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DEAR LIOBIAN,

In presenting to you our eighth edition we are pleased to note that the habit of writing to us seems to be taking root, and we no longer have to resort to appeals and artifice to secure your co-operation. Again we thank our contributors, and then proceed without delay to discharge our duty, so as not to be overtaken in mid-career by the celebrations of peace, which we feel cannot be far away, and may well sound the knell of Liobiter Dicta.

Lt. R. V. OLSEN sends us some entertaining pages from Ceylon, whither he travelled via Egypt and Kenya. In a wadhouse near Nairobi he met W. G. Jewers, who "toiled" with him "under the clawing hand of old C.S.C. in Rc." He expresses gratitude to C.S.C. for "pulling him out of the rut," and has had a letter from him expressing pleasure in his new school, and some harassment over servants. Jewers was on leave, hunting, shooting and fishing (the use of the "g" is African we gather), and one good night was successfully arranged. His receipt of L.D. 7 has aroused his own hunting instinct to locate the other Liobians on the island.

He sends congratulations to Charles Draper on his decoration, and has heard of Eric Colville as a staff captain in N. Africa, and George Holmes, "pushing classics down the throats of people like young Dawson." He mourns the passing of Jack Tyson, and feels it is up to us to see that if Trontal passes with him, an effective substitute is found nearby. He ends with good wishes to Messrs. Hart, Wormald, S. V. Brown and W. H. Doughty.

Fl.-Lt. F. RUSKELL wants the magazine regularly. He flew seven months in the same crew with R. E. C. Hutchison, with the famous Guy Gibson as their pilot. Ruskell was navigator and Hutchison wireless operator. He is now in the Pathfinder force, with sixty-four trips to his credit, and only six more to do. A fine record we think.

When on leave he would like to visit the School, but is afraid Mr. Thorpe might ask him to speak to the A.T.C. Noel Martin writes to say all three Martins are in the Army: H. W. ('31) a Lieut. in the Q.O. Yorks. Dragoons, R. A. ('33) a Lieut. in the R.A., wounded in Italy, and himself ('37) a Captain in an Air Obs. Post Squadron, still in England. He enquires after John Hargreaves ('38), John Hopwood ('36), and Glyn Hughes ('37).

L.A.C. D. E. GERRARD writes in a style combining Thucydides with Kai Lung of his manufacture by the R.A.F. into a photographer, and his subsequent journeyings across Africa and the Mediterranean, to end, so far, in Italy. He has failed to locate any Liobians, but has succeeded in attaining his "props." He sends regards to Messrs. Willot, H. M. Brown, Peters and G. F. Pollard.

Sub.-Lt. DENNIS VANCE, R.N.R., writes from Canada. After driving four years with the Merchant Navy and R.N.R., as a midshipman he took to flying in the Fleet Air Arm, and now has his wings. He is returning to fly fighter planes, and apart from something illegible happening to him at Kingston, he met J. O. Cooper, then newly a Sgt.-Pilot on his way home from Canada. He looks forward to a real reunion dinner soon.

Spr. J. P. TAYLOR rejoined the Army in 1943 in the R.E.'s. He has met J. R. Dale and Officer-Cadet Disley. His present duties are secret, but he hopes soon to be a civilian again, in company with everyone else.

Cpl. L. C. PEPPER ('37) hears from J. P. Redfearn ('36), situated in a censored locality. He hopes the pro-Rugby spade-work of Mr. G. F. Pollard has not been undone by a single-minded concentration on Soccer again at School. He also hopes that the ever-expanding circle of Old Boys continues to be drawn closer by L.D. (In defiance of Euclid and other reactionaries, no doubt).

Sgt. J. REDFEARN, himself, records meeting Pepper in Syria. He is now chief clerk in a field bakery, and contemplates some post-graduate studies on "loafing" as a consequence. This resulted from trying to join the R.E.'s as a quantity surveyor after only two-and-a-half years in that profession. He has been to France, and the "Mystic East," whose mysteries, he thinks, are better left unsolved. He records that discomfort of learning geography "on the spot" instead of with Mr. Elliott in room 37, and the hollow deception of the Greek goddess idea when confronted with the contemporary model in Athens. He is sending his L.D. to his father in Southport who shared with him the pleasures of being taught by Taffy.

Before the war he was with Furbur & Sons ; Reg. Furbur is a Liobian. A. P. Robinson ('36) is reported as being a L.Sgt. in the Corps of Signals in Tunisia, and as having enjoyed chasing Jerries about in N. Africa.

Refearn requests information about G. J. Buckley ('36), whom he has failed to contact with his letters, and whose last known whereabouts were the Command Paymaster's office. Any offers ?

