



Lest we forget - VJ DAY

The Archer had difficulty tracking down any Old Soldier in East Finchley who took part in WW2's South East Asian campaign against Japan, which officially finished on VJ Day 50 years ago.

The nearest link we got was that of the editor's own deceased father. Major A.G. Savill served with the Chindits, that specially trained body of men who penetrated the Japanese lines in the Burmese jungle.

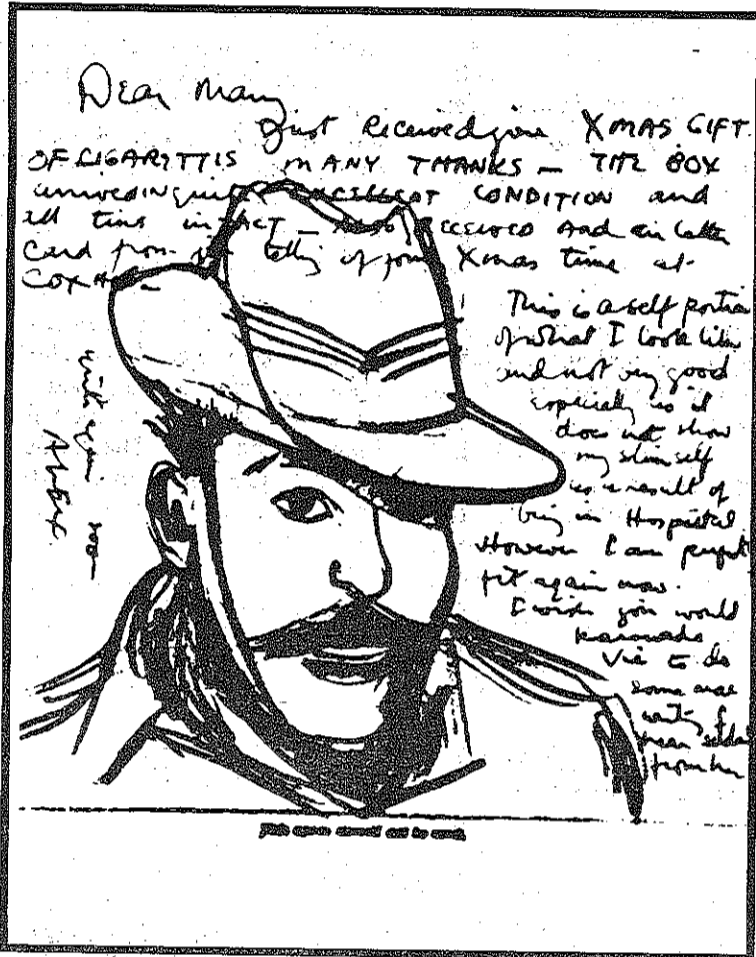
Lost post

They called themselves "the Forgotten Army" because people at home were more concerned with the war in Europe. The Archer wants to show that it has not forgotten by publishing here a postcard from Major Savill sent home in 1944.

It includes a portrait of himself in a Chindit hat. He sent this card to his sister after being invalided into a hospital in India. In the card he urges his sister to get his wife Vie - always a bad letter writer - to write more to him!

He came home. Many of his regiment did not.

If anyone knows of any Old Soldiers in east Finchley who fought in the war against Japan, will they please contact The Archer.



NATURE NOTES

Nature Notes

by R.E. Mack

July and August are my least favourite months. I quite like hot weather, but in London it is noisy, smelly and oppressive. The air quality is low and the pollen count high. The sunlight threatens us with dreadful cancers.

The fresh green of the leaves and grass has turned to a darker hue. The birds are silent and invisible, most of them having retired to the upper canopy of the trees, to recover from the hard work of rearing offspring, and to accumulate strength to face the rigours of winter in this country, or of emigration elsewhere.

Empty house
This summer is a particularly sad one because, for the second year running, there are no house martins in Summerlee Avenue. Every year these migrants have come from sub-Saharan Africa to nest in the same few houses. This year there are none (I know not why).

The swifts arrived on time, at the beginning of May, and are still here (end of July), but will be on the way to sub-Saharan soon.

