

FEBRUARY 1959 ★ 9d

SOLDIER



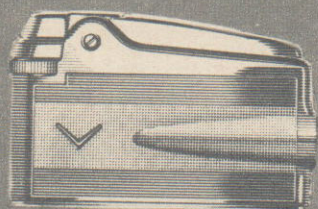
SCOTLAND'S PRIVATE ARMY

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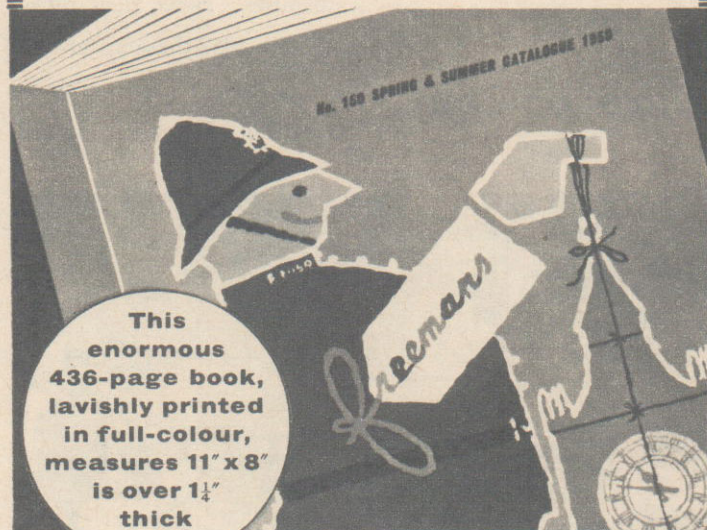
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ROCKETS GALORE

TEN—nine—eight—seven—six—five—four—three—two—one—Zero . . .

A pause that seems interminably long.

Then a deafening roar shatters the stillness as vivid flames belch from the sleek monster pointing skywards on its gantry.

Foot by foot, reluctantly, the rocket eases its bulk from the ground and then in a flurry of flame and smoke climbs rapidly, flashing upwards through the clouds to yet-unconquered space.

Space is still inviolate, but man is on the fringe of his greatest era of discovery—and stands in greater danger than ever before of mass self-destruction. A rocket leaps a third of the way to the moon and a dog lies in a man-made satellite encircling the earth at incredible speed. The V-2, German terror weapon of World War Two, fades into insignificance as inter-continental missiles bring the threat of nuclear destruction to the doorsteps of Moscow, Manhattan and Manchester.

Today is the Rocket Age. A trip to the moon, a Wellsian fantasy only 25 years ago, has become near-reality and the count-down and other technical terms of rocketry have grown commonplace overnight.

Yet, like many other great discoveries, the potential of the rocket remained dormant for centuries. A Chinese brigand invented by accident the first rocket projectile more than 700 years ago when, with inflammable pitch, he fired an arrow from a tube. For four-and-a-half centuries the discovery remained unexploited until, by using rockets in 1799, the Indians inflicted heavy casualties on British troops at the Battle of Seringapatam.

A few years later Colonel William Congreve introduced the rocket brigade into the British Army. He planned the bombardment of Boulogne at which 200 rockets were fired into the city from rowing boats equipped with launching platforms. In 1807, the Danish Fleet was sunk and Copenhagen burned to the ground by 25,000 Congreve rockets.

Colonel Congreve eventually evolved a rocket capable of carrying a 42-pound shell up to a range of 2000 yards at a time when artillery fired a six-pound shell only half that distance. But developments in rifled cannon ousted the inaccurate rocket of Congreve's day and until 1939 conventional weapons once more held supremacy.

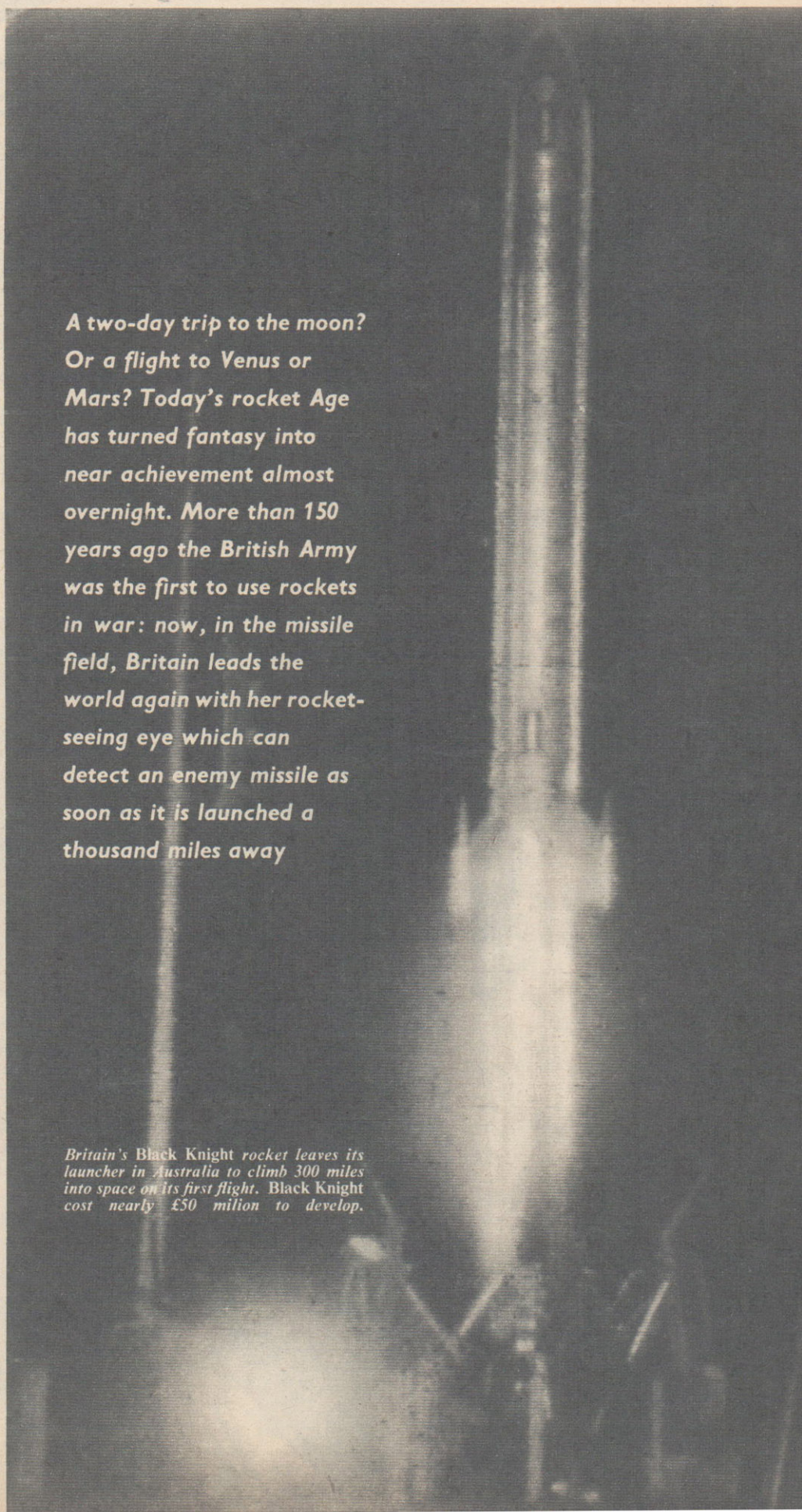
Then, backed by the impetus of total warfare, the rocket era sprang to life with the introduction of the German *Nebelwerfer* (a six-barrelled mortar), the multi-barrelled Russian *Katusha* rocket gun, followed by the American *Bazooka*, British rocket-gun ships, anti-aircraft rocket batteries and the devastating fire-power of rockets fitted beneath the wings of fighter aircraft.

In 1944, Hitler's secret weapon, the V-2 rocket, swooped silently from the skies. Here was the

OVER . . .

*A two-day trip to the moon?
Or a flight to Venus or
Mars? Today's rocket Age
has turned fantasy into
near achievement almost
overnight. More than 150
years ago the British Army
was the first to use rockets
in war: now, in the missile
field, Britain leads the
world again with her rocket-
seeing eye which can
detect an enemy missile as
soon as it is launched a
thousand miles away*

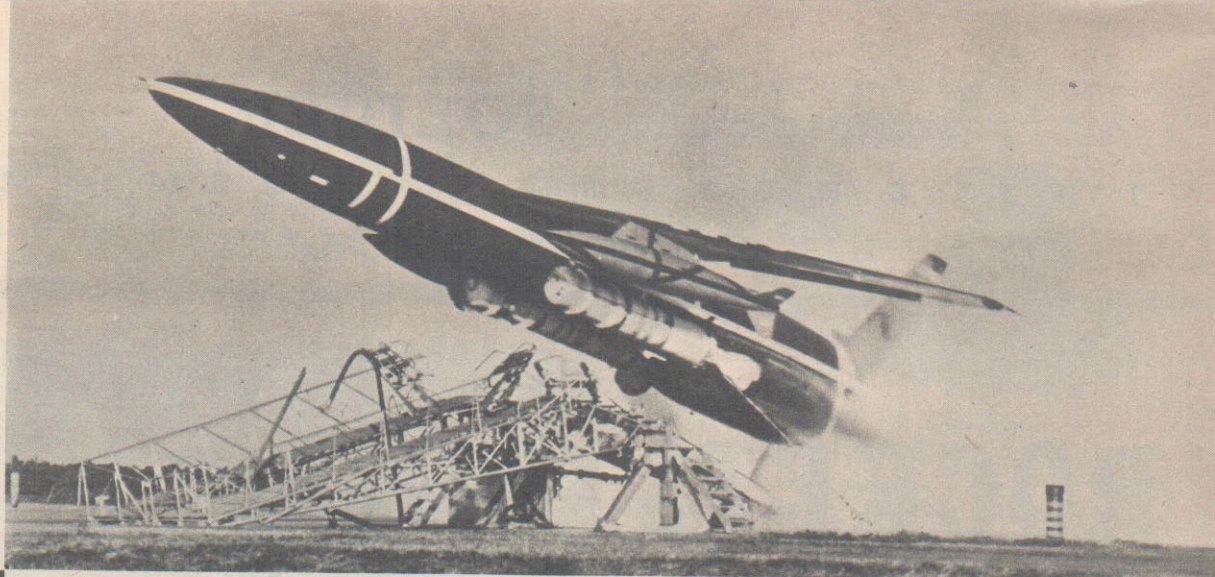
Britain's Black Knight rocket leaves its launcher in Australia to climb 300 miles into space on its first flight. Black Knight cost nearly £50 million to develop.



The Snark, a United States Air Force inter-continental missile with a nuclear warhead, has hit a target 5000 miles away from its launching site.

ROCKETS GALORE

continued



The American Atlas inter-continental ballistic missile, shakes loose its coating of ice as it prepares to blast its way into the upper atmosphere. The ice coat is caused by liquid oxygen fuel stored in the missile's hull.

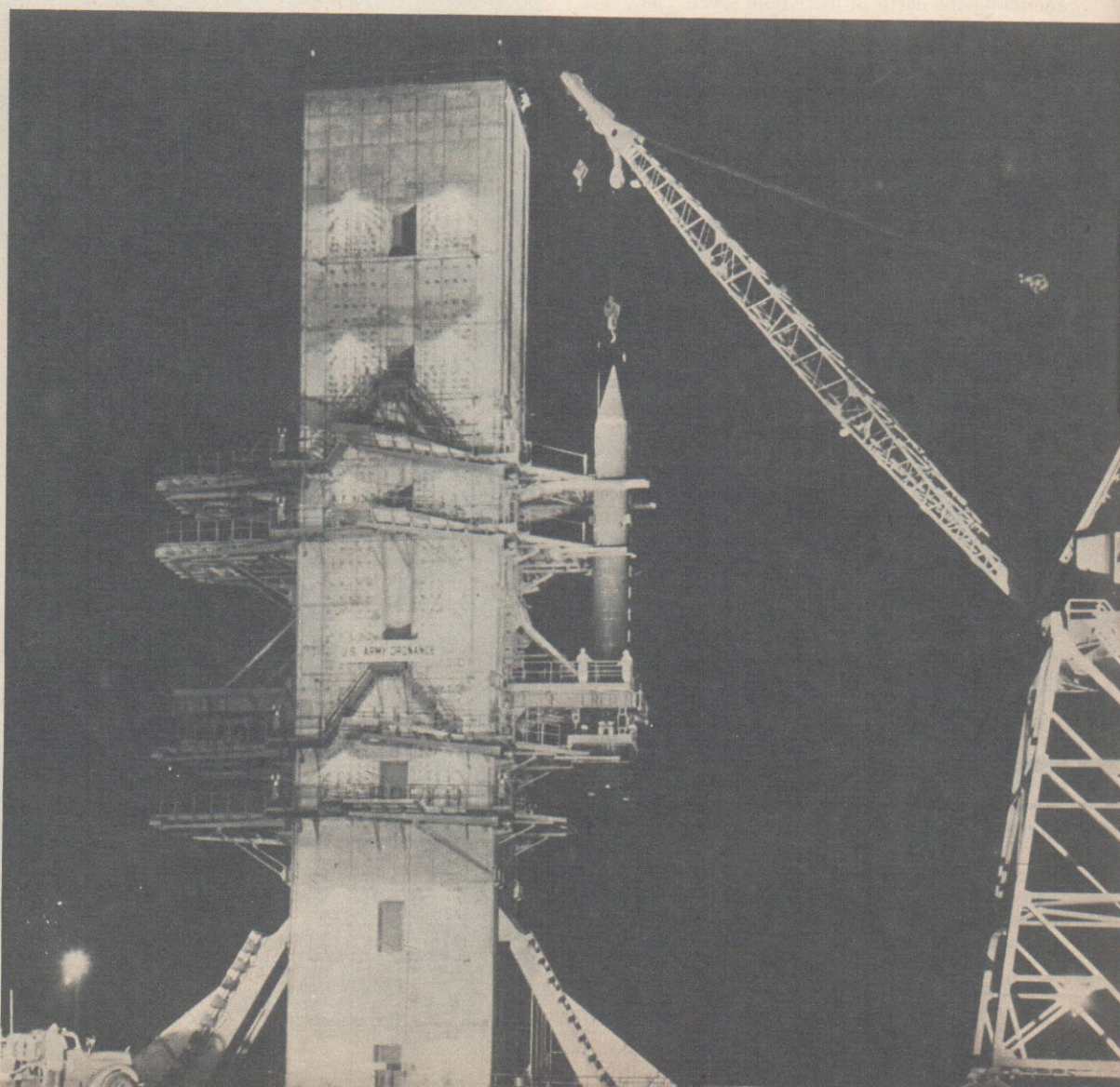
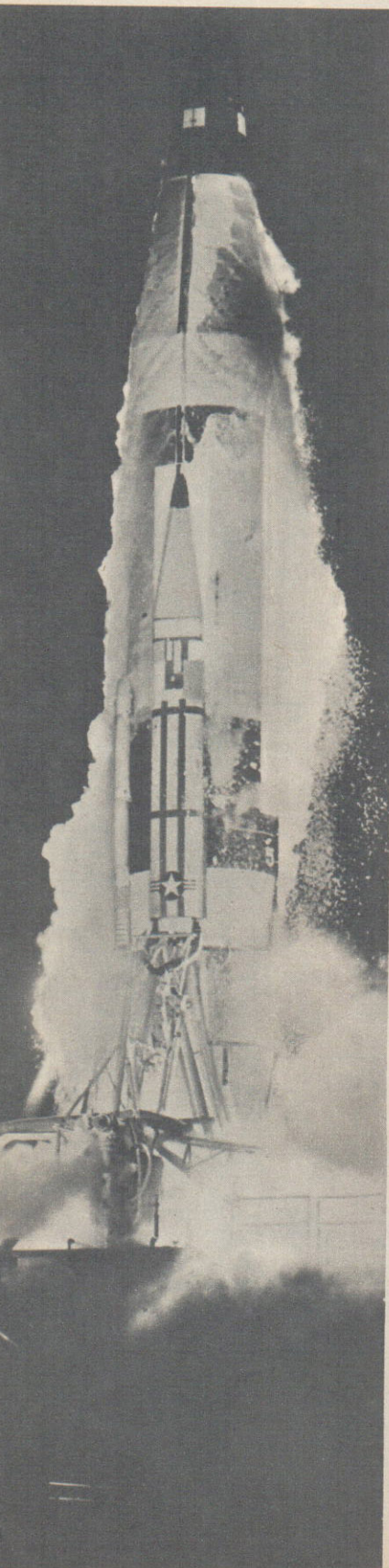
Below: The United States' Redstone on its 15-storey testing tower before launching. From Redstone was developed Jupiter, the main stage of the rocket that placed the first US satellite into orbit.

father of today's inter-continental ballistic missiles, rockets far more powerful in performance than the V-2, much more accurate and infinitely deadlier in their ability to carry devastating nuclear warheads.

After World War Two, German scientists who worked on the V-weapons brought Russia into the rocket field. Other German scientists went to the United States and assisted American research. From the V-2 was evolved the United States Army's Redstone, an intermediate range ballistic missile with a speed of 3250 miles-

an-hour and an accuracy of 200 yards at a range of 300 to 500 miles. Redstone, first fired nearly six years ago, in turn gave birth to Jupiter, the main stage of the rocket which launched the United States' first satellite.

Scientists of the major powers—and in the smaller countries such as Switzerland, too—have designed scores of rockets of many types, from the monsters intended for research beyond the earth's atmosphere to the slim, tactical weapons fired from fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters and by front-line troops against tanks



PATTERNS WITH A PURPOSE



HAVE you ever wondered what purpose is served by those bands, squares, stripes and other shapes painted on long-range rockets?

They are not just decorative. Nor are they there to identify the rocket in flight. They are carefully planned markings to help scientists and engineers gain valuable in-

formation on the behaviour of the missile in flight.

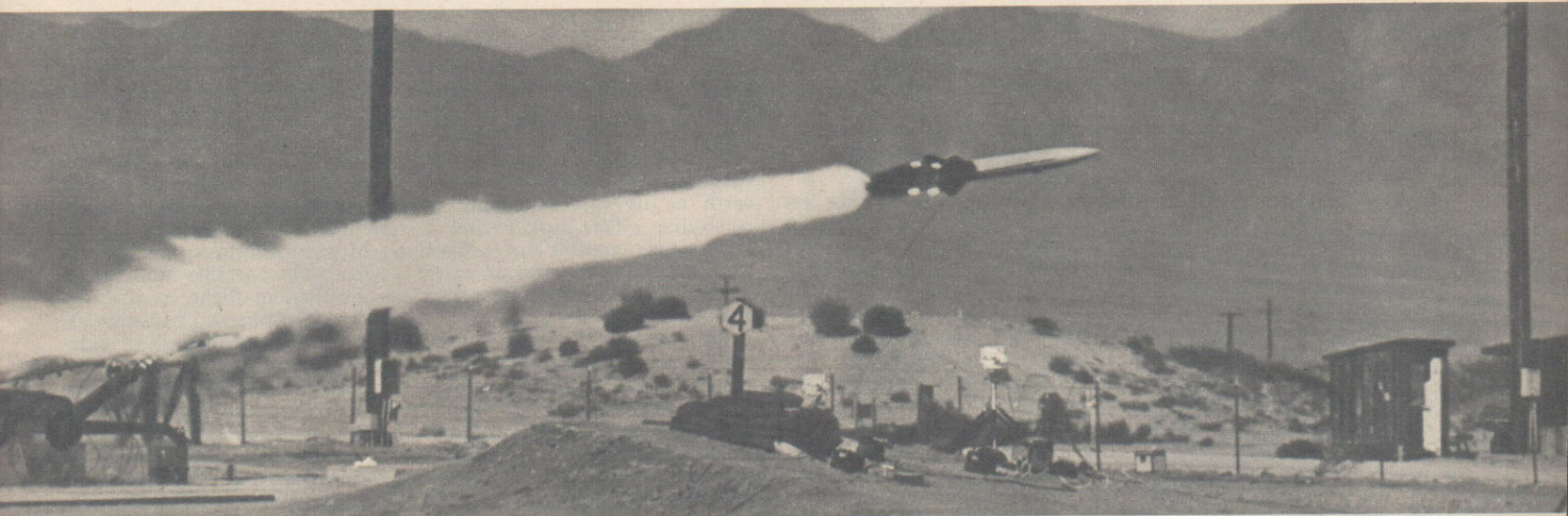
Black bands around the rocket and long, straight spiralling stripes are reference points which enable scientists studying photographs of the missile to compute its rate of rotation, angle of flight and deviation from course.

The small square or round

patches of paint prevent corrosion of sensitive parts or protect delicate instruments inside the rocket from heat.

Special paint is also used inside rockets to record changes in temperature in flight.

The rocket shown (left) is Jupiter, an intermediate range ballistic missile.



Above: In New Mexico a Little John (for use by American artillery units) speeds to its target, leaving a trail of fire in its wake. Missile and launcher are carried on a truck.

