

27.4.46 - No.1.

ENLISTED 1908 - STILL SERVING

POST OFFICE EXCHANGE OFFICIAL'S TERRITORIAL RECORD

first

There can be few members of the Territorial Army units formed in 1908 who have served since that date and are still in the "Terrriers". This is the proud record of Mr. L.A. Whittingham, M.B.E., who is a member of the Post Office Engineering staff at the Wood Street telephone exchange, London.

Mr. Whittingham joined the old volunteers in February, 1908. When, later in that year, Haldane's new Territorial Force came into being, Sapper Whittingham signed his attestation form to enrol in the new citizen army at ten minutes past midnight on the first morning of its existence. In 1914 he served with the rank of sergeant in the Royal Engineers in Gallipoli and on the Western Front. He carried on between the wars in the newly formed Signal Corps, and had reached the rank of C.S.M. when he was mobilised in 1939 for the second time in his service. He served throughout the war in the Anti-Aircraft defence Signals as Regimental Sergeant Major, and is still a R.S.M. on the class Z Reserve awaiting his final discharge from the Forces.

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GENERAL POST OFFICE

27.4.46 - No. 2

IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDAL AWARDS

THIRTY-THREE POST OFFICE WOMEN HONOURED

The London Gazette announces awards of 267 Imperial Service medals to retiring Post Office workers. Thirty-three women are named in the list including two holders of the B.E.M.: - Miss M. Campbell, Kyle; and Miss E.M. Couzens, Portsmouth.

In Scotland, there are twentyone awards, including nine in Glasgow. Wales has five.

There are ten medallists in Manchester, six in Birmingham and four in Liverpool.

Eighty-three medals go to London.

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GENERAL POST OFFICE

R.A.F. SALUTES THE DUTCH

A bouquet of flowers - red roses, orange carnations and blue lilac - and a message from the Chief of the Air Staff, Marshal of the R.A.F. the Lord Tedder, G.C.B. are to be dropped by a Lancaster of Bomber Command over Holland on April 29th for Queen Wilhelmina if weather conditions are favourable. The ceremony is to mark the first anniversary of the dropping of food by the Royal Air Force to the Dutch last spring as the Germans were driven out of the country.

The flowers and message will be dropped in a container on Soesterberg airfield, near Amerfoort. The Queen will be at the Palace Soestdijk five miles away and the container will be taken by car to the Palace.

The Lancaster will be escorted by six others, belonging to No.35 (Pathfinder) Squadron, stationed at Graveley, near Huntingdon. This Squadron was formed in February, 1916, and is one of the oldest in the R.A.F. It was also the first Squadron to be engaged in food dropping over the Netherlands.

The aircraft will fly in box formation at 1,500 feet and when near the selected airfield, No.7 will break away from formation, make the drop over the runway, and then dip in salute over the Royal Palace. All seven aircraft will then return to base, flying low over Rotterdam, The Hague, Amsterdam and Utrecht on their way.

Leader of the formation will be W/Cdr. A.J.L. Craig, D.S.O., D.F.C., and No.7 Lancaster will be piloted by the first R.A.F. pilot to drop food parcels over Holland - S/Ldr. T.S. Harris, D.F.C.

Between 29th April, 1945 and 8th May, 1945, aircraft of Bomber Command made 3,341 sorties and dropped 6,685 tons of food for the Dutch.

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NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST IN OVERSEAS BULLETINS, OR USE ON CLUB  
TAPES BEFORE 2330 B.S.T. ON SATURDAY, APRIL 27 (i.e. FOR ~~SUNDAY~~ MORNING  
PAPERS). NOT TO BE BROADCAST IN THE MIDNIGHT NEWS OF 27/28 APRIL.  
THIS EMBARGO SHOULD BE RESPECTED OVERSEAS BY PREFACING ANY MESSAGES  
FILED WITH THE EMBARGO.

SPEEDIER POSTS.

## RESTORATION OF TRAVELLING POST OFFICES.

In accordance with Post Office policy to do everything possible to improve the postal services of the country, more Travelling Post Offices are to be put into operation. On May 6th the following T.P.O's will begin working:-

1. Midland T.P.O. running in each direction between Bristol and Newcastle-on-Tyne. This will improve the postal services between the West of England and the North Eastern Counties.
2. South Wales T.P.O. running in each direction between Bristol and Carmarthen will speed the postal services to and from South Wales.
3. London-York-Edinburgh T.P.O. running from London to Edinburgh will lead to improved postal services from London, Southern and Eastern counties to North Eastern counties, and South-East Scotland below Edinburgh.
4. Edinburgh-York T.P.O. running from Edinburgh to York will benefit the postal services from Eastern Scotland to the North Eastern counties of England and Yorkshire.
5. North Eastern T.P.O. Up running from Newcastle-on-Tyne to London will mean better postal services from North Eastern counties to London and the Eastern and Southern counties.

The restoration of these T.P.O's has been made possible by the co-operation of the Railway Companies concerned who, in some cases, have appreciably speeded up trains to meet Post Office requirements.

