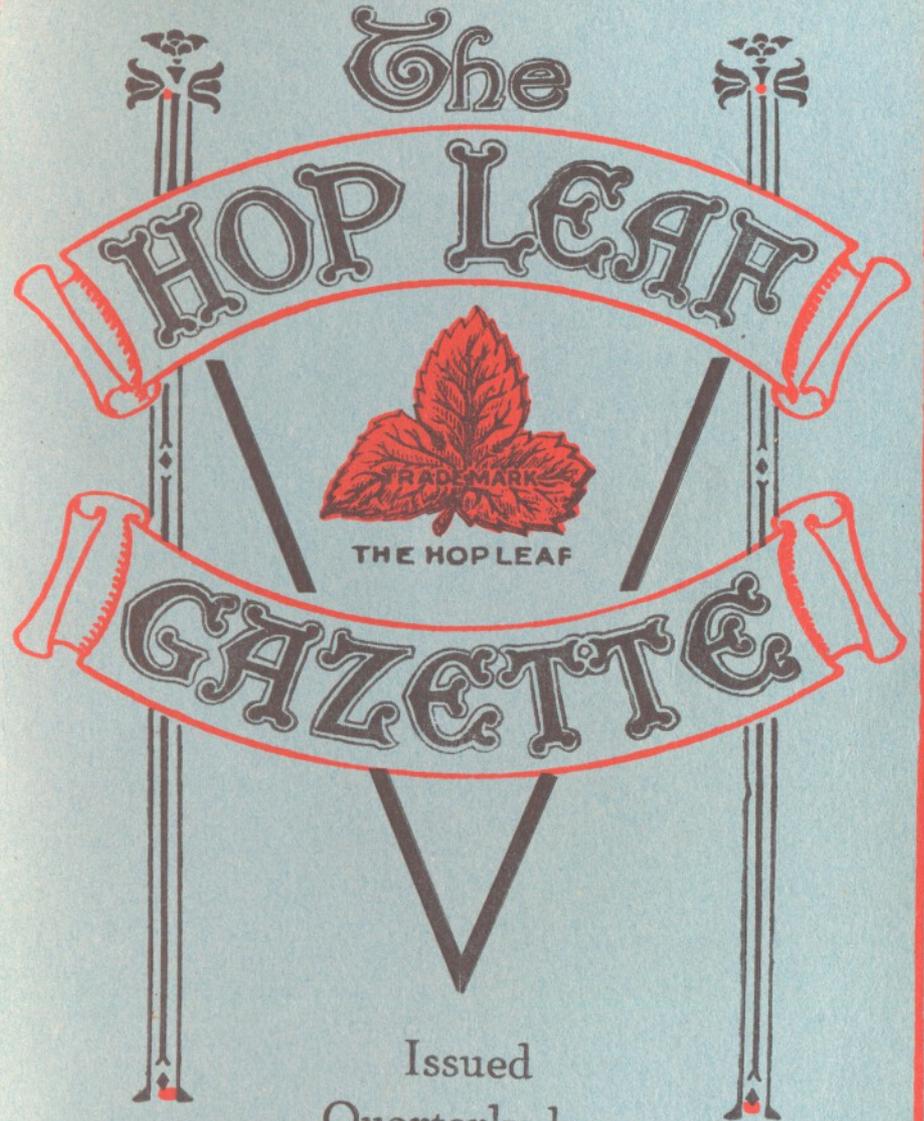


VOL. XXII.

JUNE, 1948.

Price 3d.



The

HOP LEAF



THE HOP LEAF

GAZETTE

Issued
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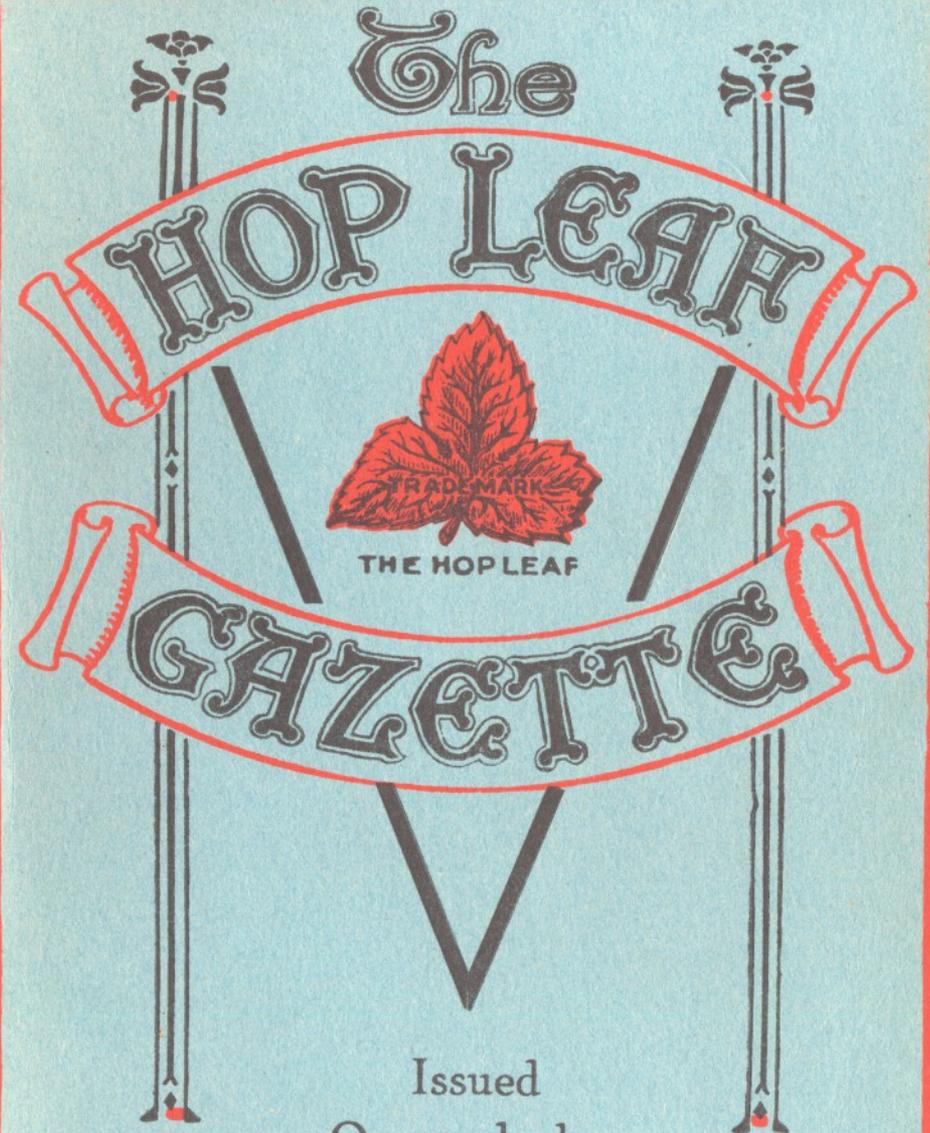
H. & G. SIMONDS, LTD., READING.

A RECORD OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AT THE BREWERY.

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The Hop Leaf Gazette.

The Journal of H. & G. SIMONDS, Ltd.

Edited by CHARLES H. PERRIN.

Vol. XXII.

JUNE, 1948.

No. 3

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All communications should be addressed to—
The Editor, HOP LEAF GAZETTE, The Brewery, Reading.



MR. H. HUNKING

MR. H. HUNKING.

One of the most gratifying features of the increasing activities year by year at our Jacob Street Brewery, Bristol, since its acquisition in 1935, has been the versatility of its Departmental "veterans" in assimilating those ever-changing principles of administration and routine which, under modern industrial conditions, seem to be inseparable from commercial progress.

Especially valuable was this "well-seasoned framework" during the years of the late war when Bristol folk's daily round and common task required some measure of toughness to carry on at all. Among those who have kept the "Hop Leaf" flag flying, none is worthier of mention than the subject of our frontispiece in this issue—Mr. H. Hunking, the Clerk-in-Charge of our Empties and Returns Dept., who, as far back as October, 1906, became one of the "number-takers" in the Cask Office, where he remained until the call of the first World War meant a khaki outfit and eventually the mud and sweat of the Somme trenches.

Serving in the 4th Gloucesters at first, and later, in the 9th Devons, Mr. Hunking moved around on many parts of the Western Front. Later he was transferred to a Labour Corps, and in November, 1917, owing to ill-health, was invalided out of the Services, and returned to his former position in civil life.

His integrity, loyalty, and quiet concentration on the job in hand are most valuable assets to the Company, more especially in those outdoor catering contracts at Cheltenham, Chepstow, Bath, and many other places where he supervises stocking arrangements, issues, and final clearances on our behalf. A great deal of tact and patience are often necessary, and also improvisation. He never fails to satisfy our catering friends or ourselves in any emergency.

An old "Colstonian," Mr. Hunking was a contemporary at that nursery of the Rugby code with W. R. Johnstone, the old England full-back, but did not endeavour by example to set the pulses of his school mates throbbing. He is a stalwart supporter of the Bristol Club nowadays, and a well informed critic on the ethics of the game—as viewed from the "bank."

His interest in sport is anything but narrow, however, County cricket, Bristol City and Rovers' teams also have a share of his leisure moments, but as one who never works by the clock, we are not far wrong in saying that his greatest interest is his job of work, wherever that may be.

Take a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine oft infirmities.—The Bible.

CHAT *from*



THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

(By C. H. P.)

HIS MAJESTY THE KING!

Wednesday, April 7th, was a great day in Reading, when His Majesty King George VI paid his first visit to the home of the County Regiment since he graciously became its Colonel-in-Chief. His Majesty was given a right royal reception, as was evidenced by the crowded streets. Large parties of school children were among those who lined the streets, and the occasion was, in every way, a memorable one. Our gracious King was evidently pleased with his visit, and afterwards sent the following telegram to General Sir Miles Dempsey, Colonel of the Regiment, at Brock Barracks, Reading:—

"Please express my warmest congratulations to all ranks on their smart drill and bearing yesterday. I was particularly glad to meet so many of our old comrades and to see Regulars, Territorials and Cadets so worthily upholding the great traditions of the Regiment.

Signed: GEORGE R.,
Colonel-in-Chief
The Royal Berkshire Regiment."

DAUGHTER FOR MAJOR KIRBY.

On May 15th, at Mornington Park, Bangor, County Down, Northern Ireland, to Helen Yvonne, the wife of Major Eric Kirby, a daughter (Angela Kristel).

Major Kirby, formerly D.A.D.O.S., Headquarters, Vienna, is now stationed in England, and is looking forward to seeing some of his old friends from the Brewery, in the near future.

Major Kirby was at the Brewery, Reading, also Staines, for some years before joining the Army, and is the only son of our well-known colleague, Mr. Fred Kirby, who retired some little while ago.

GREAT SAILOR AND GREAT GENTLEMAN.

It is with profound regret we have to record the death of Commander H. D. Simonds, R.N. (Retired) at the age of 61. He had been a member of our Board of Directors since 1919. The youngest son of the late Mr. L. de L. Simonds, and brother of our Chairman and Managing Director, Commander Simonds had a very distinguished Naval career.

At the Brewery he became responsible for the whole of the transport of the firm, covering the South of England. He was very thorough in all he did, popular with his fellow Directors, staff and employees, and held in the highest respect wherever he was known. He was a member of the Town Council for a short period, and his work there was characterised by that thoroughness which was typical of all he did in the Navy and at the Brewery.

His loss is a grievous one. He was a great sailor and a great gentleman.

BEER—A GREAT FACTOR.

When the invasion of Europe was being planned, not least among the essential factors considered was that of high morale among the troops. In this category there was the medical side covering quick evacuation of casualties, good food, a well-organised mail service, and some amenities during the brief periods of relaxation. "And at the top of that section, I put beer—English beer," said General Sir Miles Dempsey, Commander of the victorious British Second Army, when he unveiled a plaque commemorating the work done at London stores by the "Beer for Troops" Committee, at Simonds' Plough Brewery, Wandsworth Road. "Beer was one of the great factors which sustained the morale of the fighting men" he said, thanking the Committee and London brewers for their work on behalf of the Army. Mr. F. A. Simonds (Chairman and Managing Director, H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.), who was Chairman of the "Beer for Troops" Committee, said that in the summer of 1944 NAAFI asked some of the brewers to arrange for a distribution of beer to the troops in Europe, and the Plough Brewery was selected as the central packing depot. In all, 7,641,120 bottles of beer brewed by London brewers were packed for despatch at this depot.

Mr. Simonds paid tribute to the work of his associates in this scheme; to Commander R. W. McGrath, one of the gentlemen primarily responsible for its success; to the late Mr. Eric Fisher, without whom what was achieved would have been impossible; to Mr. W. E. Phillips for his technical assistance; and to Air Chief Marshal Sir Christopher Courtney, who solved the personnel problem by providing "a task force of R.A.F. lads."

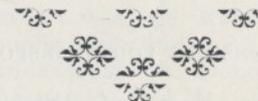
WORDS OF LIFE AND BEAUTY.

That the HOP LEAF GAZETTE is read far and wide, and by all sorts of people, we have evidence over and over again. Recently I received a letter from nine-year-old Roderick Hole, of Merrow, Guildford. It was addressed to "The Editor, Words of Life and Beauty." That was a very great compliment. Roderick also sent me a scriptural text in colours and artistically surrounded by flowers. Many thanks, Roderick, your little letter was very gratifying!

PRECIOUS BIRTHDAY PRESENT.

On his birthday, June 1st, Mr. Duncan Simonds, had presented to him, by his wife, a wonderful present, in the form of a little son.

What a happy coincidence!



DEATH OF COMMANDER H. D. SIMONDS.

We deeply regret to record the death of Commander Henry Duncan Simonds, R.N. (retired), which occurred at his home, Gaddeshill House, Eversley, on Sunday, April 25th. He was 61 years of age, and he had been a member of the Board of Directors since 1919.

The youngest son of the late Mr. L. de L. Simonds, and brother of Mr. F. A. Simonds, the present Chairman and Managing Director, Commander Simonds had an adventurous career in the Royal Navy, serving both in the 1914-18 war and the last war. In the first world war he was one of the survivors of the ill-fated battleship *Formidable*, which was sunk in the English Channel on New Year's Day, 1915. Lieutenant Simonds, as he then was, had a miraculous escape, for, when his ship went down, it was not until he had spent 20 minutes battling with the heavy seas that he was sighted and picked up by a British light cruiser. Another survivor stated that Mr. Simonds worked magnificently in getting out the boats, and the heroic captain of the *Formidable*, who went to his death sending out signals till the last moment, showed his appreciation just before the ship went down by saying: 'You have done well, Simonds.' Later Mr. Simonds received the rank of Lieutenant-Commander, and he was on the *Warspite* at the Battle of Jutland. The *Warspite* was handled with great gallantry. She dashed between the *Warrior* and her enemies, and received the salvo intended for the badly-hit *Warrior*. As it turned out, she did not save the *Warrior*, but she probably saved the crew.

After 18 years in the Royal Navy, Mr. Simonds retired with the rank of Lieutenant-Commander, and was afterwards made Commander on the retired list. He rejoined the Senior Service in the last war, and rendered very valuable service to his country, being sent on a special mission abroad. His journeys took him mainly to Canada and the U.S.A. At the conclusion of the war he resumed his work at the Reading brewery.

RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSPORT.

Appointed to the Board of Directors in April, 1919, Commander Simonds became responsible for the whole of the transport of the firm, covering the south of England. The valuable services which he rendered added to the success of the Company, whilst he was popular with his fellow directors, staff and employees alike.

Commander Simonds had a short spell of service on the Reading Town Council. After twice unsuccessfully contesting Katesgrove Ward as an anti-Socialist, he was elected to the Council for Redlands Ward at a by-election in April, 1934, and he increased his majority over his Labour opponent in the following November. He did not seek re-election in November, 1937. The thoroughness with which Commander Simonds carried out his business duties he also brought to his work on the Council, and particularly to his committee work. He signalled his appointment to the Drainage Committee by inspecting the whole of the pumping and drainage system of the borough. Among other committees on which he served with distinction were the Education Committee and the Parks Committee.

