

Many of the older folks will remember those weekly letters that the children of 20 years and more ago brought back from school. They were interesting then, and now are even more interesting to look through. I have been told that during the Great War they were looked forward to eagerly by the men serving away, as a link with Bugbrooke, and also for their information concerning friends who were serving in other parts. In reviving this type of news letter we hope once again to fulfil that purpose, and to put on record items of interest to all in our community.

We have arranged to have this typewritten in Northampton, and to defray the cost of this we are charging 1d. per copy. If the circulation is large there should be a profit which will be devoted to the Red Cross, or to the benefit of the men in the Forces as from time to time seems best. For the time being the Rector has appointed himself Editor, but will willingly vacate that chair whenever anyone who can more adequately, if not more amply, fill it, volunteers to do so. Mrs. Jack Holt has kindly offered to see to the distribution and financial side, and the success of the rest of it depends on how far we can be furnished regularly with news. This should be given to the Editor or the Schoolmaster, or notes left in any of the shops. To start with, it will be issued fortnightly, on Fridays. In order not to waste money on over-production, we would be glad if those wanting it could place a regular order with Mrs. Holt.

In order not to contravene the Censor or to give "valuable information to the enemy", for if Hitler knew exactly where Bugbrooke men were, he would never dare to attack that particular place, places must be kept rather vague. We have, however, been able to judge for ourselves in many cases how army rations are suiting our men, several having recently paid us short visits. Donald Lovell was at first hard to recognise behind his handsome moustache, and we gather that he is not finding football to be the only muddy game. Fred Chapman is finding it distinctly cold in the North, so no more grumbling about our Bugbrooke weather. Jack Lovell knocked out a glass door with his straight left, but it's an ill wind that blows nobody any good, he was at home for a few days. It was also good to see William Buswell on a short weekend; he is hopeful of getting home for Christmas. Tom Jeffs seems to be settling down well, and spent an afternoon with Mr. Harwood Long in a northern town. Nothing has been heard of Clifford Gilkes since the beginning of the War, but there is an old saying "no news is good news." Rumour has it that Frank Curtis, on going to inquire after his sister and the ~~the~~ arrival was mistaken for father by the authorities, as the baby was thrust into his arms. Walter Pearson seemed quite fit when he was at home recently, and Reggie Boswell also appears to be getting along well. Harry Gilkes still being near at hand, gets over now and again to see how we are managing things without him. Horace Higginbottom gets an occasional weekend while Albert Hewitt and James Cunningham have recently paid visits. Harwood Harrison was able to pay a flying visit from the West coast to inspect his daughter at Bournemouth. Our sympathies go out to Joe Abel who so early in his Army career has had to undergo a trying illness, but we are glad to say that he now seems making good progress. Ernest Harrison seems to be becoming more reconciled to confining his speeches to the Parade ground. We would welcome more news of these and also news of Ronald Nightingale, Jack Haynes, Basil Kent, Ernie Jeffs and Chris Pell for our next issue.

Our Bugbrooke casualty list has unfortunately been heavy lately, but we are glad to have Mr. Thompson and May Langley home again from hospital and to know that Mrs. Denny is going on well. Unfortunately, Mrs. Harriet Adams has had to take their place, we hope soon to return. It may not be generally known that the resignation of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Barford from the Post Office has broken a long family connection. Over 100 years ago Mrs. Barford's grandfather began selling stamps, about the only P.O.

JEFFS J.
HELMDON,
Tel. Sulg

BUGBROOKE.
Christmas 1939.

This issue of the Bugbrooke Letter conveys to all Bugbrooke people at home and away all the best wishes for this season. We hope that those who spend Christmas here for the first time will have a happy one, and that those who are away will be able to make the best of things, and that next year they will occupy those vacant chairs once more.

The number of copies sold of our first Letter amply justify this publication but we again remind you, the larger the circulation the greater the profits; also now has to be gleaned rather than harvested and delivered into the barns provided for the purpose. We cannot be responsible for omitting news that shyly remains underground.

Ernie Jeffs has been home on his 7 days. He looked fit, and has apparently been showing them how Bugbrooke can play football, the only 3 goals of a game coming from his boot. He has also found a Northampton man to be his Captain. Seven days rather sounds like a Judge's verdict, but other rapidly passing weeks at home have been spent by Fred Chapman and Horace Higginbottom. The former tells us that his army boots, which captured the imagination of the Young People's Fellowship, are not exactly designed to dance in, and only seem heavy for the first 15 miles. Horace seemed in very good form, and demonstrated with no little enthusiasm, how the Air Force polka, at the C.L.B. Dance. Ronald Nightingale's address is that vague but full of meaning phrase "Somewhere in France", so we hope that he will soon be using Hitler's clothes-line. We are glad to say that news has been received from Clifford Gilkes. He is still in India, and is quite well, and hopes now that letters will get through more frequently. We offer best wishes to Donald Lovell on his marriage; his bride is well known to football enthusiasts in Bugbrooke. Many will remember Fred Dent, who spent his boyhood with Mrs. George. She has recently had a letter from him; he is also serving in the Army in India. Tom Jeffs has been playing football on the ground of a well known 1st. Division Northern team. Jack Lovell, Harry Gilkes and Frank Curtis have been over in Bugbrooke on frequent occasions. Dennis Lovell has now exchanged the uniform of a P.C. for that of the army, but has had an unfortunate start on the sick list. Albert Hewitt has been home on leave, his train at Northampton unfortunately not coinciding with any conveyance out to Bugbrooke. He is now in the West Co. James Cunningham is another of our men in the North, where he is billeted in a private house. We hope to see several of our men at Christmas or in the New Year and to hear more news of them. Oliver Grubb (Mr. and Mrs. Poole's son-in-law) is again in Bugbrooke after a somewhat trying experience in the North Sea.

Arrangements are being made to give a tea and entertainment to our evacuated children on December 29th., and to our own children on January 12th. This is being done in a spirit of faith that the money will come, and the arrangement of the parties is in the capable hands of a team of ladies captained by Mrs. Harry Gilkes. It is to be able to give a present to each child at these parties; there is a Christmas tree in the Church and anything brought to that will go towards this object.

The C.L.B. arranged a Dance for the Chronicle and Echo Troops Comforts Fund; over £3 was realised. The Mothers' Union have delivered a parcel of knitted goods to the Depot for the Northamptonshire Regiments. This was received with so much appreciation that there is hope that free wool will now be supplied for that purpose.

Everyone is hoping that there may not be a repetition of last year's snow-bound roads just before Christmas, but the weather has done everything but snow these last few days. We understand that the Old Folks' Tea will not be held this year in the winter months. Therefore any carol-singers are not collecting for this object; one year carol-singers from Grimscote, by an unintentional misrepresentation, reaped quite a good harvest.

A Fur and Feather Whist Drive in aid of the Village Hall on Wednesday night met with great success.

We have a very welcome visitor this Christmas in the moon, to help us see our way about at night. We hope that no clouds will obscure it, and that we may also