

THE FALCON

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Jokes!

TREASURES FROM THE PAST

reprinted from the SMT Magazine for Sept/51.

As a country we pride ourselves greatly on our history. Yet it is surprising how normally we tend to overlook the artistic craftsmanship of our forefathers and the relics which witnessed so much of that history, written and unwritten. The exhibition of "Scotland's Ancient Treasures" in Glasgow Art Gallery this summer brought to a new public national heirlooms, many of which had never been shown outside Edinburgh. More than that, it presented them in such a way that even those that are well known, such as are illustrated in Mr. Ian Finlay's "Scottish Crafts," could be better appreciated than ever before. An increased interest in the National Museum of Antiquities is sure to be one result of this.

It began about 171 years ago when the eccentric but brilliant 11th Earl of Buchan founded the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and put books and a museum in the forefront of its "necessary appurtenances." A self-contained house off the Cowgate of Edinburgh--and there were few enough such houses in the town--was acquired as not being "liable to the communication of fire from neighbouring edifices." A blunderbuss and pistols were bought as security against housebreakers.

In those days, and for long afterwards, museums welcomed very miscellaneous contents, and Natural History specimens formed a very large part of the Antiquaries' collection. The two alligators it had, have mercifully vanished, as has one of the donations received in 1782--"the scalp of a French soldier, the queue (pigtail) bound in pink ribbon." But also given that year was a lovely bronze collar covered with ancient Celtic ornament, which was included in this year's exhibition in Glasgow.

The Museum was moved to different premises five times in the first seventy years and was sometimes entirely packed away. For the self-contained house was quickly found to be too expensive to keep, and the Society had serious ups and downs. Yet little that was of real value got lost.

Most children have heard about one of the most remarkable, and gruesome, of our exhibits, the Scottish beheading-machine called The Maiden. The Regent Morton lost his head by it in 1581 and two Argylls in the next century. After nearly a century of disuse it was placed in the Museum only eight years after its more famous French successor first went into action. A generation later there came an exhibit with a tantalisingly incomplete history. In 1826 a Captain Carmichael after the storming of the Sikh fortress of Bhurtpore found on the ramparts a cannon cast in 1642 by the Edinburgh bell-founder James Monteith. With the permission of the Governor-General of India, he had it brought home and placed in the Museum, where one of his descendants recently came to visit it. Less far-wandered and much older objects were also being gathered by the Antiquaries, so that by 1851 its collection of British antiquities was said to be greater in extent and value than that of the British Museum.

The time had come when the size of the Museum, and the expense of maintaining it, justified its transfer from a Society to public hands. And so it was nationalised. The entire collection of "antiquities, coins, medals, portraits, manuscripts, and books," as well as all that the Society might acquire in the future, were made over to the Government. But fortunately the closest possible relations have been maintained between the society and the Museum, to the great benefit of both.

For one thing, archaeology as a serious study was just beginning. The exploration of ancient dwellings by systematic excavation has since then been adding steadily both to our knowledge of Scotland's history and pre-history, and to the importance of the collections of the National Museum of Antiquities. A large part of such finds are chiefly of interest to specialists, but others readily appeal to the eye and to the imagination. There are, for example, the two Roman parade helmets with visors in the form of idealized youthful warrior faces. These were found in 1906-08 at Newstead, near Melrose, with many other things that illustrate the everyday life of the Roman army-billy-cans, tent pegs and a mallet, entrenching tools just like those of 1914-18, and so on. One inconspicuous object clearly relates the tragedy of a Celtic attacker--a sword, its little bronze guard deeply sliced in two places and its poor blade buckled almost double. It had been no match against the heavy weapons of a legionary.

Another excavation, at Traprain Law near Haddington, led in 1919 to the discovery of the now famous Traprain Treasure. Packed in a hole in the ground were 770 oz. of Roman silver plate hacked in pieces and crushed flat. Evidently it was a share of the loot brought back from a raid on southern England or France at the time when the Roman Empire was breaking up, not long after 400 A.D. One of the vessels was a small flagon, now restored to its original shape, though wanting its handle. A series of scenes from the Bible are embossed round the middle of it--Adam and Eve with the tree and the serpent, Moses striking water from a rock, the Three Wise Men bringing their gifts, and, perhaps, the Kiss of Judas. The flagon was made in the fourth century and is probably the earliest piece of metal-work known anywhere that depicts the Virgin and Child.

