

ANY OLD RAGS.

If your best lounge-suits are beyond repair, we offer an infallible remedy—join the Army and get an up-to-date 1939 model uniform free. No customer has yet complained.

THIS WEEK'S FAIRY TALE.

Once upon a time Germany and Russia used to be Poles apart, but now

THERE'S A MORAL TO THIS.

This is an actual fact: A gas-mask case was found in the street the other day, and opened to see if the owners' name and address was inside. Inside the box was found, not a gas-mask or address, but a lady's flap-jack, rouge, lip-stick, a mirror, a packet of cigarettes and matches, a purse and a bar of chocolate. Also a card bearing the words, "We must be prepared".

SAFETY FIRST.

Notices prominently displayed outside Nazi butcher shops:—"Customers, you are strongly advised not to wrap your weekly allowance of meat in a bus-ticket—it may slip through the punch-hole."

TELEVISION has been suspended until further notice. So to our favourite variety artistes, we say: "We hope to B.B.C.ing you shortly."

NO LAUGHTER, BY ORDER.

Only 20 artistes have been passed "fit to broadcast", we have been officially informed. The rest, apparently, are too funny for 'birds'—or, alternately, might get "all lit up" and spoil the black-out.

'TAP'ICAL.

Thousands of typists are giving their services free, when and where required.

Volunteers on tap.

WHAT-HO!

Queer game, politics: first there is an attempt to frighten us with war, and then with peace.

THE DIFFERENCE.

A German soldier dies for his country, while Hitler lies for it.

AND STILL THE WORLD TURNS.

A British soldier compresses all the articles he is likely to need, into his service bag, which can be carried with ease.

Verily, my friends, an Englishman's home is his parcel these days.



"FRATRES"

VOLUME 25. No. 1.

IN HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES

OCTOBER 15th, 1939

Adler, Lt. E. R.	R.A.
Aitman, Bdr. Joe.	R.A.
Beddington, Pte. Hubert	H.A.C.
Bensinger, Rifleman E.S.	L.R.B.
Caplin, Lt. Harry	R.A.M.C.
Chown, Gr E. J.	R.A.
Cohen, Rifleman Marks	Tower Hamlets Rifles.
Cooper, Pte. H.	Royal Bucks.
Dreyfus, Cadet Charles	R.A.
Dobkin, Fus. Michael	Royal Fusiliers.
Eichen, Pte. Jack	Royal Berks.
Fass, Sergt. L.	R.A.F.
Fay, Sig. Dennis H.	Div. Signals.
Guedalla, 2nd. Lt. Basil	Tower Hamlets Rifles.
Glynne, Sap. Alfred	R.E.
Gorman, Lance-Bdr. Syd.	R.A.
Harris, Pte Marcus	Oxford & Bucks.
Hewett, Pte. J. E.	Labour Corps.
Jacobovitch, Gr. Paul	R.A.
Jacobson, Gr. Gerald	H.A.C.
Jewell, Pte. B.	R.A.
Kafton, Pte. Sam	R.A.S.C.
Kaye, Gr. ("Lefty") B.	R.A.

Kliger, Sap. Ben	R.E.
Krongold, Pte. Harry	R.A.C.
Leverson, Pte. Nancy	A.T.S.
Ludwig, Pte. Sophie	A.T.S.
Markham, Pte. M. "Bozzy"	Royal Berks.
Marks, A/C 2 Monty	R.A.F.
Measure, Pte. Phil	Royal Berks.
Mer, Pte. Victor	Royal West Kent.
Mocatta, 2nd. Lt. J.	R.A.C.
Moss, P/O J. J.	R.N.
Myers, Pte. Cyril	R.A.C.
Penner, Pte. Alf.	9th Lancers.
Rapport, Pte. Jack	P.L.K.R.
Ravitch, Gr. Morris	R.A.
Richman, Sgt. Inst. Harry	Royal Berks.
Segal, Gr. Alec	R.A.
Shine, Gr. Nat.	R.A.
Slutsky, O/S Israel	R.N.V.R.
Sollof, Gr. Morris	R.A.
Solomons, Gr. Mark	R.A.
Sorrin, Pte. W.	R.A.M.C.
Spero, A/C 2 David	R.A.F.
Tobias, Pte. Harry	R.A.
Touche, Lance Cpl. Sam	Royal Berks.
Woolf, L/Bdr. Eddie	R.A.
Zeff, A/C 2 Monty	R.A.F.

