

ST ANNE'S NEWS

NOV. 1944 - NO 57



MOUNTAIN COMMANDOS

Page 2.

The Comforts Fund Committee is very grateful for the very fine sum of £10.14.0. the amount of the October collection. Its thanks are also due for the following donations:- 5/- from Sister Ducker; 3/3 anonymous per Father Crowley; 2/6 from Mrs. Lunt; 2/6 anonymous; and 1/- from a former lady parishioner for her copy.

The parishioners were very sorry to lose Father Crowley who left on November 7th to work on the Mission at Cheltenham. During Father Crowley's stay here he had greatly endeared himself to the congregation, and though he had been called upon to suffer two very severe trials while he was in Ormskirk - the death of his sister and an operation - we feel that he was very happy here. Our priests never preach farewell sermons as they prefer "to fold up their tents like the arabs, and as silently creep away"; but what finer good-bye could we have had from Fr. Crowley than his fervent "God Bless you" as he turned to descend our pulpit for the last time? Just as fervently we all say "God Bless you, Father, and wherever your future course may lead you, may all your paths be paths of peace"! We pray that your stay at Cheltenham may be as successful and as happy as it was here.

Father Crowley's successor is Father Cyril Connally who is no stranger to most of us as he has already spent a few years at St. Annes. We give him a hearty Lancashire welcome on his return home. We intend to make it that for you, Father, if we can.

As briefly announced in our last issue Mr. R.I. Lloyd (Uncle Bob) died suddenly in the County Hospital on Oct. 23rd where sadly enough, his wife had died suddenly last December. Since the death of his wife Bob had been a singularly lonely man. This loneliness was accentuated by very weak eyesight which made it impossible for him to read or write. It was the distressing infirmity which made him love to go round with the collection box during the cricket matches on the Sport's field, as it gave him an opportunity to meet people face to face and exchange jocular remarks with them for Bob, like most sailors was "quick at the uptake", and had a quaint way of expressing himself. After Requiem Mass said by

(Continued)

Father Teeley on October 25th he was buried alongside the Sport's Ground in which he had always taken so great an interest. The members of the Club will long remember "Uncle Bob". R.I.P.

News has come through that Pte. W. Oakley has been wounded - shrapnel - and that he is most probably a prisoner. Mrs. Sarbutts of Bridge Street has been officially informed that her son Norman has received multiple wounds, but Norman has written a few lines to tell his Mother not to worry because he is in hospital with a cold. We know that that is not true, but it is an untruth so sublime that the Recording Angel has placed it high among Norman's good deeds, and we are the prouder of him for having told it. May the relatives of Billy and Norman, both of whom are still only boys, soon hear good news of them!

Two Polish soldiers were buried in our cemetery, one on October 26th and the other two days later. In each case Father Teeley said the Requiem Mass after which the Polish Chaplain took the burial service in the presence of many Poles, ladies and gentlemen, in Khaki. The service was very impressive, mostly chanted. On the afternoon of All Saints the compatriots of the two soldiers covered the graves with alternate rows of white flowers and lighted candles and again chanted. This was repeated on All Souls. Fortunately both days were calm and when the shades of evening were falling the scene was very impressive, and though unutterably said it was at the same time consoling. Like many of our own boys these Poles rest far from their native land but we will remember them with our own as they died for us equally with our own. A small plot in our churchyard will be for ever Poland. R.I.P.

Page 4.

On Friday November 3rd the C.O.M. held the first of the season's Whist Drives and Dances when there were twenty tables for Whist. The games proved very enjoyable and after Father Cunningham had presented the prizes to the lucky winners he thanked the players for attending and the C.O.M. for organizing the event. Micky Judge saw to it afterwards that those who wished to dance did so. In fact he seems to be able to convince people that they want to dance whether they really want to or not.