My Buddleia Bush (the Butterfly Tree) came into bloom, flourished and faded, without attracting any butterflies apart from a single Cabbage White and Holly Blue. I am told that the Buddleias are early this year and the butterflies late, so we may well see some Nymphalidae - Red Admirals, Peacocks or even Painted Ladies. Earlier in the year I saw Brimstones, Peacocks and Lesser Tortoiseshells, but these had hibernated and were rather tattered. There are a few Commas about and plenty of Meadow Browns and Gate-

keepers in the long grass. One of the few birds still singing is the Wren, a very small bird with a very loud voice, who nests behind a tiny crack in the woodwork of my garage. But rather than singing it has been giving its alarm signal for hours, for no apparent reason. Another bird in song is a young Robin, fully-grown, but without a red breast, and with only a small number of song notes as yet. Then, always a pleasure to see, a small band of Long Tailed Tits passes through - always in a group, always on the move, beautiful and unmistakable little birds, with a high little whistle.

Swarm warning. A cry of alarm from my wife draws my attention to large numbers of winged ants, emerging from cracks in the ground. They are carrying out their annual mating ritual, very similar to the "swarming" of honey bees, to whom they are closely related. The wingless workers take no part in this. The winged males and females shoot into the upper air, where the swifts are gorging themselves on this unexpected bounty.

After half-an-hour they are all gone. A blackbird, a species which seems to exist in a permanent state of hysterical paranoia, hurtles across the garden, squawking its alarm signals. The insects buzz and hum. Peace returns. I doze off...

LETTERS

Plane cover

Dear Sir,
Being a postman and aircraft enthusiast in the N2 area, I read with interest the article on aircraft over East Finchley.

It is not only Heathrow that provides the aerial activity over Finchley.

On a cold, clear day many vapour trails can be seen criss-crossing the sky. These are aircraft not landing in the UK, mostly going from Europe to USA or back, often flying in the region of 30,000 feet.

Closer to the ground can be seen the Capital Radio plane searching for traffic jams to report live on radio.

The police white helicopter is often seen searching out our criminal element, and the bright

yellow Medivac helicopter on its many life-saving flights.

The RAF station at Northolt provides many flights over Finchley. Aircraft have to be fitted under the Heathrow traffic and are sometimes at only, 3,000 feet over N2. These are mostly military and sometimes are low enough to see the camouflage markings; I might add they are not allowed to carry any armament.

Recently the Queen's Fight aircraft have moved in. These are mostly small jet airliners with a red-coloured tail, sometimes being flown by a member of the Royal Family. Sometimes the flypast aircraft from Trooping the Colour or other events come out over N2.

Hope this is of interest.

Yours sincerely,
J.M. Lambert
West Finchley

A Russian view of N2

Dear Sir,
I came to London from Moscow to study English at St. Giles College in Highgate and I live in East Finchley with my host family.

I like East Finchley because it is a quiet area with not too many people rushing to and fro. I mean, you can relax here, go to the pub or cafe with friends to have a drink and a chat. Or you can go to Cherry Tree Wood and have a wonderful picnic lying on the grass under the trees.

I also want to tell of my

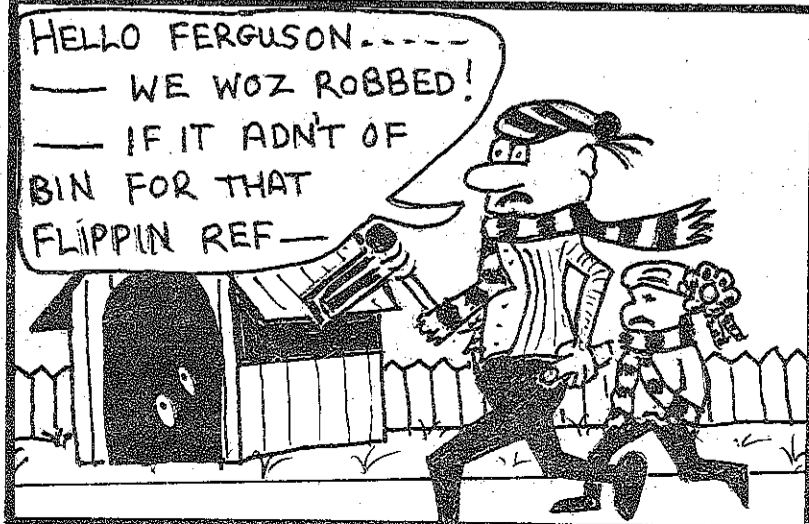


impression of people who live in London. I think they are very polite, nice, helpful and hospitable as well.

With St. Giles I visited Cambridge, Stratford-upon-Avon, Salisbury and some more. I liked Stratford-upon-Avon best of all. So I am enjoying my first stay in England and having one of the best holidays of my life.
Aleksander (aged 16)

The Archer
Wants your views and comments on any issues affecting EAST FINCHLEY
send them to
The Archer
PO BOX
3699 N2 8JA

FERGUSON'S LOT....



By Dean.