A. D. BAXTER ('27) now has three children, one being a son ten years old, and one a daughter subsequent to L.D. 7. He has been concerned with airplanes for years now and learned to fly in 1930, later becoming a Ft-Lt. in the Air Reserve of Officers. As a builder of engines and a "back room boy" he was subsequently forbidden to risk his neck piloting himself, but was permitted to fly as passenger in less experienced hands. Among his duties is that of examining enemy planes that are brought down.

E. K. C. BISSON has been with the F.A.U. since 1939, and after being in various hospitals, is now at H.Q. He reports R. Bird as being a S.-Sgt. in the R.A.M.C. in Malta, but apart from his father and Victor Cooper, who was killed in the R.A.M.C., he has seen no Liobian for years. He enquires tenderly after the Camera and Field Club.

Capt. C. G. Falconer ('26), now in India, recalls that he was in the express forms with L. Henry, and wonders if they still exist. He says his journey daily from landing stage to school was his own most express performance. He enquires after A. J. Gill and T. A. O'Neill, and also Griffiths who kept goal, and worked with him in Y.H.A. under the Rev. H. H. Symonds. Finally, he sends good wishes to Taffy.

The Rev. E. J. CLARK joined the School in 1884, and gained two years in the High School on a Cochran Scholarship, when he met Arthur E. Ewart. He was present at the farewell of the Rev. J. Sephton, and still writes to Henry Peck in the U.S.A., son of a Mr. Peck, who was in the Office in his time. He writes from Hull, where his church and vicarage have, unfortunately, been badly damaged.

JOHN F. WISE ('15) writes to say Arthur Askey was "discovered" by "Vic" in the pierrot troupe he organised, and Mr. Doughty

trained, for the Hobby Show before the last war. Wise was in it, and so were Jim Simpson and Eric Longhurst. He believes James Laver played a female Shakespearean role the same night, in 1913 or 1914.

JAMES A CHRISTIE writes from Leyland, where, now a married man, he is District Development Engineer for the Lancashire Electric Supply Co. and experimental animal for his wife's cookery class. He has heard that D. Parratt is a father and D. H. Patridge a bridegroom. G. Sircom, now a housemaster at Lancaster G.S., spent a week-end with him recently. He still gets some cricket, and works with the local youth movement.

W. J. YARLETT has been to sea ever since he left school in 1936, first in the M.N., and now in the R.N. He sends regards to the Head and Mr. Bartlett, and enquires after Raby, his quondam "partner in crime," last heard of in the Army.

L.-Cpl. W. E. WHITESIDE received his last copy of L.D. from Ronald Woan ('35) who was actively engaging the Wehrmacht at the time in Italy, while Whiteside was rustivating in Cyrenaica. He recalls his meeting with L. O. Pepper and their unsuccessful attempt to renew it, and a more fortunate encounter with Ronald Stansfield ('36). He sends good wishes to Taffy, and congratulations to N. F. Pillatt, on his commission. Finally, he wonders if Capt. Thorpe is still handling Form 5T.

Capt. A. P. BATES writes from hospital in Italy where he is on the sick list. The only Liobian he has met was R. H. MacGowan, in Canada. He has had a grand tour of the Mediterranean battlefields.

Lt. G. B. REID ('33) writes from India where he arrived in May 1942, and has spent most of his time in the jungle. Until recently the only O.B. he had met was his brother, G. T. ('24), now a Captain in the 16th Punjab Regt. Now he is on a course, being instructed by E. P. Lees ('28), a Lt. in the Indian Army, who walked out of Burma with his wife in '42, and H. S. Jones (about '25) who is a Lt. in the R.Es.

Lt. F. A. MOFFATT writes from Italy. He has been all through their campaign with the 8th Army, commanding a transport platoon, including the Salerno landing. He enjoys his job, and feels grateful for Mr. Elliott's geography lessons. He has met no O.B.s but heard

from Ernie Dalton, still in the Army in England, and W. Foote, now in H.M.S. "Howe" after a long spell in "Illustrious". He records his engagement.

Lt. A. STONE is now attached to a Guards Regt. He is in touch with G. S. Price ('36), just completing an O.C.T.U. course, R. J. Edwards ('39), engaged in something chemical up north, and he has met W. R. Lund, who is frightfully secret. He has just become a life member and subscribed to the magazine. We might add that in our democratic community, the same opportunities are open to all.

Cpl. F. HYAM ('34) feels that Liobiter Dicta is an outrage on the Latin language, but that after what it did to him in 3x, it had it coming to it. He met Sam Pollack (R.A.O.C.) waiting for a train to Cairo, and Sol Pollack in Kenya, where the Kenya and Uganda cricket club wears the famous "maroon, emerald and silver" as its colours.

