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"Brought Forward"

2ND INTERIM REPORT
WARTIME EDITION.

TO ALL STAFF OF BOGNOR REGIS U.D.C.
SERVING IN HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES

DECEMBER
1944

ALSO AVAILABLE TO STAFF IN BOGNOR REGIS - PRICE 6d. PER COPY

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Town Hall,
BOGNOR REGIS,
Christmas, 1944.

Dear Members,

It is indeed a very great honour to be elected the President of the Branch for a second time, and I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of this honour.

My last year of office was in 1940 when we looked forward hopefully (but, as it has been proved, with very forlorn hopes) to a speedy end of hostilities. Now, in the sixth year of War I think we have far more justification to expect the end of the War in Europe at any rate, and during the year I hope to have the privilege of welcoming back home some of those members who are now serving in His Majesty's Forces.

The end of the War in Europe will herald a period during which our efforts will be concentrated on picking up the threads of life where we dropped them in 1939 and this will be no easy matter. Many grandiose schemes of reconstruction are in the chrysalis stage and it will demand the co-operation of everybody to bring some, if not all, of such schemes to fruition.

The Association has in recent years had an ever increasing influence on local government affairs and this influence will increase rather than diminish and will be for the benefit of its individual members.

Let us one and all see to it that we back up our Association in every possible way. May 1945 be a year of happiness and prosperity for us all.

Yours sincerely,

Hubert Annis

President.

SERVICE RECORD

News and Views of our Members on Active Service.

"When you want to cheer your spirits, consider the excellences of those about you - one so effective, another so unassuming, another so open-handed, and so on and so on. Nothing is more cheering than exemplifications of virtue in the characters of those about us, suggesting themselves as copiously as possible. We should keep them always ready to hand." - Marcus Aurelius.

MISS I. ALEXANDER - Healthy and cheerful as ever, - Miss Alexander breezed into the Town Hall some few weeks back and we were very glad to see her. She is still in the A.T.S. and now works at Tunbridge Wells.

R.J. BRIODY - During the invasion of France Bob had his share, and more, of excitement. With the detached undramatic air that he has used many times in discussing the merits or demerits of drainage systems with local builders, he recounted to us the dangers which had to be contended with while "standing off" the Normandy beaches. "We had two human torpedoes and three boats full of explosives one night" he said. Was it "two" or "four"? - we cannot remember - enough to make us hope that Bob has seen the last of the things. Latest news is that we have been able to enjoy his company at Christmas time here in the offices.

R.A. BROUGHTON - Now a Pilot Officer, has recently changed his job and is now with a Squadron with the M.E.F. He does not actually say what the new job is but he says it is a welcome change. He writes (to the President) :- "... My warrant came through in August, back-dated to the 1st May so I now have six months' back pay to collect (at 2/3 per day !!)" He also writes (at the beginning of November) :- "... I managed to spend two days in Jerusalem during August - this was very interesting - the weather too was excellent. In September I spent 4 days resting at Mersa-Matruh, the bathing there was very good. Last month I managed two days in Alexandria - the bathing there was fair but the food was very expensive. This sounds all very nice - like a Cook's tour - but its only eight days in about the past eight months actually, and believe me the weather can be very trying here, especially during July, August and September. We had some rain last week - the first for six months!!!".

MISS H. R. BROWN - Helen Brown is still in Kent. She writes, "I have been out on convey duty starting off at 5.30 in the morning, spending the night sleeping in the Q.M. stores where we had to keep watch during the night to scare the mice away. We are quite a happy crowd of girls which makes Army life bearable. I hope to be home next month for my ten days leave - looking forward to that. I have a new job now for a while in the Quartermasters' stores. By the way, I saw Iver Renwick who used to be at the Town Hall. He is still in Ireland and married."

H.W.J. DABSON - We confess that it's partly our fault that we have no up-to-date news from Jack. But from his family, we learn that he is still in India or thereabouts. A recent letter to home states that he had changed his location and was doing a different job. What it is, and where, are military secrets only to be told after the War. So it seems that there's nothing very much more to tell you unless we imagine it. Of course that isn't very hard as we can guess that the essential "Dabby" would exist in even the remotest corner of the world. Anyway, after he's read through this section first - "just to see what those cheeky blighters at home have got to say about me" and after he's accepted our friendliest greetings he will no doubt turn with more real interest to read about the others. Best wishes to you, old chap, and hope it isn't too hot for you.

K. DAVIES - Keith Davies is now in Italy (Naples) in the R.A.M.C. He has been out in North Africa for some time having gone there from Northern Ireland. After a period of serious illness Keith again took up laboratory work. Mrs Davies tells us that "Keith spent his leave at Bari, a port on the Adriatic Coast, to which he flew from Naples in an American plane. He is in fairly good health, although he had a bout of dysentery some couple of months ago, but he had quite recovered when I last heard".

B. FREAK - There are a lot of interesting things to tell you about Peter who is with the British Forces in France and has been somewhere near Rheims. "I've seen what was left at Caen. The destruction is unbelievable; one section is completely razed. The only way to make a street is to use some bull-dozers". "I've been fortunate enough to have paid Paris a visit. The town is full of people and the women especially are very smartly dressed. It's the first place of any size where I've seen so many private cars in use. However, they still use these bicycle taxis. They are a small cabin on two wheels and connect on to the rear of the bike. They carry two people so I don't appreciate the job of the fellow pulling that load. I visited the Arc de Triomphe and underneath it the unknown soldier's grave. We also saw the Eiffel Tower. This is a stupendous affair, but to me seems quite useless. Yet the whole thing in some peculiar way doesn't look out of place". "I had my first close up of some of the master race the other day. One or two looked about fourteen and a few weddy looking specimens. Mr. Hitler's blue-eyed boys were conspicuous by their absence". "You will be glad to hear that we have moved into our winter quarters and have left our muddy fields behind. We are in a chateau, which is nothing more or less than a large house in one of the local villages". "The people are quite friendly in a quiet way. I haven't yet seen an excitable Frenchman".

