Europeans, about half the Burghers and Eurasians, about one-seventh of the Moors, one-half of the Malays, and two-thirds of the non-classified people of Ceylon; but it has little more than one-thirtieth of the Sinhalese and less than one-twentieth of the Tamils. Moreover, a high percentage of the Sinhalese and Tamils of Colombo have become westernised. It is said that Paris is not France: it is certainly true that Colombo is not Ceylon.

VI. Education

Compared with most oriental countries, Ceylon has an educated people. The law provides for compulsory education up to the age of fourteen years. It is not strictly enforced because in many areas (including Colombo) there is a shortage of schools. Also, many children, especially in the villages, leave school soon after the age of eleven. Nevertheless, the proportion of young men and even young women unable to read and write one of the three languages of the Island is small. Few read much, but they can read. It is therefore possible to use the main method of passing information and instructions, through newspapers and leaflets, even in the villages. Very few actually buy newspapers—the circulation of the Sinhalese daily **Dinamina** is about 24,000 and that of the Sinhalese weekly **Silumina** about 30,000—but this is because they are too costly. They are read in the boutiques by all-comers, and those who read pass on the information to those who do not. Pamphlets and leaflets, circulated free, have a much wider potential circulation. The normal methods of publicity must, however, be supplemented by the spoken word, through loud-speaker vans (of which the Information Department has two) and, above all, through orators at the village fairs.

Education provides, however, a division even more important than community, caste or creed. It is a division between the English-speaking on the one hand and the Sinhalese and Tamil-speaking on the other hand. It is, moreover, a class distinction of profound social importance. To explain this, it is necessary to point out that English is the language of Government and therefore of administration throughout the Island. All Government servants in the administrative, executive and clerical grades, and even many of the peons, must be able to speak that language. Commerce similarly, except in so far as it is in Indian hands, must be carried on in English. It follows that all the positions of any importance in the Island are held by English-speaking people. On them are dependent a host of others, who must know a little English at least. Accordingly, anybody who wants to get above what elsewhere would be called the "coolie class" must obtain an "English" education.

The most attractive posts are in the higher ranks of the public service. They were formerly held by Europeans, though most of them are now held by Ceylonese. When it was decided to substitute

a Ceylonese for a European, it was considered derogatory to reduce the salary, though in fact the salaries of Europeans were based on the assumption that they had to be induced to expatriate themselves, that they had to retire early because of the climate, and that they had higher expenses to meet. The result of this decision is that there are Ceylonese officers on sterling salaries of £1,550 a year, an immense amount when contrasted with the low wages of the working classes. Nor do the advantages of these posts end with the salary. There are allowances and privileges and, above all, substantial pensions. There is, too, a social status attached, so that a public servant can expect to obtain a very high dowry when he marries.

A person in this class belongs almost to a race apart. He lives like a European, wears trousers (a badge of superiority) and speaks English (except to servants). He has a large bungalow, at least one car, and a large number of servants. The difference between Cinnamon Gardens and the Colombo slums is greater than the difference between Mayfair and Shoreditch. There is thus a definite governing class. Moreover, the ordinary Sinhalese or Tamil finds entry to it very difficult. His parent or his family must be able to raise the money to send him to an "English" school and keep him there. To get to the top of the tree he must, now-a-days, either go to England or join the Ceylon University College. There are few scholarships, and the "educational ladder", which has become increasingly wide in England since 1918, hardly exists, except as a very greasy pole. In spite of this, the number of aspirants is naturally very great—the prizes are so valuable. The process has not gone so far as in India, where there is a large number of "educated unemployed" who tend to be a menace to public order. Nevertheless, it is a factor to be borne in mind. It is particularly difficult because to a "trouser-karen" manual labour is degrading. The candidates for any clerical post are many; the number of posts few.

The nationalist movement, and indeed political interest generally are to be found mainly among the governing class. Trade unions of a political bent have had some success among the estate and urban workers (most of whom are Indian Tamils), but chiefly because of such successes as they have had in raising wages, preventing dismissals, and improving conditions, and not because of their politics. Speaking generally, the urban and rural workers are politically apathetic. Provided they have enough to eat and plenty of time to spare, they do not care who governs whom or who wins any wars.

These are the great mass of the people. It is, however, impossible for a European to get at their minds. While a labour force under European control is usually better than a labour force under Ceylonese control, the way to the villager must be through the village leaders—the headman, the schoolmaster, the Buddhist monk if he is devout, the Catholic priest if there is one. These are not all English-educated, but the way to them is through the English-educated. Also, Colombo, Kandy and Jaffna play a very large part in the economy of Ceylon, and in these three towns the English-educated are dominant. What is even more important is that the whole Government service is English-educated. The number of European officials is small, and even where Europeans and not Ceylonese are at the head of Departments, their chief assistants are nearly all Ceylonese. If civil administration is to function in collaboration with the defence forces, it is essential that good relations be established between the naval, military and air force officers on the one hand, and the Ceylonese officials on the other hand. Finally, it has to be remembered that, under the Constitution of Ceylon, the Board of Ministers is responsible for finance to the State Council, with the consequence that all expenditure which does not come out of Imperial funds must, normally, be obtained with the consent of the Sinhalese Ministers and the State Council.

A large part of the English-educated Ceylonese are better qualified academically than many of the officers in the Imperial forces. They have followed a school course copied almost slavishly from that of the English public schools. In due course they have passed London Matriculation or obtained the Cambridge Senior Certificate with exemption from London Matriculation. They have then proceeded, in some cases, to British Universities, where many of them have obtained high degrees. Others will have proceeded to Ceylon University College, where they have studied for London degrees. The College obtains about six first classes and some twenty or thirty second classes every year. Though smaller than most English University Colleges, its record in recent years bears comparison with any of them. The best students of each year proceed to England for further study, where they invariably do well especially at Cambridge, which is the most popular of the English Universities. Other students pass from the University College to the Ceylon Medical College, where they follow a course prescribed by the General Medical Council, and when they have the licentiate they are recognised for practice by the General Medical Council.

A British officer talking to an educated Ceylonese may, therefore, be talking to a man better educated than himself. It is not suggested that the schools and Colleges of Ceylon are as good as the schools and Colleges of England. There is in Ceylon an emphasis upon cramming for examinations greater than one finds in Great Britain. The curricula of the schools are less diversified than in Great Britain. The atmosphere of a public school is not completely copied even in the great schools like Royal College, St. Thomas' College, Trinity College (Kandy), and Jaffna College. The public school spirit has not been completely developed. Similarly, the atmosphere at the University College is not quite that at the Universities of Great Britain. The Ceylon student is more self-centred, and he has less of the team spirit. The tradition of loyalty in other words, is not so fully developed. Also, the oriental tradition that manual labour is degrading makes his education narrower. Only recently has there been any substantial development of physical training or training in manual subjects. Nevertheless, the standard of the games is high, especially in cricket, tennis and athletics. The Ceylon Cadet Battalion bears comparison with the Junior O. T. Cs. The general result is that the proportion of young men with "guts," whose loyalty can absolutely be depended upon, and who can be relied upon in a tight corner to keep their heads, is rather lower. At the same time, it would be quite wrong to assume that they did not exist. They do, and there are many of them. Educated Ceylonese produce good administrators, good doctors, good lawyers, good teachers, good officers, and good men generally.

Accordingly, the only assumption that the European can make is that until the contrary is proved the Ceylonese to whom he is speaking is at least as good as himself. To assume that a man is of inferior mettle because his skin is coloured is even more ridiculous in Ceylon than it is elsewhere. In so far as the Ceylonese are lacking in ability to act quickly and decisively, (and there are many who do not lack that ability), the explanation is very largely that they have never had the opportunity to develop the ability. Only recently have they been able to obtain positions of responsibility. Few of them have been through the fire of experience. Pax Britannica has been maintained since 1818, and Colombo had no experience of enemy action from the surrender of the Dutch in 1796 to the falling of the bombs on Easter Sunday, 1942. The Tamils and the Low-Country Sinhalese have been governed by Europeans for over three hundred years, and the Kandyans for over a century. This is by no means a complete explanation, but it suffices to explain the higher executive ability of the average European.

It is not possible, however, to treat educated Ceylonese quite as one would treat educated Europeans. They are quick to suspect a slight because they have often been treated as inferiors. Their notion of prestige is correspondingly high. The ruthlessness of the European in a tight corner is often construed as an assumption of superiority on his part, though he may in fact be behaving precisely as he would have behaved in London. More tact is necessary, more delicate flattery, more suggestions and fewer orders. In other words, they require much more careful handling than similar people in Great Britain would require. They may not jump to it quickly, partly because they suspect that they are being ordered about like servants, and partly because they are normally less selfdisciplined.

It is necessary above all that the troops should be instructed in their behaviour. More harm is done by a single slight to a "native" by a British soldier than can be repaired by all the consideration and tact of the staff. Young officers, too, are apt to be overbearing through their own ignorance. In wartime they tend to treat civilians with scant courtesy in any case. To a European this does not matter, because he answers back and puts the subaltern in his place. The educated Ceylonese will probably say nothing at the time, but the story of his wrongs will pass around among his friends. In this connection it must be remembered, too, that the higher posts are held by a comparatively small group. Everybody who matters knows everybody else who matters, and a discourtesy to one becomes a discourtesy to all.

VII. The Machinery of Government

The government of Ceylon under the "Donoughmore" Constitution of 1931 has been described as "seven-tenths self-government." The explanation of this term is that the powers of administration are divided into two branches, the one exercised under the control of three Officers of State who are not responsible to the State Council, and the other exercised under the control of seven Executive Committees responsible to the State Council. The three officers of State are:—

the Chief Secretary, who has under his control External Affairs, Defence and the Public Services ;

the Legal Secretary, who is responsible for the administration of justice, the drafting of legislation, legal advice to Government, proceedings on behalf of the Crown, State Council elections, and the Public Trustee ; and

the Financial Secretary, who is responsible for finance, stores and printing, establishments, customs, etc.

These three Officers of State are paid and pensionable officers appointed by the Governor with the approval of the Secretary of State. In Great Britain they would be described as "civil servants," though that term is given a much narrower meaning in Ceylon. The essential point is that they are not under the control of the State Council, are not politicians, and cannot be ejected from office by the State Council.

The State Council consists, in the first place, of 50 elected members. The franchise is very wide, and for practical purposes the vote is given to every British subject of 21 years or more who is domiciled in Ceylon. The result is that, subject to rare exceptions, the Sinhalese areas return Sinhalese members, and the Tamil areas return Tamil members. There is no real party organisation. Many of the Sinhalese members belong to the Ceylon National Congress, whose president is the Hon. G. C. S. Corea, Minister for Commerce, Industries and Labour. It was prominent in the demand for self-government in the years preceding 1931, but it cannot be said to be a party organisation in the British sense. It claims to be national and not communal, but there are few Tamils among its members. The Sinhala Maha Sabha, whose most prominent members are the Hon. S. W. R. Dias Bandaranaike, Minister for Local Administration,

and the Hon. C. W. W. Kannangara, Minister for Education, is more obviously communal and more narrowly national. It has not reached such a stage of organisation that it could have a considerable electoral influence. The Labour Party had one representative in Mr. A. E. Goonesinha, but he is no longer a member of the Council. Two members were members of the Sama Samajist party, which may be described as Communist. They were detained under Defence Regulations, but have recently escaped. These bodies are not true political parties with large electoral organisations. They are essentially groups of the French type, consisting of a few leaders and a rather larger number of followers.

In addition to these 50 elected members, there are eight members nominated to represent interests not properly represented in the State Council under the system of election. Of them, four are Europeans, Messrs. Griffith, Newnham, Parfitt and Whitby (Mr. H. R. Freeman is a European elected for Anuradhapura); Mr. G. A. Wille represents the Burghers; Mr. A. R. A. Razik represents the Ceylon Moors, and Mr. T. B. Jayah the Malays; and Diwan Bahadur I. X. Pereira represents Indian interests (Mr. K. R. Natesa Iyer was elected for Hatton by the Indian Tamil vote). Finally, there are the three Officers of State, who are members of the State Council without a vote.

At its first meeting, the State Council resolves itself into seven Executive Committees. Each of these elects a Chairman, who is appointed by the Governor as Minister. As such he is a member of the Board of Ministers; but the Executive Committee and not the Minister is in control of administration. That is, the head of a Department puts matters of principle before the Minister to be laid before the Executive Committee. The officer attends the meeting of the Committee and the Committee decides the point. Theoretically, the Committee then reports to the State Council in executive session, the decision of the State Council is approved by the Governor, and binds the Department. In fact, however, this has been done only once (when the Executive Committee of Education decided to advance by one month the beginning of the school holiday in 1942). In all other cases, the officer regards the decision of the Executive Committee as binding upon him. The influence of the Minister in the decision will depend upon the relations between him and his colleagues on the Committee. Sometimes the decision of the Minister is in fact the decision of the Committee; sometimes the Minister's influence is only that of a Chairman.

The main work of the seven Committees is as follows :—

Home Affairs —Police, prisons, excise, and functions not specifically allocated.

Agriculture and Lands —Agriculture, lands, forests, etc.

Local Administration —Local government, fisheries, acquisition of land, mines and salt.

Health —Medical and sanitary services.

Labour, Industry and Commerce —Labour, industry, commerce, unemployment, etc. (includes food control).

Education —Education, museums, archaeology.

Communications and Works —Public works (including building and roads), railways, electrical undertakings, post and telegraphs, ports and harbours.