Well over 1,500 years older is a remarkable series of finds from the Stone Age village at Skara Brae in Orkney, which was excavated by H.M. Office of Works for preservation and as a show-place--the most complete and furnished pre-historic houses in Europe. The inhabitants made pottery decorated with elaborate patterns, and beads, pins and all sorts of implements of bone. They used stone axes and scrapers of flint for dressing skins. Little imagination is needed to picture the details of their daily life. We may even suppose that they painted themselves with the red ochre mixed with fat that still remains in little pots of stone and whale's bone.

Casual finds are another source of the Museum's collections. The more important of these can be claimed for the Crown as Treasure Trove, or rather its more all-embracing Scottish equivalent, by that romantically-named official the King's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer, who deposits them in the Museum. Naturally a fair reward is paid to the finders. Over 300 Anglo-Saxon coins and a bit of jewellery came last year from Iona.

But naturally many of the most interesting and historic exhibits have never been lost or buried. The stories of two of the chief surviving relics of the Celtic Church are well worth retelling. The first is of the little house-shaped shrine believed to be that long known as the Brechennoch of St. Columba. A wooden box is sheathed in bronze with silver plates in front decorated with interlacing animals, now rather hard to see. Gilt interlaced-work ornaments the "roof-tree" and enamelled hinge remains by which the reliquary, lying on its bearer's breast, was hung on a strap round his neck. The style of the ornamentation indicates a date only a century after the death of St. Columba in 597. The Brechennoch first appears in history when King William the Lion shortly before 1211 gave it to the Abbey of Arbroath with the lands of Forglen, Aberdeenshire, that pertained to it. In 1314 the Abbot of Arbroath no doubt did, as he was bound, service in the army with it at Bannockburn, for it was a kind of 'palladium' of Scotland. However, it was made over in 1315 to the family of Monymusk, Aberdeenshire, and must have returned to that place after being in the keeping of the Irvines of Drum from about 1420. It remained at Monymusk till purchased in 1923.

The crosier of St. Fillan of Glendochart, like many other relics of the Celtic Church, was preserved by a family of hereditary Keepers, Dewar in Gaelic. It seems that in the Middle Ages the relic was used to secure the recovery of stolen cattle by making suspects clear themselves by oath upon it. In 1487 King James III confirmed the Dewar of that time in the 'peccable broiking and joising' (enjoyment of possession) 'of the said Relick of Sanct Fillane callit the Quegrich,' which 'his forbearis has had in keeping of us and of our progenitouris sen the tyme of King Robert the Bruys and of before'. From later documents it is known that for centuries the family held a croft assigned to them for the upkeep of the crosier. The croft was at Euich, a spot now traversed unknowingly by thousands of tourists each year, on the main road a mile and a half westwards from Crianlarich. (might not some commemorative sign be erected there?) Four other relics of St. Fillan were kept on other crofts in Glendochart and Strathfillan, including the bell now also in the Museum, which by 1782 was the only other survivor. At that date a

student from Oxford found that the Dewar of the Quigrich had become a landless labourer, yet was still the "envied possessor of the relic." The depression following the Napoleonic Wars led the owner to emigrate to Canada, where finally Dr. Daniel Wilson found the last Scottish-born Keeper. So in 1876 Alexander Dewar transferred the crosier to remain in the National Museum of Antiquities "in all time to come for the use, benefit and enjoyment of the Scottish nation." When it reached the Museum the elaborate silver-gilt crosier, or rather crosier-head, was found to contain another of bronze, to which the silver filigree panels on the outer case had originally been fixed. The outer case, is in fact, a reliquary made about 600 years ago to contain the crosier-head perhaps 500 years older still.

