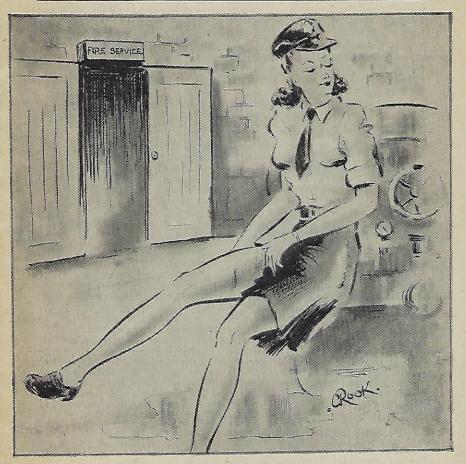
COME & GET IT!

National Fire Service, No. 11 Area Magazine

"D" Division H.Q., Pendennis, Springfield, Chelmsford.



April, 1945. Vol. 4. No. 1. Price 3d.



'N.F.S. Terms Illustrated: "Rolling up Hose"

COME AND GET IT.

Publisher: The MacAlpine Press. Editor: Arthur Blair.

Representatives: Fire Force, E. W. Haydon; "A" Division, E. H. Williams; "B" Division, B. Crotaz; "C" Division, S. L. Harwood.

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE FORCE COMMANDER

It is with very great pleasure that I welcome the extension of the already popular "D" Division Magazine to the whole of the Fire Force. As from the current issue the Magazine will include items of interest to all Divisions and I am sure it will appeal to all members of the Service, both whole and parttime, in Essex.

As a medium for the exchange of news and views between all ranks throughout the Area and as a means of knowing how the "other fellow" is faring, apart altogether from the Magazine's considerable entertainment value, plus the fact that all profits are to be paid to our Benevolent Fund, the new project is an eminently worthy one.

First and foremost, it is *your* Magazine, and the Editor has asked me to stress that the more contributions you send in—articles, poems, photographs, cartoons, etc.—the more personally interesting will each issue become.

Your enthusiastic support for the October Benevolent Fund drive, which raised the magnificent total of £13,000 throughout the Area, shows what you can do. Well, here is another opportunity to help the Fund. From every point of view, "Come and Get It!" deserves our support and I hope that everybody will buy a copy.

You will be sorry to hear, I know, of the retirement of Deputy Fire Force Commander W. T. Soper. He has proved himself a tower of strength in No. 11 Area and has been universally popular with all ranks.

Mr. Soper has had a long and distinguished fire-fighting career. A Devon man, he went to sea at the age of 14. He sailed aboard windjammers, made many a tough trip around Cape Horn and experienced many adventures, including a tussle with a tidal wave. He joined the London Fire Brigade in November, 1902 and retired in April, 1933 with rank of Senior Superintendent. For seven years Mr. Soper was stationed in Whitechapel, where he held the rank of District Officer and Superintendent. On his retirement from the L.F.B., Mr. Soper came to live at Leigh-on-Sea. In 1938, at the time of the Munich Crisis, he joined the Southend A.F.S. as an ordinary part-time fireman. At that time only Superintendent Collow knew of his previous firefighting record. When war broke out Mr. Soper was posted to Stewart & Ardern's Action Station, London Road, Westcliff. Three weeks later he joined my Staff at the Central Fire Station, Tyler's Avenue. On nationalisation, Mr. Soper was appointed Divisional Officer, "A" Division, and subsequently Assistant Fire Force Commander, No. 11 Area. In 1942 Mr. Soper was awarded the King's Police and Fire Brigade Medal for special services.

He leaves the Service with the best wishes of all.

We extend a warm welcome to Mr. Soper's successor, Assistant Fire Force Commander Harrison, from No. 30 Area.

P. G. GARON.

AU REVOIR

Dear Reader,

You have been accustomed for some months to turn to this page and read the Divisional Officer's Letter. You have taken it for granted that it would be there, the same as we all do with most things in life, especially with those we hold near and dear to us. It is not until these are absent for some reason or other that we fully appreciate them.

In the December issue, Divîsional Officer Davis wished you all for the New Year "Happier times to come", but we did not feel at all happy when he informed us, sometime back, that owing to health reasons he was applying for his release from the Service. I feel sure it came as a shock to all of us when the time actually arrived for him to relinquish his command of "D" Division on 31st January 1945, a command which he had worked so hard to build up on a basis of team-work, good-will and understanding amongst all ranks.

During those years of service to the Community, there was built up a bond of friendship, comradeship and understanding which few, outside of those who had had the honour of serving under him, could really appreciate. During their stay in the South, our friends from the North, to whom we send our best wishes, were fully appreciative of that Esprit de Corps so zealously fostered by Mr. Davis, and it speaks volumes when letters are received expressing that appreciation. I would like to quote one or two lines from such a letter "I am sorry to hear about Divisional Officer Davis because, in my oponion, he was one of the best, I am sure, throughout the whole Division; that thought was mutual and it is a big thing to have done to create such a fine team spirit in such a vast area".

Some of us were present during the various functions arranged in the Division to wish our Divisional Officer 'Au Revoir' and to present him with tokens from his Officers and personnel, expressing in the same vein those words from the North. To those who were not present, I can assure them that Mr. Davis felt it very deeply in having to give up a command he had learned to love so well.

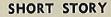
I note in the last issue of "Come and Get It" an appeal was made by Mr. Davis to all part-timers to carry on and continue that fine work which they had done for so long. In addition to this, meetings are being held all over the Division and addressed by Senior Officers on behalf of the Fire Force Commander, pointing out the necessity for them to man their pumps and stations wherever possible, as heretofore.

Although we have lost an Officer, friend and councillor, let those of us who are left, both full and part-time, resolve here and now to carry on and continue to give that loyalty which has been so willingly given and see this thing through to the end.

As we are carried along in the rush of every day life, let us sometimes pause and remember our "Absent Friends" and old comrades in No.4 Column Overseas Contingent, to whom we extend greetings and good wishes for a speedy return to their native land.