It was but natural, being a Naval man, that Commander Simonds should take an active interest in Service Associations. He had been hon. treasurer of the Reading and District Branch of the British Sailors' Society, a member of the committee of the Reading Branch of the Navy League Sea Cadet Corps, and Chairman of the Eversley Branch of the British Legion. He was also President of the Reading Branch of the Royal Naval Old Comrades' Association. Himself an expert entertainer, he had organised numerous concerts for charitable purposes. In 1939 he became President of the Reading Property Owners' Association, a position he continued to hold up to the time of his death. He was also a Vice-President of the Reading Municipal Association.

The greatest sympathy will be felt for the widow and three sons.

THE FUNERAL.

The funeral took place at St. Mary's, Eversley, on Wednesday, April 28th. The service was conducted by the Rector of Eversley, the Rev. R. C. Rudgard. The Rector of Highclere, the Rev. N. B. Kent, officiated at the committal service.

The family mourners were the widow, Mr. James Simonds (son), Mrs. F. A. Simonds (sister-in-law), Lord and Lady Simonds (brother and sister-in-law), Mr. E. Duncan Simonds (nephew), Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Simonds, and Mrs. John Simonds (cousins), Major G. S. M. Ashby, Mr. Henry Ashby, Col. F. H. V. Keighley, and Mr. R. St. J. Quarry. Second-Lieut. Tom Simonds, Royal Marines (son), was unable to attend as he was abroad.

UNVEILING OF COMMEMORATIVE TABLET

AT

THE PLOUGH BREWERY,
WANDSWORTH ROAD, S.W.8,

ON

TUESDAY, 23RD MARCH, 1948.

Mr. F. A. Simonds, in opening the proceedings, said :—

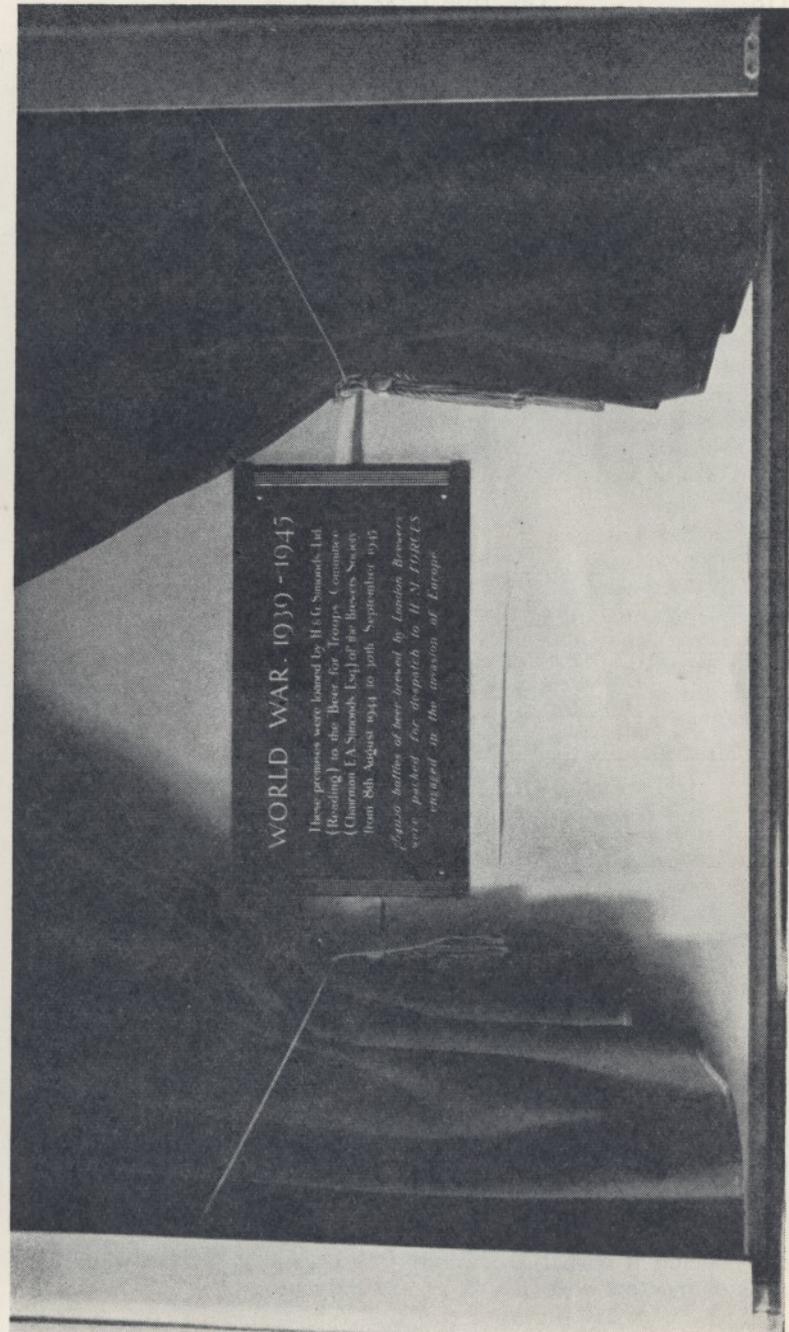
“ Gentlemen,

“ This little ceremony has been staged to commemorate a great achievement. In the summer of 1944, when the Invasion of Europe was planned, the NAAFI, as always, considerate for the needs of the Forces, asked some of us Brewers to arrange for a big distribution of beer to the Troops in Europe. The Committee that was then in being to deal with the supply of beer to Forces all over the world, asked the London Brewers to bottle as great quantities of beer, as was possible in those days, and we had to find some Central Packing Depot for the packing thereof. We had a good look round London, and these premises here, though totally inadequate, and in many ways inefficient and out of the way, were finally selected for a big packing and despatch centre.

“ The Tablet which you see here will be unveiled by the one gentlemen who should unveil it, none other than General Sir Miles Dempsey, who commanded that great Second Army which was so responsible for our success in France, and after France. It is only in this office temporarily ; it is going downstairs directly after it has been unveiled, and will be screwed on to the wall outside the office, where it will be in the view of all visitors and passers-by.”

Turning to Commander McGrath, Mr. Simonds said : “ I should like to thank you, in the first place, for your part in this great achievement. There was one gentlemen who was primarily responsible for the executive work for the whole of the period of the operation. You know I refer to poor Eric Fisher, who, had it not been for the terrible tragedy last month, would have been here to day to receive our thanks in person. I know, Sir, you have lost a very great friend and mourn his loss. Without him, much of that which was accomplished would have been impossible.”

To Mr. W. E. Phillips, of Messrs. Guinness, he said : “ Mr. Phillips, of Messrs. Guinness, was in no small way responsible for much of the inspiration and technical work.”



THE PLAQUE.

Continuing, Mr. Simonds said :—

" You, Commander McGrath, provided from the Victoria Wine Company these gentlemen here who did really do a very fine job of work."

To Air Marshal Sir Christopher Courtney, he said : " You sent your Task Forces of R.A.F. lads who did seem to appreciate that they were providing liquid comfort for the Troops, and their efforts were duly recognised.

" You, Mr. Horwood, of the Brewers' Society, and your colleague, Mr. Rodwell, played a very great part in the success of this achievement, and, personally, I am very grateful to you, because, through you, I kept a very close liaison with the two other London Brewers here, and, incidentally, Messrs. Watney's lent part of their premises for this same object. Captain Combe and Mr. Cecil Charrington, you did inspire other London Bottlers to great efforts."

To Sir Lancelot Royle and Mr. H. Mills, of the NAAFI, he said : " I am sure that these gentlemen present here will extend their warmest thanks to you for the great encouragement, inspiration and support which was given us from Ruxley and elsewhere. If it had not been for you carrying the dirty end of the whip, I do not think any one of us would have done as much as we did. Very many thanks to you, Sir Lancelot, and all your colleagues who were concerned with this great task."

Mr. Simonds then read the inscription on the plaque :

" WORLD WAR, 1939-1945."

THESE PREMISES WERE LOANED BY
H. & G. SIMONDS, LTD., READING,

TO

THE " BEER FOR TROOPS " COMMITTEE
(Chairman : F. A. Simonds, Esq.)

OF

THE BREWERS' SOCIETY
FROM 8TH AUGUST, 1944, TO 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1945.

7,641,120 BOTTLES OF BEER
BREWED BY LONDON BREWERS
WERE PACKED AND DESPATCHED

TO

H.M. FORCES ENGAGED
IN THE INVASION OF EUROPE

and concluded with these words—" an achievement of which all of us connected with this effort are duly proud."



Air Chief Marshal Sir Christopher Courtney, General Sir Miles Dempsey and Mr. F. A. Simonds.

General Sir Miles Dempsey: "One does not these days often think back to the time which this plaque commemorates, but this morning I think it is permissible to do so just for a minute or two. It is nearly four years now since the Invasion of Europe—the greatest combined operation of all times. I remember so well the last occasion when we all met at St. Paul's School to give our plans—the Navy, the Army and the Air Force—to the King and the Prime Minister. When we had finished giving our plans, Field-Marshal Smuts was asked to say a few words, and he got up and said: 'I have been travelling all over England and have seen your preparations. I have now heard your plans. It seems to me that the operation is so vast and complex, and so beset with difficulties, that I wonder you have the courage to attempt it.' It was a vast operation; it was so big, so big a business that no single man such as an Army Commander had the slightest chance of going into any detail in the matter of supplies. One simply stated one's requirements and left it at that, and very hopefully left it at that, because we knew well enough that this, the whole country, and everyone in England would see to it that we were short of nothing. We concentrated on what we thought were the essentials, and very high in the essentials is the matter of morale; not only to have a high morale for the Invasion itself, because for that there was the enthusiasm and excitement of 'D-Day,' but we had to be assured of sustaining the morale of the fighting troops through the long months of hard warfare which we knew lay ahead of us. There are many other features needed in maintaining high morale; there is the matter of the material side of good food and regular and proper mail services to the men and also—and I put this very high—some amenity during the irregular and short periods of relaxation, and when I say some amenity, I put at the top of that, beer—English beer—so that the fellows can get back when they are off duty and recall their home life. So, as I see it, we are here this morning to commemorate one of the great features which sustained the morale and revived men whilst they defied the armed might of Germany. Seven million bottles is a lot of beer, but it was not only the Army that drank it; the Navy and the Air Force drank their quota, and I am quite sure that they would wish to join with me in expressing their gratitude to the 'Beer for Troops' Committee and the London Brewers, one and all, for the great work they did. And so, whilst I am unveiling this Tablet, I am going to permit myself a personal touch, and say 'thank you' on behalf of the Army which I had the honour to command, and I unveil this plaque on behalf of all those who took part in the Invasion of Europe and the final defeat of Germany."



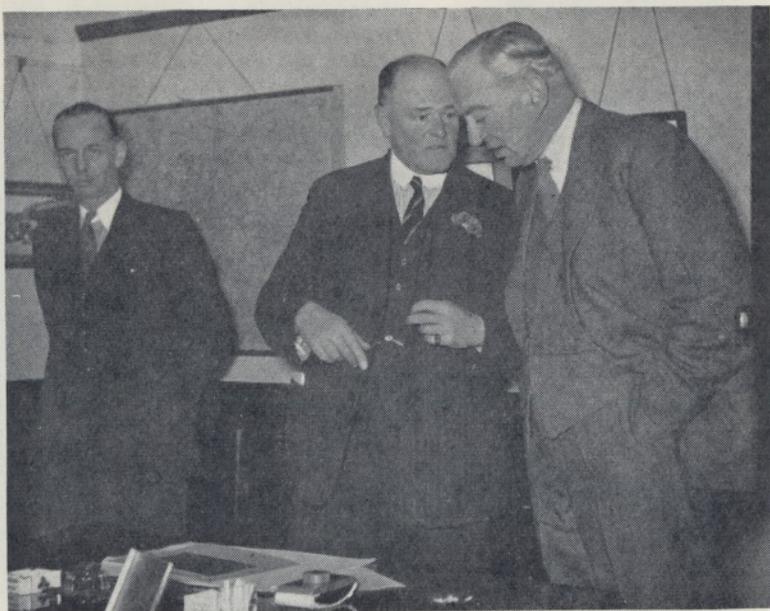
Mr. T. G. Bloomfield, Mr. H. Bowman and Mr. A. Naldrett of The Victoria Wine Company, Limited.



The Unveiling.

Sir Lancelot Royle said a few words and made reference to the fact that the quantity of beer supplied, when bottles were stood side by side, would make a pathway from London to New York. He also mentioned that the quantity supplied, great though it was, was not a quarter of what the Troops could have drunk; in fact, it was not even a tenth. I do appreciate what a wonderful job of work was done by the London Brewers for the Services."

Commander McGrath remarked that he remembered well searching all London for a suitable building in which to pack the beer and they could find nowhere; any place which appeared to be convenient for the job was wanted by the Government; and then, suddenly, Mr. Simonds said: "We have a Brewery at Wandsworth Road; perhaps this can be used. It has no plant or machinery." We went from one Brewery to another to find suitable plant; for instance, Watney's provided the runners to take the boxes when they were packed, and so on. The next stage was a real headache for us as we could get no personnel. I recall, luckily, one night when Air Chief Marshal Sir Christopher Courtney was dining with me, and I asked him



General Sir Miles Dempsey, Mr. F. A. Simonds and Commander R. W. McGrath.

Photo taken prior to the Unveiling.



Departure of Sir Lancelot Royle after the Ceremony.

if he could help me out, and he very quickly let us have some Air Force boys; they would come for a while, and then go, and their place taken by a fresh lot; we then got girls, and, later, Italian prisoners of war. Our thanks are first of all due to Mr. Eric Simonds for letting us have this place, and also to Messrs. Watney for letting us have premises at their Brewery which were taken on as well, and which was organised and run for packing of beers.

Mr. F. A. Simonds, in conclusion, then said:—

"Thank you all very much for coming here this morning and supporting General Sir Miles Dempsey in this little ceremony. I hope this plaque will remain as a token for many years to come of a great achievement. May I thank those gentlemen of my own staff here at this Branch, Major Johnson and Mr. Ward, and Mr. Bradford, of Reading, and all those who took a hand in this great effort.

In addition to General Dempsey and Mr. Simonds, those present included Commander R. W. McGrath (Chairman, Taylor, Walker and Co., Ltd., and the Victoria Wine Co., Ltd.); Messrs.

S. A. Horwood and A. J. Rodwell (Secretary and Assistant Secretary, Brewers' Society); Air Chief Marshal Sir Christopher Courtney, Sir Lancelot C. Royle (Chairman, NAAFI); Captain F. H. Combe, M.C. (Managing Director and Deputy Chairman, Watney, Combe Reid and Co., Ltd.); Mr. C. E. W. Charrington (Chairman, Charrington and Co., Ltd.); Mr. W. E. Phillips (A. Guinness, Son and Co., Ltd.); Mr. F. H. V. Keighley, O.B.E. (Director, H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.); and Messrs. H. Bowman, A. Naldrett and T. G. Bloomfield (Victoria Wine Co., Ltd.).

In connection with the above Ceremony, our Chairman and Managing Director, Mr. F. A. Simonds, addressed the following letter to Mr. S. M. Penlerick, London Branch Manager:—

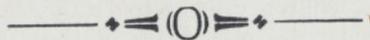
Dear Sir,

I must congratulate you on the arrangements you made yesterday for the Unveiling of the Commemorative Tablet. I am confident that everyone was eminently satisfied with all that you did to make the day a notable one. You had most tastefully arranged the office and all to do with the ceremony. The distinguished company present will retain the happiest recollections of that gathering.

The Tablet in its present position should be a lasting tribute to the great efforts of 1944/45, and will, no doubt, be an object of interest to all passers-by.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) F. A. SIMONDS.



