

MINISTRY OF INFORMATIONNEWS BULLETIN No. 574"Worth a Guinea a Minute"Gifts from Britain delight Gurkhas in Iraq

A British officer now serving with the Gurkhas Rifles has had the unusual experience of seeing gifts he had taken to the Army Comforts Depot, Reading, included among a consignment distributed to his men in Iraq.

Writing to the officer in charge of the Depot, and recording the delight of the Gurkhas at the appearance of the gifts, he says these formidable warriors are curiously similar in their tastes, pleasures, and idiosyncracies.

"I wish," he adds, "You could have seen some of their faces when they were confronted by a long table laden with a conglomeration of chocolate, fish paste, mirrors, soap, handkerchiefs, towels, pencils, and some queer looking sweetmeat which they seem to love. It was worth a guinea a minute to watch the pageantry of expressions." War Office M.o.I. - 1.

POST OFFICE IS RECRUITING 14 YEAR OLD CLERKS
AND TYPISTS

Clerks and typists over 15 years of age are becoming so scarce that as a temporary war-time measure, the Post Office is recruiting juveniles of 14 years for full or part-time work in these grades. They must have completed the term at school in which they became 14 and so be exempt from the obligations of school attendance. General Post Office M.o.I. 2.

A.A. GUNNERS IN DOCK RESCUE

Two Anti-aircraft gunners took a leading part in the rescue from drowning of a naval seaman who fell into the water at Carliff docks.

Gunner George Upcott, of Ashton, Bristol, was one of the two gunners. Others were hailed by a dock policeman and told that a man had fallen into the water. It was shortly after 11 p.m.

Upcott saw Able Seaman Gilbert Smart, clinging to a lifebelt and making vain attempts to reach the side of the dock.

Although an N.C.O. tried to restrain him until a rope had been brought, Upcott dived into the water sixteen feet below and succeeded in reaching Smart. He held on until a rope was thrown and then, partially succeeding in getting a loop round him, gave the order to haul. All went well until rescuer and rescued were about level with the top of the dock.

Then the rope snapped and both fell back into the water.

A member of the N.F.S. jumped into the water and while Upcott, who was then exhausted, was brought to safety, a second attempt was made to save the seaman.

This also was unsuccessful, for although a rope ladder was lowered, the N.F.S. man had to release his hold on Smart when about half way up the ladder.

Again Smart slipped back into the water.

It was then that Gunner George Hume, whose home is in Weston-super-Mare, dived into the water and after swimming around for some minutes succeeded in locating Smart who was then unconscious. Hume managed to lash a rope around the seaman's arm and push him to the side of the dock.

Smart was pulled to safety.

The rescue took about an hour in complete darkness.

Upcott and Smart had to spend a day in the seamen's hospital before they were fit to return to duty. War Office M.o.I. 3

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