On Sunday November 12th, there was a large congregation at the 8 o'clock Mass, at which great numbers went to Communion. Among the congregation were a detachment of the Home Guards, the 3rd and 4th platoons of the Ormskirk Co. of army cadets, all of whom are St. Anne's boys, and representatives of the Civil Defence services. After a short service at the War Memorial Fr. Connolly placed three wreaths at its foot. One of these was handed in on behalf of the British Legion by Mr. A. Lea, who was maimed in the first world war; another on behalf of the 3rd and 4th platoons of the cadets by Cadet D. Ashcroft whose Uncle has made the great sacrifice in this war; and another on behalf of the C.Y.M.S. by the President Mr. J. Wills. Mr. Lea's son Norman sounded the "Last Post" and the "Reveille" with the feeling we have grown to expect on these occasions from this youth. The C.Y.M.S. never forgets its dead, and the passing of the years has not dimmed in the slightest degree the respect and homage which the members of the British Legion pay to their Comrades who rest in the fields of Flanders.

The following have been seen home on leave;- F. Howard (Foreign), J. Felice, Joe Makin, H. Corrigan, Eddie Lea, Tom Carney, George Heaton, Charles Sonnolly, and Nancy Ball.

SIG. H. WALSH (R.N). Many thanks for the "St. Anne's News" promptly received. Since I last wrote I have had a change of address, this time into R.M. Barracks. I am now what is known as a dry-land Sailor. It may be of interest to you to know that I had letters from two of my old pals who are abroad. Martin Griffin and David Walsh. They are both at the same part, and have met Bernie Wilding out there. Best of luck to all.

(We like to hear of you lads meeting one another. We never had any address of Martin Griffin). Editors.

CPL. E. DOBBIN (INDIA). A few days ago I received No. 51 of the "News" and airgraph and Picture Post. There are always some of my pals eager to glance through the pages of the "News", with no end of good remarks to follow. I have picked a very unusual spot in which to write these few lines although I am afraid I can't disclose anything more about it except to say that it is rather cold, an unusual thing to complain of in this country. Of course it is a change to be free from buzzing mosquitoes and millions of other winged creatures that exist in this Indian paradise. Still the thoughts of Good Old England and those we left behind go a long way to cheer one up. As remarked very often, if we can't be there we can do the next best thing and talk of it and the good times of the past to be continued when the world is once again at peace. St. Anne's will be remembered by us all for having performed a memorable duty in spite of trying times. God Bless you all!!

(We have taken note of your new address which we think will be more to your liking than your last one.) Editors.

PTE. J. JONES (C.M.F). Many thanks for airgraphs Nos. 27 and 28 and also current copies of the Mag. Guess I'm not much of an artist but you may make allowances. Best wishes for continued success. Won't be long now we hope! Will write you again soon.

(Our artist heartily thanks you for the drawing and has already made use of it. We have grown to expect something good in the drawing line from the pupils of St. Anne's School) Editors.

Page 6.

B. WILDING (R.N.). Sorry I have not written before now but my time has been well filled in out here. I am glad to say the ship I am on has not missed all the fun for we helped in the invasion of the South of France but I can't tell you which particular port. When I was in Italy I had a pleasant surprise when I met a school pal Bernard Corrigan, and we had a good chat about old Ormskirk. I have not had the luck to meet any others but it won't be long now before all the boys are home. Our old "friends" simply can't stick the pace we are going. Cheerio. Best of luck.

(Glad you met a pal Bernard, and may you meet more! We are setting the pace right enough on all fronts).
Editors.

CFN. P. KAVANAGH (M.E.F.) Please excuse my delay in writing to you but I have just come out of Hospital after six weeks in bed with a poisoned leg. I am glad to say that I am fit and well now. It was my third spell in the Military Hospital and with the help of God I don't want to see the inside of one again. My Mail arrived in a bundle today, (it seems it has been following me around a bit) and I was pleased to receive No. 51 and 53 of the News also Cartoon Airgraphs 27 & 28 among it. As I told you in a previous letter I am in the same unit as Paddy Davies and what a surprise we got last night when who should come walking into the billet but Raymond Ashcroft. Unfortunately he was only passing through on his way to Palestine and we only had a few hours together, "but what a few hours"! We talked so much about old times that only for the "wogs" round about we would have thought we were in Ormskirk. With God's help we will all soon be home and then we will have plenty of time to talk of the Past and Future. I am off for a few days leave from today and I hope to have more news next time I write.