B. L. Bowden
Column Officer

There's never a rose in all the world,
But makes some green spray sweeter;
There's never a wind in all the sky,
But makes some bird wing fleeter;
There's never a star that bring sto heaven,
Some silver radiance tender,
And never a rosy cloud but helps
To crown the sunset splendour;
No robin but may thrill some heart,
His dawnless gladness voicing:
God gave us all some small sweet way,
To set the world rejoicing.





Mr. Oglethorpe held his coat lapels across his chest and wished that old Morgan would make up his mind. A cold wind swept across the open fields, yet the old man seemed not to notice this.

"I think," said Mr. Oglethorpe politely, "that if you decide on this particular plot you will have chosen the nicest position there is."

Old Morgan put a finger behind his ear. "Eh! What d'you say?"

Mr. Oglethorpe repeated himself.

"But it's a bit windy" muttered old Morgan, shuffling round and facing the open field.

"Glad you've noticed that! But I believe you'll find it's pretty breezy everywhere to-day."

Old Morgan was doubtful, "I wouldn't like to buy this and then find it's a bleak spot."

"Oh, it isn't sir! In the summer it's the most delightful spot imaginable. You see, over there you've got sheltering trees and-

"It's not a bad view from here," said old Morgan, shading his watery eyes with a hand and gazing down the valley to the little village below.

Mr. Oglethorpe cheered up. "When the sun's out you can see for miles and miles and-'

"Is the air good?"

"Oh, yes! Yes, the air here is said to be the best in Essex; it comes from the East—over there—so it's really a sea breeze."

The old man sniffed. "That ain't a sea breeze now?"

"As a matter of fact, the wind's in the wrong direction to-day; it's coming across the fields from the direction of the brewery."

"Well, I shan't mind that." Old Morgan showed his gums in a dry laugh. "No, I shan't mind that; but what about those fields over there?"

"What about them, sir?" "Hope they won't build on 'em. Just my luck to settle in here and then they go and throw up a row of jerry-built bungalows, filled with noisy kids

Mr. Oglethorpe interrupted.

"No, they won't build on those fields. They belong to Farmer Todd and he lets them out for grazing purposes. No, rest assured, he won't sell."

"M-m-m." The old man nodded, and then started prodding the earth with his stick. "I hope the ground doesn't get waterlogged in the rainy season?"

"Definitely not, sir; it's a well-drained soil."

"Will it grow flowers well?"

"Without a doubt. You could grow anything you liked here—it's lovely soil."

"It looks clayey."

"That's an advantage, sir."

"I would have liked a lighter soil, but never mind. I think I like it here. Yes, I think I like it here."

Mr. Oglethorpe sighed with relief.

"I hope I have nice neighbours. Who's on my left?"

"Er-Mrs. Muggins; she used to have a sweet shop in Little Hadlow."

"Never heard of her. Who'll be on me right?"

"That I can't say."

Old Morgan shuffled round once more and viewed the plot from all angles. "Are they going to do anything with this footpath?"

"Yes, that's to be made up with shingle."

"Why not grass?"

"We thought shingle would be more suitable."

"Well, I prefer grass."

"I'll see what can be done."

"Well, I think I'll take it."

"Thank you sir, Perhaps you'll just come with me and we'll fix up things." "M-m-m, yes; might as well."

Giving a final look round, the old man muttered appraisingly to himself and then slowly followed the rector through the iron gates of the new cemetery.



MUSIC

We're a musical Fire Force.

The talent in this Area is abundant. Some of it has yet to be brought into the limelight, much has already earned the applause of the county.

Our Commander has always encouraged the Arts, and N.F.S. music has flourished in the past and has done a tremendous lot for various charities, particularly our Benevolent Fund Drive. In connection with this successful Drive we should like to give you a few statistics we got from John Braun of the "D" Division Band.

Says John: "The dance band started 'getting to work' on October 1st and did not see another night off until November 25th, during which time we played at 34 dances and 16 concerts, featuring 1,446 quick steps, 502 waltzes, 167 slow fox trots and 335 other dances consisting of Palais Glides. old fashioned dances, tango, etc.

"£14 was spent on saxophone and clarinet reeds, £3 on strings; 4 sets of drum sticks, a laundry bill of over £20 for dress shirts and collars, £6 15s. 0d. for cleaning and pressing dress suits. Each musician waded through on an average of 1,250,000 notes on his music-no wonder L.Fm. Harvey on the double bass had four big blisters on his right hand, which on many nights proved painful, for he has to pull a string for each note played.

At one performance two springs broke on the saxophone, causing an odd deep note to emerge just when it was not wanted, everytime this happened someone raised a finger and called 'Taxi'!"

In the above picture by E. Nixon Payne we have, reading from left to right: Bert Sharpe (piano), L.Fm. Harvey (double bass), Fm. Darnell (violin), Fm. Gulliver (drums), Fm. Rayworth (electric guitar), L.Fm. Braun (saxophone and leader), Fm. Thomas (trumpet).



SYMBOLISM

By PETER PHILLIPS

Possibly unrealised in many ways, Symbolism plays an important role in our lives today. The various services use it in their rank marking badges, medals, ribbons, etc., and in everyday life such symbols as the Cross, the Wedding Ring, the Imperial Crown and the Union Flag are much in evidence.

Of recent years the swastika (derived from the words "So Be It") or "flyfot" has received marked attention as the distinctive emblem of the National Socialist Party of Germany (pictured by them anti-clockwise, and its correct name in this form is "Sauvastika"); although this symbol is of great antiquity and was used with many various meanings in India, China, Japan, Peru and Tibet; it was also supposed to have been imprinted on the sole of Buddha's foot, signifying, in this instance, the "Infinite sacred virtues of the Heart of Buddha."