Just before the war the whole of Great Britain was covered by a network of more than seventy T.P.O's which travelled nearly four million miles annually. Five hundred Post Offices men were daily engaged in sorting letters while these trains ran at speeds up to eighty miles an hour.

Everything that railway engineering experience can suggest has been embodied in these Travelling Post Offices - descendants of that converted horse-truck that over one hundred years ago was the first Travelling Post Office in this country.

GENERAL POST OFFICE. ++++++

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ANIMATED SKELETONS FIGHT FOR GRASS

A sworn statement regarding the German atrocities committed in Mauthausen Concentration Camp and made by Captain J.A.R. Starr, a resident of Newcastle-under Lyne, is now in the hands of the United Nations War Crimes Commission. Captain Starr who was taken prisoner in July 1943, says that Mauthausen was an extermination camp more than a concentration camp, indeed, the words "You will never come out" were engraved upon the prison gate.

During his incarceration there were some forty-five thousand inmates, including German criminals, who were put in charge of, and had the right of life or death, over prisoners. The death roll was 500 a day through starvation, illness, beatings, gas, being thrown over a stone quarry, chewed up by hungry dogs, hanged or shot.

When prisoners came in, the ill were made to undress. When Captain Starr arrived it was bitterly cold and sick people were kept in a state of complete nudity for the whole day. In the evening they were forced by brutal beatings into a hot shower, after which, they were forced into the open again until well into the night with no clothes or any means of drying themselves. Early in the morning they were pushed into the showers again and then brutally driven into the open. Many collapsed and died, and others died from the beatings they received while being forced in and out of the showers.

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There was the usual gas chamber at Mauthausen, and every day some 200 were marched in and exterminated. Captain Starr was in No.3 Camp and each night, the German criminals in charge, thrashed them with thongs to make them huddle together, head to feet like sardines, to make room for all. In March 1945, No.3 Camp was evacuated and a thousand inmates, all sick to the point of death, were driven into five huts. Every article was moved out, blankets, palliasses and feeding bowls, until nothing remained. The camp was then locked up, and a thousand sick inmates abandoned to perish from hunger. The gates were only opened to collect the dead.

Captain Starr himself has seen animated skeletons fighting with each other to obtain a blade of grass to eat.

In April 1945, American fortresses raided Linz, near Mauthausen. Some were brought down and the crews baled out. Captain Starr saw the Camp Commandant ride in on a horse dragging behind him two American airmen bound by rope. Some prisoners caught escaping from P.O.W. camps were brought to Mauthausen and made to run up 80 steps from a quarry, carrying on their shoulders a huge block of stone. When prisoners fell exhausted, the S.S. guards used huge hammers to break the stone on their backs, and so kill them. Forty-five American and British prisoners were killed this way.

Other methods were the injection of petrol into the prisoner's veins and the use of a height-measuring stand. When the top measuring piece was brought to the level of the head of the prisoner being measured, a bullet was automatically fired into the back of his neck. Captain Starr says "Had I not escaped, I never expected to come out."

27.4.46. No.6.

WAR OFFICE AND AIR MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT

LEAVE SHIP INTERRUPTION

The sailing of the leave ship between Cuxhaven and Hull will be interrupted, and men expected to arrive in this country by this route will be delayed about 24 hours. The following leave parties will report back 24 hours later than the date stamped on their leave passes by Movement Control:-

B.A.O.R. leave parties: Nos. 626 and 631.

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WAR OFFICE.

27/4/46 - No. 7.

H.M.S. TYRIAN.

The destroyer H.M.S. TYRIAN is expected to arrive at  
Harwich from the Far East on the morning of April 30th.

TYRIAN has been on overseas service a year.

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ADMIRALTY.

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POINTS RATIONING

There are no changes in the values of points coupons for ration  
period No. 11 which begins on Sunday, April 28th, and ends on Saturday,  
May 25th.

Points Values of Points Rationed Foods

The Points Rationing Order has been amended to include Camembert  
Cheese imported from France. Points values are as follows:-

<u>Description</u>	<u>Points Value</u>
Camembert Cheese	6 per whole cheese

As from the beginning of ration period No. 11, the following  
points values in respect of biscuits will operate:-

<u>Description</u>	<u>Old Points Value</u>	<u>New Points Value</u>
Matzos	1 per lb.	2 per lb.

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27.4.46 - No.11

PRICES OF PRE-PACKED OAT FLAKES

The Minister of Food has made an order increasing by  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. the maximum prices of pre-packed oat flakes as from April 28, 1946.

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MINISTRY OF FOOD

PRICES AND USE OF SEMOLINA

The Minister of Food has made an Order further amending the Flour Order, 1945 as amended, increasing the prescribed price for semolina produced in the United Kingdom by 20s. Od. per 280 lb. in the case of sales otherwise than for export and increasing by  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. the maximum price of semolina when sold by retail except when packed in half-pound containers.

The amending Order also removes the restriction on the use of semolina in the production of meat or fish paste or any other manufactured product containing meat.

The order will come into force on the 28th April, 1946.