

No. 54, June 2012

## RB PENSIONERS' INFLATION-BEATING 4.8% RISE GOES THROUGH

One bright note for Reckitt Benckiser pensioners amidst the economic gloom arising from the Eurozone crisis was the recent letter they received from Pensions Department confirming a pension increase of 4.8% had been applied to their basic pension with effect from April 1, 2012. This was in accordance with the increase in the Retail Price Index (RPI) for the year to December 31, 2011 and is above the current rate of inflation.

A full attendance at the April meeting of the Reckitt Benckiser Pensioners' Association committee in Peterborough had a detailed explanation of the Fund's financial situation together with a reassurance that the Trustees are committed to providing RPI increases up to a maximum of 5%.

The Company is also happy with this policy and, as previously reported, is paying £150m into the Pension Fund over a three year period in order to eliminate the deficit identified at the April 2010 actuarial valuation.

The next valuation takes place in April 2013 and the results should be known by September 2013. At this stage, it is difficult to estimate the outcome as there is considerable uncertainty in global financial markets but the Trustees continue to monitor the situation and take advice where appropriate.

### A welcome for Chris

Chris Little, UK Pensions Manager and Secretary to the Trustees, was welcomed to his first Pensioners' Association meeting since joining Reckitt Benckiser from consultant Towers Watson. His predecessor Tim Wood, now RB Global Pensions Director, regularly attended our committee meetings.

As reported in our last edition (*Contact No.53, December 2011*) the appointment of former group financial controller Allan Chandler brought the Pensioners' Association committee up to full strength, the other members being David Saltmarsh (chairman), Brian Bradley,

Trevor Clark, Chris Eagleton, Freddie George, Kevin O'Berg, Alistair Stewart and Tony Swell. Freddie George, whilst remaining on the committee, is giving up the role of Treasurer and will be succeeded by Allan Chandler. Kevin O'Berg has been re-elected as Pensioner Trustee.

The Association agreed to continue its membership of the Occupational Pensioners' Alliance, which monitors the pensions industry and associated legislative and political developments.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2012. Committee members due for re-election at January 1, 2013 are Tony Swell and David Saltmarsh. Both are willing to stand again, so we are not printing election forms as we would do if either of them were standing down.

Nominations can be made for members wishing to contest the re-elections. Forms are obtainable from the Association's secretary c/o Pensions Department, Reckitt Benckiser plc, Dansom Lane, Hull HU8 7DS.

 **Restructuring for new strategy**  
The new corporate plan launched by Reckitt Benckiser at the beginning of the year aims to give people innovative solutions for healthier and happier homes and adds the Powermarkets concept to the highly successful Powerbrands strategy.

A new geographic focus merges Europe and North America into one area and the emerging markets into two separate areas. The ensuing restructuring will see a number of

### Visitor report - and record

Pensioner Visitors in the news this month are Chris Eagleton who joined the team in the Northern Region in 2010 and has now been elected a member of the RB Pensioners' Association Committee.



As a new visitor able to take a fresh look at the visiting situation, Chris (right) was asked to let the committee have his views. His report is on page three of this issue.

One thing Chris will not be able to do is to emulate the record of Eastern Region's Neville Starling (left).



In fact, it is unlikely few have or will as, although he has not kept an exact count, Neville has made well over 2,000 home visits, the Region's get-together was told (P2).

changes but, although pensions policy has had to become global in scope, as reported alongside, the UK Pensions Department will continue to be run from Dansom Lane.

Manufacturing plans also continue. Just before we went to press, for instance, Hull City Council planners approved building extensions at Dansom Lane for advanced product testing, including controlled environment facilities.

# High Wycombe makes it a Jubilee Tea Party

The six months since our last issue of *Contact* have seen six regional get-togethers with the wide variations in weather we have experienced in that period affecting attendances accordingly, but none too seriously – reflecting the community of interest that still brings our pensioners together.

High Wycombe met shortly before we went to press and takes the honours for topicality by choosing the Diamond Jubilee as its theme.

It was a “dressy” occasion with host Paul Gilliam donning a Union Jack bow tie, as pictured top right with wife Carol who was caterer for the event.

The Diamond Jubilee touch even extended to the raffle prize – a Jubilee biscuit selection won by Mr and Mrs Hunter, pictured below.

There has always been pressure on space in our printed newsletters so we will make increasing use of the lower cost pages we can add to our digital *iContact* ([www.icontactnewsletter.co.uk](http://www.icontactnewsletter.co.uk)) for items, particularly photographs, that might otherwise be squeezed out.

### More pictures on-line

We have put two pages of such pictures in the digital version of this issue (No.54) including some from the earlier Ploughman’s Lunch meeting at High Wycombe that didn’t make it for issue No.53.

Paul, the pension visitor for the High Wycombe area, attracted more than 20 pensioners from the former Industrial Division for the pre-Jubilee Tea Party at a bunting-decorated Reggie Goves Centre on May 14.

Whilst the weather was unkind outside, the atmosphere inside was warm and cosy with memories being challenged as stories were told, some of which are best forgotten.

Eastern Region's January get-

together attracted the usual 40 or so for coffee and hot sausage rolls, but had a notable absentee – Ken Herbert missing his first gtg since he started them in 1995. That first meeting attracted 100 members and the four meetings a year since then have continued to be well attended.

One attendance record that has been maintained is that of Neville Starling who, as Ken noted at the April gtg, joined him as a pensioner visitor in 1995 and probably holds the record for visiting pensioners at home with around 2,000 to date.

Ken retired from Colmans in 1998 but was asked in 1991 if he would look after pensioner activities at a salary of £1,000 a year as the company was being put on the market and wanted to distance itself from pensioner matters. The business was sold to Unilever in 1995, but nobody told Ken to stop – the payments just stopped.

The early spring weather may have tempted Hull pensioners into the garden, or even to the beach, resulting in a disappointing turnout for the last get-together in March, only ten pensioners being present. There had been a good turnout at the previous meeting.

### Derby and Leicester

At Derby, on the other hand, the pouring rain may have been the incentive needed to tempt members to the comfort of The Orangery for the first get-together of 2012.

In the event the support was excellent with 30 people attending to enjoy meeting up with their friends who worked at the Derby factory.

Half a dozen attendees for the Leicester gtg at The Oadby Owl might seem a small return, but it's the market share that counts – and that was 25% of the potential market. What's more, they had an enjoyable time remembering the market that had been thanks to an old Dryad catalogue one member brought along.



## DIARY DATES

### Get-togethers:

#### HIGH WYCOMBE

**12 noon to 3pm at the Reggie Goves Centre**  
**Monday, October 15, 2012**  
Contact Paul Gilliam  
Tel: 01494 562843

#### NORWICH

**at 10.30am at the White Horse Trowse on:**  
**Tuesday, July 10, 2012**  
**Tuesday, October 9, 2012**  
**Tuesday, January 9, 2013**  
**Tuesday, April 9, 2013**  
Contact Ken Herbert  
01379 852854

#### DERBY

**at 10.30am at The Orangery Markeaton Park on:**  
**Tuesday, September 18, 2012**

#### LEICESTER

**at 11am at The Oadby Owl Glen Road, Leicester on:**  
**Tuesday, September 25, 2012**  
Contact Brian Bradley  
Tel: 01526 321575  
for Leicester and Derby

#### HULL

**11am at The Goodfellowship Cottingham Road on:**  
**Tuesday, June 12, 2012**  
**Tuesday, October 9, 2012**  
Contact Phil Mayor  
Tel: 01482 862563



**50th Anniversary – Hull's Steve Roberts has tracked down seven of the nine apprentices who started training with him at the FRI in Danson Lane in 1962. Still to be located for a September gtg are Tony Taylor and Malcolm Moxon. Contact Steve on 01482 659816.**

# Hundred and something gaffers gtg



Last year's "gaffers' get-together" (the annual reunion dinner of Hull sites' Foremen, Supervisors and Heads of Department) was reckoned to be around the 108th – so here for something between the 106th and 110th time is the 2012 gathering at The Staff House, University of Hull. The 57 guests enjoyed a great social evening with an excellent meal rounded off by a few (?) words from Alan Brooke about the humorous events occurring during management training sessions.