(Glad to hear you are now fit and well after a spell in Hospital and that you met Raymond. Soldiering evidently agrees with him).
Editors.

PTE. J. B. GERAGHTY (C.M.F.). Many thanks for airgraph and "News" which I have just received. The World News recently is very good and I'm sure all at home and in the forces are anxiously, if not impatiently, looking forward to the end of this rather prolonged struggle. Since my last letter to you I have travelled a little further North in Italy and spent a day in the City of Florence. I will endeavour to give you a little idea of what I saw. Florence we are told was founded about the 5th Century B.C. and a few architectural remains of that epoch are preserved in the Florence Museum. In Florence lived Dante, Giotto and I suppose many more great artists of whom I am ignorant. I have seen Dantes' birthplace which indeed seems to tell a story of its own. Monuments look down from all directions and the most notable are the Great Cathedral, Cell Tower, the Baptistry of St. John, the Town Hall, a great fortress-like structure in the main square in which many bloody events took place in the history of Florence. Many of the works of Michael Angelo can be seen in Florence especially one complete room in the National Museum. The Church "Santa Croce" is among the most important and interesting buildings in Florence. This Church, foundation of the Franciscan Order, was built between the 13th and 15th centuries. A tremendous Gothic structure it is a veritable Museum of painting and sculpture. Another small chapel of S. Maria Magdalena is noted for its masterpiece "The Crucifixion" by Perugino, said to be the master of Raphael. This painting takes up the entire end wall of the chapel and has an extraordinary simplicity about it, the figure of the Crucified against a vast landscape. God Bless and the very best of luck to all at St. Anne's and God speed to my pals abroad.

(It's an ill wind that blows nobody good" Johnny.-- Some of you lads are certainly going places.) Editors.
TONY WESTHEAD (C.M.F.). Thanks ever so much for "News" No. 50 received a couple of days ago. I have moved about a lot lately and that accounts for my not having written oftener. I had the good fortune to meet an Ormskirk-arian the other day, Freddie Morris, who used to work at Irwins. He is the first one I have met from home since I came to Italy but I hope he will not be the last.

Page 8.

TONY WESTHEAD (C.M.F) (Contd.) The weather is very queer at present, hot in the mornings and cold in the afternoons and so it's shorts in the morning and battle dress in the afternoon. We lads in the "Forces" are very proud to read how everybody in Ormskirk responds to the call for the Comfort's Fund and we very deeply appreciate it. Cousin Frank has been moved again and I am waiting for his new address. Good Health and all of the best to every helper of the funds.

(You are pretty certain to meet some of our lads Tony, as we have a fair number in "Sunny Italy") Editors. CPL.T.BRADLEY (B.L.A). Many thanks for Nos.53 & 54 of the "News" and for the booklet of French-English Interpretations which has proved a very useful gift. May I take this opportunity to thank you for many copies of the "News", airgraphs, Catholic Papers etc., which I received when I was in the Middle East.

(Thanks for the enclosure which has "gone into the drum"). Editors.

GDSM. W.MAWDSLEY (B.L.A). Although I'm a bit late in acknowledging your July copy of the "News" I am nevertheless taking the opportunity of thanking you all very much and hope you will continue to send it. I've just come out of hospital so probably the next issue will now catch up with me. That's all I wish to say as regards myself, but I would like you to share with me the loss out here of a great friend, an old boy of St.Anne's and a regular reader of the "News", Gdsmn. George MacLoughlin who was killed in action. He will be missed over here by us, and also by his wife and family to whom I wish to extend my deepest sympathy, but it may be some consolation to his many friends that Mac went down fighting. A great soldier in a great Regiment. May he rest in peace.