BREWERY JOTTINGS.

BY W. DUNSTER.

The weather continuing good and very warm, both for Easter and Whitsun, naturally we were busy, and still have been, supplying our many customers with as much as possible, in spite of limited output due to no fault of our own. However, it must be borne in mind, owing to the crushing burden of *two* increases imposed by the last two Budgets (October and April) time will show whether "saturation" point has not been more than reached.

We are still losing young members of our staff who are joining the Forces when they reach the age for calling-up; and during the last few months, G. G. Doe (Branch Dept.) and A. E. Randall (Accounts Office) have left us for a while. There are others who will have to go shortly. A. E. Randall, by the way, is a most promising footballer, and has been playing in representative matches during the past season for the English Youths' Eleven. G. Ayers, who joined the R.A.F. some little while ago, is in Palestine, where, as we all know, things have been very hectic.

For some few weeks Mr. N. H. Lipscombe (Traveller) was away due to a painful illness, and Mr. H. Osborne (Counter) also had a nasty spell, being laid aside for longer than he wished. Both are now back to duty and feeling much better. Mr. B. H. Quelch (Trainee) was suddenly rushed to hospital where he had an operation. After a fairly lengthy spell there he has now been discharged from hospital, and is at his home in Oxford convalescing, we are pleased to say.

Congratulations to Miss J. Clifton (Brewing Dept.) on her marriage on the 27th March, at Christchurch, Reading, to Mr. Norman Fry. The reception was held at the Grosvenor House, Caversham.

The 'phone rings, and the message, "Please tell Mr. S. Collins to report at the Town Hall and pick up the keys of a new house." Naturally he was excited, as well as being delighted. After having had his name down on the housing list for *ages*, he is one of the lucky ones. He has been having a very busy time since, especially in the garden, which can be well imagined, on a new housing estate where he now resides.

Mr. K. M. Johnson left us in April for Woking Branch, and we wish him all success.

We were all pleased to hear of the promotion of Mr. P. James to the position of Manager of Brighton Branch, and offer him

sincere congratulations. He was very well known at the Brewery for many years, and a good all-rounder at all sports.

The Brewery First Eleven just missed winning their football league. Nevertheless, they had a very good season, and have every reason to be pleased with themselves. I am informed that although the Brewery minor team were unable to get together early enough to enter the League or compete for the Minor Cup, they have played quite a number of matches, and were not beaten throughout the whole of the season. One of their proud achievements was to defeat the winners of the Minor Cup. As regards the Reading football team, although they had a most inconsistent season in the League, the gates throughout were very good, and the Reserve team also had a most successful time and thrilled many spectators, quite a number who followed them regularly being from the Brewery.

From *On the Road* (the journal of the United Commercial Travellers' Association of Great Britain) is taken the following:—

“READING.—Annual General Meeting at the Ship Hotel. New President, Mr. E. Duncan Simonds, was installed. Their late President was Mr. Louis A. Simonds. Mr. Simonds said that his brother had often told him how interested he had become in the Commercial Travellers in the Reading district, and he felt he would now follow in his brother's footsteps. He hoped the day was not far off when special facilities for members would become available in his hotels.”

Miss B. Welch, of the Branch Office, left at the end of April, after having been with us for some eight years. I am informed she was married at Minehead on the 18th May, and we offer her our sincere congratulations and good wishes. A subscription was made amongst the staff, and a fireside chair and an electric lamp were purchased as a token of our goodwill.

The Brewery second team of the Cricket Club scored nearly 200 runs the other week, and I should imagine this is a record for them.

We very much regret to record the death of a good servant of the firm, Mr. Chas. Bull, who had been employed in the beer cellars for 26 years. He was always cheerful, and one of the uncomplaining sort, even though his health had not been of the robust kind of recent years. He was well liked and will be sadly missed. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his relatives.

We welcome Mr. S. H. Spurling to Reading from Devonport since the beginning of May, and he is now installed in the Estates Office.

Our sincere good wishes accompany Mr. F. W. Freeman, transferred from Brighton Branch to the managership of Devonport Branch, where, it is hoped, he will be blessed with the best of health to carry out his arduous and exacting duties.

Mr. W. Bowyer was Chairman at the presentation of prizes in connection with the Slough, Windsor and District Games League, held in April at the Chalvey Working Men's Club, where the Mayors of Windsor and Slough were present. He was accompanied by Mr. S. Hinton, and a splendid evening was enjoyed by everyone.

A few nights earlier, Mr. Bowyer (accompanied by Mr. N. H. Lipscombe) was Chairman at the Reading Trades Union Club, where he presented the Club "Finals" prizes. This was also a good evening for all.

Two of the young members of our staff, Messrs. Bricknell and Langley, recently rowed at the Reading Working Men's Regatta, and won. We also have a lady member of the Iris Club (Miss M. Stronach), who rows in one of the "fours," but unfortunately she was not in the successful crew and, although on fresh water, it is understood that several "crabs" spoil the race.

The Imperial War Museum have asked us to present them with copies of our formation chart to add to their collection of British formation signs.

Extract from a letter received from Mr. K. Jodkin, Woodley, when applying for a "Pub." "You may be interested to know that quite a number of your bottles passed through my hands over the bar at R.A.F., Khoumaksar, Aden, as recently as last February. Very pleasant sight!"

Mr. A. J. Harding, who left to join the Palestine Police, is back with us again in the Engineers' Dept., after having been away for nearly twelve months.

The greatest sympathy is felt for Mr. P. Ruffles, of the Wine and Spirit Department on the loss of his wife under such tragic circumstances.

The following changes and transfers have taken place during the last few months, and to all we wish every success:—

The Pheasant, Shefford Woodlands (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. L. H. Collard.

The Elm Tree, Heston (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. C. H. E. Markwick.

- The Black Boy, Terriers, High Wycombe (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries, Ltd.)—Mr. A. J. Foster.
- The George and Dragon, Facombe (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. G. W. Carter.
- The George Inn, St. Mary Bourne (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. R. F. Andrews.
- The Warren House, Wokingham (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. J. H. Genge.
- The Crown, Knaphill (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. E. C. Budgen.
- The Bugle, Friar Street, Reading (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. E. Lipscombe.
- The Bell and Bottle, Littlewick Green (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. F. J. Chandler.
- The Beehive, Russells Water (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries, Ltd.)—Mr. W. J. Irwin.
- The Coopers' Arms, Newbury (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. H. J. Griffiths.
- The Three Pigeons, Gerrards Cross (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries, Ltd.)—Mrs. B. K. Bunce.
- The Coach and Horses, Rotherwick (Messrs. John May & Co., Ltd.)—Mr. C. G. Pearce.
- The Tuns Hotel, Odiham (Messrs. John May & Co., Ltd.)—Mrs. D. M. Hindson.
- The Red Lion, Overton (Messrs. John May & Co., Ltd.)—Mrs. A. L. Watts.
- The New Inn, Oxford Road, Reading (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. G. H. A. Cooke.

We regret to record the following deaths, and to all relatives we tender our sincere sympathy :—

Mrs. M. Irwin, of The Beehive, Russells Water (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries House), who had been at this House since September, 1917.

Mrs. Earles, in her eighty-sixth year, who died in March, had been connected with the firm for many years. In October, 1899, she was with her husband at The Rainbow in Chain Street until May, 1915, when the House was closed. In July, 1915, she was at the Bugle, Friar Street, until March, 1918. From then onwards she was at the Oatsheaf, Broad Street, until June, 1932.

Mrs. E. A. Ducksbury, of the Pack Horse Hotel, Staines, who died on the 13th March, had been tenant of this hotel since November, 1932.

Mr. Arthur Bunce, of the Three Pigeons, Gerrards Cross who died on the 4th April, 1948, had been tenant since April, 1930. The Bunce family had been at this House since February, 1902.

Mrs. M. Maynard, wife of the licensee of the Duke of Edinburgh, died on the 26th April, aged 70. Mr. and Mrs. Maynard were married 44 years ago, and came to Reading from Windsor in 1906. Mr. Maynard went into business with the steam launch *Britannia*, where Mrs. Maynard was well-known for her catering work on her husband's launches. With her husband she went to the Duke of Edinburgh some 13 years ago.

Mrs. A. Lovett, wife of the tenant of King William Fourth, Speen, near Aylesbury, who died on the 23rd April.

Mr. D. B. Hindson, The Tuns Hotel, Odiham (J. May & Co., Ltd.), who died on the 23rd April, had been tenant at this House since October, 1939.

Mr. R. H. Watts, The Red Lion, Overton (J. May & Co., Ltd.), who died on the 1st May, had been tenant of this House since October, 1932.

Mr. George Lyne, who died on the 10th April, aged 77, and retired from business some years ago, was a very well known figure at the Brewery. Originally he was at the Brewery Tap from June, 1908, until May, 1911, and from June, 1911, he was at the Wellington Arms, Whitley, until October, 1943. A very keen sportsman, he was an enthusiastic follower of the Reading Football Club, and was a member of the Reading Bowling Club. He had his own ideas about sport, and was always an interesting person to talk to.

Mrs. R. E. Ransom, wife of the tenant of the Four Horse Shoes, Basingstoke Road, aged 76, died on 12th May.

Mr. W. Wreford, tenant of the Beer Off Licence, Pattison House, Childs Hill, London, N.W.2, died on 16th May, and had been tenant since September, 1905.

Mr. B. C. Mathews, Ye Miller of Mansfield Hotel, Goring-on-Thames, who died on the 19th May, and had been tenant since 6th February, 1947, took over from his wife, who was tenant from October, 1913.

H.M. THE KING VISITS READING.

There was royal weather at Reading on April 7th, when the town was honoured by His Majesty King George VI, which was the date of his first visit to the Depot of the Royal Berkshire Regiment as its Colonel-in-Chief, an honour he bestowed on the Regiment on May 12th last year.

Large crowds, including many parties of school children, lined the decorated main thoroughfare from the east of the town to Brock Barracks to welcome the Royal entourage.

At the entrance to the barracks, the King, wearing the uniform of a Field Marshal, accompanied by his Assistant Private Secretary, Major Michael Adeane, and his Equerry, Captain Lord Plunkett, was met by General Sir Miles Dempsey, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Colonel of the Regiment, Mr. H. A. Benyon, Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, the Mayor of Reading (Alderman H. V. Kersley), Lt.-Col. J. C. Q. Harris and Captain D. O. Hood, Officer Commanding and Adjutant respectively of the Depot.

Inside the main gates stands the Regimental War Memorial, which is a replica of the Cenotaph in Whitehall, and, after viewing this, the King moved on to the barracks square. Here, under the command of Captain E. M. Gilding, Officer Commanding H.Q. Company at the Depot, a party of the Regiment was formed up, together with boys of the Berkshire Army Cadet Force. Facing them were 150 members of the Old Comrades' Association. Among these were Lt.-General Sir F. W. McCracken and Major G. H. Arbuthnot, who fought at the Battle of Tofrek in 1885, when the Regiment earned the title of "Royal." Another old comrade was Mr. E. S. Doubleday, who, as a lance corporal, served under the latter officer on Queen Victoria's personal guard at Cowes in 1900.

The King showed keen interest in these veterans of the Regiment with their many campaign ribbons and conversed with quite a number.

From the parade ground His Majesty visited the Sergeants' Mess, partaking a glass of sherry with R.S.M. Arnold, and then went to the men's dining hall, where dinner was being served. From thence he visited the NAAFI building, where he found amusement at the mural decorations of "Pin up" girls of various nations and American G.Is., the latter being a reminder of the time when the American Forces occupied the barracks during the late war.



The King chatting with General Sir Miles Dempsey (Colonel of the Regiment), and a former Officer. Also in the picture (left to right) are Major-General R. J. Collins, Lt.-Colonel J. C. Q. Harris and Col. G. S. Field.



Photos by kind permission of Berkshire Chronicle.

The King inspects members of the Old Comrades' Association.

From here he went to the Officers' Mess, where Colonel G. S. Field Hon. Colonel of the 4th/6th Battalion was presented to His Majesty, together with serving and former Officers of the Regiment.

Lunch was taken at the Officers' Mess, and afterwards the King drove to the Forbury. At the Town Memorial, which stands just outside the entrance, His Majesty was met by the Mayor and Mayoress, the Lord Lieutenant, General Dempsey, and Officers from the Depot.

A Guard of Honour of the 4th/6th Bn. Royal Berkshire Regiment, accompanied by the band of the Royal Marines,

Portsmouth Naval Command, gave the Royal Salute, and were then inspected. This was the first occasion a Territorial Guard of Honour had been inspected by the King outside London.

The saluting base was in the open space behind the Regiment's memorial to the fallen at Maiwand, Afghanistan, in 1880. This memorial, bearing on the plinth the names of the Officers, N.C.O.s and other ranks killed at this battle, is surmounted by the figure of a bronze lion at bay, which was designed by a former Director of the Firm, a famous sculptor, Mr. George Blackall Simonds.

After viewing the memorial, several local dignitaries were presented to the King, who was then escorted to his car to the renewed cheers of the spectators, for his return drive to Windsor.

The Territorial Guard of Honour, led by the Marines' band, then marched to Yeomanry House, where the salute was taken by Lt.-Col. H. P. Verey, Commanding the 4th/6th Battalion.

**WEDDING PRESENT TO
H.R.H. PRINCESS ELIZABETH.**

Our Chairman and Managing Director, Mr. F. A. Simonds, has received a further letter from Princess Elizabeth in acknowledgment of the delivery of the bulk of the Special Brew which Her Royal Highness was graciously pleased to accept on the occasion of her wedding.

The letter reads :—

“ BUCKINGHAM PALACE,

“ 5th April, 1948.

“ Dear Mr. Simonds,

“ The Duke of Edinburgh and I are particularly pleased with the wedding present of 200 dozen bottles of specially brewed beer which Messrs. H. & G. Simonds have given us as a wedding present. It is most unusual in these days to find beer of such remarkable quality and excellence, and we are both extremely grateful to your Firm for the trouble they have taken in providing us with such a useful and acceptable present.

Yours sincerely,

ELIZABETH.

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

OUTING ON SATURDAY, 29TH MAY.

The above day arrived, and it was unfortunate that it rained, rained, and rained again. A party of 60 went by coaches to Southsea, and although three hours of tropical rain greeted them on arrival, even if it damped their shirts (and other attire) it did not damp their spirits.

The lads made good use of the Fun Fair. The "Octopus" was in great demand, one or two turned a little green, which was only to be expected after the ride down and *stop*.

Fortunately, on the way home, the weather improved, so after having stopped for refreshment there were a few races, and these are some of the results :—

Lofty Hughes *v.* G. Neighbour—a good match.

Bunce *v.* Pidgeon—Pidgeon "flew" home.

G. West was no match for G. Thompson (West having run a race previously).

Mortimer finished his race well—ask Stacey!

After this a vote of thanks was proposed to the following gentlemen, whose generous help had made the outing such a success: Mr. R. St. J. Quarry, Mr. E. M. Downes, Mr. F. E. Dryden, Mr. F. C. Hawkes and Mr. W. Bradford.

Thanks were also expressed to the Committee, Messrs. A. Christie, T. Huse, W. Mortimer and G. Neighbour for their good work.

Then on to the White Hart, Sherfield, to top up with a good hour of fun. The guests were made very welcome by Mine Host, a very old friend, Mr. L. Smith.

Afterwards on to home—wet, tired and happy—and then to bed.

The opportunity is also taken to thank Mrs. Hannis for providing such good food and to J. Allen for the music.

W. V.



EAST AFRICAN BREWERIES LTD., NAIROBI.

A letter recently received from Mr. W. N. Mackenzie, Chairman of the above, relates a very gallant rescue of two native workers who became unconscious through asphyxiation in the silos at the brewery at Ruaraka. With the aid of two other Europeans, Mr. A. Schamberger volunteered to be lowered into the silos and got the two natives out alive. In recognition of the fine spirit exhibited in this plucky deed, Mr. W. N. Mackenzie, Chairman, wrote to Mr. A. Schamberger as under :—

" A. Schamberger, Esq.

