

# 94 TROOP NOTES

**T**HE period covered by these notes has been kaleidiscopic in it's activities, we have been on leave, moved into camps out camps, up the hill and down the hill, changed step left right left, now we have come to rest amidst Eleyasian fields in country strongly reminiscent of the rugged Scottish Highlands.

We have sped many old staunchions on their way back home, trusted friends whom we shall miss, their happy, blissful faces now shining through the haze of the local pub are lost to us forever.

We welcome and encourage those who have replaced them, and hope their beginning will be as sober as their predecessors departure was inebriated.

To record the names in detail of those who have left us would be too large a task and to select some and leave others would be unjust.

Our future is always a matter for eager speculation and fantastic rumours. We look forward to see those who are coming from England to swell our ranks and we will be indulgent in our advice and helpful in our suggestions. But remember, we too thought at first we could reform the East, but have succumbed to its magic spell.

With the end of the war in the West and the swing over to our all out effort against the NIP, with the load of supplies and reinforcements to this theatre reaching gigantic heights we are confident that the end is not too far off; our spirits have been unmeasurably lifted by the fresh interest and support coming from home.

## ENGINEERS.

**S**INCE our last notes little of importance has happened to disturb our tranquility. However we welcome into our fold some extremely keen (?) volunteers who incited by some glowing reports from the old hands just couldn't be stopped from leaving the horrible discomforts of STEYNING.

Our principle occupation during this period of peaceful chaos has been losing lists of signs to be completed and getting those completed caught up in sandstorms while the paint was still wet. Even the most obtuse W.O.G. driver can now find his way round Bde HQ and invariably reports at the right place at the right time.

At long last we have spent some of our time playing around with REEL ENGINEER EQUIPMENT at the ROYAL BOMBAY SAPPERS & MINERS SCHOOL. To become a member of the good old Bailey Bridging Panel Parties was an honour keenly contested for, especially on the model. It was noticeable how few were the volunteers for "Pin Man".

Since then the DCI RMEC (Q to you) and his super staff have disseminated the germs of learning amongst the non-technical troops. So well has he done this that we do not consider our presence in SEAC any longer a necessity.

Our technical equipment is now rapidly approaching the standard of WIMPEY'S. Our Compressor (without tools) makes a lovely noise and fitted in an office would make a wizard fan. The Bulldozer has been fitted with periscopes and apart from that in future the Bde



need never be without a football pitch.

**SPORT.** In the field of sport our football team has more than held it's own, reaching the Final of the Bde HQ Knockout Competition only to lose that and R's 50 to the Defence Platoon by the only goal of the match. We had our revenge a week later however when we administered a two nil defeat to them.

For music lovers within the Tp a Gramophone has been purchased, together with 40 or more records. With the aid of the Loud Hailer a programme of both classical and swing music is broadcast three times per week during the evening, announced by the dulcet tones of Cpl J. N. Seannell. The records are not really necessary as we can always rely on **THE VOICE** or **THE FACE** or **THE BODY** to perform. (Come and get me Ken).