He met also Sam Bender, a schoolmaster now in Haifa, and hears from Sqd.-Leader Sol Bender in Canada: the latter met Arnold Pink over there. Hyam is now in Corsica, after seeing Egypt, Palestine, Kenya, Uganda and Italy. In Kenya he saw snow on the equator, but hopes in future to travel no further than a bicycle will take him.

NICHOLAS SIZE regrets that his contemporaries should so largely have died off through not taking adequate care of themselves. His grandfather (born 1800) went to night school at the L.I., and was in former days Old Nick, to his grandson's Young Nick. The mantle of Old Nick has now, however, descended on to contemporary shoulders.

Cpl. J. S. PARSONAGE ('35) says his young sister likes reading L. D., and presumes she is looking in its pages for a husband. (We feel she could hardly do better). He is on an A.A. gun site and has met few Liobians, but some Collegiate people. Otherwise life is not too bad. His wife has presented him with a 9½-lb. son, who may, about 1960, harass Mr. Killingley, he thinks.

So much for the information sent to us straight, so to speak, from the horse's mouth. Perhaps the most interesting feature of the last six months on the home front has been the centenary of Blackburne House, because it brought about the, at least,

temporary resuscitation of another Liobian activity—the centenary players—who produced the “Man from Toronto” at the Crane Hall, as part of the celebrations. Alan Williams, who, a solicitor in real life, made a big hit with his acting of a stage solicitor; Bob Lowe, sporting a lovely line in blazers, and T. W. Sladé, plus a semi-Canadian accent, proved that the experience of school plays had not been wasted, while the figure of Alan Tytler was reported to have been seen in the dressing-rooms.

The advent of our British summer brought the cricketers out again from their winter hibernation. Reg. Gornall has been observed in the middle of the Sefton wicket, meditatively leaning on the roller while three other enthusiasts pushed it. George Wass has been observed in the middle of the Greenbank wicket meditatively pushing the roller while other enthusiasts—nameless—leaned on it. His famous “squeere” still produces a good wicket, even though the removal of the Greenbank Lane railings for scrap has considerably increased the pedestrian traffic around and, alas, occasionally over it. The Liobians C.C. have had another good season, losing only four of some sixteen games played, while their victories have included three against Sefton II and one won by ten wickets against Wallasey II. The team has been much the same as last year. W. H. Adams has had to get his cricket this year in India, where he is in an O.C.T.U., but the gap caused by his call-up has been largely filled by the return of K. Taylor (1940). Taylor went into the Navy and eventually finished up in M.T.B.s under the famous Peter Scott until he got too near some hate from an enemy “E” boat and absorbed a large quantity of shrapnel. In the interval between having pieces of this removed he has played for the club for the greater part of the season. The Merchant Navy has also added to the personnel, as G. G. Wilkins played at the latter end of the season while homésitting for his temporary second mate’s ticket. We’re glad to say that he passed successfully.

While in cricket, news has come to hand of a former school captain, G. S. Rose. He is a Lieut. of Artillery with the 15th Scottish Division, British Second Army, and complains that a classical education is not the best training for his present mode of life. He is, however, very proud of an armchair which he “found in a field” and which is now the principal furniture of his dug-out; it seems that the training wasn’t so bad at all.

We have to congratulate A. Molyneux on his marriage. After getting his wings in the States he was posted as pilot to a coastal station in Ceylon and has now returned to this country again after

a long spell of overseas duty. We must, also congratulate Capt. J. A. Roberts on his engagement. "Johnny" has been an instructor at the Royal School of Signals for longer now than he cares to think about, and says that if he stays up in Yorkshire much longer he'll become a permanent landmark. His brother, Eric, by the way, is still faithfully chasing the 8th Army. He's been doing this for three years and hopes to catch it before peace comes.

Of School news there is little to report : all are now back from Bangor and the numbers at the beginning of term were 870. This is not the largest number accommodated in the School, for we are told that in the bad old days more than a thousand boys were squeezed into the building. But since that time, class-rooms are fewer and the powers that be are more considerate. Sports on the old lines so well and truly laid down by Mr. Tiffen many years ago, were held last term. The cricket eleven had a better team on paper than in fact. They won eleven games and lost three, which all goes to show the relative poorness of school cricket in this district.

The Mersey Road ground is still not usable and the pavilion has had more than its share of attention from irresponsible hooligans. We still have Greenbank (though this too has suffered severely from hooliganism) and, through the kindness of the Chairman of the Governors, the excellent ground of the Odyssey Club at Riversdale Road has been put at our disposal.

That's all this time ; good luck everybody.

Yours sincerely,

LIQBITER DICTA: