

One of our greater contemporary newspapers has a feature which tells what was happening "4 years ago", "3 years ago" etc. This seemed a useful way of filling in a few lines, and so the Editor hopefully looked up the back files of the Newsletter - with the following results:- Four years ago - "The month of August arrived safely 2 or 3 weeks ago, and we have had several interesting changes of weather Bank Holiday passed uneventfully." Three years ago - "Geo. Haysum's bus still runs daily on the station road." Two years ago - "Campden (Agricultural) is concerned with getting the wheat harvest reaped." One year ago - "Being August, this should be a holiday number, but owing to the absence of our artists on war work, shortage of paper, and no holidays, we can't rise to it!"

(N.B. - This feature will henceforth be discontinued!!!)

Correspondence this month: Cpl. Tom Meadows writes hoping Campden has not altered too much during the 4 years he has been abroad! He thanks us for our "very regular N/Letter", and would like also "to thank those responsible for sending the Overseas Daily Mail, which is very greatly appreciated not only by myself, but also by my comrades in arms (or should I say ladies and frying pans!) I am stationed on the coast, and have a marvellous time bathing in the Briny and in the sun We also have a lovely swimming pool here, a Cinema, and also a snooker table - which are very few and far between in Army Camps! Hoping to see you in the very near future". (That's the spirit! - Ed.) Gann, J. E. Tucker (South East Asia Command) has had a short spell in hospital with malaria, but it was only a slight attack. "The monsoons are in full swing, and it is quite a nice change to see a drop of rain - it makes the place much cooler and lays the dust a bit I am very interested in the local farming (mostly rice), also the local animal life, the lizards varying in size from 3 inches to 3 feet, the snakes (much better dead), and the many types of lizards and butterflies. We have an abundance of kingfishers around our camp Well I must conclude by saying 'carry on the good work!'"

LOCAL NEWS.

(1). His many friends and acquaintances will much regret to hear of the death of Mr. Kennard, formerly of Mickleton, and some years in Campden. Our sincerest sympathies go out to Mrs. Kennard, Miss Kennard, and to other relatives and friends.

(2). We hear that Lieut. Joe Meadows has been promoted to Captain's rank, and send congratulations to him and to his family.

(3). You will be sorry to know that Mr. J. Mare, through ill health, has for the present relinquished his charge of the Despatch Department of the Newsletter, which he has conducted from the first number five years ago until now. We trust he may soon recover full health. Mr. J. Warrington is taking over this work.

(4). A very successful Summer Fete at the Vicarage on behalf of Church Funds brought in the sum of £144.

(5). We understand that the North Chapel of the Parish Church (probably built by bankers in the 15th century, and so called the Lombard Chapel) is being restored.

(6). The Baptist Church Thankoffering Fund in connection with its 281st Anniversary, realized £54.

(7). The Boys Club and Girls Club united Fete at the Old Mill, Westington, was well attended, and the financial results were excellent.

(8). The Grammar School Sports passed off splendidly.

(9). The Osiris Players are again holding a fortnights Festival in the Church Room with a varied and interesting selection of plays ancient and modern.

Village Notes: Jones was visiting a distant village, but did not arrive till after dark. After floundering about for some time in the blackout, somebody brushed past him. "Er, excuse me," said Jones, "can you tell me where I am going?" "Oh, certainly! into the pond. I've just come out!"

THE MONTES REMINDER:

"Greatly begin! Though thou have time but for a line - be that sublime. Not failure, but low aim is crime."

"Sixty" - and still going strong! We send Diamond Jubilee greetings to all, wishing them the best that can be, and an early and a happy homecoming! It is an impressive thought that peace in Europe might come before this number of the Newsletter reaches all on its now extensive round - But be that as it may, we rejoice with you in the grand news that has been coming through, and in the part that so many of you have played in bringing it to pass. There is still a job to complete, and we can count on you to see it through, as you can count on us to back you up and keep you happy with news from home.

"J.W." thinks you might like to hear another dialect yarn before you come back, and sends the following:- "A mon 'ad bin t' Stow Ma'r, drivin' a oss un caart. 'E 'ad too many drinks ther, un when 'e start fur home 'e made th'oss goo th wrong road. 'E went t'sleep un th'oss drawed up in somebody's rick yard. A mon ther see 'im un propped up th'shafts, took th'oss out un put 'im in a barn. Then 'e woke up cle wot's 'is name an exed 'im who 'e was, an wot 'e was doin' ther. 'E looks about 'alf lost like, looks at th'empty shafts, leans over an looks at th'naame on th'caart, an then 'e sez "Well, either I be wots is naame as is on ther an' a loss me 'oss, or else I be somebody else an I 'a pinched this yer caart"! So long, see tha NEXT Scuttlebrook now."

Humour from Scotland:- (1) "I dinna waste mony words" said the haughty Mrs. McNish, "if I beckon sae, that means come"! "I'm nae wastefu' neither", retorted the new maid, "if I shake ma heid, that means I willna' come"! (2) Wee Elsie:- "Why dinna ye going tae the same kirk as we dae?" Wee Willie:- "Mither says its because we belong tae a deefereent abomination"! (3). "Sandy's broken out agen - I juist saw him addressin' a crood on th'evils O' strong drink"! "Aweel, that's a guid sign"! "Aye lad, but ye ken, there wisna' ony crood"! (4) Old Mrs. McNab (being shown round the Zoo):- "An what manner o'beast is you?" Friend: "That's an American moose." Mrs. McNab: "Hoots! A moose is it? If that's a moose, what'll an American rat be like?"

The Postbag this month contains but one letter, from Bert Charles (Postman) - 2873339 B. Charles H.Q. 5th Division, M.E.F. He thinks it is wonderful "what the British people can do when the call is sounded; everybody seems to be up and doing. I trust their work and sacrifices will help to give the world a sane and lasting peace! I enjoyed reading your picture flash of Geo. Haysum and his bus. I have told all our chaps about 'our George' and the bus - I would say they are an institution, in fact unique. I only hope it will soon be my good fortune 'whizzing' up and down to the station! Remind me to all in Campden"!

News from Campden is scarce. Everyone has been too busy fruit picking and harvesting to produce any! The following items have come to our notice, and will be of interest to some. P.C. Arthur John Betty who prior to joining the forces was stationed at Campden, and who whilst serving in Commando was captured by the Germans in N. Africa, has now rejoined the Allied lines and is in Italy, safe and well. Lieut. A.B.R. Fairclough of the Army Printing & Stationery Services, who lives in Campden, has been in charge of an Exhibition in Jerusalem, showing illustrations, drawings and designs to stimulate interest among M.E. soldiers in Post War planning. The Exhibition, we understand, is largely the work of Lieut. Fairclough. Sgt. H.H. Bennett (Glos. Home Guards) It will give pleasure to many to know that Harry Bennett has received a Certificate from the Chief of General Staff to the C. in C., Home Forces. (N.B. It was given over a year ago, but Harry's modesty prevented it being earlier known!) It reads as follows:- "Your name has been brought to the notice of the C. in C., Home Forces. I am authorized by him to signify by the award to you of this Certificate, his appreciation of the good service which you have rendered. I have given instructions that a note of your devotion to duty shall be made on your record of service." (All, including Toe H. of which he is a member, will join in congratulations to H.B. on this mention in Dispatches! -Ed.)

Epilogue

"Ring in the valiant man and free, The larger heart,
the kindlier hand. Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be"! (Tennyson)

We begin this time with a peep into Campden's past, given by "JW" who sends the following:- "What do you Campden boys see when you think of the old town? The High Street, Sheep Street, the Church, the Homes? Now here is another picture for you, of Campden past. As you walk up Station Road, just see the road as it was 80 years ago - no footpath, no smooth metalled road, the road muddy, with deep ruts and rough stones. Then at the top of the bank opposite Berrington Mill gateway - a cottage standing right across the present footpath and partly on the present roadway, a strong fence across the rest of the road except for a gate across the track. A Toll Gate! Just try and picture it, dirty, muddy, or buried in snow; wagons and teams of horses, farm carts, pack horses, cows and sheep. Can you picture all this? Good old Campden!"

Modern Campden presents other items of interest. You all remember our street lamps that lightened our darkness - but may not realize as we who have lived here, that it is 5 years since they were last lit! And now they've come to life again and we are all rejoicing in the comfort of lighted streets once more. The modifying of the black-out has also brought shaded lights into our windows. This takes some getting used to; and it is even credibly reported that "the other night two Specials knocked at a door and implored the startled inhabitant to "Light up and take that black-out down"!!

The Home Guard: In connection with the relaxation of its rules and parades made voluntary, a word of appreciation is voiced in the Parish Magazine for the fine spirit and fine record of its members during its years of existence.