The three Officers of State and the seven Ministers sit as the Board of Ministers, with the Chief Secretary as chairman and a vice-chairman elected by the Board from among the Ministers. Sir D. B. Jayatilaka has been Vice-Chairman ever since the Constitution was brought into operation. He is by law the representative of the Board in the State Council, and is styled Leader of the State Council. The essential functions of the Board of Ministers are financial, and for this they are collectively responsible to the State Council. Since nearly every proposal for Government action requires expenditure, the Board really acts as a sort of Cabinet. Nevertheless, they are not necessarily agreed on the principles of policy. They are not chosen like the British Cabinet because they have a common political principle. On the contrary, their membership depends upon the accident of elections by Executive Committees. Actually, the membership of the Executive Committees in 1934 was arranged in such a way that there would be a Sinhalese majority on each Committee, and every Minister is therefore Sinhalese. Thus was obtained the so-called "homogeneous Board." In fact, however, it is not homogeneous. On the Indian question, for instance, Messrs. Bandaranaike and Kannangara disagreed with the rest of the Board. It was not necessary for them to resign in consequence. So long as the Chairman of an Executive Committee remains Chairman, he remains Minister. The State Council may pass a resolution praying for the termination of his appointment as Minister, and if the Governor assents he then ceases to be Chairman of his Executive Committee, though he may be re-elected by the Committee and so become Minister again.

The Board of Ministers has financial responsibility not only in respect of matters under the general control of the Executive Committees, but also in respect of matters under the general control of Officers of State. For instance, Defence is a function of the Chief Secretary ; but the funds necessary for Defence (other than those provided from Imperial sources) must be provided by the State Council at the request of the Board of Ministers. It follows that the Ministers must have a large say in defence policy, especially because the Officers of State have no right to vote in the Board of Ministers. During the present war, the State Council has refused no request for defence funds put before them by the Board of Ministers and (it is believed) the Board of Ministers has refused no request for funds put before them by Government.

The Governor has certain overriding powers. He can enact legislation where it is of paramount importance to the public interest, and in a state of emergency he may assume control of any Government Department. He can also reserve Bills for the royal assent. There is, too, one power which has been reserved to the Governor, the appointment of officers. Actually, the appointment of junior officers has been delegated to Heads of Departments ; but senior officials are appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Public Services Commission, which consists normally of the three Officers of State. The Executive Committees are consulted about appointments to Departments under their control, but the Public Services Commission are not bound to agree with an Executive Committee.

The naval, military and air force authorities will be concerned with all aspects of the Government of Ceylon. The main contact with the civil administration will be, however, through the Chief Secretary, within whose province is the subject of Defence. One very large part of his functions, perhaps today the most important part of civil administration, is exercised through the Commissioner of Civil Defence. Nevertheless, there are aspects of civil administration of great importance outside the jurisdiction of the Officers of State : for instance, communications are under the control of the Executive Committee of Communications and Works, and it must be realised that the chief officials concerned, the Director of Public Works, the General Manager of the Ceylon Government Railways, and the Postmaster-General may have to consult the Executive Committee through the Minister. Similarly, the Inspector-General of Police may have to consult the Executive Committee of Home Affairs through the Minister for Home Affairs. Also, finance is

generally involved, and the Board of Ministers may have to be brought in. Accordingly, it is fundamentally important that the collaboration of the Ceylonese Ministers, the members of the State Council, and the Heads of Departments (many of whom are Ceylonese), should be obtained. That collaboration can be secured very easily if the process is one of consultation. They are eager to help, provided that they are told how and why.

One of the characteristics of Ceylon is the very strong centralisation. Functions like those relating to civil defence, police, hospitals, roads, and so on, which in England are vested in local authorities in Ceylon are vested in the central Government. The local representative of the Central Government in the Provinces is the Government Agent and in the districts the Assistant Government Agent. It should be the golden rule for the Commander of any unit or detachment stationed on operating in any Province or district to get into touch immediately with the Government Agent or Assistant Government Agent as the case may be and to take him fully into his confidence as to his general plans and intentions, particularly if he is about to conduct field operations or manoeuvres in his area. Failure to keep in the closest touch with the principal local civil authority will only result in misunderstandings and difficulties which the establishment of good relations will prevent arising. Fairly wide powers are also vested in the municipalites of Colombo, Galle and Kandy, and narrower functions in the hands of urban councils like those in Jaffna, Trincomalie and Batticaloa. Elsewhere, the village committees are useful people with whom to make contact. Local information may be obtained from them, from the police, and from the local officials of the Public Works Department. The last are particularly useful, since they know the road system of their districts very thoroughly.

VIII. Some General Advice

1. From the angle of the European, Ceylon is inhabited by two peoples, the English-educated and the rest. With the former contact is easily made through the common language and, in large measure, a common educational background. With rare exceptions, they are anxious to help. It must be remembered, however, that they are concerned with the defence of Ceylon, not with the defence of the British Empire. Also, they are suspicious of "superior" people, and must be treated with much more tact than, say the inhabitants of Yorkshire or Wiltshire. They take offence much more readily, though they do not show it so quickly. Whereas the European is apt to prove obstructive if he is not treated with due consideration, the educated Ceylonese is apt to go away and criticise, so creating a general spirit of non-co-operation.

2. There is fortunately no real antagonism between the Ceylonese and the Europeans. The European is, however, a foreigner because he has made himself so. He generally intends to return "home," so that neither he nor his Ceylonese friends believe that he really belongs to the Island. The Ceylonese for their part have been under European rule for periods varying from one hundred and three hundred years. They claim that this "foreign domination" has prevented them from developing a true national spirit of the kind which would be extremely useful in the defence of Ceylon at the present time. What is to be feared, therefore, is not antagonism but a general failure to collaborate. To obtain their collaboration it is necessary to treat them as collaborators and to show them positively the way in which they can collaborate. They are not inclined to "jump to it" like the population of Great Britain, partly because the whole idea of modern warfare is outside their experience, partly because they have been accustomed to mere passive reception of Government orders, and partly because they have never been able to develop a tradition of public service. It follows that they must be handled much more gently than the civil population would be handled in Great Britain itself in time of danger.

3. The Sinhalese and the Tamils are different peoples with different languages and different customs. It is wise to distinguish them if distinction is at all possible. It must be remembered that a Scot does not like to be called English.

4. Nobody in the Island is a "native" in spite of the fact that it is a convenient term to distinguish the Ceylonese from the non-Ceylonese and could be used, for instance, of a Lancashire man in Lancashire. In Ceylon it reeks of the colour-bar. The people of Ceylon are Ceylonese. Also, there are no "coolies."

5. The people of the Island are accustomed to use the road for walking, talking and squatting. In some parts of the country, in fact, the insects make it difficult to sit anywhere else. Careful driving is essential. The Ceylonese care for their children at least as much as other people do.

6. Cattle are tied to the roadsides because elsewhere there is very little grass. They ought to be properly secured or guarded. Very often, however, they roam; and when they roam their movements are quite unaccountable. This is an old problem and there is no solution but to stop dead. The cattle may be a large part of the worldly wealth of a villager.

7. Ceylon may be very short of food if at any time shipping space is not forthcoming. Please be very careful of growing crops. Besides, a little paddy field may be a villager's whole livelihood.

8. All the religions of the Island must be treated with respect. Buddhist and Hindu temples will be the main objects of interest in many parts of the country. The Hindus, particularly in the North and East, may sometimes prefer not to have other people enter. The Buddhists never object. In any case, the customs of the temples should be observed, and in particular boots must be removed before entry into buildings. Sitting on statues of the Buddha or on the sides of dagobas (the dome-like structures in Buddhist temples) should be sternly forbidden. Bo-trees are sacred to the Buddhists. Buddhist monks (in yellow or orange robes) should be treated with great respect. Usually, they do not speak English, though there are exceptions.

9. Rumours are created very easily. The horrors of war should not be exaggerated, and troops who have been bombed should not take the opportunity of getting off their bomb stories to an admiring audience. Collaboration in maintaining the morale of the civil population is urgently required.

10. Women lead more sheltered lives than in Great Britain and are rarely accustomed to light badinage.

11. Words can be more insulting in Ceylon than the same words would be in England. Tact and courtesy are the first and the last orders of the day.

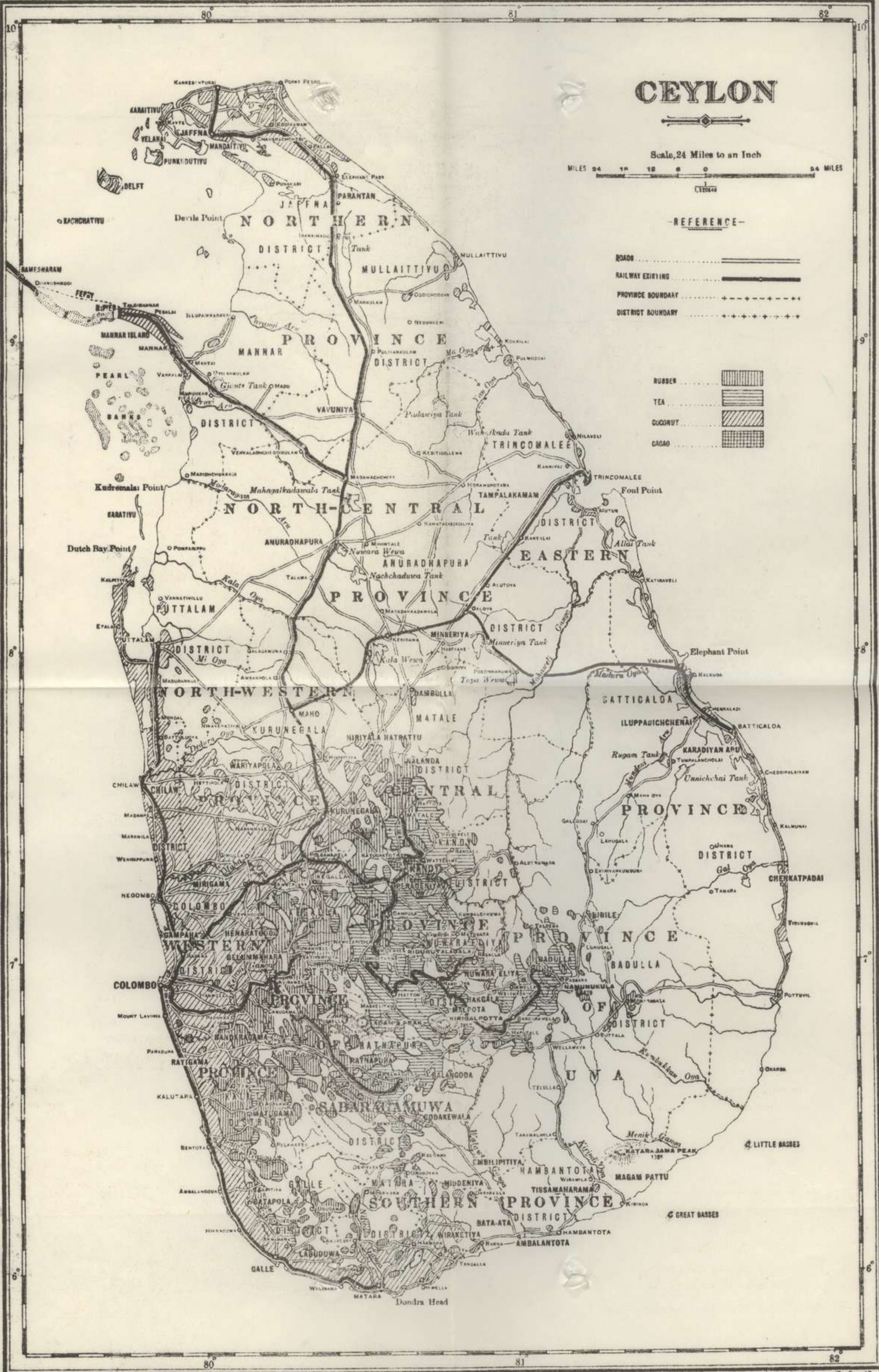
IX. Glossary

- Adigar : Kandyan chief or official.
 Arrack : spirits made by distillation from toddy.
 Ayurvedic medicine : traditional medical learning.
 Bikkhu : Buddhist monk.
 Boutique : small shop.
 Brinjal : Vegetable.
 Bund : embankment, usually of tank or to prevent flooding.
 Cacao : raw cocoa.
 Cadjan or Kadjan : woven coconut or palmyra leaves.
 Catamaran or Katamaran : raft made of logs, used for fishing.
 Chena cultivation : cultivation by burning jungle.
 Coir : coconut fibre.
 Copra : dried coconut kernels.
 Dagoba : dome-like structure in a Buddhist temple.
 Ganga : river.
 Gram : peas.
 Graphite : plumbago.
 Gulla malacca : sago.
 Jaggery : sugar made from palm or palmyra.
 Jak : large green fruit growing from trunks of trees.
 Kabouk : porous clay used for building.
 Kadjan or cadjan : woven coconut or palmyra leaves.
 Kangany : labour contractor.
 Kapok : " silk cotton " tree.
 Katamaran or catamaran : raft of logs used for fishing.
 King coconut : yellow coconut with very small kernel, and so excellent for coconut water.
 Korale : district.
 Kurakkan : kind of millet commonly used in chena cultivation.
 Lines : labourers' lodgings.
 Lanka : the Island or Ceylon.
 Latex : raw rubber.
 Maha : great, or the season corresponding with the north-east monsoon.
 Mahawamsa : the Great Chronicle, the great history of Ceylon.
 Mango : fruit.
 Mangosteen : fruit.
 Manioc : edible tuber
 Monsoon : steady wind.

- Mudaliyar : Sinhalese title conferred by Governor.
Muhandiram : Sinhalese title conferred by Governor.
Nirvana : state of bliss attained by devout Buddhists.
Ola leaf : manuscript made from coconut palm.
Oya : stream.
Paddy : unhusked rice.
Pali : classical language of the Buddhists.
Papaw : fruit.
Patana : close grasslands like the Downs.
Plantain : banana.
Plumbago : graphite.
Poonac : oil cake for feeding cattle.
Sweet toddy : unfermented toddy.
Tank : reservoir.
Toddy : juice from coconut or palmyra bud, popular liquor.
Trouser-karen : English-educated Ceylonese.
Yala : season corresponding with South-West Monsoon.
Yam : tuber vegetable.

