

One had visions of a small riot when, on the night prior to the leave party pulling out, it was discovered that warrants had not been applied for for some thirty men. It was a narrow squeak, but trouble was averted thanks to immediate action on the part of the Adjutant and of the staff at Headquarters.

No wonder the C.S.M.E. was on the point of "busting." Sergt. Harold Menzies fell a victim to spring fever, and secured a transfer to the 3rd Battalion to await draft for Canada. "Good-bye, Brighton," says Menzies.

Demobilizing Corps Units.

To the surprise of all concerned, and at a time when the funeral party was all arranged to stage the last obsequies on the Canadian School of Military Engineering, the powers that be decided to have the School handle the incoming Corps Engineer troops from France.

With a depleted office staff, a Quartermaster's branch unaccustomed to the handling of clothing, a hurried move from one Lines to another, the question of receiving no less than twelve hundred troops within the short space of three days appeared to be an impossibility. It was managed, however. In less than a week seven of the nine units from France had been clothed, paid, and shipped away on eight days' leave. Some record, and one in which the administrative staff have the right to claim credit.

On March 4th the remnants of the C.S.M.E. were ensconced in tiny quarters in No. 5 Lines. By nightfall the old Lines, No. 1, had been taken over, and 400 men of the 2nd Army Troops Company C.E., Canadian Corps Signals Company, and Canadian Corps Survey Section stowed away in quarters. Everything passed without a hitch. The next day, March 5th, saw the 3rd Tunneling Company, C.E., 5th Army Troops Company, C.E., and the A.A. Searchlight Section, march into camp. March 6th found the 1st Army Troops Company, C.E., 3rd Army Troops Company, C.E., and 4th Army Troops Company, C.E., march into camp. The last three units were unfortunate as regards weather, rain tumbling down in torrents as they detrained at Seaford, with the result that all the men were soaked to the skin by the time they arrived in camp. They had only to wait a few minutes, however, before being posted to huts, blankets drawn, and a hot meal provided, the latter especially appealing to the boys, who were thoroughly tired out after the long trip from France via Weymouth.

For all this work credit is due to the indefatigable efforts of Lieut. James Craig, D.C.M., Adjutant C.S.M.E., Lieut. P. Daniels, Assistant Adjutant, R.S.M. Crabtree, and to the Q.M. and Office Staff.

To handle over a thousand men at a time when the staff was at rock bottom in the way of numbers, in strange Lines, and during inclement weather, was a performance surprising to Lieut.-Col. D. S. Ellis, Chief Instructor of the School, who, at the time, was making an industrial tour of Great Britain. Lieut. Craig's long experience in handling drafts for France, and later for Canada from the old 2nd Battalion came in good stead. The boys from France were not kept in suspense as to movements, for the morning following their arrival Mr. Craig started a programme moving, which allowed the largest leave party ever sent by one unit in the Seaford Area—837 officers and other ranks—to entrain seven days after their arrival from Le Havre.

The remainder of the Corps Troops got away on leave three days later, thus giving the C.S.M.E. staff a short "breather," and enabling them to organize a system for the handling of documents, medical boards, and the score or more items that have to be performed before a man is available for return to Canada.

Arrangements have been made for these troops to return to Canada as separate units, the following being the Dispersal Centres and Officers Commanding:—

- 1st A.T. Co.—Capt. G. W. G. Brooker, Ottawa.
- 2nd A.T. Co.—Capt. F. M. Brickenden, London.
- 3rd A.T. Co.—Capt. O. B. McCuaig, Toronto.
- 4th A.T. Co.—Lieut. H. G. Holman, Halifax.
- 5th A.T. Co.—Lieut. H. L. Bunting, Winnipeg.
- 3rd Tunneling Co.—Major A. Hibbert, Toronto.
- Canadian Corps Survey Section—Capt. W. R. Flewin, Vancouver.
- Canadian Corps Signals Co.—Lieut. J. C. Franklin, M.C., Winnipeg.
- Searchlight Section—Capt. E. A. Bennett, Quebec.

C.S.M.E. Dances.

The fourth of the brilliant series of dances given by the C.S.M.E. Staff was held in No. 4 Canteen on Wednesday night, March 12th, under the usual happy circumstances.

The floor was perfect, and the floor manager—Sergt. K. M. Brown—was in good form.

The dancing was of the first order, and everybody enjoyed a good time.

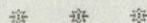
The function was graced by the presence of Lieut.-Col. Ellis, D.S.O., Commanding the C.S.M.E., and Lieut.-Col. Lawson, M.C., Commanding the 1st C.E.R.B., and a large number of other officers.

There was no shortage of merry and light-footed partners—as many as 70 couples being on the floor at one time.

The success of these dances is due to the exertions of Sergts. V. Andrew, O. J. Farmer, and K. M. Brown.

The perfect music that went so far to make the dance a success was supplied by the C.E.T.C. Orchestra.

The next dance in this series will be on March 28th.



In and Around the News Stand.

Our genial Corpl. has taken another trip to London. What's the attraction, Corpl.?

Our big friend, Pete, is getting up in the world on all sorts of committees. Say, Pete, how did the smoker come off?

I wonder who the barber's lady friend is? You are sure getting some boy with the women, Hollie.

How did the "Old Man" make out on his trip to Southampton? Is he still smiling?

Come right in Digger, it's cold outside.

I wonder who the new L/Corpl. is in No. 4 cook house? Have you told them at home yet, Jack?

Oh, Pete, anything new about that butter or eggs yet?

Who's the guy that drank all the beer at the smoker? Why don't you use a funnel, Mc.?

No, sir! No tea to-night, it's after ten o'clock. Atta boy, Jonsie, you tell him I'm only working here.

Oh, Billy, how about the family cat? Put that poor cat down. You go to h—l.

Why do all the Orderly Room Staff go to Brighton every Wednesday night? Answer, ask Hart. What's her name, Freddie?

Who's the billiard champion, Jonsie? Did you say Mac?

The barber's chief assistant is now boasting a pompador. How is it coming along, Amiel?

We had an old home night last week, all the tramps in the world were there.