Other News Notes: Barlow Cooper is well at last after a m/c smash in Italy early in the year and has just been home on leave. Reg Nobes is now in India. Miss Ella Prentice has been married to a member of the Gordon Highlanders.

Sayings (from John Bull) "If the French had their way Hitler would be gelatined." (That would be a sticky enough end for him). "Hitler has admitted he is dreading the coming winter." ("Why should he? There is no shortage of coal in our P.O.W. Camps.") "The Home Guard spent three hours on Sunday morning searching a haystack." ("And did they find the needle after all?" "I like a man who stands on his own feet." ("You have had trouble with your dancing partner!"))

From Campdenians abroad: Sgt R.S. Sadler (1604372.99Sqn. RAF. India) thinks it is about time he wrote thanking us for the Newsletter "so much appreciated by all Campden boys, especially like me so far away in India. Reading your July number tells me Campden moves on much the same (including Scuttlebrook). I can picture excited groups up and down High Street discussing the great news from the European fronts.... I am very sorry to hear of the death of Mr Madley, also of Norman Powell..... In Calcutta a short while ago, I met Lac. Joe Chamberlain; you may guess we had much to talk about.... I have a feeling that soon I shall be seeing the old Cotswold stone and green fields of Campden again." Sgt F.R. Ashdown (REME c/o St James Barracks, Port of Spain, Trinidad) mentions the grand success of our Salut of the Soldier Week and reminds himself of his visit to 'Joe's Workshop' when the Soldier picture was being painted-"What with rows of figures (£33333) all alike, throwing out unspoken challenges, and the life-like warrior to prod you on, I don't wonder you came out on top!" A.QMS.E.A. Hayden (7591896.540W/S Bry. REME. 533 Base Camp, W/S. MEF) has received the Newsletter regularly since the beginning of the war. "There are lots of items of news that are welcome, and not mentioned in letters from folk at home." He has met Tom Meadows in Palestine, also Bill Brotheridge. "I am nearly certain I passed Mr Fairclough but did not manage to speak to him." He tells us Toc H is well in evidence in M.E. and he has stayed in Toc H in several places. "They are doing a good job of work..... Campden begins to seem such a long way away. It's nearly 4 years away now and I'm sorry to say I forget the old place."

A Key Thought:- "Every day is a fresh beginning,
Listen, my soul, to the glad refrain:
Take heart with the day and begin again."

Campden. November 1944. Toc. H. Newsletter No. 62.

We shall have opportunity to send Xmas greetings next month to those serving in the Homeland. Those abroad must have them in this number of the Newsletter. Toc H and all Campden send the greetings of the Season; and one of the best wishes we can offer is that it will be your last Xmas away from home! "Home sweet Home" takes on a deeper meaning when far away and absence makes the heart grow fonder. Keep smiling, for the day of return draws ever nearer!

In the meantime we send you all, in Britain or abroad the monthly 'pot pourri' of Campden cuttings, large and small, personal and general, sublime and even ridiculous! Funny things do happen in Campden, but they are not all for publication; so we fall back on things that happen elsewhere! For instance there was the schoolboy who wrote in his exam. paper "Queen Victoria was the longest queen on the throne"; "Joan of Arc was the wife of Noah"; and "Elocution is the method by the American Government for killing people". And then there was the man who had been drinking too much and was told by the Doctor that he was suffering from 'Syncopation'. When his wife looked it up in the dictionary she found it meant 'Irregular movement from bar to bar'!

Coming to more general items of authentic news that has come our way:- (1) The M.C. has been awarded to Major James G.B. de Vine RAMC of Campden for services on the Western Front. (Hearty congratulations). (2) During the recent disturbances in Athens when there were clashes between rival Greek political parties and grenades were thrown, a small party of British Paratroops was rushed to the Square. "As soon as the crowd spotted our plum coloured berets, they forgot their rivalries" said Major Richard Hargreaves of Campden. "They got so excited about welcoming us that all thoughts of hurting each other left them". (3) The Campden Boys Club reports that 23 of their old members are serving with H.M. Forces. (4) The Earl of Gainsborough has come of age and the occasion was marked by a short ceremony in the Town Hall, where he was presented with an illuminated Address from the citizens of Campden. Later at the Catholic School his Lordship was presented with a silver cigarette box from the School children, and a silver bowl from the Convent and Presbytery.