(With you, we offer our deepest sympathy to the widows and other relatives of Guardsman G.MacLoughlin and G.J.Hesketh. Jimmy made the great sacrifice soon after you wrote). Editors.

L/CPL. M.McLOUGHLIN (C.M.F). Thanks to all concerned for the "News" No.52 which I have just received. As you know by now a lot of water had passed under the bridge since I last wrote. There's no doubt about it - Jerry is beaten but he won't lie down as the saying goes.

L/CPL. M. M'CLOUGHLIN (C.M.F) (Contd.) Well I want to tell you about one of the happiest moments of my life and it happened when there was a war on. First of all I was granted a few days leave in Rome- just fancy, a City I have been longing to see, since I was taught its History in that grand school in "Hants Lane". Rome is a fine City and no mistake. Having time on my hands I strolled along to the Vatican, and entered St. Peter's and the sights I saw there amazed me. That was not all for it was my privilege to be granted an audience with His Holiness the Pope. Yes, I felt a proud man as I listened to his Speech, all too short, for He was grand to listen to. His last words were, He hoped the War would soon be over, so that we could go back home to the ones we loved and then he Blessed us all and of course our interview was over, but it was grand to be in His presence. So you see the war has done me a good turn.

(Many of you lads have seen war at its horrible worst, Mick, so it is only fair that the war should provide some of you with a very pleasant memory for the rest of your lives. Nearly all fighting men, we feel sure, have these compensations, quite apart from special privileges which may be granted to a few. The soldiers' superb loyalty to each other and their intense love for the little children of the ravaged lands through which they may pass, the remembrance of these characteristics of Tommy remain ever fresh thank Heaven, when the horrors are but dim memories). Editors. CFN. SYD JONES (C.M.F). Many thanks for "News" 52 & 53 and for airgraphs 27 and 28. Sorry for not having written sooner. I hope you are all as merry and bright as I am. I think you misunderstood me about the crosses. I was not alluding to romantic symbols but I will explain at greater length in my next letter - or better still I may be round to explain in person very soon. Of course, my throat gets very dry and ticklish now and then. Cheerio to all at home and those away. The bacon is almost in the pan to celebrate the coming peace.

(We are anxiously awaiting your explanation, Syd, but don't let your throat get too ticklish. Pubs are soon "sold out" these days.) Editors.

Page 10.

SGT. E. FORSHAW (B.L.A.). First of all many thanks for the "News" which I received a few days ago, the little paper that has not failed us yet, but I am afraid as a war edition it has really had its run over here for I feel that victory is only just round the corner and everyone will be free. The years I have spent in the Army, separated from home and people have been amply rewarded those last few weeks. Never have I witnessed such moving scenes as when the towns over here are liberated from the Nazis. The people are mad with excitement, and as one person described it they "just can't believe it." Incidentally a person in one place spoke to me in perfect English. I remarked on how well she spoke the language and the reply was "I ought to, I come from Newcastle" so you will guess we had a good old chin wag. I was very sorry to hear of the death of George MacLoughlin. It was only recently I heard he was over here. I see Mrs. Wills has received another card from Leo. I am hoping that soon we may receive one from my dear friend Jack Ball. Well I must close for the present but before I do I would like to add if all the people who have assisted with the "News" and Comforts could only witness the scenes in the liberated countries they would feel amply rewarded for their efforts to make the lives of the boys who have made the liberation possible, brighter and their kindest and sincere thanks would gladden the hearts of all of you.

(As we have said before, Eddy, the little we at home are doing for you boys and girls is nothing in comparison with what you are doing for us and we are immensely rewarded by a fervent "God Bless you". We pray that Jack Ball's relatives may soon receive word that he is alive and well.) Editors.