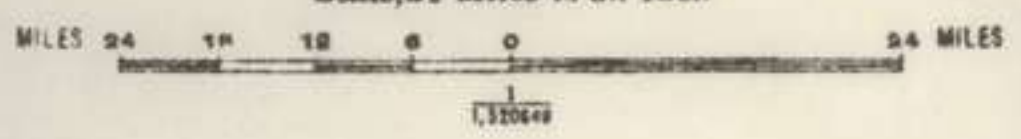
A Note on Pronunciation

Both Sinhalese and Tamil are transliterated into phonetic English, so that they are pronounced as spelt. In Sinhalese names the short 'a' and the 'e' are, however, interchangeable, so that both forms are used: *e.g.* Panadura or Panadure. In either case it is the French unaccented 'e' or the English article as in "a book." "W" and "V" are sometimes interchangeable. The large towns have anglicised names—Colombo, Galle (pronounced Gaul), Kandy and Jaffna. Some Sinhalese names have been anglicised. Nuwara Eliya is pronounced "New Raylia," Bentota as "Bentot," Kalutara as "Kaltewra," Otherwise "i" is either 'ee' or 'i' as in 'bit'; 'u' is 'oo.'" 'G' is always hard and is generally pronounced even when with 'n': *e.g.* "ganga" is pronounced "gang-ga." "Dh" is something like 'j'—Anuradhapura is Anoorajapoorra. 'Th' is not pronounced as in 'pith' but is even harder than the 'th' in 'the.' Double consonants are always sounded as such (as in German). Thus, Wannī is Wan-ni and Hanwella is Hanwel-la. There is practically no accent, but what accent there is, on the first syllable. There must be no slurring of syllables as there is in English; every one is pronounced even in the longest names—Anuradhapura, Avissawella, Bandarawela, Diyatalawa, etc. This is true also of Tamil names, where the speaker must take a deep breath and push on bravely to the end of the word.



CEYLON

Scale, 24 Miles to an Inch



REFERENCE

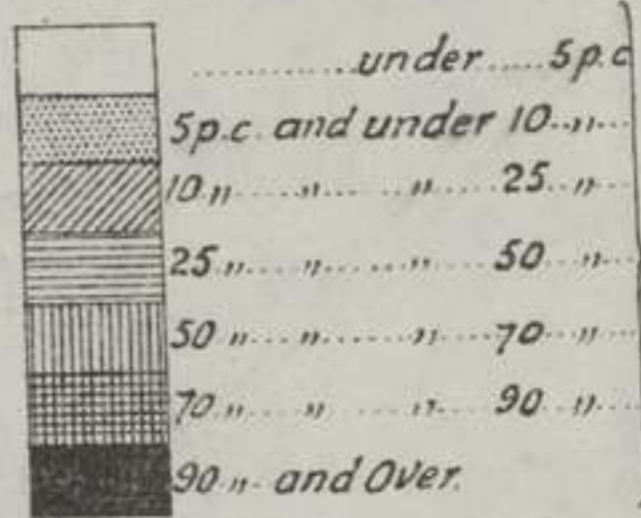
- ROADS
- RAILWAY EXISTING
- PROVINCE BOUNDARY
- DISTRICT BOUNDARY

- RUBBER
- TEA
- COCONUT
- CACAO

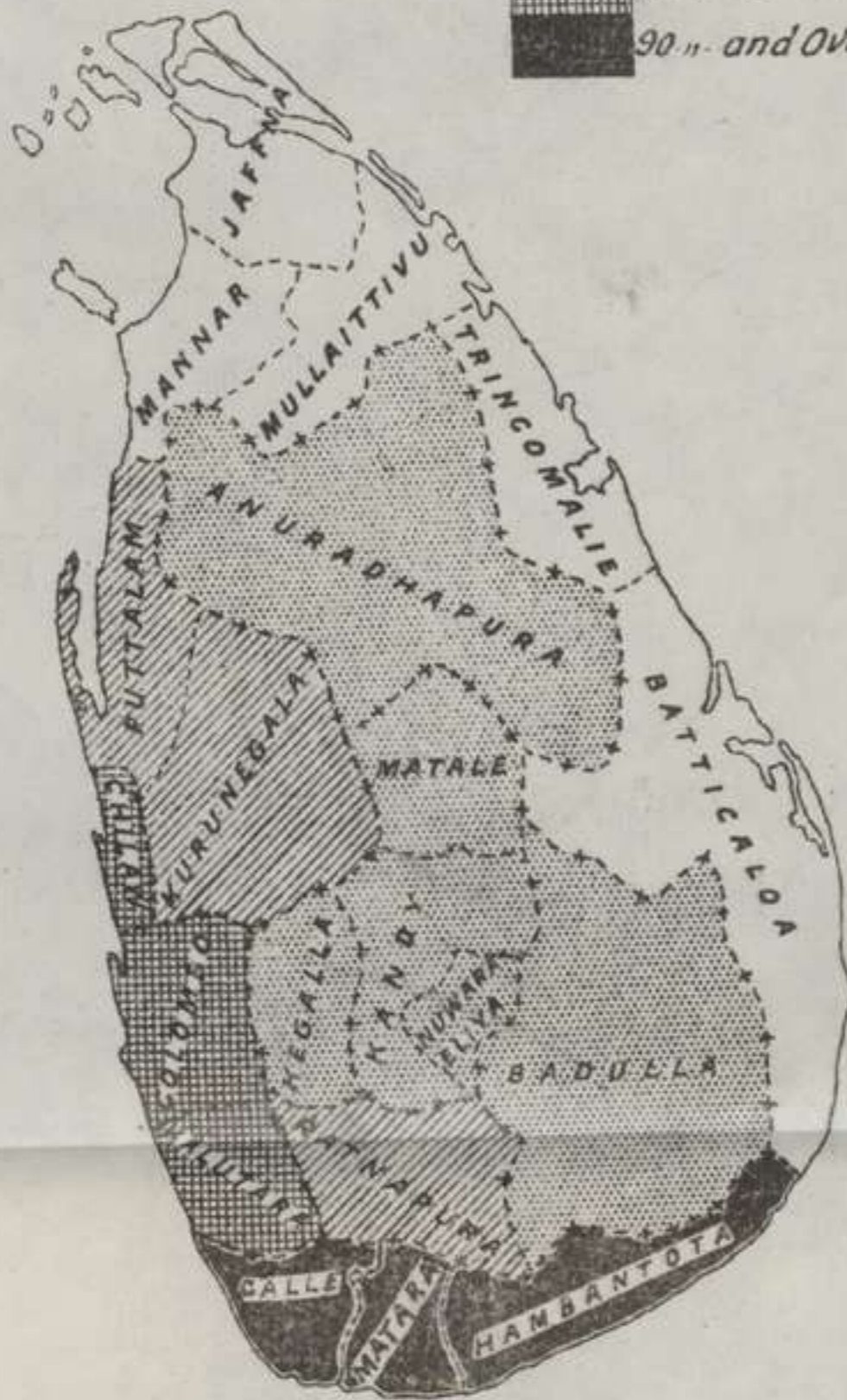
MAPS
OF THE
ISLAND OF CEYLON
SHOWING
THE DISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN RACES

Scale of 64 Miles to an Inch

REFERENCE



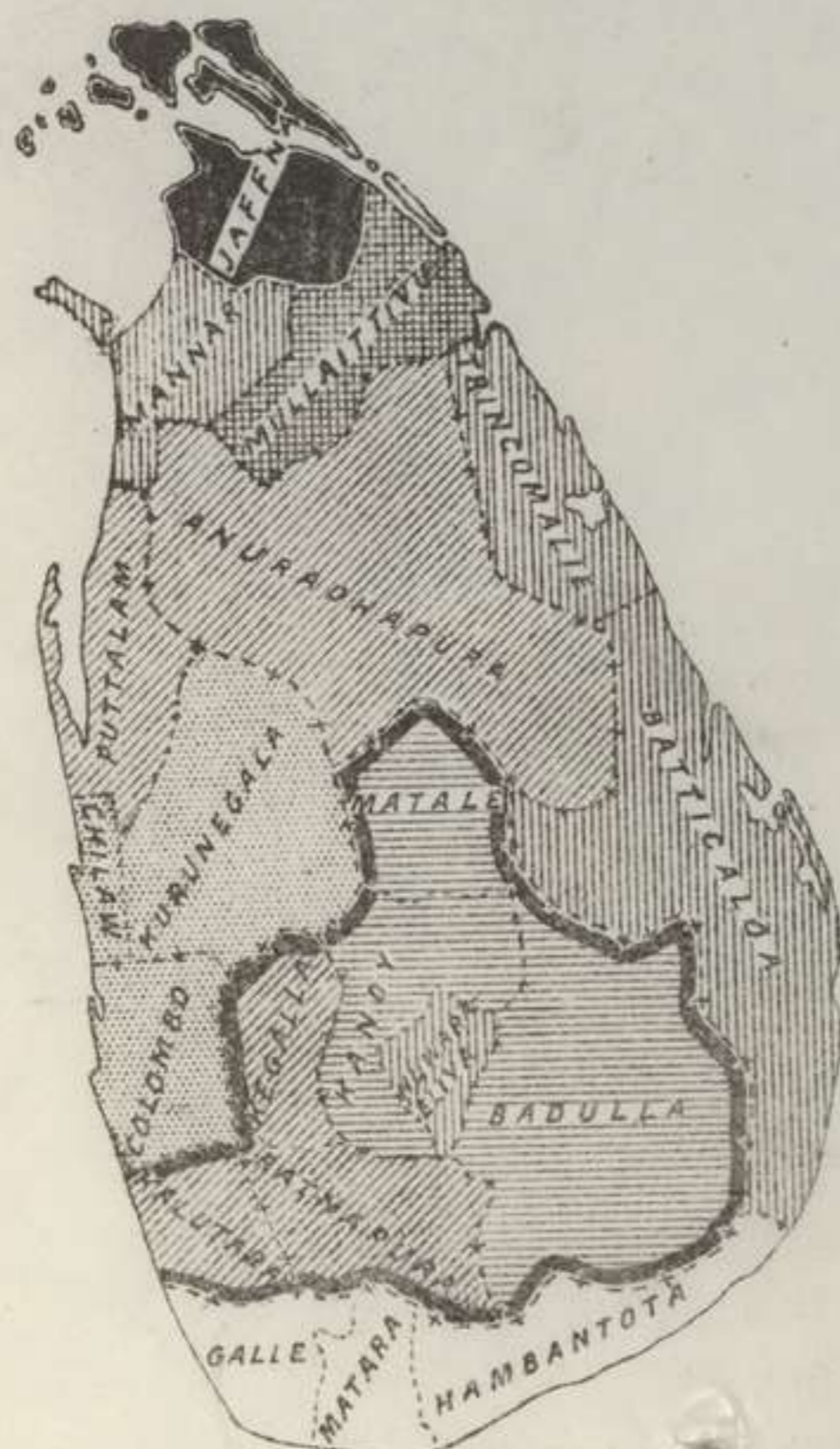
*of the Total Population
of the District.*



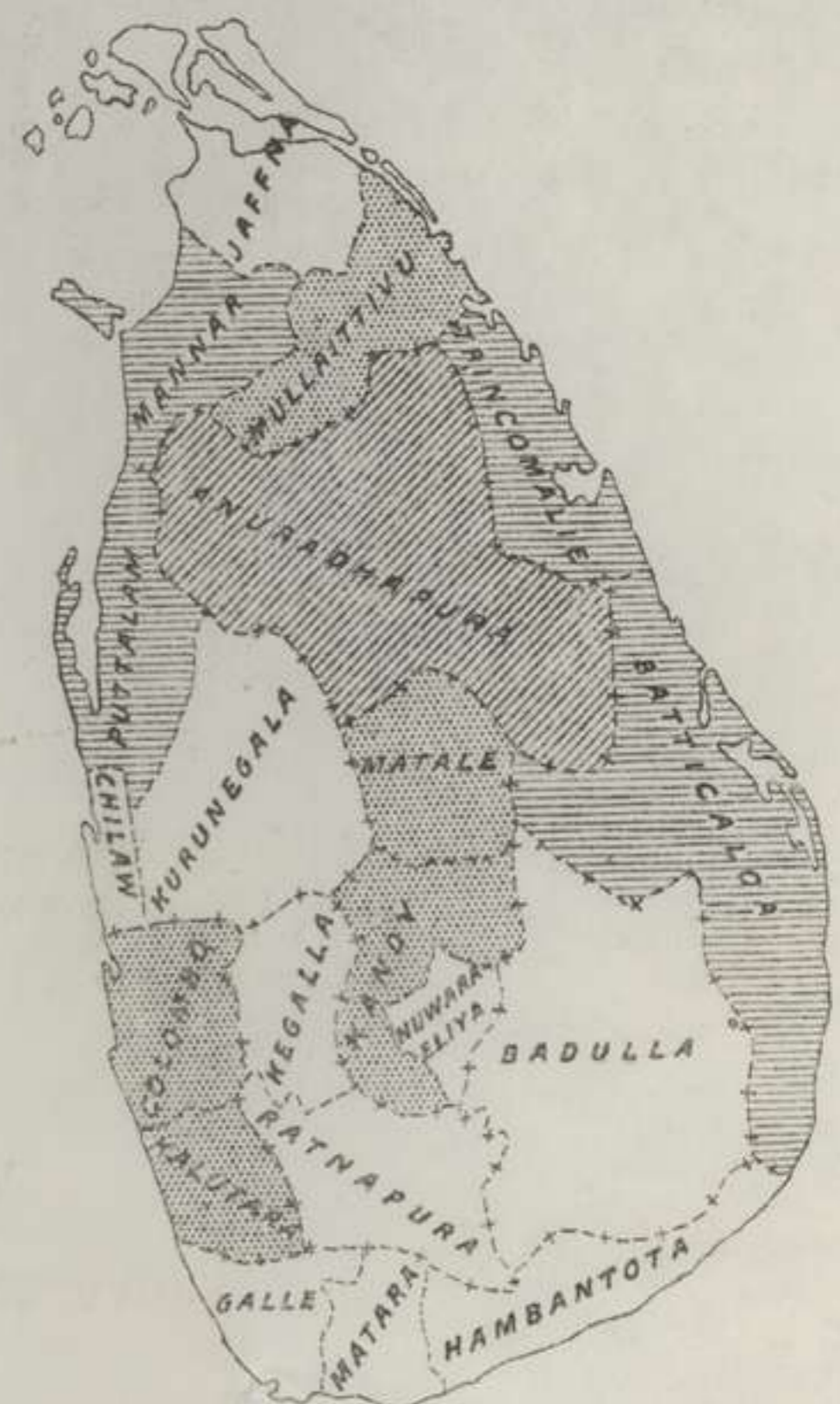
LOW-COUNTRY SINHALESE



KANDYAN SINHALESE



TAMILS*



MOORS

* Within the central demarcated area, over 95% of the Tamils in any District are Indian Tamils. In the North and East the Ceylon Tamils predominate.