“FRATRES”

Volume 25. No. I.

To the vast majority of us the thought of a new number of “Fratres” conjures up the memories of all that ensues after some foolish officer or committeeman has said at a meeting—“Let’s have a magazine”. Two or three months afterwards, the same person will complain that “No one has sent in any articles yet”. Two or three months after we will be told that the last day for receiving articles will be in a fortnight—postponed perhaps two or three times for two or three more fortnights. Eventually “Fratres” will appear, sometimes typed, sometimes printed; sometimes illustrated, sometimes mere literature; nearly always, in the end, the work of two, or at the most three people, and always pronounced as “The best we have ever produced”; bought by a few but read by all, a link which binds together the members of Oxford & St. George’s.

To some, however, there will be memories, which go back as far as 25 years ago, when the club magazine was first produced and circulated among those boys who were serving in the Great War in order to bring a breath of the Club Spirit to refresh the members wherever they might be, and to give news of each other to the little band of brothers who in those days comprised the club. “Fratres” were very precious documents in those days, treasured by all who received them, and made up of willing contributions from those who were serving at home and those who were serving abroad.

Twenty-five years, and here we are doing the same thing in the same kind of way for the same kind of people and for the same kind of purpose. Then, however, there were about 100 members of the Club; now there are 3,000 members of the Settlement. It is the same kind of family, and, curiously enough, it has four of the same original leaders, the Missus, Prinnie, S.E.F., and the Gaffer.

We all trust that this new “Fratres” will keep us together wherever we may be, and it will serve to remind us of the amazing friendships which bind all Oxford & St. George’s people to one another, and to the grand ideals of the Club.

THE OXFORD & ST. GEORGE’S CLUB.

The following is an extract from a certain “indiscreet” book which was published by Methuen a little while ago, describing March 3rd, 1914 :—

As a matter of fact, we had in that one room almost all the activities of a modern club. There was ping-pong at one end, billiards on a table 12” by 18” played with balls the size of pills and cues the size of pen-holders. In the middle was boxing; in another corner was chess and draughts. Half-way through the evening we cleared the room for mat-work. There was a piano which none of us could play; the whole evening was one continuous debate, and there was complete freedom to make as much noise as you liked, for no-one knew how to stop it!”

“But the end of the evening was the most difficult, for I had determined that we were to close with prayers..... I recited an extemporary English prayer..... Then I pronounced the priestly blessing, and the first night was over.”

The same description might be given of the War Emergency Mixed Club which was opened in the main hall on September 5th, 1939, and which is now meeting every night of the week. But there are some important differences. “*Ma Nishtano*” In 1914, the number on the books was 25; to-day it is over 450. Then everybody was 14; now the ages are from 13 to 40. Then there were boys only; now there are boys and girls. Then one had to create a Club Spirit; to-day perhaps the most wonderful part of the new Club is that the Spirit was already made, and one got the feeling, even after the first night, that the Club had been running for years.

Besides the activities already described, we roll back the druggot and dance on Sunday nights, have P.T., badminton, roller skating, wrestling and boxing either in the Girls’ Gym. or the Rink, and now have the use of the whole of the Old Boys’ Club. The girls have the Committee Room as their sanctuary, and the Play Centre as their changing room. Everyone, (even the Old Boys!!) has to register, and this is done by giving a number instead of a house or group. The Old Boys feel quite young again at having to do what they ought always to have done. Subs. are voluntary, and are wonderfully generous.

David Caminer, Charlie Abrahams, Barney Callis and Alf Diamond take it in turns to be chief air raid stewards each night, and occasionally we have practice warnings, so that everybody knows where to go. Field football has already started, and roof football has been going at week-ends.

We want you to know that we are positive that you will feel just as much at home coming into the new Club as you have felt at home on coming into Camp. The surroundings are different, but the spirit is the same.

IN HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES.

You will find on the first page a revised list of those who are serving in His Majesty's Forces. We want to keep this up to date, but it will not be possible to reprint it in each issue. In future we shall only give you the additional names.

Practically every serving Old Boy is in touch with us. In every letter that we get, there is a most amazing expression of affection for the Club, which is, they nearly all say, like a second home to them. If the Club motto means anything to any of us, it should have this effect on all of us.