STO. D. WALSH (R.N.). Many thanks for the socks sent by Mrs. Barton. That Lady sure does some knitting and, I, like the other boys, am very much in debt to her for the things she has made for us. I have met two Ormskirk boys, Martin Griffin and Bernard Wilding. I see them often and it is good to talk over a Lemonade, of old Ormskirk. Cheerio. I am looking forward to the "Mags" and as you know they are something to look forward to.

(Glad you often meet two pals. We have not Martin Griffin's address by the way). Editors.

GMR. T. JUDGE (INDIA). Since I last wrote to you I have received another copy of the "News" No. 51 two airgraphs and several copies of the Catholic Fireside all of which were very interesting and welcome. I intend to pass the Catholic Fireside on to the priest of the unit, and he in turn can give them to other Catholic boys in the Regiment. I am still keeping very "mobile" in this delightful (I don't think) country of India. The Monsoon is well and truly started and now instead of being plagued with unbearable heat and a million flies I have to put up with continuous rainfall, for sometimes weeks and weeks, and about three million flies. At the moment I am in mud, and still it rains although we are in our own made Cashers which are built of bamboo and covered with the leaves from Palm and Coconut trees. We get on all right and the boys are in good spirits. Even as I write this letter one of the lads has decided to sing "Somewhere the sun is shining" and you can imagine what the other boys have to say about it. It is good to learn things are going well for us in France and Italy, and although we may not be sending such sensational news home from here, everything is going well on the Assan, Arakan and Burma fronts and "Jimmy Jap" is on his way out. I am due to go out on a prowler guard outside the camp, so I must close now with all my best wishes to the Priests and teachers of St. Annes the committees and warders of the Comforts Fund and my friends back home. May God bless you all.

(If there is a funny side to anything at all the "Tommy" is sure to see it, and that keeps up his spirits when, by all natural rules, he ought to be downhearted. The German lacks a sense of humour.) Editors.

L.A.C. H. CORRIGAN (H.F). Thanks a lot for No. 54 of the "News". I was lucky and was able to get home the weekend that the August issue was given out at Church, I read it then but believe me I got just as much pleasure reading the copy you sent me, and as usual it had to go round the billet. The "News" is grand just now and the end is in sight, God is good and it may finish sooner than we expect. Won't it be grand when all the lads are back home and this lot is all past and forgotten like a bad dream. Thanks to all you good people of St. Anne's for the wonderful job you are doing and wishing you all the very best and God Bless.

Page 12.

C.A.C. H. CORRIGAN (H.F.). (Contd.)

The "News" is certainly good and it should not be long now before the Germans refuse to offer themselves as cannon fodder any longer to save a raving madman. Editors.

SGT. P. DAVIES (M.E.F.) Please accept my belated thanks for Airgraphs Nos. 27 and 28 both jolly good efforts too. They caused a chuckle amongst my pals who are as keen to see them as I am. As you may possibly know, Jerry Kavanagh and I are now in the same unit and I must say that he and I can always find a few moments to squeeze in a little local gossip during working hours. If ever anyone was lucky in regard to meeting local boys I have been lucky as there are only a few out here from the old town whom I have not met. Only a few days ago Jerry, Tommy Woods (my cousin) and myself were together long enough to have a snap taken and Tommy had hardly left us when Raymond Ashcroft surprised us by popping in "just enough time to say Hello and Cheerio". Raymond bids fair to out-weigh one Daniel Lambert. You talk about a size of a man he is. He was going through to Palestine, and of course, we made time to make the usual click of the camera. You know, since Jerry and I read that your photo album was conspicuous by its emptiness, we have decided to do our share to remedy that defect, and we hope it will be our pleasure and honour to have our snaps take a place beside that one of our mutual friend Micky MacLoughlin. The said Micky and Jerry were workmates on several local jobs, and Micky and his good lady (hello Annie) were very good neighbours of mine at one time. Many's the laugh Jerry and I have had over Micky's impersonations of Radio Athlone, and I believe Micky was just about the most popular member of his particular gang at this time. As a C.O. we here have one in a million. On several occasions he has "caught" Jerry and me yarning away about the places and folks who are dearest to us, and his only remark has been "Hello, you two Ormskirk Laddies, are you at it again?" (spoken in a broad Scottish accent) Well friends the day may be not far distant when I will be able to walk Town End way and pay my respects to you all in person. I only wish this will apply to all our boys away from home, particularly those unfortunate ones who are temporarily in enemy hands. Cheerio, God Bless and speed the end.