Right: A sergeant watches the Sergeant, an American solid-fuel artillery rocket, leap from its test bed at the White Sands proving ground. The Sergeant, which is launched from a ramp, will probably replace the Corporal.

Below: The Matador is capable of delivering a nuclear bomb to a target several hundred miles away. It is powered by a jet engine and is controlled electronically in flight. Three versions of this weapon have been developed.

and hitherto invulnerable targets.

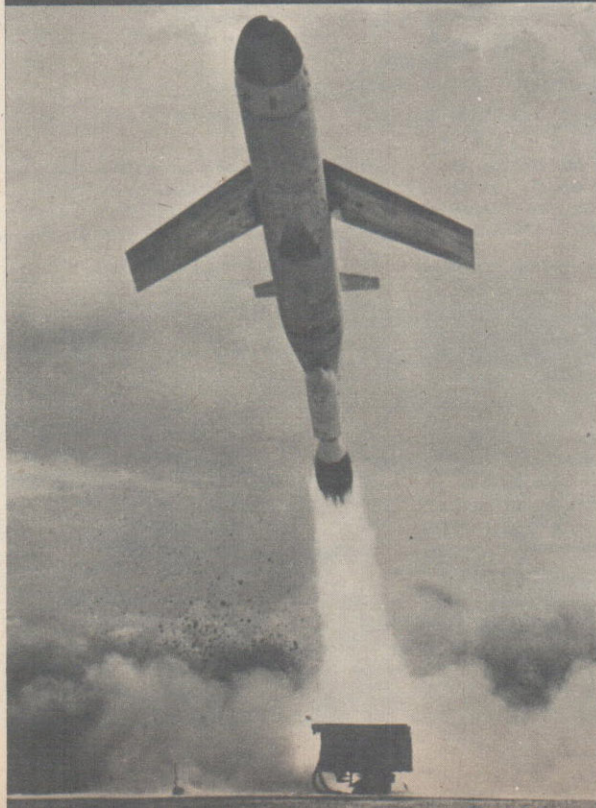
Britain was slow to enter the rocket field, with its near-prohibitive cost of research and development, and early on adopted the United States' guided missile *Corporal* for the Royal Artillery's first two guided-weapons regiments. But, since then, she has built the English Electric *Thunderbird*, the Army's anti-aircraft guided rocket, the *Bloodhound* for the Royal Air Force, the Armstrong Whitworth *Seaslug* for the Royal Navy and the anti-aircraft rocket *Firestreak*.

Now, Britain is developing the de Havilland *Blue Streak*, an intermediate range ballistic missile designed to carry an H-bomb at several times supersonic speed over a range of 3000 miles, twice that of America's equivalent calibre rockets, *Thor*, *Jupiter* and *Polaris*.

Blue Streak, which is 70-ft. long and 10-ft. in diameter, will be launched from underground platforms and probably operated by the Royal Air Force.

Today, Britain is also working on many other new guided weapons which are believed to include a solid-fuel rocket for the Gunners and an anti-tank rocket "which will make the tank as obsolete in war as the horse." Mr. Duncan Sandys, the Defence Minister, has announced that in the not-too-distant future British Forces will be equipped completely with missiles of British

OVER . . .



ROCKETS GALORE

continued

This is the Hawk, a United States ground-to-air guided missile designed to bring down low-flying aircraft. Hawk sites have been set up to guard several American cities. The Hawk is claimed to be able to shoot down attackers at tree-top level.

manufacture, except possibly Thor and Corporal.

Although Britain has not yet launched a satellite nor tilted at the moon (each American effort to shoot a rocket to the moon has cost £3 million) she has triumphantly produced the Sky-lark, a high altitude rocket with a solid fuel motor, which has reached a height of nearly 100 miles, and collected valuable data on winds, meteorites and cosmic radiation in the upper atmosphere.

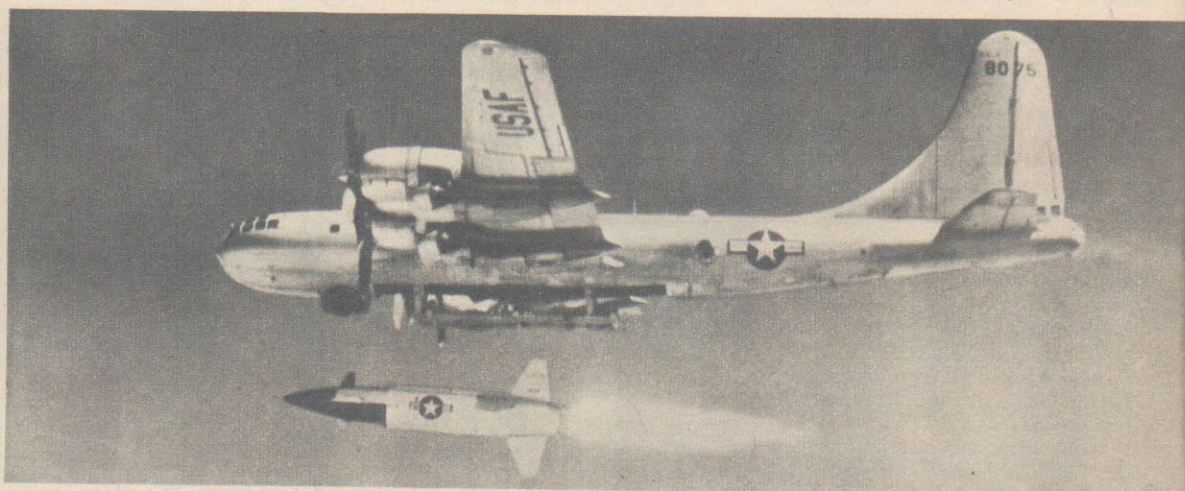
Britain has also produced, at a cost of £48 million, the Saunders-

Roe Black Knight, a space rocket which sped 300 miles above the earth at its first launching in Australia. Blue Streak and a three-stage version of Black Knight could both carry an earth satellite into orbit, it has been claimed.

But even Blue Streak is not the perfect missile, for like many other rockets it relies on liquid fuel which is dangerous to handle, delays launching and complicates storage. Other surface-to-surface missiles (the largest family of rockets) use liquid fuels as, for

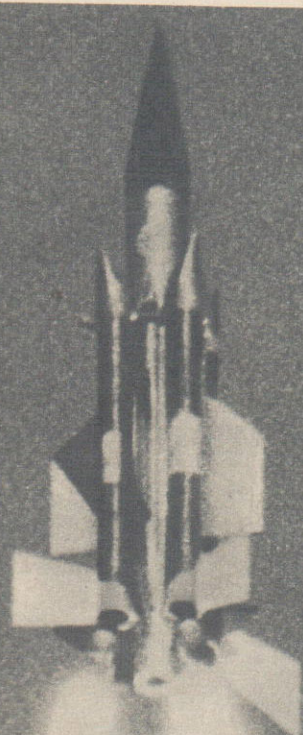
example, Corporal and Redstone, but these two are being replaced by the Sergeant and the Pershing, both driven by solid fuel.

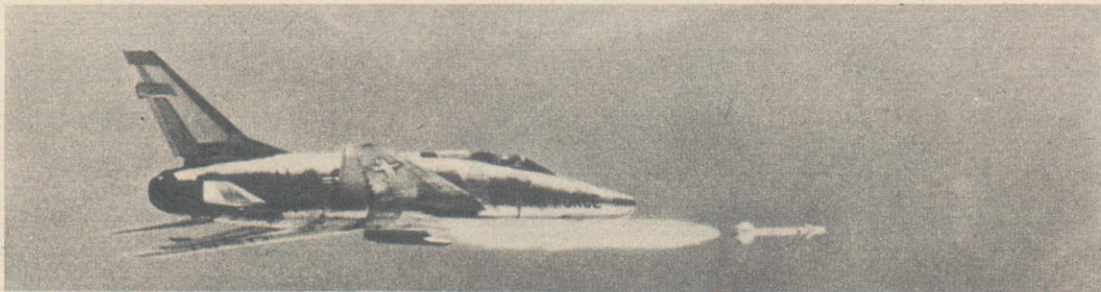
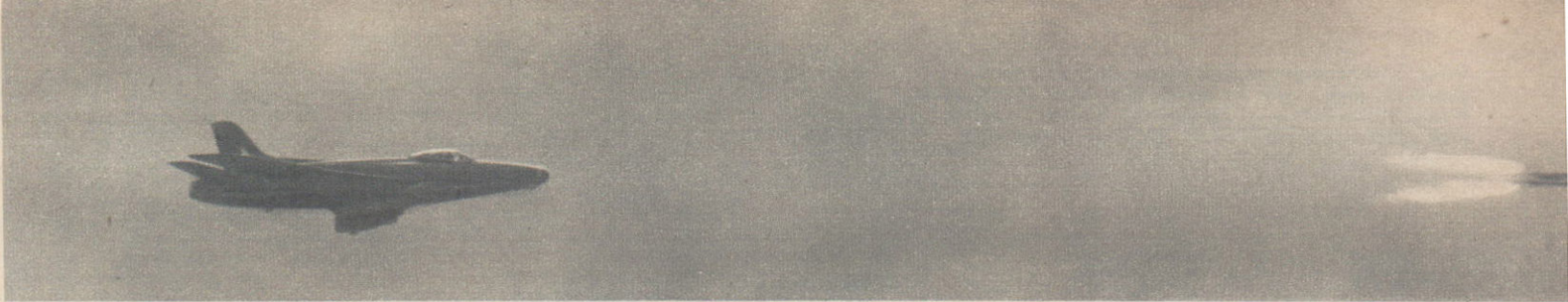
Most surface-to-surface rockets—from the portable tank killers (controlled in flight by wire) to the inter-continental ballistic missiles—are in the "unguided" category but air-to-air rockets, like the American Sidewinder and the British Firestreak seek out their targets by homing on the heat of jet exhausts or, in the case of Thunderbird and Bloodhound, by reacting automatically to radar



Left: Thunderbird the British Army's anti-aircraft guided missile, can destroy supersonic aircraft at great heights and is powered by a solid-fuel rocket motor.

Above: The Rascal is an American supersonic rocket fired from aircraft against ground targets. It carries conventional or nuclear warheads. Below: An aerial view of six batteries of Nikes near Washington. The Nike Hercules carries an atomic warhead and can destroy aircraft over a wide area of the sky.





Left: Two versions of the latest air-to-air rockets. Above: A Royal Air Force Swift fires its two Fireflash guided missiles on test over Anglesey. Below: The American Sidewinder at the moment of launching from a Super Sabre fighter plane. It homes to its target by radiated heat.

impulses from the target.

The *Nike Hercules*, which is now replacing the *Nike Ajax* as America's primary air defence weapon, is steered by a complex electronic system of two radar units and a computer. It carries an atomic warhead and could destroy enemy aircraft over a wide area, thus eliminating the need to launch a separate missile against each target.

Defence against rockets, however, is not merely a matter of striking quickly at supersonic jet bombers carrying nuclear loads and flying above anti-aircraft artillery range. Means must also be found to destroy inter-continental and intermediate range ballistic missiles which travel through the stratosphere at 15,000 miles an hour—a problem which seemed incapable of solution until quite recently.

In this field, British scientists lead the world with the development of a "secret eye" that seeks out rockets by means of a photocell picking up the rocket's heat waves or infra-red radiation. From a range of more than 1000 miles it can detect a ballistic missile as soon as it is launched. Combined with this discovery

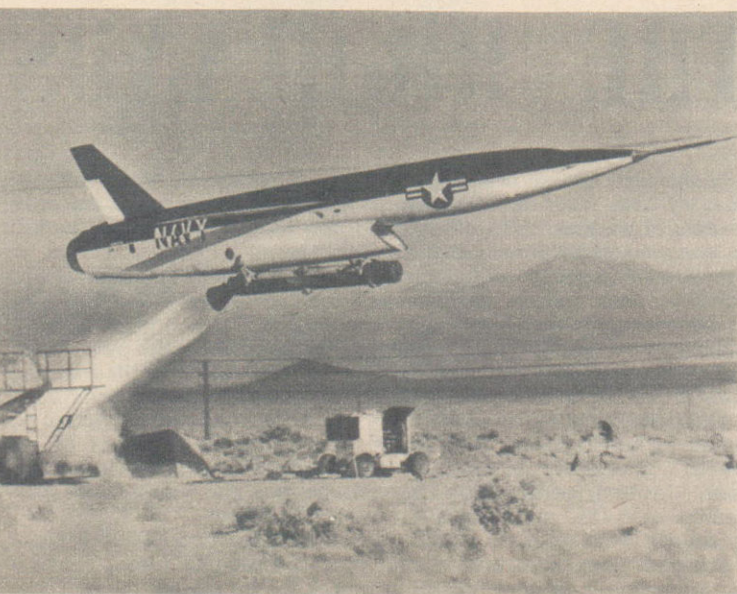
comes the news that a new rocket-killer (as yet un-named but known to be a larger and deadlier version of the *Bloodhound*) is being tested on the Woomera range in Australia.

The United States is also developing missiles to shoot down missiles and by 1961 hopes to have a number of rocket killers in production. In recent tests the American Air Force *Bomarc* rocket interceptor tracked down a target missile 75 miles away and, flying at a height of nearly ten miles. The Americans are also developing a radar system which will give at least 15 minutes' warning of the approach of an inter-continental ballistic missile.

While the rocket experts strive to produce faster and more devastating missiles, other scientists are preparing to launch the world into the space-age proper. At Harwell, Britain's major atomic research station, plans are being drawn up for atom-powered space ships (weighing 1000 tons and travelling at 200,000 miles an hour) to be landed on Mars, 40 million miles away, 14 days after take-off from the earth!

PETER N. WOOD

The U.S. Navy's newest long-range guided rocket for attacking land targets is the *Regulus II*. It flies at twice the speed of sound and has a range of more than 1000 miles. It can be launched from surface ships or submarines.



This cartoon in the United States Navy Times foresees the day when inter-continental ballistic missiles will launch their own rockets in mid-air to attack the missiles sent up to bring them down

ROCKETS, SOLDIERS, FOR THE USE OF

Here is the latest idea in rocketry: a portable rocket set designed to enable soldiers to leap to extraordinary heights and to run at superhuman speeds.

The rockets, which are contained in a belt strapped to the man's shoulders, reduce the pull of gravity so that the wearer can jump across rivers and scale cliffs and walls like the supermen of the comic strips.

One of the demonstrators showing off the equipment in New Jersey (where this picture was taken) ran as fast as a racehorse and jumped more than 20 feet high.

Just the thing when you're late for parade!



Right: In the armoury at Blair Castle, Privates Alex Macdonald, a gamekeeper on the Duke's estate (left) and William Stewart, a guide at the Castle, examine some of the Atholl Highlanders' 200 Lee-Metford Rifles.

FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS
THE DUKES OF ATHOLL HAVE
KEPT A PRIVATE ARMY AT THE
ANCIENT FORTRESS OF BLAIR.
IT ALL BEGAN WHEN THE 6th
DUKE WENT JOUSTING IN 1839

The Duke of Atholl, wearing the uniform of Colonel of the Atholl Highlanders. He hopes soon to revive the Atholl Gathering and to increase his private army.



A PRIVATE ARMY IN THE HIGHLANDS

THE Atholl Highlanders are no ordinary regiment. For instance, you won't find them in the Army List. They have no barracks and will never be called out in an emergency—even in wartime. The officers and men receive no pay and the last time anyone was promoted was more than 40 years ago.

But they have their own Queen's Colour and Regimental Colour, their own pipe bands, uniforms and weapons and an establishment for 200 officers and men. And their history goes back over more than 100 years.

The Atholl Highlanders are, in fact, a private Army (believed to be the only one in Britain) and they are the ceremonial bodyguard to the Duke of Atholl at Blair Castle, the Perthshire fortress home of the earls and dukes of Atholl for nearly 700 years.

The 27-year-old Duke himself commands them and the officers and men are recruited from the tenants and farmworkers on his 120,000-acres estate in the heart of the Highlands. The Duke's second-in-command, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, is the Earl of Dunmore, formerly of the 16th Lancers who won the Victoria Cross in the India-Tirah Campaign in 1897 and the DSO in World War One.

The Atholl Highlanders were raised in 1839 by Lord Glenlyon (later the 6th Duke of Atholl) as his personal bodyguard and at that time consisted of four officers, a sergeant-major, two sergeants, four corporals, four pipers and 56 privates. The Duke

fitted them out in a colourful uniform, which has remained almost unchanged to this day—blue coats, a kilt and plaid of Atholl tartan, red and white hose and white goatskin sporrans.

On their Glengarry bonnets they wear the Atholl crest (a wild man holding a sword and a key to commemorate the 1st Earl's victory over Macdonald, Lord of the Isles) and a sprig of juniper, symbol of the Murray Clan. The family motto "Furth Fortune and Fill the Fetters" is engraved on the clasp securing the plaid.

In its early days the bodyguard was armed with claymores and halberds which were replaced in 1866 by Enfield rifles. Today, the Regiment has Lee-Metford rifles used by the 3rd Perthshire West Home Guard in World War Two.

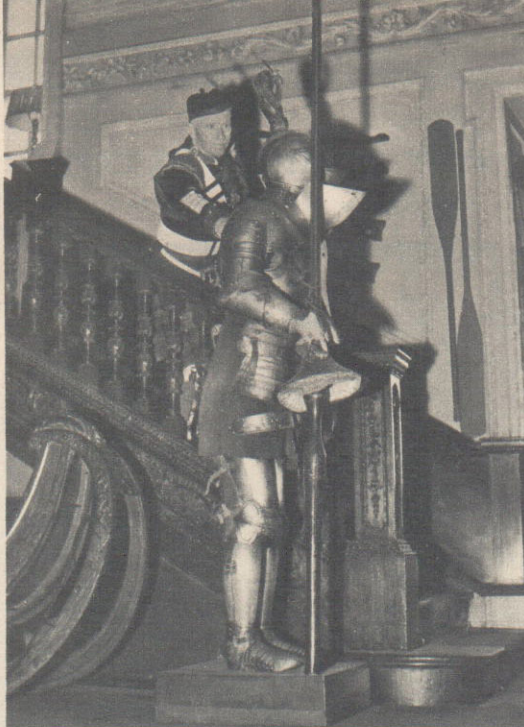
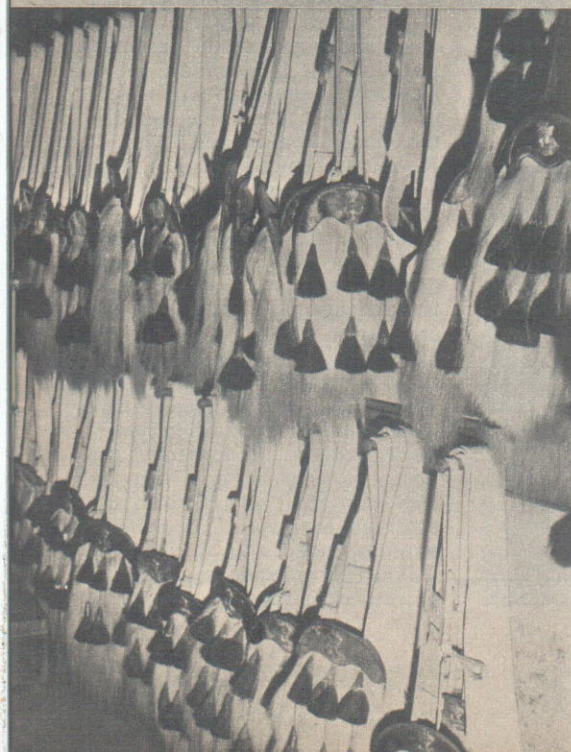
The Regiment's first duty, a few weeks after its formation, was to accompany Lord Glenlyon to Eglinton Castle in Ayrshire to attend the last tournament in Britain in which the mounted contestants fought in armour. Lord Glenlyon, jousting under the title Knight of Gael injured his hand in combat with the Knight of the White Rose. His armour and lance, with the true-love's glove tied to the point, and the armour and trappings of his charger, are preserved in Blair Castle.

After the Eglinton Tournament, Lord Glenlyon decided to maintain the bodyguard for ceremonial purposes and to provide guards of honour at Blair Castle.

In 1844, when Queen Victoria and Prince Albert stayed at Blair Castle, the Atholl Highlanders had grown to two companies strong (10 officers, five sergeants, four pipers and 140 privates) and a detachment kept constant guard over the royal personages for three weeks. The Queen was so impressed with their efficiency that she presented them the following year with a pair of Colours, the only ones ever to be awarded to a private Army.

The Atholl Highlanders also turned out for the visit by the Queen of the Netherlands to Glasgow in 1858 and the following year formed the guard of honour for Queen Victoria at the opening of the Loch Katrine works which supplies Glasgow

These are some of the 200 goatskin sporrans bearing the Atholl crest and coronet which line the walls of the Castle armoury.



Pipe-Major Peter Wilkie admires the suit of armour in which the Atholl Highlanders' founder, the 6th Duke, once fought in tournament.

with its water. It was at this ceremony that the Atholl Highlanders became Gunners for a day, firing the royal salute on two three-pounders because, it was reported, "from the nature of the ground the Royal Artillery would have difficulty in reaching the spot."