Attendees were: Bob Allison; Kate Ansell; Karen Beach; Richard Bays; Alan Brooke; Ken Copeman; Dave Copeman; Martin Craven; Hugh Christmas; Vic and Sue Carpenter; Alan Clarke; Phil Caygill; Tony Dale; Bill Forman; Roy Farnhill; Andy Forster; George Gibby; Phil and Janet Gibson; Janet Hargreaves; Garry Haswell; Alan Hitchcock; Brian Huggett; Trevor Hill; Mark Hulme; John Howden; Ken Houghton; Ken Johnson; Ian Jolliffe; Angie Lamb; Punam Owens; Hazel Mee; Sam Morris; Gill Morrell; Bill Maxwell; David Nellist; Sid Newman; David Payne; Tony Payne; David Price; Ted Parker; Tony Pawson; Lil Pooley; Pat Quarterman; Bridget Rimmington; Malcolm Rudiforth; Mike Spence; Andy Smith; Jon Sewell; Pauline Settle; Joy Sutton; John Smallwood; Adrian Robinson; Ron Watson; Jackie Witham; and Ken Wilson.

## PENSION VISITING IS WORTH CONTINUING

Go back a couple of generations and most people lived relatively close to their place of work and their social and sporting activities were often with their workmates. Also many R&C employees stayed with the Company for most of their working lives and, after retirement, appreciated the pensioner visits which helped to keep ex-employees in touch with old friends and colleagues, writes Chris Eagleton.

Now, peoples' working and social lives tend to be quite separate and they will work for a number of different employers during their careers.

R&C used to employ pensions visitors but now the baton has been passed to the Reckitt Benckiser Pensioners' Association which has a number of volunteers who visit their fellow pensioners.

### Only 10% want a visit

I am one of these volunteers and have some 95 names on my list.

I have found that about one third of pensioners replied to my mail shot and only about 10% actually wished to be visited. In general, the pensioners who ask for a visit are aged over 80 and are now living alone and pleased to have a visitor.

The small number wanting a visit might seem rather discouraging, but I have found that, for this 10%, a visit is very welcome and I have had some

most enjoyable conversations about many different topics, by no means all RB related.

One lady wrote to accept a visit and included a photograph of herself astride a 'Corgi' folding motorcycle.

My first thought was "how on earth did she know that I too had ridden one of these strange machines?" Of course it was pure chance, but it provided a wonderful conversation opener.

### The traditional care

So although the number of pensioners wishing to be visited is declining, it is still worth continuing this bit of the traditional care that the Reckitts and the Colmans took of their people.

Why did I take on the task? I already had some idea of what was involved because my father, who was an HR

manager for the AA, worked part time after his retirement visiting his fellow AA pensioners all over Scotland.

Also by a strange turn of chance, when I joined J&J Colman in 1964, an old friend of my parents gave me a perfect example of the Royal Doulton mustard pots that had been used in the late 1800s as trade marketing.



Royal Doulton Victorian mustard pot

This lady was employed by Colmans as a pensions visitor!

With some 3000 pensioners in the Northern Area and only a relatively small number wishing for a visit it can be time consuming and expensive (postage!) to find out who would like to be visited.

It would help greatly if pensioners who would like a visit or just a chat over the phone could contact either:-

**Philip Mayor 01482 862563**  
[pamayor@pamayor.karoo.co.uk](mailto:pamayor@pamayor.karoo.co.uk)

or

**Chris Eagleton 01482 872765**  
[christopher@eagleton.net](mailto:christopher@eagleton.net)

# WE ARE NOW ENA, LAPAC AND RUMEA

The big international groups have been focussing on the emerging markets of China and the Far East and as most of our RB pensioners, expats in particular, have worked on or alongside export products or with overseas businesses there will be a particular interest in the new company strategy – especially now there is an Asian national at the head.

Outlining the strategy Chief Executive Officer Rakesh Kapoor said: "RB has delivered a decade of superior growth and shareholder value. However, with slower market growth and increased competition, we need to reshape our strategy to enable us to continue our track record of outperformance.

"We believe we can make a real difference by giving people innovative solutions for healthier lives and happier homes.

## Higher growth and margins

"We will therefore be intensifying our investment behind our brands in the higher growth, higher margin categories of health and hygiene.

"In addition to our highly successful 'Powerbrand' strategy, we have identified 16 'Powermarkets' for increased focus and investment, most of which are in emerging markets.

The core business Powerbrands are:

**Health** – led by Nurofen, Strepsils, Gaviscon, Mucinex, Durex, and Scholl.

**Hygiene** – led by Dettol, Lysol, Finish, Harpic, Veet, Clearasil, Cillit Bang, and Mortein.

**Home** – led by Air Wick, Vanish, Calgon, and Woolite.

The reporting areas are Europe and North America (ENA, representing 58% of core business); Latin America, North Asia, South and East Asia, Australia and New Zealand (LAPAC, 26%) and Russia and CIS, Middle East, North Africa and Turkey, Africa – Sub-Saharan (RUMEA, 16%).

Food and pharmaceuticals are not seen as "core" businesses and what are now known as Portfolio Brands will be managed to deliver local scale and cash margin. The small private label business part of this does not fit the strategic focus and, after a review, will probably be discontinued.



War Horse, directed by Steven Spielberg, was one of the film sensations of 2011, winning international awards, critical acclaim, a Royalty supported UK premiere and record audiences. It is an adaptation of the 1982 children's novel of the same name, by British author Michael Morpurgo, set before and during World War I. There is also an equally successful stage adaptation of the same name, featuring remarkable puppeteer-operated full size wooden horses, and a supporting Army Museum exhibition on the same theme. For Colmans in Norwich their work horses became the war horses, called up, like the employees, to serve their country.

## The Carrow War Horses

The international success of the award-winning film (poster above) and the immense media coverage of this, the stage play and the book on which both are based reminded us of the stories about animals at war featured in Colman's Carrow Works magazines in WW1.

With the extra space we get in our digital iContact edition we have been able to reproduce the full story of the Carrow War Horses which you can read at [www.icontactnewsletter.co.uk](http://www.icontactnewsletter.co.uk)

Ken Herbert remembers Neville Starling telling him of his grandfather when walking their dog near Thorpe Station during the last war being suddenly pulled by the dog towards the station to see walking towards them his son (Neville Starling's father) arriving unexpectedly on sick leave, having been wounded in the arm.

We hope to reproduce some Works Magazine WW1 dog stories in a future iContact.

Ken comments that when the Colman horses were being put on the train at Trowse station two escaped and ran back to Carrow.

It is not recorded whether or not they avoided the call-up.

## The latest buzz on Chris

Chris Coulson, our regular contributor on Reckitt and Quaker history, has been making the headlines locally (right) as chairman of the Beverley Beekeepers' Association (he has four hives). With his scientific background in plant physiology he is leading the battle against the decline in the bee population.

Chris, who gave us the memorable iContact supplement (No. 43, February 2009) with its family tree and Reckitt family history, has located the grave of Constance Reckitt (James' younger sister) in Ackworth and makes the digital supplement again in this issue with the story and picture.

In the course of this latest work he has found that Quakers buried in Hodgson Street (off Cleveland Street in Hull) died at a significantly earlier age than the Reckitts, Priestmans, Wests, Thorpes etc. in Spring Bank.



Scott of the Antarctic will be back in the headlines shortly as commemorative expeditions complete their ventures, so another feature of this month's digital supplement is a reproduction of the 1913 Carrow Works

Magazine story we mentioned in June last year and from which this 1910 picture of Captain Scott and his son Peter was taken. Like the Carrow Horses story mentioned at the top of this page it was written for the works magazine by Laura E Stuart.



Laura was the eldest child of Jeremiah James Colman and Caroline, daughter of William Hardy and Sarah Cozens-Hardy of Letheringsett Hall, Holt. Laura married James Stuart in 1890 and the couple went to live at Carrow Abbey in 1898, but retained their London house.

## Picture puzzle

### RECKITTS

THANKS to John Kerswell for this happy snap of a small group of workers from the Reckitts Factory in Plymouth (John's mother used to work there).

Originally James & Son they became Reckitt & Sons sometime around 1910 and went into the war as Reckitt and Colman - manufacturers of starch, blue and black lead.

Based in Sutton Road this was one of Plymouth's bigger factories but, after sustaining serious damage during World War Two, opted not to re-establish their base

here and instead concentrated on their headquarters in Hull.