SGT. P. DAVIES (M.E.F). (Contd.)

You are about the luckiest of our lads as regards meeting pals, Paddy, with Jack Rothwell a close second - two human lodestones. Many thanks for promise of snaps we have opened our album twice lately but our cork-screw is still rusty - and peace so near). Editors.

PTE. CARNEY (H.F). Once again I am writing to thank you for Nos. 52, 53 and 54 of "News". As you will see by my address, I am back at my first station on an 8 weeks course. After completing this, I am eagerly looking forward to my leave, that is if the ban has been lifted. I am writing this letter at a small seaside town in Scotland, the reason being I was one of the chosen few allowed to spend a weekend at this holiday camp. Its a grand place, everything one could wish for, including warm weather (That's a lot). I was very sorry to read in the "News" about Jack Ball, and sincerely hope everything comes out tops. I lately met another Ormskirkian, a chap from Tower Hill not an R.C. but it's good to meet anyone from the old town. He had only been in the Army a fortnight so you can guess the up-to-date description of recent events that I received about home. I also met Joe Gibbons who returned from Burma some time ago. It's a small world after all.

(You must have earned the rest at the Holiday Camp and we hope you will be equally successful with regard to leave. We have not got Joe Gibbons address) Editors.

PTE. R. MORTON (C.M.F). Thanks for the "News" No. 52 which I received today and thanks a lot for the prayer book and the other books. I thank you for the Rosary beads. They are wonderful. I have been looking for a pair all over this place. I am sorry I have been a long time in writing, but I have been in "Dock" with boils on my arms, and it has been rather awkward. Well, things out here are going fine. I can see Ormskirk coming nearer all the time. It will be fine when we are all back in the old Town again. I was glad to hear the other day my wife has got over her illness and is getting about again. We have a lot to thank God for. I had a line from my mate Joe Nolan and he is near Rome, and he seems to be doing O.K.

(Glad to hear you had such good news from home and that you yourself were "out of Dock"). Editors.

Page 14.

PTE. J. JENNINGS (C.M.F.). I am very sorry for not writing before, but I have been busy and been on seven days leave near the sea which I enjoyed very much. I spent most of my leave in the sea, as you know, the beaches are very bad, mostly rocks - not a bit like N. Africa where it is all sand. Still believe me England is the best place of all and I will be very happy to come back to my home town. I was very pleased to receive two airgraphs from you Nos. 27 and 28. I was on my leave when I met one of my mates, C. Malloy and it took a few minutes to recognize him. We spent most of the day talking about old times. He told me he was receiving "St. Anne's News" alright. He said I was the second chap that he had met out here from the home town. I am receiving my letters from my Mother alright, they only take a few days to get here. I am looking forward to my "St. Anne's News" as I have not had one for a long time.

(The "News" has always been sent to you Jimmy but we have noticed that soldier's mail is apt to go astray while he is in Hospital. We hope you will soon receive several copies of the "News" at one go). Editors.

L.A.C. TOLMIE (RHODESIA). Many thanks for the copies of the "Mag" and the airgraphs which, by the way, are pinned all round the shelf over my bed!!! Quite a decoration. "Monty" of course, is popular with soldiers and airman alike and my cartoon portraying his magnificent handling of this show to the discomfort of Jerry is passed around and enjoyed by all. Cricket started yesterday and apart from a game of hockey on Tuesday the Winter is over. Sport is almost a fetish here as you can guess when I tell you that Cranborne has taken every trophy this year except for the Hockey Cup. I believe Frank Gill is out here but so far I have not seen him. I think all the Ormskirk boys are in the more active theatres of war! Cheerio for now and all the best to everyone at St. Anne's.

