



Old Elizabethan Forces Committee.

Address (pro tem.) for correspondence:

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NEW BARNET, HERTS.

August, 1943.

NEWS LETTER No. 5.

Dear Old Elizabethans,

Again the consideration of space and paper has meant that many of the interesting histories we have received from O.E.'s in all parts of the globe are drastically pruned. In general, however, we have endeavoured to include "some of all" in place of "all of some," as this policy we feel will cover wider scope and prove of greater interest. The O.E. Flag at home still flies in the realms of sport: The R.F.C. last season played 22 matches. Won 11, lost 11. Points for 323, points against 284. The Cricket Club up to date has played 9 matches. Won 3, lost 3 and drawn 3. The R.F.C. hope to play again this season and a fixture list is well under way.

SOCIAL NOTES.

The following marriages have taken place:—

In 1942, Lieut. J. H. Donald, R.N.V.R. (1922-30) to Dorothy Miles of Edinburgh.

On 11th September, 1942, at Southampton, Sapper G. G. Howell (1922-28) to Nurse Kathleen Stacey, a Red Cross Nurse he met whilst in hospital on the South Coast.

On 8th March, 1943, at the Old Fort Chapel, Durban, Lieut. Kenneth Douglas Bullett, D.S.C., R.N.V.R. (1926-35) to Cecily Searchfield of Franklin, East Griqualand, South Africa.

On 3rd April, 1943, at St. Mark's Church, Barnet Vale, Capt. John Frederick Lockwood, R.H.A. (1928-38) to Junior Commander Eileen Gordon Kirkpatrick of Eyreton, Douglas, Isle of Man.

On 8th April, 1943, at Christ Church, Barnet, Sergt. Hugh Sherwin Lienard (1928-36) to Joan Margaret Morley.

On 10th April, 1943, at Barnet Parish Church, 2nd Lieut. Dennis Gordon Cheeseman, R.M. (1931-35) to Barbara Maude Scarlett.

On 5th June, 1943, at Crofton Park, Brockley, Sergt. (Nav.) A. S. Hall, R.A.F.V.R. (1932-37) to Doris Elizabeth Mary Kenny.

Other items of interest are:—

Aircraftsman B. G. White, R.A.F.V.R. (1923-38) has a son, Rory; Cpl. P. G. Toone, R.A.F. (1925-34) has a son and daughter (twins) born 26th June, 1943, Richard and Rosalind; Sapper J. J. Claringbull, R.E. (1928-35) has a daughter, born 5th July, 1943, Janet.

To one and all, on land, on sea, or in the air,

Greetings and best wishes,

THE OLD ELIZABETHAN FORCES COMMITTEE.

NOTES AND NEWS OF O.E.'S SERVING WITH H.M. FORCES.

Corporal D. Hayter, R.A.F.V.R. (25-34) is now instructing in signals in the West Country and has had a few O.E.'s through his hands, Sgt. (A/G) D. Hall, R.A.F.V.R. (33-39) being the last. Pilot Officer E. H. Francis, R.A.F.V.R. (15-22) was also at the same unit before being commissioned in May.

Corporal A. R. Matanle, R.A.F.V.R. (33-37), volunteered for air crew duties in 1940; but was laughed to scorn for his aspirations. After a depressing period of odd jobs such as window cleaning and coal heaving, he obtained a job as a P.T. Instructor. Fired with this success, he again volunteered for aircrew duties, and, at the time of writing, has done so on five occasions, each time without success. Now, however, he's hoping for a job as Airfield Controller, and, in the meantime, nothing daunted, has become engaged to a Wren.