What the Royal Artillery thought of this is not recorded, but the Atholl Highlanders certainly found it a difficult task. Led by the pipers, the guns had to be manhandled down a 600-ft. precipitous hill and after the ceremony dragged up again.

During the Crimean War the 6th Duke of Atholl offered the services of the Atholl Highlanders to Lord Palmerston for home duties but the offer was turned down.

Since those days the Atholl Highlanders have only rarely been on parade as a regiment, the last occasion being the laying-up in 1931 of the Colours in Edinburgh Castle of Barrell's Regiment, now the King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster), and the Colour of the Appin Stewarts, carried at the Battle of Culloden in 1746. They were also present at the annual Atholl Gatherings, one of the now defunct Highland Games, last held in 1913 when the Regiment marched past its Colonel. Many who marched past that day are still serving with the Atholl Highlanders.

The Regiment has found guards of honour for many distinguished foreign visitors to Blair Castle, and on most of these occasions, Pipe-Major Peter Wilkie (the Duke's head gamekeeper) who leads the Atholl Highlanders' six-man Pipe Band, has played the visitors' national anthems on the pipes at dinner.

The Atholl Highlanders are little known outside Scotland but they once made national news when, in the House of Commons in 1925, Mr. Horatio Bottomley objected to the Duke of Atholl having his own private army. He was told that the Atholl Highlanders were looked upon as "a picturesque and popular relic of bygone days" and were an example of the dignity of the chief of the principal clan in Scotland, the Clan Murray.

Today, the Atholl Highlanders has 22 officers and 32 other ranks, many of whom served in the World Wars with the Scottish Horse (which was raised in 1901 by the 7th Duke of Atholl). The present Duke's father, Lieutenant-Colonel



COVER PICTURE

SOLDIER's front cover by staff cameraman FRANK TOMPSETT shows Pipe-Major Peter Wilkie (left) and Piper Alex MacRae playing the Atholl Highlanders' Regimental march against the background of Blair Castle. In the centre, Privates Alex Macdonald and William Stewart stand to attention with their Lee-Metford rifles.

Anthony Murray, was killed in action in 1945 while serving with the Scottish Horse.

FOOTNOTE: There was a Regular regiment called the Atholl Highlanders—the 77th, which was raised by the 4th Duke of Atholl in 1777 to serve for three years or as long as the American War lasted. It was stationed in Ireland to guard against a possible French and Spanish landing, until 1783, when the war ended.

The Government, however, did not honour its promise and the 77th were ordered to set sail for India. This was more than the Highlanders could stand and they mutinied. Their case was taken up with the Prime Minister who ordered the Regiment to be disbanded.

Peter Wilkie, has been the Atholl Highlanders' Pipe-Major for 32 years. From his pipes fly the Pipe-Colours, bearing the regimental crest.



IT WAS THE GREATEST DAY IN THE LIVES OF ITS THIRTEEN "MEN" WHEN A COMMANDO V.C. OF

WRITTLE'S LITTLE



After the inspection, "Major" Rowlands (back to camera) dresses his "men" for their display. The Back Road Army learns drill movements from former members now in the Army Cadet Force.

Below: In battle order, the boys of the Back Road Army charge across the "parade ground" in a simulated attack on an enemy position. Exercises of this kind are normally held in the farm's fields.



THE Atholl Highlanders had better begin furbishing their claymores, for their claim to be the only private army in Britain has been disputed.

The challenge comes from Writtle, an Essex village near Chelmsford where 60 years ago Marconi sent out his first wireless message. Today, Writtle is the home of The Back Road Army—a small, self-equipped force keyed to a high degree of efficiency by strict discipline, Commando-style training and frequent exercises.

This is an Army of young (very young) soldiers, only 13-strong and the average age of its five officers, two non-commissioned officers and six privates is only 11 years. Its Commanding Officer, "Major" Anthony J. Rowlands is just 12 years old; "Sergeant" Roy Lowe at 13 is the old sweat and "Private" Raymond Windley, aged nine, the youngest recruit.

With Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Newman VC, hero of the St. Nazaire Commando raid in 1942, SOLDIER recently visited the Back Road Army at its headquarters at Daws Farm in Back Road, Writtle. From the start it was clear that this private army takes its soldiering seriously.

Two sentries, wearing Military Police brassards, gave the Colonel a smart butt salute with their wooden rifles and then marched in front of his car to the parade ground in the farmhouse garden. On the lawn, the Army stood to attention in two ranks, the Commanding Officer, in "service dress" bearing a major's crowns, in front.

Behind the Army the Union Jack flew over HQ, a wooden shed which serves as a stores depot, command post and an "enemy" position. At Lieutenant-Colonel Newman's approach two buglers in the Army Cadet Force, sounded the General Salute and "Major" Rowlands stepped forward with a crisp invitation to inspect his men.

Briskly the "Major" put his army through its showpiece drill movements, unarmed combat, bayonet and target practice, crossing a river by rope and assembling a gun emplacement. In a spectacular attack on an enemy post the Back Road Army crawled from cover, firing home-made weapons, and charged the post, blowing it up with an explosion that sent a farm cat scurrying for cover. The demonstration ended with Lieutenant-Colonel Newman taking the salute at a smart march past.

THE ST. NAZAIRE RAID INSPECTED

ARMY



Left: A young marksman takes aim with his ingeniously-made rifle. Note the steel helmet and camouflage net, picked up for a song in a junk yard.

Below: One of the sentries, still wearing his MP brassard, demonstrates a Commando-style river crossing by rope.



Right: "Major" Rowlands, the Commanding Officer, welcomes Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Newman VC and invites him to inspect his army.

Lieutenant-Colonel Newman then addressed the troops, signed autograph books and promised to pay another visit, with his Victoria Cross.

The Back Road Army started four years ago under the command of the present "Major's" elder brother, Peter Rowlands, now a bugler in his school's Combined Cadet Force band. The top age limit for the Army is 13 and some 50 boys have passed through its ranks, many of them later joining the Cadets. The original force, the Royal Writtle Commando Corps, began with only three members but the number quickly grew to 15.

Last year "Major" Rowlands reorganised the Commando Corps as the Back Road Army and began an extensive programme of toughening up and re-equipping. Parading every Saturday and on summer evenings, the Army holds exercises in the fields at Daws Farm, making use of a wide brook, a quarry and the "Maginot Line," a trench system based on an old archaeological site. In summer the troops have camped out in an old Arctic tent.

Most of the Army's wooden rifles and machine-guns have been fashioned by the boys themselves in workshops at the farm. Clothing comes mainly from jumble sales ("Major" Rowlands' mother is the Army's Commissariat) and equipment, such as haversacks (adapted from pack transport panniers) and steel helmets, from a junk yard. The first prize of 15 shillings, won by the Army in a village fancy dress parade, was invested in water bottles.

The Back Road Army's enthusiasm is reflected in its strict discipline. After the demonstration for Lieutenant-Colonel Newman VC, the boys dashed off home for a quick meal and were back again for another drill session and another exercise.

One of the officers, "Lieutenant" Derek Baines (there are two "captains," two "lieutenants," a "colour-sergeant," "sergeant" and six "privates") cut his forehead falling from the rope during the morning rehearsal, but with a plaster over the wound he gamely carried on for the rest of the day. In previous mishaps a "captain" broke his wrist on manoeuvres and "Major" Rowlands fractured his arm swinging on an iron bar.

But the Back Road Army's mothers never worry about their sons. The "Major's" father, Mr. L. A. Rowlands, an ex-Captain in the Royal Army Service Corps, keeps an eye on the boys and other fathers, most of them ex-Servicemen and fellow members of the British Legion, pass on tips to the young Army. "They go off down the fields for the day and come back tired and happy. But they always come back together as an army," said Mr. Rowlands.

FOOTNOTE: Thirty-odd miles from Writtle, nine-year-old Noel O'Mahony, of Marylebone, is another youngster with a keen interest in soldiering. In a plastic suit of Roman-style armour he takes a weekly turn "on guard" outside Buckingham Palace and St. James's Palace. "Off duty" he visits military museums and watches Army films on television.

PETER N. WOOD



CYPRUS

As this article was being prepared, Security Forces in Cyprus were conducting an island-wide offensive to wipe out the last of EOKA's terrorists. Among those taking part were men of the Wiltshire Regiment whose watchfulness and perseverance helped to score an outstanding success



In their search in the Kyrenia area, the Wiltshires left nothing to chance. This sergeant found a hole, rigged up a ladder and explored it. He found nothing but refuse—but it might have been an arms dump or a terrorist's secret hide-out.

“THE SPRINGERS” ★ POUNCE



Above: Using mine detectors, wire prodders, bayonets and shovels troops sift the soil of an orange grove near the village of Akanthou.

Right: These are the men who led the raid that captured a prominent EOKA terrorist. Left to right: Lieutenant D. Wills, Corporal C. Edwards and Sergeant H. Ball, all of the Wiltshire Regiment.



WHEN a routine motor patrol of the Wiltshire Regiment left its headquarters in Kyrenia Castle, no one paid much attention to four innocent-looking youths strolling along a narrow, dusty lane.

But the patrol leader, Major R. A. S. Ward, decided to investigate—and so set in motion an operation that dealt a crippling blow to the Greek Cypriot terrorist organisation.

One of the youths was an EOKA courier and in his pocket was found a letter containing much valuable information. The evidence was sifted and as a result the Wiltshires immediately sent a “snatch” party to a house in a nearby village. A smoke grenade was thrown down a well in an orchard and out crawled a terrorist who had been on the run for two years.

More information came in and the hunt gathered momentum when it was known that one of the “Big Three” EOKA leaders was in hiding. The trail led first to Karavas, a coastal village renowned for its fruit crops and in one of

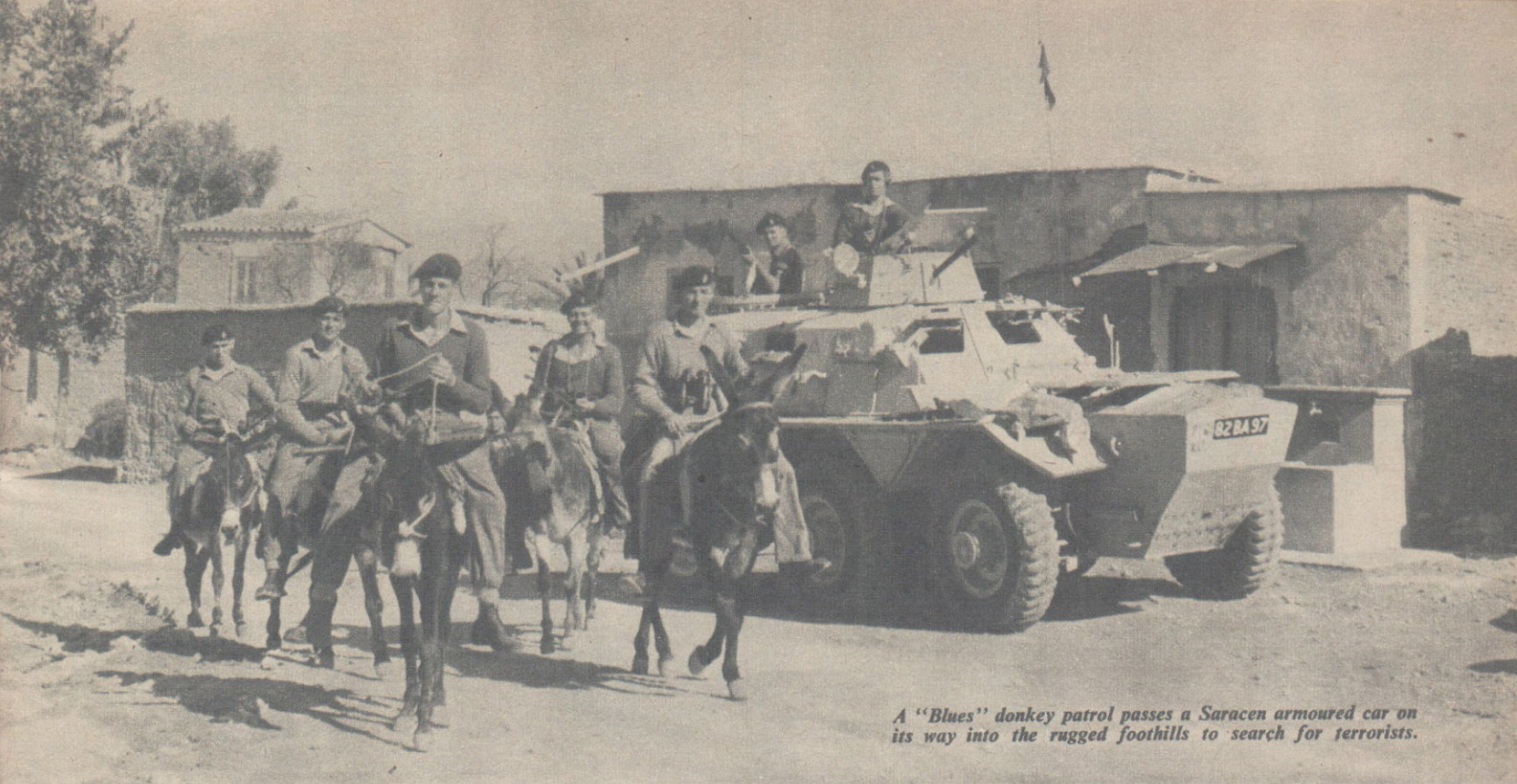
the orange groves the Wiltshires, prodding and digging shoulder-to-shoulder, unearthed a cache of rifles, Tommy guns, ammunition and bombs. A bulldozer was called in and as it pushed the earth and trees aside typewriters and duplicators came to light.

Suddenly, the search was switched to another village where the Wiltshires found pipe bombs and some Army uniforms in a cunningly concealed hide-out beneath a chicken run. The troops rounded up the chickens, took them a safe distance away and blew up the hide.

While the Wiltshires' search parties were spreading their net to catch a number of terrorists now known to be on the run, their comrades set up barbed-wire road blocks and clamped down curfews on villages suspected of hiding wanted men. The Royal Navy was called in to patrol the coast.

Then, acting on information from arrested men, the Wiltshires descended swiftly on an unsuspecting village several miles from the first search area. For hours they searched the houses, dug up gardens, sifted corn and interrogated the inhabitants, before their quarry was found: by a soldier prodding with his bayonet into a cavity between two floor tiles. Below three terrorists were hidden. Two climbed out and surrendered. The third, one of EOKA's leaders, refused to give in and was killed by a grenade. By his body were two machine guns, several other weapons and a large quantity of ammunition.—From a report by Sergeant G. PEPPER, Military Observer.

* The Wiltshire Regiment are known as “The Springers” from the rapidity of their movements during the American War of Independence.



A "Blues" donkey patrol passes a Saracen armoured car on its way into the rugged foothills to search for terrorists.

DONKEY PATROL

EQUALLY at home in the saddle or on wheels, the Household Cavalry takes in its stride the transition from ceremonial parades on horseback, in glittering cuirasses and plumed helmets, to armoured car patrols in battledress.

But the men of "A" Squadron, Royal Horse Guards (The Blues) have gone one better in Cyprus. Recently, in an attempt to smash a gang of EOKA terrorists, they abandoned both horse and Saracen and went into action on donkeys.

In the past, surprise on search and patrol operations has been difficult to achieve and all too often terrorists have been forewarned by the noise of armoured cars and have fled before they

could be rounded up. That was what made the Royal Horse Guards hit on the idea of using donkeys, a form of transport combining speed in difficult country with silence, and which can travel without "refuelling" for ten hours at a stretch.

"A" Squadron put their plan into operation when they learned that a gang of terrorists was

thought to be hiding in the rugged pine and scrub-covered foothills of the Eastern Kyrenia mountains—an area through which there was not a single track passable by armoured cars and which would have been impossible to search on foot with the limited number of men available.

With the help of the *Mukhtars* (headmen) of four Turkish villages bordering the search area, the Squadron borrowed 32 local donkeys and well before first light set off in four-man patrols from each village—every man jogging along on a donkey. Quietly and rapidly, the troops followed the trails into the foothills and, achieving complete surprise, appeared out of the

woods to question shepherds and foresters. As a result of the operation a number of suspects were detained.

A week after their first "moke" patrol, the Royal Horse Guards on their donkeys provided the cordon for a search and screen operation south of "The Prairie Trail," the Squadron's nickname for the first search area. Setting off in the early hours of the morning, they were in position before dawn, reaching their objective in complete silence, unnoticed even by the alert village dogs.

The action was completely successful, "The Blues" on their donkeys sealing off a terrorist escape route and arresting a number of suspects.

Led by Corporal-of-Horse W. Hill, "The Blues" halt for a rest on "The Prairie Trail." In the background are the Kyrenia Mountains.

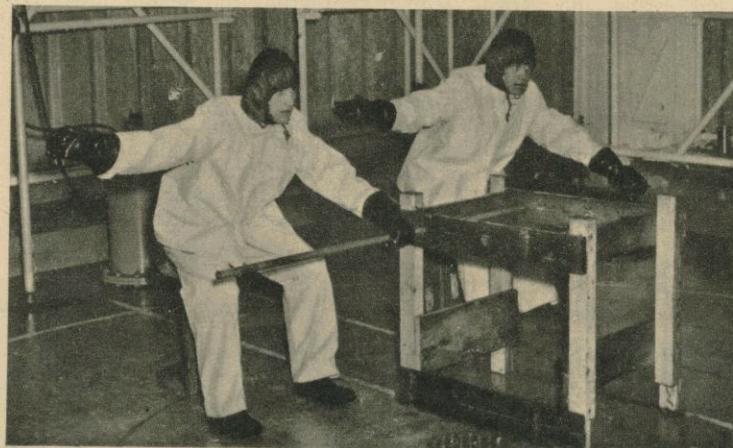




Do these combat suits have any weak spots? Private R. Bond, East Surrey Regiment (left) and Private P. Kemp, Royal West Kent Regiment, will soon find out as they crawl through specially prepared rough soil on their knees and elbows.

WEAR AND TEAR—IT'S

Deliberately wearing out boots and battledress is part of the job of a handful of soldiers who help to make sure that the Army gets the most efficient clothing, equipment and stores



Above: In the rain shed two men try out a new motor-cycling uniform in a tropical downpour. Any fault will be rectified so that the suits are perfect when they become a general issue.



Left: Private A. Wickerson, Royal Sussex Regiment, is put through a "vibration" test to find out how he responds to being bounced about. The information gained is useful in designing vehicles and aircraft.



Right: Carrying a load of 50-lbs., a soldier guinea pig walks the never-ending treadmill. The energy he expends is measured by the pneumo-tachograph apparatus through which he breathes.

DOWN in Hampshire are a score of Infantrymen who wear out in 12 months more pairs of boots than even the most heavy-footed old sweat could get through in a lifetime.

And, for good measure, they sometimes run through two battledresses in a week.

Such mis-use of Government property would qualify them for a long stretch in the guardroom if they belonged to any ordinary unit—but they don't. They are members of the Field Trials Section of the Ministry of Supply's Clothing and Stores Experimental Establishment at Farnborough and their job is to test Army clothing, equipment and stores, if necessary to destruction.

When the Army decides it wants a new type of boot, for instance, the Ministry of Supply designs them and prototypes are made. They may look right but will they do the job? Are they fireproof and waterproof? How long will the soles last? Are they dangerous to wear on slippery surfaces?

That is where the "guinea-pig" soldiers at Farnborough come in. They put on the new boots and begin to march round and round the 600-yard boot track at the Establishment's testing ground. On their marches—often up to 15 miles a day—they walk over every type of surface a soldier is likely to meet anywhere in the world: over sand and mud,



On the broken-concrete section of the Boot Track six men test out new footwear. They march round the track 15 miles a day until their boots are worn out.

AN ORDER!

through water, across sharp rocks, smooth boulders, cinders, gravel and concrete. They climb wooden stiles, clamber up concrete steps and negotiate a log framework designed to test the flexibility of the boots and the strength of the stitching. On and on they go, day after day, until the boots are worn out.

Testing boots is only part of the work carried out by the men of the Field Trials Section which is commanded by Major A. C. Greef MC, of the Suffolk Regiment, and contains the only Servicemen on the staff of the Establishment.

For "accelerated" wear tests on clothing, and some equipment, they go into action on an assault course, clambering over walls, through a bombed building, over a log fence, through a narrow concrete tunnel, over a brushwood fence and up a steep railway embankment. A battledress which should last for at least 18 months under normal conditions does well to stand up to three days of this kind of treatment.

After each circuit of the boot track or the assault course, Captain C. V. Harding, Royal Artillery, and Sergeant-Major J. R. J. Kemp, of The Buffs, examine the articles being tested and with the assistance of a lengthy questionnaire compile a "wear" score—a numerical rating devised for various types of failure. A half inch fray on a battledress blouse at a certain

stage may count half a point, a tear of the same length would score five points.