Today, as Reckitt Benckiser they are the world's largest producer of household goods - among them Dettol, Strepsils, Veet, Vanish, Air Wick, and Durex - with operations in over 60 countries around the world.

What we would like to know though, is whether anyone remembers their pre-war Plymouth base and what happened to the workforce after the local factory was bombed.



AS IT WAS →

### Colman's historic cricket pavilion at Lakenham

AS IT IS NOW ↓



The photograph above is the one we printed in October 2009 which local residents have used in their protests about development of the Council-owned ground and the present state of the pavilion (right). The residents have won the support of The Norwich Society which is adding it to its Local Listing and researching the site with a view to approaching English Heritage for a statutory listing.



Ray Storey sent us this clipping from the *Plymouth Evening Herald* with a repeat of the paper's "Does anyone remember?" question. The archives in the Dansom Land Heritage Centre confirm Reckitt's 1904 takeover of E. James and Sons starch factory. The doorway illustrated then (right) was that through which the nuns of St.Clare entered their sanctuary nearly a century earlier and a staff picture in *Ours* magazine in 1932 shows ten times as many staff (plus "Bob" the dog) as the one above.

The site was bought from the nuns in 1840 by William Bryant who had been associated with the James family in a sugar mill in Plymouth. Bryant later founded the Bryant and May match business in London.

## More of our lesser known history

The *Hull Daily Mail* reported that the British Extracting Company mill (right) on the former Reckitt Products Stoneferry site was probably the tallest listed building in the city.

Contact did not know it was listed and it was never used by the company. The huge concrete silos inside made it difficult and expensive to convert or demolish.

The company now has no listed buildings in Hull, but the city council has expressed the hope that the Francis Reckitt Institute (FRI) will be retained. As we reported in our June issue (No.51) last year the FRI still has the historic company school classrooms, where the Reckitt Continuation School founded in 1919 for 14-18 year old employees continued until 1967.

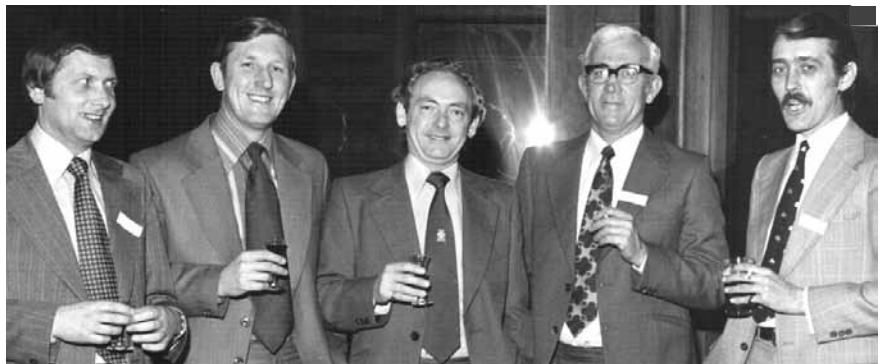
The classic William Aumonier designed war memorial in Dansom Lane with its statue, cherubs and fountain is listed with the War Memorials Trust. This could limit development around it or any plans to move it.



# Another page of our history



*When a company called Page turned up in a pensioner listing Contact had to turn to the archive again. Charles G Page Ltd was a subsidiary of the Winsor & Newton business which was acquired by Reckitt & Colman Ltd in 1976 and thus formed part of the Leisure Division which was disposed of to Colart Fine Art & Graphics Ltd in 1990. Page boxes contained artists' water and oil colours.*



**Clean round the Orangery**

For a change from those glass (or cig) in hand sales meeting memories, this photo circulated at a Derby get-together. Date and names not known but the setting is the Harpic line and the message is clear - we've done our bit, now let's have some more orders in.

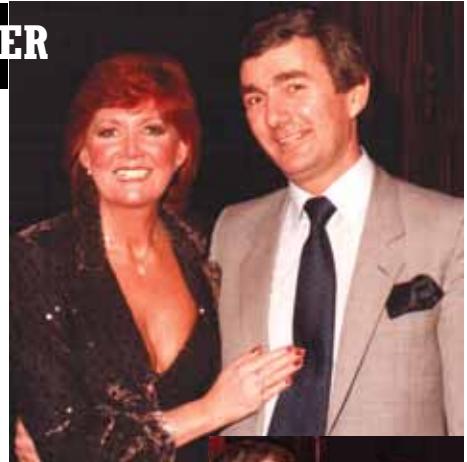
## SCOUSERS' GET-TOGETHER

A bird rather than a glass or cig in hand for this picture (right) of former Household Division sales promotion manager Gordon Foster with singer Cilla Black at a 1970s London sales conference.

As Gordon, like Cilla, is a Liverpudlian, colleagues reckoned the two hit it off together as the only ones there able to understand each other. But they didn't get too close, the restraining hand in the inset is that of Gordon's boss Peter Averill.

When the photographs come out at the get-togethers identification is usually not too difficult for people who worked together on the same site, but salesmen often only saw one another a couple of times a year so these Contact round-ups usually have a few "unknowns".

The picture below shows (l to r): Norman Thomason, Peter Averill, Gordon Foster, Colin Everard, Bill Straw,



**THE BOSS**

Jim Concannon, an unknown from Newcastle (even if the names are not known, it is usually remembered where they're from) and Joe Hancock.

Back to drinks and ciggies for the b&w pictures. Of the cricketers, below, only Peter Averill and Gordon Cooper (kneeling) are known. The imbibing group, bottom left, is (l to r) Brian Farmer, Peter Blanchard, Leo Johnson, Peter Averill, unknown.



## Reckitt-sponsored VSO opportunity in Canada so strong I went back

**From:** Tim Acey, Lloydminster, Alberta, Canada

**When in the UK last summer, where our second son graduated from Hull University, my aunt Laura Pearson (widow of E.R. Pearson, a Reckitt pensioner) passed on to me a bundle of *Contacts*. They made extremely interesting reading and brought me up to date with company happenings.**

My father, Arnold Avery, was the Registrar of R&C Holdings Ltd before Dennis Taylor who recently passed away (*Contact No.51, June 2011*). Apart from war service he spent his whole working life with Reckitts at Dansom Lane.

I worked for Reckitt & Sons and R&C Holdings from 1967-9 in the Customer Services Department, during which I had a wonderful opportunity through being singled out by John Mernagh to be sent overseas by Voluntary Service Overseas sponsored by Reckitts.

On my return, 1970-2, I worked in the Trade Marks and Patents Department, before it moved to London, and then with production planning.

### VSO in cold Labrador

My VSO service in Canada proved too strong and I have lived here since 1972. Married with three children and a church minister in the prairies.

Initially, my Canadian travels and work took me to Canada's North West Territories and Nunavut for 20 years.

My VSO service in the cold Labrador region of Canada was featured, I believe, in a 1970 or 71 edition of *Ours* coming out of Hull.

**Calling all  
WW2 veterans**



**WE  
WANT  
YOU!**

The Big Lottery Fund is making awards of between £150 and £5,500 to UK-based WW2 veterans or their widows, for commemorative trips back to the places where they served. We will also pay for a spouse and/or carer to travel with a veteran.

Call the Heroes Return 2 helpline 0845 00 00 121 or visit [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/heroesreturn](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/heroesreturn)

© National Lottery

Several landmarks speak out of my Reckitts service - the transition to computers from handwritten ledgers in Customer Services; the encouragement of John Mernagh, Jack Quantock and Bill Buttiner (Trade Marks and Patents) and playing the organ at the funeral of Walter Parr in Hornsea church.

Over the years our family has had a lot of history with Reckitts. I know Basil Reckitt was always an inspiration to my father, who is referred to in his book "The Garden Village."

In Canada we see a diverse array of Reckitt products on the shelf. I look forward to keeping in touch somehow through *iContact*.

**tim.acey@hotmail.com**

*Tim Acey sent us his letter in this lettercard from the Museum of Packaging (which, as we have reported in the past, includes many R&C products). This touch and the letter content; the family links; the company gesture in sending him on VSO seem to sum up the Big Society which we have been reporting as being established in the Reckitt and Colman companies more than 100 years ago, but which the politicians proclaiming it still seem unable to define clearly.*



We get a number of letters directed at (but not from) RB pensioners, usually trying to sell something. We don't publish them but the leaflet on the left accompanied a letter from a former member of Bomber Command on behalf of World War II veterans who, due to a lack of advertising, may not have been aware that in 2011 financial grants, Heroes Return II, were available from the Big Lottery Fund to enable veterans to pay a visit of remembrance to the theatre of war in which they were involved. It appears that the number of veterans claiming these grants was far less than anticipated, resulting in their being extended during 2012.