L.A.C. G. T. Lines, R.A.F.V.R. (32-37), writes just preparatory to going overseas, having successfully passed his preliminaries for training as a pilot. He says he finds that the 'social notes' in the 'Notes and News' provide "the largest number, and greatest gasps of surprise due to the swift transition from the bachelor state to that of fatherhood via marriage" in some of his contemporaries. He disclaims, though, that he is likely to cause any startling announcements yet awhile. Another embryo pilot, only in this case a naval type, Act. Leading Airman D. Mc. N. Wilson, R.N.V.R. (35-42), writes from "one of the more uncivilised parts of Scotland, peopled with oatmeal eating savages" (He said it, and he's a Scotsman!) He hopes to pass out by the end of August.

A former master, F/O G. O. Lace, R.A.F.V.R. (40-41) is just back from Malta, looking very fit in tropical kit, and feeling amused, because in spite of scowls at his apparel at the Air Ministry, where he is temporarily attached, he is allowed to wear it as he hadn't had time to get anything else. His experiences recently in the Mediterranean have made him feel quietly confident about the ultimate result of the war.

Gunner K. A. Howard, R.A. (31-36), writing early in the year from North Africa was having a somewhat tricky time, having lost his kit in the landing, subsequently meeting a considerable amount of torrential rain. His primary job was with a survey party, and much of the work had to be completed under the nose of Jerry. He longs for (and we hope by this time has obtained) a change of diet, as the biscuits and tinned food which are doled out in forward areas get rather monotonous.

Another with "feeding" trouble is Cpl. E. F. Dodd (31-36), who on reaching Tripoli with the 8th Army, expecting a good gorge found the Axis had cleared the place out of food completely! He pays tribute to our accurate bombing, describing the harbour and mole as "a shambles," and also to the attractiveness of the "Latin female of the human species" after many months in the desert. Sub-Lieut. R. T. Baker, R.N.V.R. (34-40), has also studied "form" at Algiers en route for Malta, passing comment favourably on the smartness of dress of the French women "as yet unmarred by wartime conditions."

Corporal T. E. Knibb, R.A.C. (31-37), in February, after describing some regimental sports held whilst stationed in the desert in which he "struggled home" for third place in the mile and, "by applying Mr. Woodland's principles of weight-putting to a 75 mm. shot," he also gained third place against "more brawny opponents," added that "if his bus (a tank) would hang together" he would write another line from Tunis. This he has now done, and his two letters give a good picture of the push and the subsequent inspiring reception there. He sadly reflects that he might have bene-

fited from a more intensive study of French at school, and adds that if he were able to remember how to conjugate *aimer* he would be a veritable sheik! With regard to the fall of Tunis, he writes "After rather a sticky time at Waddi Akarit, we considered ourselves lucky to be in at the kill. My regiment was one of the armoured units of the 7th Armoured Division which, with the Indians and some of the 1st Army, made the final thrust from Medjez-el-Bab. It was a great thrill when, on the second day, we were by mid-day in a position to overlook Tunis, and then, later in the afternoon, the news came through on the radio that our "recco" troops had entered the town itself. Towards evening it poured with rain, but nobody cared a fig, for we leaguered that night in sight of the fires over Tunis. A squadron of tanks from one of the other regiments was the lucky ones to go in, but we made up for it the next day when we continued mopping up operations in the north with a very good bag of prisoners and guns. It made a very big difference fighting in country where the local people were friendly. In every farm and village we passed through, where we were usually the first British troops they had seen, the reception was absolutely overwhelming. Everyone wanted to shake hands with you, and the quantities of wines and flowers they showered on us were embarrassing."

Another O.E. in at the finish of the Tunisian campaign was Captain J. F. Lockwood, R.H.A. (28-38), who joined "a first class field regiment for the final three weeks" and "had the honour of being in the victory parade," and says "What a magnificent spectacle it was! My regiment with its guns took its place as head of the line and led the British forces—a great day!"

