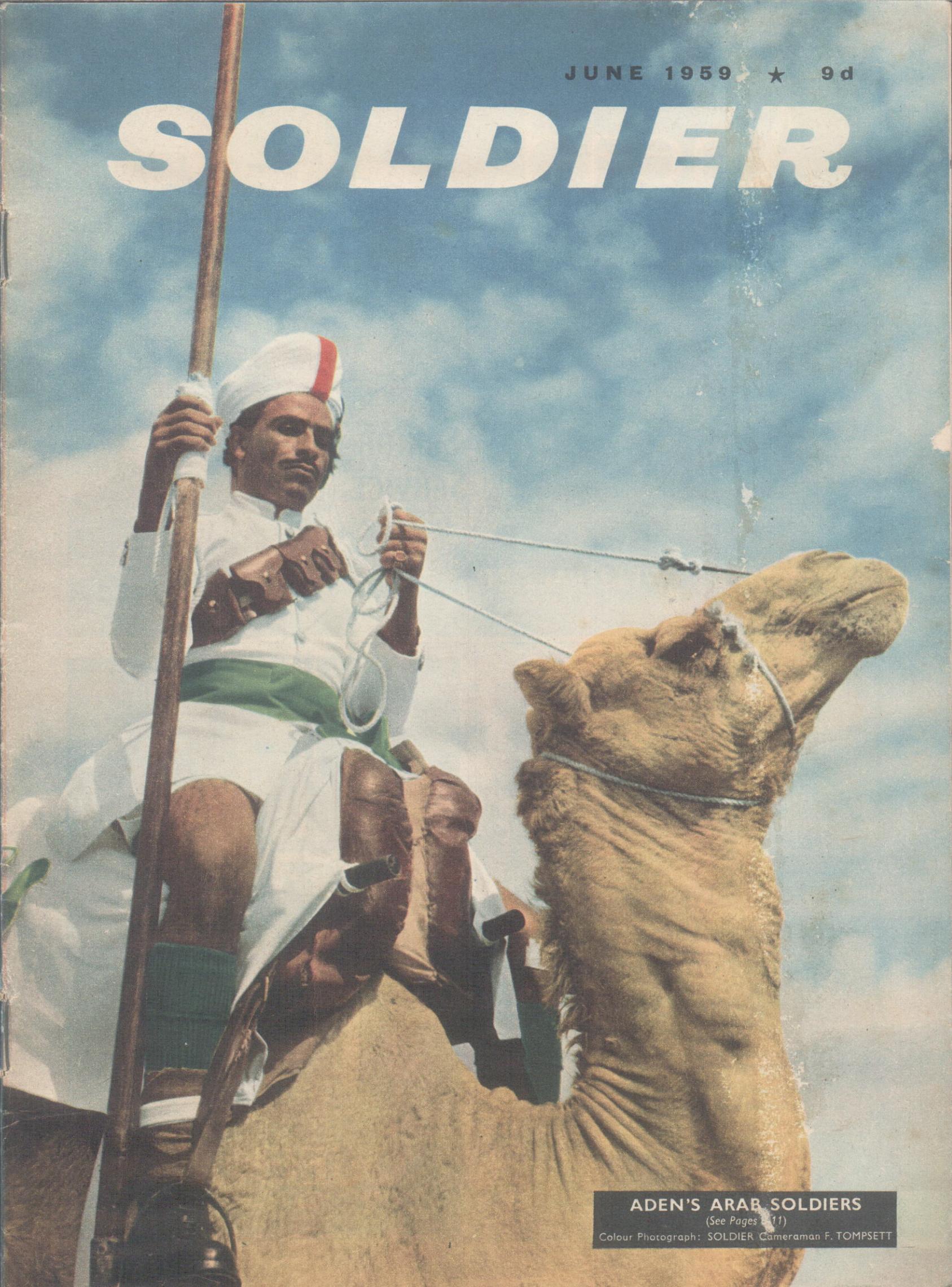


JUNE 1959 ★ 9d

SOLDIER



ADEN'S ARAB SOLDIERS

(See Pages 10-11)