**The panel on the bottom of the leaflet gives the telephone number and e-mail to obtain details**

## Security for your family

When a Member of the Pension Fund dies, the Trustees decide who should receive related payments from the Fund. Make sure the Trustees are kept aware of your wishes.

Expression of Wish Forms (regarding payment of lump sums on death) and Nomination Forms (regarding payment of dependants' pensions) are available for you to complete and return from the RB Pensions Department in Hull or on the BIZ or, for DC Section Members, on the new website 'myrbpension.com'.

The above notice in the RB Pensions Update report accompanying the December 2011 *Contact* was followed by this letter:

**From: Mrs May Storr, Driffield, E.Yorks**

Thank you for the year end Update and the note on Expression of Wishes. Hopefully it will help many of my fellow pensioners give thought to the matter and make suitable arrangements.

However, I may be able to offer some useful further advice.

Since my husband passed away, some 32 years ago, the cost of a funeral has increased by 150 percent and will naturally continue to rise.

This constant increase can be avoided if you arrange "your requirements" now, paying at present day rates - leaving family, if any, greatly relieved of any responsibility.

Although this subject is often shied away from, it is best faced and dealt with.

*Ed's note: That's a useful hint, May. Obviously funeral directors and insurers will have schemes but we're asking the RB Pensioners' Association Committee to see if independent advice is available.*

**From: Andrew Hersom andrewhersom@gmail.com**

The "name to live up to for new school" story (*Contact No.53*) said Reckitts founded the University of Hull. Surely this is incorrect. T.R. Ferens (in a private capacity, not representing the Reckitt company) provided major funding to establish the University.

*Absolutely right, Andrew. The Council press release credited Reckitts and, being busy finding that Ferens picture near press time, we failed to spot it. One of Ferens' many community support acts outside the company.*

## OBITUARIES

# SEVENTY OF OUR PENSIONERS WILL MISS EDDIE'S VISITS

**Eddie Binns, who died early in February, was a leading light in the Northern Area visiting team. He joined the team at the time visiting was taken over by the Association in the mid 1990s and his list included some 70 pensioners living in the West Yorkshire and Manchester areas.**

Eddie served in the armed services in Cyprus when Archbishop Makarios was causing many problems. Whilst there he fell in love with the island and visited it many times after he left the services.

After the forces he joined Joseph Farrow in the era of the Cryer brothers, Roland Hill, Ken Morland and Paul Pallant.

Eddie, pictured right at a visitors' meeting in Hull, liked telling the story about a Regional Sales Meeting that was held on a boat cruising up the River Ouse. Ernie Cryer was the Regional Sales Manager briefing his team, and when going through various papers, if a particular item meant nothing to him, it was screwed up and thrown out of the boat.

Such was filing in those days!



### Typical Yorkshireman

Eddie was probably one of the most typical Yorkshireman you could find. He was proud of his West Yorkshire background and would talk at length about the Heavy Woollen District of that county.

Eddie's first love was cricket, and of course Yorkshire cricket. He felt strongly that only a person born in Yorkshire should be allowed play for Yorkshire.

But his passion for cricket did not end in Yorkshire and he toured the world following overseas test matches.

Eddie also umpired Yorkshire League cricket matches and he was a keen supporter of Leeds Rugby League.

When Eddie retired in 1994 he did not forsake the Company, but joined the visiting team, something he enjoyed as much as all his other activities. There is no doubt that the many pensioners he visited will sorely miss his regular call.

### CENTENARIAN WIDOW DIES

Pensioner's widow Nora Bridge, who reached 100 last year, has died. Her late husband Charles G Bridge was a director of Reckitt & Sons and Group Personnel Adviser. He joined Reckitt's Personnel Department in 1946, having served as a Superintendent of Armament Design during the war, and was appointed company personnel adviser in 1952. Nora lived in Penzance at the time of her death.

We regret to record the deaths of the following Reckitt Benckiser pensioners. This covers the period since the last issue of *Contact* (No 53, December 2011) but date of death may be as far back as November 17 last year, depending on when it was reported to Pensions Department.

### NORTHERN REGION

(*Hull, unless otherwise stated*)  
**Elsie Daddy, aged 84, 10 years' service; Beryl Watkin (71), 33; Margaret Hornsey (88), 13; Eric Bentley (85), 21; Melvyn West (66), 29; Geoffrey Poppleton (81), 30; Colin Park (81), 28; John Reeve (80), 12; Colin Scaife (75), 28; Alan Redburn (78), 15; Thomas Lewis (80), 27; Leslie Hellstrom (83), 41; Roy Lawrence (86), 45; Alan Broughton (65), 25; Harry Ounsworth (75), 31; Lawrence Ward (89), 45; Kenneth Barnes (85), 30; Kenneth Turner (75), 25; Dennis Blackburne (86), 28; John Grayson (87), 20; Albert Magee (74), 21; Richard Everett (72), 25; Terry Jowsey (78), 2.**

**HQ, Hull – Peter Conyers (79), 33.**

**Colours Division, Morley Street – James Holroyd (78), 31; Backbarrow – Brenda Hartshorn (74), 24.**

**Derby – Mary Parker (89), 36. Poynton Depot – Ernest Holland (86), 8.**

**Services Division – Colin Dann (73), 22; Reginald Leahy (79), 21.**

### EASTERN REGION

(*Norwich, unless otherwise stated*)

**Betty Parramint (88), 31; Mary Deacon (89), 16; Jean Ireson (82), 26; Raymond Knott (82), 27; Arthur Parslow (89), 29; Lewin Taylor (87), 24; Edward Binns (73), 30; Alexander McNair (60), 14; David Coull (91), 31; Robert Shipp (92), 10;**

**Judith Moore (61), 20; Joyce Mellor (87), 19; Margaret Wicks (82), 9; Joyce Lacey (90), 44; Geoffrey Read (89), 27; Raymond Dickerson (79), 16.**

### SOUTHERN REGION

(*Chiswick, unless otherwise stated*)

**Sarah Hoskin (88), 6; Margaret Irons (87), 20; Edward Bedford (90), 1; Leslie Osborne (92), 10; Bernard Richardson (86), 6.**

**HQ – Margaret Gardiner (89), 27.**

**Meltonian Wren – Ernest Pavitt (89), 6.**

**Fine Arts & Graphics, Wealdstone – Della Palmer (85), 39; John Pipes (88), 19; Alfred Sewell (90), 6; Leicester – Robert Puddephatt (85), 8; Reginald Roberts (90), 50; Nottingham – David Wealthall (61), 1.**

**Expats, Peru – John Griffin (85), 39; Kenya – Alexander Appleford (90), 11.**

Our on-line readers turn the page as usual but printed newsletter readers who would like to see the extra 16 pages we have been able to add to this month's digital copy can log on to:

[www.icontactnewsletter.co.uk](http://www.icontactnewsletter.co.uk)

Our pensioner visitors tell us some members who have Internet access are reluctant to pass on their e-mail address for fear of being targeted for spam mail. That is quite understandable and passing on your e-mail link must be voluntary. All we can do is assure you that we would only use it to advise you that iContact is available and for no other purpose. It will be a case of you making random log-ons in June and December if you prefer not to have e-mail notification, but e-mail us at [contact@nilspin.com](mailto:contact@nilspin.com) if you want to be on the list.

# iCONTACT

## DIGITAL SUPPLEMENT

The more economical digital technology allows us to inform our readers about the past as well as the present as the extra pages with this issue show. The rising cost of print and postage makes increased use of this medium inevitable and we do hope those who have on-line access will be able to show fellow pensioners who do not have access the stories and pictures on these digital pages that would interest them.

In the present economic climate many holiday plans are being revised and our East Coast beaches may be more favoured than those of the Mediterranean or Caribbean. In this Diamond Jubilee year we go back 60 years for this picture, below, from among those for which we did not have room in recent editions. This was a Reckitt girls' camp at Whitby in the 1950s (take your own blankets, straw mattresses and a steep descent to the beach). Names welcomed.