The symbolism of writing is also of ancient origin, and our language today has its commencement in the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics, or picture-writing symbols. However, it is to the Chinese we have to look for the true meaning or philosophy of symbolism.

Long before Confucius lived (551 B.C.) ceremonial robes with their embroidered symbols were in use in China, but this great philosopher clearly defined the meaning and purpose of these. The Mandarin had to pass many examinations based on intelligence, knowledge, science and the arts, and the reward for distinction was the wearing of a Robe of Honour and an Official Hat, the symbols thereon being an outward sign of merit and tending towards the uplifting and bettering of each man, thus laying the foundations of a civilisation,

There were nine ranks of Mandarins, each one distinguished by a different coloured "button" or jewel, worn at the apex of the Official Hat (if a Peacock's feather was attached, it was conferred by the Emperor in recognition of distinctive Public Service.) In addition, civil Officials had a plaque back and front of their robe, on which was embroidered a bird according to their rank, and military officials wore different animals to denote their rank.

Even today the Chinese "Song of the National Flag" is typical of this ancient people's traditional symbolism. (The flag shows a white sun in a red ground on a blue field.)

"Men of China, proud and free,
Let the stars your garment be,
As you plow uneven soil,
Reap the harvest of your toil.
Fight for your land,
Freedom's at hand;
Mankind must reach
The World's Great Peace.
Heaven blue, sun of white,
Field of red, standard bright."



"Says I to the D.O. "No one in none o' them Staff Colleges can teach me nuffink."

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TAKE A CAMPING HOLIDAY THIS YEAR! by SECTION LEADER B. CROTAZ

(11-B-Divisional H.Q.)

For some time after the war, hotel and boarding-house accommodation will be taxed to the limit. Quite a large number of families will have no alternative but to spend their holidays at home unless they go camping!

"A camping holiday?" I hear you say. "Suppose you get bad weather? What a prospect, if it pours with rain all the time! And, anyway, it's no rest for the wife."

Well, as to bad weather, what is more uncomfortable, anyway, than sitting in a fusty boarding-house drawing-room all day with the landlady wishing you out of the way? As to the domestic chores involved in camping, if all the family "muck in" and take their fair share, there is no reason why "mother" shouldn't be as much "off duty" as if the holiday was spent at an hotel, boarding-house or in lodgings. Besides, if you do not want to cook, you can always go to a restaurant. You are not tied to meal-times, nor to a boarding-house diet.

The advantages of a camping holiday vastly outweigh the disadvantages. You can choose a site on the sea-front, for example, which is very desirable where kiddies are concerned. The youngsters find plenty of friends. They are not restricted by hotel and boarding-house rules and regulations. You can go where and when you like. If you have a car, you can move easily from place to place.

If you have never taken a camping holiday before, the first thing to do is to join the Camping Club of Great Britain. The entrance fee is 1/- with an annual subscription of 10/-. This Club issues a guide similar to the Automobile Association Handbook, giving details of camp sites available to members and outlining facilities, e.g., sanitary arrangements, nearest store, and so forth. All good sites have H. and C. washing facilities and lavatory accommodation.

If the site is on a farm, the farmer can usually supply produce to campers and, under normal peacetime conditions, village store-keepers will deliver goods to the site. At one Norfolk site where I have camped, the owner had a cafe on the ground where you could order a meal. In addition, the postman, baker and milkman called at eight o'clock each morning and the site owner would come round and collect orders for groceries. So, you see, camping can be quite easy!

To camp successfully, you must have decent equipment. A good, weather-proof, canvas tent with a fly sheet is ideal. The latter gives additional protection from the rain and, also, keeps the tent cool in hot weather. Camp beds are preferable to ground sheets and mattresses, while valuable space can be conserved by stowing a good deal of luggage underneath. If you do not wish to buy equipment, it can be hired through firms who advertise in the Camping Club Journal.

As to the various domestic articles you will need, such as cooking utensils, do make a careful list of these and tick-off each item as it is packed. For there is nothing worse when you arrive at your site to find that you have left the "Primus" stove at home.

When I go camping I always use a larder. This can be made easily from an old box with a perforated zinc front. If it is fitted with loose shelves, you can use it, also, for packing utensils on "breaking camp."

If you have a car and once petrol for private purposes is available again, you can just throw your gear into the back and wander where you will. If you do not possess a car, your camping equipment can be sent by rail as "luggage in advance."

Try a camping holiday this year. I think you will enjoy it.

H. VIDLER

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GOODBYE TO ALL THAT ...! by Ex-SECTION LEADER DENNIS SMITH

(of "A" 3.W.)

Yesterday I held my last roll call and took off my uniform for the last time. I put my badges into a little box as souvenirs, handed in my equipment, and changed my status from 149783, "A" Division, to plain Mr. Smith of Civvy Street.

For years I had looked forward to this moment, to the day when I should go back to my old profession; yet when the moment came, my elation was mixed with regret at leaving the men with whom I had worked, lived and laughed through the War years.

There are so many things I must re-learn now that I have returned to Civvy Street; so many things to bear in mind. I find myself saluting people when wearing a soft hat, and must remember to tell my mother-in-law (when she pays one of her State Visits) that "lunch is served", and not to bawl out "Come and get it" from the other end of the house. If friends come to stay I must call them in the morning with a gentle tap on the door and cut out the "Wakey, Wakey" business; and, when the pipes freeze, I must forget the famous war-cry of my senoir officers -"Where's the ——water?".

It is seven years since first I signed a form and thereby became an Auxiliary Fireman; almost seven since Column Officer Davies, now Area Establishment Officer, gazed thoughtfully upon my naked body and weighed me on the scales at Central Fire Station, Tyler's Avenue, Southend, and nearly six since my first public appearance in the now familiar uniform, when a dear old lady handed me a 2d. fare on the tram, and a little freckled boy in the corner nudged his pal and said, "He ain't the conductor; he's in the band at Chalkwell Park!"

