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(5 min)

Thursday. 22.11.45

Dearest mine

And so I have had the latest demob news, and it just bears out what I have believed all along. Yes, I think you stand an even chance of spending a pseudo Christmas aboard ship somewhere in the Med. We'll celebrate the real 'peace goodwill & joy among men' season when the ship docks and will there be joy!! has all that I'm waiting to hear is the date of sailing. Co!

Time is really getting short now, isn't it honey, and I can just imagine how terribly it's a must be these last few weeks of waiting. For me it is quite the reverse, I've so much to do and plan that I have little time for nerves - I'm all keyed-up anyway, but the fact of doing something helps greatly to work off steam. Seems to me that the positions are reversed - normally it is the woman who waits & weeps & the man who gets cranky. Tough job isn't it honey to wait & wander, and you have all my sympathy. But it won't be long now before you are steaming away from the gateway of India, and you'll be able to take a photo of it from the outside looking in - just as a kind of

Lowell picture. Good idea!

I am sending along this month's news letter, as I thought you might be amused by the Lowell letter on India. Seems to bear out your own ideas on that country & its peoples. eh? And how is your own story-writing progressing? I am looking forward to reading your first effort - knowing you, it is bound to be humorous.

I know I should write news & news, there must be thousands of things you want to know, and I really will sit down for an evening & scribble. Trouble is that mum has been staying in for the past few evenings & I've not been able to concentrate as I should like. But if need be I'll seal myself up apart & give you all the news.

I hope this weekend to get the floors stained so that we can move in anytime after that. Yes we'll really be installed at no. 12. by the time you set sail for home.

Bye for now, angel.

I love you,  
Clare.

Committee News.

S.C.S. Diaries 1946.

Collectors are asked to inform the Secretary, Mr. Tait, Room 618, Ext.269 the number of diaries they require for their members.

Loaned Staff.

The position of loaned staff has been receiving full attention. A meeting of members to discuss this matter has been arranged for Thursday Nov. 22nd at 5.30 p.m. at the Mary Sumner Hall.

Windows.

The committee is glad to note that a start has at last been made on the reglazing of the windows.

Subscriptions.

The financial year ends on December 31st 1945 and members are asked to ensure that the subscriptions are fully paid up early in December.

Cleaning.

It is felt that some improvement has now taken place in the ground cleaning arrangements.

Transfer of Staff.

A recent staff joint committee deputation met the U.S(c) on the question of transfers from branch to branch and stated the staff had a feeling that because in the past releases appeared to have been from among the less efficient (or less popular) members, similar methods were being adopted during the present movement of staff.

The deputation suggested that there was too much secrecy in the movement of staff and the Heads of Branches did not trouble to explain the reasons for the transfer.

U.S(o) replied that the Staff Side might be able to render a useful service in making known to their members the reasons for the transfers. At a recent meeting of the Contracts Directors he had said that officers from the Purchasing Branches should not be chosen because they were below standard in efficiency or behavior.

The growing work on Liquidation and Disposals was important and must have at least a fair cross-section of the Contracts Staff.

Personal.

Mr. A.Craig (A.D.C.Con.2) left the Ministry on the 31st October to return to his previous appointment in the City. He takes with him the best wishes of his many friends in the Department.

/Joint

Joint Social Committee.

All who were present at the Pavours Arms will agree that the event was most successful, though it was disappointing that so few members of the contracts branch were present.

Ministry of Supply (Headquarters) Hockey Club.

The club has made a very good start, and up to the present have had some really excellent games. The results of matches played up to date are shown below.

October 13th	Supply	v	War Office	L. 2 - 1
" 14th	"	v	Hendon Comets (Mixed)	L. 5 - 0
" 20th	"	v	Westminster Bank	Scratched
" 27th	"	v	Ealing Youth Club	W. 3 - 0
" 28th	"	v	A.E.C.	W. 4 - 3
November 3rd	"	v	Public Trustee Office	W. 2 - 1
" 4th	"	v	Tyford Abbey (Guinness Brewery) (Mixed)	L. 4 - 1

The following games have been arranged, and we shall be pleased to receive any support from those interested.

17th November	Midland Bank	at Chiswick.
24th "	Ministry of Labour	" "
25th "	Chameleons (Mixed)	" "
1st December	Snaresbrook Hockey Club	" Wanstead.
2nd "	Exiles (Mixed)	" Chiswick.
8th "	Ilford County High School	" "

Swimming.