T.N. GIBSON - For the first time we have heard from Norman Gibson who is now in an R.A.O.C. Sub-Depot in Dumfriesshire, which we found to be in Scotland. He writes, "I have been wandering about the north quite a bit and have landed here. I'm afraid my impressions on the old phrase "Bonnie Scotland" have been rather damped as this part at any rate is most bleak and uninteresting. Of course I needn't mention the weather a gale on Bognor front is like a breeze compared with what we get up here - we are just on the edge of the Solway Firth. At an E.N.S.A. show not long ago who should come to entertain us but Roden and the

Cornford Bros. Very nice to see them again. Give my good wishes to any old friends who still remain and let's hope we shall all be back to normal soon".

T.L. GOZNEY - Life can be ironic at times. Len Gozney is now at Nalgo's Holiday Camp at Braunton in North Devon! The Council are trying to obtain Len's release from the Army, but the position is best explained in his own words. "In brief, with the projected breaking up of my Unit and the reduction in my medical category, leaves me with absolutely no prospect in the army and the sooner I get out the better. Many of our chaps went off only last Saturday bound for France to undertake Garrison duties. To be left behind, as I was, just about settles it for me, for the idea of "touring" France appealed vastly to me. So that is the position at the moment" We quite agree, and extend our sympathy to him, hoping that he will soon be with us again.

R.E. GRAY - Ron has been back from Malta for a year now and is now stationed in Kent and as before is in the Ops. Dept. We occasionally see him now on leave when he comes home to Bognor - that is to say when he doesn't bring a cold home with him to get rid of. Anyway, we gather that colds or no, the English climate is preferable to that of Malta. We hear that he carries on the good work of singing and is in an R.A.F. show at Christmas. When interviewed recently he stated that he was definitely of the opinion that it was about time "they" let him come and do his committee-clerking in Bognor Regis. We hope "they" will.

K.H. HALSTEAD - It was quite a shock to receive a letter from Kenneth direct from Barnoldswick, and a few days later we were giving him a conducted tour of the Departments of the Town Hall. Despite his long sojourn in dusty South Africa he was quite recognisably one of our long lost colleagues and you know when people you imagined were about 6,000 miles away suddenly poke their head round the office door you begin to feel that the chaps in India and Africa aren't so far away after all. What one can do, so ought the others. Kenneth has now gone to Buckinghamshire. As to his experience in South Africa - well you know how it is we don't seem able to record any accurate verbal descriptions. The place is hot, dusty and miles from anywhere - at any rate the place where Kenneth had to spend most of his time. He appears to have taken a keen interest in political events in the Union and has a considerable fund of knowledge on this subject. But when asked if he was going to migrate to S. Africa after the war, the answer received was in the negative.

T. H. JONES - Tom Jones is now a Sergeant Air Gunner in the R.A.F. and has completed his training. We were fortunate in seeing him quite a bit recently and he came along to the Nalgo Annual General Meeting where we were pleasantly surprised and somewhat shaken to find that he took quite a lively interest in the meeting. This is as it should be - and it makes us long for the time when more of his comrades will be here to show us how to run things and even do the running of them. Thanks Tom - your interest encourages us. Meanwhile, we hope to see you again at Christmas and - don't forget to bring some mistletoe along with you!

D.B. KNOWLES - Dick has written us with commendable frequency and energy despite the difficulties of climate. He is now a Captain in the R.E.'s in India. We take the liberty (rather frequently taken in this journal) of quoting from a reasonably recent letter from Dick. You will understand, we hope, that the strain under which he is living demands the legitimate use of basic English. "Dear ---, It's bloody hot Latest news from Italy is that my brother is sharing a tent with Thorpe! Since I started writing this it's been raining cats and dogs. Sounds a bit queer when it is so hot I know. It'll put the temperature down for a while but in the morning it'll be as hot as blazes again. Cheerio for now". Of course, such an extract hardly does justice to Dick, but we think he has described the essentials of Indian climate. We hope it's better for you now Dick and that you may soon be sampling a bit of real olde English summer frost. More up-to-date news of Dick is that he had the misfortune to discover a discarded snake skin in his bed, while furthermore, the snake itself was discovered several days later in the bedroom. A disturbing experience to put it mildly.

H. LAVINGTON - We've heard very recently from Capt. Lavington and from his wife who states that she is proud to say that her husband "is now Camp Engineer to 'Monty' and thoroughly enjoys his work". Capt. Lavington himself writes:- "I've been over here for the past six months and find it quite good especially now as we are in a grand spot and I don't mind if I spend the rest of the war here. My job at the moment is Camp Engineer to this H.Q. which of course includes Monty and I have to build his camps and generally make him comfortable. He only has to ask for anything and its up to me to produce - just like that. There is no question of saying its impossible; I can have an aircraft if necessary. I haven't slipped up yet but it has been pretty hectic in the past. I remember just before 'D' day I had the job of loading his car on to a tall waterproofed vehicle which involved making a ramp for his car to drive up and down, etc. I was given 24 hours to produce and get the car on and I did in in 18 which included collecting the necessary timber etc. Yes, life can be really hectic at times. I have recently had to produce map boards and curtains with electric light etc. for the chief within 24 hours but I have some damn good men who are not a bit surprised when I call them out at any old time to pull something right out of the hat, but I feel as he is doing a good job of work in winning the war he deserves to be comfortable. Gray was right. I did leave Malta last November and went back to Port Said and Cairo and much to my joy I found I was going home; it took six weeks including a crash in the Suez Canal and a rather long wait at Augusta, Sicily, but eventually made it and arrived in Leicester at 3.30 a.m. one Sunday morning in December - not the best time to arrive from a hot climate. After a lot of rushing about England I found myself in my present job i.e. Camp Engineer to Main H.Q. I also managed to put up the other pip so am now Captain; it was a bit overpowering at first being simply snowed under with Major Generals etc, but now I'm quite used to it. Some people in the army seem to be tied to England, but for me its just the opposite. I can never stay in the place. According to present Demob scheme I find I'm due for 42 days paid leave (i.e. 1 day a month for service abroad). 42 months away is rather a long time during which I've visited 11 countries and am about to enter my 12th. Since arriving

on Normandy beaches I've had a grand time, particularly this last month as we have had a terrific rush across Europe; it's been really inspiring as we were in the 'wash' of the actual liberators and received a terrific welcome in every town.