Then came lectures under Superintendent Collow's eagle eye, the trench digging days of Munich, the out-break of war, and enrolment as a whole-timer with the Leighmen at Elm Road. Those were happy days; and now, as I look back, I remember the early drills with good old "Curly" Emery, squad drill at Kent Elms (with Mr. Soper's comments about picking up our blue-pencil feet), and the inevitable Sunday morning exercises. But best of all were the arguments and discussions, the free interchange of thought that took place round the billet fire on winter nights and lasted until the fire had burned to ash, the last "brew" had been drunk and the clock had long since struck twelve We put the world to rights in the old days, but what is more important, we grew to know and respect each other, as men rarely have the chance of doing in civilian life, and were the better for each others company.

I shall not forget the relief scheme, when we changed stations with the London boys to give them a bit of a rest. We landed up in an unsalubrious corner of Dockland, were billeted in an infants' school and, in addition to learning to wash in the infants' minute basins, increased our repertoire of doubtful songs, and took off our hats to the sheer grit that lay hidden under the rough exteriors of our plimsol-wearing hosts.

Then there were the nights at Thameshaven, when our jets were crimsoned in the light of the burning oil, and men were silhouetted against the flames like the demons of Dante's "Inferno". The thick smoke made us look like Kentucky Minstrels as we consumed cold tea and even colder pies in the coldest of all possible dawns.

A thousand memories break upon the mind: route marches at Anstey on frosty mornings, when we quick-marched down the lanes, and our breath rose like steam as we sang softly the immortal "Rolling" song; 'mashing' with the intakes; doodle-bug jobs; sing-songs and sorrows; dances and drills.

It is great to be doing my old job again, but I know that something inside me will always kindle at the cry of "Fire!", and the smell of charred wood will be with me for many long years to come.

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NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

SEVENTH ISSUE & £1 ISSUE

How they grow in value

-POINTS TO NOTE-

(1) There is no safer security in the world than the Savings Certificate. It has the guarantee of the British Government.

(2) No Income Tax is payable on the interest on Certificates, and the interest they earn need not be included in any Income Tax Return.

(3) Certificates may be bought out-right through a National Savings Group, and at Post Offices, Banks, and War Savings Centres, etc. They may also be bought by Instalments through a National Savings Group or by purchasing Savings Stamps at a Post Office, Trustee Savings Bank, War Savings Centre or Hon. Official Agent.

SEVENTH AND EARLIER ISSUE CERTIFICATES.

No individual may hold normally more than 500 Certificates whether they are:—(a) 15/6 Certificates, First Issue. (b) 16/- Certificates, Second, Third, Fourth or Fifth Issues. (c) 15/- Certificates, Sixth or Seventh Issue, or (d) Conversion Certificates (which were issued in exchange for First Issue Certificates), or any combination of these eight Issues.

Each member of a family may hold Certificates up to a maximum of 500. After short notice, Certificates may be cashed at any time provided the holder is not under 7 years of age, the owner receiving whatever interest is due.

7th Issue Certificates are on Sale in denominations of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 25, 50 and 100 Units.

£I ISSUE CERTIFICATES.

No individual may normally hold more than 250 Certificates of the £1 issue: but he may hold them whether or not he already has a full holding of Certificates of other Issues.

Each member of a family may hold £1 Issue Certificates up to a maximum of 250.

National Savings Certificates (£1 Issue) are not repayable until 90 days after the date on which they were bought. After that date, they can be cashed, on short-notice, provided the holder is not under 7 years of age, the owner receiving whatever interest is due.

£1 Issue Certificates are on sale in denominations of 1, 5, 10 and 50 Units. of are be

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GROWTH IN VALUE OF 7TH ISSUE SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

A NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATE of the Seventh Issue costs 15s. and becomes worth 20s. 6d. in 10 years at the following rate of growth:—

At the end of the first year 3d. interest is added; thereafter $\frac{1}{2}$ d. is added at the end of each completed period of one month up to the end of the tenth year. A bonus of 3d. is added at the end of the fifth year, and a further bonus of 6d. at the end of the tenth year. This represents a rate of interest of £3 3s. 5d. per cent. per annum over the whole period of 10 years.

The Growth in Value of Savings Certificates (Seventh Issue)

	1	T		T				
Value	Certificate	5 Certificates	10 Certificates	25	50	100	500	
after	costs	cost	cost	Certificates	Certificates	Certificates	Certificates	
arter	15/-	£3 15s.	£7 10s.	£7 10s. £18 15s.		£75	£375	
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
year	15/3	3 16 3	7 12 6	19 1 3	38 2 6	76 5 0	381 5 0	
year 4 months	15/5	3 17 1	7 14 2	19 5 5	38 10 10	77 8	385 8 4	
I year 8 months	15/7	3 17 11	7 15 10	19 9 7	38 19 2	77 18 4	389 11 8	
2 years	15/9	3 18 9	7 17 6	19 13 9	39 7 6	78 15 0	393 15 0	
2 years 4 months	15/11	3 19 7	7 19 2	19 17 11	39 15 10	79 11 8	397 18 4	
2 years 8 months	16/1	4 0 5	8 6 10	20 2 1	40 4 2	80 8 4	402 8	
3 years	16/3	4 1 3	8 2 6	20 6 3	40 12 6	81 5 0	406 5 0	
3 years 4 months	16/5	4 2 1	8 4 2	20 10 5	41 0 10	82 1 8	410 8 4	
3 years 8 months	16/7	4 2 11	8 5 10	20 14 7	41 9 2	82 18 4	414 11 8	
4 years	16/9	4 3 9	8 7 6	20 18 9	41 17 6	83 15 0	418 15 0	
4 years 4 months	16/11	4 4 7	8 9 2	21 2 11	42 5 10	84 11 8	422 18 4	
4 years 8 months	17/1	4 5 5	8 10 10	21 7 1	42 14 2	85 8 4	427 8	
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6 years	18/-	4 10 0	9 0 0	22 10 0	45 0 0	90 0 0	450 0 0	
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6 years 8 months	18/4	4 11 8	9 3 4	22 18 4	45 16 8	91 13 4	458 6 8	
7 years	18/6	4 12 6	9 5 0	23 2 6	46 5 0	92 10 0	462 10 0	
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8 years	19/-	4 15 0	9 10 0	23 15 0	47 10 0	95 0 0	475 0 0	
8 years 4 months	19/2	4 15 10	9 11 8	23 19 2	47 18 4	95 16 8	479 3 4	
8 years 8 months	19/4	4 16 8	9 13 4	24 3 4	48 6 8	96 13 4	483 6 8	
9 years	19/6	4 17 6	9 15 0	24 7 6	48 15 0	97 10 0		
9 years 4 months	19/8	4 18 4	9 16 8	24 11 8	49 3 4	98 6 8	487 10 0	
9 years 8 months	19/10	4 19 2	9 18 4	24 15 10	49 11 8	99 3 4	495 16 8	
10 years	20/6	£5 2 6	and the same of th				512 10 0	
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GROWTH in VALUE of £ I ISSUE SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