The period between about 600 and 900 A.D. is the one in which the Arts in Scotland achieved a peak of originality and imagination such as never before or since. The stones incised with small outlined bulls, from Burghead in Morayshire, and the goose-and-fish stone from Easterton of Roseisle close by, are fine examples of early Pictish symbolic art, whose origin and meaning are quite unknown. The great sculptured cross that stands at Ruthwell in Dumfriesshire is the finest product of another artistic current, partly derived by Anglian Northumbria from the Roman art of the Catholic Church but partly developed locally. The Northumbrian Church, which embraced southern Scotland, also had close artistic connections with Ireland through the Iona of St. Columba's immediate successors; and it is interesting that Irish scholars think that their finest illuminated manuscript, the Book of Kells, may have been at least started at Iona.

We cannot claim as certainly made in Scotland either the Monymusk Reliquary or the finest of our Celtic brooches, the one found at Hunterston in Ayrshire, of silver set with gold filigree and amber. But we should not too readily assign undisputed primacy in Celtic art to Ireland. For in Pictland there are very many monuments, combining Northumbrian technique and designs with Celtic patterns, and developing them in an entirely original manner into the largest and most imaginative pieces of sculpture in Western Europe of the time. The great cross-slabs still at Nigg in Ross-shire and Aberlemno in Angus are leading examples, and one of the finest is in the Museum, that from Hilton of Cadboll in Ross-shire. It appears increasingly likely that the High Crosses of Iona, closely connected in style with the Pictish slabs, are the starting point from which the famous series of High Crosses in Ireland began.

This fascinating Celtic art faded away under the impact of the Vikings and their descendants the Normans, yet it kept reviving at intervals in modified forms. Thus in the seventeenth century targes, powder-horns and brooches bore elaborate interlacing strap-work, and leaf and animal designs, while pistols were engraved with un-Celtic patterns in a very Celtic spirit. A much earlier revival, or survival, is represented by the beautiful twelfth century bronze bell-shrine from Kilmichael-Glassary, Argyll, which combines Celtic and Norman forms. But the greatest period of revival lay between, very roughly, 1450 and 1550 and was confined to Argyllshire and its islands. Tall crosses and flat tombstones were carved with interlacing lines, foliage, human figures, swords, and occasionally animals and galleys in full sail. They are mostly to be found in lovely but remote churchyards. A few in the Museum make appreciation easier, and there is also a good series of casts there. The same fanciful decoration is found on the ancient clarsach, which was illustrated in the August number of this magazine. Though known as the "Queen Mary" harp, it has probably no connection with Mary Queen of Scots.

But that unhappy Queen's fan, necklace and other jewellery, given at the time of her execution at Fotheringay Castle to her maid-in-waiting, form one of our most historic Stuart exhibits. The equally unlucky Charles I is represented in the Museum by the gold ampulla or oil vessel, with which he was anointed King of Scots at his coronation in Edinburgh in 1633.

NEWS FROM "B" COMPANY, 2ND CANADIAN HIGHLAND BATTALION

To all members of the 48th Highlanders and their Association - greetings from "B" Coy (48th Highlanders) 2nd Canadian Highland Bn.

Thanks to Padre Cameron and Corporal Johnstone we have just received copies of the 48th Highlanders songbook and the last issue of the Falcon. We know that the activities of "B" Coy will be of interest to all old and new members of the Regiment and through the Falcon we can keep in touch with one another.

We are, as you know, stationed at Camp Aldershot, Nova Scotia. The company arrived here about the middle of May, 1952 from Camp Borden. When we joined the Battalion here "B" Coy was the only company at full strength. Also we had sent a great many men to fill up Companies of the 1st Cdn. Highland Bn. in Valcartier. That in itself is a fine compliment to the 48th Highlanders.

Since arriving here we have sent two large drafts to Germany. Well trained Officers and men who would be a credit to any Battalion. After the departure of the draft, the Coy strength was practically nil and recruits were sent mostly to Battalions slated for Korea. During this time we carried on with training and duties as best we could. Most of those left behind had their Annual Leave whenever they could be spared.

Then the CO received word from Ottawa that the 2nd Cdn. Highland Bn. had been picked as the first of the new units to relieve a Battalion of the 25th Brigade serving in Korea.