L/Corporal E. R. Henderson, (30-39), writes somewhat amusingly from the Middle East of the social habits of the local "wogs." "Picture," he says, "a string of donkeys, a man and a woman. The man rides the donkey, the woman walks behind carrying everything from the child to the firewood, and the spare donkeys trot on ahead, destitute of any load." He adds that the two capital cities he had visited "gave one the impression of entering a central dump for L.C.C. utility waggons" and quoted to the Headmaster in a letter "frankly, sir, they stink." He and his brother, F. A., Lieut. (30-37), are in the same regiment, and both have represented their battalions in some really good rugger matches. F. A. reports having nearly met A. M. Robertson, Capt. R.M. (31-39), whose Christian name has suffered suitable distortion into suitable "nickname," and quotes at the end of his letter "Midnight is fast approaching (such zeal to write us!) so I'll have to sign off and crawl under my mosquito net, not that there are any mosquitos within miles of this place, but just because there were some at the last place we were at, and they've forgotten to withdraw them." Another O.E. in the Middle East is Lieut. J. R. Hogan, R.E. (10-16), who, until recently, was Assistant Adjutant at a School of Military Engineering.

Lieut.-Com. W. G. Donald (23-37), who joined the R.N.V.R. as an Ocean Racing Club and Little Ship's Club member in 1936, is "one of a rare species known as Auxiliary Vessel's Gunnery Officers, and was a member of the first fourteen R.N.V.R.'s to be let loose on the Navy as Short Course Gunnery blokes." His brother, J. H., Lieut. (23-30) is No. One of an Admiralty A/S—M/S vessel and has been working from Algiers since assisting with the Allied landings there. Another enthusiastic pre-war member of the R.N.V.R. is W. O. Cook (21-26), recently also promoted Lieut.-Com. He has a shore job at a Naval base, after being a "Naval Commercial Traveller" prior to fifteen months in a Scottish harbour.

Captain G. D. Palmer, I.A. (26-34), finds the North West Frontier "not so romantic as one would expect from the films." He managed to get in a good deal of sport, including riding, shooting, and, he adds apologetically, soccer. We hear that F/O S. A. J. King (33-39), A.C. A. J. Randles (35-40), and Corporal P. S. Jackson (33-37), are also in India.

Signalman D. G. Morrison (35-40) writes from near Manchester where he is fortunate in being accommodated in private billets doing a signals course, although he has done a great deal of moving, "staggering along carrying a rifle, two packs, kit bag, and four army blankets." He adds that he thought when he entered the Army exams wouldn't be one of the things that would worry him—but is he mistaken! Lieut. A. R. Cobden, R.A. (31-37), after "the monotony of a basic training regiment" where he trained raw recruits for over a year in "the art of not being found out," is now doing some training himself. He met in his travels F./Lieut. D. L. Hughes (32-37), at a performance of "The Gondoliers" in Southport, and Sub-Lieut. (A) R. E. Odell (32-38) on a railway station. A more convivial meeting place is recorded at "the best bar at Gibraltar," where Odell gathered with Sub-Lieut. (A) F. E. Cowtan (33-39), and the recorder of this event, F/O P. J. Richards (31-40), on his way to North Africa, where he is on "operations," "that magic word that inspires all pilots from the beginning of their training." His School Cert. French is being used on the local inhabitants, and his arts of bargaining with the local "wog," "a wily old bird requiring all the patience you possess and a few cigarettes to strike a bargain." He praises French hospitality, and records swimming, riding, fishing and (!) wild boar hunting as sporting activities. He has also met Sub-Lieut. P. H. Thomas, R.N.R. (31-37) in Algiers.

Pte. D. F. Abbott (13-20) who describes himself as the "fourth oldest O.E. serving" apparently never quite made the cadetship at an O.C.T.U. with which he has been credited, due to illness. He was in hospital for three months, after a breakdown. Happily he is now fit, and is carrying on his Army duties in a clerical capacity not so far from Barnet.

Another O.E. approaching the "old stager" status, Corporal N. C. Knights, R.A.C. (19-26), writes from the Middle East, where he is encamped in tents in the desert. He speaks of cold nights, hot days, and hordes of "blasted flies."