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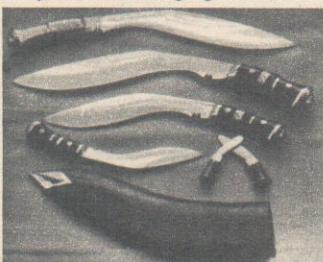


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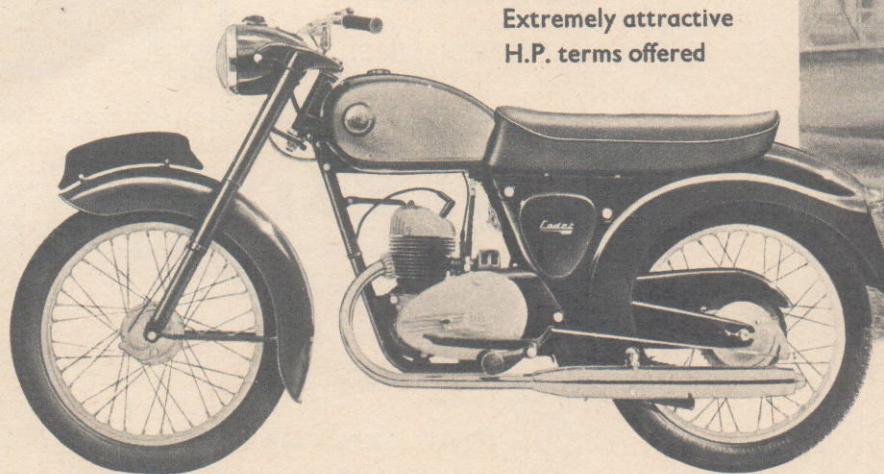
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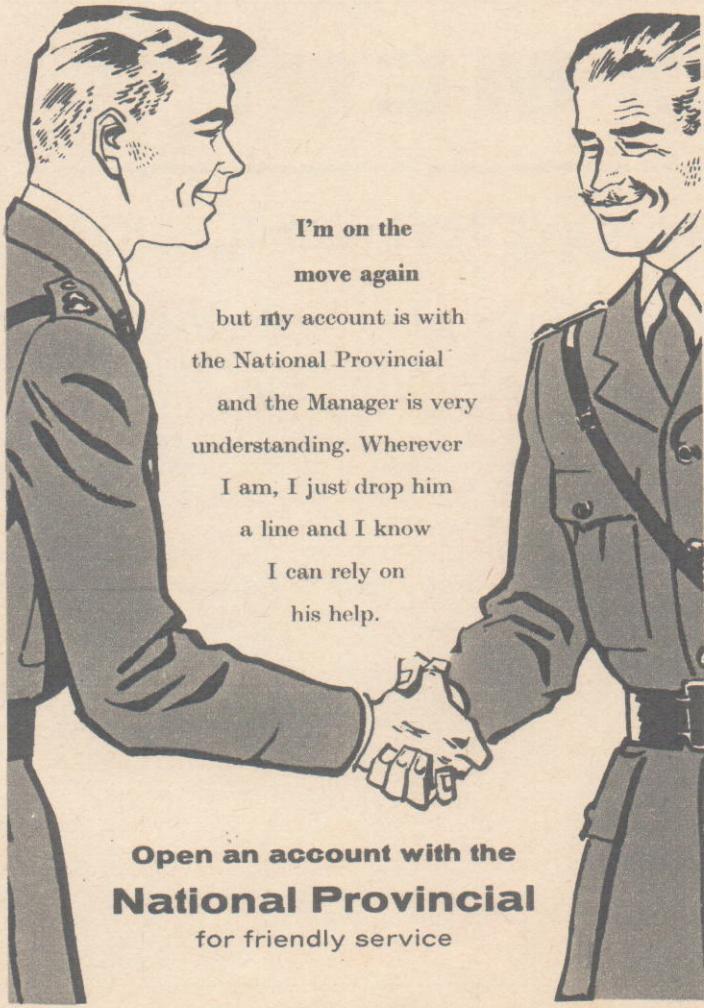