Recruits from the Personnel Dep'ts across Canada were directed to us and started to arrive in large numbers about the 1st of December, 1952. Outfitting and training began in earnest with a short but very enjoyable Christmas and New Year's, highlighted with the usual leave for all ranks. A dance was held in the Officers, Sergeants' and Men's Mess and from all reports and first hand information, a good time was had by all.

After the holidays recruits continued to pour in. We are now up to strength once again.

Major J. C. Clarke, DSO (whom you all know) has command of the Company. He is a dyed-in-the-wool 48th Highlander and spares no effort to impress on the new men, the history of the Regiment.

Another old 48th Highlander, WO 2 Haid, J.C., has just been posted to us from 3rd RCR where he was RSM.

Among the junior Officers we have Lt. I. H. Firstbrook, 2/Lt. Beal, 2/Lt. F. J. Burton and Officer Cadet J. A. McDonald.

For senior NCO's we have S/Sgt. Jackson, K.C., Sgt. Dracup (Ex Hastings and Prince Edward), Sgt. MacKay and Sgt. Curran, R.J.,

We have 140 Cpls., L/Cpls and privates. We are fortunate in having 15 World War 2 Veterans and 5 Korean Veterans along with three who have returned from service with the 27th Brigade in Germany. All in all we have a very fine company with an excellent class of recruits.

As you have probably seen in the papers we are going to Wainwright in the Spring for Brigade Training and to Korea to relieve the 3rd Battalion PPCLI in October.

Many of the Company who have been in Toronto on leave have spoken highly of the good times they were shown at the Club. Any assistance that the members can offer them in the future will be much appreciated.

We take this opportunity to thank the 48th Highlanders Old Comrades Association for the very generous cheque which we received from them at Christmas. It will be used for Company entertainment.

This is about all the news at the moment. You will be hearing from us from time to time with a short report on our activities and we will be following yours through the Falcon.

Sincerely yours,
"K. C. Jackson" S/Sgt.

THE PIPE BAND

The "ides of March" ---

The "Falcon" calls ----

We grasp our pen in hand

To speak of all the many things

That have befallen "The Band".

Okay, okay, so we lost our head but just think--Spring almost here and Camp only four months away! However enough of the lyrics and on with the news!

The long-awaited Band Blazer Crests arrived in time for most of us to have them "up" for New Year's Day. Pretty nifty items they are too. Any Band member who hasn't acquired his yet is advised to contact Cpl. Bill Elms at once. There aren't many left.

Speaking of New Year's Day the Band Room witnessed another top-notch gathering of Band members and friends. The punch was good and the roast, cooked by Mrs. Baird, disappeared to the last morsel. Colonel Fraser and staff paid us a visit and in so doing revived memories of the Band's first New Year's celebration in the old Band Room some years ago when we recall the punch was mixed in a lard pail with an old spoon and Colonel George's remarks were made amid a shambles of lumber, paint cans and, of all things, a pickled heart left behind by the medical boys, previous tenants of the room.

The Annual Meeting of the Pipe Band held on Friday, January 16th saw the following Committee returned to office for the coming year -- President, Drummer L. Tucker, Vice-President Cpl. W. Elms, Secretary-Treasurer, C. Spence, Committeemen, Pipers W. Baird and J. Williams. These fellows ask your co-operation and help in the months ahead. This can best be given by following the House Rules to the best of your ability.

The Annual Pipe Band Dinner-Dance held at the War Amps Club Saturday, January 17 was the usual success and we think boasted what must have been one of the longest head tables in the record of dinners military or otherwise! The speeches were entertaining, particularly that of Captain Brown, who brought down the house with his recollection of the Band as it turned out for "Johnny Cope" the first morning at Niagara Camp, 1952. Colonel Fraser wisely seized the opportunity (with the ladies present) of putting in a plug for Camp, 1953! Dancing concluded a very enjoyable evening.

Pipers John Williams and Jerry Worth have recently completed the projectionists course provided by the National Film Board and will be presenting some interesting films for our entertainment from time to time. Their first "production" was "Exercise Musk-OX" on February 13th. Do you think you can resurrect "Four Feathers", fellows? We can still see the "Fuzzy-Wuzzies" charging down on the jolly old North Surreys and the "old soldier" snarling to the "rook" beside him--"if yer cawn't look at 'em comin' on jest close yer eyes an' I'll tell yer when t'fire!" And then of course ther is Marilyn Monroe----but we don't think the Band Room could possibly hold the whole Battalion!