The last time I saw Bognor was from a Dakota aircraft. I flew over from France on a special job and we cruised almost over the top of Aldwick Bay Estate. It looked very peaceful indeed, but however nice it seemed I would have hated to have landed and stayed in Bognor with the war still on as I would have had the terrible feeling of being out of things. I hope in the not too distant future to arrive in Berlin and then with a bit of luck I may come home. By the way, you may have heard the local joke that B.L.A. stands for "Burma looms ahead". I hope it doesn't in my case.

All the best for Christmas and regards to the staff who can dimly remember me".

H.D. PEAKE - After about two years in the Seychelles Islands in the Indian Ocean Deryck Peake has gone to Colombo in Ceylon where he is Assistant Civil Engineer to the Admiralty. Mrs. Peake writes that he finds his work interesting though he cannot divulge its nature. From those who have heard from Deryck we learn that he is hot but cheerful and being kept plentifully busy. He anticipates being out east for at least another year but thinks this will be long enough to satisfy him.

J.W. PEARSON - Although it is some months since we heard from Major John Pearson his letter is well worth reproducing in part. When he wrote, John was in the Middle East Staff College, M.E.F.

"From February to date I have been living in very peaceful conditions in Palestine and I shall be loathe to leave. It is a very pleasant country but is full of many big problems which most people know of but few are prepared to speak on and give feasible solutions. Undoubtedly it will be one of our biggest headaches after the war.

As I spent from September '43 until February in Sicily and Italy both in the battle and liberated areas, I will give you my impressions of the conditions there - you rather suggest that I should.

I shall speak generally about Italy although I think my remarks equally apply to Sicily. I was with the first to land at Taranto, an invasion you hear very little about, and undoubtedly the people there were short of commodities like bread and meat, but they were by no means starving. Within a matter of days we had re-organised the food distribution and everyone had a little bread and meat rather than a few getting a lot. All the local food was going to the Army and Navy (Italian) who were stuffing themselves at the expense of the local population. At this stage I spent a few days in an Italian hospital where I had the same food as the Italian Service personnel. Although it was quite a strange type of food, I found that I had more than enough although I would mention that the Italian's appetite is far bigger than an Englishman's. Here I went back to Sicily in the ill-fated "Penelope" and saw conditions after occupation by the Allies. Black market was being heavily penalised and food was really plentiful. One could go out into the local towns and buy a meal including steaks, eggs etc. at a very reasonable price. This was by no means possible when we first invaded Sicily. I returned to Italy in October and lived in the country near Bari to convalesce. I made good use of this time

to visit and feed with the local population both in the local farms and villages. The farmers I found very industrious but working with very crude implements. Not once did I see a tractor on a farm. Women worked on the farms and did just as hard work as the men. As in England, there was no shortage of food in the farms and it was quite easy to buy a lamb or a kid much cheaper than you could buy in England. These country people were very generous and had no great interest in the war. Fascism had certainly not reached them. In the towns and villages conditions were very slightly different and as soon as the Fascist Mayor had been ousted local government continued to function quite efficiently and generally speaking the local authority was very willing to co-operate and assist in any way possible. You mention in your letter that the local population were living on apples, figs and nuts - this is no indication of a food shortage because they do form quite a big part of the Italians' staple diet. As regards the rate of exchange of the £1. it sounds high and probably is, but as in all the countries I have been to in the Mediterranean, there are two prices, one for the soldier and one for the local population, and this particularly applies to luxury goods of which there was no shortage in the country. Of course you will realise that these are my own impressions and other people who have been there may have quite different ideas."

We make no apology for quoting at length from John's letter and only wish we had letters like this from the others.

J.H.E. PIPER - It's quite a little while since we heard from John, but from his home we learn that he has been in Kent but has now gone 'North' again. Previous to this we are informed that he has been in Yorkshire as an O.F.C. on H.A.A. sites - whatever that may mean. A difficulty of trying to get out a magazine of news of our friends in the forces is that we must publish it some time, so even though we're daily expecting news of John, we're afraid it will come too late - for this issue.

C.E. POWELL - The news we have of 'Charlie' Powell is recent and recounted personally. This is to the effect that he has been engaged for some time in R.E.M.E. on a gun-site dealing with "doodle-bugs". So far, and that wasn't in a long period, he reported that they'd brought one down. As you may know the work is now night work in all sorts of weather and he is in about the remotest spot possible. More inaccessible and remote than you'd think any place could be in one of the 'Home Counties'. Charlie is an electrician - no doubt this will show him how to put a spark into his publicity work when he has finished shooting down the robots.

G.H. READ - George is off overseas again. As usual we don't know where nor exactly when. He has had his embarkation leave, during which we saw him in the Town Hall with his wife. He looked well and happy. Having for some time been stationed not very far away he wasn't of course very keen to leave this part of the country, especially because of its relative nearness to Worthing where his wife is living. We'll hope that he too will not be long away from home.

S.O. SELSBY - Steve has written in to the office for the second time from the mainland of Europe, but in what different circumstances now! "I am now in another country - somewhere in Belgium - hence a bit of delay in the receipt and despatch of mail" he says, and after that doesn't divulge much about his own activities or how he's feeling. Nevertheless, we are glad to get this news from him and to know that all's well.

C. SMART - Now he's where he was before (you remember) in the Royal Army Pay Corps. From the flavour of the letter he has written us we can be left in no doubt that our old friend - 'old' in terms of length of friendship (not basic age) - our old friend exists in quite a happy frame of mind. "If it was not for the confounded church parades Sunday morning it would be quite a nice life" he writes. Yes, we suppose that there always will be something you've got to put up with when you're in the Army, even when in the Pay Corps. Mr. Smart hopes to be able to see us at Christmas time - we expect he's hoping for something else as well.

P. SMITH - We have only a vague idea of the locality of Peter Smith but he has/is gone/ going out east by now and being attached to the American Naval Forces (or is he?) it seems that he will be not far off the battle zones for the third time in his flying career. As far as we are able to trace with but limited time at our disposal Peter has until recently been in action in northern waters. After that we saw him at home quite a bit in the summer, but now again he writes:- "Just now I feel a little bit 'down' on account of lots of horrible inoculations and vaccinations and things we are again having given to us I'm sure just to damp our spirits, - but it won't last for long. Now and again I get very homesick and long for the smell of wet earth in November at home, or the melancholy sighing of the wind behind closed windows at night. Can you remember peace time? I'm afraid it is beyond my power."

Best of luck to you, Peter. You are having your share of it all and we hope that you'll be back smelling around the English countryside a lot sooner than you expect.