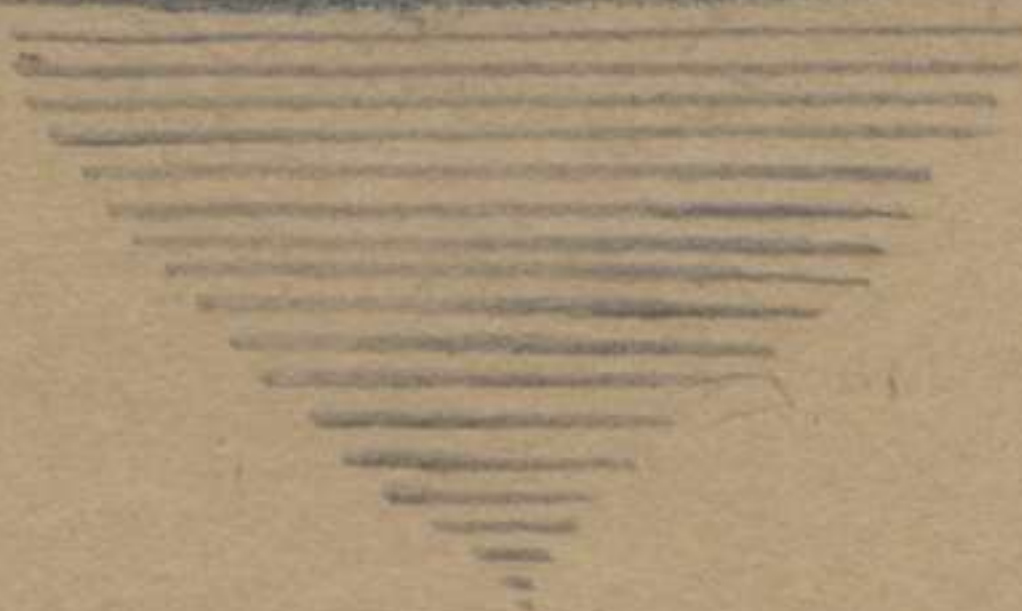
10

A

~~FIELD~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~



B

In future

War Diaries and other historical records
which in the past have been forwarded to the
Historical Section A.I.F. at 2nd Anzac A.I.F. (M.E.) will
be forwarded direct to

Officer in Charge

Military History & Information Section

A.A.

A.I.F.
(M.E.)

War Diary

2/7 Biv

July 1

Bn continues to readjust.

MS
Level growing and the necessary
pitch of efficiency is being gained
by intensive training in all
subjects. ~~at~~

Cadre course on another night
march by compass -

W O T P.M. Walker farewelled
by sergeants mess, on his departure
on first leg of the homeward trip.

July 2

Capt J D Mc Callum returned to
unit after many months at 17 I.T.B.

MS
Look over 'B' Coy, it having been his
original command.

Tents erected over mens' mess tables
- a welcome move as conditions in the
lat sun not conducive to a good
appetite.

Capt Woakey marched out from the Bn
today.

July 2. contd Considerable a/c activity over the camp during the early evening - several British planes proceeding in a northerly direction

#9 At about 2300 hrs an air raid alarm was sounded, but no incidents & "all clear" 30 minutes later. Plane undetected

July 3 Lt Pearson & 4 OR's marched in from 17 I.T.B. - Lt Pearson drafted to C Coy Padre Phillip joined battalion today. He should well prove a worthy successor to the popular "Res" Dakers

#5 During the morning C.O. (Rold) had an interview with the G.O.C. & Post Dir. relevant to the position regarding officers in the unit.

A strategical victory was won by the CO, in contacting AC Stationery Unit thereby enabling the Bn to acquire another typewriter, the two old

July 3. machines being sorely pressed under the present volume of work.

N7 The remainder of cadre course on further night march.

July 4

N7 Cadre course proceeded to beach, marching on various bearings en-route. Re-section was practised and found to be of good use to the potential N.C.O's.

Lieut W. S. Gorie re-joined the unit after a lengthy absence & was drafted to C Coy.

During the evening a small party of officers comprising Major Brock Capts McCallum and Fletcher visited the Jewish settlement at Givat Brenner as guests at the 13th anniversary of the settlement. The insight (of) into the communal (of) life proved most interesting.

It was arranged for a party of men to visit the settlement ~~on~~ on the 9th of July.

July 5

For the past two days (and continuing next week) small parties have ^{been} _{and} will be, attending miniature range shoots conducted by 2/3 Fd Regt.

The opportunity for co-operation in practice & learning the picture as represented by the city is proving very beneficial. Unit visited this morning by Lt Col Louch administrative comd 19th Bde during absence on leave of Brig Vasey

July 6.

Bn church parade conducted by Major Palmer on Bn Parade ground.

During past week much progress made in training, ^{Enthusiasm} of troops being a contributing factor. A pronounced spirit of competition exists in the Cadre Course, each potential N.C.O. attempting to out do the other.

July 7

117 Training resumes on same intense scale. Courses in map reading and allied subjects for H. Q. Coy. Arrangements made for movements on the 8th

July 8

Today two coys. (H. Q. + A) proceeded on a route march over 13½ miles, marching on compass bearings and observing march and water discipline en route. The going was hard through the sand hills but everyone realised that toughness must be attained in order to have the necessary stamina for forced marches such as were compelled in Greece and Crete.

In the evening a party of officers visited Tel Mond as guests of Mr Greenberg. A party was held at the residence (built by Lord Melcham) situated in one of the most delightful spots in Palestine. Spacious gardens, lawns, many different flowers & young pine trees were of great interest and very similar to sights at home.

117

July 9.

H.Q. coy. was given further lessons on compass & map reading while the cadre course continued in full swing.

Tonight a party of ~~all~~ 30 (all ranks) went to Giva's Brenner as guests of the settlement to inspect the colony, dine and spend the evening

July 10

C & D boys. went over the march done by A, B & H.Q. boys on the 8th. A guide to the enthusiasm of the men can be seen from the fact that although nearly a third of the distance is over sand only three men were forced to retire by the heavy going.

Today the new R.M.O. Capt. Gibson (A.A.M.C) reported in.

Adm/C.O. Major G.H. Brock D.S.O. visited 19 Bde. H.Q. to discuss the promotions and appointments of officers in this unit. Today's routine orders made public the decorations gained by officers in Cyrenaica between December 40 and February 41. also the fact that several were "mentioned in despatches" (See R.O.'s)

July 11

Today being the last day of the five week cadre course for potential N.C.O.'s, the men concerned were busy recapitulating before the examination on the morrow.

W7

July 12

The cadre course was this morning examined in all subjects by a body of officers and sqts. who set a high standard necessary for qualification.

In the afternoon a football team from this unit ~~defeat~~ defeated the opposition of the 2/2 F'd. Amb. who are quartered in Hodgson Lines.

W7

July 13.

Bn. church parade was again conducted on the Bn. Parade Ground by Major Palmer of the Salvation Army. All ranks were impressed by the sincerity of this popular man whose practical help in the field has earned our gratitude.

At midday, the Adm. C.O. Major G. H. Brock D.S.O. announced the results of their examinations to the Cadre course - Twenty-two men out of a

W7

school of forty-two qualified for promotion whilst the remainder have another chance in a cadre course commencing immediately.

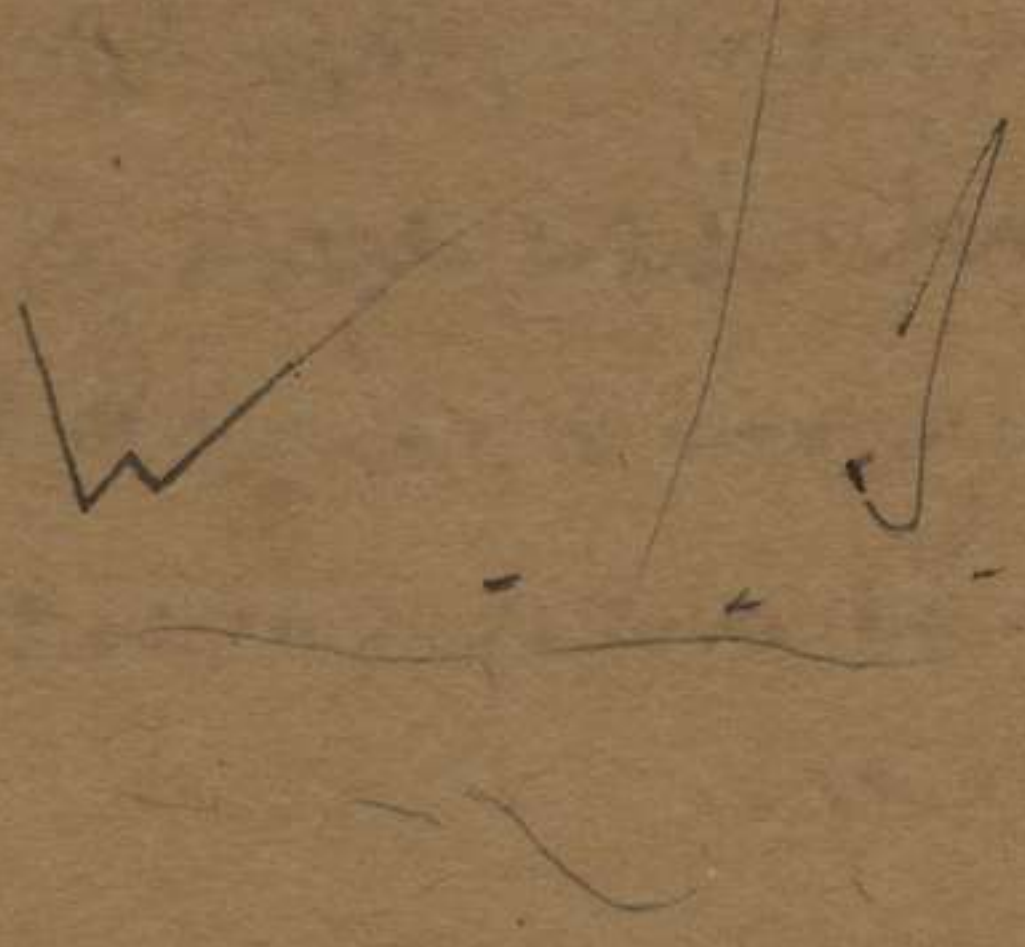
NOTE For Week

Two marches of approximately 17 miles of which about 7 miles were over sand were traversed by each coy. on Tuesday and Thursday. The results were very pleasing indicating a high degree of physical fitness. Very few men were affected by the conditions, two of one coy. fell out but rejoined the ranks at the next halt and finished the march. In other another coy.

two men fell out, one of whom had received a jolting at football the previous day, the other was a new-joined reinforcement and not so fit.

C

C



July 14.

The second cadre course for prospective N.C.O.'s commenced today, forty five members of the unit going through the course.

Lieut. Cadden left to join Major Quinn at the M.E.T.S.

Major Brooks D.S.O., with other who received honours and awards in recent campaigns were entertained at afternoon tea by the divisional commander.

July 15.

The divisional commander called in during the afternoon on a brief visit.

B. Coy were out on a march today covering a distance of some 17 miles. During the march water discipline was strictly enforced and the troops were in good condition on return to camp, all men having their bottles at least a quarter full. During the march a 45 minutes spell for a swim was enjoyed by all ranks.

July 16

All officers of this unit, together with others of the 6th Aust. Div. units were addressed, this morning by the C-in-C Lieut.-Gen. Sir Thomas Blamey. The Gen. spoke of the work done by 6, 7 + 9 Divs. and stressed the importance of a realization that we are all part of one large family, including other units of the Empire Forces. He also spoke of the need for leadership & discipline in preparation for future employment of the forces.

In the afternoon the G.O.C. 6 Aust. Divs Major Gen. Sir Ivan McKay visited this unit and inspected the training. He expressed great ~~star~~ satisfaction with the work being done by the cadre course.

In the evening Major Brock D.S.O. attended a discussion at 6 Div H.Q. on defence against para- and air-borne troop attacks.

July 17

Lieut. H. L. E. Dunkley M.C. reported in from school to take over his duties as adjutant with this unit.

July 17.

Three coys. A, D & H.Q. Coy. today covered the same ground as on the route march the previous week, and again the result was highly satisfactory. *MS*

July 18

Lt. K. Edney, an old member of the Bn., rejoined this unit from the Depot Bn, and took up duty as a platoon commander in B Coy.