F/O R. G. Smith (32-39) wears a Maltese Cross on his uniform signifying service in that island during the blitz period. He was flying with the famous 603 Auxiliary Squadron, and since returning to this country, prior to his present job of instructing operational pilots, he was a flight commander in sweeps over the continent in a super spitfire, whose make is still hush-hush!

L/Sgt. E. G. Hurry, Indian Air Formation Sigs. (29-36), reports travelling to South Africa en route for India with Cpl. P. S. Jackson (33-37), and Lieut. J. V. Skinner, R.A. (32-38), has now "settled down" and "put in some very hard work much to the astonishment of the local inhabitants who seem to find the sight of

a British soldier shinning up a telegraph pole the centre of much wonderment." His turn to be astonished came when the same "locals" produced their brass band and rendered a programme of "English light music"—"tolerably well too!" The temperature of 100 deg. has not prevented his unit enjoying some "lively games of cricket."

Capt. R. T. Byford, R.A.O.C. (27-32), is now with A.A. Command and says he will shortly be travelling up and down the country visiting some pretty remote spots, and hopes to find it interesting and to meet some O.E.'s on his journeyings. C. J. P. Keene (26-32), in the Middle East is a "Bimbashi" (Major) of Sudanese troops. He writes "These chaps make life extremely interesting—the more so when they give us a demonstration dancing display, complete with war-paint, tom toms, full dress, etc., the climax being when the "Bimbashia" join in! Though this is their "lighter" side they are just as efficient in their real jobs, and with them in work or play we never have a dull moment." Sgt. Inst. T. A. Critchley, R.E.M.E. (29-36), reports spending two not unpleasant years in the Army Dental Corps., after which a 9 months radio course finds him viewing a class "from a healthier angle" as instructor to the Navy—(apparently the Senior Service has slipped up here!) His brother, R. J. Critchley (28-35) as the Food Controller at Nazareth, would welcome a call from any O.E. "passing through."

Sapper G. G. Bowell, R.E. (22-28), writes from a "hush-hush" detachment, and cannot even reveal his whereabouts, but is apparently "very comfortable" in private billets, though "up to his eyes in work."

A letter, in volume approaching half-a-book, from J. D. Oates, attached to the Air H.Q. in Freetown, West Africa, in a civilian technical capacity, gives a civilian viewpoint of flying, he says "this is no longer a novelty, but I like it not, nor did I ever get any thrill even on the first trip. If the weather is good, it is like driving along a smooth arterial road, and if not, the sensations are a mixture of riding in a "jeep" straight across country, being at sea with a good swell going, and being aboard the "Giant Racer" at the Wembley Exhibition. He adds "The weather rarely is good—for a whole day's flying." He is not impressed with the town itself, but finds consolation in the scenery and good sea bathing, adding "I think it will be many a year before the North Sea of my beloved Yorkshire coast tempts me again!"

Casualties.

Of those, whom with regret we recorded as missing, or killed in action, etc., we have the following news:—

Sergt. (Obs.) G. H. Smith, R.A.F.V.R. (26-32) and Pilot Officer (A.G.) J. I. P. Ford (32-36), are both missing after operational flights. Driver R. J. Tompkins (32-41) is missing after the occupation of Java by the Japanese; Sergt. (Plt.) J. B. C. Methven, R.A.F.V.R. was killed. We are sorry to say that Cpl. P. Dixon (35-39) lost an eye during the Tunisian campaign.

OLD ELIZABETHANS SERVING WITH H.M. FORCES.

Additions and alterations to July, 1943 : further information will be welcomed by the Editor, at the School ; by Cecil Tripp, Ganwick Corner, Barnet ; and by the O.E.'s Forces Committee, 63, Northumberland Road, New Barnet.)

ADDITIONS.