Members of the Mount Forest Pipe Band paid us a visit on February 6 and were entertained after Parade in the Band Room.

Newly-joined Bandmen include Drummers Don Fletcher and Wally Tye and Piper Stewart White. Don left the Band almost two years ago to join the 48th Coy of the 27th Brigade, however he has lost none of his stick-twirling ability and will be a real asset to the tenor section. Prior to joining the 27th Brigade Wally did his drumming for the Irish Regiment, now back to stay he becomes our eleventh side drummer. "Stu" White, not long off the ship which brought him from the Land O' the Heather, has us wondering how on earth he can put away all those chips and Wilson's orange and still live!!!

The casualty list finds Piper Dunc Fleming and Drummer Charlie Perkins in circulation again after being hospitalized. Piper Eddie Wells is still nursing a cracked elbow sustained in a basketball game.

The Indoor Games of the Pipers' Society of Ontario are reported elsewhere in this issue, suffice here to say that our Trophy cupboards are now bulging after a very successful day.

This is necessarily written before our Annual Ball at the Royal York, Feb. 21, however the advance ticket sale indicates another bang-up affair -- details in the next "Falcon". Until then its so long from The Pipe Band.

PIPERS' SOCIETY OF ONTARIO INDOOR GAMES

The Italo-Canadian Recreation Hall's walls rang with the sound of Pipes and Drums all day Saturday, February 14th on the occasion of the above-mentioned Society's indoor contests. As in 1952 representatives of the 48th Pipe Band carried off the lion's share of the prizes.

The premier event of the afternoon was the quartette piping competition for the John Innes Memorial Trophy. For the second year running the 48th quartette (composed of Cpl. Colin MacKay and Pipers Archie Finlayson, Billy Gilmour and Reay MacKay) took the honours with Pipers from the St. Catharines Pipe Band and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Pipe Band, Hamilton, second and third respectively. Our boys put in a lot of extra practice and deserve a lot of credit.

In individual competition the 48th were prominent winners again. Corporal Colin MacKay captured the Piobaireachd competition which won him the Dr. Macleod Challenge Trophy, while Colin's son Reay placed third.

The Open March competition for the Toronto Scottish Challenge Trophy was strictly a 48th affair. Pipers Billy Gilmour and Reay MacKay tied for first place while Piper John Wakefield captured third position.

In the junior piping under 14 years, Miss Frances Dewar, daughter of our Pipe-Major Archie Dewar placed second.

To round out the day second place in the individual drumming competition went to Corporal Fred Fisher.

A real "Dileas" Day, we'd say!

SCOTLAND THE BRAVE

CHORUS

Shall ring the gallant phrase
 Scotland my mountain home
 High may your proud standards
 gloriously wave;
 Land of my high endeavour,
 Land of the shining river
 Land of my heart forever
 Scotland the brave.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| (1) Hark! When the night is falling | (2) High in the misty highlands |
| Hear, hear the pipes are calling, | Out by the Buffo islands |
| Loudly and proudly calling down | Brave are the hearts that beat beneath |
| through the glen; | Scottish skies |
| Here where the hills are sleeping | Wild are the winds that meet you |
| Now feel the blood a' leaping, | Staunch are the friends that greet you |
| High as the spirits of the old | Kind as the love that shine from |
| Helland men. | fair maidens eyes. |

"A" COMPANY

Congratulations are in order for L/Cpl. Hollway who finally received his long awaited first hook.

A Christmas Party was held on the 20th of December at the Long Branch Ranges. There were several prizes given which included a dust map, presented to Capt. Cunningham for his mopping up operations on the home front. The party was well organized by our social club who deserve a lot of credit. A good time was had by all who attended, but what happened to the rest of you fellows who didn't show up? ?