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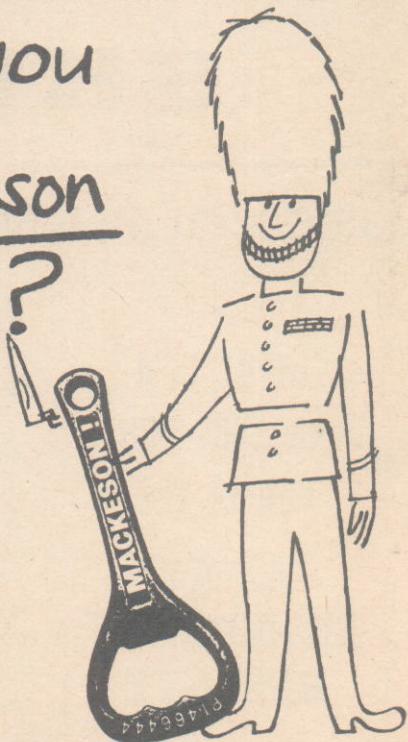
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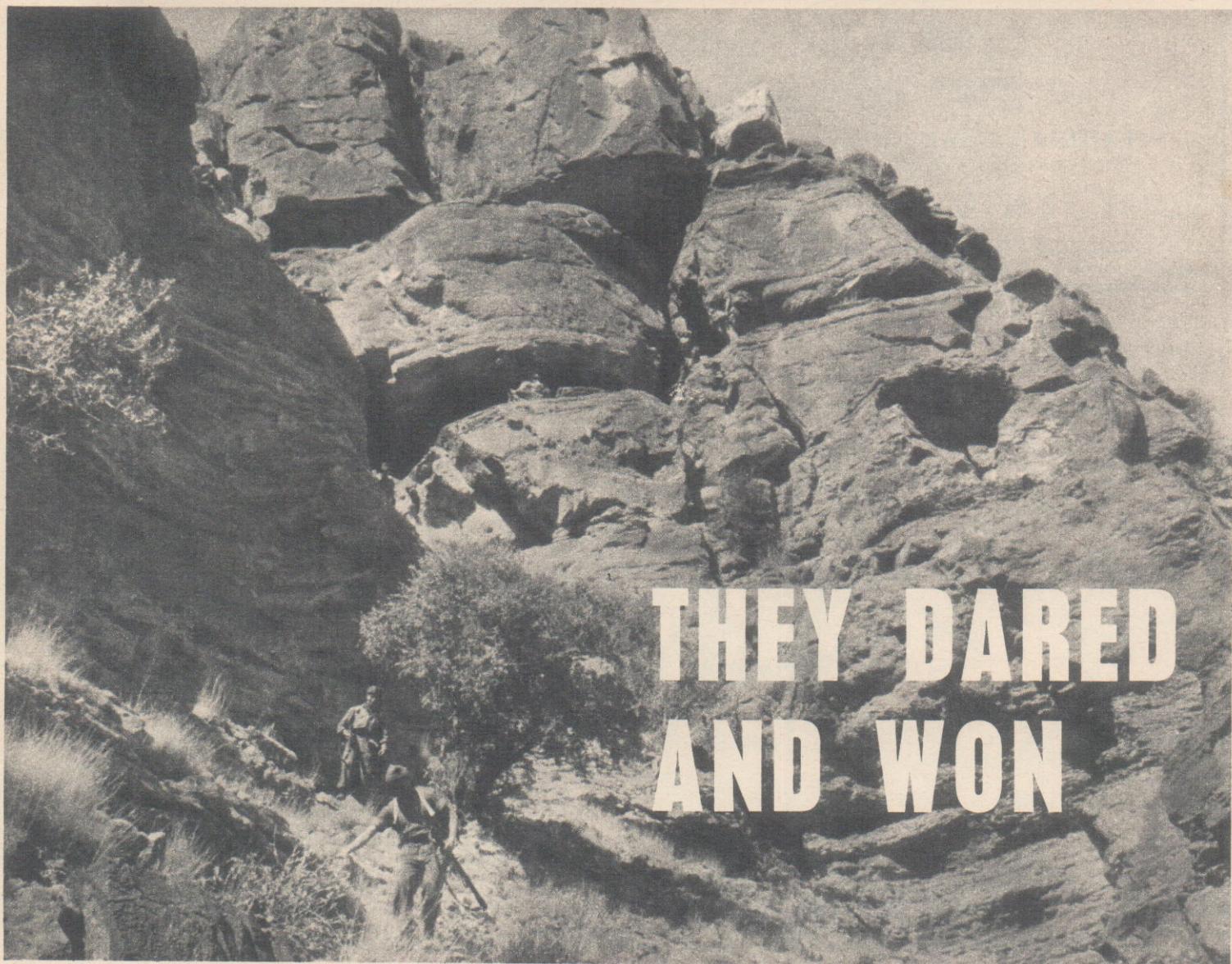
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THEY DARED AND WON