The Club meets at the Buckingham Palace Road Baths on Thursdays at 12.30. Each week an interesting event is arranged among those present. *(When I saw K. Hall last week he asked me if we were interested in winter swimming & said I'd go along sometime.) - apparently his club is his pet.*

Badminton.

For the past two seasons, a few keen players in Ministry of Supply have had permission to join the Board of Trade Club, in I.C.I. House, and have joined again this season. There are however, quite a number of enthusiasts who would like to join, but the Board of Trade regret that they cannot allow any increase in the numbers allowed from here. Enquiries are being made regarding the possibilities of getting a court for our own use, and if any member of the Ministry knows where a court is vacant, somewhere in the vicinity of Gt. Westminster House, for preference, I would be glad to have the information.

/Ministry

Ministry of Supply (Headquarters) Association Football Club.

The opening games of the season have been played, and although the only success gained in the first weeks was an exciting 5-5 draw with G.P.O. Testing Officers, the first of what is hoped to be a long run of wins was scored against Old Finchleians on November 3rd by a score of 4-2.

The fixtures for the next few weeks are as follows:-

10th November	v Birkbeck College	at Greenford.
17th "	v G.P.O. Testing Officers	at home.
24th "	v Ministry of Works	at Raynes Park.
1st December	v N.W. Polytechnic	at home.

Playing and non-playing members would still be welcome. Full particulars are obtainable from the Hon. Secretary/Treasurer, C.P. Goodale, Room 102, Great Westminster House.

The following article is contributed by a member of the S. of C.S. who is at present serving in the forces.

Indians and Englishmen

*You'll enjoy this*

My first feeling, on being invited to write about India, was one of reluctance. After all, shall a sergeant rush in where a field-marshal has failed? It is not that I have no ideas about the country, for, like the Greeks, the Army has a word for everything. We have two for India - both quite unprintable.

Nevertheless, in the interests of International Understanding and in the belief that to know the people is to know the country, I will offer a few comments on the Indian Character.

The basic differences between Englishmen and Indians are that Indians carry everything on their heads and wear their shirts outside their trousers. This immediately puts them two up on the English, for it is well known that in England only debutantes and Covent Garden porters can carry anything on their heads, while in these days of utility shirts it is not given to the Englishman to wear his shirt-tail either inside or outside his trousers. Further, chairs are no more essential to the Indians' comfort (they squat) than are washdown-closets to their convenience. Thus their lives are simple if insanitary.

I have heard it said that Indians have no business acumen. It is not so. Most Indian traders regard British troops much as Spaniards regard a beautiful woman - as God's gift to man. And, again like the Spaniards, they know which man. I did meet one honest merchant, a charming young man who announced that he was "seventeen, maybe eighteen", and responded to our efforts by declaring

/with

with simple dignity: "Fixed price. I Moslem. I not tell lie". On the other hand there was the dhobi who, told by an ingenuous newcomer to India to see that his clothes were washed really clean, replied: "Very clean, sahib, one anna extra".

The Indian labourer repays study. The title is a contradiction in terms, of course. The abiding principle of all Indian labourers is that one man should never do one man's work if two men can be found to do it. Thus it is not uncommon to see one man digging a hole while another holds a length of rope tied to the base of the spade handle. The idea is apparently that Number Two on the spade should help pull it out of the ground. His ambition rarely rises so high; he is content to hold the rope and think of the Higher Things.

This tendency to become preoccupied with the Higher Things (souls, etcetera) is one that should be checked. Often, a request for a second cup of coffee produces another egg-on-toast, obviously because the waiter is contemplating his soul.

Culturally, educated Indians make most Englishmen look like cavemen. They have an innate dignity and grace that come as a forcible reminder of the fact that the Eastern world was civilised when Britons were still rubbing two sticks together to light the kitchen range and had yet to discover any more effective instrument than a well aimed lump of rock for destroying each other. But then the English are a race much given to mistaking sanitation for culture.

And now, if your thirst for knowledge of India is still not slaked, I can only suggest you visit the country. You poor boobs!

N.H.W.

Contributions for inclusion in the news letter should be sent to the Editor C/o W. Burrows Con. 2H, Room 232 A, Great Westminster House.