The Post brings us news of four Campden men this month:- (a) Major N.H. New (AJAG.HQ.Ind.Corps.S.E.A.C.) finds the N/letter always full of interest with first hand news of Campden "which I still consider as my home". After 2½ years in various parts of India, he is now in charge of Court Martial and other legal work at a HQ. "I was very sorry to hear of the Powells' loss". "I have not had the luck to run across a single Campden man yet." He concludes with the hope that we shall not discontinue the N/1 until after the Japanese part of the war is over. (b) Dvr W. Smith (T152715 G.H.Q.Liaison Rgt, Richmond, Surrey) writes to say how welcome the N/letter which he has been receiving regularly in N.Africa and in Normandy, is. He wishes the N/1, Toc H and all Campdonians over the world every success and happiness. (c) Sgt F.R. Ashdown REME (St James Barracks, Port of Spain, Trinidad) writes again this month with more news of his life in W. Indies and gives a graphic picture of conditions there. Among other things he says that "The tremendous influence for good of the Christian workers is perhaps more noticeable in a slightly more crude country such as this". He mentions also the great work being done for the Island's lepers. (d) L/Bdr G. James (1471299.C Troop 301/98 Bty.HAA, RA, BLA) "I have just received the October N/letter and the list of Campden men and women who are remembered by prayer in the Parish Church every week." "I am still with Fred Coldicott and he lets me have the Overseas Daily Mail." G. James is at present in Belgium, has been to Caen, Ostend, Brussels (which reminds him of Edinburgh), and gives an interesting account of conditions; he passes on best wishes to John Benfield of Berrington Rd, and to all his old friends.

Epilogue - is a prayer of Sir Jacob Astley (of Stow-on-the-Wold) before the battle of Edgehill. "O Lord, Thou knowest how busy I must be this day. If I forget Thee, do Thou not forget me!"

The coming of Christmas and the desire to send a seasonal message to you all, has roused the poetic muse in the mind of George Hart - who is Toc H Chairman for the current year. He becomes the spokesman for us all in the following lines entitled

"Our Christmas Greeting"

When we walk down our lovely street,
We miss the sound of friendly feet,
The cheery smile and how d'ye do,
We never failed to get from you.

Oh yes, you're missed.
The time seems long
Since we did hear your laugh and song,
As you walked through this lovely Town,
Our Chipping Campden of renown.
There are many unknown faces,
Which do not fill the vacant places
Of you boys, girls, women and men,
And ev'ry Serving Citizen.

You're mentioned here from day to day,
In Church where you were wont to pray;
And often in your waiting home,
Which you have left, the world to roam,
To fight our battles, win a peace,
Which by God's grace shall never cease;
That we may freely live again,
When war is done, the demon slain.

Take our wish to you every one,
Father, Mother, Daughter, Son,
May it be soon when you'll come home,
And never more will have to roam.

Christmastide is drawing near,
And how we wish that you were here,
To take our greeting, share our cheer,
In glass of wine, tankard of beer.
Our wishes come with this Newsletter,
With warmth of love - though it were better
That you were here in person meeting
With this our warmest Christmas Greeting.

To Church we'll go on Christmas Day,
And ask God's Blessing as we pray
Upon us all. May it not cease
To bring Good Will and lasting peace."

As most of you know, the Newsletter was inaugurated, organised and produced by the Campden Toc H in the first month of the war in 1939, and represents one of its war activities. For over 5 years it has been carried on, and we are glad to feel it has found its way to you all over the world, and helped to bring cheer with its news of home and the home town. But Campden Toc H has many sides to its work, as we were reminded by the news that recently it organised a fund for the Madame Curie Hospital, which so far has totalled £18,9.0.

That Toc H is in evidence in many parts of the world during war time has been shown by various references in our letters from correspondents both abroad and in this country. In regard to the latter, we have a letter from Cpl Arnel Drinkwater (1015367. Gas Section. RAF, Wyton, Hants), who tells how in Salisbury he had supper in a Toc H Club. Once an old barn, it had been turned by Toc H into a nice reading room, lounge and a dining room where lovely suppers are obtainable. "In such places, too, there is something about the tea that is different!" Speaking on other matters (a) he has heard that his brother is home from Burma, (b) a man from Moreton in Marsh told him how much he likes Campden, and thought what a nice canteen they have there, and the people in it so sociable. He ends with "In case you do not know which Drinkwater it is (who is writing), as there are 4 of us, it is Berrington Road."