The MacGregor Rifle Club held their annual shoot on Feb. 7. The winner of the MacGregor Cup was R.Q.M.S. Wignall and the Mitchell Shield was won by Cpl. Wignall who was followed very closely by Cpl. Coutts. The Wignall family seem to have taken over the main prizes for the year. Several chickens were won by active and ex-members of the Club. Again A Coy was let down by its active members as there were only twelve in attendance, but there was a good showing from the Sergeants' Mess and ex-members of the Club.

On Friday, January 20 the McPherson Trophy was presented to Capt. Cunningham and the members of the softball team received their sweaters for their victorious season in 1952. Up to date we have played two soft ball games. The first of which we conceded to "C" Coy with a score of six to five. The second game against Support Coy saw Able return victorious with a score of six to two. Nice going fellas. It looks like we might be able to keep the McPherson Trophy for another year. A party will be held by "A" Coy very shortly so lets get out and have a good time.

BAKER BYLINE

This issue of the "Falcon" finds us with little to report from "B" Coy. Everything has been strictly routine this past month or two, but we have plans for a very large season this Spring.

Very sorry to lose our 2I/C Capt. Heighington to "D" Coy, however, congratulations are very much in order, sir. All the best from everyone in Baker.

Sgt. Ed Cane has certainly had himself a time this past few months, hope by the time this is in print you will be back in regular harness, Ed.

The Coy seems to have been bitten by the decorating bug again. So look out--Coy Orderly Room--you're due for a face-lifting.

With two practices under our belts now, B Coy is looking forward to the next dance when we can show you fellows how the Dashing White Sergeant, Eightsome Reel and others should be done.

B Coy is feeling quite pleased since the GOC's inspection. Seems that one of our up and coming L/Cpls.--Quinn by name--was highly commended on his dress and deportment by the GOC himself.

A big welcome to all you new fellows in the Coy. Keep bringing in the recruits fellows. Don't forget there's another competition on.

Already one of our main topics of discussion is Summer Camp. We even have a couple of fellows seriously thinking about "call-out" jobs, notwithstanding the tales of Cpls. Grundon and Harbinson.

Editor's Note: Congratulations to S/M Murray Parmiter on his recent well-earned promotion.

Making it Final!

With her hand on the light switch, the woman paused in her interminable chatter to inquire: "Is everything shut up for the night, dear?"

Out of the darkness came her husband's patient reply: "Everything else, dear."

"DON" COMPANY DOINGS

"Don" Coy has a new Company Commander. On February 14 we said good-bye to Major Haldenby who has left us to take command of Support Company and, at the same time we welcomed Capt. Heighington as our new Company Commander who has come to us from "Baker" Company.

The Company Orderly Room is sporting a new coat of paint which was very badly needed. It is now a beautiful shade of green below and cream above. We would like to express our thanks to Mr. Binnie for supplying the paint and to the several members of the Company who donated their labour.

We are pleased to see three new Corporals in the persons of Cpls. Appleton, McKian, and Turner. We would also like to welcome Sgt. Stephen into the Company.

Congratulations to Cpl. C. J. Tomlin who on the completion of twelve years continuous service with the Regiment recently received the Canadian Efficiency Decoration. We hope he will have many more years with us.

We have had several visits from two ex-members of the Company who are now in the active force. L/Cpls. Missons and MacDonald of The Royal Canadian Regiment who will be on their way to Korea the end of February. We wish them both the best of luck.

Remember the recruit competition and bring your friends down we need them and they will enjoy it. It seems that Pte. Barber is a one-man-recruiting-drive, having brought us several recruits already. Keep them coming.

Don't forget Summer Camp to be held at Niagara-on-the-Lake from July 26 to August 2 prepare now to come and let's have the largest representation at camp. We all know how much fun it was last year so let's get cracking and prepare for another "seige" on Niagara.

THE SUPPORT REPORTS

L/Cpl. Wilson and his fellow members on the Support Coy Social and Flame Throwing Committee did a commendable job on our annual Christmas Dance. The door prize was a lovely rhinestone necklace. They had to fix the draw to make sure the winner was female.

Support Company has sent another missionary out to the other companies to "teach them how". This time it's Capt. Woolley who goes to Charlie Company as 2 I/C.