Name.	Years.	Rank at time.	Service.	Decoration.
SWAIN, J. G. ...	1931-33	Flying Officer	R.A.F.V.R. ...	D.F.C.
KILLED IN ACTION, ON ACTIVE SERVICE, OR DIED SERVING.				
Name.	Years.	Rank.	Service.	Decoration.
HATT, R. H. W. ...	1930-36	Pilot Officer	...	R.A.F.V.R.
METHVEN, J. B. C. ...	1931-35	Sergt. (Pilot)	...	R.A.F.V.R.
NORMAN, C. H. ...	1919-26	A.B.	...	R.N.V.R.
SOANE, E. H. R. ...	1927-34	L/Sergt.	...	Grenadier Guards
TOWLER, A. G. ...	1931-37	Corporal	...	R.A. (Airborne)
YETTON, W. C. ...	1919-24	Sergt. (Obs.)	...	R.A.F.V.R.
MISSING.				
FORD, J. I. P. ...	1932-36	Pilot Off. (A.G.)	...	R.A.F.V.R.
SMITH, G. H. ...	1926-31	Sergt. (Obs.)	...	R.A.F.V.R.
TOMPKINS, R. J. ...	1932-38	Driver	...	R.A.S.C.
PRISONER-OF-WAR (formerly "MISSING").				
POMFRET, D. F. ...	1930-35	Driver	...	R.A.S.C.
INVALIDED FROM THE FORCES.				
DEACON, P. E. C. ...	1930-35	Engineer Officer	...	Fleet Auxiliary
SERVING.				
ALWIN, G. J. ...	1938-42	L.A.C. (u/t Pilot)	...	R.A.F.V.R.
BOARDLEY, A. W. ...	1936-41	Aircraftman	...	R.A.F.V.R.
BULL, E. P. ...	1935-42	Fusilier	...	R. Fusiliers
CHEESEMAN, D. G. ...	1931-35	2nd Lieut.	...	R.M.
CLARINGBULL, J. J. ...	1928-35	Sapper	...	R.E.
DICKINS, J. W. ...	1933-36	Corporal	...	R.A.F.V.R.
DIX, S. D. ...	1919-22	Ldg. Signalman	...	R.N.V.R.
EDWARDS, B. F. ...	1935-42	L.A.C. (u/t Pilot)	...	R.A.F.V.R.
FARRER, J. CLIFFORD ...	1910-15	Squadron Leader	...	R.A.F.V.R.
GUY, B. R. ...	1931-32	Sub-Lieut. (E.)	...	R.N.V.R.
GUY, P. D. ...	1927-31	Sub-Lieut. (A.)	...	R.N.V.R.
HITCHAM, R. ...	1936-38	Gunner Surveyor	...	R.A.
JAMES, R. G. ...	1912-18	Paymaster-Comdr.	...	R.N.R.
LIVESEY, H. C. ...	1923-28	Corporal	...	R.E.M.E.
MATHEWS, F. ...	1934-29	Trooper	...	R.E.M.E.
McGREAL, K. J. ...	1934-39	L.A.C. (u/t Pilot)	...	R.A.F.V.R.
PARTNER, P. D. ...	1935-42	Supply Asst.	...	R.N.
POWELL, D. E. A. ...	1935-42	L.A.C. (u/t Pilot)	...	R.A.F.V.R.
RODGER, J. L. ...	1936-42	L.A.C. (u/t Pilot)	...	R.A.F.V.R.
SCOTT, D. F. ...	1921-26	Private	...	R.A.S.C.
STOREY, W. A. ...	1936-42	Naval Airman	...	R.N.V.R.
SWANN, C. K. ...	1916-24	Ft. Lieut.	...	R.A.F.V.R.
WALKER, R. A. ...	1931-38	Driver	...	R.A.S.C.

AMENDMENTS.