R. STEVENS - The news of Roy is a little hazy for at the moment we believe that he is changing occupation or locality. Hitherto Roy has been in a Drawing Office at a maintenance Unit R.A.F. Middle East, where he was transferred after passing a test. Otherwise direct news of him is scanty. Our latest news of Roy is that he is now posted back to England and has been in to see us.

F. G. TURNER - Geoffrey writes to us from Athens where he is by all accounts having an enjoyable time. "Our first month in Athens has simply flashed by. We had a simply wonderful reception from the people and they have taken us to their hearts in every way. The big difficulty is to have a moment to oneself - you've got to be rude to refuse most of the invitations and they average about a dozen each day. Last Sunday I went to the Acropolis to visit the Parthenon. The ruins rather left me cold, but what a marvellous view there is from the top of the hill. It is six to eight hundred feet high with the sea to the south and the mountains to the north

November in the Country.

How does one start to write about the country? And why ask me? Presumably living south of the Downs is considered a qualification but, lacking the ready pen and wit of the Townsman, it seems an unfair request. When the day is spent in the urban district, opportunity for observing the countryside is restricted to the daily hurried bike ride to and from the station and the view from the railway carriage window. Certainly idly looking out of my office window (as usual) has enabled me to note the last two swallows circling around the Town Hall as late as 7th November.

Quite a lot can be observed from the carriage window. Before the war it was seldom a hare or two could not be seen between Bognor and Barnham, now such things are very rare, in fact all kinds of game and rabbits seem to be in short supply.

The scene is always changing, imperceptibly as is Nature's way. To-day the meadows are partly flooded and owing to the tilt of the train the water appears on the slant; a couple of swans make their appearance and to-morrow they are not there - but a jack heron instead, standing on one leg in the ditch. It's doubtful if what he catches justifies his long flight from his home near Storrington. An accident of light may show up the young springing corn which had not been noted before, nor can its having been sown be remembered. The straw left by the combine harvester too, has quietly disappeared partly by being hidden by the growing grass and partly eaten by the herd of Dutch cows turned on to the stubble. The old chestnut horse about half way along, seems not to change tho', except maybe he is resting one leg instead of scratching his rear end on a post.

Well, about the country. Broadly it is very wet and as always, beautiful. The rain not only fills the ditches, it also accentuates the brilliance of what autumn foliage remains and where the light catches the wet road at the bend in my lane, the scattered gold leaves appear to float on its surface. The foliage this year has seemed more brilliant than ever and very loth to make room for next year's buds. Its fall has greatly exposed the antics of the grey squirrel whose tribe has greatly increased of late years. Other mischievous things such as jays and magpies also have greatly increased their numbers. In spite of the bountiful crop of acorns there are very few wood pigeons. Some say the mild weather keeps them inland t'other side of the hills.

And it is mild, as never before at this time of the year. Even the birds seem tricked into believing it's time to think of nesting and produce such a chorus in the mornings as is usually associated with April. Thrushes are in full song. Truly Nature seems to have been infected by the general topsy turveydom of things in general - no doubt due, according to the venerable ancient cutting the reeds out of the roadside ditch, to the putting on of the clocks which never did do no good to nobody.

On my table there is an almost perfect pink rose picked from the garden.

All very wrong, but I do hope it continues comfortably warm through the winter!

XX

P E R S O N A L .

G.A.GUTSELL. We are in a bit of a quandary as to how to describe Geoffrey - we can't put him in any fixed category, permanent or temporary. But in any case why should we have to worry about labelling him? Good enough for him that he still remains a Nalgo member, pays his superannuation and hopes to return to the Town Hall - one day. He is the successor to Freak in the Rates Office and after being called up last August has undergone that process known as 'infantry training', in the Royal Sussex Regiment. However, he looked well enough a few days ago as he beamed his way into the office, beamingly shook hands all round and then beamed his way out again.

MISS. P.N.BEVAN. Formerly of the Public Health Department, joined F.A.N.Y. and works in the French Section. It is likely that she is in France now.

G.W.HASSALL. Mr. Hassall retired on the 8th August last, but he's still interested, we know, to hear from you. If you haven't got his address, it's "Cophorne", Church Lane, Bognor Regis. When we last saw him, he seemed quite merry and "Not getting on too badly, how about yourself"? He becomes the first retired member of our Branch - a doubtful honour - very.

H.F.LEA. has settled down happily in his new job as Water Engineer to Halifax Corporation and is engrossed in the problem of preventing a slipping dam from slipping any further.

F.L.LOVETT. - Freddy to you, and most of us, left in September to take up a job with the Chichester City Council. He appears to be happy there and finds plenty of interesting work to do. We were very sorry to see him leave us especially as he would have been our N.A.L.G.O. President this year.

T.B.SMITH. has now the rank of Pilot Officer and works in the Air Ministry Headquarters at Bush House. He is also to be congratulated for he now has a son, Nigel.

A.E.TAYLOR. Bert Taylor writes from India in September saying "I'm out of Burma at present, indulging in a spot of rest and relaxation away from Japs. and the jungle and jitters generally. Please give my regards to Mr. Fear and the staff - such of them as are still there".

E.THORPE. is in the C.M.F. in Italy and has been in touch with RAYMOND KNOWLES. The latter is one of the lucky ones to be drawn out of the hat under the new leave scheme and is expected home in the next few days.

THE YOUTH HOSTELS ASSOCIATION.

The Youth Hostels Association was founded in 1930 as a voluntary Organisation run by its own members, on a non-political and non-sectarian basis and is 'not a business undertaken for profit'.

Its objects are to provide, at small cost, accomodation for cyclists, hikers, etc. and for this purpose has established Hostels in all parts of England and Wales. An annual handbook is published at 8d. giving details of every hostel, including particulars of messing and sleeping accomodation. Most hostels provide breakfast and supper, and a packed lunch if desired. Where these are not provided, facilities for cooking are generally available.

Each Hostel is managed by a Warden who shares the work with the guests as no staff is employed. This takes about an hour of one's time and is not much inconvenience, especially when considered in relation to the economy effected. Peeling potatoes, washing and generally tidying up form most of the duties shared.

The membership fee is 7/0 per annum for persons over 21, 3/6 for those under. As the cost per night is a standard charge of 1/- with meals at the same price each, nothing further need be added to show how economical such a holiday can be.

