



PEGASUS

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hope that you would support us so nobly, ekcherly!—and, after September next, we hope you will bully your chums into giving us even more support, so that we can sell the whole printing each quarter and thus help the Security Fund (which receives every penny profit from this Journal).

There has been a complaint that the *Pegasus* on our front cover faces the wrong way. Well, if it faced the other way, it would look as though it was riding off the cover and dashing away from the battle—which would never do! To the bloke who complained, we would say: just go round to the other side of an Airborne soldier, chum, and you'll see that *Pegasus* does face the other way, too. This correspondence is now finally and definitely closed, thank you.

Now we'll grouse. There has been only a poor response to our plea for "Do you remember...?" stories. We are very anxious to have stories of battle experiences from any of you who can find time to jot down a few details. Give us the story and we'll finish the article. Come on, now: get those fingers out!

The response to the suggested Airborne Directory has been pretty miserable, too. We feel sure there must be hundreds of ex-Airborne types who are in business and would like to be included. Don't be shy: there's no charge: there's not even a catch in it! And we very much want to keep in touch with you if you want any more clients—or perhaps you know us so well that you're afraid we shan't pay....

Finally, thank you for reading the first issue, and thank you for writing to us. We hope you'll have the strength and energy to keep it up. Good luck to you all, wherever you are! Here's the second issue for you to pot at....

THE FOLLOWING MAY BE SHOT AT....

Editors: Brig. S. J. L. Hill, D.S.O., M.C., Rofford House, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight.
(Shoot if you dare!)

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(Shoot if you like!)

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(Shoot money only!)

Overheard in Civvy Street

1st Civvy: "Hyah, Joe? How's Civvy Street?"

2nd Civvy: "Pretty good! I met our old C.O. the other day."

1st Civvy: "How's he doing?"

2nd Civvy: "Fine. He shouts 'Fares, please!' just as well as he used to shout 'Fall out the officers!'"

(Thanks, Swedebasher.)



[Cpl. Frederick Topham, V.C., 1st Canadian Parachute Bn., Sixth Airborne Division]



CORPORAL FREDERICK GEORGE TOPHAM

No. B.39039

*First Canadian Parachute Bn.
Sixth Airborne Division*

*Department of National Defence, Ottawa,
3rd August, 1945*

THE CANADIAN ARMY

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the VICTORIA CROSS to No. B.39039 Corporal Frederick George Topham, 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, Sixth Airborne Division.

ON 24th March, 1945, Corporal Topham, a medical orderly, parachuted with his Battalion on to a strongly defended area east of the Rhine. At about 1100 hours, whilst casualties sustained in the drop were being treated, a cry for help came from a wounded man in the open. Two medical orderlies from a field ambulance went out to this man in succession, but both were killed as they knelt beside the casualty.

Without hesitation, and on his own initiative, Corporal Topham went forward through intense fire to replace the orderlies who had been killed before his eyes. As he worked on the wounded man he was himself shot through the nose. In spite of severe bleeding and intense pain, he never faltered in his task. Having completed immediate first aid, he carried the wounded man steadily and slowly back through continuous fire to the shelter of a wood.

During the next two hours Corporal Topham refused all offers of medical help for his own wound. He worked most devotedly throughout this period to bring in wounded, showing complete disregard for the heavy and accurate enemy fire. It was only when all casualties had been cleared that he consented to his own wound being treated.

His immediate evacuation was ordered, but he interceded so earnestly on his own behalf that he was eventually allowed to return to duty.

On his way back to his company he came across a carrier, which had received a direct hit. Enemy mortar bombs were still dropping around, the carrier itself was burning fiercely, and its own mortar ammunition was exploding. An experienced officer on the spot had warned all not to approach the carrier.

Corporal Topham, however, immediately went out alone, in spite of the blasting ammunition and enemy fire, and rescued the three occupants of the carrier. He brought these men back across the open and, although one died almost immediately afterwards, he arranged for the evacuation of the other two, who undoubtedly owe their lives to him.

This N.C.O. showed sustained gallantry of the highest order. For six hours, most of the time in great pain, he performed a series of acts of outstanding bravery, and his magnificent and selfless courage inspired all those who witnessed it.

(Further citations will be printed in later issues.)