KILLED IN ACTION, Etc. (amend entries to read).				
BAILLIE, J. E. ...	1928-32	Ft./Sergt. (Eng.)	...	R.A.F.V.R.
SWAIN, J. G., D.F.C.	1931-33	Flying Officer	...	R.A.F.V.R.
SERVING.				
ABBOTT, D. F. ...	1913-20	Gunner	...	R.A.
ADAMS, T. E. ...	1933-38	Flying Officer	...	R.A.F.V.R.
BAKER, R. T. ...	1934-40	Sub-Lieut.	...	R.N.V.R.
BEALE, R. J. ...	1933-40	2nd Lieut.	...	O.C.T.U.
BOWELL, G. G. ...	1922-28	Sapper	...	R.E.
BYFORD, R. T. ...	1927-32	Captain	...	R.A.O.C.
CAVE, L. ...	1928-36	Lieut.	...	R.E.M.E.
COOK, W. O. ...	1921-26	Lieut. Cmdr.	...	R.N.V.R.
CRITCHLEY, T. A. ...	1929-36	Sergt. Instructor	...	R.E.M.E.
DONALD, W. G. ...	1922-27	Lieut. Cmdr.	...	R.N.V.R.
FRANCIS, E. H. ...	1915-22	Pilot Officer	...	R.A.F.V.R.
FULLER, B. J. ...	1931-37	S.A.	...	R.N.
FULLER, F. E. G. ...	1928-34	L/Bombardier	...	R.A.
HAINES, J. M. ...	1932-38	Sergt.	...	R.A.F.V.R.
HAYTER, D. ...	1925-34	Corporal	...	R.A.F.V.R.
HENDERSON, E. R. ...	1930-39	L/Corporal	...	Gordon Highlanders
HENDERSON, F. A. ...	1930-37	Lieut.	...	Gordon Highlanders
HIBBERT, R. A. ...	1930-40	2nd Lieut.	...	R.A.C.
HURRY, E. G. ...	1929-36	L/Sergt.	...	India A.F. Sigs.
JONES, J. B. ...	1930-35	Lieut.	...	R.A.
JONES, W. A. N. ...	1927-34	Major	...	Beds & Herts Regt.
KEENE, C. J. P. ...	1926-32	Bimbashi	...	R.A.S.C., att. Sudanese
KEMPTON, G. A. ...	1929-34	Cadet	...	O.C.T.U.
KIFF, J. S. ...	1934-39	L.A.C.	...	R.A.F.V.R.
KNIBB, T. E. ...	1931-37	Corporal	...	R.A.C.
KNIGHTS, N. C. ...	1919-26	Corporal	...	R.A.C.
LIENARD, H. S. ...	1928-36	Sergt.	...	R.E.M.E.
LINES, G. T. ...	1932-37	L.A.C. (u/t Pilot)	...	R.A.F.V.R.
MANTHORPE, J. A. M. ...	1934-39	L.A.C.	...	R.A.F.V.R.
McCARTHY, J. P. ...	1934-38	Lieut.	...	R.A.
McCARTHY, P. T. ...	1932-38	Lieut.	...	R.E.
McCOLL, P. J. ...	1930-37	Captain	...	R.M.
MORRISON, D. G. ...	1934-40	Signalman	...	R.C. of Sigs.
MORTIMER, P. B. ...	1936-42	Midshipman (A)	...	R.N.V.R.
OLSEN, P. D. ...	1934-41	Sub-Lieut.	...	R.N.V.R.
PARMITER, J. P. ...	1934-40	Sub-Lieut.	...	R.N.V.R.
PARSLEY, F. J. ...	1922-27	Staff Sergt.	...	R.E.M.E.
PATERSON, S. C. ...	1925-32	Staff Sergt.	...	R.A.O.C.
PRESTON, F. V. ...	1934-40	Cadet	...	R.A.C. (O.C.T.U.)
ROGERS, D. R. ...	1932-37	Pilot Officer	...	R.A.F.V.R.
SCARSBROOK, A. G. ...	1926-31	Signalman	...	R.C. of Sigs.
TURNER, A. J. S. ...	1933-41	Gunner Surveyor	...	R.A.
TURTON, D. W. ...	1927-35	2nd Lieut.	...	R.A.
DELETION (inserted in error).				
DICKINS, J. W. ...	1933-36			