In my own case, economy was not the only factor concerned on joining but also the certainty of obtaining some place whereon to lay my weary head, which place would most certainly be needed, were I so rash as to undertake the hazards of holidays even, let alone a cycle-tour in war time.

This seeming rashness did come about. So wonderful a tale had I spread of the wondrous charm and beauty of my native land - Hen wlad f'yn Nhadau - that no refusal was possible to Mr. Boyce's proposal that we test this out by touring the district on bikes. Acquiescence was easy - too easy in winter. As summer drew nearer so also did greater doubts of my powers as a cyclist arise. Accomodation - what of that these troublous days - dozens of similar thoughts combined to make the prospect seem not rosy but everything else but.

All despairing thoughts were completely dispelled in the event. Accomodation was secure - the return halves of the 'Advance Booking Vouchers' signifying the O.K. were received before starting. Cycling was far easier than seemed possible, even when scattered raindrops did manage to descend - everything was roses, roses all the way.

Two things only marred the otherwise complete success of the trip, which carried us through the Wye Valley, across to Brecon and the Beacons and down to Cardiff. The first, both train journeys 'out' to Newport (Mon) and 'in' from Cardiff home, were 'the last word'. The second, the weary hunting for a night's lodge where we had not booked up with the Y.H.A. These twain, be it observed, have nothing to do with either cycling or the Y.H.A., or, in other words, the Y.H.A. part of the 7 day trip went well - the other part --- not so.

Having waded through this literary gem so far, you have now as good an account of my actual experience with Y.H.A. as my limited space and pen makes possible. If you consider the time spent in its perusal as wasted, blame it not on the poor writer:- he is but the victim of your zealous Sec. Temper your condemnation with mercy, remembering that he, the zealous one, does indeed labour hard here in the vineyard (?) in all our interests.

All here at home, hope for your swift and safe return. Then you may possibly test by trial, young or not so young, cyclist, hiker or non such, this means of seeing a little of your own country.

ADDENDUM - by Another, who went Youth Hostelling Also.

B---- and I set off from Dorking one typical English Summer day of cloudy drizzle. Our first acquaintance with a youth hostel was quite satisfactory for therein we found a hearty supper together with some charming young lady hikers to converse with. "Alas", thought I, "that I am travelling with such a hardened bachelor as B----." The next morning, having done our share of "wiping up" we pushed over the Chilterns in an even damper mist than the day before. After two nights at friends, we found ourselves on the road from Banbury to Oxford, where at every rise which disclosed further vistas of waving yellow corn my companion, with graphic sweep of hand and emphatic nod, would declare - "That's nice!".

Two teas, a half supper, some glorious scenery and sunshine gave us enough to sleep on - or rather, one of us slept. He, - the one - had a snore the magnitude of which I feel it hopeless even to indicate. I had not noticed him get into the bunk next to mine, so when it sunk into my drowsy consciousness that these astonishing vibrations proceeded from a human nose, my imagination could scarcely conceive of the size of such an organ necessary to produce such cataclysmal shrieks and stupendous trumpetings. But daylight revealed a middle-aged and modest little gentleman in pyjamas going about the shaving performance blissfully unaware of the horrors of the night before. A case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde without a doubt.

The Warden here was a 'Tartar'. After making a botch of cleaning an unnecessary window to her dissatisfaction, I collected B----, who afterwards stated that he had been engaged in busily watching two men saw a log of wood. We made our way down the Thames Valley gathering suitable luncheons and teas en route. At Leatherhead we had a three dimensional supper and just enough energy left to carry it onto the top bunk and lay it down to sleep. The next day we did far too much, climbed every hill between Leatherhead and Bognor, ate our way through a pile of food and so thoroughly enjoyed ourselves to the last ounce of energy that it was lucky for us that we only had to go to work the next day.

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Rehabilitation - Further Education and Training. (Cont. from opp. page)

This article is intended to be no more than an outline and detailed advice must be offered individually. It is hoped that any Forces members will not hesitate to communicate with the Branch Sec. who will do everything he can to assist.

REHABILITATION - FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

Education is 'in the air' these days, and those Local Government Officers who are in the Forces must be viewing with some anxiety their prospects in their Local Government career. It is no small matter to have four or five years' leeway to make up, and the greater stress which is being laid on education and training will mean, more than ever, that a large amount of the keen L.G.O.'s spare time will have to be given to training to fit him to satisfy the growing demands of employing authorities for the 'trained' man.

Our Association is actively engaged in trying to offer suitable advice to those who will soon, it is hoped, be returning to their old jobs from the Forces. Local Branches have been encouraged to join in the good work and there should be no lack of advice. But more is needed than that. There must be facilities for training, and these also have been offered. Firstly, there will be the Government Scheme for Rehabilitation which will, of course, be known to you. The facilities outlined in the Education Act for further education should make adult education commonplace, and our Association has promised to encourage local education authorities to provide courses suitable to the needs of those in the Local Government Service.

Broadly speaking, it is possible to divide staff in H.M. Forces as follows:-

- (a) Juniors with up to five years Local Government Service.
- (b) General Grade Staff - clerical and minor administrative.
- (c) Officers already possessing recognised professional or administrative qualifications.

Those in classes (a) and (b) are the ones who will need all the help that can be given to them. For them the following broad categories of training will be available.

- (1) For a University Degree or Diploma in Public Administration or a suitable professional examination.
- (2) For a qualifying examination suitable for the general clerical grades.

For those in Class (c) (who are rather more fortunately situated since most, or all, of their academic training has been completed), refresher courses will be arranged.

For would-be planners of post-war careers, a word of advice on general lines would at this stage be useful.

In 1934, a Departmental Committee on Qualifications, Recruitment, Training and promotion of Local Government Officers published its Report. This Report (known as the Hadow Report - after its Chairman) has, generally speaking, not been implemented, but our Association is already beginning to turn some of its energy from the almost-won battle of Whit-leyism to the support of the Hadow Report. It is, therefore, recommended that the Report (price 1/6 H.M. Stationery Office) be obtained and studied before arrangements are made for training along any special lines. It is conceivable that Local Government will be altered shortly from its present form, but change is a gradual process in this country, and the Hadow Report will probably continue relevant for some years.