### Ploughman's Lunch celebrates Halloween

More than 30 pensioners celebrated Halloween with a Ploughman's Lunch at High Wycombe. There were several new faces including Peter Moore and his wife, Jill from Chiswick, Arthur Tolson from HR in Chiswick and High Wycombe, John Walker, Jean Lovell, Mrs Wiggins - a visitor from Winsor and Newton, Tony Swale (Southern co-ordinator) and Susan Mortimer from Chiswick and Windsor.

Familiar and very welcome back were: Pam Holt, George Waddington, John Rolls, John Bazin, John Carvell, Peter

Knee (representing High Wycombe and Winsor and Newton), Dick Avery, Tony Citrone, Bert Childs, Bob Waite, Mike Stroud, plus a group of ladies led by

Dot Collier, including Daphne Fawcett, Jean Farrell, Christine Chapman, Pauline Luck and Ann Fiander.





## GET-TOGETHERS OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS

PRESIDED OVER

BY WHOM?

Still not enough room for all the pictures we get sent in from your get-togethers, but here's a selection from Derby (top three, rain obviously expected by some attendees!). Leicester, centre left. Hull, left and right above, with photographer Phil Mayor capturing a commanding piece of statuary in the overseeing role – not, we understand, a Reckitt. High Wycombe has obviously taken to the Ploughman's Lunch. Not surprisingly when you see the size of the spread, left. No wonder they get a good turnout!

*In his Contact article of February 2009 Dr. Chris Coulson looked at the rise of the Quaker industrialists, their relationship to Hull and the role that the Reckitt family played in the economic development of the City. Many of the Reckitt family along with other notable Hull Quakers are buried in the Old General Cemetery on Spring Bank West. The Reckitt family tree showed that Issac Reckitt's youngest daughter, Constance, James Reckitt's younger sister, died in 1847 aged 12 but her grave is not with other Reckitts in the burial ground at Spring Bank. Given her young age at death and being part of an important Hull family the question arises -- what happened to her? Chris's researches showed:*

# Constance went away to school - and never came back

**The practice at the time was that the children of many Quaker families, or those families that could afford it, would be sent away to Quaker schools. There were several such schools around the country and one or two of Reckitt's children seem to have died at them.**

At that time it seems that children were at school permanently, holidays only appearing in the 1870s. Perhaps transport was the problem or the 19<sup>th</sup> century adage 'that children should be seen and not heard' kept them away from home.

Constance who attended Ackworth School (a Quaker school founded in 1779) in the West Riding, was one such child. She died on the 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 1847 at Ackworth apparently having only been at the school a few months and was buried on 23 December 1847.

The Ackworth School Committee Minutes of Jan 31<sup>st</sup> (?) 1848, top right, indicate she died of 'inflammation of the heart and pleura'

## Malignant fever

Serious bouts of illness were not uncommon in such schools and in 1828 Ackworth School was beset by 'malignant fever' during which two children died and many more were ill.

Ackworth school records show that this was not an isolated event though apparently not caused by the 'weather'.

However, presumably like many such schools of the time, life as a pupil was not easy and while poor Constance died young other Reckitt's recollections suggest that the somewhat austere life was of eventual benefit to them.

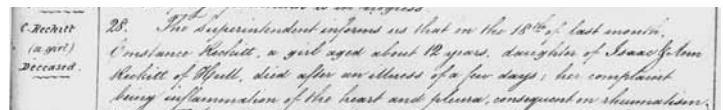
To put things into context and finish the story let's leap onto another but related track. Quaker Burial Grounds are un-consecrated, Quakerism being a non conformist sect.

## 'Un-consecrated' Quaker plot

For instance the 'un-consecrated' plot in the Old General Cemetery, Hull, in which many Reckitts are buried, was leased in 1855 for 999 years by the Quakers for their burials.

In Hull another Quaker burial ground (53° 44' 58.1" N. 0° 19' 36.6" W) lies between Hodgson St and Spyvee St off Cleveland St.. This plot is about 115 ft by 76 ft but unfortunately no plaques or stones now remain.

By 1845 it had about 211 graves, 117 identifiable and the identifiable dead range from the age of 52 (Edward West) to several one year olds.



The plot was surrounded by small terraced houses and was entered from Hodgson Street, but the entrance is now blocked off with metal sheeting. The graves are not those of illustrious Quakers as is the case of the Spring Bank burial ground although there are some of the same name for example, West and Thorp and curiously some Recketts spelt with an 'e' instead of an 'i'.

Interestingly in England the Recketts seem to have a similar distribution to the Reckitts. Whether or not they both have the same family root could only be a guess at present.

Evidence suggests that after the mid 1800s and the growth of municipal cemeteries Quaker Burial Grounds, as separate plots of land, were not developed.

Philip Austwick, (born 1625) was a Quaker from the Ackworth area and evidence suggests that he, his wife and daughter Elizabeth emigrated to America in 1666. However, Philip at least seems to have returned at some time as in 1707 he donated a plot of land 12 yards by 12 yards for Quaker burials down Lee Lane, Ackworth (53° 39' 47" N. 1° 19' 28.6" W).

Unfortunately he soon took up a place in his donated plot as he died three years later in 1710!

Unlike the vast majority of Quaker graves in the Old General Cemetery in Hull the graves at Ackworth are tablets of stone though the date notation style is the same.

In the Ackworth cemetery there is a tablet of stone with the inscription 'Constance Reckitt of Hull Died 18<sup>th</sup> of 12<sup>th</sup> Mo 1847 Aged 12 years'.

This is the grave of the youngest daughter of Issac Reckitt, the founder of the Hull company, and younger sister of James Reckitt, Hull's well known Quaker philanthropist.

If Constance was in fact coming home for Christmas it is sad to think that before this could happen she died seven days before Christmas day.

**Dr Chris Coulson Jan 2012.**

*Acknowledgements: Thanks to Ben and Diana Rothwell for the photo of Constance Reckitt's grave and the Ackworth School Archivist for the school minutes.*

*Having highlighted the film and stage versions of The War Horse on P4 of this issue as a trailer for this Carrow News reprint in the digital supplement it was a pleasant surprise to see a special appearance at the HM Diamond Jubilee celebrations. The Queen was plainly delighted with the prancing of the puppet horse, right, on the roof of the National Theatre as the Thames River Pageant passed.*



## THE CARRROW WORKS MAGAZINE

# Our Army Horses

BY LAURA E. STUART

Many of us have wondered sadly what becomes of the horses commandeered by the Army. What, for example, is likely to be the fate of the pair of magnificent horses from Carrow Works which were claimed by the military authorities in the early days of the war – those horses which, being taken to the military camp nearby, seized a stray chance of escape and galloped back towards their old stable at Carrow Works?

This, at least, may be said: that, just as this war is being waged with more care for the needs of the soldiers than was the case in any previous war, so also is more care given to the horses. And it has been thought that a short account of what is being done by our Army Authorities to care for its horses both at home and in France might be of some interest to readers of the Carrow Works Magazine. It will be told for the most part in the words of eye-witnesses.

After the close of the Boer War, during which the wastage of horses was very great, the British A.V.C. (Army Veterinary Corps) was established, the story of whose work, as illustrated by the present war, is a wonderful history of foresight, endurance and humanity. For in this war

"The general mortality among horses has been brought down by the fine work of the A.V.C. to 13 per cent during the first four months of the war compared with 50 per cent in the corresponding period of the Boer War, and the splendid organisation of the veterinary camps is bringing down the percentage even further." – *Daily Chronicle, Jan. 28.*

Then again, it is pleasant to remember that as a rule the

care of the soldier for his horse is great. An Englishwoman living at Nogent-sur-Marne writes:

"A fortnight ago some one came for my father telling him that an English soldier was ill, and that he was a little higher up the boulevard. No one could understand him. You can imagine how glad he was when my father arrived. He wanted nothing for himself, but was anxious about his horse, a beautiful creature of which he seemed to be very fond. It was given some wet oats. My mother went out to shake his hand, and it was such a pleasure for the poor boy to make himself understood and to speak his native language."

In the early days of the war both men and horses suffered intensely from the heat. The following story is told by a French Officer, in reference to the fighting near Paris at the beginning of September:

"We had no water for ourselves, and were four days thirsty. It was really terrible, for the heat during the day was terrific, and some of us were almost mad with thirst. Our tongues were blistered and swollen, our eyes had a silly kind of look in them, and at night we had horrific dreams. It was, I assure you, an intolerable agony. But we did our best for the horses. I have said we were four days without drink. That was because we used our last water for the poor beasts. A gentleman has to do that you will agree? – and the French soldier is not a barbarian."

### A TRAGEDY OF THE RETREAT FROM MONS –

A Welshman, a driver in the Royal Field Artillery, tells the following simple story about his horses in the war:

"I had driven them for three years. I tell you I could talk to them just as I am talking to you. There is not a word I said they did not understand. And they could answer me – they could indeed. I was never once at a loss to know what they meant. When I was astride one of them – why I had only to think what I wanted him to do and

he would do it without being told. Early in the retreat from Mons a shell crashed right into the middle of the section with which I was moving.

My gun was wrecked. I was ordered to help with another.

As I mounted the fresh horse to continue the retreat I saw my two horses struggling and kicking on the ground to free themselves. I could not go back to them. I tell you it hurt me. Suddenly a French



Left, RSPCA inspectors as members of the Army Veterinary Corps supervising the entraining of horses from a convalescent depot.

chasseur dashed up to them, cut the traces and set them at liberty. I was a good way ahead by that time, but I kept looking back at them and I could tell that they saw me directly they were on their feet – those horses followed me for four days.

We stopped for barely five minutes and I could not get back to them. There was no work for them, but they kept their places in the line like trained soldiers.

They were following me to the very end, and the thought occurred to me a thousand times. 'What do they think of me on another horse?'

Whenever I looked, there they were in the line watching me anxiously and sorrowfully as to make me feel guilty of deserting them. Whenever word 'Halt' ran down the column, I held up my hand to them and they saw it every time. They stopped instantly.

Whether they got anything to eat I do not know. I wonder whether they dropped out through sheer exhaustion – I hope to Heaven it was not that. At any rate, one morning when the retreat was all but over I missed them. I suppose I shall never see them again. That is the sort of thing that hurts a soldier in war."

The Army Veterinary Corps is aided in its work by the R.S.P.C.A. which at the beginning of the war offered its services to the Army Authorities. This offer has been cordially accepted, and it now works as an auxiliary of the A.V.C.

The work undertaken by the R.S.P.C.A. includes: the erection of a Hospital in France for sick and wounded horses, the provision and dispatch to the various veterinary hospitals of motor lorries for conveying fodder), ambulances for conveying wounded horses, humane killers, shelters and chaff cutters, and an enormous quantity of horse collars, halters, rollers, bandages, medicines and other requirements.

There is no space here in which to describe in detail the elaborate plan of First Aid, Field and Base Hospitals,

Convalescent Camps. etc. for horses, but it may be noted that:

"To every division and cavalry brigade is attached a mobile veterinary section. Each consists of one officer and twenty-two trained men of the Army Veterinary Corps, all mounted and fully equipped with all the necessary veterinary means. They are the connecting link between the field units and the veterinary hospitals.

Then come the veterinary hospitals. At different points along the line of communication the cases are received into the advance hospital, and from there, after treatment, drafted according to their severity, to the hospitals further down the line.

The cases which end in complete recovery are discharged to the remount department for re-issue to the fighting troops, but many horses discharged from hospital are found to require further rest before they are fit for re-issue. These are drafted to the convalescent horse depot."

Sergt H., Army Veterinary Corps (formerly an R.S.P.C.A. Officer) writes:

"To give you an outline of my work France. At this horse depot I am in sole charge of over 500 horses which are in various paddocks, each horse having three-quarters of an acre of grazing.

My first paddock consists of horses which have been wounded or injured. I have men to dress their injuries.

My next paddock is what we call the debility paddock, that is, when the poor animals pass out of the dressers' hands, I transfer them to paddock No.2.

I then see that every animal has extra food, and when they are in a fair condition I transfer them to the other paddocks. When they are quite fit I pick the best out."

\*An excellent dogs' home and refuge, established by a local organization at Boulogne, is being enlarged at the expense of the R.S.P.C.A. for the reception of any animals deposited by soldiers of the Allies. These will be kept and looked after free of charge until claimed by their owners.



*A chloroformed horse about to settle gently down before being operated upon*

# In bright memory of Captain Robert Falcon Scott and his four comrades.

BY LAURA E. STUART.

[Special thanks are due to the Central News Ltd. for permission willingly given to quote in the Carrow Works Magazine from their copyrighted despatches, including Captain Scott's diary and his last letter, and also to the Editor of The Sphere (Mr. Clement Shorter) for generous leave to use pictures and material from that journal.]

**S**OMETHING has happened which has lifted the thoughts of those who have heard it clean away from the turbulent world of everyday life into a clearer atmosphere. It is the story of Captain Scott and his comrades.

What manner of man was he, the leader of the expedition, whose bravery, care for others, devotion to duty did not fail him even in the face of a slow death from starvation and cold in those lonely icy wilds near the South Pole?

And Captain Oates, the young cavalry officer, who, because his strength was failing, walked out into the blizzard and met death rather than be a burden to his struggling companions?

It has been thought well that something of the story should be told in the Carrow Works Magazine.

**Captain Scott and Carrow:** Some at Carrow remember how one day, about twelve years ago, a young man with keen eyes, sunny smile and intense purpose in his face visited Carrow, and it became known that this young man, almost boyish in appearance, was Captain Scott, who had been appointed Commander of the "Discovery," the ship which was to explore unknown regions round the South Pole. He had come to give directions concerning the packing of the flour and other goods which J. & J. Colman, Ltd., presented to the 1901 Expedition. He also visited Carrow before his second Expedition.

**How he became Commander:** In his fascinating history of this first Expedition, entitled "The Voyage of the Discovery," Captain Scott tells that he had no special bent towards Polar Exploration, but that one day in 1899, happening to espy a naval friend

walking in a street in London, he stopped, had a chat, heard for the first time of the forthcoming Expedition to the South Pole, thought over the matter, and two days later wrote offering his services. A year later he was appointed Commander.

There is no space to tell here the story of the first Expedition (1901-1904), but in passing it may be mentioned that one of Captain Scott's right-hand men during these years hailed from Norwich — Lieutenant Skelton, the chief Engineer.

**The Second Expedition:** We turn now to Captain Scott's second Expedition, which was organised chiefly by his personal energy, which sailed from England full of high hope in 1910, which attained its object—that of reaching the South Pole, and of adding to scientific knowledge, but which has resulted in the death of its Commander and four of his comrades.

Certain facts must be gripped before the story can be realised :

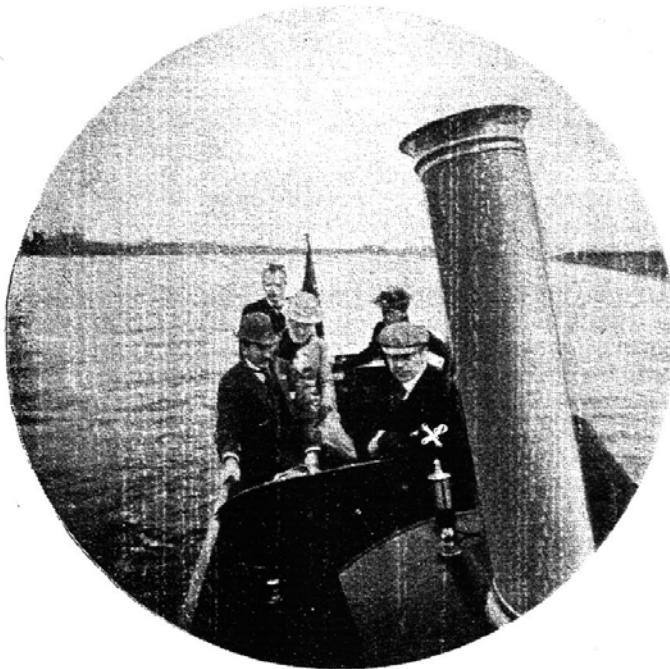
1. The land surrounding the South Pole is for hundreds of miles covered by an immense ice-cap, the edges of which creep out into the sea, and, breaking off, float away as icebergs. It is a barren, desolate region of continuous ice and snow.

2. The period which is winter in England is summer at the South Pole. Hence it was that Captain Scott's dash to the Pole from the land camp which he had established at Cape Evans had to take place during November, December, January, and February.

3. Even in summer in the South Polar regions intense cold prevails. Captain Scott speaks of the temperature on a certain February 2nd, which corresponds with August 2nd in England, being only five degrees above zero and of the ship's rigging being festooned with icicles, and wonders what holiday-makers in England would think of a Polar summer.

4. From the end of March till September the sun never appears above the horizon in the regions of the Southern Pole. It is the Polar night.

5. The intensity of the blizzards—the wind sometimes rushing at sixty miles an hour, and the air thick with driven snow crystals—is a feature of the South Polar regions. It was



CAPTAIN SCOTT ON A NORFOLK RIVER.  
SEE X.

one of these storms which finally overwhelmed Captain Scott and his companions.

6. Whereas in North Polar<sup>1</sup> regions large land animals, such as bears, are fairly abundant and form a source of food for explorers, in South Polar regions no such animals are found. Consequently except where seals are obtainable (*i.e.* near the sea coast), South Pole explorers have to carry all their food—as also all their fuel—with them, thereby immensely increasing their difficulties.

7. The distance which Captain Scott and his four comrades had to traverse from their starting point at One Ton Camp to the South Pole was about 750 miles. In other words, the distance was about seven times as far as Norwich is from London, and all the way was over wind-swept regions of ice and snow.

**The Start of the Expedition:** In July, 1910, Captain Scott's second expedition sailed from England in the "Terra Nova," and Carrow people will be interested to know that it, like the first expedition, carried a large consignment of goods presented to Captain Scott by J. & J. Colman, Ltd. "It was the happiest expedition that ever left these shores, and there was not a man who would not unflinchingly lay down his life to save his companions," writes the sister of Dr. Wilson,

one of the four men who died with Captain Scott. The ship touched at New Zealand, and then on November 29th, 1910, with Captain Scott in command, started on her 2000 mile voyage towards the South Pole, carrying fifty-eight carefully chosen officers and men on board, also ponies and dogs. Among the party were several scientific men.

**The Start for the Pole:** The Polar winter of 1911 (corresponding to our summer) having ended, and all preparations having been completed, Captain Scott's great journey to the Pole began. The party left Cape Evans and Hut Point in various detachments, but finally joined forces at One Ton Camp, 750 miles from the Pole. Here, Captain Scott tells us, and it is a characteristic touch: "a day's rest was given to the animals." Then, on November 17th, 1911, the party starts for the Pole. It consisted of eighteen men, with sledges and ponies and dogs to draw them, and also some motor sledges. The sledges were laden with food, fuel, tents, scientific instruments, etc.

**Plan of Campaign:** Captain Scott's plan, which was duly carried out, was to send back at regular intervals detachments of men and animals after they had deposited their burdens of food, fuel, etc., in heaps, or dépôts, at distances of about sixty-five miles apart along the route. This was in order to diminish the number of mouths to be fed on the return journey from the Pole. Consequently as the party journeyed on their numbers grew steadily less.

**The Journey to the Pole:** Rough, wind-swept snow, frozen into the shape of ice waves, impeded the progress. The cold was intense. The motor sledges broke down and had to be abandoned. As we learn from Captain Scott's letters sent back by the various returning parties: "Snowstorms were frequent." "We had constantly to dig out the ponies and tents from the drifting snow." On one occasion a gale sprang up which held up the party for four days. Still on and on they push. From various causes the ponies cease to be available. On December 21st, 1911, four more men are sent back (the dog teams have already turned homewards, and the explorers are dragging the laden sledges themselves), bringing with them

a ringing message of hope from Captain Scott : "Everybody is in the best of health and in high spirits." "It has been very difficult to choose the advance party," writes Captain Scott, "as everyone is fit and able to go forward. Those who return are naturally much disappointed." Finally, when 156 miles from the Pole, the last supporting party of three men is sent back, leaving Captain Scott and four companions to push on to the goal. These it was who reached the Pole on January 17th, 1912, and who on the return journey died from cold and hunger. Pictures of them are given in this article.

**The Five who went on :** They were

(a) Captain Robert Falcon Scott, son of the late Mr. J. E. Scott; born in Devonport 1868; entered Navy 1882; married 1908 Kathleen Bruce; one son, Peter, born 1909. "Simple, high-souled, earnest, indomitable—his main characteristic was his utter disregard of self," writes one who knew him well. His wife, who

has been raised by the King to the rank of a Knight's wife, is a well-known sculptor. His mother is living.

(b) Dr. E. A. Wilson; born 1872; educated at Cheltenham and Cambridge. He was Captain Scott's right-hand man; was chief of the Scientific staff, a skilled doctor and also the artist of the expedition. His wife was waiting for him in New Zealand.

(c) Lieutenant H. R. Bowers, of the Royal Indian Marine; was in charge of the food department of the expedition; unmarried. His mother was a widow and he was her only son.

(d) Seaman E. Evans; petty officer of the Navy; in charge of the sledges; married, three children. Like Dr. Wilson he had been with Captain Scott in his first Polar Expedition.

(e) Finally, Captain L. E. G. Oates of the Inniskilling Dragoons; born 1880; educated at Eton. In the Army he was known as "No surrender Oates" from an act of great bravery shown when on active service. It was on his thirty-second birthday that he walked out to die in the blizzard rather than be a drag on his companions. His mother has kindly lent the photograph here reproduced, saying she considers it the best she has of her son.

**At the Pole :** On January 17th, 1912, Captain Scott and his four companions reached the Pole, and their long tramp of 750 miles from One Ton dépôt was at an end. The records of the Norwegian Explorer, Amundsen, who had reached the Pole about a month earlier, were found there. Some time was spent at the Pole photographing, taking scientific observations, etc., and then Captain Scott and his four comrades began the return journey.

**The Missing Party :** The five travellers were expected back at Hut Point by about March 10th, 1912. But day after day passed and they did not come. And one element of the tragedy was that the long Polar night was gradually settling down on the region, during which search work was impossible.

\* \* \* \* \*

[The remainder of this Article is from the "Central News" Copyrighted Despatches.]

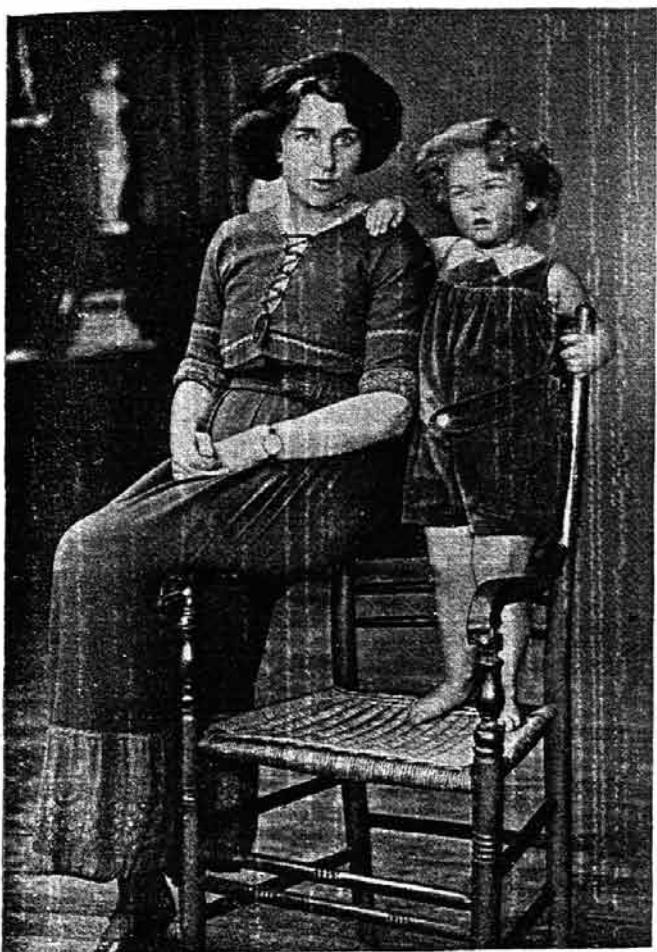
**The Search :** Six months later, on October 30th of last year, the Polar winter being over, a search party left Cape Evans. A fortnight



Photo. by permission of]

[*The Sphere*.]

ONE OF CAPTAIN SCOTT'S CREW WITH TWO OF THE  
WHITE SIBERIAN DOGS.



Photo, by permission of

[Illustration Bureau.

LADY SCOTT AND PETER.

later, on November 12th, a small tent was espied about eleven miles south of One Ton dépôt. In it were found the bodies of Captain Scott, Dr. Wilson, and Lieutenant Bowers, where they had lain for nearly eight months. With them were all their scientific records and thirty-five lbs. weight of fossils, gathered from a rocky peak which juts out near the Pole, which in spite of all difficulties the intrepid men had dragged on their sledges for 700 miles. These fossils are likely to be of great scientific value. Captain Scott's letter, given below, is dated 25th March, 1912, and their deaths must have occurred within a few days of that time. The last survivor was Captain Scott.

**Their Memorial:** The three were buried where they lay, and over them a cairn of snow and a cross were erected, with an inscription telling something of the story of heroism.

**The History of their last Journey:** From records found in the tent the following information was gleaned :

The first death was that of Seaman Edgar Evans. He died on February 17th at the foot of the Beardmore Glacier. His death was accelerated by a concussion of the brain sustained while travelling over rough ice some time previously.

Captain L. E. G. Oates, 6th Inniskilling Dragoons, was the next to be lost. His feet and hands were badly frost-bitten, and although he struggled on heroically his comrades knew on March 16th that his end was approaching. He had borne intense suffering for weeks without complaint, and he did not give up hope to the very end. Captain Scott writes : "He was a brave soul. He slept through the night hoping not to wake, but he awoke in the morning. It was blowing a blizzard. Oates said, 'I am just going outside, and I may be some time.' He went out into the blizzard, and we have not seen him since."

Captain Scott adds : "We knew that Oates was walking to his death, but though we tried to dissuade him, we knew it was the act of a brave man and an English gentleman."

It would appear that on March 16th, Oates was really quite unable to travel. The others could not leave him.

After his gallant death, Captain Scott, Dr. Wilson and Lieutenant Bowers pushed northwards as far as the weather, which was abnormally bad, would let them, but they were forced to camp on March 21st.

They were then eleven miles south of the big dépôt at One Ton Camp, but this they never reached, owing to a blizzard which is known from the records to have lasted nine days. When the blizzard overtook them their food and their fuel gave out.

#### \*CAPTAIN SCOTT'S LAST DIARY.

In Captain Scott's diary was found the following :

"The causes of this disaster are not due to faulty organisation, but to misfortune in all risks which had to be undertaken.

"I. The loss of pony transport in March, 1911, obliged me to start later than I had intended, and obliged the limits of stuff transported to be narrowed.

## Captain Scott's Comrades.



*Photo, by permission of* [the Mother of Captain Oates.]  
CAPTAIN L. E. G. OATES:  
Walked out into blizzard, March 17th, 1912.



*Photo, by permission of* [The Sphere and Tatler.]  
LIEUTENANT H. R. BOWERS:  
Died about March 29th, 1912.



*Photo, by permission of* [The Press Picture Agency.]  
DR. E. A. WILSON:  
Died about March 29th, 1912.



*Photo, by permission of* [The Sphere and Tatler.]  
PETTY OFFICER E. EVANS:  
Died February 17th, 1912.

"2. The weather throughout the outward journey, and especially the long gale in 83 deg. South, stopped us.

"3. The soft snow in the lower reaches of the glacier again reduced the pace. We fought these untoward events with a will and conquered, but it ate into our provisions reserve. Every detail of our food supplies, clothing, and depôts made on the interior ice-sheet and on that long stretch of 700 miles to the Pole and back worked out to perfection. The advance party would have returned to the glacier in fine form and with a surplus of food but for the astonishing failure of the man whom we had least expected to fail. Seaman Edgar Evans was thought to be the strong man of the party, and the Beardmore Glacier is not difficult in fine weather.

"But on our return we did not get a single completely fine day. This, with a sick companion, enormously increased our difficulties.

"I have said elsewhere we got into frightfully rough ice, and Edgar Evans received a concussion of the brain. He died a natural death, but left us a shaken party with the season unduly advanced.

"But all the facts above enumerated were as nothing to the surprise which awaited us on the Barrier. I maintain that our arrangements for returning were quite adequate, and that no one in the world would have expected the temperature and surface which we encountered at this time of the year. On the summit in lat. 85 deg. to lat. 86 deg., we had minus 20 to minus 30.

"On the Barrier, in lat. 82 deg., 10,000 ft. lower, we had — 30 in the day and — 47 at night pretty regularly, with a continuous head wind during our day marches.\*

"It is clear that these circumstances came on very suddenly, and our wreck is certainly due to this sudden advent of severe weather, which does not seem to have any satisfactory cause.

"I do not think human beings ever came

\*That is to say this temperature was on the average about 70 degrees below freezing point. In other words it was as much *below* freezing point (32° Fahrenheit) as a hot summer day in England is *above* freezing.

through such a month as we have come through, and we should have got through, in spite of the weather, but for the sickening of a second companion, Captain Oates, and a shortage of fuel in our depôts for which I cannot account, and, finally, but for the storm which has fallen on us within eleven miles of this dépôt, at which we hoped to secure the final supplies.

"Surely misfortune could scarcely have exceeded this last blow. We arrived within eleven miles of our old 'One Ton' Camp with fuel for one hot meal and food for two days.

"For four days we have been unable to leave the tent, a gale blowing about us."

#### CAPTAIN SCOTT'S LAST MESSAGE :

"We are weak, writing is difficult, but, for my own sake, I do not regret this journey, which has shown that Englishmen can endure hardship, help one another, and meet death with as great a fortitude as ever in the past.

"We took risks—we know we took them.

"Things have come out against us, and therefore we have no cause for complaint, but bow to the will of Providence, determined still to do our best to the last.

"But if we have been willing to give our lives to this enterprise, which is for the honour of our country, I appeal to our countrymen to see that those who depend on us are properly cared for.

"Had we lived, I should have had a tale to tell of the hardihood, endurance, and courage of my companions which would have stirred the heart of every Englishman.

"These rough notes and our dead bodies must tell the tale; but surely, surely, a great, rich country like ours will see that those who are dependent upon us are properly provided for.

"(Signed) R. SCOTT, 25th March, 1912."

**Captain Oates:** A search was made twenty miles further on for Captain Oates' body, but it was not found. Near the spot where he walked out into the blizzard a cairn was erected.

The two inscriptions erected by the search party are :

THIS CROSS AND CAIRN ERECTED OVER THE  
REMAINS OF  
CAPTAIN R. F. SCOTT, C.V.O., R.N.  
DR. E. A. WILSON, AND  
LIEUTENANT H. R. BOWERS, R.I.M.  
AS A SLIGHT TOKEN TO PERPETUATE THEIR  
GALLANT AND SUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO  
REACH THE GOAL.  
THIS THEY DID ON THE 17TH JANUARY, 1912,  
AFTER THE NORWEGIANS HAD ALREADY  
DONE SO ON THE 14TH DECEMBER, 1911.  
ALSO TO COMMEMORATE THEIR TWO  
GALLANT COMRADES  
CAPTAIN L. E. G. OATES,  
OF THE INNISKILLING DRAGOONS, WHO  
WALKED TO HIS DEATH IN A BLIZZARD  
WILLINGLY ABOUT 20 MILES SOUTH OF THIS  
PLACE TO TRY AND SAVE HIS COMRADES  
BESET BY HARDSHIPS; ALSO  
PETTY-OFFICER EDGAR EVANS  
WHO DIED AT THE FOOT OF THE BEARDMORE  
GLACIER.  
“THE LORD GAVE AND THE LORD TAKETH  
AWAY. BLESSED BE THE NAME  
OF THE LORD.”

HEREABOUTS DIED A VERY GALLANT  
GENTLEMAN,  
CAPTAIN L. E. G. OATES,  
INNISKILLING DRAGOONS,  
WHO, ON THEIR RETURN FROM THE  
POLE IN MARCH, 1912,  
WILLINGLY WALKED TO HIS DEATH IN  
A BLIZZARD TO TRY AND SAVE  
HIS COMRADES BESET BY  
HARDSHIP.