I. Sgt. (Lt. H. Thomas) attended the first day of a course in Intelligence Duties at H.Q. 6 Aust. Div.

Training continues at the same high tempo as previously. *MS*

July 19.

This morning was given over to administrative duties throughout this unit. *MS*

July 20 P.

Padre Porter (2/6 Bn) assisted by ^{Adj. Lt.} Major McInnes conducted the Bn. church parade on parade ground. Padre Porter also conducted a communion service. *MS*

July

21

A meeting of the sports committee was held at which it was arranged for Capt Gibson R.M.O. to co-ordinate work of sports within the unit assisted by Padre Phelly.

Each member of committee to be responsible for one particular sporting activity, with assistance of outside members as necessary. The scheme was commenced forthwith.

MP

22

Order of the Day by Sir Henry Maitland-Wilson - see Papers.

Major Brook journeyed to Tel Aviv and arranged a trip to Settlements, to include (new) personnel from 2/6 BN also.

Temporarily arranged for 30th Wed till Sunday.

A day trip to Hadera was done to day by 20 men.
Day trips (~~to Hadera~~ low) have been

JULY

been arranged for trips to agricultural schools, works & industries
ND

23 Training continuing but nothing eventful occurred today.

A game of soccer was played against 2/6 BN which was won by 7 BN - 7-2.

ND

24 BVC cogs on march today
Capt Coker GSO3 (CW) 6 AOST DIV gave lecture to cadre course on war gases and chemical warfare.

Major Brock to weekly discussion re amm supply within BN.

Lt R. Neal reported today. Transferred from N.R. 6 AOST DIV to 2/c 'B' Coy

ND

D

July

25

Two original members of the BN reported
in today from Crete. - Cpl R. Jordan & Pte
W.R. Buckner. - (see attached report
A visit by Major J.A. Bishop & Capt I. Low
from 17 Bnd of the HQ now established in
Syria.

Lowan

AD

26

Administration day. The inspection by
RMO.

AD

27

Church parade this morning held by
Chaplain Porter 2/6 BN.

Commissions granted today to Lieut W. Thomas
as I.O. Lt A.S. McDonald 'A' Coy, Lt T. Holland
'C' Coy.

Cricket match between officers and sergeants
won by sergeants (see attached sheet)

AD

JULY

JULY

28/

Training resumed Today, cadre course for this week including training in map reading & use of compass.

Bn sent a Security Patrol to BEIT DORON this morning - Report attached.

R.M.O. to TEL AVIV to purchase medical supplies which were not available through Army sources. R

Lieut Arnold arranged details for another trip to Jewish settlements. ND

29/

May Brock D.S.O. visited 17 I.T.B. in connection with recently arrived reinforcements. Found 140 had arrived for the Bn but were ill-equipped and ill-trained. Are to be trained & equipped before coming fwd to the Bn.

Draft of 16 new mostly 'X' list arrived today & were allotted to companies.

A mobile gas chamber was made available for testing respirators today.

30th range firing continued today. ND

July

July.

29 contd

Late in the afternoon a team from the officers
then played a closely contested tournament of
table tennis against the 19306 HQ. - Resulted
in a one point victory for 19306 HQ

ND

30/ a party of 20 from the 2/7 Bn and 10 from
the 2/6 Bn left early this morning to visit
Jewish settlements in northern Palestine
for 4 days.

ND

30th The cadre course carried out a practical exercise
combining the principles of the lecture which Lieut.
Thomas had delivered to them on patrolling.

Weeks Training: Coys. benefiting from experience in recent campaigns. Exercises
to troops in subject of infiltration, at which we found the German to be
a master, subject of defence against para-troops. Training schemes

evolved to bring out these lessons & anecdotes prove
conclusively that this Bn. will be able to teach the Jhm
something of these when next we meet.

كتاب الجاب

AUGUST 1941

Aug 1. A party proceeded today to Jaffa Range for musketry practise.

2 Personnel who fired at musketry practise yesterday engaged today in practise with the L.M.G.

3 The cadre course spend day at Jaffa Range, also number who failed to qualify on Friday's shoot. Tonight parties returned from Jewish Settlement leave after spending an enjoyable time.

4 Adm. C.O (Major G.H. Brock. D.S.O) and Capt. A.E. Bamford. O.C. A coy spent the morning at a J.E.W.J. conducted by 19th Quot. Inf. Bde. I. O. Lieut. G.H. Rowden visited the unit this morning. We were expecting this officer to return to duty, but learned today that he is to be returned to Australia as he needs a further six to eight months convalescence before being fit for active service. During the last few days there has been a burst of A.W.L. Special steps are being taken to combat

This practise. Although amenities available in this camp are restricted it was hoped that the arrangements made for trips to various settlements and similar interesting features would indicate to our troops that the utmost effort were being made for their welfare.

It is anticipated that this lack of appreciation on the part of the troops will result in the swelling of the Commonwealth revenue and the increase of numbers of occupants of our compound available for manual labour.

5. Normal training this day. and nothing to record.

6 This Bn. took part in parade of 6 Aust. Div. this morning. on the occasion of Maj. Gen. Sir Ivan McKay, K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D. review and final inspection of the Division prior to relinquishing his command. Bn. moved off at 0700 hrs. and marched to Julius where parade was held at 0900. G.O.C. addressed the parade, after which the Division marched past and then returned to its various camps.

Following this parade, all officers of 6 Aust Div. available assembled at Julius Cinema where the C.O.C. addressed them and took a personal farewell of each.

7/ The new A.D.M.S. 6 Aust. Div. Colonel Beare made his first call on this Bn. and discussed the medical side with the Adm. C.O. and the R.M.O. (Capt. Gibson)

8/ Today is the last day of the second N.C.O.'s cadre course, this cadre has displayed great keenness throughout their five weeks course. This method of selecting N.C.O.'s brings out the best types of men for their jobs. Major Brock, Adm. C.O. attended farewell party at "A" Mess 6 Aust Div. H.Q. to say farewell to C.O.C. who is returning to Australia to take up his duties as C.I.C. Home Forces.

9/ This morning was as usual given over to administration. During the last three afternoons the W.I.O. Sgt. H. Thomas and 2 O.R.'s have attended a course on interpretation of air-photographs at H.Q. 19 Aust. Inf. Bde.

I could.

Commissions were today granted to Lieutenants
A. M. C. Hutchinson (H.Q. Coy) L. W. Walker (H.Q. Coy)
A. N. Palmer (C. Coy) and M. Intosh (H.Q. Coy)

The second cadre course was subjected
to a stiff examination by a board of officers
this morning. At night Adm. C.O. attended
Regimental Dinner at 2/6 Bn. and a party of officers
and O.R. attended a dance at Ramat Gan
at the invitation of the I.A. Hospitality Committee.

10 Church parade conducted by Padre Saville
of 2/6 Bn. Major Brock D.S.O. (Adm. C.O.) accompanied
Colonel Wrigley to Jerusalem to lunch with Brigadier
S.A. Savage who has just returned from Syria.

A cricket match was played ~~was played~~
between officers of this Bn and 2/6 Bn. resulting
in a clear cut victory for ourselves. Scores as follow.
2/7 Bn. 232 with Lt Jackett, a century. 2/6 Bn 144
with Lt Flay top scorer with 56 runs. Lt H.
Thomas was our most successful bowler while
for the 2/6 Lt Dexter and Lane took three
wickets each.

AUG 41

11

Capt. St. E. D. Nelson reported ~~in to resume~~ ^{for duty} his duties as O.C. D. Coy, he having fully recovered from wounds received in Crete. Lt. ^{Division} ~~Dickson~~ also joined the unit with a draft from 17 I.T.B., he comes to us from H.Q. 6 Aust Div after having qualified at recent O.C.T.U. Lt. S.M. Cramy also reported in with draft, and took up duties as S.O.

H.Q. and A. Coys set off this evening to march to Al Jura beach. The adm. C.O. attended a party given by Brig. Vasey and officers of 19th Aust Inf Bde.

An official advice received of promotion of C.O. Major H.G. Guinn to rank of Lt Colonel. It is expected that official confirmation of this will appear in a day or two.

12 H.Q. and A Coys returned to their lines this evening, all very enthusiastic as compared to day about night marching as compared to day marching.

13 A day of normal routine. "The Chau Gang" (men in detention) began work to prepare a garden in front of the administrative building.

14 A normal day.

AUG 41

15 A series of training ~~best~~ films arrived for showing in the unit, unfortunately the machine broke down after the first showing but it is hoped that all will see films which are of considerable training value.

16 The morning was as usual given over to administration and the afternoon to inter-coy sport and a continuance of training films.

17 Church parade held on Br. Padada area. In the late afternoon a small party left to spend the evening in Retovat on leave.

18 The C.O. Lt Col. A. G. Guinn rejoined the unit this morning early from Command School. M.E.I.S., full of vim & vigour.
A. Q and B coys marched to Al Jura beach.

19 Arrangements are made for Carrier Pl. to do training with 2 AOD ^{W.R.S.}. This arrangement is made possible ~~for~~ through friendly offices of Major. W. F. Ryan.

Arrangements were also made for a usual signal communication between 2/2 Id. Reg & ourselves. To commence on 21st. Lt. K. Edroy rejoined unit from school.

20

Night training will be an integral part of the training of this Bn in future. Experience gained in Greece and Crete showed the disadvantage of daylight moving and a good "night sense" to be essential in all ranks.

The I. Sec proceeded to Al Jura Beach by a new route, a distance of 7½ miles over sand.

(See report attached)

At dusk C & D coys also marched to Bn bivouac area at Al Jura to spend a day.

21 Attempts were made to communicate with 2/2 Id. Reg. by Lucas Lamp but no success was achieved owing to distance being too great. Further attempt to be made tomorrow.

I. Sec returned from Al Jura by previously reced. route over sand. C. D. coys returned by road.

AUG 41

22 2/5 Bn. personnel came under Capt. Duffy, to remove kit left with this unit when 2/5 moved to take part in Syrian campaign.

H.Q. cog ~~beat~~ ^{defeated} Bn. H.Q. at volley ball. 3-1.

23 Administrative duties occupied the morning whilst the later part of the day was devoted to sporting activities (Scores attached)

24 Church parade was conducted by Padre Saville 2/6 Bn assisted by Capt. Robertson of the S.A. In an inter Bn. cricket match played against the officers of 6 Aust. Div. Engrs. our officers were defeated.

25 Two officers and two sqts of 2/2 Fd. Regt. reported in to live with unit for a week in exchange for two officers and two sqts who have gone to their unit for a similar purpose. It is hoped that this liaison arrangement will enable both units to better understand operation, administration and difficulties of opposite arms.

AUG. 41.

ألجورا

26 At 1945 hrs A coy left for Al Jura by the route previously reconnoitred by the I. Sec. They were followed 15 minutes later by H.Q. coy. This march covered 7½ miles over sandy country and much valuable training in night movement was gained. Lt. Cuddon returned from hospital after completing his course at M.E.T.S. and resumed duties. He is posted as 2.1/c. A coy from today.

27 C & D coys travelled to the Bn. bivouac area at Al Jura by the same route as A & H.Q. coys the previous night. The C.O. Lt Col. H. G. Guinn, E.D. accompanied C coy. All ranks realise that training must be kept at high pitch in order to reach the necessary high degree of physical fitness. Today the Bn. I. Sec. made a recce. of the ~~the~~ country to be traversed by two coys next week in pursuance of the "Live out and train" syllabus to accustom the troops who have yet to gain the necessary experience of living in the

open to get a proper conception of a unit in the field. This form of training will also give experience to the "Q" side ^{in the} ~~the~~ rating of the troops. (Recce report attached)

28

Those coys in camp spent the day in normal training and C & D coys returned from Al Jura in the afternoon.

29 The bn. today held a programme of Tabloid Sport in which the 2 1/2 Fd. Amb. joined.

Competition was keen and only a few points separated the leading teams. The sport proved very popular with the troops and there is a desire that more meetings be held.

(See attached programme & results)

Lt Col Eather Admin Comd. 16 Aust Inf Bde attended and presented the prizes. ^{made available by Welfare Committee}
30: The morning was occupied by administrative duties. ³¹ In the afternoon a cricket match was played against the 6 Aust Div. Cav. Regt and resulted in a sad defeat to ourselves of 100 runs.

31 Church parade was conducted this morning
by Adjutant Robertson of the Salvation Army.
Cricket Match P

SEP 41

✓ Two coys, A & D, left the lines this morning for a weeks training on the "Lived out & Train" principal. They will move five miles each night to a new area where training will be carried out on the following day. H.Q. coy again marched via the "sandy route" to Al Jura.

2/ B coy. did a days exercise over the area which is being mapped by the 2 Sec for use as a model for a sand table.

3/ In the afternoon Bn. H.Q. personnel carried out an exercise in the laying out and operation of Bn. H.Q. in the field.

4/ B & H.Q. coy proceeded to Jaffa Range for a days practice.

5/ A & D coys returned from their five days sojourn in the field looking very fit. The exercise proved quite successful and good training in day & night movement was

gained, while the "O" staff also gained valuable experience. Promotions were announced from Lieut. to Captains of H. L. E. Dunley M.C., K. R. Walker, H. J. Lunn, C. Cuddon, M. Jarlane. & Vial
A party of 35 went to the Jewish settlement of Givat Hoshlosa as guests of the settlement. After being shown over the settlement the party took tea with the people and later enjoyed the evening entertainment of song, music and dancing.

Sat 6. A party A, C, & D Coys. proceeded to Jaffa range for a day's musketry practice. The party of Artillery officers & sergeants completed a week's liaison and returned to their regts. Lt. Edney & Sgts. Chalmers & Thomson returned from a similar attachment to the 2/2 Sd. Regt.

