

THE 8TH BATTALION'S PAGE

Foreword

The Good Old Seventh are letting the 8th have a page in their paper.

The Listening Post is just the same as before beyond the fact one page will contain "dope" supplied by "The Little Black Devils".

Needless to say the kind offer of the Seventh is fully appreciated by the Eighth. This little entente will still farther cement the friendship of the two battalions, a friendship born on the stricken field and the wet trench.

We'll try to make our page worthy of the Listening Post.

Headquarters Notes

It has been suggested that as Headquarters is the smallest unit in the battalion we occupy too much room and have too large a share of the comforts of this life. In justification to ourselves we should like to point out that there are certain reasons why we should enjoy such comforts as is available in this luxurious business on which we are employed.

In the first place although we are the smallest unit in numbers we are easily the biggest unit in brain power.

Secondly it should be remembered that "uneasy lies the head that wears a crown" and consequently we need room to turn in our sleep.

Thirdly great minds require peace and comfort in which to produce their best work.

Fourthly there are lots of other arguments but the most convincing is that if anyone has the opportunity of making people comfortable he is a fool if he doesn't attend to his own comforts as well. As consolation other units may remind themselves that if the Huns could only find us they would strafe us on every possible occasion so we may as well enjoy life while we can also if the number of employed men continues to increase at its present rate other units will soon have more room than we have.

We wish to thank Lieut. Col. Oldum, and the other members of the 7th Battn. for their kindness in giving us this opportunity of airing our opinions in public. As this is a first attempt readers are requested not to be too critical. We'll try to improve after a little practice.

Company News Items

Despite the fact that the editor has appealed to the various company officers for items of interest concerning their units nothing has come in. We know now how the adjutant feels when he awaits a return on the number of deficient buttons on the greyback shirts of the company.

"A" company is going to have a violin presented to it. Ex-platoon Sergt. Smith, now of the ordnance, is working the oracle.

Sergt. Spalding is getting ready for the fiddle by writing an air varie based on that plaintively sweet melody, "Keep yer Bean Down Allemand".

"B" company sends in a "Nil" report, but nil desperandum, its genial C. O. is shortly returning from London laden with voluminous "Copy" and an essay entitled "Hints pour passer le temps on leave".

"C" company is reported to be building a "clink" for itself as it has outgrown the present accommodation. The genial second in command is preparing lectures on "The way to determine whether detonator caps are loaded" and expert medical paper on "The Real cause of Trench Feet".

"D" company is reported as normal. Its gallant commander finds time for literary relaxation, its said, and has composed an ode entitled "The Hardy Pioneers".

It is reported that two gallant captains of "ours" sang "who's Your Lady Friend" at a recruiting meeting in London — some tale!

Sporting Events

The Little Black Devils are holding up their end and perhaps a little. — Ah, modesty forbids the printing of that thought but most of you saw those fights anyhow. Did you get wise to Nobby's twilight sleep left? He learned that in Port Arthur.

At press time the tug of war is not decided, but the 8th are in the semi-finals. Want to put anything on?

The 8th were licked at soccer in the first round. The L. B. D's never were kickers, so there you are.

On Relieving Trenches

(from notes (not) found on a German prisoner)

On receipt of your order to relieve Blank company of the Blankshires call up the Sgt Major, tell him and don't worry further. Care killed a cat.

[Don't bother about inquiring the way in or tramping over the ground yourself, The sentry at — — corner will tell you — that's what he is for.

[Don't put your men in file and above all let them sing, talk and smoke as the wind their way to the firing time. This keeps up their spirits. Precautions make them "jumpy".

[Don't lead the way. A commander takes years of training to produce and is too valuable to resk. Stifle your heroism and bring up the rear.

[Don't bother to have your sections and platoons all sorted out on relief night. Mix them up. This permits the men freer social intercourse and promotes esprit de corps.

[On arrival at the trench halt your men on the highest ground you can find while the Bosches pot at them. This makes the men steady under fire. In the meantime get into the trench yourself, find the commander, explain the totally unavoidable nature of your delay. Make him take off his pack and find you a drink. Then tell him all about the latest musical comedy in London. If he seems fidgety and anxious to go remember that he has had a bad week in the trench. Talk to him some more to soothe him.

Then send out a batman to tell the company to move in. Don't get excited and worried about where they go after they are in. They will sort themselves out later and the walking entailed will keep them from getting trench feet. If not quite sure what order to give, send for the junior subaltern, put him in charge and tell him to "carry on."

Send for a telephonist. Order him to advise the Padre and Doctor that you have some work for them.

It is quite unnecessary to report to Battalion Headquarters that you have "taken over." Let 'em worry for a few hours. They have nothing else to do, anyhow.

Don't inquire who is on your flanks. You might cause offence by being misunderstood.

Always open rapid fire as the late garrison departs. It gives them a send-off and prevents any of them walking too slowly.

Instruct the patrols to make their reports interesting. That builds you up a reputation at Headquarters and makes good "copy" for the "Comic Cuts" man. Let 'em report a duel between a tin whistle and a trombone at T 7 1-4,5 in the enemy lines. Next day "Comic Cuts" will say "The morale of the enemy seems badly shaken." Your patrols should always report "German wire still there," and you should attach a piece to your report as Exhibit A. There is a rumor that the next officer to do this may get a Military Cross—very cross, indeed.

Always shoot lots of flares out to your patrols. Its awfully dark out in "No Man's Land" and they will appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Answers to Correspondents

Clarence: If you suffer from cold feet you may obtain relief by heating them on the radiator of a motor transport.

Constant Reader: When bewildered by the different instructions issued on one subject, apply for leave.

Anxious: We can find no authority for the statement that the rum issue is going to be stopped.

Pedestrian: Berlin is a little too far if you only have a week's holiday.

Anxious: No, "Apres je brush mon hair" is not considered good French.

C.B.: "Provost Marshal" is not an equal to "Field Marshal" but it is usually wise to do what either of these officials tell you.