Ruaraka.

Dear Sir,

Our Head Brewer, Mr. Gray, has given me a brief account of your behaviour on Friday evening last when two of our Africans became unconscious through asphyxiation in the silos. I understand that at considerable risk to yourself (which risk must have been obvious to you at the time) you volunteered to be lowered into the silos with the intention of rescuing these two Africans.

I consider that you showed the greatest devotion to duty, and I shall not fail to bring the matter to the notice of our Board of Directors at the next meeting.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd) W. N. MACKENZIE,
Chairman,

East African Breweries Limited."

OWNER OF CHAIN OF BRITISH INNS AND
HOTELS VISITS AMERICA.

(Extract from an American Paper.)

" F. A. Simonds, Chairman of the Board and Managing Director of H. & G. Simonds, Limited, of Reading, England, is visiting this country. Mr. Simonds heads a firm which for many years has been in the brewing, wine and spirit business. In addition, the Company operates a hotel and catering department in which thirty different establishments are operated, many of them being of the quaint English Inn type of place. There is, for example, the Bath Arms Hotel of Cheddar, Somerset, and

the Crown Hotel of Cirencester, Gloucester, and the Royal Castle Hotel of Dartmouth, Devon, and St. George and Dragon Hotel, Wargrave-on-Thames, Berkshire.

"Mr. Simonds is accompanied by his son, Kenneth Simonds. They crossed the Atlantic on the *Queen Mary*, arrived in New York early in April, and after a stay at the Waldorf-Astoria, visited Boston and Washington, D.C.

"We understand that in addition to the 30 hotels operated by the Company, Mr. Simonds, through his position as head of the Company, controls about twelve hundred public houses and inns and is also associated with Simonds-Farsons Breweries in Malta, with other firms in Gibraltar, Malta, Egypt, New Zealand and the United States. He is said to be one of the greatest experts on brewing in England."

MR. F. A. SIMONDS' VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES.

During his business tour in the United States, our Chairman visited our namesake town of Reading, Pa., which is celebrating its Bicentennial Anniversary this year.

Reporting upon his visit in the House Journal of the Old Reading Brewery, the Editor states:—

"As everyone knows, Reading is celebrating its 200th Anniversary this year—known officially as a Bicentennial Anniversary. The City of READING, ENGLAND, sent an advance Agent last month to make tentative plans for the exhibition, hotel rooms, etc., and who did the visitor turn out to be? None other than the Chairman of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE READING BREWERY OF READING, ENGLAND, named F. A. Simonds.

"One of Mr. Simonds' first desires upon his arrival was to see the OLD READING BREWERY, and we were certainly happy to welcome him here and to take him on a quick trip through the plant.

"Mr. Simonds had a few remarks to make about the materials handicap under which British Brewers are operating, but we are happy to report that their famous 'austerity' program did not seem to have any effect on his jovial disposition."

BUSINESS LEADER OF READING, ENGLAND, PAYS VISIT HERE.

(Cutting from "Reading Times," of 27th April, 1948.)

"One of the outstanding business men of Reading, England, extended Bicentennial Greetings to Mayor John F. Davis yesterday.

"He is F. A. Simonds, Chairman of H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., British export firm.

"Simonds arrived in Reading shortly after noon yesterday, and went on a fast tour of the city and some of its points of interest in the company of Mayor Davis and Alfred Stern, Bicentennial director. The business man who is in the brewing industry in England, visited the Wyomissing Industries and the Old Reading Brewery.

"Simonds' stay lasted about six hours. Before returning to New York City he was given an invitation to participate in the Bicentennial industrial show at the Reading Fairgrounds from August 14 to September 6.

"During part of his time in Reading, Simonds visited J. Bennet Nolan at his home, 432 Olney Street. Nolan is Chairman of the Bicentennial British Participation Committee."

THE EASTGATE HOTEL, OXFORD.

As an indication of the attraction Oxford has for foreign visitors it is interesting to note that during 1947 the Eastgate Hotel had the pleasure of accommodating the following:—

Americans	35	Spanish	3
Dutch	22	Italian	3
Danish	15	Lithuanian	3
French	15	German	2
Polish	10	Egyptian	1
Swedish	9	Rumanian	1
Swiss	5	Icelandic	1
Greek	5	Chilian	1
Czechoslovakian	5	Chinese	1
Indian	4	Paraguayan	1
Norwegian	4	Russian	1
Austrian	3	Stateless	2
Belgian	3	Hungarian	1

NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

CHAFFINCHES' CLEVER CAMOUFLAGE.

WILD DUCK'S RUSE.

In the early spring I found the nest of a pair of chaffinches in a blackthorn bush. As progress was made with this charming structure, the nest became rather prominent in the bush, which was in bloom, but without the sheltering leaves. The chaffinches evidently thought so, too, and they hit upon a very clever means of camouflage. They covered the nest with the white blackthorn blooms which were cunningly interwoven into the other texture of their dainty little home, and then the nest was very difficult to discern.

Clever little birds!

WHAT THE MOORHENS DO.

And then there was the clever work of the moorhens. They had their nest in a thin bed of rushes. It was exposed to view, and I thought that the nest would surely be robbed of any eggs that the hen might lay. The moorhens, too, were well aware of this fact, and so they bent down the rushes right over their home and completely hid it from view. Lying on the grass some little distance from the nest I watched the birds, both father and mother, at work—it was indeed a charming sight!

How different was the nest of another pair of moorhens which I observed on a little stream while trout fishing. The river was very narrow, and in the middle of it part of a branch of a tree had lodged in the weeds. By the side of this the moorhens had built their home, and there it was as plain as plain could be, eggs and all! Why did the one pair of moorhens take all that trouble to conceal their nest and the others none? Truly, nature's ways are often difficult to understand, but ever of all-absorbing interest.

COVERED UP HER EGGS.

I found several nests of the dabchick or little grebe. These take the form of a patch of weeds lodged among other weeds, and only noticed by the observant eye. I was cautiously stalking a rising fish and there, within a few feet of me, was Mrs. Dabchick on her nest. I was moving very slowly and silently, but the bird espied me and quietly slipped off the nest and dived under the water. But before she did so she, very carefully, with a few movements of her feet, covered up her eggs, completely concealing them. With the top of my little rod I moved aside, ever so gently, a little of the nest's covering, and saw that there were five eggs.

WILD DUCK'S RUSE.

I always remain very quiet when studying wild nature's ways. I crept up behind some rushes to cast in a likely-looking spot, when out from right under my feet scurried a wild duck and her family. Oh! what a fuss they made. The mother took her babies some way down-stream and then returned to me—yes, she came quite close, flapped about in the water, and did her utmost to make me concentrate my attention on her instead of on her family. She even led me in the opposite direction to where they were in hiding. I knew well what she was doing and I slowly followed her. When she had taken me some way up-stream, she actually came out on to the meadow and flapped around me, eventually leading me to a ditch across the meadow. I, like a fool, you may think, followed, and was highly amused. When she thought she had taken me a safe distance from her children, up she sprang and flew straight back to them.

And there I left them, and resumed my fishing. The duck was satisfied and happy, and so was I!

A BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT.

I saw a trout rise right under some overhanging branches on the other side of the river. There were trees, too, on my side of the stream, and casting was extremely difficult, especially as

quite a stiff breeze was blowing. However, I thought I would have a try as I knew the fish was a good one. My cast was perfect, the fly alighting on the water about a foot above where I saw this fish rise, and a little this side of him. What a tense moment! The fly was eagerly seized in less time than it takes to tell. I struck, and knew I was well into at least a two-pounder. He dashed upstream, and I was aware that a great fight had begun. Then, as luck would have it, the top of my rod somehow got fixed in the small branch of a tree. I had perforce to give the trout some loose line, while in less than a split second I released my rod from the tree. But even that was too long, for the fish had gained his liberty. He was free, and I was a very disappointed man. I know of few more bitter disappointments than those of losing a good fish.

RAT! TAT! TAT!

But though disappointed, I was by no means disheartened, and soon again set to work with a will and, before the day was done, I had had many pleasing thrills, and not one other disaster. After all, the rare disappointments one experiences on a trout stream seem to throw out into bolder relief the joys and beauties that abound, as varied as they are wonderful. And I will close with one little incident that amused me much. I crept up to an ivy-clad hedge and just peeped over to see what was happening in the water beyond. And there, lo! and behold, in the ivy on the top of the hedge, was an old rat, curled up and fast asleep! It seemed a shame to wake the poor creature, but I could not resist just tickling his nose with the tip of my rod. No sooner had I touched him than he sprang to attention, jumped a foot high, and flashed out of sight like greased lightning!

It was most impolite of me not to have announced my presence properly.

I should have sounded *Rat!* *Tat!* *Tat!*

AND NOW—EAST AFRICA
AND
THE EAST AFRICAN BREWERIES, LTD.

The invitation to contribute an article for the HOP LEAF GAZETTE was accompanied by a copy of the December, 1947, issue, which was read by many of our staff, not only with great interest, but also with that sense of nostalgia which comes over us when anything so utterly English comes our way. One hastens to add that out here we are a happy community, and those occasional yearnings to get home don't happen too often.

Our recent happy link up with the famous firm of H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., is an association which strengthens our task as the premier Brewery of East Africa. We look forward confidently to a great development of our output which to-day cannot meet the ever-increasing demands for "Tusker" beer.

To digress for a moment—how many of you who read this know where East Africa really is? Many of you may have been here during the late war and, if so, it is our belief that you will give us a good chit. But if you are one of those fortunate people who so rightly find England quite good enough for you—can you, without referring to an atlas, say where Nairobi, the capital of East Africa is to be found on the map? This we ask because on those occasions when we do get home the sort of questions fired at us are, "Oh, yes, East Africa, that's near Durban, isn't it?" But now you know there is an East African Brewery, Ltd., you will probably be able to locate us, and come up (we are 5,600 feet above sea level) and see us sometime.

Now a little about ourselves. The S.A. Breweries, Ltd., has entered upon its twenty-fifth year, a "Silver Wedding" period marked by the association with Simonds and considered by us to be a happy augury for the future. From small beginnings we are now so established that our Trade Mark "Tusker" is synonymous with Beer; so that when you do come here, you call for a "Tusker," not for a beer. In addition to our Nairobi Brewery we have another brewery in Dar-es-Salaam, which is on the Indian Ocean in Tanganyika Territory, a lovely tropical sea port, and the interpretation of its name is "The Haven of Peace." We have acquired an important site, and plans for the erection of another brewery are in hand at Mombasa, which is the port of entry to Kenya Colony.

Our head brewer, who is also a Director of the Company, is Mr. Duncan Gray, who came to us from Hammond's Bradford Brewery (Yorkshire) after brewing in Malta and in Allsopp's Lager Brewery, Alloa.

From the technical side of brewing it should be remembered that at this altitude (5,600 feet) and the varying temperature and altitude, coupled with the long transport difficulties, where our beer is sold, the distribution of beer in barrels is impracticable, consequently it is at present wholly a bottle trade.

From very small beginnings, the first brew was in 1925, progress has reached a point, as already stated, where the demands far exceed the output. It is therefore recorded, that with the help of Simonds, this difficulty will shortly be overcome. The two functioning breweries, Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam, are quite big concerns, but from modern design and convenience of working, the Mombasa Brewery—when completed—will outshine them.

(A further contribution will appear in our next issue.—Ed.)

RECORD CROWD SEE FINALS OF SIMONDS' DARTS LEAGUE.

Over 1,500 people were present at Reading Town Hall on May 5th to see Mr. E. Duncan Simonds (the League President) present the trophies and prizes in the Finals of the Simonds' Darts League Championship.

The Team Championship (preliminary round) between the Hop Leaf and the Elephant Hotel was won by the Hop Leaf 5—3. The Hop Leaf, however, met with defeat in the semi-final, being beaten 5—1 by the Blue Lion. In the other semi-final between The Crown and the Bricklayers' Arms, The Crown were successful by 5—0.

The final between The Crown and the Blue Lion produced a battle royal, The Crown eventually becoming champions by virtue of a 5—3 victory.

The Men's Individual Championship was won by F. Smith (Hop Leaf), who beat F. Hawkins (Horse and Jockey) in the final.

The Ladies' Individual Championship proved most exciting, when the favourite, Mrs. K. Simmonds (Reindeer) was beaten 2—0 by Mrs. Lester, of The Greyhound, in the final.

The "Smith's Crisps" Shield, played for by the captains of the losing semi-finalists, was won by T. Mitchell (Hop Leaf) against G. Dunne (Bricklayers' Arms).

A programme, lasting over four hours, was admirably conducted by the referee, Mr. W. Parris (Messrs. Coopers) and the two chalkers, Messrs. Wellstead and Horner, are to be congratulated.

The standard of darts was of the highest, and the huge audience showed their appreciation in no uncertain manner; in short, the Committee are to be congratulated in making this, the first post-war season, such a success.



Photo by kind permission of Berkshire Chronicle.
Teams representing the "Blue Lion" and "The Crown," who were finalists in Simonds' Darts League Finals.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Mistakes are easy—Mistakes are inevitable—But there is no mistake so great as the mistake of not going on.

You've got to be interested to live, and if you want to be interested in life, you've got to work.

"I celebrate the dawn," said the lark, "I charm the starry dusk," said the nightingale, "I chirp through all the towns," said the sparrow.

Teach us delight in simple things, And mirth that hath no bitter springs. Forgiveness free of evil done, And love to all men 'neath the sun.

The labourer will be called to account for his careful cultivation, and not for the abundance of his harvest.

If you try to do beautiful things—no matter how—with your brain or your fingers or anything inside you . . . you'll be following true religion.

Judge not thy friend until thou standest in his place.

Let your hook always be cast ; in the stream where you least expect it, there will be a fish.

This is the hope for the world, that we shall learn to love, and in learning that, unlearn all anger and wrath and evil speaking and malice and bitterness.

Think as though success were certain, work as though it were not.

Do not forget little kindnesses, but do not remember small faults.

The sheep best help one another by following the shepherd close.

There is always some work for every season, not to be done before or after. That is why we need never be afraid of growing old.

Love and true imagination ever penetrate through delusions and disguises to the real inner beauty.

There is more strength in silence than in invective.

Men who will not learn are for ever babes. Labour and learning are no degradation for the noblest.

The deepest influence of women flows silently, like a quiet stream hidden among the leaves and blossoms it keeps green.

The conventional refinements which tend to deprive woman of work deprive her also of dignity. To be truly the equal and companion of man she must be his fellow-worker and his helpmeet. Effeminacy is as far removed from what is truly womanly as from what is truly manly.

The natural dignity of character and the delicate consideration for others which constitutes good breeding are not peculiar to any class.

Perhaps God thought our nation *worth chastening*. He does not waste His ploughing on the barren sand. Perhaps we are but living in one of the seed-times of the ages, and the harvest will be better than we can think.

The touch of a little child's hand has opened many a door where the Master has afterwards come in and sat down and supped.

In the Divine treasury it is not the offering which is weighed, but the love.

A group of clergymen were discussing whether or not they ought to invite Dwight L. Moody to their city. The success of the famed evangelist was brought to the attention of the men.

One unimpressed minister commented: "Does Mr. Moody have a monopoly of the Holy Ghost?"

Another man quietly replied, "No, but the Holy Ghost seems to have a monopoly of Mr. Moody."

A GREAT THOUGHT.

THE LIGHT OF THE LITTLE FIREFLY.