A National Savings Certificate of the £1 issue costs £1 and becomes worth £1 3s. in 10 years at the following rate of growth:—

At the end of the first year 3d, interest is added and thereafter 1d, is added at the end of each completed period of four months to the end of the tenth year, when a bonus of 6d, is added. This represents a rate of compound interest of £1 8s. 2d. per cent per annum over the whole period of 10 years.

Value at end of	Certificate costs	5 Certificates cost £5	10 Certificates cost £10	50 Certificates cost £50
Ist year	1 1 11 1 2 0 1 2 1 1 2 2 1 2 3 1 2 4	£ s. d. 5 3 8 5 2 6 6 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	11 4 2	56 0 10

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STAMP CORNER

by E. PIERCE

("A" DIVISION HEADQUARTERS.)

In these monthly notes it is my aim to aid the ordinary collector and to let him know which stamps are becoming scarce and what new issues are on order.

Quite a few collectors in the Service are already known to me; but there are many more I should like to know.

The most popular stamps at the moment are British Colonials. Some of these were easy to obtain cheaply at the beginning of the war, but many are now quite expensive and scarce. This fact is apt to discourage many would-be collectors, due to he difficulty of completing sets.

If I were commencing collecting now, I should do so as follows:—firstly, collect all the current sets of George VI to the 3d. value, than add the values to 6d. and finally to 1/-.

The majority of sets to the 3d. value cost, on an average, 1/- each, so that for an expenditure of about 1/- per week, I should have a collection of 52 sets at the end of twelve months.

This collection would have no blank spaces, and would prove of interest to almost anyone, especially as most Colonial stamps are pictorial views of the colony they represent; thereby giving one knowledge of the British Empire.

Then there is the financial side. We all spend money on our hobbies, generally with little prospect of getting it back; with stamp collecting, however, it is different.

Provided that we take care of our stamps, we can always get something for them, and sometimes we can make a profit.

Stamp collecting as a hobby has much to commend it. It gives pride of possession, the lure of the chase, a knowledge of the Empire and the world, and is a good financial investment.

Should any of you require help or advice with regard to starting a collection or in respect of your existing collection, I shall be pleased to help you to the best of my ability.

My tip for this month is: Geo. VI. NYASALAND, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1/-.

Editor's Note.—We welcome Fireman Pierce as a regular contributor to the Magazine; he is an expert on Philately and a member of the Philatelic Traders Society. If you collect stamps, please make yourself known to our writer. Fire Force H.Q. contemplates organising a Philatelic Section, and in "D" there is a small, but keen, "private" club whose few members exchange stamps whenever they meet.

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POCKET BRAINS TRUST

1. Will There be any Need to Keep on Saving when the War is Over?

Yes, both in the national interest and in our own interest.

In the national interest, because the millions of men and women in the Forces and engaged in war production cannot all be released at once to in-

crease production for civilian needs;

Because for some time labour and materials will be short in relation to our needs, and, if more than is necessary of these resources is devoted to consumers' goods, there will not be enough for the production of the capital goods required to restart and re-equip industry, and for the production of goods for export to pay for the imports of food and raw materials which we need;

Because self-control by the public in the matter of spending assists the Government to carry out its declared policy of keeping prices stable and preventing inflation by such means as rationing and price control;

Because Government expenditure arising directly out of the war will decline only gradually and the Government will have heavy liabilities to meet, such as the income-tax post-war credit, the E.P.T. refund, and in connection with the repair of war damage, reconstruction, and social development.

In our own interest, because it is often difficult, when goods are in short supply, to get value for money, and because it is always wise to save from income to provide against our future needs and liabilities and to take advantage of opportunities.

I WONDER WHY?

To be sung to the tune of the popular song—with apologies to Art Noel

I wonder why the Area Magazine has just begun, I WONDER WHY.

I wonder why it's just been thought to put it on the run, I WONDER WHY.

It ought to have been thought of three years ago—or four,
Is it just to find a job for one or two or more?

It'll keep the home fires burning 'til the end of the war—
I WONDER WHY.

Fw. B. Lilley, "A" Div. H.Q.

A TIMID FIREMAN PROPOSES

I've kissed you in the afternoon,
When we've been having tea;
I've kissed you in the evening,
As you have danced with me;
I've kissed you, too, at night time,
When you've been tired and yawning;
But, dear, when will you let me—
Kiss you early morning?

(A.B.)

ADDRESS BY CANON MORROW

(This was given by Canon Morrow in Chelmsford Cathedral to a congregation of full time and part time N.F.S. His Text was Psalm 66, verse 12, "We went through Fire and Water and thou broughtest us into a wealthy place.")