When testing waterproof clothing the men of the Section do not have to wait for a rainy day. They put on the garment and pop into a 23-ft.-square rain shed where they are subjected to tropical downpours and blown about by winds of up to 30 miles an hour. They also test shirts, socks, pants and vests.

Two important men in the Section are a tailor and a laundryman of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. The tailor repairs and, if necessary, modifies clothing and measures every garment before it goes on test. The laundryman washes them before and during the tests and any shrinkage is recorded. A garment which shrinks excessively may not even begin tests.

The men of the Field Trials Section work closely with the Establishment's other five sections—Applied Psychology, Physiology, Statistics, Bio-physics and Materials—and are sometimes called upon, with men from other local units, to take part in experiments to discover ways of reducing noise and vibration in vehicles, how various types of vehicle seating affect physical efficiency, to develop new types of fabric and generally to provide the soldier with the most efficient clothing and equipment wherever he is serving.

K. J. HANFORD

SOLDIER to SOLDIER

THE honourable removal from their plinths in Khartoum of the statues of two famous soldiers—General Gordon and Field-Marshal Lord Kitchener—finally brings to a close the story of the British Army in the Sudan.

Their removal was no vicious act by an unfriendly people, for the effigies of these two great Empire builders who laid the foundations on which modern Sudan was built, were taken down with appropriate military ceremony.

Troops of the Sudanese Army formed a guard of honour, a Sudanese Army band played the British National Anthem and buglers sounded the Retreat as shrouds were lowered over the statues. Later, in darkness, the statues were removed to a museum to await shipment to Britain.

Not surprisingly, there are several claimants for one or both of the statues of these two great men whose memories are already preserved in statues in Whitehall. The School of Military Engineering at Chatham (which has a replica of General Gordon on a camel) would like the statue of Lord Kitchener, for like Gordon, he too was a Royal Engineer. Woolwich also has strong claims. Both Gordon and Kitchener were educated at the old Royal Military Academy there, Gordon was born in Woolwich and Kitchener made his last public appearance at "The Shop" before his fatal voyage in the *Hampshire*.

It has also been suggested that both statues should be re-erected at Sandhurst, the present home of the Royal Military Academy, where the museum already contains relics of Gordon and Kitchener.

Another possible last resting place for the Gordon statue is the Gordon Boys' School at Woking which was founded in 1885 as a memorial to him.

★ ★ ★

NEARLY 14 years after the end of the bloodiest war in history—a war whose horrors everybody wanted to forget—it is surprising to learn that films about it are still the top box-office attractions at cinemas in Britain.

A recent survey of 4000 cinemas shows that in 1958 the three most successful films were all British and all about the Army: "The Bridge on the River Kwai," "Dunkirk," and "Carry On, Sergeant." There were many other only slightly less popular films about war, notably "Ice Cold in Alex" and "I Was Monty's Double," all of them bigger attractions than horror or sex films.

Which all goes to prove that there is still something about a soldier.

★ ★ ★

ALL too rarely do lords of the realm discuss the Army, but when they do they generally have something sensible to say.

Take Lord Auckland—a private soldier once himself. During a recent debate in the House of Lords, he admitted that there were "aggravating items of spit and polish and so-called petty tyrannies" in every unit. But, in his opinion, it did not hurt anyone to polish his boots and make his toecaps shine or to press his uniform; in fact, it was good for him. A civilian wore a clean collar and pressed suit to the office and there was no reason why a soldier should object to going on parade with blanched webbing, clean brasses and clean boots.

For saying this, Lord Auckland was headlined in one daily newspaper as an advocate of "bull." If that is what "bull" means then SOLDIER and every self-respecting Serviceman is in favour of it.

★ ★ ★

IN the same debate another noble lord—Lord Ogmere, formerly of the Welch Regiment—told a recruiting story that ought not to go unrecorded.

Just after World War One a very poor, very hungry little man went to the depot to enlist and was turned away because he was half an inch too short.

With only ninepence in his pocket, he entered a public house opposite the depot and bought a flagon of beer. He wrapped it in some sacking and asked another man at the bar to hit him over the head with it. The man hit him as hard as he could and knocked him unconscious.

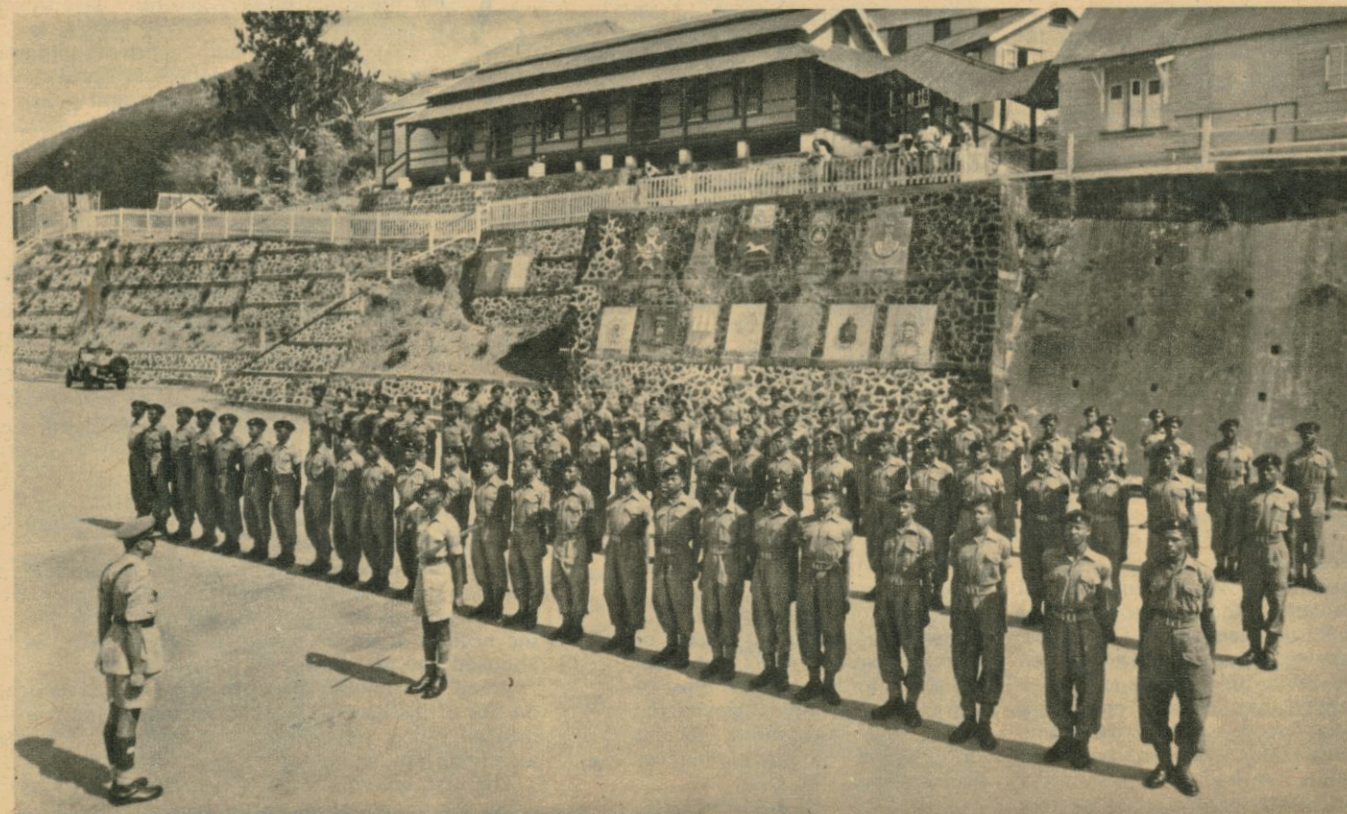
When he came to, the little man had an enormous swelling on top of his head. He went back into the depot and told the medical officer he had made a mistake. The medical officer measured him again and found he was exactly the right height!

The man served for many years but was always half an inch under the minimum regulation height.



Above: Battle training for the re-formed West India Regiment includes modern jungle tactics. Here a patrol passes stealthily through country reminiscent of the Malayan jungle on the other side of the globe.

Below: Smart recruits line up on the parade ground of the Newcastle Hill Station in Jamaica. Behind them on the buttress wall are the badges of famous British regiments which have served in the island.



The alligator on the mace has been the badge of the Jamaica Regiment since local forces were formed. Drum-Major B. L. Reid (above) leads a Corps of Drums of 32 men. The Regiment was awarded its Colours in 1940.

A REGIMENT

A COLONIAL regiment which was disbanded 32 years ago, after serving Britain for well over a century-and-a-half, has been re-formed.

It is the West India Regiment which, as the West Indies enters its second year of federation, takes over responsibility for the internal security of the scattered islands in the Caribbean.

The nucleus of the reborn regiment is the former Jamaica Regiment which was recently disbanded and renamed The West India Regiment on the same day. It will in future recruit in all the islands of the Federation and, as a first step, raise its strength to one Infantry battalion. A second regiment, also of battalion strength, is planned.

When recruitment is completed the new West India Regiment will be stationed, by companies, in Jamaica and in several of the other more important islands where new barracks are to be built. It will be trained and equipped on the British pattern and British officers and NCOs who were seconded to the Jamaica Regiment will be retained. The British NCOs will leave when the Regiment is fully trained. More West Indian officers will be appointed (at present there are only ten) and this year the Regiment will send its first cadets to Sandhurst.

The West India Regiment is more fortunate than most new units, not least because the Jamaica Regiment, whose traditions it will preserve, was a well-trained and enthusiastic force raised as a volunteer regiment in

IS REBORN

World War One. The new Regiment has also taken over the fine modern barracks formerly occupied by the Jamaica Regiment at Newcastle and Kingston and the Jamaica Regiment's Corps of Drums and battle honours. Its first commanding officer will be Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Davis, of the Royal Berkshire Regiment.

The rebirth of the West India Regiment will not mean—at least in the immediate future—the withdrawal of British troops in the Caribbean. British soldiers have been stationed in the West Indies for over 300 years and at present the Worcestershire Regiment has companies in Jamaica, British Honduras and British Guiana.

FOOTNOTE: The original West India Regiment was raised in 1795 and first went into action against the French at Dominica nine years later. It took part in the conquest of Martinique in 1809 and as a reward for courage was allowed to retain "two brass side-drums and five battle axes captured from the enemy." The Regiment also fought in the Ashanti War of 1863 (when half its officers and one in ten of the men died from disease) and in World War One provided two battalions which fought in Palestine, East Africa and the Cameroons. It was disbanded in 1927.



Above: A kit inspection in the British Army manner. The new West India Regiment is being trained and equipped on the British pattern.

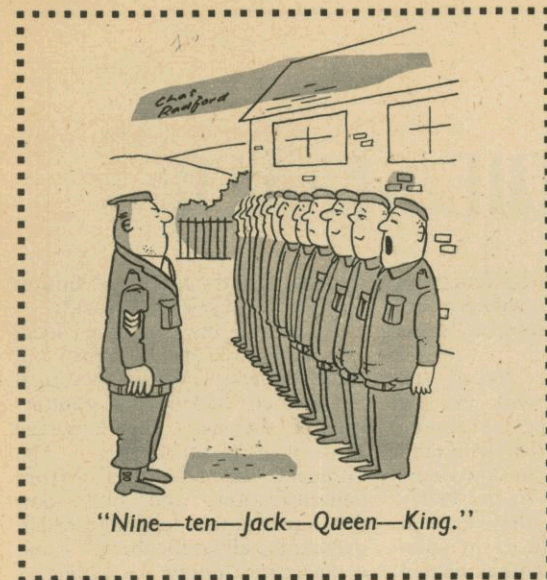


Right: A party of recruits, only one in uniform, leaves the Newcastle barracks for an evening out in Kingston. Below: Cricket is a favourite sport of West Indian soldiers. The pitch, hard and sunbaked and covered in matting, is a batsman's wicket.

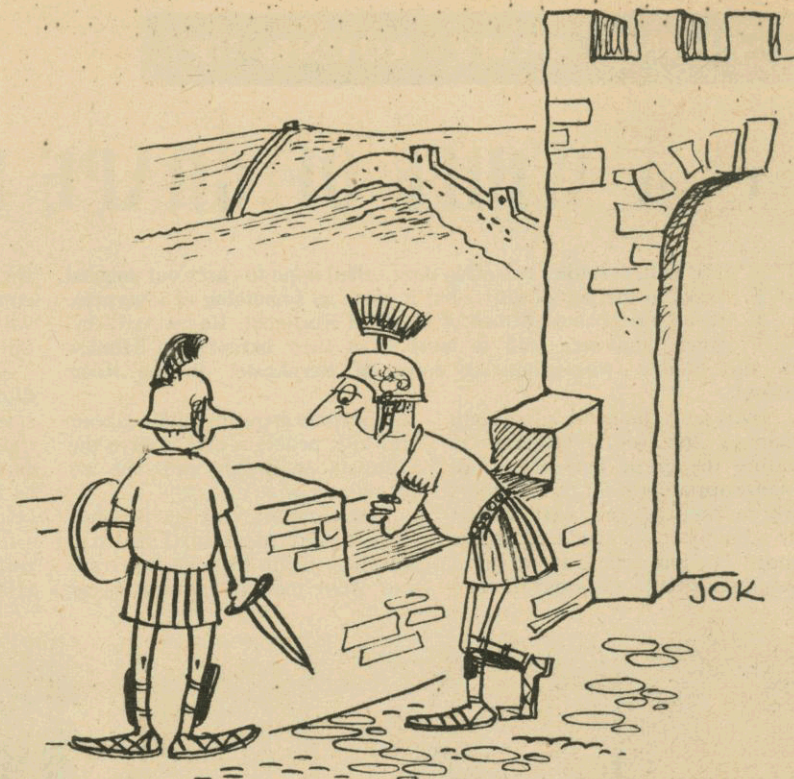




"The Colonel would like to point out that when the Regiment was disbanded it did not mean that you could clear off home."

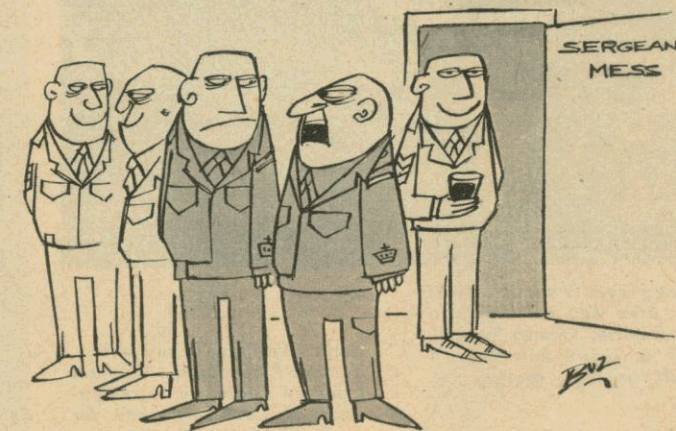
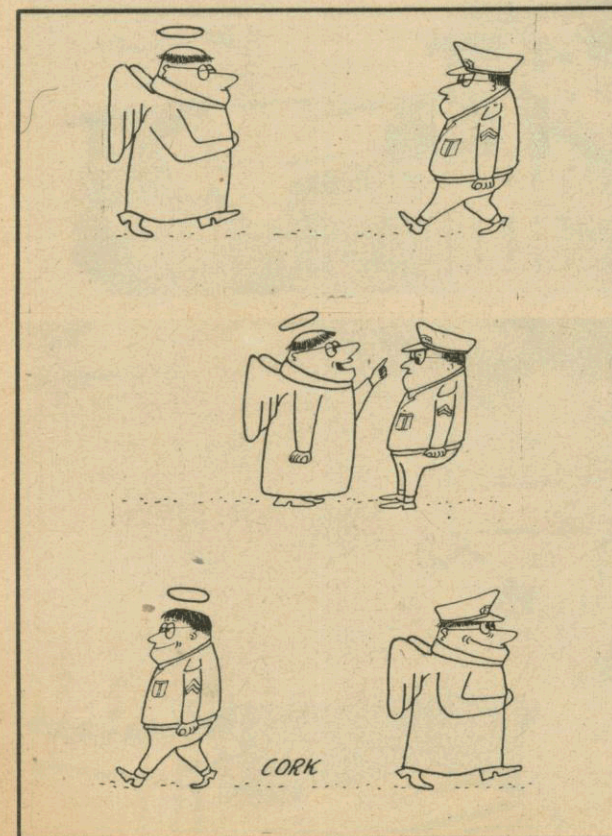
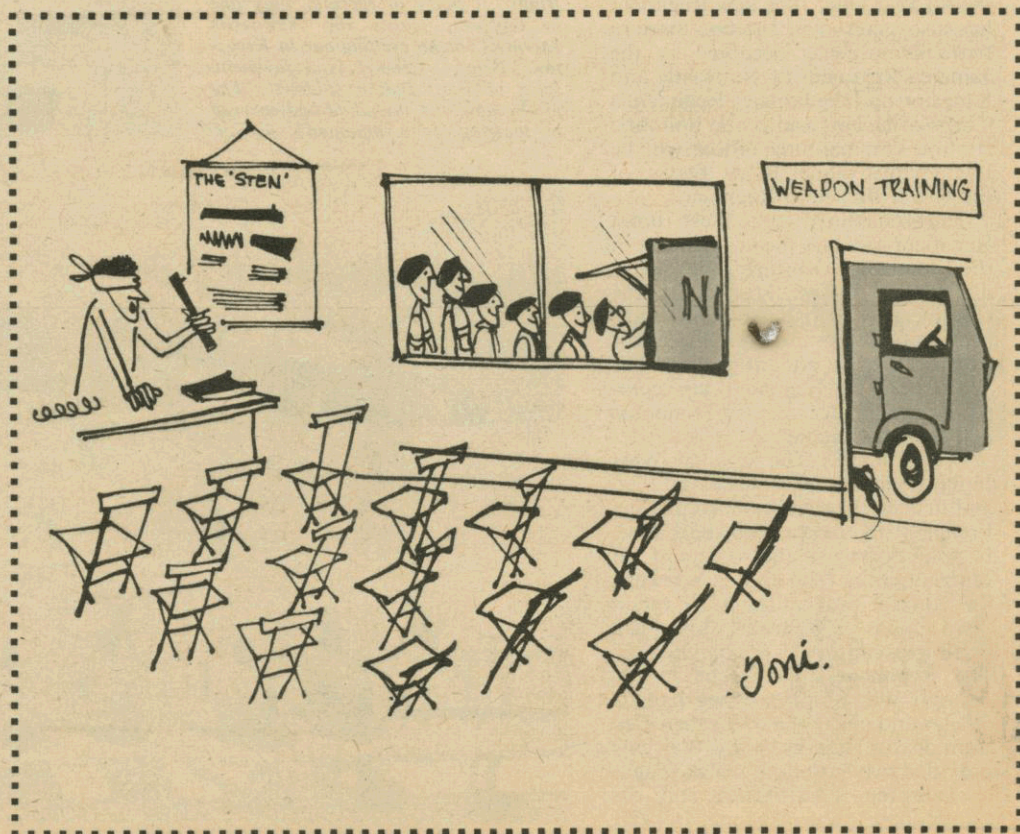
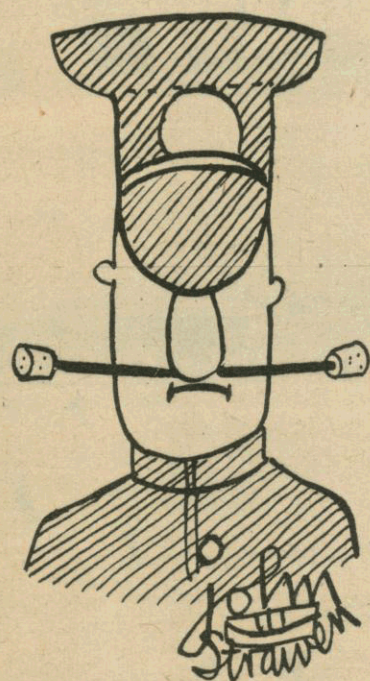
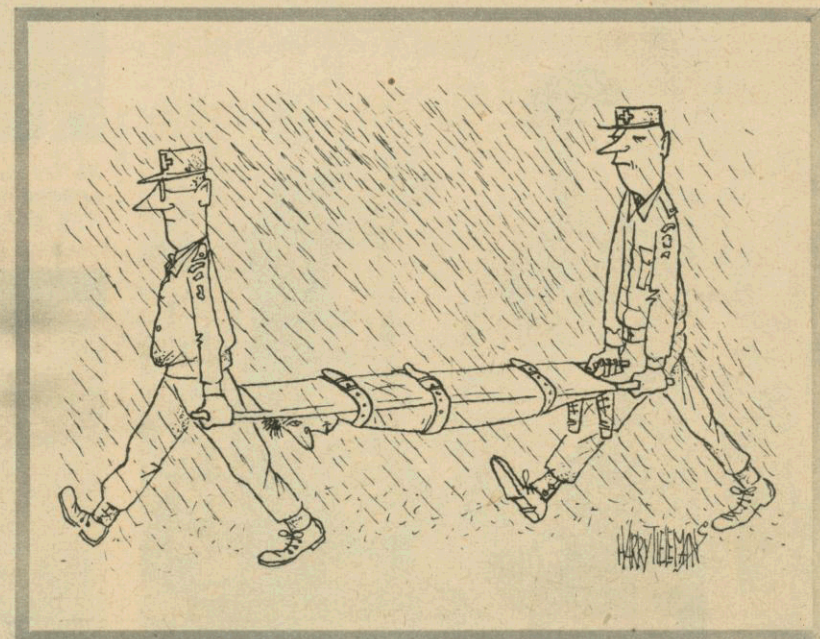
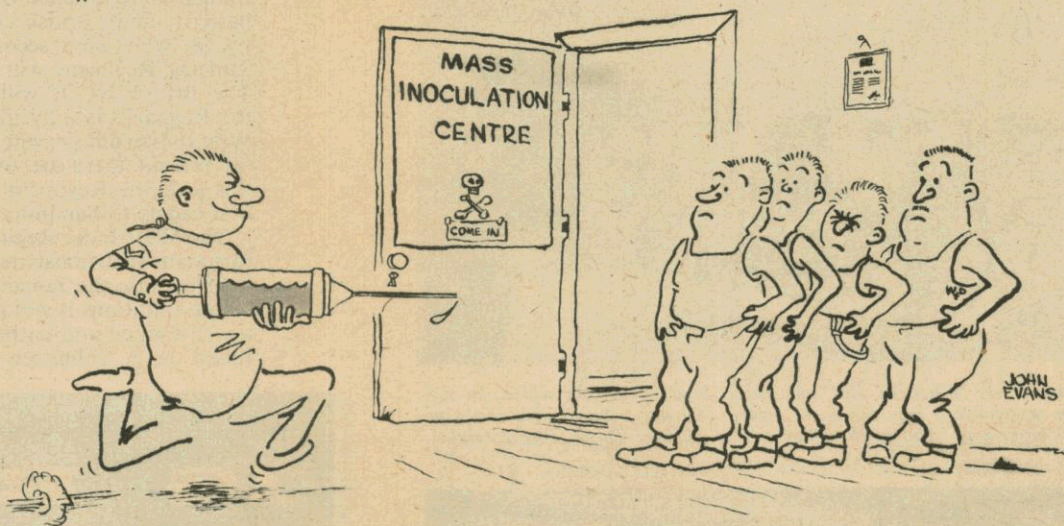


"Nine—ten—Jack—Queen—King."