There is a charming story, told by a Dutch author, of a woman who was once brought out of sore difficulties by means of a little firefly. She was left a widow with one child; and all that she possessed was a small cottage and a garden. Her husband had borrowed money from his master, a neighbouring farmer, with which to build the cottage and stock the garden; and when he died of a fever that raged in the place, he had paid back all that he owed, with the exception of a small sum. The farmer died of the same fever, and his heir, finding the bond for the cottage among his father's papers, and knowing nothing of the payments that had been made, demanded the whole sum from the widow. Unfortunately, she could produce no proof of her husband's payments, for the book in which they had been put down was somehow lost, and could not be found; and there was nothing for it but that the cottage should be sold to pay her debt. She was in great distress, and the night before the sale she prayed earnestly that some way of escape might be opened up. When her prayer was ended, a firefly came into the room from an open window, and hovered about. The little boy chased the glittering object with great eagerness, and it escaped behind a big chest that stood against the wall. There it shone down on the floor in the narrow space. The boy could see its tiny flame, but he could not get at it, and besought his mother to remove the chest out of the way. She did so, and something that was between the chest and the wall tumbled to the ground with a noise. She picked it up, and to her great joy found it was the book in which her husband's payments were put down, and the receipts for the money drawn up in perfect order in his master's handwriting.

The grateful widow felt that it was the Lord's doing. While she was praying the little brilliant fly came in, and by its light pointed to the very place where the means of her deliverance were concealed. And may not your light point the way for greater deliverance and richer treasures for those who are poor and needy? May not your good works shine with equal usefulness in enabling lost souls to find themselves, reviving the faith of those who are drooping, comforting those who are sad, and in relieving those who are ready to perish? Is your actual life any help to others? Are you of those who make sunshine about you by the kindness of your looks and words and deeds, so that in your loving presence all cares and troubles vanish and the whole being expands? Is there a spot in all the earth which but for you would have been darker and drearier than it is? Is there a soul in all the world that, seeing your good works, is led to glorify the Father in heaven?

FOR 300 YEARS THEY'VE CALLED "TIME."

FAMILY RECORD AT BOXFORD'S "BELL."

"Three hundred years as landlords of the same licensed house is the record claimed by the Merritt family of the 'Bell Inn,' Boxford, says the *Newbury Weekly News*.

"The present landlord is Mr. Francis Merritt, who was 81 years of age last month. He was born in the house and has never been away from it. 'I have eaten every Christmas dinner there,' he says.

FATHER : GRANDFATHER : GREAT-GRANDFATHER.

"Mr. Merritt took over the licence in 1910 on the death of his father, William, who lived to be ninety. William was also born at the 'Bell' and lived the whole of his long life there. He followed his father, great-aunt, grandfather and great-grandfather, who held the licence in unbroken succession.

"The family records go back no farther than the present landlord's great-great grandfather, Thomas, whose initials, with the year, 1769, carved on an outhouse door, are still legible. The parish rate books, however, show that the Merritts were rated for the 'Bell' long before that time.

"Among the interesting relics kept by the family is a publican's retail spirit licence, dated October 11th, 1849, which cost £2 4s. 1d. Mr. Merritt looks at it ruefully when he considers what he has to pay nowadays.

CENTRE OF VILLAGE LIFE.

"The 'Boxford Bell' is the only licensed house in the village and the history of the house and the Merritt family is the history of this rural part of Berkshire. For centuries it has been the centre of village life. Mr. Merritt remembers when Boxford was a large farming community. Tobacco was 3d. an ounce, best bitter 3d. a pint, mild 2d. a pint and a quarter of gin 6d. There were more people in the village and trade was good. Now, with the mechanisation of farms, the population has dwindled.

THE GOOD OLD TIMES.

"The 'Bell' was rebuilt in 1888, when it belonged to Hawkins, brewers of Newbury. There was a public dinner when it was re-opened. The menu makes good reading in these days—roast beef, boiled leg of mutton, fillet veal, ham, roast pork, Christmas pudding, apple tarts, damson tarts, bread and cheese.

"In spite of his years, Mr. Merritt is still active. He has had the doctor only once in his life and can read a newspaper

without glasses. In his younger days he was a good shot and played cricket for Boxford. He was a member of the first Boxford parish council.

"Mr. Merritt is the last of his line who will carry on the 'Bell.'"

COMIC FOOTBALL AT CROWTHORNE.

"SIMONDS' SPITFIRES" v. "FRIARY FOULERS."

There was a good attendance at the Recreation Ground on Whit-Monday for the comic football match between "Simonds' Spitfires" from the Iron Duke and the "Friary Foulers" from the Crowthorne Inn, says the *Wokingham Times and Weekly News*. The event was in aid of the Yateley Cottage Hospital, and £29 10s. od. was raised. There was a vivid assortment of costumes, and although Referee Jimmy Lofthouse, the well-known Reading Football Club professional of some seasons ago, officiated with the whistle, no one paid any particular attention to him. The score (if that matters) was three goals all, and as neither side could summon enough energy to play extra time, the "Cup," an extraordinary trophy, made of lead, was tossed for, and won by the "Friary Foulers." It was "presented" to them by Mrs. Hawkins, wife of the tenant of the Iron Duke. As a consolation the "Simonds' Spitfires" received home-produced medals on elaborate ribbons.



"Simonds' Spitfires."

CRICKET.

As these notes are being written, the weather has taken a turn for the worse, at least as far as cricket matches are concerned, although we realise the rain is badly needed, both on the "table" and our gardens! Unfortunately, to date, it has interfered with four games, but the remainder have been played under almost perfect conditions.

Trial matches were held on Tuesday evening, April 20th, when teams were raised by the Captain and Vice-Captain of the "A" team, and on Saturday, April 24th, Mr. A. J. Hawkins fielded an eleven against Mr. R. J. Lambourne's side. Both matches proved very enjoyable and helped the team selectors a great deal.

Of the actual matches played to date, the "A" team have drawn three and lost the other, with the Sunday game against our friends, Courage & Co., having to be abandoned owing to rain. The "B" team have done very well indeed, for they have won two, drawn one, and lost the remaining game.

May 29th proved to be a complete "wash-out"; all local cricket on that day having to be cancelled owing to the weather.

Brief reports of the games are given below:—

May 1st. SIMONDS "A" 85 FOR 7 (dec.) v. HECKFIELD AND MATTINGLEY 64 FOR 3.

As last year, Heckfield were our first visitors of the season, and a good game resulted in a draw.

We batted first, but soon lost several wickets cheaply, and the total was still only 48 when the seventh man left, of which number G. H. Beddow had made a good 22. However, W. G. Neville (23 not out) and E. J. Scott (19 not out) added 37 runs without further loss, and so made a belated declaration possible. W. Denton (3 for 28) was the most successful of Heckfield's bowlers.

Left with an hour and a quarter in which to get 86 to win, our opponents made a good reply with 64 for 3, of which, H. Moore (24 not out) and Newman (23) put on 31 for the first wicket. A. Clayton scored a useful 10. K. Organ took two of the three wickets at a cost of 32 runs.

May 1st. MORETON 123 FOR 7 (dec.) *v.* SIMONDS "B" 28 FOR 1.

Our "B" team found the local batsmen in good form at Moreton, after getting two men out for a mere 7 runs, and the next at 20. With the fourth wicket adding 43, and the sixth another 44, the home team were able to declare after the seventh man left at 123. Of these, R. Steele was top scorer with 36, closely followed by P. Lay (28) and W. Ayres (25). A. J. Kingham also scored double figures. R. Lovejoy (2 for 20) and L. G. Field (2 for 25) were the pick of our bowlers.

In reply, we lost our first wicket for only 4 runs, but when E. Jones (15 not out) and P. Chard (10 not out) had added another 24 without loss, the weather forced the match to be abandoned.

May 8th. THORNYCROFTS 110 *v.* SIMONDS "A" 70.

We journeyed to pastures new for this game, and came away the losers by 40 runs.

Our opponents batted first, and soon lost 5 wickets for only 27 runs. Then came a fine stand of 74 between C. Worsfold (52) and B. Kelly (25). Both players left at 101, and the remaining three wickets only added 9 runs. K. Organ (3 for 16) bowled well, also R. J. Lambourne and N. Tott, who each took 2 for 14.

Even worse was our start, for we lost no less than seven wickets for only 29 runs. Then E. C. Greenaway (19) and E. Scott (11 not out) tried to save the day, and added 24 for the eighth wicket. No other player reached double figures, and the innings closed at 70.

B. Kelly (2 for 11), W. Bone (3 for 10) and J. White (3 for 26) all bowled well for the winners.

May 8th. SIMONDS "B" 164 FOR 9 (dec.) *v.* ALDERMASTON "B" 141.

This proved to be one of the best games seen on Berkeley Avenue for a long time, and we just managed to beat the clock and win by 23 runs.

Our opening pair, T. Patrick and E. Jones, gave us a good start by putting on 61 for the first wicket, before the former left after making a fine 35. Jones left at 93, when he was caught and bowled for a splendid 47. F. J. Benham (14) was then joined by W. J. Greenaway, and kept the rate of scoring at 80 an hour, which it averaged throughout the innings. Greenaway

made 27 before being bowled and then H. K. White (13 not out) and R. Lovejoy (16) helped to take the total to 164 for 9 at tea, at which a declaration was made. In view of this good total, M. Bushell did extremely well in taking 6 wickets for 45 runs.

With slightly longer in which to get the necessary runs, our visitors set about the task well, and with M. Bushell again doing good work with 23, J. May (19), W. Fry (16) and J. Arthurs (16) the seventh wicket fell at 77. The next fell two runs later, but then came a fine stand of 60 between R. Whitehouse (30) and M. Walters (33 not out), who looked like pulling off a surprise victory. However, the former left at 139, and the last man two runs later. H. K. White (2 for 19) and J. Buswell (3 for 43) bowled well for us.

May 15th. SIMONDS "A" 139 FOR 4 (dec.) *v.* READING EXTRA "A" 65 FOR 9.

Entertaining this Reading C.C. XI, our "A" team almost pulled off their first win of the season, but were "robbed" by the clock.

We batted first, and lost two wickets for 35. The next fell at 58 when L. G. Field was unfortunately run out after scoring a splendid 36. R. J. Lambourne then joined W. G. Neville, and these two players added a further 23, to bring the score to 81 for 4, of which Neville scored a good 29. Lambourne (29 not out) and E. J. Scott (14 not out) then took the total to 139 without further loss, at which we were able to declare. A. Bartlett (2 for 40) and W. Harris (1 for 10) had the best figures of the visitors' bowlers.

Our bowlers were in good form, and proved too good for our opponents' batsmen; only R. Davis (18) and A. Woodford (21) reaching double figures. The ninth man was out at 65 to what proved to be the last ball of the match, and stumps were drawn before another over was started. E. C. Greenaway was in grand form with the ball, taking eight of the wickets for 30 runs, including the "hat trick." R. J. Lambourne took the other wicket for only 2 runs.

May 15th. SUTTON'S "B" 97 FOR 7 *v.* SIMONDS "B" 59.

We batted first in this game at Cintra, and soon lost three men without a run being scored. Then H. K. White joined W. J. Greenaway, and these two added 26 before the former was caught. His partner left two runs later, having made a most valuable 22. Several more wickets then fell cheaply, and the

total was only 40 for 9. However, W. Bell (10) was then joined by R. Henson, and the latter added 18 out of 19, to bring the total to 59. P. Edwards was almost unplayable, and came out with the splendid analysis of 6 for 18, and J. Adey took 2 for 15.

R. Read (13) and S. Heard (22) put on 31 for Sutton's first wicket and the next man left 8 runs later. The third wicket fell at 58, and our total was passed immediately afterwards. P. Edwards made a good 24 before retiring, and later R. Alder made 12. Time was called with the home total at 97 for 7. J. Hunt bowled well for us, and took 4 for 23.

May 22nd. SIMONDS "A" 116 FOR 7 v. THATCHAM 211 FOR 4 (dec.).

Thatcham's batsmen took full advantage of our fast outfield in this game and put up a most formidable total. Their first wicket fell for only 8 runs, but the next pair put on 65, of which L. Austin made a brilliant 44. G. Barr (38) and J. Hawkins then took the score to exactly 100, at which the former left. J. Wimbush then made a good 30, and saw 172 for 4 on the board before leaving. Hawkins was still going strongly when a declaration was made at 211 for 4, by which time he had scored a terrific 82 not out, including no less than 70 in boundaries (one 6 and sixteen fours). E. C. Greenaway, with 2 for 45, was our most successful bowler.

We made a very bad start, and lost 3 wickets for only 7 runs. However, the next four wickets added an average of 27, to bring the total to 115 for 7, and time was called one run later. R. J. Lambourne (34), E. Jones (25), P. Chard (19), W. G. Neville (15) and E. J. Scott (12 not out) all batted well. T. Cronin (2 for 25), A. Sutton (1 for 8) and J. Hawkins (1 for 10) were the best of the visitors' bowlers.

May 22nd. R.A.F., SHINFIELD 65 v. SIMONDS "B" 81.

Our "B" team did well to record another win, this time against the Headquarters, Flying Training Command, at Leighton Park.

Batting first, T. Patrick and H. K. White put on 31 for our first wicket, before the latter was out for 12. Patrick was fifth out at 39, of which he made a good 18. With H. G. Sexton scoring 15 and W. Bell 11, the score mounted steadily, and the innings closed at 81. Seltzer (6 for 25) bowled extremely well for our opponents, as did Yates (2 for 4).

We soon had the home team in difficulties, and had nine men out for only 38, of which Fryer scored 12 and Yates 11. Then came a most fighting stand for the last wicket between Fletcher and Seltzer, who took the score to 65, when the latter was smartly run out with only five minutes left for play. Fletcher was then 17 not out. W. Bell (5 for 30) and J. Hunt (4 for 24) both bowled well for us.

May 23rd. SIMONDS "A" 60 FOR 5 v. COURAGE'S (did not bat).

It was most unfortunate that this Sunday was ended by rain, for we feel sure that a very interesting game would have resulted.

We were put in first on a tricky wicket, and managed to make 60 for 5 before the weather forced us to take an early tea, and no play was possible afterwards. Of this score, L. G. Field made 23 and W. G. Neville 13. The visitors' bowlers were definitely on top throughout, and B. Seaward finished with 3 for 30 and A. Pike 1 for nil.

We look forward very much to our visit to Alton on June 19th when we hope the weather will be kinder to us.

May 29th.

The "A" team were to have received the Royal Household C.C. and the "B" to have met Kingham's Sports on Prospect Park, but, as was general in the district, as in most of the country, steady rain all the morning put paid to cricket for the day.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL LEAGUE.

As mentioned in last quarter's issue of the HOP LEAF GAZETTE, the above competition is being revived this season, and matches will be held each week throughout June and early July to get the maximum playing time for these evening games.

The following Departments have been amalgamated to form what should be four evenly matched teams, and each will be under the management of a member of the Committee, who will be in charge of the teams until they choose their respective Captains:—

Manager.

General and Cask Offices	Mr. K. Organ (General Office).
Rest of Main Office Block, Hotels Dept. and Trainees ...	Mr. H. K. White (Branch Dept.)
Surveyors, Building, Engineers & Wheel- wrights Depts., and A. S. Cooper ...	Mr. E. G. Crutchley (Surveyor's Dept.)
Rest of Brewery ...	Mr. E. J. Scott (Wine and Spirit Dept.)

The draw for fixtures resulted as follows, and matches should be played off on the dates shewn, or the following Wednesday or Thursday by mutual agreement between the teams concerned, unless for business reasons a Department is unable to do so, when an alternative date will be arranged:—

Tuesday, June 8th.	Surveyors, etc., v. Rest of Brewery.
„ „ 15th.	Rest of Offices v. General and Cask Offices.
„ „ 22nd.	Rest of Brewery v. Rest of Offices.
„ „ 29th.	General and Cask Offices v. Sur- veyors, etc.
„ July 6th.	Surveyors, etc., v. Rest of Offices.
„ „ 13th.	General and Cask Offices v. Rest of Brewery.