Sunday 7. Today was proclaimed a day of National Prayer at the request of His Majesty the King thus giving added significance to the Bn. Church Parade which was conducted by Major Palmer assisted by Adj. Robertson. A party of 128 reinforcements and 14 "X" men joined the Bn. from 17 I.T.B. today. The specialist groups of H. Q. Coy are now almost complete strength whilst the rifle coys. have reached a workable no. although the Bn. is still slightly

6. more than 200 below establishment.

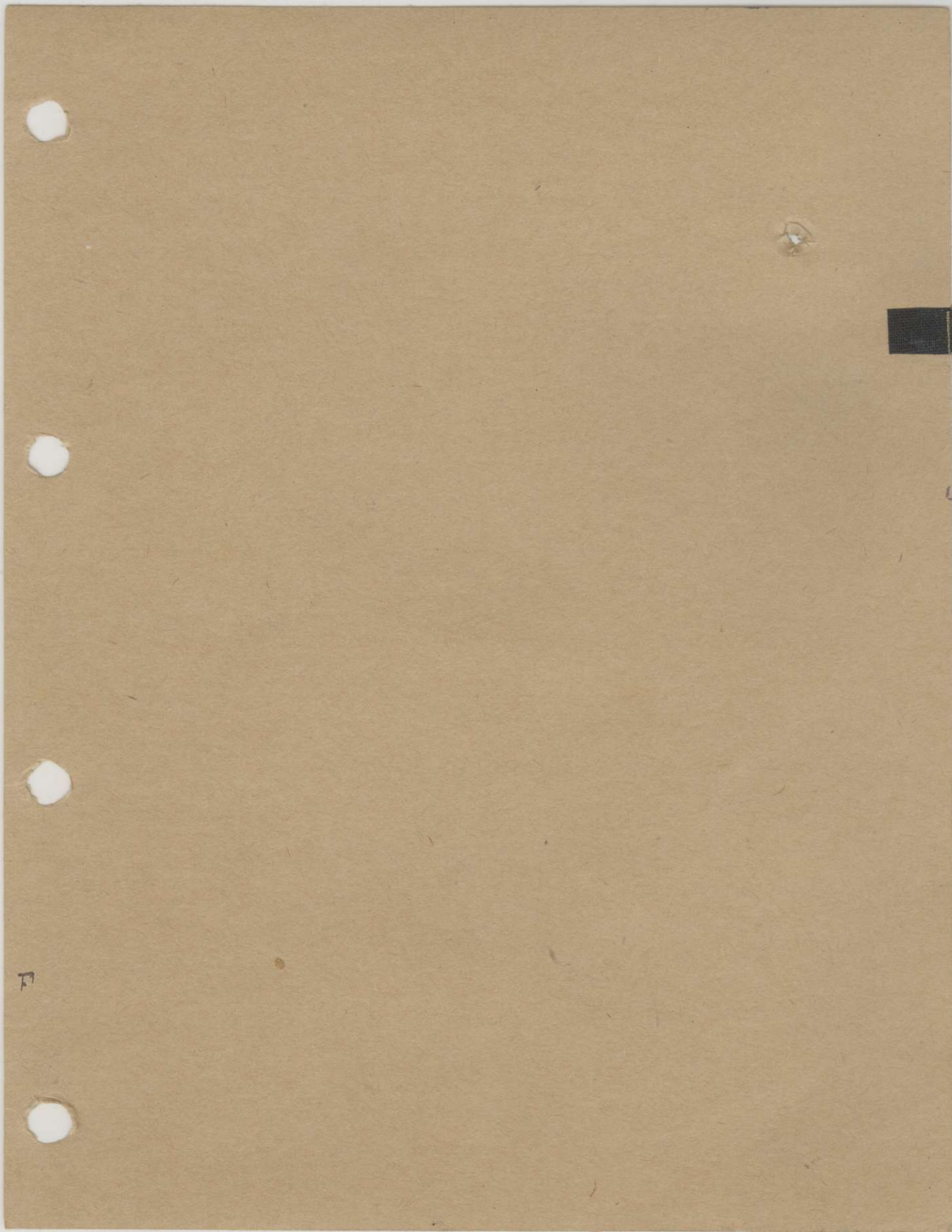
7. A cricket match was played at Julis between this Bn and 2/8 Bn. We were soundly beaten. (Scores attached)

Leaving at 1900 on the sixth the transport Pl. made a journey of 150 miles through Hebron, Beersheba and Khan Yunis, the object being practise in convoy work. Nine vehicles took part and road rules were strictly observed. The convoy arrived back in the line at 2030 hrs. tonight. All drivers expressed gratification at the practice obtained in working as a convoy en route.

8. The C.O. & 2.I/C. are busily engaged in preparation of a Bn. T.E.W.T.. 6 of the officers ^{who} have been attending a Junior Officers School returned today. Lieut. MacDonald having been left in hospital with appendicitis

B & C. Coys. moved out this morning repeating the "live out & train" syllabus done by A & D. coys. last week.

9. "B & C" coys now on the second day of the "live out & train" syllabus. "I" section go out on recon over new ground for same syllabus (report attached)



F

F

10 An air raid alarm was given last night but no planes came over our area.

B.H.Q personnel attend shooting practice at the miniature range during afternoon. On completion of practice at range H.Q proceeded on to the beach at Al Jura.

11 I sections do recon of area selected for tactical exercises & prepare maps of same.

12 B & C returns from their five day exercise of line out & train. All looked very fit. The exercise was very successful and all showed benefit by the training in different types of movement.

13 Approx 200 of 2/7 personnel were invited to attend the play "Michal, daughter of Saul" a three act play staged at BEERTUVIYA. The players were part of a very brilliant Jewish company which was originally formed up in Moscow in 1918.

14 Church parade conducted by Major Fulmer. A cricket match was arranged in the afternoon between this battalion team & Die Sigs. The result was a victory for the 2/7 team.

15. "A" & "D" coy's commence the second phase of their "live out & train" syllabus.

16 Normal training today by all who have remained in camp. H.Q. Coy marched to miniature rifle range, fired practice then ~~the~~ after evening meal at range marched on to the beach at Al Jura. In the evening "C" coy marched direct to the beach.

17. "B" Coy marched to rifle range and fired practice then after evening meal marched to Al Jura beach. "C" coy marched to rifle range from beach in the evening and then bivouacked for the night. H.Q. Coy left Al Jura beach in evening & returned to camp 69. The Adj with one "I" section & RQM Lieut. Smith visited the two coys in the field to prepare them for the visit of the General (Major Gen. Herring 6 Div).

18 "B" Coy returned to camp from beach in the evening & "C" coy returned from rifle range.

19 The L.O. from 6 DIV H.Q. contacted his lieutenant today regarding the visit of the General (Maj. Gen. Herring) to the training area where "A" Coy were to carry out a practice of a night attack. At 2345 hrs the Adj. Capt Dunkley met the General & G.I. on the El Taluja road & explained the plot to him, he then guided them to the area. The General's arrival was the signal for the attack to commence & our troops moved silently across the road as he moved forward from his car. As the attack developed the Gen. & his staff which included Maj. Hammer B.M. 16 AUG. INF. D.D.C. HQ followed our troops to the objective. The Gen. & G.I. later questioned Coy. Commandr. Capt. W. Budden pl. commandr. Leuts. Arnold & Tattersall as to the plot & procedure. The tactics employed were discussed & the training qualities of the exercise commented on. The impression gathered was that the exercise had been a success. The General & G.I. left the area at 0115 hrs approx. and also the B.M. Major Hammer with his retinue.

20

"D" & "A" boys return to camp after a weeks "live out & train" exercise. A cricket match between "B" & "C" boys was arranged in the afternoon. Divisional sports were held at Julia in which members of the 7th Bn took part.

21) Church Parade was conducted this morning by Major Palmer and everyone was pleased to see the reappearance there of Lt. Col. Quinn who had been ill with sand fly fever.

22) "A" Coy marched to the beach at Al Jura ~~last night~~ today, and "B + C" are now on a further "live out and train" syllabus. "B" Coy's area being located around ref. point 1245 1098 REF. MAP. GAZA. 1:100000 "C" Coy who are today near the end of the first leg of the march are in the vicinity of MR. 1361 1288. REF. MAP. GAZA. 1:100000.

23) The 16th Bde I section together with the "I" sections of 2/7 Bn & 2/6 Bn. carried out an exercise in the collection & distribution of information from O.P.s. This exercise was carried out with the ^{co-operation} ~~support~~ of "B" Coy of 2/7 who represented the enemy & advanced over an area under observation ~~from~~ of the "I" sections manning O.P.s. Captain Knox GSO III who was in charge of the exercise expressed satisfaction and it was considered that the exercise was very successful.

24) The C.O. Capt. Nelson & Caddan. O.C.s of D & A coys respectively

1361288

21 A cricket match, played today against
the 2/6 Bn resulted in a win for 2/6



Adjutants.

24 The C.O. (Lt Col. Guerin H. G.) and Capt. St. E. Nelson O.C. D Coy together with Capt W.S. Cudden 2.i.c. A Coy and members of the I. Sec. proceeded on a recce to an area near Al Saluga in preparation for a further "Live out, Train" series. At dusk the I.C. Coy returned from an overnight bivouac at Al Jura beach.

25 This morning another party of 30 left for four days leave at Jewish settlements in Northern Palestine. This leave arranged by the Jewish ~~Patrol~~ Hospitality Committee is exceptionally popular with the troops.

Again today the C.O., Adjt, and Capt Nelson & Cudden carried out a recce. over the area around Sum Sum.

26 C.O. & Officers of the Battalion are busily engaged arranging exercises for Coy training for the next few weeks.

27th Major Palmer left this morning to resume his duties at 17 Bde H.Q. It has been the great pleasure of the C.O. and all members of the unit to have Major Palmer with us, particularly at this time when his good work amongst members of the unit has been so beneficial to the unit as a whole. Major Palmer carries the respect of every member of the unit & we hope he will be with us again at some future date.

28. Church parade was conducted by
A cricket match between the 2/7 team and the 2/4th Bn was played in the afternoon resulting in a win for the 2/4th. Scores were 2/7-127 runs & 2/4-142.
This was a good performance by 2/7 team in view of the fact that the 2/4 have only been defeated once.

29. "A + D" corps commence further phase of the live out & train scheme, they are accompanied by Lt. Col. Quinn & Major Brock who will act as directing staff in the series of training exercises. Liaison Officer from Div. called to inform Adj. that General will be visiting in the field. These exercises are taking place near Sun Sun.

30 In the morning D. Coy carried out a bay attack exercise in the vicinity of Sun Sun. This exercise was viewed by the G.O.C. & G.I. of 6 DIV. and Commander B.M. of 16 Aus. Inf. Bde. In the afternoon A. Coy carried out the same exercise whilst D Coy marched across country to an area South of Al-Fahija.

Friday 3 OCT. - 6 AUS Div Administrative Order No 4
received at 2010 hrs this evening

OCTOBER.

1/ "D" Coy spend the day preparing a defensive position whilst "A" Coy moved from Sun Sun to Iraq el Sweden. In this area they carried out a night approach and a dawn attack.

2/ First light saw one platoon of "D" Coy overrun by an enemy force against which an immediate counter-attack was launched and the enemy driven out. Later in the morning, the Coy carried out a deliberate counter attack exercise. During the latter part of the morning "A" & "D" Coys changed their locations and each carried out the exercises done by the other company.

3/ On the completion of the exercises the boys marched back to camp. Many useful lessons were learned during the week and considerable improvement noted.

4/ The B.O. accompanied Bde. Comdr. to Reinforcement Depot to inspect reinforcements for his Battalion. 230 men proceed to Jaffa range for rifle & M.G. practice to take place on Sunday & Monday.

5 Combined Church Parade of units of 6th

Aust. Div at new cinema hall. Service conducted by Padre, Rt. Rev. Bishop Booth in the presence of G.O.C. & Aust Div.

6 Range practice continued on Jaffa range till 1530 hrs. Personnel returned to camp at 1700 hrs.

7 Tommy Gun practice at miniature range.

8 The S.O. and party of 20 Officers & N.C.O's left early this morning to witness Artillery demonstration

Party left for firing practice on Jaffa range.

At 2200 hrs hot supper is served to members of advance party who are to proceed to the new Parade outside B-14 @ 2215 hrs a bus for Magdal Rly Stn which is reached at 2300 hrs. Bde Sarge arrived at Bn & stayed overnight

9^{2/7} Advance party entrain with advance party of 16 Bde at 0030. Train left Magdal at 0040 hrs & arrived Haifa 0700 where breakfast was served by N.A.F.I. staff. Entrained on narrow gauge railway at 0800 hrs & left Haifa 0820 hrs.

Arrived Damascus 1930 hrs. Advance Parties taken to the Staging Camp in Damascus on 2 ton trucks & settle down

for night's rest after train journey.

10. Reveille at Staging camp 0600 hrs, breakfast 0700 hrs & all gear & rations outside staging camp by 0800 hrs & party standing by for arrival of transport. Capt McLean 6 Div in charge of transport arrangement. Two 3 ton trucks arrive party embusses & leave at 0845 hrs. Arrive Qatana at 0930 hrs. Maj Brock made enquiries & convey moved out to camp of 2 Br Yorks & Lancasters, arriving at 1030 hrs. The party debussed and soon representatives of were contacting the various corresponding people of the unit we were to take over from. Lunch & then in the afternoon the party continued to search for information among the platoons & coy's. The "Q" ~~staff~~ branch were well under control & Capt Nelson with his R.Q.M.S. were very satisfied. All Specialist Platoons found the same control over stores & weapons etc & the key representatives were the same. The C.O. of the Y & L. was away on leave but the party was met by the 2 I.C. Major Meath. The battalion at their 69 proceeded to Juffa range & the other half intensive weapon training in camp. (Maj Brock attended conference of all Br commanders 14 Bde, 2/16 AUS. INF. BDE Sqdr. Chappel commander 14 Bde to discuss defensive plan and handing over.)