"I always knew the Army would send me up the wall."

SOLDIER HUMOUR



"We're one big happy family here and I'm sick and tired of it"

1 A WHIFF OF GRAPE FOR THE GUNNERS

THE British soldier has often been called upon to carry out unusual tasks in the line of duty—but it came as something of a surprise to an officer and 18 men of 19 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, when they were told to move from their barracks in Minden to the famous wine-producing town of Bernkastel on the River Mosel.

They were to spend a fortnight helping the local growers to gather the grape harvest—a not inappropriate job for the Gunners whose predecessors were expert at administering whiffs of grape-shot. The aim was to foster good Anglo-German relations, to help

the German growers solve a labour shortage problem and to give the Gunners an insight into the art of making wine.

The Gunners, led by Second-Lieutenant Michael Lindsay, travelled from Minden by train and were met at Bernkastel by

the *Burgermeister* and a reception committee of local winegrowers with whom the soldiers lived during their stay.

Soon after their arrival the Gunners were at work on the steep riverside slopes, stripping the vines of their rich fruit and carrying the grapes in containers to the wine presses in the valley below. Every day they worked a full eight-hour shift in the vineyards and in the evenings helped at the wine presses and labelled

and packed thousands of bottles for export all over the world.

Although few of the local Germans could speak English and the soldiers, mostly National Servicemen, had only a smattering of German, the language problem was no barrier. The Gunners learned rapidly from demonstrations and had soon developed a sign language which overcame all difficulties.—*From a report by Captain I. S. Rutherford, Military Observer.*

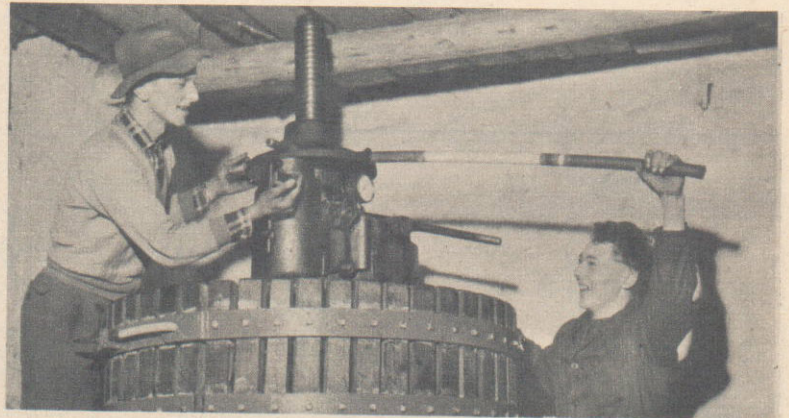


Gathering grapes is not as easy as it looks, even with the help of a German frau. Gunner Kenneth Metcalfe is shown how to pick the fruit without bruising it.

Right: New wine in new bottles. Second-Lieutenant Michael Lindsay labels a consignment of Lauerburg wine for export. Much of the wine from this part of Germany goes to the United States.



Above: Gunner Peter Whyberd tips one more load of grapes which he has gathered from the vineyard into the butt. Below: Giving a hand with the wine press after an eight-hour stint in the vineyards is Gunner David Payne (right).





Above: The French drums captured by the 34th Regiment of Foot at Arroyo dos Molinos are paraded before The Border Regiment in Berlin.

2 THE DRUMS OF VICTORY

ON a barrack square in Berlin, Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. L. Gillam, Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, The Border Regiment, stood alone beside six drums and ordered the Battalion to march on.

Behind the companies as they swung on to the square came the Regimental Band and behind them six men dressed in the uniform of French drummers of the early 19th century and another wearing a French drum-major's uniform and carrying a staff.

The drummers marched on to the drums, took them up and, to the tune of a French march "*Le Rève Passé*" moved out to the flanks, three on each side. Then, while the Band played the French national anthem, the drummers slow-marched inwards and stopped in the centre of the parade.

The Border Regiment was celebrating (for the last time in its present identity, for it is to amalgamate with the King's Own Royal Regiment this summer) the anniversary of its famous victory at Arroyo dos Molinos—a name that ranks at the head of a long list of regimental battle honours. The drums on the parade were evidence of the exploit.

Arroyo dos Molinos was a small village in the north of Spain where, during the Peninsular War in 1811, a French Army was lying up, believing it was safe from attack and the British Army many miles away. However, Sir Rowland Hill's division, which included the 34th Foot (known since its amalgamation with the 55th Foot in 1881

as The Border Regiment) made a forced march and launched a surprise attack at dawn.

The 34th formed part of the force that went round to the rear of the French position to cut off its retreat and was soon involved in desperate fighting. By a strange coincidence the 34th found itself up against the French 34th Regiment. The men of the 34th Foot fought with such tenacity and valour that they killed or took prisoner almost all their opponents and captured the French 34th's Drum-Major's staff and bass drums—the same drums and staff on parade in Berlin.

In commemorating its victory, The Border Regiment paid tribute to its gallant enemy. Led by the drummers, the Regimental Band marched past the Battalion, playing the French 34th's Regimental march which has been incorporated into the Border Regiment's march "John Peel".

FOOTNOTE: The Border Regiment is the only one in the British Army to bear the battle honour "Arroyo dos Molinos" and one of few to wear a laurel wreath commemorating a defeat—the Battle of Fontenoy in 1745 when the 34th saved the Allied Army from destruction.

Private L. Atkinson, dressed as a French drum-major, with the original staff captured from the French 34th Regiment in 1811.



Two of the regiments which routed the brave Sikh Army at Sobraon—the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment and the East Surrey Regiment—celebrate their famous victory this month

THE RIVER RAN RED

THE Battle of Sobraon, which ended the first Sikh War, was one of the bloodiest encounters in the history of warfare in India. Outnumbered by more than two to one, the British forces, led by General Sir Hugh Gough, fought their way through formidable defences, driving a courageous and fanatical foe into the River Sutlej whose swirling waters became red with the blood of 10,000 Sikhs.

After the British successes at Moodkee, Ferozeshah and Aliwal, the only place where the 50,000-strong Sikh Army had troops across the Sutlej in February, 1846 was at Sobraon. There the Sikhs, who had invaded British territory with the object of sacking Delhi, made a bridge of boats across the river and built giant parapets and earthworks behind which were 35,000 soldiers and 67 heavy guns. Nearly three miles away from the Sikh's 4000-yard semi-circular camp three British divisions prepared to attack.

Under cover of darkness and thick mist 15,000 British and native Indian troops moved forward while General Gough's heavy guns (five 18-pounders and 14 eight-inch howitzers) were massed to attack the western front where the earthworks were less formidable.

As the rising sun swept away the mist and cold, the heavy guns

and the light field batteries opened up, taking the Sikhs by surprise. For two hours the guns fired without silencing those of the Sikhs and then General Gough was told that the ammunition of his heavy pieces had run out. Undismayed he said "I'll be at them with the bayonet" and ordered the 3rd Division under Major-General Sir Robert Dick to attack the western flank.

Devastating fire came from the Sikh guns while Brigadier Stacey's Brigade, led by the 10th Regiment (later The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment) and the 53rd (later The King's Shropshire Light Infantry) advanced steadily in line as if they were still on the parade ground. Men fell at every step but not a shot was fired nor

a word spoken as they swarmed up the side of a deep ditch on the shoulders of their comrades. Then with a great shout they charged, their bayonets driving the enemy from their guns.

But the Sikhs counter-attacked furiously and Major-General Sir Harry Smith, commanding the 1st Division, had to launch an assault on the enemy's left flank to save General Dick's division from being overwhelmed.

This attack was led by the 31st (later The East Surrey Regiment) whose ladders could not breast the high parapets and three times they were beaten back. Seriously weakened by casualties in earlier actions the 31st lost a further 150 men.

Typical of the bravery and calmness of those who fought at Sobraon that day was the action of the 50th (later the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment). While under very heavy fire, the 50th opened their ranks to let the shattered fragments of the 31st

pass through to re-form and just as calmly closed its ranks again and fought on.

"Good God, they'll be annihilated," shouted General Gough as he watched two brigades of Major-General Gilbert's 2nd Division assault the parapets in the centre. His fears were justified for both brigadiers and many men were killed. The ramparts were too high to climb without scaling ladders and the two brigades were driven back with very heavy losses.

This central assault, however, gave General Dick's men a chance to rally and with General Smith's troops holding firm the tide began to turn. The 1st Division attacked again and the men hoisted each other on to the parapet while Sappers cleared a way through the ditches and parapets to allow the Third Light Dragoons to enter the entrenchments in single file. The Dragoons galloped among the Sikhs cutting them down left, right and centre and

Pride of place in the museum at the East Surrey's Regimental depot is given to this old print depicting the assault of 31st Foot. Every soldier who fought at Sobraon was presented with a medal.





Left: During the battle, Sergeant McCabe, of the 31st Foot, rescued the Regimental Colours which had been captured. He is shown here urging his men in the assault on the Sikh guns.



Right: From a painting of General Sir Hugh Gough who led the victorious army at Sobraon. After the battle he paid public tribute to the gallantry of the Sikhs.

gradually the enemy began to give way.

The Sikhs still fought bravely but pressure from three sides forced them back to their bridge of boats. Now they had to fight nature as well as the British for the Sutlej had risen seven feet in the night and fords which were passable the previous day had become a swollen torrent.

Many of them fought to the last and thousands were swept away by the river as they tried to escape across the bridge.

Although the British had always admired the courage of the Sikhs they were in no mood for mercy that day—they had seen too many of their comrades cut to pieces by the Sikh cavalry as they lay wounded. The British guns fired relentlessly on the fleeing enemy and before noon the battle was over.

About 10,000 Sikhs died at Sobraon and the British forces suffered 2283 casualties, of whom 320 were killed. The four actions of Moodkee, Ferozeshah, Aliwal and Sobraon in the First Sikh War had cost the British Army over 6000 casualties and of these 3400 were Europeans.

Although the Sikh Army took terrific punishment at Sobraon it was not annihilated and still had 25 guns on the north side of the river. As General Gough prepared to cross the Sutlej to march towards Lahore he feared that the war would drag on in a series of costly sieges but, surprisingly, the Sikhs accepted the peace terms and the British Army marched into the Sikh capital of Lahore on 20 February.

To celebrate the victory Lord Hardinge, the Governor-General,

ordered a salute of 21 guns to be fired "at all the usual stations of the Army" and a medal with "Sobraon" engraved upon it was presented to every soldier who fought in the battle.

The conduct of the troops received the special thanks of Parliament, General Gough became a baron and Smith was made a baronet.

Praise showered upon the troops for their valour in a brilliant operation. "The glorious conduct of the 10th at Sobraon is beyond praise," wrote Brigadier Stacey in a letter to the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel T. H. Franks. "They were the cornerstone of the victory. I have seen much service but I never saw anything to equal their cool and resolute courage on that day."

General Gough did not forget the valiant Sikhs at Sobraon. He later wrote: "Policy prevented my publicly recording my sentiments of the splendid gallantry of a fallen foe, and I declare, were it not from a conviction that my country's good required the sacrifice, I could have wept to have witnessed the fearful slaughter of so devoted a body."

FOOTNOTE: General Gilbert, the 2nd Division commander, was passionately fond of horses and not even an impending battle could keep him from hunting. While the Army lay encamped in front of Sobraon he hunted for wild boar close to the Sikh outposts. General Gilbert also served with distinction in the second Sikh War and it was to him in 1849 that the Sikh Army surrendered.

K. J. HANFORD



During the battle, Colonel Wood, ADC to Sir Henry Hardinge, rallied the men by snatching the Colours from an ensign and, waving them aloft, galloped to the front. The line re-formed and charged through the Sikh defences.

THE CORPORAL AND THE TIGER



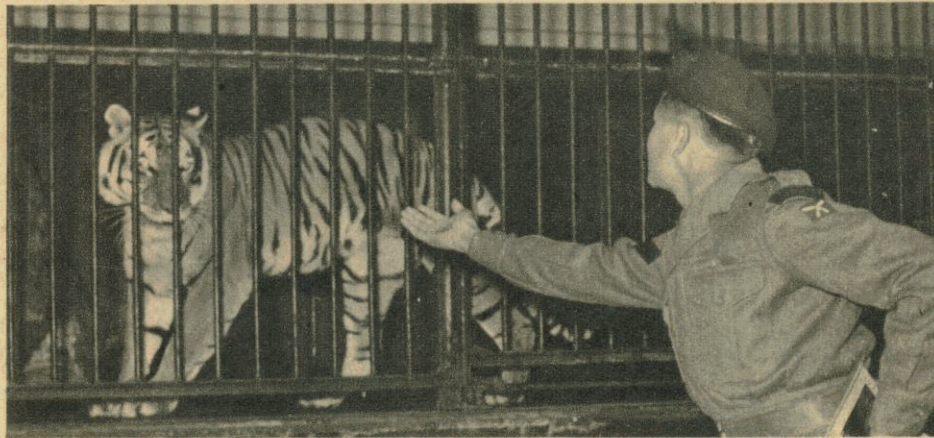
At the jungle headquarters of 7th Gurkha Rifles in Malaya, Corporal Kamansing Limbu nurses Nepti when he was a tame tiger cub. Right: Seven years later, the Corporal tries unsuccessfully to make friends with the now ferocious beast behind bars at the London Zoo.

S EVEN years ago Corporal Kamansing Limbu, of the 7th Gurkha Rifles, captured a six-week-old tiger cub while on patrol in the Malayan jungle.

The cub, which was christened Nepti, became a unit pet and Corporal Kaman-

sing was appointed its keeper, feeding it on milk and pork. But Nepti grew rapidly and soon became too much of a handful. So he was sent to the London Zoo as a gift from the Regiment.

Recently, Corporal Kamansing, who is in England with a party of Gurkhas on a course, renewed his acquaintance with Nepti when he went to the London Zoo with some of his comrades to feed the now fully-grown tiger with horse meat. But Nepti had forgotten his captor and keeper and refused to eat.



THE FINAL ROUND AT WEYBOURNE

T HE last round has been fired at Weybourne Anti-Aircraft practice ranges on the Norfolk coast where over the past 20 years, in peace and war, Regular and Territorial Army Gunners have loosed off more than a million-and-a-half shells.

Next month, Weybourne closes down and in future all anti-aircraft units will practise at Manorbier in Wales and Bude in Cornwall.

The honour of firing the last round fell to a Territorial Army unit, most of whose men come from the East End of London—459 (Essex) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (TA)—at the end of a fortnight's camp.

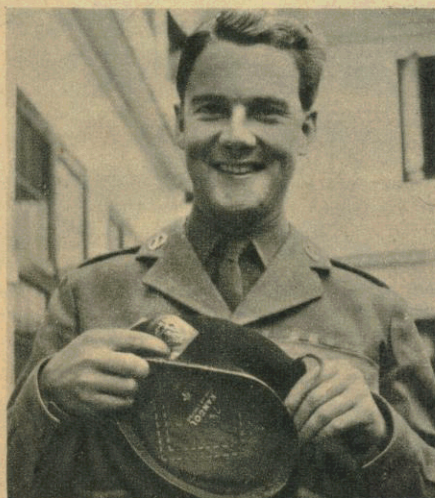
On the last day, after the Regiment had scored two hits on the towed target—bringing

the unit's score to 227—the tattered sleeve was dropped on the gun position. Then the Chief Instructor Gunnery at Weybourne, Lieutenant-Colonel M. W. D. Turner, took post as Gun Position Officer while the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel H. L. Clarke, pressed the plate which fired the shell into the sky. The order to fire was given by Sergeant J. Kingwell, of "Q" Battery.

The cartridge case of the last round has been polished and engraved and now rests in the Regimental Officers' Mess.

The inhabitants of nearby Sheringham have often complained of the noise made by the guns but many will regret the closing of the camp, especially the 90 civilians who earned their living there.

Right: A detachment of Territorial Army Gunners takes post to fire the last anti-aircraft gun at Weybourne Ranges. In 20 years more than a million-and-a-half rounds were fired there.



Lieutenant John Hewson MC, with his beret which is now a museum piece. The bullet entered the beret at the bottom of the badge and came out at the rear, leaving behind a severed tuft of hair.

CYPRUS

DIEHARDS HONOUR A BERET

A N Army beret with a battered badge and two bullet holes now occupies a place of honour in the museum at the Middlesex Regimental Depot in Mill Hill.

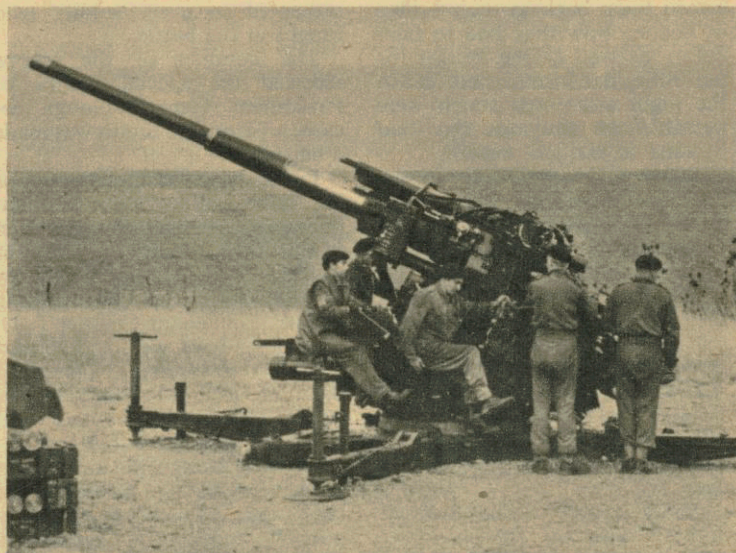
The beret belongs to Lieutenant John Hewson, of the Middlesex Regiment, who was wearing it when a five-man patrol he was leading was ambushed by terrorists in Cyprus.

He was standing up in a truck when the terrorists opened fire from 20 yards range. One bullet grazed his left temple, smashed against the cap badge, penetrated his beret, sliced off a tuft of hair, and reappeared through the back of the beret.

Half-blinded by blood from the scalp wound, Lieutenant Hewson courageously mounted a counter-attack and drove the terrorists off, killing one.

For his bravery during the encounter Lieutenant Hewson has been awarded the Military Cross.

IN THE



NEWS

GERMANY

THIS SAPPER BRIDGE WILL LAST A CENTURY

S APPERS of 29 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, have built a wooden bridge to last 100 years across a tributary of the River Weser near Hamelin, the Pied Piper town.

The bridge, 80-ft. long and named Burns Bridge after Brigadier W. Burns MC, Commander of 4 Guards Brigade, rests on massive oak piles shipped to the site from Amsterdam.