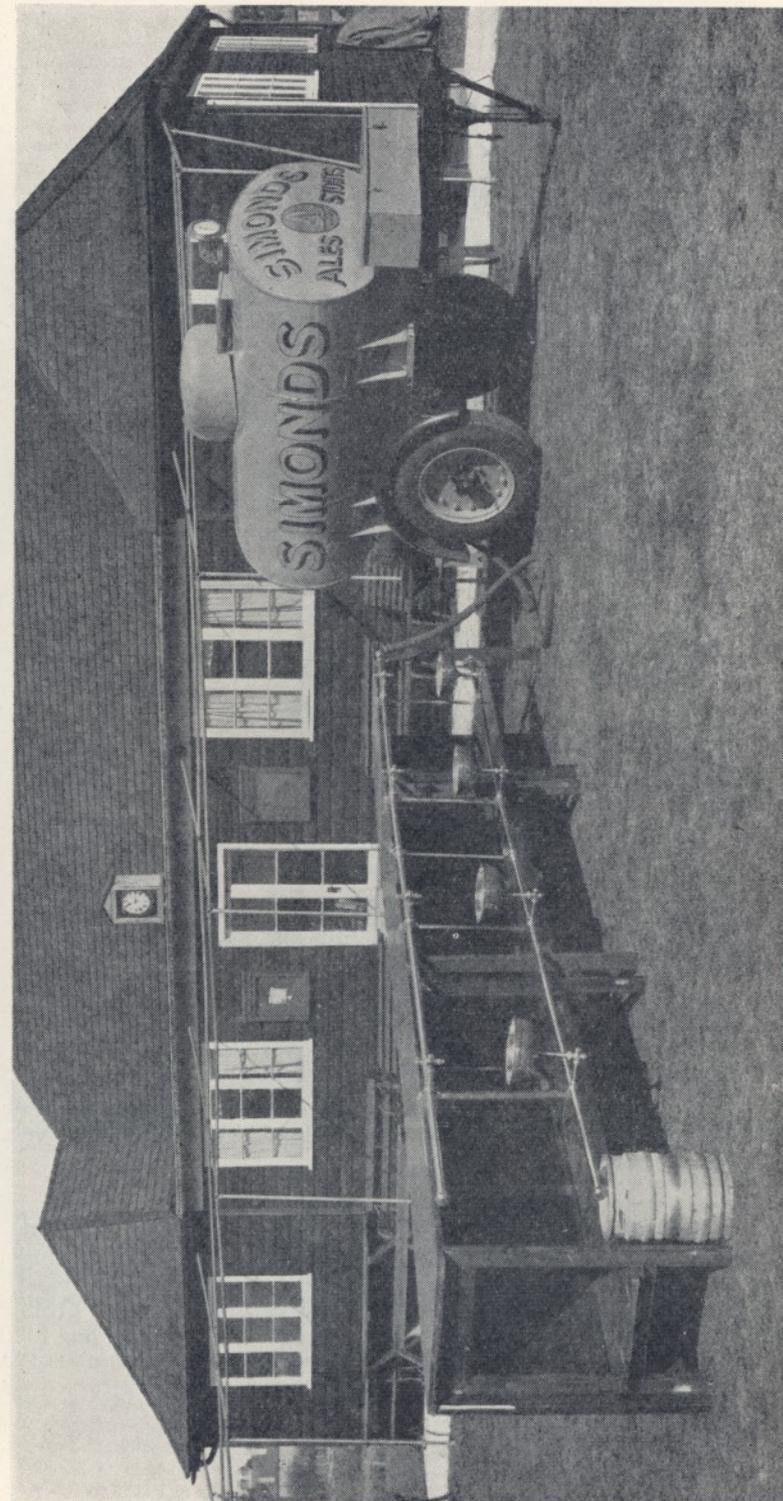
W.J.G.

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

We regret to hear of the recent serious accident in Aberdeen in which a taxicab was overturned and the *forty-six* occupants were injured.

* * * *

A lady with a huge brown paper parcel came out of a chiropodist's establishment. She was furiously angry, and said to the friend awaiting her: "Calls himself a chiropodist, and can't stuff a dog!"



The above photograph depicts the mobile beer tank and installation for serving beer under pressure by pipe line.

LIGHTER SIDE.

"Herbert," said the teacher, "answer this: Do we eat the flesh of the whale?" "Yes, sir," said Herbert. "And what do we do with the bones?" was the next question. "Please, sir, we leave them on the side of our plate," faltered Herbert.

* * * *

KEEN WIFE (*to husband, in cinema*): "Those film actors don't always do those wonderful tricks. I'm told they have a double."

BORED HUSBAND: "I don't blame them. I'm going out to have one myself in a few minutes."

* * * *

"I hear you advertised for a wife. Any replies?"

"Yes. Hundreds."

"Good! What did they say?"

"Oh, they all said: 'You can have mine.'"

* * * *

BUILDER: "This is the house in the Tudor style, sir."

PROSPECTIVE BUYER: "I don't care for the Tudor style."

BUILDER: "Soon alter that, sir. Bill, just bring a pail of water and wash out these oak beams."

* * * *

Henry and Sylvia were out driving. Henry had one arm around Sylvia, when the car hit a bump and skidded.

"Oh, Henry," gasped Sylvia, "use two hands."

"Can't," said Henry, grimly, "gotta drive with one!"

* * * *

A correspondent in a woman's magazine wrote:

"A friend's little daughter, aged six, was describing her school to me. 'It's ever such a nice school,' she said. 'We've got four teachers and two dustbins.'"

* * * *

A motorist was driving along a main road when, without sounding his horn, another motorist shot out of a side turning and the two collided. The man who had been on the main road ran into the hedge, while the other overturned in the road. From the hedge came a voice: "Road hog!" "Hedge hog!" shouted the other from the road.

* * * *

The young, newly married veteran after a very tiring day was enjoying his pipe and reading the evening paper. The wife, who was poring over a crossword, suddenly called out: "Henry, what is a female sheep?" "Ewe," curtly replied her husband, and that's how their first row started.

* * * *

A Scots ex-Serviceman was stripping the wallpaper from the walls of his house when an old army pal called to see him.

"Weel', Donald," said the latter, "are ye going to have a new paper?"

"Na, na," replied Donald, "Ah'm moving."

* * * *

Having only recently moved into the garrison town, the Colonel's lady was determined to impress the officers of the regiment and their wives. She arranged for a musical At Home, and told her husband to see to the booking of a musician to entertain the guests.

"Have you engaged the pianist yet?" she asked a few days before the great evening.

"Yes, my dear," the Colonel replied, "a great virtuoso."

She looked annoyed.

"Never mind about his morals. Can he play?"

* * * *

After the black-out the girl said: "'Erbert, you really shouldn't have kissed me like that, with all those people so close around us, even if it was in the dark."

"I didn't kiss you," said the boy, looking angrily around in the crowd. "I only wish I knew who it was—I'd teach him!"

"'Erbert," sighed the girl, "you couldn't teach 'im nothing!"

* * * *

The train was pulling out when a young soldier jumped on. As he stood panting, an elderly passenger said scornfully: "You army fellows don't keep yourselves in condition. When I was your age I could carry a cup of coffee in one hand, run half a mile and catch the 8.15, and still be fresh as a daisy."

"You don't understand, pop," said the soldier. "I missed this train at the last station."

* * * *

A soldier came to a base hospital with the complaint that he was unable to sleep at night. The M.O.'s advice was that he should eat something before he went to bed.

"But, sir," the soldier reminded him, "two months ago you told me never to eat anything before going to bed."

The medical officer blinked and then, with full professional dignity, replied, "My boy, that was two months ago. Science has made enormous strides since then."

* * * *

WIFE : "It says here that a man beat his wife to death with a golf club."

HUSBAND : "Really?" How many strokes did it take him?"

* * * *

An anguished female voice shrilled over the telephone, "Two young men are trying to get into my room through the window."

"Sorry, lady," was the reply, "this is the fire brigade, not police headquarters."

"I know that," said the voice impatiently. "It's the fire brigade I'm after. They need a bigger ladder."

* * * *

Said Jones to a friend : "Yes, I'm rather of a mixture. My father was English, my mother French, I was born on a Spanish ship off Capetown, and Macpherson is my dentist."

FRIEND : "What has your dentist to do with it?"

"Well, don't you see, that makes me of Scottish extraction."

* * * *

An old lady called on her bank manager and asked him to sell on her behalf her shares in a certain huge and important industrial concern. "I do not feel satisfied," she said, "about the stability of the firm. They seem to be always changing their directors. Every time I hear from them there is a different handwriting on the envelope!"

* * * *

GUIDE : "This castle has stood here for 300 years. Not a stone has been moved, not a stone has been touched, nothing altered, nothing repaired."

VISITOR : "They must have the same landlord as I've got."

* * * *

BRANCHES.

BRISTOL.

The sad news of the death of our revered Vice-Chairman of Directors, Commander H. D. Simonds, gave to all in Bristol who were privileged to know him, a pang of real personal loss, for he was not only a Director, but also, one felt, an unfailing friend. May we most respectfully therefore be allowed to record our heartfelt sorrow and deepest sympathies with those nearest and dearest to him, and to pay our tribute to one, who with a traditional kindness and ever-ready smile, won the lasting affection of us all. Although he will indeed be greatly mourned in so many circles, both ashore and afloat, his personal qualities and influence will be ever present with us as a fragrant memorial to a very gallant officer and great gentleman.

THE BRISTOL "HOP LEAF" DARTS LEAGUE.

The 1947-48 season of the "Hop Leaf" Darts League ended on Wednesday, May 12th, after a very good eight months of competitive and friendly rivalry. With twenty-six teams entering the league, it was again decided to have two sections, North and South, and at the end of the season the respective winners of each section should play off for the Championship.

The South Section, with teams such as Black Horse (Hambrook), Windsor Castle, Gaiety Hotel, Bath Arms and Bridge Inn, seemed set for a lively and interesting season, but, unfortunately, this did not materialise, for the Black Horse (Hambrook) took command from the very first week, and were never headed. Runners-up to Hambrook were the Windsor Castle, and they also had been in that position all the season. The only teams to lower the Black Horse colours were the Pilot Hotel, and the Colston Arms.

In the North Section, the Swan Inn and the Horse and Jockey were keen rivals. Up to half-way, the Swan was in the lead by four points, but after this, they slipped very badly and lost three matches in succession. This allowed the Horse and Jockey to take a lead which they were good enough to hold by winning all their remaining matches.

The play-off between the Black Horse and the Horse and Jockey took place at the Bathurst Hotel before a packed audience. Excellent arrangements were made by the licensee of the Bathurst, Mrs. Molly Baldwin, who is always willing to help the league and its many supporters.

FINAL SCORES.

The first game between H. Boyle (Horse and Jockey) and R. Hacker (Black Horse) was even, with both players on a finish-

ing double. After Hacker had missed on double 4, Boyle checked out on 32, with 16 and double 8 in two darts.

H. Anstey (B.H.) had his chance to even the score in the next game, but he badly failed when needing double 1, and F. Huzzy put the "Jockey" two up with a good check out on two 8s. A. Green (H. & J.) was smartly away against R. Pearce, and with an average score of 65, was soon on a finishing double, which he got at his fourth attempt. Pearce had trouble with pinning a double to start, and had only scored 74 when Green finished. This put the "Jockey" three up against the favourites!

A. Sleeman, Hambrook skipper, then went to the board to try and win this vital game for his team, and playing against R. Rogers, he was successful in doing this, for needing 58 for game, he made a grand check out in two darts of 19, double 20. This made the score three to one.

G. Emery (B.H.) made it 3-2 with a good win over H. Jones, and R. Hancock (H. & J.) and A. Taylor (B.H.) played a great game to decide the sixth leg. Hancock checked out first to put the "Jockey" in the excellent position of 4-2 up.

G. Johns (B.H.) was in fine form, and raised Hambrook's hopes when he won against W. Davies, making it 3-4. F. Lowe (H. & J.) however settled the match in the eighth game when he was away in front of L. Hacker (The Champ.) for, coming to his finishing double first, he nearly brought down the house when checking out on two 4s. at his first attempt.

In the last game R. Brankin (B.H.) was much too good for Bowery, and he made the final score 5-4.

This gave a well-deserved championship to the Horse and Jockey for the first time. Well done, Nag's Head!

TEAM KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION.

Every team in the league entered for the knock-out, the two finalists being the Crown and Cushion, and the Glass House Hotel "A." This final was played off at the Windsor Castle, and, much to everyone else's surprise, the Crown and Cushion boys won to the tune of 6-3. As this is the first season the Crown and Cushion members have played in the darts league, they put up a great performance. Some good scores were put up by individual players during the season, and the following were presented with silver cups for their efforts:—

A. Perrett (Glass House Hotel)	...	...	180
E. Mortimor (Windsor Castle)	...	...	171
W. Pring (Bath Arms "B")	...	...	160 away
J. Sposito (Bridge Inn)	...	...	160 away

L. Nurse (Glass House Hotel)	...	...	142 away
W. Lucas (Cadbury House)	...	...	148 out
E. Ashmead (Black Horse, Redfield)	...	...	120 out

The league trophies and medals for winners and runners-up were presented by Mr. J. H. Law, who complimented those responsible for running the various competitions and also those taking part, on the conspicuous success which had been achieved during the season, and which undoubtedly meant that a great deal of hard work had been put in by someone. The growing interest shewn in the "Hop Leaf" leagues in the Bristol area was of real value, not only for the present and future success of each house able to take an active part in such competitions, but also the name of SIMONDS as a whole.

It was not only a great pleasure to meet old friends of the Firm, as so many of them were by now, but it was also gratifying to see a great many new "Hop Leaf" supporters joining in these annual celebrations. On behalf of the Firm, he thanked them for their loyalty and paid a special tribute to Mr. E. Gristock (League Secretary), Mr. R. Rowland (Treasurer) and Mr. J. Curtis (Pilot Hotel) for their good work which had enabled such a successful "final" to take place.

FINAL LEAGUE POSITIONS.

<i>North Section.</i>	P.	W.	Pts.
Horse and Jockey	22
Swan Inn	17
Glass House Hotel, "A"	22
Bell Hotel	22
Glass House Hotel, "B"	22
Black Horse, Redfield	22
Richmond Hotel	22
Paxton Arms	22
Hit or Miss	22
Black Horse, Hambrook	22
Three Tuns	22
Three Horse Shoes	22
<i>South Section.</i>	P.	W.	Pts.
Black Horse, Hambrook, "A"	26
Windsor Castle	26
Cadbury House	26
Bridge Inn	26
Bath Arms, "A"	26
Colston Arms	26
Gaiety Hotel	26
Pilot Hotel	26
Bath Arms, "B"	26
Sceptre Hotel	26
Crown and Cushion	26
Mayors' Arms	26
Golden Bowl	26
Bathurst Hotel	26

CIRENCESTER.

MR. E. H. KELLY RETIRES.

After serving 35 years at Reading and 10 years with the Cirencester Brewery, Ltd., Mr. E. H. Kelly has earned a well merited retirement, and we wish him good health in which to enjoy his leisure.

At Cirencester, Mr. Kelly filled the post of Manager of the Wine and Spirit Department.

In Cirencester he made a host of friends, and especially in connection with the vast amount of charitable work which he did during the war years.

He was made an honorary life member of the British Red Cross Society, for which he raised no less than £2,765. Particularly successful was his organisation of collecting-boxes in the licensed houses in the district.

His retirement brings to an end his hon. treasurership of the Cirencester Conservative and Unionist Association, a position he has held for the past 10 years.

Our Traveller, Mr. J. M. Winsor, was, to the delight of our female staff, presented with a daughter on the 21st April—Princess Elizabeth's birthday. The coincidence, both as to surname and date of arrival, was too great to allow any other name to be chosen, and Elizabeth Winsor and, incidentally, Mrs. Winsor, are, we are glad to report, now going on well.

A pleasing little ceremony took place on 1st April, when Mr. W. P. Cripps, Director of H. & G. Simonds, presented Miss W. Matthews with an embossed blotter and inkwell as a recognition of 30 years' service with the Cirencester Brewery, Ltd. In asking Mr. Cripps to make the presentation, Mr. R. H. Matthews said how fortunate we were in now having a representative on the Board of Directors. Mr. W. P. Cripps then made the presentation, saying that Miss Matthews' service would be grievously missed, and wished her a long and happy retirement.