One of the first books I ever remember reading was R. M. Ballentyne's "Fighting the Flames." I well remember the thrill the book gave me, and perhaps more so when I saw the Fire Brigades come out of their Head-quarters drawn by the beautiful, well trained horses, and galloping up Sackville Street, Dublin. No matter what motor transport has done, there will never be anything with such splendour of speed as those engines and hose carriages, with the firemen holding on tight, while the horses galloped as if they were racing.

Strange to say, I was also reminded of these thoughts on reading a review of a book just published, called "The Fire Service." This glamour has passed from us like our fond youth, but we must admit that there has been a decided change for the better.

In 1832, only 112 years ago, the Fire Service was started by the Insurance Companies under the name of "The London Fire Engine Establishment."

In 1866 the Metropolitan Board of Works took over the management under the name of the "Metropolitan Fire Brigade."

In 1888 the London County Council took control, and in 1904 the "London Fire Brigade" came into being. The war changed all this and in 1941 all brigades were welded together under the name of "The National Fire Service."

"We went through Fire and Water and thou broughtest us into a wealthy place."

These words denote the work of the N.F.S. and the result of that work as seen in our protection from fire.

No words can describe the matchless courage and ability of your Services. We all are familiar with singular instances, of the manner in which you (and I would include the Women) braved death and risked your lives in order to save us from danger and, possibly, death. It is a happy idea that you should come for a Service, but, on the other hand, we are glad you have come, for it gives us this opportunity of tending you our deepest thanks for all you have done for us as a Nation. Truly you went through Fire and Water for us, not sparing yourselves, but hurrying at all hours and at all costs to fires caused by Air Raids and other causes and we can truthfully say "thou broughtest us into a wealthy place."

We have been delivered by your bravery and energy, and in the name of God, here in this, His house, we thank you and all the members of the N.F.S.

"We went though fire and water, and thou broughtest us into a wealthy place."

But our text has a trenchant message for us all. Changing the metaphor from the literal to the ideal, there is a sense in which we have passed, and indeed, are passing "through fire and water." By this we mean the scourge of this horrible war, and its consequent afflictions of various kinds to thousands. When we look back at the past years, we are amazed at the Loving Kindness and Protection which our Heavenly Father has shown us time after time. God has saved us from calamities, He has turned away the enemy from our gates. We have been tested and tried "Thou O God has proved us and tried us "and thanks be to His Name. We as a Nation have stood firm. It is because God will not let us down. Like a similar passage in the 43rd chapter Isiah "When thou passest through the water, I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee." Public trials are for the purifying of the Church. National trials are for the purifying of the Nation.

Continued on foot of next page

LETTERS

N.F.S. Column 4 H.Q. B.L.A. 16th March, 1945.

Dear Editor,

First of all do not hold me responsible for any typing errors. I am using a Continental machine that has been "won" and this is my first attempt on a keyboard very different to our machines!

I want to thank you on behalf of all of us ex D Division fellows for the very generous consideration being given to us in the Division. I was pleased to receive the News Sheets and they have been long since read, learned, and inwardly digested by the boys they were intended for. I thought at first that 'Come and Get It' had been disbanded, but I am glad my fears were unfounded.

I also wish to express our thanks for the splendid contributions being made throughout the Division towards the Overseas Fund. Unfortunately the many small stations contributing in such a splendid manner are too numerous for me to thank direct, and I therefore ask you to please bring to their notice that we are aware of their efforts and are very grateful.

No doubt many of you wonder how we are faring. In the time left before I turn in I will advise you. The Column is a very scattered body. It is as well that the crews were compiled bearing in mind their former Divisions or Sub-Divisions, as now the appliances are so scattered that many of the crews have not seen each other since landing. It is a very great responsibility that some of the crews are covering, also they are accommodated in various types of premises. For instance one crew is in a German goods truck. They are very cramped for space, but who cares? They are doing all that is expected from them, and so they are happy. Another crew is living in conditions quite the reverse. They are in a Chateau, the premises are so elaborate that the Section Leader makes the members of the crew remove their boots before entering.

I am afraid that I cannot tell you of the operational side of the Columns work, but I can tell you that Headquarters have received from the U.S. Forces some very good tributes to the excellence of the work done. This has helped a lot in these early days, as we were naturally rather anxious about our associations with the Americans. However, now that we know their ways we are getting on very well. They are sticklers for red tape, but I at any rate had received a fair training in that manner of working since 1941!

So far it has not been possible to arrange much sporting activity for the Column, but in spite of the difficulties a few matches have been played against local teams. Two matches have been won of the four played. Gaul and Punt, late Witham, were enjoying themselves at one match that I saw.

I have not seen many of the D Division boys since they have been deployed at the various risks. I do know, however, that they are well and contented. What we all miss most is up to date news. The newspapers that are fairly fresh with the news are the Stars and Stripes', but we prefer to know what the British are doing in this war and what is happening at home. News, however old it is, is welcome and for this reason we appreciate your drive for books and papers.

All the boys send there best wishes and hope that your present activities are not handicapped by the presence of the objects of enemy origin.

Best wishes to all.

Yours sincerely, A. J. HAMMOND. Company Officer.

Continued from page 16.

Let us see to it in our own lives that we shall accept all these trials as from a Loving Father from whom after we have been tried, we shall receive the Crown of Life.

And, as a reward, we shall be brought into a wealthy place. That is a place of well being, of Freedom to live our lives in his Service and in peace.

To this end let us all consecrate ourselves to God as a living sacrifice . . . Then we shall not fear the future, for God will, in His Good Time, bring us into a wealthy place.

NOTES AND NEWS

SAFFRON WALDREN.

The personnel of "Z" Station received a very pleasant surprise recently when, within 2 hours of returning home, Captain R. Hawkes (formerly L.Fm. at "Z" Station) paid them a visit and with his usual pleasant patter and jokes enlightened the lads with some of his experiences whilst serving with the B.L.A.

His one regret is that he has not yet met over there "Cutter" Housden, who was also attached to this Station, and is now serving in the B.L.A. as a D.R. in the Army Fire Service abroad.

Congratulations Reg upon attaining your presant rank.