It is the first bridge of its kind

built in Germany for many years, and will be used to link the two halves of the Royal Engineers' Bridging Camp at Hamelin where Sappers from all units in Rhine Army are sent for training.

Burns Bridge was designed by Captain I. R. Hammond, commander of No. 1 Troop, which appropriately provided part of the Guard of Honour at the opening ceremony.



Sappers of 29 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, put the final touches to the plaque at the entrance to the bridge built to last 100 years.

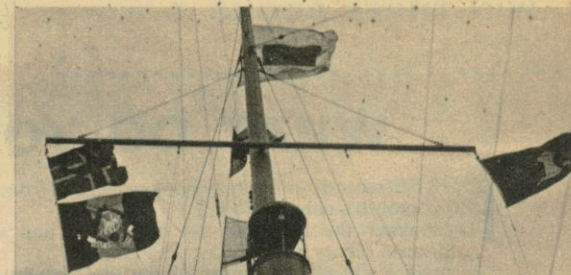


UNITED STATES

IT'S ALL DONE BY RADIO

A ROBOT tractor is the latest idea in the United States Army. It can be operated by remote control from as far away as 15 miles and would be invaluable for demolition and construction work in areas contaminated by radio-activity and in front-line positions.

In this photograph the tractor, fitted with a bulldozer blade, is being "driven" by the soldier in the foreground with a radio-control box.



Above: The Oxfordshire enters Hong Kong harbour, flying on the fore cross-trees the flags of the two regiments. Left: An officer of "A" Company, East Lancashire Regiment, conducts men of "A" Company, South Lancashire Regiment, from the troopship.

HONG KONG

TWO LANCASHIRE REGIMENTS UNITE

W HEN the troopship Oxfordshire steamed into Hong Kong harbour recently two regimental flags flew from the masthead—the flags of the East Lancashire Regiment and the South Lancashire Regiment.

On board were the South Lancashires coming to join the East Lancashires with whom they are now amalgamated as the Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales's) Volunteers. It was the first amalgamation of Infantry regiments outside Europe.

As the ship entered dock it was met by Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Griffin MC, the Commanding Officer of the East Lancashires, bearing his regimental flag, and the East Lancashires band struck up the regimental march of their sister regiment.

On the quayside officers from the East Lancashire Regiment met their opposite numbers in the South Lancashires and each of the newly arrived families was taken under her wing by a wife of the East Lancashires.

The amalgamation ceremonies took place later when the new Regiment paraded wearing its new cap badge and shoulder titles and new Colours were dedicated.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

THREE recently published books selected from the list below are the prize for winning this month's competition.

Answer the questions set out below and submit your entry to reach SOLDIER's editorial offices by Monday, 23 February.

The winner will be the sender of the first correct solution opened. He or she may choose any THREE of the following books: "Death Be Not Proud" by Elizabeth Nicholas; "Wild Men of Sydney" by Cyril Pearl; "Idle on Parade" by William Camp; "End of a War" by Edward Loomis; "World Cup 1958" by John Camkin; "Batters Castle", autographed by the author, Ian Peebles; "The Battle of the Ardennes" by Robert E. Merriam; "Tiger Burning" by Gerald Ashley; "The Rainbow and the Rose" by Nevil Shute; "They Fought Alone" by Maurice Buckmaster; and a bound volume of SOLDIER, 1958.

RULES

- Entries must be sent in a sealed envelope to The Editor (Competition), SOLDIER, 433, Holloway Road, London, N.7
- Each entry must be accompanied by the "WIN THREE BOOKS—9" panel printed at the top of this page.
- Competitors may submit more than one entry but each must be accompanied by the "WIN THREE BOOKS—9" panel.
- Any reader, serviceman or woman and civilian, may compete.
- The Editor's decision is final.

- Who is the present Poet Laureate?
- Which of these adventurers was a living person: (a) Dick Turpin; (b) Davy Crockett; (c) Dick Barton; (d) Wyatt Earp?
- Which of these words are mis-spelled: (a) hydrangea; (b) desicator; (c) inflammable; (d) greivous; (e) scrimmage?
- Pair the following: Scylla, Buda, Hero, Anthony, Helen—Leander, Cleopatra, Pest, Charybdis, Paris.
- Of which brigade in the British Army is this the new badge? (It was recently published in SOLDIER.)
- With which names do you associate: (a) penicillin; (b) the miner's safety lamp; (c) a laboratory gas burner; (d) the law of gravity?
- Flock is the collective noun for sheep. What is it for: (a) geese; (b) lions; (c) thieves; (d) elephants; (e) wolves?
- Complete these: (a) Portugal is to Spain as Norway is to —; (b) Czar is to Czarina as Rajah is to —; (c) "Ray" is to "Doh" as "Soh" is to —; (d) Pope is to Vatican as United States President is to —.
- Spot the intruder here (and say why): Lord Peter Wimsey, Hercule Poirot, Father Brown, Fabian of the Yard, Sexton Blake.
- What do these initials represent: (a) NALGO; (b) SEATO; (c) ICBM; (d) IRBM; (e) GMT; (f) HMSO?



The answers and the name of the winner will appear in SOLDIER'S April number.

★ The winners of SOLDIER's Christmas Quiz were:

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Corporal K. Whiting, REME, HQ London District.

The answers were: 1. Laika. 2. R. L. Stevenson, Shakespeare. Harriet Beecher Stowe, Nicholas Monsarrat. 3. Hula-hooping. 4. (b). 5. (a) lonely—cloud; (b) rode—six hundred; (c) chestnut—village. 6. Zloty; Mark; Piastre; Anna (or Rupee); Lira. 7. Correct spellings were: Mediterranean, syllable, trenchant. 8. Beethoven. 9. (d). 10. 102 storeys.

MILITARY AFFAIRS

Andrew Wheatcroft (age 10), 43 Heathfield Road, Handsworth, Birmingham 19.

1. Thirty. 2. False (The Royal Welch Fusiliers are in the Welsh Brigade). 3. Thor. 4. F-M Viscount Montgomery. 5. Woormera and Maralinga. 6. (a) 1st King's Dragoon Guards; (b) The Life Guards; (c) Somerset Light Infantry; (d) Royal Engineers; (e) Royal Warwickshire Regiment. 7. Honourable Artillery Company. 8. British Columbia. 9. (a) 65 tons; (b) Four. 10. Mr. Christopher Soames.

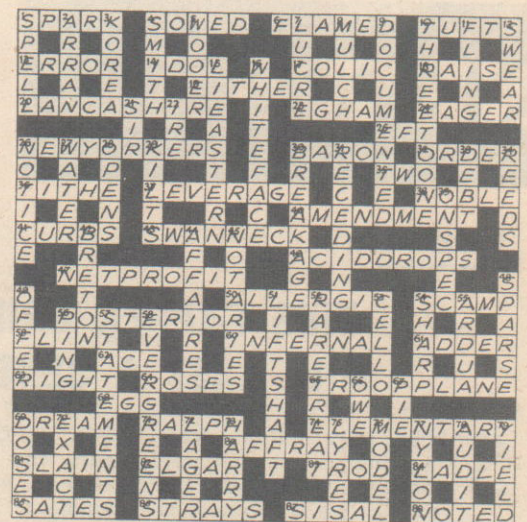
SPORT

Major W. F. Eyles (Rtd.), RASC Barrack Store, Hook of Holland.

1. Arsenal, Portsmouth, Luton. 2. Henry Armstrong. 3. Nine runs. 4. Peter Radford. 5. Aston Villa, seven times. 6. Jim Jeffries, Gene Tunney, Rocky Marciano. 7. Dr. Roger Bannister. 8. Peter Thomson. 9. Barna (table tennis), Loader (cricket), Booty (cycling), Weetman (golf), Davis (snooker), Broadbent (soccer), Currie (rugby), Johnson (athletics). 10. Trautmann.

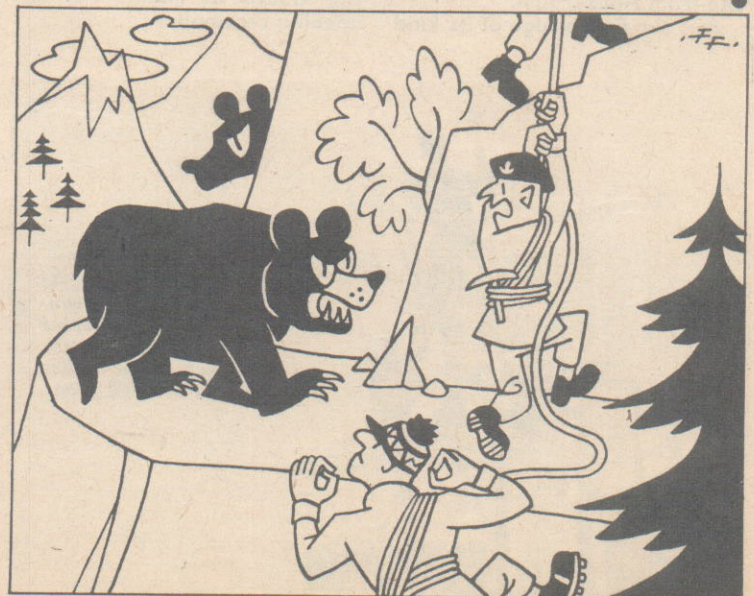
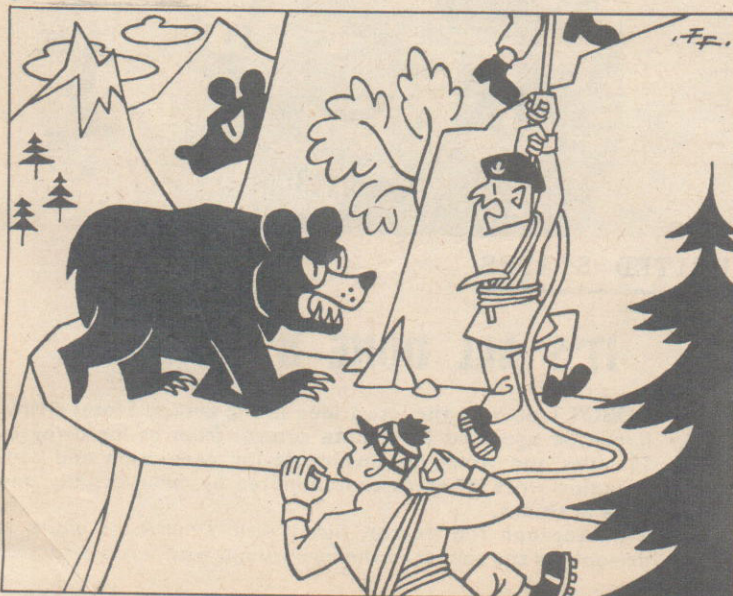
★ The winner of the Christmas Crossword (solution below) was:

RQMS H.A. Collett, Marlborough Road, Bulford.



HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

These two pictures look alike but they vary in ten minor details. Study them carefully and if you cannot detect the differences turn to page 38



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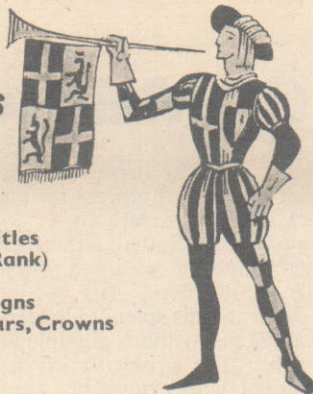
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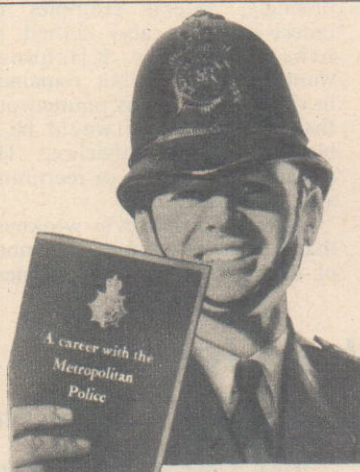
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THE HERO WHO BECAME A FAILURE

"YOUR Country needs YOU," said the famous World War One recruiting poster. Behind the slogan were the stern eyes, the bushy moustache and pointing finger of Field-Marshal Earl Kitchener of Khartoum.

In their thousands, young men responded to the call of the great warlord. It was Kitchener's tragedy that when his country was in dire straits, his most important contribution to her war effort was to trade on his reputation. Kitchener, though he had lost the confidence of those who worked with him, was yet the symbol of Britain's will to victory. The hero of schoolboys and their parents for a generation, he loomed larger over his time than any other general of this century.

In "Kitchener, Portrait of an Imperialist" (John Murray, 30s), Sir John Magnus describes a career which achieved glory in the last years of the expansion of the British Empire and ended still in public glory but in private humiliation.

Kitchener, who was not noted for confessing his limitations, once refused to take an appointment at the War Office on the grounds that it would be the grave of his reputation. When the call came, in 1914, he obeyed reluctantly but as a matter of duty. The hero of Omdurman and South Africa became Secretary of State for War, second only to the Prime Minister in Government circles.

He had three great tasks. One was to raise, train and equip new armies. Brushing aside the machinery of the Territorial Army—he disliked non-professional soldiers—he brought in the recruits, albeit expensively. His second job was to mobilise industry for war. The guns in



This was the famous World War One poster that brought in recruits by the thousands.

France ran short of ammunition, and this work was taken from him, to be handed to a Ministry of Munitions.

Finally, Kitchener was to advise the Government on strategy and supervise its conduct. This, after several blunders and, surprisingly, several examples of indecision, was also shifted to other shoulders. Kitchener wanted to resign, but remained in office when it was pointed out that his resignation would be a blow to public confidence. He remained, in charge of recruiting and administration.

It was Kitchener's weakness that he was no good as a member of a team. He was a tireless

autocrat of great drive and the despair of his staff officers for his orders were given verbally or by telegram (in the Sudan, Kitchener carried a stock of telegraph forms in his sun-helmet). His energy and drive and his splendid leadership made his methods possible in the field. The problems of his Ministerial work, however, were too many and too complicated for a dictator with a contempt for files, even for a dictator of Kitchener's abilities.

If he was two-thirds a failure at the War Office, however, his previous services to his country had been great, and his career an inspiration to thousands.

Newly out of the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, the young Sapper went off to see war at first hand in the Franco-Prussian campaign of 1870. He volunteered to join a French ambulance unit, but contracted pleurisy on a balloon trip and was taken home.

His French adventure set young Kitchener off on commissioned service with the beginnings of a reputation. It was enhanced by brilliant and adventurous surveys of Palestine and Cyprus.

Fame came to him as a young major holding active commands of native troops in the Egypt-Sudan frontier area at the time Gordon was besieged in Khartoum. When Gordon was avenged at Omdurman, Major-General Sir Herbert Kitchener was in command.

Ruler of the Sudan, Chief of Staff, then Commander-in-Chief in the South African War, Commander-in-Chief in India, ruler of Egypt—the great offices fol-

lowed. Kitchener was one of the British officers who turned the Egyptian Army from a laughing-stock into a force to be reckoned with; his reforms revitalised the Indian Army. He was the symbol of Empire as well as of military glory. The long, bushy moustaches, carefully cultivated as a subaltern, became models for drill sergeants all over Europe.

The idol of the public was not popular with his fellow-officers. He bullied his staff, was aloof and petulant and ruthlessly ambitious. An austere celibate himself, he refused to have married British officers in the Egyptian Army when he was in command.

He had a passion for economy, and his way of making war on the cheap may have endeared him to politicians and civil servants, but it led to his force in the Sudan having inadequate medical services. He was guilty of brutality on more than one occasion.

He was acquisitive. In India, art dealers closed their shops when the Commander-in-Chief was on the prowl. He looted Boer statues from South Africa (they were later secretly returned). When he gazed at the famous Cloth Hall in Ypres a staff officer commented, "Those statues have been bombed by the Germans for a hundred days, but they have never been in such danger as they are at this moment."

He loved fighting, and it was appropriate that he should be killed in war, though it was a sailor's death. In June, 1916, the cruiser *Hampshire*, taking Kitchener to visit the Tsar's troops on the Russian front, struck a mine and sank.

Fighting In The Floods

"POP goes the weasel," hummed staff officers at the headquarters of the British Second Army early in December, 1944.

The German town of Wesel was the target for the beginning of the end of the campaign in North-West Europe. Between the choice of target and the taking of Wesel, however, there was waged some of the fiercest fighting of the war.

R. W. Thompson describes that fighting brilliantly in "The Battle for the Rhineland" (Hutchinson, 21s). It was fighting in atrocious weather, in a land of flood, forest and rivers, but especially flood.

At times, troops were cruising about in amphibious vehicles conducting a miniature naval war. They ran "aground" on barbed wire and gates, engaged machine-guns mounted on windmills and

roof-tops and battled for the islands left in the waters.

When the Germans blew dykes and dams, the Royal Engineers (on Dutch advice) blew more dykes to send two million gallons an hour in a counter-barrage, to roll back water with water.

For the British and Canadian troops engaged it was a dour, slogging match with few headlines.

The key to the fighting in that icy, watery winter, the author believes, was the defeat of the American 28th Division early in November, 1944, when they assaulted the Roer dam villages, notably that of Schmidt. The Americans had failed to see the importance of their objectives. The seven Roer dams in this area contained enough water to enable the Germans to flood the Roer valley, thus making a water-barrier to guard the Cologne plain. The Germans defended this treasure in great strength,

and the inadequate American forces which made the assault were routed. Four months were needed to retake the positions. The failure of this operation in November held the American 9th Army impotent for a fortnight the following February.

At this stage of the campaign, says the author, the Allies had different objectives. The British were fighting for a political victory, in which geography was of first importance—an advance in the north, giving control of Bremen, Hamburg and finally Berlin. The Americans were fighting only to destroy the German army, with little regard for geography.

Field-Marshal Montgomery, commanding 21st Army Group, maintained that the way to victory was in the north. The Americans would not accept this.

There were other differences. Field-Marshal Montgomery believed that the front north of the Ardennes should have one ground force commander, in charge of

all the forces in that sector. General Bradley would not tolerate the idea of American forces under a British commander, and he was backed by the Supreme Commander, General Eisenhower. Even when the German offensive in the Ardennes made this the only possible course, and Monty temporarily took command of the American 1st and 9th Armies, it was still over General Bradley's protests.

The Allied commanders in the battle faced tasks of a magnitude far greater than any in that field which had previously confronted human beings, says the author. It was not surprising that they made so many mistakes, but that they made so few.

It may be true, he thinks, that the size of their problem forced them to think of themselves in outside terms, lest they should quail. A senior staff officer once told him, "Even generals wet their knickers." He doubts if that was true of the commanders of armies and army groups.



The Major and The Gun-runners

MANY unusual small missions carried out by British soldiers in World War Two have been revealed to prove that truth is often stranger than fiction. Few, however, are more extraordinary than the string of unlikely adventures that befell a major in the Corps of Royal Military Police in India at the war's end.

"Afghan Adventure" by Major John Fox as related to Roland Goodchild (*Robert Hale*, 16s) tells how the major, then in the

Special Investigation Branch, with the help of two other British soldiers and eight Pathans, frustrated the activities and finally brought to heel the leader of a gang of thugs engaged in stealing and smuggling arms and ammunition. Fox, disguised like his fellow Britons, as a Pakistani camel-driver, led his little command from Karachi northward across the desert and mountains to the Khyber Pass and Kabul in search of the gang and after a series of almost incredible inci-

dents brought off a most satisfying explosion of stolen ammunition dumped in a mountain cave.

On the way back to Karachi the major and his men ambushed a big camel caravan with more stolen warlike stores and captured further consignments being carried in dhows to and from the ports on the Baluchistan coast.

It is all agreeably exciting stuff, even if one's credulity is strained by a chapter devoted to the description of a highly romantic interlude with a desert beauty.

Stalingrad—As The Germans Saw It

Alamein was the turning point of Britain's campaigns against the Germans in World War Two, so Stalingrad, less than a month later, was the turning point on the Russian front.

Of the two, Stalingrad will for ever remain in German eyes the greater human tragedy.

The tough veterans who went into captivity at the end of the fighting in North Africa emerged, healthy and well-preserved, to help rebuild their shattered Fatherland. Not so the men of Stalingrad.

In and around this city of the steppes, 250,000 men were cut off by the Russians. The lucky ones were 45,000 sick and wounded who were flown out. Of the rest, 100,000 died in action or of disease, starvation or cold: a like number of emaciated wrecks staggered into captivity; of these, only 5000 have returned to Germany.

Two new books describe the tragedy of Stalingrad, as seen through German eyes. Heinz Schröter, who was there as a war correspondent and later had access to German official records, takes the story up to the end of the fighting in "Stalingrad" (*Michael Joseph*, 25s). Doctor Hans Dibold continues the tale as he saw it in prisoner-of-war hospitals, in "Doctor at Stalingrad" (*Hutchinson*, 16s).

There is a Russian saying that Russia can be conquered only if the enemy crosses the Volga. In November, 1942, the German Sixth Army reached that river at Stalingrad. There was a bitter battle for the ruins of the city, during which the Russians used the sewers to infiltrate men behind the invaders' positions.