On the Jebel Akhdar an S.A.S. patrol, armed with FN rifles, searches for rebels among the rocks and fissures. There are seven soldiers in this picture, five almost concealed against the background. How many can you see?

IN THIS GRAPHIC REPORT
ILLUSTRATED WITH EXCLUSIVE
PICTURES TAKEN BY A MEMBER
OF THE REGIMENT, SOLDIER
TELLS HOW MEN OF THE
SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENT
CONQUERED A MOUNTAIN
STRONGHOLD WHICH FOR A
THOUSAND YEARS HAD BEEN
IMPREGNABLE AND PUT DOWN
A REBELLION



A winged dagger inscribed "Who Dares Wins" is the badge of the Special Air Service Regiment.

FOR a thousand years the Jebel Akhdar, a mountain oasis in Oman, had resisted every invader. Now its impregnability has been exploded by the 22nd Special Air Service Regiment in an almost unnoticed campaign that will take its place in British military history as a model of deceptive planning and bold action.

Defeated in 1957 by a British force, the Oman rebels had withdrawn to the security of the Jebel's 8000-ft. high plateau, where they had been contained by the Sultan's British-led Arab soldiers. Well-provisioned and armed with modern weapons, the rebels held almost every card—but they had yet to meet the Special Air Service Regiment, two squadrons of superbly fit men flown direct from Malaya. The myth of impregnability was shattered when the S.A.S. gained the first real foothold on the mountain's precipitous flanks, climbing the track by which the Persians had conquered the Jebel ten centuries ago. The Persians lost all but a thousand of their 10,000 assaulting troops. The S.A.S. reached the top with 150 men—and routed 180 hard-core rebels and 500 armed tribesmen.

On the Jebel's "Shangri-La" plateau, a redoubt where grapes, pomegranates, peaches and apricots flourish, the three rebel leaders, Suleiman bin Himyar (the self-styled "Lord of the Green Mountain" and paramount Sheikh of the Beni Riyam tribe), Ghalib (the Imam of Oman) and Ghalib's younger brother Talib, dominated the 5000 Arabs living there and led their men in raids and attacks on the Sultan's Armed Forces.

Using modern mines the rebels blew up 150 vehicles between March and November last year. Ferret scout cars of a squadron of the Life

OVER...

THEY DARED AND WON continued

Guards sent from Aden last August to escort convoys in Oman were regularly blown up. All the Squadron's 18 Ferrets were mined at one time or another.

Up on the Jebel the rebels maintained pickets of 10 or 12 men guarding the dozen main donkey paths leading to their stronghold. From observation posts between these routes and from their "bush telegraph" the rebels were warned of every move below and could count on having a day in which to reinforce against an attack. Food, money and arms were plentiful and morale was high.