(Continued on opposite page)

NOT VERY IMPORTANT.

(Being boring news about Nalgo which you read last)

WHITLEYISM. This is a subject which you are going to hear a lot more about in the future. And for that, all the country has to thank the Bognor Regis Branch of Nalgo. Of course we do admit that a few other people had something to do with it. But we won the final arbitration case which has given legal status to the Whitley Councils. As a result of that arbitration, in which the tribunal awarded us the full scale of Whitley Council bonus, there has been a landslide of local authorities to join the Provincial Whitley Councils. 300 have joined during 1944.

Without a doubt the long struggle for Whitleyism is being won by Nalgo. For now comes the New Wages Bill which extends the right to compulsory arbitration for five years after the war, and this bill, (to be published in a few days), already has the agreement of the County Councils' Association Chairman, the T.U.C. and not least Nalgo!

Thus Nalgo's policy of Whitleyism has been at last vindicated and the question of T.U.C. affiliation should be relegated now to that period of frustration from which it was born.

Soon we may expect to have some success in Nalgo's proposal for a uniform salary scale throughout local government. The Government has already publicly expressed itself in agreement with this development, and Mr. Atlee has stated in Parliament, in answer to a question, that "The Whitley Councils could, with advantage, consider the adoption of a uniform scale of salaries for local government officers."

BONUS. For those of you who are still unaware of your current rates of bonus, the following table may be of interest.

£250 p.a. & under.		£251 to £500.		£501 to £700.		Over £700.	
<u>Men.</u>	<u>Women.</u>	<u>Men.</u>	<u>Women.</u>	<u>Men.</u>	<u>Women.</u>	<u>Men.</u>	<u>Women.</u>
-----Arbitration Award-----							
Period 1/7/43 to 31/3/44.							
17/6	14/-	17/-	13/6	-	-	-	-
Period 1/4/44 to date (the current Whitley Award)							
19/-	15/6	19/-	15/6	19/-	15/6	13/-	13/-
<u>Bonus Paid by Bognor Regis U.D.C. during above periods to 31/8/44.</u>							
13/-	10/-	12/6	9/6	13/-	No case.	13/-	No case.

INCOME TAX. With regard to income tax which has been deducted from all the backpayment of extra bonus, a certain amount is reclaimable. This is the amount of extra bonus received which relates to the period 5th October 1943 to 5th April 1944, and thus is 26 weeks at 4/6 for men and 26 weeks at 4/- for women. Thus, when completing your income tax return an allowance of tax at 6/6 or 10/- in the £ (as the case may be) on £5/17/- for men and £5/4/- for women may be claimed.

REINSTATEMENT IN CIVIL EMPLOYMENT ACT, 1944.

The following are the more important provisions of the above-mentioned Act affecting members of the Association. By Section 1 it is provided that where a person whose war service ends after the commencement of the Act (21st March, 1944) makes application to his former employer to be taken into his employment, the former employer shall, so long as the application remains in force, be under an obligation to take the applicant into his employment -

- (a) in the occupation in which the applicant was last employed by the former employer before the beginning of his war service and on terms and conditions not less favourable to him than those which would have been applicable to him in that occupation had he not become a person to whom the Act applies, or
- (b) if it is not reasonable and practicable that the applicant should be taken into employment in that occupation and on those terms and conditions, in the most favourable occupation and on the most favourable terms and conditions which are reasonable and practicable in his case.

By Section 2 it is provided that the application must be in writing and may be made either by the applicant or by some person acting with his authority. An application will be of no effect unless it is made during the period beginning with the end of the applicant's war service and ending with the fifth Monday after the end thereof; provided that an application made after the end of that period shall not be invalid if the applicant was prevented from making it within that period by sickness or other reasonable cause and the application was made as soon as reasonably may be after the expiration of that period.

An application shall cease to have effect on the expiration of 13 weeks from the date of the making thereof, but while the application is still in force it may from time to time be renewed in writing by the applicant or by some person acting with his authority and the application will continue in force for 25 weeks from the date of renewal.

By Section 3 it is provided that the applicant or some person acting with his authority shall, at or after the time of making the application, but not later than four weeks from the latest date allowed by Section 2 for the making thereof, notify to the former employer in writing a date, not later than the expiration of the said four weeks, on which the applicant will be available for employment; provided that if, owing to his sickness or other reasonable cause, the applicant is not available for employment until after the expiration of the said four weeks, the date to be so notified may be a date as soon as reasonably may be after the expiration of the said four weeks.

Section 4 provides that where an applicant has been taken into the employment of his former employer in pursuance of Section 1, the former employer shall be under an obligation to employ the applicant

for the following 26 weeks or so much thereof as is reasonable and practicable -

- (a) in an occupation not less favourable to him than that in which, and on terms and conditions not less favourable to him than those on which the applicant is so taken into employment, or
- (b) if, at any time during the period for which he has under this section to be employed, it ceases to be reasonable and practicable for the applicant to be employed in that occupation and on those terms and conditions, in the most favourable occupation and on the most favourable terms and conditions which are thereafter for the time being reasonable and practicable in his case.

If when the applicant last ceased to be employed by his former employer before the beginning of his war service he had been in the continuous employment of that former employer for a consecutive period of not less than 52 weeks, the obligation to employ the applicant is extended from 26 to 52 weeks.

Section 5 provides that it shall not be treated as reasonable and practicable for the former employer to take the applicant into his employment, if it can only be done by discharging some other person who-

- (a) was employed by the former employer before the relevant date, and
- (b) had been so employed before the relevant date for a longer period than the applicant, and
- (c) was so employed in employment of a kind that was not less permanent in character than the applicant's employment,

or by refusing to take into employment some other person to whom the Act applies and who had duly made an application under Section 1 which is still in force. "The relevant date" means the beginning of the applicant's war service or the beginning of the other person's war service, whichever is the earlier.

The Act applies to persons (male or female) who after 25th May 1939, entered upon whole-time service in H.M. Forces, and to persons (male or female) who after 10th April 1941 entered upon whole-time service in a civil defence force within the meaning of the National Service Acts 1939 to 1942, in consequence of an enrolment notice under those Acts.

"Former employer" means, in relation to a person to whom the Act applies, the employer by whom he was last employed within the period of four weeks immediately preceding the beginning of his war service.