Everyone seems to spend part of his leave with us, and to those of us who have been running the Club all these years, there comes the conviction that is has not been in vain.

From among the very many letters which we have received, we have only been able to select the following extracts. Space will not allow for more :—

MOSS, who will be remembered by all as the fellow one had to get past on coming into the Settlement, writes :

"Please accept enclosed 10/- as a contribution towards literature, etc. This contribution will be made every quarter during hostilities."

We are going to place this most generous gift towards defraying the cost of printing "FRATRES".

EARLE ADLER :—

"For the last three months I've been getting awful attacks of rheumatism, caused apparently by a sceptic tonsil which must come out before I can be passed fit."

He has since been operated on at the Middlesex and is making good progress.

"BOZZIE" :—

Our own Sergeant is quite the Grandfather—cum wet nurse—cum schoolmaster rolled into one"

"CHARLES" DREYFUS:—

"We get up at 6.30 a.m. That just shows there is a War."

BASIL GUEDALLA :—

"I knocked into Sam Smith yesterday, and he's promised me the luxury of a bath !!"

ALF GLYNNE :—

"I am enjoying myself thoroughly."

JACK HEWITT, (known to the Settlement staff as "Jack"), who is overseas, writes :—

"I am trying to keep the Oxford & St. George's spirit up, by keeping smiling and happy."

"GEORGE" JEWELL :—

"Scholy sent me along the Rugger ball This will give us a little temporary outlet."

"LEFTY" :—

"I feel an old soldier in my bones."

"BENNIE" KLIGER, who is overseas, writes :—

"Everything we do here seems to work in harmony, and the men here in our unit are as one; in fact it puts my mind back to the grand old days in the Club, when the wonderful spirit of each for all prevailed"

"Now more than ever do I appreciate that marvellous spirit of "Fratres" which you instilled into us."

VICTOR MER :—

"This week the food has not so much turned over a new leaf as opened a new book altogether."

JACK RAPPORT :—

As an old soldier of nearly five months' standing I have been nominated for a post as Physical Training Instructor."

WOOLF SORRIN :—

I am improving myself physically and mentally, and in the few weeks I have been here I am making myself fit as anybody can wish to be."

"GUSSIE" SEGAL :—

"For the first few days I said practically nothing to anybody; its surprising how hard it is to break into a small clique, but after playing football for my battery, things were much more pleasant."

SAMMY TOUCHE :—

"I must say that it's a very hard job leaving the Club on Sunday nights in time to catch my train, in fact I've just made it in time on each occasion. I have never known the club to be lacking in spirit, but the few times, that I have seen it recently, have topped even anything I ever saw before. The way the 22s mix with the 14s, seniors with juniors, girls with boys is something that I personally have never seen before. That big hall seems to have something now that none of the club rooms had. To me, it seems a pity that we had to have a war to bring about this miraculous change."

We also get a large number of letters from evacuated boys. We should have liked to give their news. They all write happily; some say they have been spending their days "fishing and shooting". One writes, "Newmarket, as you may know, lives, breathes, and even eats racehorses I am very happy here."

It is not always easy to rise above one's surroundings in War time, but when a fellow realises he has the honour of his Club in his hands, and when he has been in the habit of trying to live up to a certain standard, he is, if he goes on trying, invariably able to keep his head above water.

One serving boy writes :—

"The party in your room is one that will forever stand forth in my memory as a striking example of what the club has always taught and stood for—courage, determination, brotherhood, and good faith."

And this came from another serving boy :—

"Probably you may have noticed me at the Synagogue on Saturday Having attended for the past six years, I had to this year too, especially on account of the very critical period we are all passing through now.

"Gazing round at my friends, I managed to re-capture some of the past memories I had often enjoyed of the club.

"Alas, the time passed all too quickly, but leaving the Club I promised myself at all times to try my utmost to do my duty as an Englishman, a Jew, and as befitted a member of the Oxford

& St. George's. I was also proud to think that I in a humble way was helping to carry on the tradition of the Club, which has almost been a second home for me; the tradition of Justice, Freedom, and Friendship."

Perhaps all of us feel this. However vile and loathesome War is to us all, justice, freedom, toleration and truth are more precious than peace; these are the things every Englishman feels he is fighting for, and after all, these are the Club ideals.