(Glad you can get lots of sport! Football has started here and so we may reasonably expect some Cricket weather. Frank Gill has returned to England but we haven't his address). Editors.

PTE. P. GERAGHTY (C.M.F.) Yesterday I received a copy of St. Annes' News for which I am very grateful. It is quite a while since I last wrote to you. You know how it is when in the line, no time for recreation, all work and then gradually you are apt to get behind with the mail. I suppose you will already know about me getting wounded, nothing serious, just a shrapnel wound in the foot. It is just six weeks since I stopped it, and at the moment I am in a convalescent depot recuperating. At one time I had visions of returning to England, but the army Surgeons do too good a job these days - believe me they certainly know their job. In recent letters from home and my friends from Ormskirk I have heard that my old pal Dick Gregory, known to all as "Greg" has been killed while in action. It was a big shock to me because in due course, I was going to pay him a visit. At the time he was in a different "Battle Zone" from myself, so all we can do now is to pray for him. Give my regards to all the C.Y.M.S. and members of the Sports' Club, and here's hoping to be home with you again soon.

(Glad to hear you were convalescing after your wound, Paddy. The "Tommy" certainly receives every attention when in hospital). Editors.

L.A.C. W.J. Molloy (B.L.A.) Just a line to let you know I am O.K. and to thank you for the News and the little book of French, which I find comes in very handy. It is very nice to read the "News" and find out what some of my old Ormskirk pals are doing these days. I seem to have got out of touch with most of them through living in Stockport these last few years, so you can bet it brings back a few old memories of the good times we have had at St. Annes' and Ormskirk. I hear that my brother Charlie has met a few Ormskirk lads on his travels. I have not had that luck so far. I thank you once again, carry on the good work.

(From personal experience we have found that a knowledge of French is extremely useful in the part of Holland where the battles are now raging. Most Dutch men especially those in shops speak and understand French very well, Editors.)

TPR. J.D. DAVIES (B.L.A.) Many thanks for St. Annes' News No. 54. I have received and also the "Fire-side", prayer book, and Rosary beads which were in the same parcel.

Page 16.

TPR. J. DAVIES. (B.L.A) (Contd.) I also received a book on French but I hardly had time to get into it. I was almost in Holland even before I realised I was out of France. "Jerry" certainly did run through Belgium. I see some of the boys managed to get a cricket team together and did very well in their first match. I managed to get to Church last Sunday, Mass was said by a Belgian priest and he gave a special sermon in English to the few soldiers that were there. The Church was absolutely packed, I'm sure everybody in the town was a Catholic. I must apologise for leaving it so long before writing but as you will understand that this Recce work is certainly a busy job. Wishing you all the best. God Bless you all and Cheerio.

(Your letter brought to my mind a very pleasant memory. I was the only English soldier at Mass in a village Church in Belgium towards the end of 1918. As soon as the priest mounted the pulpit he saw me and at once began to speak to me with a world of kindness, mentioning the loved ones I had left across the sea. I had to pretend that I had a cold but he understood and I think the villagers did. At any rate they were very kind to me while I was in the district. I had a very pleasant chat with the priest when he had finished his thanksgiving after Mass. The Church was rather like ours but much smaller, and, like ours, was dedicated to St. Anne. On the afternoon of the same day I saw my pal Micky Judge on his way with a column, to Brussels a few miles away. (Editors).

PTE. S.G. BALMER (B.L.A). Once again I am writing to thank you for sending me copies of St. Anne's News No. 54, and also a small French book which has come in useful for buying eggs and milk etc. I have not met any of the boys from St. Anne's yet but I am still hoping to see some. Have made an attempt at crossword which is enclosed.

(Glad you have found the small French Book useful. At present we are trying to get a similar book in German which some of you already need. We received your crossword solution). Editors.