A Highlander's life is not all fighting and drinking so Support Coy has started a series of monthly Dance Practices complete with "wine, women and bagpipes".

Four peuter beer mugs with silver falcons on the side were presented to our Company Commander, Major Featherstone by the boys of Support Company on the occasion of his retirement after 15 years of service with the 48th Highlanders. The presentation was made at a special stag party held at the 48th Club.

Support Company is now under the leadership of Major Haldenby who comes to us from "Dog" Company. We welcome you Sir, and look forward to even greater achievements under your command.

The question now vexing the entire battalion is: "Would the Piper's Annual Ball have been such an enormous success if it hadn't been for the fact that Support Company held "Open House" in Room 120 of the same hotel and on the same night?" Leave it to the pipers to be smart enough to hold their dance the same night and get the benefit of the "overflow" from Room 120.

Support Company now sounds off by platoons:

1. **The Mortar Report:** Welcome to Pte. Reynolds from the North Novies who is busy arranging for a Regimental boxing team...Cpl. Grant who is now on the Senior NCO Course has taken the hint from Reynolds and is looking for people interested in a track and field team.Congratulations to L/Cpl. Couchman on receiving his first

"hook".L/Cpl. Wilson has gone to the baby platoon.Eleven of the smartest young cadets you have ever seen are now training with three inch Mortars and hope to go up to Meaford with Support Company next April.

"Sgt. Kelly"

2. The 6-Pounder Report:

Platoon strength has increased to the point where the need is now for more guns rather than more men.Keeping pace with the sudden expansion Cpl. Ayre jumped directly from Pte. to Cpl., skipping the rank of L/Cpl. ... The next move, no doubt, is to jump directly from Cpl. to C.S.M. skipping the rank of Sgt. A Sunday Scheme at Long Branch saw A/T platoon firing at moving targets....we hit them too! Central Command is expected to start A/T competitions next Spring....just what our crews are looking for.

"Cpl. Ayre"

3. "Net Now" with Sigs

Welcome to Mr. DePencier who comes to Sigs Platoon from----? Company.Cpl. Martin wore his White Shell to the Pipers Ball....He claims he was just as cool as anyone else.Sgt. Sawdy has become Senior Sigs Sgt. on the transfer of Sgt. Lamont to the baby platoon.....Cpls. Cook and Martin are now on the Senior NCO's Course.Dial 8 Mag on your "58 set" for further reports.

"Cpl. Cook"

4. Introducing the Bang Bang Boys:

The baby platoon (Carriers) now has a vickers gun; so we're "in business" from now on.Our Members are "Grampa" Graham, "Wee Willie" Kelly and "I Shoot Brownings" Wilson, with Sgt. "Such a Gentleman" Lamont as Pl. Sgt. and Mr. Blair "With the Moustache" as platoon Commander....Look out Meaford, here we come.

"Sgt. Lamont".

JOKES !!

Alternatives:

The nurse from the Maternity Ward, seeing how very young the prospective father was, sought to ease his anxiety. "What was it you wanted," she asked, "a boy or girl?"

"Oh, I wanted a boy," the young father answered excitedly.

"I'm terribly sorry," the helpful nurse replied. "You see it's a girl."

Untroubled, the young father laughed excitedly. "That's all right," he said in evident relief. "That was my next choice anyway."

Going to the Top:

The old lady found her way through the long hallways seeking the Department of Agriculture. She was a little fearful, but determined. She wanted to see the Minister and no one else would do. Finally his deputy was called on.

"But I want to see the Minister himself," she protested.

"He's not in now," the official explained patiently. "It will be some time before he returns. Couldn't you perhaps tell me what it is you want to see him about."

The old lady evidently was not satisfied. "You're sure you can speak for the Minister?" she demanded.

"Yes, I think I can promise you that," said the deputy.

"Well," she finally agreed, "I have a geranium that isn't doing at all well. I wanted to ask him why."

Parental thought:

It is told of Winston Churchill that one day, after listening to an oratorical outburst by his son Randolph, he accepted the glowing enthusiasm of an acquaintance with parental dignity. "Yes," said Churchill, "he's got the big guns, but has he got the ammunition?"