The Russians were not driven back across the river. In a few days they mounted a vast offensive which cut off Sixth Army completely and drove back the other German armies. Hitler forbade a retreat and ordered Sixth Army to hold Stalingrad and at the same time attack westwards, to link with relief forces pushing to the east. It was an impossible task. The plan failed, and Sixth Army was left to die.

Critics of Colonel-General Friedrich Paulus, Sixth Army's commander, say he should have disobeyed Hitler's order, abandoned Stalingrad and broken

out to save his army while he had the chance. General Paulus, however, maintained, "For me, the first duty of a soldier is to obey."

So Fortress Stalingrad fought on. The Luftwaffe delivered no more than a fifth of the necessary supplies, and that weight was not always made up of what was needed. When the troops were down to a few ounces of bread and fatless soup a day, aircraft brought in tons of dried herbs, sweets, unusable engineering

equipment, propaganda leaflets, contraceptives and pepper!

The men had no proper winter clothing. Construction staffs flew in to build concrete fortifications—but there was no concrete, no labour. The men lived and fought in holes scratched in the frozen ground. In mid-siege, an order was issued that any officer in danger of capture was to shoot himself.

Doctor Dibold's book is, to the non-medical reader, a chronicle of horrors. The patients he and his fellow German doctors treated in captivity were prematurely aged by over-exertion, privation and disease, and he describes their symptoms in detail.

The first hospital the author worked in was an unventilated, black-walled air-raid bunker, dug deep into a hill and ill-lit by crude paraffin lamps.

Food and medical supplies were always scarce. It was a great day when the Russians permitted a "greenstuff commando" to leave hospital to pick stinging nettles and other plants.

The author does not blame the Russians for these conditions. Indeed, he praises the co-operation of their medical staffs and finds much good in the GPU (later the NKVD), the Russian police force which has a reputation rivaling that of the Gestapo.



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Ode To An Army Wife

I WOULD merely like to say
To the girls who pass this way
That to be an Army wife there is a need
To know that even you
Are under orders, too—
Survival of the fittest is Their creed.

If you can understand
The methods of this band
And never, never question what They do,
And bear the daily strife
You'll find as Army wife
Then you're among the very chosen few.

You must never, never cry
When waving him goodbye
But tell yourself you really do not mind
To have to pack like hell
And sell the car as well
And organise the follow-up behind.

When the ship begins to roll
And the weather takes its toll
And you're feeling inexpressibly unwell,
The kiddies—Chris, Jill, Jean
Like you, have all turned green—
So you join them at the basin for a spell.

When you want to have a bath
It's enough to make you laugh
But you don't, 'cos it's not funny any more.
You haven't long been in it—
Not more than just a minute—
When the banging starts upon the bathroom door.

"Oh, Mummy, do be quick
"Little Christopher's been sick"
Your reactions are high-pressured, none-the-less
To your cabin you must hasten,
Chris has missed the ruddy basin—
The evidence lies there upon your dress.

If the journey you survive,
Though only half alive,
The end will come one bright and sunny morn,
For far across the blue
Just hoving into view
Are the shores where all your hopes will be reborn.

As you hang across the rails
And scan the sea of males
You recognise him by his battered hat
Yes it is—it is the one
That Christopher sat on—
My word, he really has got fat.

In turn you lift each child,
And his expression goes all wild,
His eyes are filling with dismay—
It must worry him to see
That although he has but three
You've held up five small children in the fray.

You send the kids ahead
Down the gangway they have fled
To the safety of their loving Daddy's breast—
You count the trunks and bits
And hand out all the tips
Then pick up all your bags—just like the rest.

But when you feel his kiss
It is moments just like this
When you know you'll never choose a different life,
That you would do the same,
Bear the heartbreaks of the game
And like, for him, the role of Army wife.

JUNE BENNETT

THE ARMY MAKES A MOVE



CHESS, though warlike in its call for strategy and concentration, has only just been made an official Army game. But for many years boards were brought out, pawns and pieces positioned, heads buried in hands and brows furrowed in many an Army unit.

The game was, as the phrase has it, "unrecognised" in the Army until last month. But this ignoble status is to exist no longer. On behalf of the Army's thousands of chess players a Women's Royal Army Corps officer, Captain P. A. Sunnucks, made an opening gambit against the Army Sports Control Board for "official recognition."

That has now been granted—there seemed no reason why chess should not take its place alongside the Army's more energetic pursuits—and it means financial backing for the chess enthusiasts, the fielding of a strong Army team, and the holding of individual and unit championships.

Unofficially competitive chess had been played by the Army in Cyprus and the Canal Zone, in Malaya and Hong Kong, and flourished at Woolwich in a club formed by Captain Sunnucks. The Army already has players of County and British Championship standard in its ranks.

Captain Sunnucks, who is the British woman champion and plays for Middlesex and Great Britain, has been acting as secretary of an interim committee which had the Director of Army Education, Major-General S. Moore-Coulson, as its president. Recently she gathered together

19 Army players, 14 from the Royal Air Force and three from the Royal Navy to form a Combined Services team in a friendly match against the Civil Service.

The players—75 men and Captain Sunnucks—met in London across the tables of a basement conference room in a Ministry office. For nearly four hours (less a break for tea) they faced each other in silent concentration broken only by the ticking of the time clocks, the occasional click of moved pieces and a quiet creaking of shoes as some competitors stole round to assess the

Eyes down, look in, concentrate! The tea break over, competitors pick up the threads of their games again. After each move a player switches over the paired clocks which check the number of moves made in a given time.

Below: Captain P. A. Sunnucks, British woman champion considers a move against her Civil Service opponent, Mr. P. W. Hempson. The game was uncompleted and later adjudicated as a draw.



Below: A teaser for the General. Major-General S. Moore-Coulson, Director of Army Education, studies the board. He drew his game.



battle positions on neighbouring boards.

The result of the match, the first played by a Combined Services team since World War Two, was something of a landslide for the Civil Service who won by 28 games to nine, but the Combined Services had the consolation of winning on the top three boards against three of the eight County players in their opponents' team.

On the top board the reigning Civil Service champion, Mr. W. E. C. Richards (Surrey) resigned against Squadron Leader D. B. Pritchard, Malayan champion in 1955 and a former Middlesex captain. On Board Two, Private M. J. Haygarth, a National Serviceman in the Royal Army Pay Corps and a former Yorkshire champion, defeated a Middlesex County player.

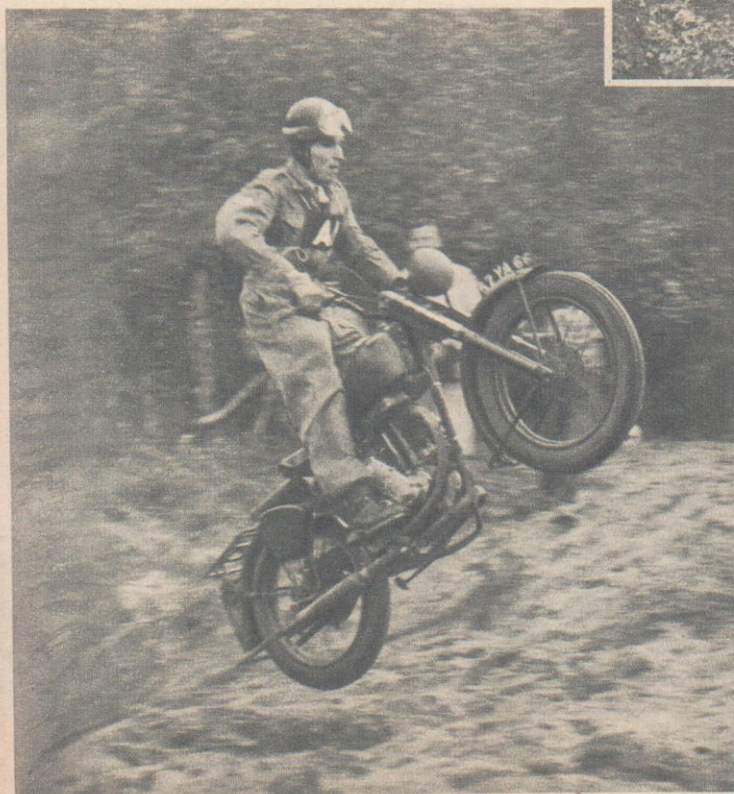
Major-General Moore-Coulson, against an Oxford University and Kent player, was one of the four to gain half a point for a drawn game.



A Champ, fitted with a snorkel, ploughs through the pond in the "Neptune Stakes." Every vehicle completed the course—a tribute to the drivers, vehicles and waterproofing.

It Was Rough On The Rough Riders

Right: Seconds after this picture was taken the Land-Rover, driven by Sergeant Butcher, Royal Signals, overturned at this tricky hazard. The sergeant and vehicle escaped unhurt and finished the course. Below: At the top of a one-in-three hill the champion Rough-Rider, Sergeant Brooker, flies through the air with the greatest of ease. He landed safely and went on to win.



A NEW and exciting sport that may become an annual Army event is the Modern Rough-Riders championship, held for the first time recently on a tortuous course at Kingsley, in Hampshire.

It was a contest of skill, dexterity, physical fitness and nerve fought out, not on horseback, but mounted on motor-cycles and at the wheel of Land-Rovers, one-ton trucks and Champs.

This year the competitors were the six best men from the Army Mechanical Transport School at Bordon. Next year men from many other units in Britain will be invited to try their luck.

The test, over a rough cross-country course filled with hazards, was for each man to ride a motor-cycle, drive a one-tonner and then a Land-Rover through a series of obstacles in a given time and, in a team event, to complete a circular trip (including 75 yards through a five-foot deep pond) in a waterproofed Champ.

The course was so stiff that only six of the 18 rounds were ridden

within the time limit. The individual winner was Sergeant D. Brooker, RASC, an Army rider who won a bronze medal in last year's international Six-Days Trials in Germany. He scored 28 out of 30 possible points. Company Sergeant-Major G. Asbury, RASC, was runner-up with 24 points.

The Royal Army Service Corps team (CSM Asbury, CSM R. Lawton and Sergeant Brooker) won the team prize in the "Neptune Stakes." Each Champ successfully negotiated the water—which, from the photographer's viewpoint, was a pity. If their vehicles had "drowned," the drivers would have had to swim across the pond!



Boxing is one Army sport that may not suffer from the abolition of National Service. Already there are encouraging signs that by 1962 the Army may be able to "field" an all-Regular team as good as any in the post-war years

BOXING

.....

MORE REGULARS IN THE RING

AS the Army's boxers this season punch their way from one success to another, the prospects of setting up an all-Regular representative team even before National Service ends, become considerably brighter.

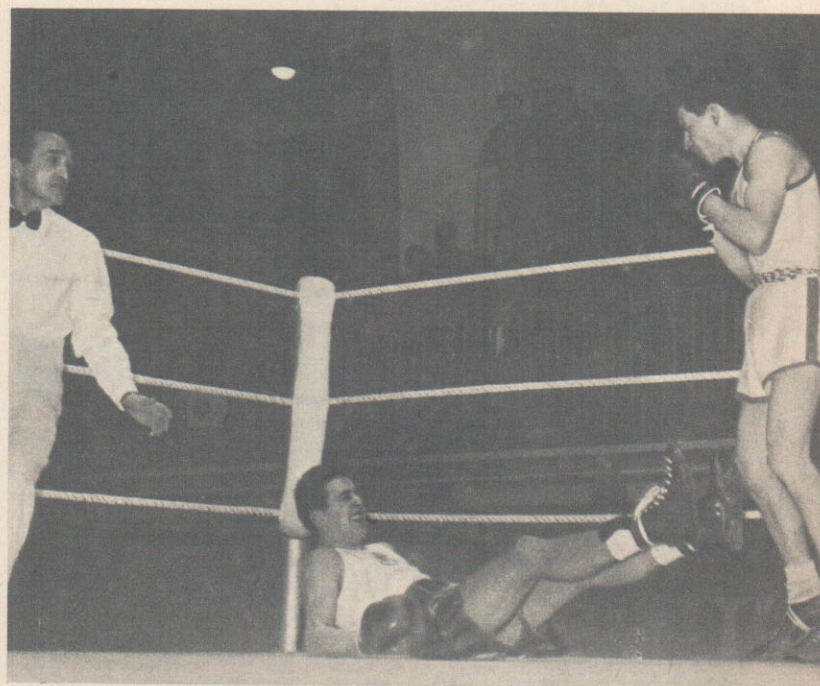
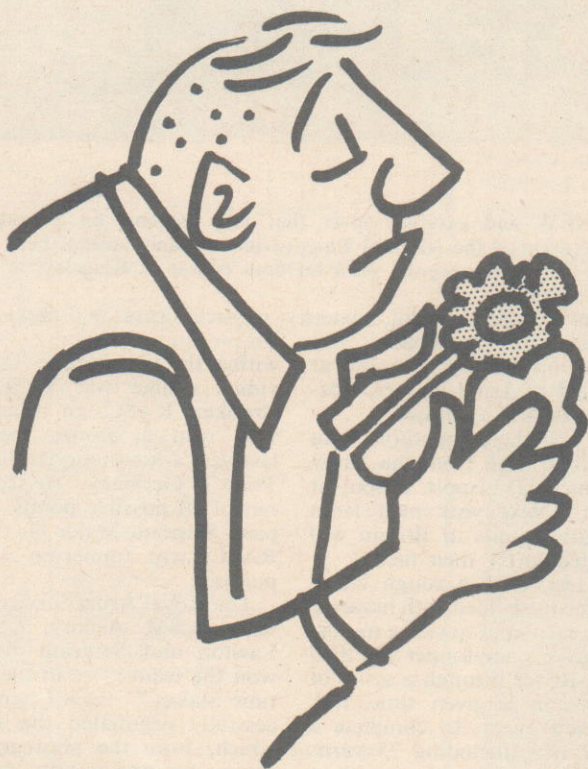
Today, more Regulars are being chosen to box for the Army and in a recent match against the Territorial Army at least half the team were Regular soldiers.

There is no lack of future talent either, for many promising youngsters are serving in the Apprentice schools and Junior Leaders regiments, a source of boxers which the Army Sports Control Board has been quick to exploit by organising recently, for the first time, an inter-Junior Leaders competition in which 700 boys took part. The contest will become an annual affair.

With the help of its outstanding Regular soldier boxers, the Army team this year bids fair to equal its undefeated record of two years ago. So far the Army team has won all its matches (beating Wales 8-2; Ulster 10-nil; London 7-6 and the Territorial Army 10-4) and is tipped to win the remaining fixtures—against the Royal Air Force and Wales (for the second time).

One of the Army's most successful Regular soldier boxers is Corporal J. Phayer, of REME, here seen (left) in his bout with A. Grayley, of London. Phayer won when the fight was stopped in the second round.

Cheer up chum . . .



Corporal Brian Nancurvis, the Army, ISBA and ABA welterweight champion, on his toes after flooring B. Thornton, of London. Nancurvis, who won his fight in the second round, is also a Regular soldier but is to leave the Army soon.

Among the leading Regular soldiers in the Army team are three members of the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment: Private V. Kenny, a lightweight, who was runner-up in the Army trials this season; Corporal V. Parry, a welter, who will succeed the Army champion, Corporal B. Nancurvis; and Corporal G. Bayliss, a middleweight.

In the light-middleweight division one of the outstanding Regulars is Corporal J. Phayer, of 13 Command Workshops, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, who was the Army and ISBA Boy champion. His father is a Regular officer, also serving with REME.

There are also Craftsman B. Smith, REME, who has boxed three times as a lightweight for the Army this season; Sapper R. Ayres, another lightweight, of 10 Training Regiment, Royal Engineers; and Sergeant L. Hobbs, of the Grenadier Guards who is a useful heavyweight.

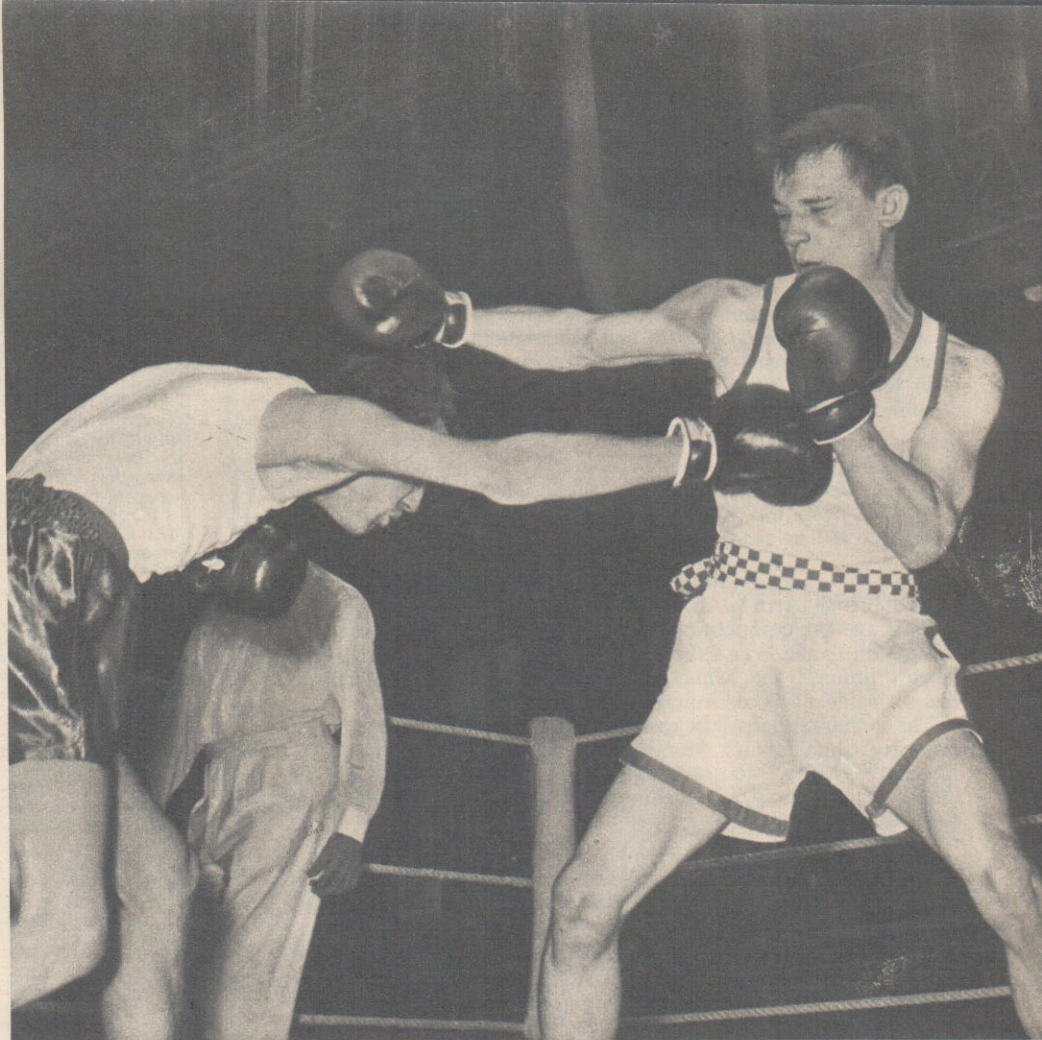
Much of the success of this season's team has been due to the Army coach, Company Sergeant-Major Instructor Reg Marks who before each contest takes the team under his personal charge for several days, building up their fitness and confidence.

This confidence was well in evidence during the contest against London Amateur Boxing Association. After ten bouts had been fought the Army were trailing 4-6 but the last three Army boxers won their fights and swung the contest dramatically to achieve victory by the odd bout.

The last fight, on which the result of the meeting depended, was won by the Army's Jamaican heavyweight, Sapper Menzies Johnson, Royal Engineers. Johnson was a complete novice when he joined the Army 18 months ago, but after a month's tuition he entered for the Army championships and reached the semi-finals!

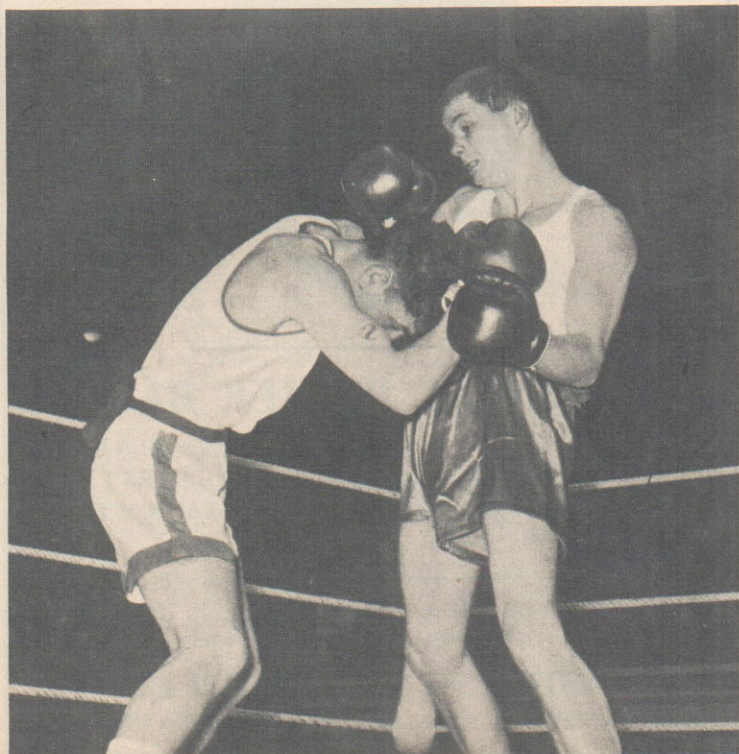
Other Army boxers who won their fights against London included Corporal Brian Nancurvis, the Army, ISBA and ABA welterweight champion, of 4 Training Battalion, Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Lance-Corporal P. Burke, the Eire international middleweight, of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers; and Corporal Phayer who stopped his opponent in the second round.