Accident-When returning from a Part Time Officers Meeting held at "W" Station a Towing Vehicle driven by P/T Leading Fireman Rogers of "Z" Station, with Company Officer Harding, P/T S.L. Halls and L/Fm. Jeffrey as passengers, was involved in a head-on collision with a skidding six wheeled U.S. Army truck, which had attempted to overtake a small stationary van at Ugly near Stansted. By a miraculous turn of events no one was killed, and when the occupants of the Towing Vehicle had sorted themselves out from the ditch and the remnants of the car, it was discovered that S. L. Halls, who had been sitting in the rear seat, had sustained a badly lacerated lip, some teeth knocked out and some broken. This was caused by him being pitched forward and striking his face on the rear of the front seat. His injuries necessitated treatment at the General Hospital, Saffron Walden and later he was allowed to proceed to his home.

The remainder of the occupants were badly shaken up, but fortunately not injured. The Towing Vehicle was wrecked, but naturally the offensive

truck was not damaged.

"For Whom the Bell Tolls." Big delayed laugh at a new Station recently. Everyone's nerves on edge trying to get accustomed to the various rings on bells that summons people, plus the more serious long ring of a turn out. . . . then all becomes quiet on the Station and the lads begin to relax then suddenly a long, persistent bell a turn out!

Men race out of the mess room and along to their appliances and quickly dress as the engines are started up and the Section Leader dashes to the Control Room hatch and throws it open.

S.L. (breathless): "Where to?"
Telephonist (calm): "What are you talking about?"
S.L. (impatiently): "Where's the fire?"
Telephonist: "What fire?"
S.L. "The bells have just gone down—where is the fire?"

Telephonist: "We haven't touched the bells—Have you heard any bells Gwen?" Gwen (in Mobilising Room): "Bells? What are they?"

Eventually dazed S.L. withdraws and asks impatient crews to return to Mess Room. Crews, slightly annoyed, stamp back, muttering about unreliability of girls in Control and there on the Mess Room table they observe an alarm clock and a grey-haired Leading Fireman reading the paper with a strange look on his face. ,

A bartender was talking to his one and only customer when another thirsty individual walked in and ordered a Martini. He drank the Martini quickly, smacked his lips over the olive, and slowly and deliberately began to nibble at the edges of the glass.

When he had eaten it down to the stem, with obvious relish, he paid the dazed bartender and walked out.

After his strange customer had gone, the bartender turned to the other customer. "Did you see that?" he asked in amazement. "The guy's crazy, eating that glass right down to the stem."

The customer nodded his head. "Crazy as a loon; just plain nuts..... why, the stem's the best part."

(Guy Lombardo in The American,)

COMING OF AGE

Fw. Doreen Lay, on 15th January. Key of the door, given by the residents of a bombed out house, was presented to her by the boys of D. 2. X (Ongar.)

ENGAGEMENTS
Fw. Ruth Harrington of "D" D.H.Q. (Chelmsford) to Driver Johnnie Reed, R.A.C.S., B.L.A. 3rd January.

Fw. Allin of D.3.Z. (Saffron Walden) to Flight Sergeant Taylor, Air Gunner, R.A.F., on 13th January.

L. Fw. Forby of D.3.Z. to P/T Fm. Housden, on 3rd January. Fw. Rosina Lord, F.F.H.Q. (Catering), to Mr. James Welbourn.

WEDDINGS

Fw. Lena Beadle of D.2.X. to Mr. J. Street, at Stanford Rivers Church, on 23rd December.

Senior L.Fw. Sheila Firth of "D" D.H.Q., to Lt. James Alan Shoubridge R.A., S.E.A.C., on 25th January at St Mary, Shenfield.

L.Fw. Gladys Westlake of D.2.Z. to L/Cpl. Walter A. Eagle, R.C.O.S., (formerly D.R. at 2.Z. Brentwood), on 8th February, at St. Thomas' Church, Brentwood.

Fw. Elizabeth Adamson of "D" D.H.Q. to T/Sgt. Stanley Obradovich (Indiana) U.S.A. Army, at St. Michael's Church, Gidea Park.

DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

W/Bdr. Kenneth Albert Strauch, R.A., attached R.A.F. and late Brentwood Fire Service, died of wounds on the Western Front, 15th March.

N.F.S. AID R.A.F.

The value of First Aid training for firemen was again demonstrated recently at Dunmow when an airman was knocked down by a cyclist late at night and received head injuries.

He was taken into the Dunmow Fire Station, where L.Fm. Binks, who had recently passed his preliminary First Aid exam, rendered the necessary treatment. After the somewhat severe wounds had been cleaned and dressed. and the "patient" given hot tea, he had recovered sufficiently to proceed to his station.

The great need for First Aid training has made itself apparent during the many "incidents" that we have had in this Area, for often the firemen are the first to arrive on the scene and those with a knowledge of First Aid have been able to render valuable assistance to the injured people. Many a life has been saved and injuries considerably minimised through prompt and expert handling of casualties.

From L.Fm. Redix, First Aid Instructor in "D" Division, we have the following list of personnel who have qualified for the preliminary examination :- Lewis Shiner, Maxie Clarke, Leslie Lilley, Jack Reynolds, Gladys Hollis, Arthur Woolard, Frank Willey, Reginald Smith, Gerald Thorne.

1st Telephonist: "I'd like to kick that Leading Firewoman in the pants." 2nd Telephonist: "She doesn't wear pants."

1st Telephonist: "So much the better."

Coy. O. "What are you two Firemen doing?"

Fm. "Us? Oh - er - taking this ladder down to the drill ground."

Coy. O. "Ladder? What ladder?"

Fm. "Blimey, Bill! we forgot the ladder!"

Coy. O. (to Fireman): "How dare you swear before the Column Officer." Fm. "I'm sorry, Sir, I didn't know he wanted to swear first."

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OUT OF THE BREATHING BAG

By PROFESSOR PROTOSORB.