This was the situation when the 22nd Special Air Service Regiment was called in from Malaya, 3000

miles away. Withdrawn from the jungle near the Siamese border, "D" Squadron did a quick training at Kuala Lumpur on 3.5-inch rocket launchers and 3-inch mortars, then flew to Oman. In dense Malayan jungle the S.A.S. had fought at 20 yards range, in skirmishes of only seconds duration; in Oman, where visibility was up to 20 miles, they were soon to be involved in battles lasting for hours on arid, barren slopes.

The Squadron rapidly readjusted itself to this new campaign, to the gruelling ten-hour climbs of the Jebel and to a temperature that changed from burning heat in the day to bitter night cold that froze water bottles.

Equipped additionally with



Running parallel to the coast between Nizwa and Muscat the Jebel Akhdar (Green Mountain) dominates the ancient Kingdom of Oman.



Above: The S.A.S. start out on a patrol from the Aqbat al Dhafar, 7000 feet up on the top of the plateau. With them are men of the Life Guards' dismounted troop and the Trucial Oman Scouts who held the position as a base for the S.A.S. search operations.



Wearing a desert hat (many of the S.A.S. favoured the cap comforter) a sniper in an advanced position scans enemy-held territory on the plateau through field-glasses. The rebels made cunning use of the ground and frequently concealed themselves in deep caves.



Up on top at the end of the final assault, S.A.S. men range a three-inch mortar from a sangar. On the right are supplies and ammunition dropped by Valettas of the Royal Air Force.

Browning medium machine-guns borrowed from disused Ferrets of the Life Guards, "D" Squadron (commanded by Major John Watts), set about reconnoitring the Jebel Ahkdar, filling in with the help of air photographs the gaps in inadequate maps. On the north side the Squadron followed the Persian invasion route, and seized its first footing at 7000 feet, separated by a ridge from a rebel strongpoint at Aqbat al Dhafar. There the rebels—for the first and last time—attacked in force with some 40 Arabs, using the ground very skilfully as they advanced on a knoll held by a sergeant and five men. Nine rebels were killed.

A dismounted troop of the Life Guards, and later two troops of the Trucial Oman Scouts, held the position on the Aqbat so that the S.A.S. could send out more patrols by night (movement by day would have been suicidal on ground which offered little cover from the rebels' defences).

Meanwhile, other men of the S.A.S. were engaged in small but fierce battles on the south flank of the Jebel. To attack one cave (rocket launchers were used with great success in these operations), an officer led his troop through rebel territory on an eight-hour detour march, positioned them outside its entrance and gave the order to open fire as the rebels emerged. Twenty rebels were killed.

In a hand-to-hand night encounter on the north side, rebels on a feature 600-ft. above the S.A.S. shouted "Come up, Johnny." An officer swarmed up a rope and killed the talkative rebel with a hand grenade. In this period of two months, the S.A.S. killed about 40 hard-core rebels.

In January, "A" Squadron, commanded by Major John Cooper DCM, an original member of the S.A.S. (he was the lance-corporal navigator in Lieutenant-Colonel David Stirling's jeep in the Western Desert) flew from Malaya to reinforce "D" Squadron. Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Deane-Drummond MC and bar, commanding the Regiment, set up

a joint tactical headquarters to control a company of the Sultan's Northern Frontier Regiment, with its Royal Marine instructors, the dismounted troop of Life Guards and a squadron of the Trucial Oman Scouts.

Throughout the operation the Sultan of Muscat's Armed Forces (commanded by Colonel D. de Smiley) worked closely with the S.A.S. and played an important part in the defeat of the rebels. Although they had only a short time previously been reorganised and re-equipped they carried out their gruelling tasks energetically and with great gallantry.