It was recently announced that this season's Imperial Services team championships will be arranged so that the three Services meet each other in turn. As a result, more Army boxers will be able to enter for this contest and also for the Amateur Boxing Association competitions at Wembley—the Mecca of every soldier whose ambition is to win a national boxing title.

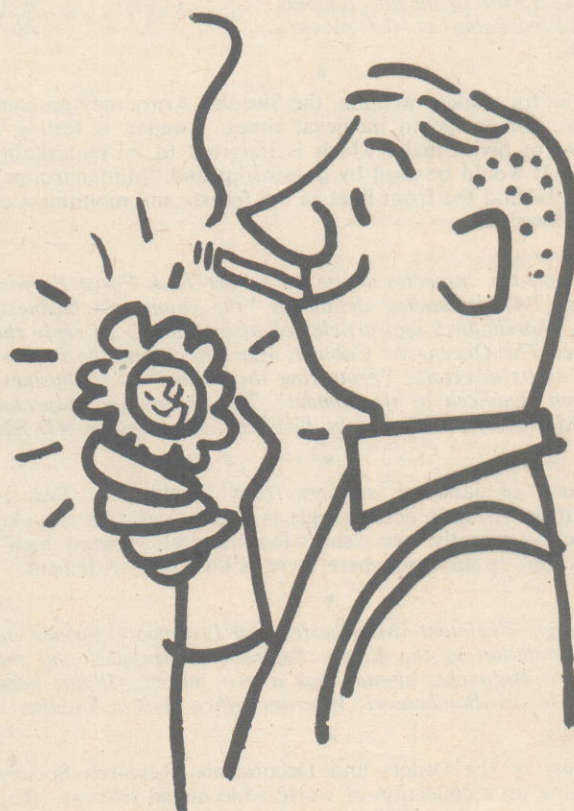


Another of the Army's international boxers, Driver D. Weller, of 15 Training Battalion, RASC, avoids a right swing from P. Bennyworth (London). Weller, who has boxed against Poland, Austria and Czechoslovakia, had to retire with a cut eye in the second round.

Craftsman B. Smith, REME, narrowly lost his fight with P. Warwick (right) of London. Smith, a six-year Regular, has boxed three times for the Army.



Have a Capstan



The News You Might Have Missed

The Royal Navy's light fleet carrier HMS *Glory*, which has been earmarked for scrapping, may be converted to a troopship for the British Army. The *Glory* and four other similar aircraft carriers, commissioned during or just after World War One, were built with mercantile marine hulls with the original intention of conversion to commercial service.

Springing smartly to attention on parade, a 22-year-old Australian National Serviceman injured his back. He appealed for compensation from the Commonwealth Government and has been awarded £334 by the Sydney District Court.

The British Army's 250 "char-wallahs" in Malaya are protesting against competition from NAAFI and plan to send a delegation to the War Office and, if necessary, to see the Queen. Their "union," the Malayan Army Contractors' Association, has set aside £1200 as a fighting fund.

The "char-wallahs," whose services include supplying tea, tailoring, shoe repairs, laundry and hair-cutting, say they followed the Army into the jungle at the height of the Malayan emergency but now, when things have calmed down, are being pushed out of business.

The Royal Australian Air Force's senior warrant officer, Daniel Joseph Hayes, who has just retired, began his 36 years' service when he enlisted in the Rifle Brigade.

In his 28 years with the RAAF, Warrant Officer Hayes served at every station in Australia. His father, a Royal Marine, lost his life on HMS Hampshire in World War One and his mother was killed in an air raid on London in 1944. His four brothers all served in the Imperial Forces.

The American Army is experimenting with a nerve gas which will turn enemy soldiers into cowards, temporarily diminishing their will to fight, but leaving no permanent adverse effects.

So far the gas has been tried only on a cat. A film of this experiment shows the cat pouncing on a mouse, then, after a whiff of the gas, jumping back and cowering at the mouse's approach.

Looking for a silent weapon, the Swedish Army may go back from the atomic age to medieval times. Sweden is testing a cross-bow of Swiss make which is reported to be remarkably accurate. It would be used by paratroops and "hunter troops" operating behind the front lines in the forests and mountains of northern Sweden.

An income-tax inspector wrote to 2 Port Task Force Provost Company (TA) demanding details of "the company's business, directors, shareholders and articles of association." In reply the unit named The Queen, the Cabinet, War Office and the Provost Marshal as its directors; "protecting the nation" as its business and Queen Boadicea as its founder. The discomfited inspector apologised but refused to accept Boadicea, who died in AD 62!

A colony of Japanese soldiers from World War Two is believed to be living in dense jungle in Dutch New Guinea. An aircraft crew recently saw "short-looking, fair-skinned men" run into huts, in an area where there is no white settlement.

The King's Regiment (Manchester and Liverpool), formed by the amalgamation of the King's Regiment (Liverpool) and the Manchester Regiment, already has a new march. It has been composed by the Bandmaster, Warrant Officer Edwin Smythe.

Members of the Orders and Decorations Research Society are building up a collection of world-wide medal ribbons. The society's secretary has 6000 in his personal collection.

Most elusive ribbons are those of the USSR Order of Victory (Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery wears one) and Queen Victoria's Royal Household Medal.

THE RIGHT DRESS

Congratulations on your excellent article on the proposed new dress for the Army (December).

The real heroine of the piece, to my mind, is the young lady who, at a television interview, when posed the usual question as to where she came from, replied without hesitation, "The QARANC." The experienced interviewer did not know what to say next and hastily switched to the next person, who gave the name of a town about which the customary enthusiasm was displayed by the interviewer. Hats off to the QARANC, whose morale is obviously very high.—Richard Finney, Command Ordnance Depot, Aldershot.

★ QARANC: Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

Your pictures of the proposed new Army uniforms reminded me of 1911, when my brother Jack came home on leave from 2nd Battalion East Lancashire Regiment. Every day the buttons on his red tunic had to be polished till they gleamed, the white facings and white belt pipe gleamed. Then there was the cap badge and buttons and the brass buckle of the belt to be polished. My job was to take care of the regimental crest on the swagger stick.

How those SOLDIER pictures must have reminded many an "old sweat" of the days when they got seven bob a week, enough for a tuppenny bit of fish and a ha'porth of chips and an occasional pint of beer.—Philip Leventhal, New York.

I am surprised SOLDIER assumes that the introduction of a peaked cap and Service Dress for other ranks will cause difficulty in the matter of officer-recognition.

In Airborne Forces, officers' dress is very similar to that of other ranks. They wear the same battledress (or

smock) and beret and their badges of rank are not particularly easy to see. Yet the standard of saluting in the Parachute Brigade is higher than in most units or formations and no soldier ever salutes a regimental sergeant-major by mistake. Saluting is an outward sign of alertness. Are the majority of soldiers so unobservant that their officers must wear different dress in order to be recognised?—Captain E. Ashley, Headquarters 16th Independent Parachute Brigade Group, Barrosa Barracks, Aldershot.

THE RIFLE

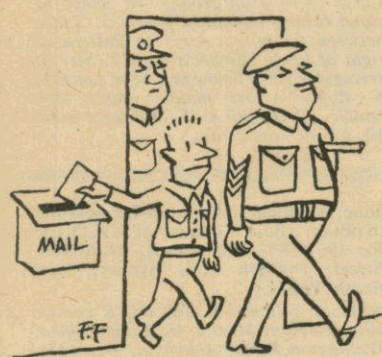
Major R. A. Fulton stated (Letters, December) that "if a man can shoot really well with a rifle he can quickly adapt his ability to any other firearm."

I joined the reconstituted Home Guard in 1952 while an active member of a local rifle club. I had had no experience of the Bren gun, however. Very soon I obtained marksman badges in both rifle and Bren gun shooting and later, after brief instruction, fired the Piat and mortar. My first shot with the Piat was a bad one because I took up a rifle-firing position, but after the instructor had kicked my legs together and ticked me off, I put my second shot through the canvas target. With the mortar I again had no difficulty in getting on or near the mark. Most of the other good rifle shots in the unit also had little trouble with the Piat and mortar.—C. A. Smith, 75 Park Drive, Upminster.

CAMBRAI

In your article "The Tank Grew Up at Cambrai" (December) you said, "an artillery barrage from a thousand guns crashed down on the enemy lines as the tanks moved slowly forward." Surely this is wrong.

I have always understood that the



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operation was mounted to vindicate the offensive power of the tank without assistance from guns and to take the Germans completely off guard. Your statement seems to minimise the part the tanks played in the battle. My recollection is that the Cambrai battle was a comparatively "silent" one, as far as artillery was concerned, at least in its initial stages.

Was SOLDIER thinking of the attack on the Messines ridge on 7 June, 1917, when tanks were used on a minor scale and in which there was an artillery barrage of probably 2000 guns—and a number of mine explosions—on a front of roughly seven miles.—W. Greer (ex-Royal Irish Rifles), 7 Ardpatrick Gardens, Belfast.

★ **SOLDIER was correct.** The artillery opened up as the tanks began to move forward. The tank attack at Cambrai, hidden by mist, completely surprised the Germans who had become accustomed to many hours of concentrated artillery fire as a prelude to an offensive.

The tanks at Cambrai tore through wire which would have taken the artillery much longer to cut, and saved the lives of countless Infantrymen.

PAY PARADES

Recent letters in SOLDIER have expressed a wish for reorganisation of the traditional method of paying troops.

I have devised a method, without introducing the pay packet, which has proved in practice to be most efficient at the pay table and safeguards the officer against having to make up deficits.

The method is simple. Acquittance rolls are made out in alphabetical order, warrant officers and NCOs first. The folios are put into groups: A-E; F-M; and N-Z. The Imprest Holder breaks down the total pay into amounts needed for each group and the officer collecting the money from the bank checks each slip and places the amounts in separate bags. Then, the paying officer, with an assistant, staples the £1 notes needed for each folio of Acquittance Rolls, to the top left-hand corner, the 10s. notes at the bottom. To each block of folios is clipped a slip showing the total amount of cash to be paid out.

When all blocks have been dealt with a check can be made with the Imprest holder's statement by comparing with the slips in each block.

Just before pay parade the paying officers for each group collect the money and check it, including the coins that have to be paid out (these are kept in bags).

On pay parade the troops line up

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LETTERS

alphabetically and in turn receive their already counted money. A junior officer fills in and signs the AB 64s. Pay for those not present is put on one side and at the end of the parade totalled by the paying officer while a sergeant deducts them from the folios and inks in the totals paid.

Folio totals are called out to the paying officer who fills in the AFs N. 1562, deducts the amounts not paid from the group totals shown on the Imprest Holder's slip, writes in the total, and checks that the surplus amount is correct. This eliminates the adding up of each folio and each AFN. 1562. Surplus money is returned to the Imprest Holder.

I have found that by this method 250-300 troops, in three groups, can be paid out during a 15-20 minutes parade. The breaking down of groups into individual payments takes between 40-60 minutes.—Major R. Alcock, RE, School of Military Survey, Hermitage, Newbury, Berks.

★ **Major Alcock's scheme is obviously workable but appears to concentrate on safeguarding the paying officer rather than the soldier. He makes no mention of witnesses who, under present regulations, must be present to see that the amount on the Acquittance Roll tallies with the amount paid to the individual soldier. Also, the paying officer himself should sign the AB 64.**

War Office say that a great deal of consideration is being given to the problem of pay parades with a view to making them simpler and quicker, but point out that in speeding up the procedure sight must not be lost of the need to retain safeguards.

NOT "NORTHANTS"

In my discharge book I have been listed three times as having served with the "Northants" Regiment.

There is no abbreviation for the Northamptonshire Regiment other than "Northants." During my service it was a chargeable offence to use the word "Northants" in referring to the Regiment.—C. G. Bennett, 20 New Walk Terrace, Fulford Road, York.

NO BONUS POINTS

If a warrant officer, Class One, is granted a quartermaster-type commission can he claim any special privileges when assessing his points for an officer's married quarter?

I understand that an instruction gives authority for quartermasters to count the points earned as warrant officers in order not to restrict their chances of obtaining accommodation in competition with other officers.—WOI A. K. Mercer, 15 Army Base Ordnance Depot.

★ **Quartermasters are treated the same as other officers of similar rank, service and size of family. If he were allowed to count points earned before commissioning, the ex-warrant officer would have a higher points assessment than a combatant captain with six years service or a lieutenant with four years service.**

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS

Executive Class examination for ex-Forces candidates. June 1959 (Basic grade rises to £1,050); good promotion opportunities. Clerical Class examination for ex-Forces candidates, October 1959. Officer of Customs and Excise, 18-22, with allowance for Forces service (Basic grade rises to £1,285)—examinations in March 1959 and March 1960; also Assistant Preventive Officer (Customs and Excise), 19-21, with allowance for Forces service—examination in February 1960. Write to:

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VICTORIA CROSS

It is not strictly true that 29 members of the Royal Army Medical Corps have won the Victoria Cross ("They Battle For Your Health," December). Fifteen of these Victoria Crosses were won by members of the British Army medical services before the Royal Army Medical Corps was established. Besides belonging to the Army Medical Department regimental doctors, in the early days, held commissions in the unit in which they served and whose uniform they wore.

When it was decided to form a Royal Army Medical Corps gallery of Victoria Crosses these men were, with every justification, included. They belonged to the medical service of the British Army, their primary responsibility was doctoring and they won their Victoria Crosses doing medical work. They were in fact the immediate predecessors of the RAMC.

There is no question of our "claiming" these Victoria Crosses to the exclusion of others. We consider it an honour to share the distinction with the famous regiments which our regimental medical officers are always proud to serve. Our list is confined to the British Army and does not include the Indian Medical Services or the Dominion and Colonial Services.—Major General R. E. Barnsley (rtd), RAMC Historical Museum, Crookham.

VCs, DSOs AND MCs

What is the record number of times anyone has won (a) the Victoria Cross; (b) the Distinguished Service Order; (c) Military Cross.—H. Rayment, Lincoln Road, Peterborough.

★ **The Victoria Cross has been won twice by the same person on three occasions: Captain Noel Chavasse, Royal Army Medical Corps; Lieutenant-Colonel A. Martin-Leake, South African Constabulary and Royal Army Medical Corps; and Captain C. H. Upham, New Zealand Army.**

Eight officers (three Army, three Royal Navy and two Royal Air Force) have won the DSO four times. In World War Two 24 men received the second bar to their Military Crosses.

TA MEDALS

I joined the Territorial Army in 1908, served continuously until 1919 and was awarded the Territorial Efficiency Medal. I rejoined in 1937, served until 1946 and was awarded another Territorial Efficiency Medal, slightly different in pattern. If I am entitled to wear only one Territorial Efficiency Medal (Letters, December) why did they issue me with two?

I do not suppose I shall ever wear my medals, but if I do which of the two should I use and how should I show I have another Territorial Efficiency Medal?—William E. Dixon (late Royal Artillery), New Road, Blackfield, Hants.

I served with several men, pre-1914 Territorial Force members, who wore the Territorial Efficiency Medal and clasp.

After World War One they enlisted in the Territorial Army and by the early 1930s had qualified for the Efficiency Medal (TA). They wore both medals on appropriate occasions and when medals

OVER...

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more letters

were not worn they had two identical ribbons, side by side.—**WO II L. Moxon, BEM, 5 Queen's Royal Regiment, Parkstone Drive, Camberley.**

★ **SOLDIER** stated that only one ribbon of the Efficiency Medal (TA) can be worn. Since this award superseded the Territorial Efficiency Medal (TEM) there has been a good deal of confusion because of the loose use of the two titles.

Although both ribbons have green as the basic colour, that of the Territorial Efficiency Medal (TEM) has a yellow stripe down the middle and the Efficiency Medal (Territorial)—more generally known as Efficiency Medal (TA)—has yellow stripes down the edges.

Neither of the Royal Warrants makes provision for the award of a second medal and it is not possible that anyone has ever received two Territorial Efficiency Medals (TEM) or is likely to receive two Efficiency Medals (Territorial).

But soldiers have been awarded the Territorial Efficiency Medal and the Efficiency Medal (Territorial) and wear both ribbons.

DOMCOL

I am a New Zealander who joined the British Army and was accepted for DOMCOL (leave to the Dominions and Colonies at Public Expense) in October 1950.

I had accumulated 94 days towards this leave when I married an English girl. Now I have been told I am no longer entitled to DOMCOL because of the change of next-of-kin. I was

never informed that I would not get leave in New Zealand if I married. Must I forfeit this accumulated leave? —**"Tank Kiwi."**

★ Although he forfeited DOMCOL leave in his native country by marrying an English girl he can still go—if he is prepared to pay his passage.

Every commanding officer can grant up to 61 days DOMCOL substitute leave (for those with accumulated leave who wish to visit their home countries at their own expense). If more than this is required War Office authority must be obtained.

ROYAL AMERICANS

When I joined the King's Royal Rifle Corps in 1941 there was at the regimental depot a contingent of American volunteers who had come from the United States especially to join the 60th. They stated that as the Regiment was formed in America they had joined in order to maintain the link (Letters, November). Most of them were commissioned and some were killed in action.—**Sergeant W. Bidmead, 1st Battalion London Scottish (TA).**

APTC

When did the Army Gymnastic Staff change their title to Army Physical Training Corps?—**H. G. Harper, 5 Craigs Avenue, Edinburgh.**
★ After World War One the Army Gymnastic Staff became known as the Army Physical Training Staff. The present title was conferred on 16 September 1940.

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POW MEDAL?

In World War Two thousands of British and Commonwealth soldiers, airmen and sailors were captured by the Germans and imprisoned. They suffered great hardships. I think the Government should institute a medal to commemorate this. For those who died in camps and prisons a posthumous award could be made.—**Gordon C. F. McConnell, 9 Salisbury Square, Cardiff.**

SMOCKS WANTED

A small team of men who served with the Royal Engineers, Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Pioneer Corps and the Parachute Regiment have formed themselves into an amateur 16-millimetre film unit.

We intend to win the "Oscar" presented by Amateur Ciné World in their best ten films of the year competition and our first effort will show the work done during World War Two by members of Special Air Service and the Parachute Regiment.

Equipment is expensive and hard to come by and we wonder if anyone could lend us camouflage smocks, webbing belts and gaiters, parachute-type helmets and, in particular, a Sten gun and daggers, or photographs of them so that mock-ups can be made. We also need German Army uniforms and equipment.—**D. Milburn (ex-Parachute Regiment), 8 Hampshire Close, Edmonton, London N.18.**

BOUQUETS

My thanks for the pleasure I have had with three years' issues of **SOLDIER**. I wish the Danish Army had a magazine of the same type. Especially am I interested in the Hours of Glory features and articles on regimental badges, which are of great help to collectors.—**K. Overgaard, Danmarksvej 33, Aalborg, Denmark.**

I have read just one copy of your fabulous magazine and my morale has

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(See page 28)

The drawings differ in the following respects: 1. Lower small tree on left. 2. Ropes over lower man's shoulder. 3. Curve of rope on ground. 4. Shape of cloud behind mountain peak. 5. Space between far bear's ears. 6. Pattern at right of lower climber's cap. 7. Size of triangular stone below first bear's mouth. 8. Ropes across middle man's pick handle. 9. Position of far bear's head. 10. Lower man's ear.

gone sky high. Would it be possible to obtain a bound volume of **SOLDIER** for 1957-58?—**Fred Lewis, 29 Eltham Street, Dulwich Hill, Sydney, New South Wales.**

★ Bound volumes of **SOLDIER** can be obtained from Messrs. Gale and Polden, Wellington Press, Aldershot, price 25s. (cloth bound) and 50s. (leather-bound).

CLEARAK NOW?

Your greetings doggerel doesn't rhyme And this is bad at Christmas thyme. It's obvious you've never bene Upon the Far Malayan scene, For if you had, you would have said (You may take this, dear sir, as said): "And all you others near and far Especially fighters in Perak. P.S. I know this sort of thing's a bore But so, of course, was Arkansas. —Major H. Baker, REME, FVRDE, Ministry of Supply, Chertsey.

Delightful were your Christmas wishes, But, oh ye Gods and little fishes! You should have got nearer The right rhyme for Perak. —RLE, Chester.

★ **SOLDIER's** poet, all contrite, Says that RLE is rite. The "rak" in "Perak" should really be "rer" Apologies, chaps,—but it's human to ack!

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