

LOCAL MOTORISTS

Have Exciting Mishaps at the Front.

Well-known in Luton as motor-cyclists, two cousins, Messrs. Godfrey, of London-road, have been having exciting times at the front. They joined different mechanical branches of the service as motor-cyclists, and have had narrow escapes not only from the enemy, but as the result of bad accidents.

Pte. Aubrey Godfrey, aged 19, is at present in a Guildford hospital. He was with the Mechanical Transport Department of the A.S.C. He is the son of Mr. F. Godfrey, of London-road, and prior to joining the Army he was in his father's business as bleacher and dyer in Langley-street. He was an active member of the Luton and South Beds. Motor Cycling Club. He sustained his injuries as the result of an accident on July 12th, and although he cannot remember the circumstances clearly he surmises that his handlebars fouled the side of one of the lorries in the convoy he was riding with. He was going at a slow pace, but the force of his fall rendered him unconscious, and he sustained a bad fracture of the jaw and injuries to the base of the skull. Lieut. R. E. Maude took Godfrey to the nearest hospital, and he was later brought to Guildford. An operation was necessary, but he pulled through, and is now on the high road to complete recovery. His parents were informed this week that he is doing well.

The high esteem in which he is held is shown by a letter from Lieut. Maude after the accident. He wrote telling Mr. Godfrey that all Pte. Godfrey's officers were sorry for him, and added "I shall miss him as he's done good work for us, and we like him, and want him back in our column again."

The other young motorist is Reginald Godfrey, son of Mr. A. J. Godfrey, London-road. He is 20 years of age, and has been on the Continent with the Royal Engineers for twelve months. He is a despatch rider and has twice met with accidents which might easily have killed him, but he evidently has a charmed life. Nine months ago his machine collided with that of a comrade and cut it in halves, and his comrade was thrown up a bank for about 10 yards. Young Godfrey escaped with comparatively slight injuries which however, kept him in hospital for six weeks.

His second accident was eight or nine weeks ago, when he ran into a shell hole in the dark and smashed his machine, and crushed his thumb. Back into the hospital he went, but he is now out again, and is as active a member as any of his division.