11 Stores & weapons where ever possible were checked
and tentage examined. In some cases coys and others
were to complete firing practises and so the hand over
of gear was delayed until much later in the week.

I Sgt contacted Eng. of 2/2 Fld Coy. and received
information regarding roads being constructed and
general information about roads being constructed
and general information about surrounding country.

A T.E.W.T. was held by in the vicinity of Huhquat this afternoon.

12 Major Brock met Col Gibney of 24th L. and discussed the
general sit. of unit and defensive plan on which unit was
engaged. Church Parade at Hill 69 conducted by Padre
Saville of 2/6 Bn.

13 Major Brock takes over whole of defense of 4th L. & the
area described by Col. Gibney. Taking over of equipment cont.
A message was received at 2/7 BHA at Hill 69 from Maj
Brock through the 2/c 2/2 Bn Maj Cohen, requiring typewriters
& stores. Lt Smith leaves for new area. "B & C" coys
move to area near Sun Sun for "lie out & train" syllabus.

14 Lieut Col. Jack. D.A.D.O.S & AUST. DIV. Capt. Carson
assistant D.A.D.O.S called in relation to equipment and
returns required. Strong wind storm arose in the

evening, blew all night attaining hurricane velocity next day. Lt Smith arrived with 3 trucks of gas stores etc.

~~14~~ ~~Brigs & Chappell & Boase went over 2/7 Bn defensive area with Col Gibby & Major Brock.~~

An E.P.I.P tent was stolen from B Coy's lines during night of 13/14. Investigations carried out by the Palestine Police aided by an Arab tracker resulted in the arrest of a suspect at Lodud. A pair of military boots was found in his possession, but no trace of the tent has yet been found.

15 Brigs & Chappell & Boase went over 2/7 Bn defensive area with Col Gibby & Major Brock. Indication was given of a change of plans. Gale blew all day with intermittent rain. Everyone engaged in salvaging gear, many tents blown down & damaged. Most of contents of Y & L orderly room gone with the wind. 16 Aust. Inf. Bde arrived & took over from 14 Bde English. H.Q. QATANA.

Hill 69. B & C Coys carried out a practice dawn attack on the training area near Iraq el Sweden. This was a similar exercise to that carried out by Coy's A & D. on 2 OCT. Several heavy showers fell between midnight & dawn causing some discomfort to the troops but in spite of the adverse conditions the exercise was very successful. 22 O.R.'s drawn from all Coys were transferred to H-Q Guard Bn.

16 Wind dropped & complete check revealed 45 tents damaged & much havoc throughout area. Urgent representations made to 16 Bde for replacement of damaged tentage. Brig Chappel visited unit to enquire concerning wind damage. Lieut. Smith returned to Hill 69 & further convoy of unit stores arrived. One truck overturned en route & one man sustained minor injuries.

17 As no L.O. rep of 16 Bde had visited this new area Maj Brock went to Bde H.Q. making further representations for replacement of tentage & while there received rough outlines of new defensive plan. 2/1 Bn & portion of 2/2 Bn arrived in this area.

Hill 69. Orders issued re tomorrow's move.

18 2/2 Bn less 1 Coy arrive. Major Brock went in search of A.A.C.I. and found none. Located N.A.A.F.I. Met Maj Farrell of A.A.C.S who advised that they would open up in this area. 3rd convoy of stores arrived late at night bringing mail. ~~All tents drop~~

Hill 69 All tents dropped this morning & final stage of packing completed, area cleaned up and left in an excellent state of cleanliness. After evening mess Lieut Col Quinn addressed the assembled Bn emphasising the importance of fitness ~~and preparedness~~

at 2000 hrs coys moved off to embussing areas & convoy left for Al Maydal rly Sta at 1030 hrs. On arrival coys. moved to assembly areas & had some sleep till train which was it hrs late arrived. Embark on train at 2340 hrs & leave at 0020. Adj & Padre left for HAIFA from Hill 69 by car at 1630 hrs finalising arrangements for the movement from HAIFA to the new area.

~~19 Hand over of equipment & stores completed. Bn arrived 1400 hrs in M.T. Convoy leaving left HAIFA, 0545 hrs~~

19 Arrived HAIFA. 0545 hrs & detrained, all coys given a meal at staging camp. 0730 hrs coys move off in R.A.S.C. convoy. A very interesting trip terminated at QATANA at 1400 hrs arrive at new camp & move into areas allotted by 1500 hrs. Hand over of equipment & stores completed.

20 Y & L. move out by M.T. at 0700. Rearrangement of boys ~~and~~ areas & move of B.H.O to new area completed during afternoon. Some tentage arrived to replace that damaged & accommodation adjusted accordingly. Bn. news service commenced operations.

21 Day arrives with unpleasant weather & light showers of rain. Later strong wind sprang up giving a taste of things to come. All personnel engaged in security of the area and drainage. All rifle coys commenced a system of fighting patrol exercises each coy being allotted an area to be patrolled at both first & last light. Arrangements in hand for the opening of a Regimental Institute for canteen supplies.

Gas cache commenced for 2 weeks course of instruction, under Lt Mcintosh & Sgt Tyson.

A platoon of Low Coy was despatched at short notice for security duties Zebdani.

22 Leave in Syria commenced with parties going to Damascus & Beyruth.

Regimental Institute Canteen commenced operations. Bde. Major arrived in the evening with a plan for new defensive tasks for this Bn.

23 C.O. with his "R" group spent all day on Reconnaissance of defensive area.

At night the C.O. attended Bde. Conference on this plan at 2/2 Bn HQ.

A party consisting of 3 Officers, 22 NCOs & 86 ORs. drawn from A.B. & D. Coys was sent to take of security duties in Damascus Area.

J

25 Owing to disturbances caused by our troops when on leave in Damascus this town has been placed out of bounds to 2/4 Bn. The L.O & 2/c went to interview the D.A.P.M. and found that all reports were true. →

26 L.O addressed Bn on the subject of discipline 2/c left for Palestine to attend a court of enquiry & while there obtained the Bn Christmas cards. →

30 A further detachment of mortars carried out practice today with the equally good results.

31 2/c Proceeded on recon of New Bn Area, ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~results.~~

24 C.O took his "O" groups & allotted Coy areas for further
detailed,
^ reconnaissance,

25

26 A party consisting of the Adj, R.Q.M. & Lt Patterson
visited the chief of the Jebel Druze shekhs Ali
Assam Aryan & took part in target practice
using French Gendarmerie rifles. The party was given
a sumptuous meal & the shekh promised to put
his tribe at the service of the Bn if necessary.

27 A visit from the shekh Ali el Aryan chief of the
Jebel Druze and his two sons were entertained
by the C.O. in the Officers Mess.

28 Greek Memorial service which was held at
Damascus was attended by C.O, 1 Sgt & 30 ORs
A party of reinforcements consisting of 1 officer & 46 OR
and 2 x men arrived at 0130 hrs this morning.

29 The Mortar Platoon carried out firing practice
with the 3" mortar with very good results

NOVEMBER.

- 1/ The C.P. with officers from each Coy attended a cloth model exercise at 10th Corps H.Q. Beirut.
- 2/ Party of officers led by Adjutant partook of dinner with M. E. Kerbié commandant de gendarmerie de Qatana, together with Sheik Ali al Aryan.
Maj. Bamford visited Bn, he being on a tour of Syria Ballfield. C.O. returned from Beirut during ~~evening~~ afternoon. Visit from 16 Bde, TO + LAID command.
Movement order for move to Adsayia received.
- 3/ C.O. with party of officers who attended cloth model exercise today attended a T.E.W.T by 10th Corps. Bush.
- 4/ Brig Boase & Bde Maj. Hammer, Col. Eather, C.O. 2/1 Bn & Lt. Col. Gullett C.O. 2/2 Bn were guests at H.Q. mess last night. An enjoyable evening was had by all.
The advance party to the new area at Adsayia left this morning at 0700 hrs & pitching of tents commenced.
Personnel on Security duties at Damascus were relieved today.
Q.M. Smith promoted to Rank of Captain.
- 5/ Movement of stores & equipment continued during day.
2/3 Bn adv. party arrived to take over tentage in our own old area.

6 Remainder of personnel of Bn moved out 1000 hrs arriving Adsayar at hrs & moved into new areas. The C.O. left this morning on recce of Northern Area. Adsayar party of 17th Aust. Inf. Bde arrived at their H.Q nearby ours.

7 Party of 10 all ranks went to Balbec this morning to witness a demonstration of infantry dealing with wire obstacles. The C.O. stayed away overnight to witness this display.

8 The security party at Talia were released today and returned to the unit

9 Bn Church Parade conducted by Maj Palmer took the form of special remembrance service set down for the Sunday nearest NOV 11th Armistice Day.

10 The C.O., 2¹/₂ & I.O. ^{• Captain Nelson.} with other officers of the Battalion make reconnaissance of the Mezze Fortress Area which is to be occupied by Bde Group.

11 Recce continued. C.O. & 2¹/₂ attend Bde conference in the evening and dealing with our DJEDIDE position.

13

Reece continued all day.

13 A demonstration of infantry crossing barbed wire obstacles was given in the presence of the Bde Comdr Brig Savidge & parties from Bde H.Q. and a party from the Mule Transport Coy. R.A.S.C.

The reconnaissance continued, and parties from the battalion commenced road making operations.

Representatives of M.H. & I section visited the unit & took photographs for historical records purposes.

14 Reece party engaged in checking each battalion lay out in Bde Area. At night all officers of the Bn were given a description of the general plan for the defence of Syna by the C.O.

15 Checking of reeces continued. Lay boundaries commenced reeces of coy areas in the fortress with platoon comdros.

16 Church Parade by Maj Palmer in the morning and in the afternoon teams from this Bn met teams from the 2/5 Bn at Basket Ball & Australian

rules football. Both games resulted in a win for the 2/5 Bn. Our defeat at football resulted in considerable financial loss for the officers of our Bn, however the return match is being looked forward to as a means of recouping the loss with interest.

Zebdani Security Guard were released today and returned to the unit.

Lieut. Thomas accompanied Brig Frewin, CCRA 10 CORPS Beirut to show him the area of the MEZZE FORTRESS.

17 Bde checked the lay out of one Coy in the area reced by the C.O.

The 2nd gas cadre commenced for the training of additional N.C.O.'s as instructors in anti-gas measures.

18 Bde commander spent all day on the Bn Area reced by Maj Brock who accompanied him.

19 The Brig. & Major Brock completed recce this morning.

20 B.O. & 2/C and Captain Nelson continued recce whilst Coy commanders worked on detail requirements on certain platoon areas.

K

- 21 Further recesses were carried out on the defensive area by officers of the unit, on the defensive area.
- 22 Captain Walker returned to 17. I.T.B Palestine today.
- 23 Reconnaissances over the defensive area again today and platoon and sections posts sited.
- 24 The road making operations were inspected today and reports submitted to Brigade on progress made. Major Brock proceeded to Palestine today.
- 25 The C.O. and party of officers attended a cloth model exercise conducted by 10 corps. After the exercise the C.O. & party were entertained at dinner at the Oriental Palace Hotel.
- 26 A number of reinforcements totalling 3 officers and 56 other ranks arrived tonight. This total included 1 officer and 4 O.R.'s who had been on the X list.
- 27 A lecture which was attended by all officers available was given this morning by Lt Col Evans of 2/23 Bn. He spoke about Tobruk where he had spent 7 months.

27.

10 Corps B.G.S. & B.R.C. with Brig Savige and Lt Col Quinn inspected the dispositions in the 17 Bde defensive area.

28 Lt Col Evans of the 2/23 Bn gave another lecture on the defence of Tobruk. This was attended by all ranks with a number from the 2/5 Bn. The lecture was both interesting and educational and much valuable information was gained, as the lessons learned dealt with ^{the} static conditions of warfare that prevailed at Tobruk.

29 Two anti tank rifles were handed over to the 2/11 Ld Reg. Today. The weapons were rushed to Haifa for shipment to the Western Desert.

30 Church Parade at 0815 hrs conducted by Maj Palmer and attended by Brig Savige 17 Aust Inf Bde. After the Church Parade Brig Savige took the salute and the Bn dismissed to prepare for the football match arranged to take place against 2/5 Bn in the afternoon.

1111 1111 1111

December.

1 This day the unit began digging the first stages of the Mezza Fortress Area.

2 Digging continued. This work will continue for some time yet. This morning Major Brock delivered a lecture to 10 British Corps camouflage school at C.H.Q. Damascus on practical application of camouflage as experienced in the Western Desert. At night heavy rain fell in our area and faults in the drainage system brought to the notice of all concerned.

3 Awake to find heavy fall of snow had taken place in hills but a short distance from this camp. This gave added zest to the way the picks and shovels were wielded in the Fortress Area.

4 Digging and checking of Posts in Fortress Area continued today.

5 The native labor employed in scarping the forward edge of Fortress are beginning to learn how to wield picks and shovels and progress is slow they have struck a considerable amount of rock which will need to be blasted.

6

Digging progressing favorably in the Mezze Fort.
and was inspected by Maj Brock yesterday.
The b. O. was occupied with a recce of the Jebel
Hazar Fortness area.

A football match was played between 17 Bde H. Q
and ^{2/7 an} Damascus sports ground. ~~Result~~

Soccer was played by a team from the 2/7 against
10 Corps signals. ~~Result~~ The result was a draw - 2-2

7 Church Parade conducted by Maj Palmer at 0815 hrs
6 Div concert party gave a performance at the
Recreation Hut was well attended, and news that
this was to be a regular feature was well received.
Japan's attack on America the main topic today.
The b. O. & R/C whilst at Beirut heard that 13
additional members have arrived back from Crete
No details are yet known but sincerely hoped that
this is true & we will meet up with them shortly.

