

ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

During the War about nine hundred of our men were called up for service with the Armed Forces. This was a very considerable number from a firm of our size which at the outbreak of war had 2,365 employees and which at its peak numbered 4,183, of whom 1,409 were women.

Men from the Works saw service in all theatres of war. The Reservists and Territorials who joined up at the outbreak of hostilities were in action in Belgium and France in the early days of the War; some were taken prisoner when France fell, and remained in captivity for five long years. Our men took part in the campaigns in the Middle East, which proved one of the turning points of the War. They fought in Greece and Italy, and helped in the defence of Malta. There were Commandos who took part in daring raids such as that made on the Lofoten Islands, and airmen who flew in offensive actions over enemy territory or helped to defend our country against air attack.

Many of our men were in the armies sent to the Far East to resist Japanese aggression, and some of them fell in action or were taken prisoner. Others who followed them took part in the advance which freed territory previously over-run by the Japanese armies.

Still others joined the Royal Navy and saw action in major naval engagements or did convoy duty. There were men who volunteered for service with the Merchant Navy, and, under the protection of our battleships, brought essential cargoes of raw materials and food to the mother country, in spite of persistent efforts by the enemy to close our vital supply routes.

Our men were in action when the Allied Armies took the War into Germany and finally achieved the end of Nazi aggression in Europe. They were serving, too, in the Far East when the Japanese armies capitulated.

These men had many and varied experiences during the War, but they retained their courage and cheerfulness even during the dark days when the road to victory seemed very long and very hard.

We hear the story of the soldier who was taken prisoner when France fell in 1940, and who was in a German prisoner of war camp for nearly five years; he escaped three times, only to be recaptured, but still did not give up hope. His fourth attempt at escape was successful, and he eventually reached the Russian lines. There, however, he was held as a suspected German until he was able to establish his identity. Then he found himself a free man once more, and eventually reached England after travelling hundreds of miles.

There are still many men from the Works on service overseas in the armies of occupation, but we hope that it will not be long before they are able to rejoin their families and return to their former jobs.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

When we said good-bye to our men who joined the Forces, we hoped that they would all return to the Works safe and well. But war takes its toll indiscriminately, and we have lost more than thirty men who were killed on active service.

We honour the memory of these men, our fellow workers, who gave their lives in defence of freedom, and our sympathy goes out to their bereaved relatives. They made the supreme sacrifice, and their names should be a constant reminder that they have left us a trust to fulfil—the duty to secure peace for all time.

The ensuing Roll of Honour includes the names of all men known to us who died on active service, and shows the departments in which they worked prior to enlistment.

EXTRUSION.

A. W. BERRY
K. A. ELLIOTT
A. H. HOPCRAFT
T. H. JACKSON
W. M. H. JARVIS
T. W. OST
M. H. PREW
L. A. THOMPSON

INSPECTION.

C. BUCKLE

CANTEEN.

G. H. BERRY

STAFF.

D. H. CALDWELL

H. COTTERILL

B. DALY

REMELT.

F. J. JACKSON
E. E. JONES

HEAT TREATMENT.

G. MCKENZIE

P. & M. MECHANICAL.

M. FAULKNER

H. V. FORD

F. GARRETT

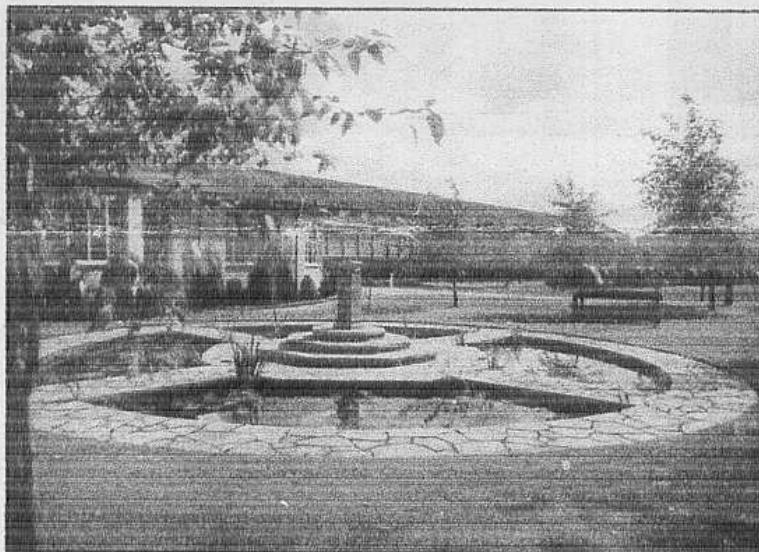
PACKING AND DESPATCH.

G. R. DAVIES
C. HUMPHRIS
W. L. H. SANSBURY
C. WINFIELD

SCALPING.

J. D. SEARS

It is feared that even now our Roll of Honour is incomplete, for we have received information recently about the death of men who were taken prisoners-of-war by the Japanese over three years ago, while others who fought in the Far Eastern theatre of war are still unaccounted for. Moreover, there are several men who have been reported missing about whom no further news has been received, but whose death on active service may have been confirmed to their next-of-kin without our knowledge. We shall be grateful to receive information about any other men whose names should be added to the Roll of Honour inscribed on our War Memorial, so that we may commemorate all men from the Works who fought and fell in the service of their country during the war.



"At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them."

THE WAR MEMORIAL.

The memory of our men who laid down their lives during the War is preserved by a memorial placed in the Works grounds.

The site is one of the quietest spots within the Works precincts, and the surrounding ground has been laid out carefully to form an appropriate setting. The memorial, which is of Hornton stone, is in the form of a column surmounted by a sundial and set in the middle of an ornamental pool. The column bears a commemorative inscription and the names of the Fallen.

Near by, in a flower border, a black marble tablet, designed and executed by a member of our Staff, reminds us of the close connection that existed between our war effort and the Royal Air Force. It bears the words, "Never before in the history of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

It is appropriate to mention that the suggestion that a memorial should be erected first came from our employees, who wished to pay tribute to their former workmates.

We acknowledge, with gratitude, the assistance given by the Company's architect, Mr. Gilbert T. Gardner, F.R.I.B.A., who gave his services freely in the design of the memorial, and the co-operation of Messrs. Hinkins & Frewin, who provided the labour for the work entailed in its erection.

THE WAR MEMORIAL.