SOCIAL EVENTS.

Marriage has suddenly become very popular. You will want to wish "All the best" to :—

Eddie Woolf, who has married a club member, Rachel Rosenbaum,
Ginger Mazzer,
Bill Nathanson,
Alf Joseph, who has married a club member, Marie Landes.

The first two of these weddings took place in the Settlement Synagogue. An enormous number of other engaged couples say they are going to get married. It is hoped all members will keep us informed of such important news.

A daughter has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Mark Fineman.

OXFORD & ST. GEORGE'S FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

The **Voluntary Section** is continuing its functions every Monday night. Serving members have the option (a) to continue their membership as usual, or (b) to be placed on the "Abeyance" list. Those in the latter category pay no contributions while in the forces and receive all benefits **except** sickness and convalescence. On demobilisation they are restored to ordinary membership.

The **Approved Section** is flourishing, and a number of new members have been enrolled. Serving members are reminded that although they do not have cards, they are insured under the National Health Insurance scheme, and are invited to join the Club's Society if they do not already belong to an approved Society. For further information write to Alf Diamond at the Settlement.

FOR TRENCH AND BASE.

In 1917 the Gaffer compiled a little book of prayers entitled "Prayers for Trench and Base." This was distributed, under the auspices of the Chief Rabbi, to men serving in the forces. It is proposed to publish one of these prayers in each issue of "Fratres."

FOR THE TRIUMPH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

I believe, O Lord, that our cause is righteous, and that we are fighting for the suppression of evil—for Honour, Justice, and Liberty. Inspire our leaders with wisdom and foresight, that they may so direct this war that victory may soon be ours. Give unto every soldier, sailor, and airman that courage and determination by which he may bravely and manfully fulfil the duties which are imposed upon him, and grant, that I, too, may do my share with a stout heart and a steady hand. May every man who is fighting for the sake of righteousness be heartened by the knowledge that Thou, who art the God of Righteousness, helpst all those who seek to do what they believe to be right. Grant peace unto us and unto all mankind.

Amen.

WANTED.

1. A photograph of every serving member in uniform.
2. Suggestions for any improvements in "Fratres".
3. As many letters as you care to write to us. We hope to reply promptly to any letters received.

NOTE.

The Settlement will forward on any letters written to club members, whose addresses are unknown. These should be sent to the Settlement.

THANKS.

Jack Yellon has most generously offered to print "Fratres" without making any profit for his firm.

Besides the printing, postage will be a fairly heavy item of expenditure. Any contribution, however small, will be gratefully accepted from members still in England.

"THE MONTHLY SNIGGER"

THE ANSWER TO "MEIN KAMPF"

Sam Kirkwood has written a most excellent magazine which is very cheering in these days. It is too long to print in full. The whole text will be kept for you in the Settlement. The following are some extracts, not necessarily the best, but the shortest. A further selection will be included in the next number.

A GERMAN SOLDIER WRITES HOME

Somewhere up the Corridor,
September (Censored)

Dear Mother,

I am (censored) to say that I am (censored) and that things here are (censored). The food here is (censored) and my stomach is therefore (censored). We all think the Leader is a (censored) and ought to be made to (CENSORED!) Yesterday, we went to (censored) for (censored) and the battalion ate the cake you sent me, saving me the crumbs. Regarding my health, I am (censored), and I find that (censored). Hoping you find this letter interesting,

Your loving son,
Fritz.

P.S. Your son is doing splendidly, is well-fed, and having a fine time.
(Captain von Bleuled)

QUACK! QUACK!

1st Goose: "What's all this talk about the Germans copying our march?"

2nd Goose: "They don't—it's just a 'proper-gander' march."

SCENE IN A GERMAN COURT.

Judge, (lecturing a man charged with drunkenness): "And do you know, my man, that a craving for drink is caused by an insignificant little germ that—"

Man in dock (indignantly breaking in): "Leave the Fuehrer out of this."

SIGN-BOARD SEEN OUTSIDE AIR-RAID POST.

"If you find a bomb, keep it. It's yours!"

A FAMOUS HUMORIST'S NEUTRALITY.

Says Walter Winchell, famed American wise-cracker: "I'm completely neutral in this War—I don't care who shoots Hitler."