Lieutenant-Colonel Deane-Drummond had made a personal reconnaissance of the Jebel before the arrival of his first squadron and had already decided that although the Aqbat position was worth holding it was not a good base from which to extend operations. But since the rebels might consider the Aqbat route to be chosen, as the key to the Jebel, for a full-scale assault, the Colonel made use of this in a brilliantly-conceived deception plan.

He decided to make a feint attack at Aqbat and a second from Tanuf, on the opposite side of the mountain. The reason for the second diversion was that the Colonel planned to use in his real attack a hundred donkeys to maintain troops on the lower slopes and as an insurance against the failure of air supply. In

strictest secrecy and under pain of death four Arab donkey drivers were told that the assault would be from Tanuf—and, as expected, this news rapidly reached the rebels.

The real route for the main assault, over rough country on an unlikely track faintly shown by air photographs, began from Kamah, ten miles to the east of Tanuf. Aqbat al Dhafar was seized in the first feint attack after two hours' fighting at close quarters, then the S.A.S. marched over difficult country to join the main body at Tanuf.

During the two-and-a-half hours between dusk and moonrise on 26 January, the whole force, unseen by the rebels, moved in transport from Tanuf to Kamah, covering 60 miles in a detour to avoid mines and to achieve secrecy. The march to the top of the Jebel began at 10.30 pm with 150 men of the S.A.S. leading, followed by 18 Life Guards, with 150 men of the Northern Frontier Regiment covering the lower slopes.

Complete surprise was achieved. The rebels had withdrawn their pickets from the Kamah route to reinforce the Tanuf and Aqbat areas, leaving only the two-man crew of a Browning machine-gun. These men, putting their faith in the Jebel's impregnability, had withdrawn to a cave 50 yards away from a gun which could have mown down the attackers.

"It amounted to a long walk," is how Lieutenant-Colonel Deane-Drummond described the final assault to SOLDIER. One squadron dropped its Bergen rucksacks and reached the summit ten minutes after first light, at the same time as Venoms swept in to make rocket attacks. As the remaining men arrived Valettas, flying from Bahrain 500 miles away and reloading at Sharjah, parachuted ammunition, food and water.

The rebels had been expected to attack in strength but in fact, although this was not known to the S.A.S. until later, they fled on the first day. Every village on the Jebel was searched and an arsenal of rifles, mines, ammunition, 12 Bren guns, six machine-guns and over 20 mortars was unearthed.

The three rebel leaders had gone to ground and the rebellion was at an end, put down by men who, although smaller in numbers, had brilliantly exploited their training and physical fitness and their commanding officer's leadership.

The 22nd Special Air Service Regiment lost three men in Oman, two of them during the final attack when a sniper's bullet hit a grenade carried on a man's back.

The Regiment's two squadrons ended their task in Oman by marching across and mapping every track on the Jebel plateau and searching two villages at the foot of the mountain.

PETER N. WOOD



Right: Lt.-Col. A. J. Deane-Drummond MC and bar, commanding the 22nd Special Air Service Regiment. Left: The Colonel, facing camera, inspects a donkey which has just carried a wireless set up the rocky track to the Aqbat.





A winding path up the steep escarpment of the Jebel Jihaf, 1500 feet above the frontier town of Dhala', is the supply line to this company of the Levies. Beyond the camp the rugged Shima Plateau stretches towards the Yemen frontier.