Sections 9 and 10 provide for the establishment of Reinstatement Committees to deal with questions as to the rights of persons to whom the Act applies.

Section 13 provides that the Act shall have effect in relation to a person to whom the Act applies whose war service ended not earlier than 26 weeks before the commencement of the Act (21st March 1944) as if his war service had ended immediately after the commencement of the Act.

Section 14 provides penalties for an employer who, with intent to evade the provisions of the Act, terminates the employment of any person who is to become a person to whom the Act applies.

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TOUR OF THE TOWN HALL.

CLERK'S DEPARTMENT. Beginning with the most important of the departments (murmurs of dissent which we ignore) we introduce you to Mr. Hill, Clerk of the Council, whom some of you still have to meet. We feel certain that much of the smooth and cheerful running of this Department is due to his influence. Next door we find Mr. Robertson, Deputy Clerk of the Council, holding learned counsel with bulky tomes of law, an astonishing amount of which he appears capable not only of understanding but remembering too. Being Emergency Thursday, or in correct parlance, Emergency Committee Day, we have already seen Mr. Annis twice. In fact we are not sure whether we haven't seen him both coming and going at once. We have had occasion before to comment on this phenomenon locally known as the "Annis haze", which vibrates between the committee room, filing store and office. Intercepting the haze, or coming again next day, we locate our old friend Mr. Annis, for the second time President of Nalgo and as many of you are aware making a good job of it.

We pass from his office to the general office where beautiful maidens engage demurely in the various historic processes of (a) typing, (b) doling out stationery with the politest meanness, (c) answering the counter by passing the enquiry to another department, (d) typing. Reluctantly we leave this office of many charms and push into the Committee Clerks'. As we go in, two people are ejected by the other door. But again we are rewarded by the gracious feminine sociability of ---- and ---- (if it isn't Committee Week of course). The former is the progenitor of vast numbers of teddy bears, gollywogs and dolls, while the latter is our heroic Social Secretary and intermittent Assistant Secretary. Mr. Cotterell is still trying to write that letter which conveys an intended meaning without actually stating it in words. He smiles quite as cheerfully as ever though, perhaps because now he is Past President of the Branch he feels free to heckle the Chairman at meetings. Anyway, he deserves our thanks for more than a year's hard work put in as President, previous to which he underwent a London Blitz in order to represent the Branch at Annual Conference.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT. In search of our long lost colleague, John Bevan, we decide to storm the inner office of the Finance Department. Walking down the corridor past Mr. Smart's door (now blocked up) we turn left entering by a new general office doorway, the old office doorway now being converted into a paying hatch. Not being trampled underfoot by Mr. Fear we turn right, push on another door and lo - and behold - we are inside. Seated in the middle of the room with the detached air of a tennis match referee sits John. But suddenly with a bound he dives into the bosom of the Safe. A cascade of ledgers follows and he re-appears triumphant with the Loans Ledger in all its ancient tattered glory. Upon his rostrum John deals impartially with all feminine wisecracks. Beneath him sit two capable ladies, on his left sit two capable ladies, and on his right two capable ladies sit. Behind him there is a draught caused by the hatchway. All these ladies work too - but to our prejudiced minds the net result seems to be negligible. Because though that capable lady on his left is writing out your salary cheque that equally capable lady on his right is working out schemes to deprive you of most of it by Income Tax. The net result of the combat passes out through the

hatchway in the form of a skinny locking cheque tacked forlornly to a bundle of receipts.

We leave this office after shaking hands absentmindedly twice with John and passing through Mr. Smart's old office we notice (1) the row of umbrellas, (2) Mr. E.J. Lang, the new Income Assistant from Sidcup, and (3) three more capable ladies. We see Mr. Fear and the Deputy Treasurer, Mr. E. Myers, in earnest conflagration, and think it better not to disturb them. They are busy locking for something aren't they? Anyway they're busy. Mr. Myers, by the way, came to us from Southend-on-Sea.

We can now, by knocking politely and apologising, get straight in to Mr. Westlake's Office from the Deputy Treasurer's. This must be a useful back stage retreat from wrathful ratepayers. But now we are just in time to shake hands with Mr. Westlake and wish him all the very best in his retirement. Of course we don't really wish that, we wish in actual fact that he hadn't reached his time of retirement. We don't like time pushing on like that and we don't like saying good-bye to our well-known office colleagues. The place isn't the same when they are gone. So we wish them the next best thing, a happy and enjoyable time of retirement.

In the outer Rates Office we recognise, of course, those veritable pillars of efficiency and experience, Miss King and Jack Florence. As for Miss King - well do you remember the times when the Rates Office en bloc went off at 5 p.m. to a show at Brighton? - she's thinking of those times and hoping they'll come again soon. Jack, as you know, has been in Aldingbourne for six months but we are sorry to hear that he must still undergo a further serious operation in about a year's time. In the meantime Jack looks after valuation while a new gentleman appointed is coming at the end of December to take up the position of Chief Collector.

SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT. We now retrace our steps and push on to the top of the building. If you have not been here for some time you will be a little amazed at the rather hazardous cabin-like arrangement which is an office erected on the landing. In here Miss Fensome and Miss Dugdale (yes your assumption is correct) type and do whatever things typists do as well as typing. At times of blitzes (not we hope ever to come again) this department transfers itself to a trestle table down in the entrance hall and holds long audience with patient queues. Inside the clerical office we find Mr. Watkins, chief costing clerk, our twice, nay thrice invaluable N.A.L.G.O. Treasurer and three other genial gentlemen. Mr. Evans is out (any Surveyor worth his salt is on a day like this), but now he breezes in with a "Hello laddie! Where've you been?" It will not be long before the conversation turns to Wales. We now pass through the typists' office again (a pity we can't linger here) and after being asked twice through the hatchway if this is Dr. Ayres' Department we begin to have a doubt about it ourselves. Edging past a row of knees, and not managing to do more than nip the tail of one of the dogs, our speed has not yet been sufficiently reduced for us to avoid tripping over one of the filing cabinets in the corridor.