OPENING OF NEW "FREE" HOUSE :

"THE TAVERN," KEMBLE.

On May 14th, in brilliant summer weather, the Rt. Hon. W. S. Morrison, K.C.B., M.P., for the Cirencester and Tewkesbury Division, opened the new fully licensed inn to be known as "The Tavern," Kemble, Glos. The enterprising proprietor of the Station Car-Hire business, Mr. Sam Smith, has, by a few well conceived alterations, converted the former coffee tavern at Kemble Station approach into a most pleasant and convenient licensed house which will undoubtedly fill a long felt want by serving the needs of the village and also the station and local R.A.F. depot.

We have been privileged to supply a share of the trade, and our readers will join us in wishing Mr. Smith the best of luck in his new venture.

CIRENCESTER L.V.A. DARTS LEAGUE.

To conclude the season, a most successful Dinner was held on the 12th May at the Church Hall, Cirencester, at which some 250 members were present. Mr. R. H. Matthews (Cirencester Branch Manager) proposed the toast of the League, remarking that the excellent attendance that evening was adequate proof of the success of the past season. Mr. H. L. Thompson, our worthy host of the "Black Horse" and Chairman of the League, presented the Cups, the Hospital Cup being won by the "Talbot" team, runners-up "The Greyhound"; North Section Championship, "Wheatsheaf," runners-up "Horse and Drill; South Section "Talbot," runners-up "Woodbine." Excellent and varied entertainment was provided by Mr. D. Wilkie and his associates, the bar being ably run by Mr. J. H. Francis, of the "Red Lion," Cirencester.

FAIRFORD AND DISTRICT DARTS LEAGUE.

A large attendance at the Village Hall, Kempsford, witnessed the finals in the Fairford and District Darts League on 22nd April last. The Hospital Cup was won by the "Swan" Southrop team by 2 legs to 1. The "Railway," Fairford (another Simonds house) were the winners of the League Trophy, the "Axe and Compass," Kempsford, having held it for the previous two years. Mr. F. L. Maskell (Swindon Branch Manager) presented the Cups, saying how pleasing it was to see that the trophies were being kept in the "Simonds Family." Great credit was undoubtedly due to Mr. E. L. Gardner (Jacko) both as organiser and compère, and also to our energetic host of the "Axe and Compass," Mr. Tom Pearson, for presiding at the bar.

SIMONDS' HOUSES DARTS LEAGUE.

"To celebrate becoming champions of the Simonds' Licensed Houses (Swindon Area) Darts League, the Bell and Shoulder members held a dinner on the 13th March.

"Bell and Shoulder finished at the head of Division 'B' and defeated Ship Hotel 'A' (winners of Division A) in the final decider at the Goddard Arms Hotel.

"Mr. F. L. Maskell, President of the League, presided, and he was accompanied by Mrs. Maskell. Others present were Mr. E. W. Spackman (President of the Bell and Shoulder Darts Club), Mr. J. Bramble (Secretary) and Mr. W. Cherry (Captain).

"The Chairman congratulated the winners on their success, and on the fine team spirit shown throughout the season.

"Mr. W. Cherry (Team Captain) said he had been playing darts for the past 15 years, and he had never played with a better team.

"Mr. J. Bramble proposed the toast of the 'Host and Hostess,' Mr. and Mrs. Spackman. Mr. Spackman responded.

"A competition for a cake made in the shape of a dartboard, was won by Mr. D. Webb.

(Reprinted from the "Swindon Evening Advertiser.")

This is the first time we send our contribution as a Branch, as the old Cirencester Brewery, Ltd., was placed in voluntary liquidation on March 31st, and we commenced as a Branch on April 1st. Having been a wholly owned subsidiary of the Parent Company for about 11 years, we do not feel newcomers in any way.

Your readers may be interested in a copy of a letter, given below, which was sent to all our tenants, free and private trade customers at the end of March:—

THE CIRENCESTER BREWERY, LTD.
CIRENCESTER.

Telephone 25.

March, 1948.

Dear Sir or Madam,

This Company, as you may be aware, has been a Subsidiary Company of H. & G. SIMONDS, LTD., READING, for some 11 years, and it has been decided, in order to

complete the merger, to place the Company in Voluntary Liquidation on April 1st.

From April 1st the business will be carried on as the Cirencester Branch of H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.

Mr. W. P. CRIPPS, the present Chairman of the Company, was appointed a Director of H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., on October 1st last, and will continue in that capacity; Mr. B. J. B. STEPHENS, a Director, is retiring on April 1st.

Mr. E. H. KELLY is also retiring, and his place will be taken by Mr. H. G. R. CONSTABLE.

Mr. R. H. MATTHEWS, the Secretary of the Company, will be appointed Manager of the Branch as from April 1st.

We feel sure that the same happy relations will continue between Customers, Friends and Associates, and our Successors, as heretofore.

Yours faithfully,
THE CIRENCESTER BREWERY, LTD.

The inside and outside staff remains the same and, apart from the fact that we have handed over 2 Houses to Bristol Branch and 18 Houses to Swindon Branch, 9 Houses being transferred from the latter Branch to us (making a total of 82 Tied Houses) we operate in the same area as heretofore.

The following changes of tenancies have taken place in this area recently:—

10th March, 1948—The Eliot Arms, South Cerney: Mrs. S. J. Carpenter to Mr. N. C. Richards.

21st April, 1948—The Hill Oak Inn, Ampney St. Mary: Mr. E. J. Humphries to Mr. C. G. Wheeler.

19th May, 1948—The White Lion, Cirencester: Mr. C. J. White to Mr. S. H. Millin.

26th May, 1948—The Spotted Cow, Marston Maisey: Mr. W. B. Cox to Mr. D. E. Barrett.

We tender best wishes to our new friends in these Houses.

SOUTH CERNEY AND DISTRICT DARTS LEAGUE.

To close a most successful season, a well-attended gathering was held at the Royal Oak Club Room, South Cerney, on 22nd April to witness the presentation of the League Trophies by our Director, Mr. W. P. Cripps, who also took the Chair.

The League Trophy, given by Mr. A. E. Price, their most able and energetic Secretary, was won by The Crown, Cerney Wick, "A" team, runners-up being the Royal Oak, South Cerney (both Simonds' Houses).

The "Simonds" Cup for the Individual Knock-Out Competition was carried off by Mr. M. Bateman, also the recipient of a miniature, his runner-up being Mr. Jim Hope, who received a silver medal.

As an added attraction, an exhibition match was played off between the individual champions, Mr. M. Bateman and Mr. J. Curran, of the Cirencester League.

The whole function was voted a great success by all, more especially as the league has only been running for two years.

OXFORD.

THE "BELL" INN, GROVE, WANTAGE, DARTS CLUB.

This Club, whose headquarters is the "Bell" Inn, Grove, near Wantage, Berks, under the tenancy of Mr. E. G. Busby, is becoming locally celebrated for their prowess in the popular game of darts. They commenced competitive darts in the Season 1945-46, and entered the Wantage and District League which they won, and duly received the League Challenge Cup.

The Season 1946-47 saw them lose the District Championship by one point only, having tied for second place with the "Greyhound," Letcombe. In the "play off" the "Bell" side defeated the "Greyhounds" by eight games to one, thus carrying off the "Runners-up" Challenge Cup.

Travelling to Stanford-in-the-Vale, the "Belltonians" team of six were successful in winning the local Darts Tournament, and each member received a small cup as a trophy.

In *The People* National Darts Championship, our friends from the "Bell" succeeded in winning their sectional final, and went to Slough for the regional final on April 23rd. They were drawn against the "Litchfield Arms," Enstone, Oxon, and this team eventually carried off the silver cup and medals. The "Bell" Inn, Grove, put up a good performance, but the "Litchfield Arms" team proved to be a little too good on this occasion. The members of the "Bell" team were presented with an illuminated certificate as winners of the preliminary section and, after a most pleasant outing, they returned home beaten, but not disgraced.

The names of the twelve players registered as playing for the "Bell" Inn, Grove, Darts Club are Messrs. W. Benham, F. Murfett, A. Cross, A. E. Cook, V. Lingley, P. Bright, A. Goodenough, H. Midwinter, S. H. Spicer, B. Cross (Captain), O. V. Knight and W. E. Orpin (Secretary).

THE "BIRD CAGE" INN, THAME, OXON.

That a very friendly spirit prevails among licensed houses in the town of Thame is illustrated by an account of a football match recently played between teams picked from regular customers of our House (the "Bird Cage") and from the "Black Horse."

An account of this match referred to is given below by the courtesy of the *Thame Gazette*, who published it in their issue, dated Tuesday, April 20th, 1948:—

"BIRD CAGE" v. "BLACK HORSE" HOTEL.

"A friendly challenge football match between teams picked from regular customers of the 'Bird Cage' Inn and the 'Black Horse' Hotel aroused great interest at the Recreation Ground, Thame, on Sunday last. The 'Bird Cage' team, taking advantage of a slight wind, soon established a one goal lead and shortly after had another goal disallowed for offside. The 'Black Horse' soon settled down, but could not find the way to goal until they in turn had a goal disallowed for offside.

"The 'Bird Cage' looked more dangerous in their break-aways and F. Soult gave the goalkeeper no chance after a goalmouth melee to put the 'Bird Cage' two up, which lead they held until the interval.

"As a result of a very 'spirited' talk given to the 'Black Horse' team during the interval by their landlord-cum-trainer, the 'Black Horse' scored almost immediately from the kick-off, but again the 'Bird Cage' came back and re-established their lead to put them 3-1 up. After this goal, however, it was 'Black Horse' who did most of the pressing and although the 'Bird Cage' still had some dangerous breakaways they could not add to their score, whilst the 'Black Horse' scored twice to level up the scores.

"During the final 15 minutes Soult put over some fine centres from the right wing and R. Slatter was unlucky in the final minute when hitting an upright with the 'Black Horse' goalkeeper beaten.

"It was a very interesting game with a fair result and a big 'gate' which gave a total of £3 10s. to a collection made by Mr. V. Eggleton, all of which is to be given to the Thame Cottage Hospital."

PORTSMOUTH.

C.-IN-C. LEAVING.

Few Commanders-in-Chief at Portsmouth have been more popular or more at home with all classes of the community—service and civilian—than Admiral Lord Fraser of North Cape, and his departure next month will be generally regretted. That Lord Fraser, who is 60, would succeed Admiral Sir John H. D. Cunningham as First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff at the Admiralty was expected; in fact, he was strongly “tipped” for the position months before it was officially announced. His stay at Admiralty House, Portsmouth, has been a comparatively short one—little more than a year—but in that time he has made a host of friends. A typical sailor—“Bright and breezy, free and easy,” as the song says—he has a remarkable personality and a keen business brain, and in addition to his exacting Naval duties he had found time to take a personal interest in civic affairs.

A CRITICAL JOB.

He will go to the Admiralty at a most critical period in the history of the Royal Navy which is at rock bottom in both operational ships and also in manpower. It will be Lord Fraser's job to supervise the rebuilding of Britain's “sure shield,” and few will envy him.

However, he has filled so many difficult roles with such distinction that his ability to cope with this one is unquestioned. By the way, there are eleven Admirals of the Fleet in the Royal Navy, Sir Henry Francis Oliver, who is 83, being the senior. Holders of this exalted rank do not retire, but are retained indefinitely for consultation, and they draw half-pay of £1,800 a year.

LORD FRASER'S SUCCESSOR.

Lord Fraser will be succeeded at Portsmouth by Admiral Sir Algernon U. Willis, who is at present Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean. Like his predecessor, Admiral Willis has had a very distinguished career, and he performed valuable work in the early days of the war against Italy and also when covering the successful landings at Salerno in H.M.S. *Nelson*. He will receive a cordial welcome when he takes over his new duties early in August.

A PROUD RECORD.

The death occurred recently of one of Portsmouth's oldest licensees—Mr. Robert James Chandler, who had held the licence of the Red Lion beerhouse, St. Mary's Road, for 69 years. When the licence was transferred to his daughter, the Assistant Chief Constable (Mr. W. N. Wilson) told the Justices that during the whole of the time Mr. Chandler had been at the Red Lion no complaint of any sort had ever been received about the conduct of the house. Mr. L. R. Maidment (Chairman) congratulated the family on the way the house had been run since 1879, a period which, he said, constituted a record for the continuous holding of a licence in the City. Mr. Chandler was 88 years of age, and he was the oldest wine and beer retailer in Hampshire.

ROYAL SAILORS' HOME CLUB.

Naval men and not a few civilians have recently learned with great pleasure that plans have been completed for the rebuilding of the Royal Sailors' Home Club on the Queen Street site on which the old premises stood for so many years. The Home was destroyed in the air raids of 1941, and the loss was keenly felt by thousands of naval ratings who had for many years enjoyed the amenities of the premises. It had been a real home from home to them while stationed in the port. Four years ago negotiations were opened for the rebuilding of the premises, and a committee of officers and ratings was formed to arrange for the preparation of plans and consider the latest improvements to be embodied in the new building. It will be an up-to-date club, with every modern convenience, and it will be run on the same homely and congenial lines as always characterised the old building.

FOOTBALL AMBASSADORS.

The Portsmouth Football Club, Ltd., which has enjoyed another successful season in Division I of the Football League, is next year celebrating its Jubilee, having been formed in 1899, when it played in the old Southern League. The directors have been considering the most fitting celebrations, and a feature is to be a banquet to which as many as possible of the old players and associates of the early days are to be invited. Recently the Lord Mayor (Councillor Frank Miles) entertained officials and players of the 1947-48 season, and congratulated them upon their highly successful season. He referred to the great value the Club was to the City in advertising the attractions of Southsea as a health and holiday resort, and recalled that during the season thousands of fans came to the City with visiting clubs, and were afforded an opportunity of witnessing for themselves the diversity of amenities Portsmouth and Southsea possessed.

"Many of these visitors will come again," His Worship remarked, "and bring their relations and friends with them."

THE OLD "ROYAL."

The announcement that the historic Theatre Royal is soon to revert to its old form of stage plays, after being used for 16 years as a cinema, will be welcome to all lovers of the living stage.

War damage and essential repairs had delayed the desire for the change over, but arrangements have now been completed, and the re-opening will take place in the autumn. By the way, it was 50 years ago that the present Portsmouth Theatres Company was formed, and despite two world wars it has gone on from success to success. Theatre-goers still recall the visits of leading actors and actresses to the old "Royal," and the Friday "dress nights," which were so popular and which they hope will return.

SALISBURY.

The Adastral Club, the new home of the R.A.F. Association, which opened on Thursday, 19th February, has proved a great success. Situated in Avon Place, Castle Street, the building is several hundred years old, and makes a delightful setting in which former members of the R.A.F. and their friends may spend their evenings in an atmosphere of good fellowship, and where the spirit of comradeship—such an asset during the war—can be fostered in civilian life.

There was a large attendance when the Club was declared open by Air Vice-Marshal A. L. Fiddament, Commander 38 Group, Netheravon. He was welcomed by the President, Sir Westrow Hulse, who thanked all who helped to bring about such a fine achievement as this splendid club.

The Mayor (Councillor R. G. Gordon), accompanied by the Mayoress, on behalf of the citizens, wished the Club and the Association every success.

Air Vice-Marshal Fiddament congratulated the branch on their excellent club, and said it was an inspiration to see what could be done during these present difficult times. The R.A.F. Association stood for comradeship and moral help, good citizenship, and the continuation in civilian life of the team spirit which helped the R.A.F. to save the day at a time when, to many, all seemed lost. That spirit was needed to-day.

The Salisbury Cycling and Social Club held their annual dinner on Thursday, 1st April, at the Guildhall, Salisbury.

The attractive menu and high class entertainment made the occasion an outstanding social success.

Mr. W. Shipsey (Chairman) welcomed the Mayor (Councillor R. G. Gordon), who, in his reply, wished the Club continued success.