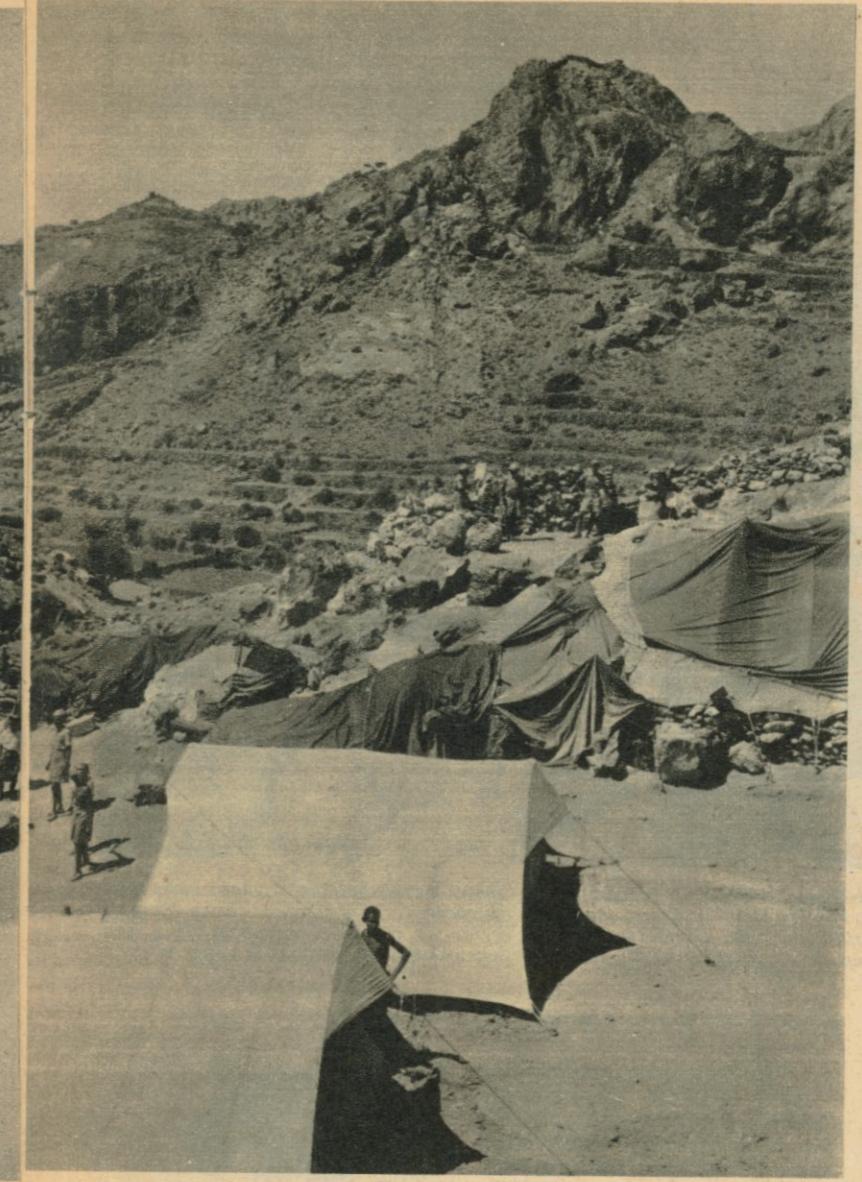
When a recruit joins the Aden Protectorate Levies he starts saving

A RIFLE, A CAMEL

Left: The bardirahs (pennants) flutter from their lances as men of the Camel Troop march across the Depot's parade ground, holding up high with the guide rope the heads of the imperious camels.



Right: Looking far less dignified as they kneel down on the ground, ready for saddling, these mounts show their temper by groaning and snapping their teeth at the Camel Troop's volunteers.



Photographs: SOLDIER Cameraman FRANK TOMPSETT

for the day when he can buy himself

and A WIFE

IN a land of volcanic lava and grim, saw-toothed mountains, the British-led Aden Protectorate Levies live in a volcanic atmosphere. On the wild border between the Western Protectorate and the Yemen scarcely a day passes without incident and every movement outside fortified camps must be treated as an operation.

This is a land of incongruity, where the 20th century mingles with mediaeval life and near-barbarism, where fierce-looking Arabs armed with rifles and daggers travel by air with the nonchalance of the seasoned courier.