8. A T.E.W.T was held in the Jebel Hazar Fortness
area today. The b. O. with 4/epL Coy sited
section posts also in this "area".
Maj Brock attended Bde bond in showing
Lt General J. D. Laverack G.O.C 1st Aust Corps
over the Mezze Fortness area.

9 A TENT in the Jebel Mazar. Men at work.

10 Work in progress continues, all officers & NCO's are now thoroughly acquainted with the method of siting to conform with the ground & rapid progress being made.

2/c took Maj Powell 2 Aust. Art Reg over Fortress Area. He is to site positions for anti-tank guns.

11 Maj Brock spent the day checking and resiting section posts in the Mezze Fortress Area. The C.O. took party to Jebel Mazar position to finally site all posts in the Eastern Bde Fortress.

12 The C.O. & party are out at Jebel Mazar where the area is being inspected by Bde Comd for approval or alteration, and handing over the area to Lieut Col. Weigley 2/6 Bn. 2/c & Coy Comd accompany artillery officers round the Mezze Fortress to link up their respective tasks.

The Adj accompanies the Bde Maj and Adj's 2/5 & 2/6 Bn to a conference at Div. H.Q. Baalbeck.

13 A normal day spent in administration.

14 Church Parade conducted by Padre J. McKie

in the presence of Brig Savidge & his staff.

The service was made more impressive by the Padre leading off with the words "Drink to me only with thine eyes" to which tune the hymn was to be sung.

After the parade the Bn marched past the Brig

The afternoon sports programme had to be postponed owing to a mistake in the allotment of grounds.

15 A special parade of the whole Bn was called for 0845 hrs when the Brigadier (Brig. S. G. Savidge) had received special advice that he is to hand over the command of the Bde & return to Australia where he will take up duties as Director General of

Recruiting. He addressed the Bn in a full parade & gave to the unit which is comprised more or less of reinforcements & not yet seen active service, a brief history of the unit since its inception at Puckapunyal & on the campaign in Libya to the Border of Tripoli.

Our return to Amiriya where we were re-equipped and moved to Greece, the evacuation & embarkation on the Costa Rica & the eventual bombing and sinking of that ship, and forcing the unit to be taken off by destroyers to Crete where they made a name for themselves in the defence of the Island.

He then spoke on the reforming again of the unit under the direction of Lt Col Gunn.

The C.O. (Lt Col Gunn) then spoke on behalf of the Bn and expressed the reluctance with which the departure of the Brig was viewed by all and wished him bon voyage. Three cheers were given and at the special request of the C.O. the Brig agreed to take the salute from the Bn marching past under arms. Photographs of this parade & march past will be included as appendices.

Also this day 2/c Maj Brock accompanied Bn Capt Peritt (C.F.) & Brig Frewin and Maj Webb GSO II of 10 British Corp in the siting of road blocks through the Barabada Gorge.

Barada

16 The C.O. engaged in succe of Bozge Fortes for selection of artillery defensive fire tasks. 2/c accompanied by Capt McCallum & Lieut. Cramp spent the day in succe of reserve Bn area of the Djidede position.

17 The C.O. 2/c & Adj with Capts McCallum & Buddon went to Bayreith to participate in a dinner given to Brig S.G. Savage to bid him farewell.

The dinner was attended by Brigade H.Q. Staff and party from 2/3, 2/5, 2/6. Bn and 2/1 C.C.S.

18.

Work in fortress area progressing in fine sunny weather.

19.

Capt. I.D. McAllum left for a further recon of positions in the Djéide area. The weather in this Northern area is now bitterly cold making work difficult.

20.

Saturday, the day set apart for administration and training in the unit lines. A lecture on "Air Cooperation" was given to the Bn by Lt. Col. Ly of the I. Section. This lecture is the forerunner of others intended to make the troops au fait with the situation as a whole.

21.

Church Parade again, conducted by Major Palmer. Weather turns wet again in the afternoon, and winter appears to have set in in earnest.

22.

Cold and wet but work in area carried on all day.

M

M

23.

Still raining but work proceeds normally in Fortress area and positions are now taking shape.

24.

Xmas Day, a busy day for everyone, work checked for Xmas break and all ranks, except the cooks who are preparing a fitting repast, are looking forward to Xmas Day.

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25 Today being Xmas Day the Bn. ceased work for the day and made merry. A good repast was provided by £A.100 per sent to the unit by the Ladies Committee at home and the "Old Seventh". Turkey was the "piece de resistance" at Xmas Dinner and each man was supplied with one bottle of beer or its equivalent. During the dinner the C.O., 2 I.C. and Adjutant visited the coys. and partook of good cheer. In the morning a Xmas Church parade was conducted by Major Palmer and at the conclusion of the service a message of good luck from the "Old Seventh" was read to the troops by the C.O.

The day was a typical wintry one but the bleakness and snow covered hills nearby were only part of the atmosphere. Compared with Xmas Day 1940 spent in the Western Desert this year's celebrations were held in comfort but our thoughts were with those men, with us last year, who are not with the Bn. today.

26 Back to work after a Happy Xmas Day.
Boys working in Fortress Area on cold windy day.

27 Day spent in administration and training.

28 Church parade conducted by Padre Galloway of 2/5 Bn. on bleak wet & windy parade ground. In the ^{afternoon} a football match against the 2/5 Bn. This eagerly looked forward to match was unfortunately played in a strong wind which kept play at one end but after a well fought match 2/5 swept home by five points.

29 All at work in fortress area, fine day.

30 C.O. interviewed Major Bolton 2/1 Aust Machine Gun Bn. re siting of M.G.'s and also visited 10 Brit. Corps to discuss engineering problems concerning fortress.

31 Work proceeds in fortress area in cold weather. 1941 passes with the Bn able to look back on a year of service extending

over the Libyan, Greece and Crete campaigns.
and to recall with satisfaction the part played
by this unit.

JANUARY

1/ New Years Day, work in the area suspended.

Rain sets in late in the afternoon and makes conditions unpleasant.

2/ Awake to find snow on the ground, for days it has been creeping nearer and today continued all day. Troops were quick to take advantage of the opportunity for snow sports and toboggans were speedily designed for the run down the hill to the camp.

3/ Snow continues to fall and snow sports the order of the day. The depth of snow compelled transport to be grounded temporarily until the roads around the area are cleared.

4/ Area still covered by approx 2 feet of snow and work on fortress suspended temporarily. Roads closed to transport. Unit at work clearing snow and ice from tents etc to prevent flooding when the thaw sets in. Snow sports continue.

5/ Snow stops overnight and today is fine & sunny but bitterly cold and work is impossible in the frozen ground.

6 Capt. Manser and Lieut. Hays of the 2/179. Bn came to discuss the placing of MG positions on the Fortress area.

I thought the thaw has commenced the snow still lies thickly on the ground and much of the ground is frozen, and we are unable to continue work on the Fortress. This evening the A.I.F. news arrived with list of New Year Honours and awards. It is most gratifying to learn ~~that~~ from this publication that awards had been conferred upon several members of this unit. The order of M.B.E. is conferred upon WO II Sutton & WO I. FM Walker for meritorious service rendered to this unit. The D.S.O. was conferred upon R. R. Vial for gallantry during the evacuation of Greece and the D.C.M. awarded to Lieut. H. W. Thomas for his action on Crete while a Sgt. in this unit. On several occasions while the Bn was forced to withdraw Sgt. Thomas rendered very meritorious service & was the means of many members of the unit who were exhausted being brought on to safety & eventually to the evacuation point; and we note with satisfaction that in the hurry to leave Crete these actions were not overlooked.

8 The C.O checked over righting of individual M.G. posts in fortress with officers of 2/1 MG Bn.

9 Snow has melted sufficiently to allow work in the fortress areas to be recommenced today.

10 Work in fortress continues. In afternoon most of the officers and Sgt's attend lecture given by Lt. Col McArthur Onslow, comdr 6 Aust Cav on his observations of recent campaign in Western Desert up to the ultimate relief of Tobruk garrison.

11 2/7 team played Bde H.Q football and the result was a win for this Bn.

12 Digging continues also marking out of wiring tasks in the fortress as well as all necessary installations. No 63 Battery 2/11 Id Reg. moved into camp alongside us today. Consternation caused amongst many this day as the noises produced by the pioneer officer Lt. McIntosh were greater than usual. This was due to the explosions of the (S.T.) Sticky grenade of which our first issue has come to hand. This promises to be a particularly good grenade with which to dispose of enemy tanks.

13 2¹/_c becomes involved in endeavouring to classify the various types of rogues to be found in this country, more particularly laundry contractors. Lt Thomas & Lt Col Fry (Demidoff der Shipy) visit the Mucktar where Fry's knowledge of Arabic was put to good use. Our whole amateur detective force is at work and it is anticipated that as a result the world will be a better place to live in for the local inhabitants and considerable savings effected for the relief of the Australian taxpayer.

14 Lt Col. left this morning on lengthy leave & 2¹/_c was appointed to administer command in his absence. Lt Adams and small party from 2/3 Pioneers came to live with us. Lt Col. Gallasch commanding 2/3 Pioneers called during the afternoon.

15 Work carried out as usual in Fortress Area.

16 General Sir Hamilton Wilson C.I.C. Syria visited Bde and inspected the Messrs Fort. He was accompanied by Maj Brock as representative of the Bde responsible for this Fortress.

17 Work on the fortress and in the night. 'A' Coy carried out exercises of a platoon in attack this proved very successful and the value of training 'I' personnel in boys was clearly shown.

- 18 A Bn muster parade was held this morning & Maj Brock (D.S.O) read a message from the G.O.C regarding the discipline of Australian troops while on leave. He also added generalities concerning security and conduct. After a morning of administration training was carried out in the afternoon.
- 19 The 2^{1/2} and Coy commanders with members of the "I" section proceeded to the Western sector of the Jebel Mazar Fortified area and completed the siting of section posts & water points. A complete recon was carried out & a report submitted giving complete details of tank approaches & tank obstacles.
- 20 Work as usual in the Fortified Areas.
- 21 Movement Order No 3 issued at 2100 hrs. Disposition Map & complete written report on Jebel Mazar Fortified area handed over to Maj Bishop 17 Bde H.Q.
- 22 The day was spent in packing up and cleaning the lines in readiness for our move tomorrow & the handing over of the area to 2/3 Pioneers. The C.O. & 2^{1/2} entertained at Damascus by the B.G.S, A.Q, & CCRA & Corps ^{who} expressed their gratitude for the work done by the Bde & their sincere regrets that the unit was leaving their command. At 0600 hrs the advance party left for the new area.

barriers left at 1200 hrs & moved to Kadun Rly
Stn where they entrained on flat cars which were
to move with the normal passenger train next day.

23, Reveille at 0300 hrs & breakfast 0400 hrs. At
0545 the road party left & at 0600 hrs the first
lift containing B. C. D. H.Q. & B. H. Q. moved in
2/5 Be transport to Damascus Rly Stn, A Coy
following at 0710 hrs from camp site. The unit
entrained & departed from Damascus at 0815.
Some few miles down the line we caught up to
the train in front & were left immobile whilst
our engine pushed the leading train over the
next hill. Continuing to Kiswe we stopped
alongside the passenger train & after much shunting
for $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour we found the flat cars attached
to our train & we proceeded on our way. We arrived
at Driah at 1345 hrs on time, a very remarkable
achievement for these railways. Leaving there at
1430 hrs as scheduled after an uneventful journey
reached Amman at 1730 hrs an hour ahead of
time. Most remarkable effort. De-training & marching
to the R.A.F. station nearby we bivouacked for the
night. The R.A.F. of whose Adj. ~~there~~ is Flt. Lieut
Hill is an Australian made on our stay &

comfortable one for which we were very grateful.

24 Oct. 0715 The unit embussed in transport provided by the H.Q. & moved to our new camp at Tercho. where we arrived about 1145 hrs. The afternoon Coy commands were given their training areas & went out to prepare platoons exercises.

25 The completion of the layout & erection of the camp attended to ~~in~~ the afternoon the R.M.O. & attached dentist Capt. Adair administered injection of T.A.B. & Tet. Tox to all ranks. The injections were received with mixed feeling although they appeared to be administered with great relish.

26 Day Spent in training & preliminary exercises

27 Various types of ~~repeating~~ weapon training carried out today by all Coys and in the afternoon Brig Moran (D.S.O) came over to see a platoon of 'D' Coy carry out an exercise on the assault course. The assault course which is designed to develop the stamina of the troops is a particularly hazardous one and should most certainly have a beneficial effect on the physical condition of the troops and also on section leaders control.

28 A. B & C Coys spent the ^{greater part of the day} ~~morning~~ carrying out exercises in attack, defence & withdrawal the enemy being represented by D Coy. Much valuable training was gained in all the various phases of the operations. In the afternoon the Pioneer platoon gave a demonstration of tank hunting with the new ~~type~~ of sticky type bomb.

29 Training was carried out in the lines by the coys waiting their turn to go over the assault course. Each coy in turn went over the course & in the afternoon the G.O.C 6 Aust. Div (Maj Gen Herring) visited the assault course & watched "B" Coy carry out an exercise in attack. This exercise was carried out under very realistic conditions with the use of live ammo & mortar bombs. The G.O.C was very impressed by the display and expressed his satisfaction in very complimentary terms.

30 This morning at 0800 all coys moved to their respective areas for the different types of exercises i.e. Attack, defence, & withdrawal. Apart from a few minor hitches the exercises were very successful, because after all it is only by the

observance of corrections of small mistakes that we will be able to avoid big ones later on.

In the afternoon the Brigadier (Brig Motors D.S.O.) came over to the field of exercise & questioned key bounds about their plans.

3) This morning was occupied by training in the lines, & in the afternoon a football match was played on the outskirts of Jericho between the 2/7 & 2/5 Bns. The game resulted in a win for the 2/5.