"D" Division is gradually becoming more "B.A. Minded." Reports show that Breathing Apparatus is being used at fires to a much greater extent—and why not? Isn't it far better to slip on a B.A. set and get in to the job without coughing or choking and perhaps discover that although there is a lot of smoke only a small fire is the cause (which can be dealt with by a Hose Reel), than to pour hundreds of gallons of water on to clouds of smoke and do more harm than good, whilst the heart of the fire burns merrily on?

The following personnel from D.5.Z. (Maldon) qualified as B.A. Operators recently: Coy. O. Coleman, L. Fm. Cuthbert and Warder, Fm. Dedman, Coker, Cooper and Leatherdale, and the Professor feels sure that they are all eagerly awaiting their first chance to wear B.A. on an actual job.

EXIT " D " SOCIAL CLUB

By PAULINE WARBOYS.

The Social Club of "D" Division H.Q. held its Farewell Social and Dance at Station 1Z, Market Road, Chelmsford, on Friday, 9th March and, as can be well imagined, there was a hint of sadness amongst the fun and jollity of the evening. Music was supplied by a section of the "D" Division Dance Band and was thoroughly enjoyed, especially by the visitors, who included men and women of the Forces, Nurses, Munition Workers and personnel of nearby Stations.

Refreshments were provided by the Committee and a raffle of a pot of honey (kindly given by S. L. Evitt) and a box of toilet soap was won by a charming Munition Worker.

Col. O. Bowden was present and made a very touching farewell speech, thanking the Committee and all concerned for their co-operation in the past.

The Committee would like to thank all the Stations in Chelmsford that kindly offered accommodation for our Socials after the unfortunate loss of our own Recreation Hut at D.H.Q. due to enemy action, and also to thank Officers in Charge, (particularly Coy. O. Robinson of Station 1Z,) for their kind co-operation in helping to make these Social functions the huge success that they were. Whilst saying all these "thank-yous," the Secretary would like to take this opportunity of thanking personally Group Officer Veale for her loyalty and help to this Club, to Section Leader Evitt for all his untiring "services rendered" as an indubitable Master of Ceremonies, and to Section Leader Stead and Fm. Calver for their help and support, in fact, a big "thank you" to the Committee generally. Before winding up all these "thanks," the Committee is also eager to thank Fw. Rosie Lord and Bette Adamson, L.Fm. Redix, Coy. O. Cook and S. L. James, S. L. Hebron and His Horrors, John Braun, Fw. Bruce and Hare, and numerous other people who have so kindly entertained us all in the past with their own individual items. Coy. O. Wyatt is well to the fore on the list of "thank-yous" and the Committee wishes to convey to him sincerest appreciation of all that he has done for the Club.

This Social Club has been in operation since June 1944 and has held numerous Socials, whist drives and dances. One of the most successful socials was that held at the Recreation Hut, Divisional H.Q. on 30th November last, when the ex-D Division personnel of the Overseas Contingent turned up en bloc!

Many successful dances were held at the Public Hall Witham, which proved to be a popular place.

So the happy Club comes to a close, but may we add that we have the fervent hope that all the many friendships made during the course of its reign may continue to thrive unceasingly throughout many years to come.

BENEVOLENT FUND

By C. A. BREWER.

Since the last edition of this Magazine the new "D" Divisional Council has been elected and they will cover the whole of "D" as we know it, until instructions are received to the contrary.

Chairman, Mr. Davis; Treasurer and Secretary, Mr. Brewer; Assistant Secretary, Mr. Savage. Mrs. Veale, Miss Openshaw, Mrs. Baker (part time representative), Mr. Green (Ingatestone), Mr. Linn (Chelmsford), Mr. Hull (Brentwood) and Mr. Everett (Saffron Walden).

If financial assistance, due to sickness and hardships, is necessary, all personnel, full time and part time, men and women, simply have either to communicate with their officer-in-charge or direct to "Pendennis," Springfield, Chelmsford, when their case will be dealt with confidentially on its merits.

During January and February, 1945, £72 10s. 0d. was paid out to various members in this Division.

No. 11 Area Council dealt with 98 cases during the year and the following totals were confirmed for payment:

Sickness					•••			£ 635		d. 0
Hardship		•••						121		
Death and	Orphan	s' Allo	wance	•••	•••	1000	•••	622	16	0
								0.000		
Between Febru	arv 15th	and	Decem	her 3	1et 10	4.4.		£1,379	13	0
Between Febru Orphan Al	ary 15th lowances	and in th	Decem e Lond	ber 3	1st, 19	44 : amount	ted to	£1,379 2684		0
Between Febru Orphan Al Orphan Al	lowances	in th	e Lond	on R	egion :	amoun	ted to		16	

A special point of interest to all readers, especially widows whose husbands have died from natural causes since 18th August, 1941, is that The National Benevolent Council have agreed to pay out the Orphan Allowance of 4/- per week from December 1st, 1944. New forms will have to be signed and birth certificates no doubt produced. It is hoped that these payments will commence immediately.

Charles A. Brewer

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STAMP ALBUMS, Stanley Gibbons The New Ideal Album interleaved: British Empire, No. 2805; Foreign Vol. A—J, No. 2806; Foreign Vol. K—Z, No. 2807. New or good second-hand. A. Dunn, Osmington, Coombe Rise, Shenfield.

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FENDER, Fire-side. 20"x86". Box 48
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ARTICLES FOR SALE

THE INSURANCE STUDENT'S BOOK. Embracing the principal subjects of the examination of the Chartered Insurance Institute, including 10 sections dealing with Fire Insurance in all its branches. 490 pages interleaved with ruled pages for notes. 5/-.— Box 56.

BOOKS. Cassell's French-English English-French Dictionary 3/6 Good condition.—Box 19.

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MUSIC. "Allan's Reels, Strathspeys and Dance Music of Scotland." Bound volume. 2/6.— Box 54.

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