We emerge reasonably safely in the Drawing Office provided we haven't pinched a finger in the counter-flap. Ah! And there is Mr. Dugdale, Mr. Bucknell, and Mr. Griffith, with Mr. Boyce round the corner. We needn't say much about them need we? Mr. Dugdale still wields a wizard drawing pen, Mr. Griffith will immediately propound an unanswerable problem to you, Mr. Bucknell will not mind at all if you ask him how his little daughter is getting on, while Mr. Boyce, well you'll read about him elsewhere. The two pupils remind us of Claude and Cecil of the Itma programme.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT. We enter the Public Health Department by the method of infiltration. You will get a spasmodic conversation with Mr. Fishleigh but of course you can easily continue it with Miss Bromley, while Mr. Coysh, the new Additional Sanitary Inspector will have much of interest to tell you if you get him on the subject of his East London experiences during the blitz. Mr. Cullen you will find in his office surrounded by toothsome exhibits of horror-struck kidneys or something or other. If you had not booked an appointment with Dr. Ayres your case is pretty hopeless. But when you do see him you will find him as affable and entertaining as ever. Of course, you've only seen the headquarters of this Department. There's a sub-depot round the corner in what is known as "The Cottage". We don't know what goes on there but we gather that it's all above board. The future of this sardine-like department appears to lie outside the Town Hall and we understand that a transfer is contemplated to one of the boarding houses opposite. We must say we think they deserve it.

WATERWORKS DEPARTMENT. The Water Department doesn't mind being put near the end because it knows quite well that nobody can do without it. An unlucky blitz was a sharp reminder to Bognor Regis of that! However, having blown the trumpet with becoming modesty we proceed to remind you that Mr. Spencer, now our Vice-President of N.A.L.G.O., still knows more about Waterworks Law than anybody. And Mr. Reid exercises that fast-dying craftsmanship in handwriting which makes his ledgers a pleasure to look in. The new Water Engineer, (not new in experience mark you), is Mr. Wilkinson who has been with us since Mr. Lea went to Halifax in March 1944. Without prejudice to our rights as free Englishmen, we may say that Mr. Wilkinson makes an altogether satisfactory chief, and as a colleague, he enjoys a keen perception of the ridiculous. As for the other resident of these offices enough evidence is surely available in these pages to damn him for all time.

THE OTHER ABODES OF TOIL. Outside the marble columns of the Town Hall are cells of local government almost too numerous to mention. The Evacuation Department, the left-over Finance Department, the hang-over Surveyor's Department and the Parks Department occupy that delightful group of sunny villas known as Scott's Home. Here Eric Seabrook now resides, having been back from the Fire Service for some months now. Here also Mr. Freemantle may occasionally be found, and, if not, you have to cadge the cnions from his secretary, Miss Saxby. Further afield you may come across Mr. Cunningham whose experience in 'our' doodle-bug incident was near and not pleasant.

ADDRESSES OF SERVING MEMBERS.

- Miss I.M. ALEXANDER, 51, Orchard Avenue, Chichester. (Home)
R.J. BRIODY - 381770 R.J. Briody A.B. p/JX, 6 Mess, H.M.S. Brissendon,
c/o G.P.O., London.
R.A. BROUGHTON - P/O R.A. Broughton 216 Squadron R.A.F. MEF.
Miss H.R. BROWN - 8, Highfield Gardens, Bognor Regis. (Home)
H.W.J. DABSON - 226677 Lt. J. Dabson R.A. c/o Imperial Bank of India,
Bombay, India.
K. DAVIES - Hancover Lodge, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex. (Home)
P.B. FREAK - 1461447 L.A.C. Freak P.B., A.M.E.S., 7912 R.A.F., B.L.A.
T.N. GIBSON - 7604878 S/Cdr. T. Gibson R.A.O.C. Sub Depot, Eastriggs,
Dumfriesshire, Scotland.
T.L. GOZNEY - B.Q.M.S. Gozney T.L., S/L Battery R.A., Braunton Camp,
Braunton, N. Devon.
R.E. GRAY - "Greenslade", Madeira Avenue, Bognor Regis. (Home) (Home)
K.H. HALSTEAD - 50, Federation Street, Barnoldswick, Via Colne, Yorks.
T.H. JONES - "Chatsworth", Gossammer Lane, Aldwick, Bognor Regis (Home)
D.B. KNOWLES - Capt. D.B. Knowles R.E., 278057, c/o Imperial Bank of
India, Bombay, India.
H. LAVINGTON - Capt. H. Lavington R.E., Camp Office Main H.Q., 21
Army Group, B.L.A.
H.D. PEAKE - Assistant Civil Engineer, c/o S.C.E. Naval Works Dept.,
Admiralty, Colombo, Ceylon.
J.W. PEARSON - Major J.W. Pearson, H.Q. Indep. Para. Bde. Gp. C.M.F.
J.H.E. PIPER - 23, Westbourne Gardens, Hove 3. (Home)
C.E. POWELL - "Braeside", Bassett Road, Bognor Regis, (Home)
F.H. READ - 102, South Farm Road, Worthing. (Home)
S.O. SELSBY - S/74900 S. Sgt. S.O. Selsby, D.I.D., R.A.S.C., B.L.A.
C. SMART - Lt. C. Smart 39th Batt'n. R.A.P.C., Leicester.
P. SMITH - S/Lt. (A) Peter Smith, R.N.V.R., 848 Royal Naval Air
Squadron, c/o G.P.O., London.
R. STEVENS - "Blakehurst", Murina Avenue, Bognor Regis. (Home)
F.G. TURNER - 7912338 S/Sgt. F.G. Turner, Relief Dept., ML, H.Q.
(Greece), C.M.F.
G.H. VICK - Capt. G.H. Vick, R.A., Group Training Centre, Essex.
"Milburn Cottage", Earnley, Nr. Chichester. (Home)
-
- R.S.B. KNOWLES - "Little Home", Offington Lane, Worthing. (Home)
A.H. TAYLOR - Lt. A.H. Taylor, 25 Dragoons, India Command.
E.A. THORPE - Capt. E.A. Thorpe, "B" Squadron, "A" Assault Regt.,
R.A.C., R.E., C.M.F.

XX
Tour of the Town Hall (Cont.)

Miss Humphries now has the harassing task of interviewing applicants for requisitioned houses; while in the A.R.P. Department an invaluable Hon. Assistant N.A.L.G.O. Sec. has done a lot to help us publish this magazine.

So here we come to a finish. We've told you a bit about the old place, but goodness knows, we shall be mighty glad when you can come and see for yourselves.

THE END.