Among those present were Mr. H. G. Till, Mr. E. E. Rawle, and Mr. Bert Marks, who, with their brief and witty speeches, caused roars of laughter.

The first annual presentations of cups and medals won in connection with competitions of the Salisbury and District Inter-Club League, took place at the Fisherton Working Men's Club, Salisbury, on Friday, 16th April.

At the presentation, Councillor A. Say (Chairman) presided supported by the Mayor of Salisbury (Councillor R. G. Gordon), Councillor E. L. Cooke (President), Mr. A. Ingleby (Hon. Secretary) and Mr. H. A. Clifton (Hon. Treasurer).

Before and after the presentations there was an excellent programme of entertainment. The St. Ann's Glee Singers were given a great reception and the appreciative audience demanded several encores.

Introducing the Mayor, the Chairman said the League was ending its first season. They were grateful to the various firms of brewers for the magnificent array of cups which they saw before them that evening.

The Mayor said it was most satisfactory to find that the first year of their activities had produced such excellent results. The Mayor presented cups to the captains and medals to the successful competitors.

The Challenge Cup for the Billiards Section (presented by H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.) was won by the Salisbury British Legion Club, and a Tankard for the highest billiards break (presented by Mr. T. A. Dennis) was won by Mr. E. Harrison (British Legion).

Darts	...	Bemerton Working Men's Club.
Snooker	...	Wilton Territorial Club.
Cribbage	...	Laverstock and Ford Sports Club.
Dominoes	...	Fisherton Working Men's Club.

Congratulations to the Radnor Arms (Nunton) ladies' team, who, during the season, won the Salisbury and District St. Dunstan's darts ladies' cup competition and also the Salisbury and District St. Dunstan's ladies' darts league.

This was the only Simonds' house represented in these competitions, and we were very pleased to see them bring off the double.

We are pleased to welcome back to the staff Mr. W. R. Minchinton, on his release from the Forces.

And, lastly, before going to press, we must congratulate the newly-formed Salisbury Football Club, an all amateur team, who have gained success in their first season of the Western League (Division II) by carrying off the championship.

They made certain of this and promotion to Division I of the Western League, when on Wednesday evening, April 28th, they drew with Weymouth at the Victoria Park.

The game attracted 8,220 people, the biggest-ever football crowd in Salisbury. A strong contingent of Weymouth supporters made the journey in more than 70 motor coaches.

Mr. Reg. Scott, the popular steward of the Fisherton Working Men's Club, and ardent supporter and keen worker of the Salisbury Football Club, has come in for a lot of bickering when visiting our Salisbury Office, but we must hand him a bouquet for the splendid work he has done in helping to bring about such a fine achievement as below and to introduce to Salisbury a higher standard of football.

FINAL LEAGUE POSITIONS.

WESTERN LEAGUE (DIVISION II) LEAGUE CHAMPIONS.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Pts.
Salisbury Amateur Football Club	34	29	1	4	59

TAMAR BREWERY, DEVONPORT.

All at the Tamar Brewery, Devonport, were deeply grieved to hear the sad news of the death of our beloved Vice-Chairman, Commander H. D. Simonds, R.N. (Ret'd.). Our sincere sympathy is extended to members of his family and to our Board of Directors in their sad loss.

One of our chief items of interest this quarter is the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Spurling, who left the West Country on May 3rd to reside in Reading. To mark the occasion they have been the recipients of many handsome presents and messages of congratulations.

In this connection we have to record that a Farewell Party was arranged at the Social Club on Saturday, April 17th, when a large audience of members and friends enjoyed an entertainment provided by the "Smilers' Concert Party," whose efforts contributed largely towards making the evening highly successful. A presentation from the Club members to Mr. and Mrs. Spurling, our guests of honour, was made by the Honorary Secretary, Mr. R. Luff, who asked Mr. Spurling to accept an umbrella, and Mrs. Spurling a compact, with the best wishes from all members for their future health and happiness. Mr. Spurling, in expressing the sincere thanks of himself and his wife, said they were most grateful for the useful gifts which would number amongst their treasured possessions. A very pleasant evening was concluded with hearty and spontaneous renditions of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" and "Auld Lang Syne."



Farewell Supper to Mr. and Mrs. Spurling.

On Monday, April 19th, Mr. and Mrs. Spurling were invited to a "Farewell Supper," arranged at the Tamar Hotel, Crownhill, and which was attended by a large number of tenants and managers. During the evening Mr. A. W. Sorrell presented them with a handsome cut-glass table lamp and water set on behalf of the tenants and managers. In the course of his speech he paid a tribute to the co-operation and assistance they had received from Mr. Spurling during the time he had been Manager of the Tamar Brewery, and extended to them both their best wishes for their future happiness. In reply, Mr. Spurling suitably acknowledged the kind remarks of Mr. Sorrell, and expressed his deep appreciation of the loyalty which had been shown him. He valued the magnificent gifts which he had just received which would serve to remind him of the pleasant times he had spent amongst them. A warm welcome was afterwards accorded to Mr. F. W. Freeman, and the evening closed with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

On Thursday, April 29th, the staff and employees of the Tamar Brewery assembled on the loading stage to bid farewell to Mr. Spurling and to present him with a parting gift which took the form of a leather travelling case. In making the presentation, Mr. R. E. Wright paid high tribute to Mr. Spurling's qualities, and said that it had always been a pleasure to work with him. He congratulated him on his promotion, and wished him the best of health and happiness in his new undertaking. Mr. Spurling feelingly expressed his deep appreciation of the gift, also for the loyalty and support which all at the Brewery had given him, and hoped that the same loyalty would be extended to his successor, Mr. F. W. Freeman. Mr. J. E. G. Rowland, in well chosen words, endorsed the remarks of Mr. Wright, and said there had been every co-operation between the Brewery and the administrative staff, and he wished him every success at Headquarters.

After the presentation Mr. Spurling handed to Mr. A. Johns, Chairman of Simonds' Social Club, a Silver Challenge Cup as a perpetual yearly trophy for the Individual Darts Championship of the Club. Mr. Johns, in acknowledging the Cup, thanked Mr. Spurling for the interest he had taken in the Club, and said that the trophy would stimulate the keen interest of the members. The enthusiasm which this gift has aroused amongst the members is shown by the large number of entrants now taking part in the first competition, the eliminating rounds of which are now well under way.

The Club's newly formed football team played their first match on May 4th against their old rivals, the Octagon Brewery Sports Club, the result being "S.B." 7—"O.B." 1.

The table tennis "A" team, as was expected, were winners of the Plymouth and District League (Division 6), and on April the 20th were presented with the "F. N. Grant" Cup by Lady Roborough at Pitts Memorial Hall, Plymouth. It is interesting to record that the "A" team won every game this season, securing a total of 92 points with only 8 points against them. The "B" team finished strongly, and at the close of the season were 4th in the league table, having won 13 games out of 20 played.

Our congratulations to Mr. T. Thomas, the captain of the Social Club snooker team, who was runner-up of the Individual Snooker Championship of Plymouth.

At the invitation of our Social Club, the Octagon Brewery Social Club paid us a visit on Friday, May 28th. During the evening a series of games were played and thoroughly enjoyed by all, and a friendly spirit prevailed throughout the evening.

"HOP LEAF" DARTS LEAGUE.

The 1947-48 season was brought to a successful conclusion at the Devonport Guildhall on Wednesday, May 26th, when a large audience of enthusiastic supporters and members of the league witnessed the final of the Knock-Out Competition, the semi-finals and final of the Individual Championship. The compère and referee was Mr. A. W. Sorrell, and the results of matches played were as follows:—

KNOCK-OUT CUP.

<i>Winners</i> ...	...	The Weston Mill Hotel, Devonport.
<i>Runners-up</i> ...	...	The Steambridge Inn, Devonport.

LEAGUE.

<i>Champions</i> ...	...	The Sydenham Arms, Plymouth.
<i>Runners-up</i> ...	...	The Abbey Hotel, Plymouth.

INDIVIDUAL.

<i>Champion</i> ...	...	Mr. F. Davies (Sydenham Arms).
<i>Runner-up</i> ...	...	Mr. S. Wallace (Weston Mill Hotel).

The final league positions were as under :—

	P.	W.	L.	For	Agt.	Pts.
Sydenham Arms ...	33	28	5	189	108	56
Abbey Hotel ...	34	28	6	194	112	56
Weston Mill ...	34	26	8	200	106	52
Stopford Arms ...	34	24	10	175	131	48
Camel's Head ...	34	24	10	172	134	48
King's Arms ...	34	23	11	175	131	46
Standard Inn ...	34	21	13	165	141	42
Tamar Hotel ...	34	20	14	158	148	40
Swan Hotel ...	34	19	15	152	154	38
Steambridge Inn ...	34	14	20	143	153	28
Gloucester Arms ...	34	13	21	131	175	26
Morice Town Vaults ...	33	12	21	121	176	24
Grapes Tavern ...	34	12	22	140	166	24
Simonds' S.C. ...	34	10	24	139	167	20
Prince Alfred ...	34	10	24	128	178	20
Stoke Vaults ...	34	9	25	124	182	18
Chester Cup ...	34	8	26	130	176	16
Vine Hotel ...	34	6	28	110	196	12



Photo by A. Hawken, 150, Fort Austin Avenue, Crownhill, Plymouth.

After the Presentation of Trophies by Mr. E. Duncan Simonds.

We were indeed pleased to have with us Mr. E. Duncan Simonds, President of the League, who presented the trophies to the various winners, after which he thanked the Committee, contestants, and all supporters, for their loyal support during the season, which had assured the success of the league.

A very pleasing feature of the evening was the fact that a case of six bottles of "XXXXXXX" which was first raffled and then, at the winner's request, put up for auction, realised a grand total of £28 1s. od. This money is to be used to purchase a wireless set for the Blind Institution, Plymouth.

A final word of congratulation to the organisers for their competent arrangements of the proceedings, and to the players for the sporting manner in which the games were contested. This, combined with the keenness of the audience, helped to make a memorable evening.

Congratulations to Mr. C. Symons, the captain of the Tamar Hotel darts team, on winning the *News of the World* Individual Championship of South-West England. The finals were decided in Devonport Guildhall, and among those present was the Lord Mayor of Plymouth. The *News of the World* Gold Medal was afterwards presented to Mr. Symons by Mr. Chapman, a Director of the Pencycross Stadium and Plymouth Argyle Football Club.

We offer our congratulations to the Pensilva Football Club on winning the Launceston and District League Cup. During the season they have been successful in winning every match, which is a record for the League. The Cup was presented by Mr. J. H. Thomas, the Vice-President, who is also our Manager at the Victoria Hotel, Pensilva. Each player also received a miniature cup suitably inscribed. This result reflects great credit on Mr. Thomas, who takes a keen interest in the team.

Congratulations are due to Mr. P. Kelly, of our transport staff, on becoming the father of a baby daughter. We are pleased to report that both mother and daughter are progressing well.

To a member of our clerical staff, Mr. C. Harris, and his wife, we offer our hearty congratulations on being presented with a second son.

Our very best wishes to Miss T. Rowley, a member of the bottled beer store staff, on her recent marriage to Mr. G. F. Jones, which took place at Bridgenorth Registry Office. The employees of the Brewery subscribed to a present which took the form of a money gift, which was presented to her by Mr. J. E. G. Rowland, who congratulated her, and expressed everyone's wishes for their future happiness.

Mr. H. A. Sheppard, a member of our clerical staff, left us on the 19th of April, 1948, to take up an appointment with London Branch. Members of the clerical staff subscribed to a parting gift which was a "Ronson" lighter. This was presented to him by Mr. R. E. Wright, who thanked Mr. Sheppard for his loyalty and support, and hoped that he would continue in the same manner at London Branch, always remembering that we, at the Tamar Brewery, are proud to think that we can provide staff to fill vacancies which may occur from time to time in other branches of the Firm's business.

We welcome Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Wydenbach, our new tenants at the Star Inn, Liverton, to the "Hop Leaf" family, and wish them every success.

There was a large attendance at Buckfastleigh Races for the two-day Meeting at Whitsun. Once again we were entrusted with the supplies through our Mr. E. H. Gifford, tenant of the East Gate Inn, Totnes. He is to be congratulated on the excellent arrangements and good service provided during the heat wave which prevailed.

The West Country is indeed proud that Devonport should have been chosen as the port of departure for H.M.S. *Vanguard* when the King and Queen leave England for their cruise to Australia and New Zealand early in the New Year.

Under the chairmanship of Mr. Ronald Whiteway, Plymouth and District Licensed Victuallers' Association held their annual Banquet on Tuesday, March 23rd, at the Duke of Cornwall Hotel. An excellent meal was provided in the restaurant which was also attended by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Plymouth. During the evening many amusing competitions were held between dances, and everyone enjoyed a really good evening. We were all very pleased to see Mr. Duncan Simonds on this occasion, our only regret being that his wife was, unfortunately, unable to accompany him. A large number of distinguished guests were present, including members of the Torquay Licensed Victuallers' Association and representatives of Messrs. Saccone and Speed, and other brewers.

We extend our hearty congratulations to the Elmfield United football team who finished top of the table in the Junior III of the Exeter and East Devon Association League. This team comprises customers from the Elmfield Hotel, the secretary being our tenant, Mr. L. H. Trim. The cup and medals are being presented at Exeter Guildhall.

BRIGHTON.

The summer season, with racing at Brighton and Lewes, is now with us, and everyone here is looking forward to a good and busy season.

The visit, early in June, of the Australian Cricket Team is creating a lot of local enthusiasm and, although the Sussex County Team have not made a very good start in their County matches, it is hoped they will "find the spot" against Don Bradman and his stalwarts.

The close of the Football Season, unfortunately, found Brighton & Hove Albion at the bottom of League III (South), and for the first time in the history of the Club, they have to seek re-election. However, great things are expected next season.

If football did not put Brighton "on the map," the ice hockey did, and for the second year in succession Brighton Tigers won the National League. Congratulations, Tigers! The Tigers have been playing to capacity houses every Thursday evening, and the management of the Brighton Sports Stadium, under the able guidance of Mr. C. Roston Bourke, Managing Director, are considering plans to enlarge the Stadium.

We welcome to Brighton, and wish every luck to Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Davis, who have now become the tenants at the Royal Oak, St. James' Street, where they will be delighted to meet old and new friends. Mr. Davis is well known at the Brewery, having played cricket for us on several occasions.

SHOREHAM ROWING CLUB.

All the best rowing is not done on the tideway or the lower reaches of the Thames, but little publicity is given to Rowing Clubs elsewhere. The Shoreham Rowing Club, affiliated to the Coast Amateur Rowing Association, have for a number of years put up some splendid performances in sea regattas held along the coast from Southsea to Herne Bay. Last year the Club's

Senior Fours crew won the Coast Amateur Rowing Association's Championship Trophy and, in consequence, represented the Association at the National Amateur Rowing Association's Regatta held at Norwich, and there they won the *Daily Herald* Trophy.

This year coast crews had an opportunity of competing in the Olympic trials, and on May 15th last, the Shoreham Four, with two coach loads of supporters, journeyed to Henley-on-Thames, but, unfortunately, without success, for they were eliminated in the semi-final, although having put up the second fastest time of the day.

Mrs. Laker, our tenant of the Ferry Arms, Shoreham, is Vice-President of the Rowing Club, and has been associated with it for the past 39 years. Mrs. Laker was one of the many supporters from the Ferry Arms who made the journey to Henley. After a very exciting day, a visit was arranged to the Three Mariners, Bagshot, on the way home. The party was ably entertained and welcomed by Mrs. R. Stevens, our tenant, and we thank her very much for the enjoyable stop, which helped everyone to arrive home very happy and not in the least down-hearted.

Mr. A. L. Luscombe, late Manager of this Branch, has now left Brighton, and taken up residence at his house at Gidea Park. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Luscombe a happy retirement there, and we shall be very happy to see them when they can once again visit us.

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