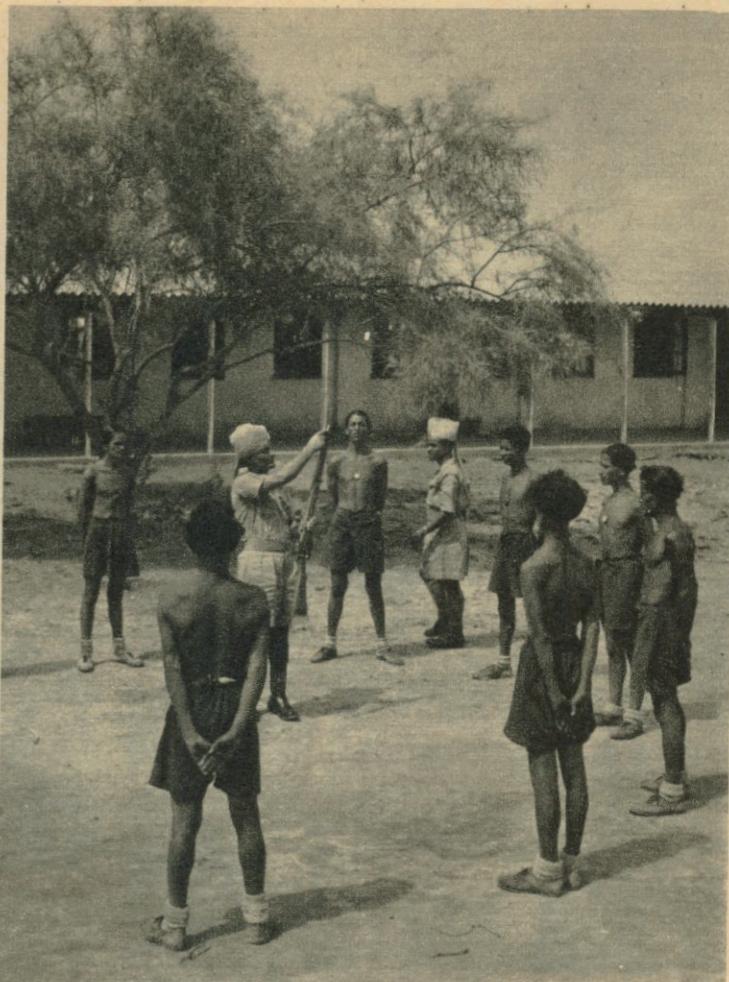
Here, in a land where the rifle is not only law but the symbol of manhood, Arab soldiers of the Levies bear the main burden of defending an area almost the size of England and Wales against dissidents of their own race and Yemen marauders.

The Levy battalions have no recruiting problem, for service in the force has a magnetic and material appeal. The new recruit, leaving perhaps a squalid home where he might work endless hours for a pittance, joins the best-paid labour force in the Protectorate and begins saving

for the end of his service when comparative wealth will buy him first a coveted rifle of his own, then a plot of land, a camel and a wife.

Ahead of him lie the acme of success—a Governor's commission in the Levies—and the knowledge that enlistment has transformed him overnight from a nonentity to the most important and respected male in his family circle.

Recruits for the force are gathered up-country, given a quick medical check, then brought to the Levies' Depot at Lake Lines, Aden, where they undergo a thorough examination, including an X-ray test. They are then attested for four years' service which can subsequently be extended annually. **OVER...**



On their first day's training at the Depot in Aden, recruits to the Levies are introduced to the rifle. An Arab instructor teaches the names of the parts in English, which is also used for drill commands.

Below: Scavenger birds pinpoint cookhouses in every camp, endlessly wheeling overhead as they wait for scraps. Here, Red Sea kites drawn like moths to a flame, circle a corner of the Levies' camp at Dhala'.





Mulazzim al-Thani Sheikh Ali bin Abdullah Aulaqi (left) won his Military Cross, one of the 1st Battalion's eight decorations, in the attack up Jebel Jihaf in April, 1958.

Above: Levies building a guard room for a temporary camp at Dhala'. They work to the rhythm of calypso-type singing about what they are doing or perhaps of going on leave.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ continuing **A RIFLE, A CAMEL AND A WIFE**



COVER PICTURE

Although still trained for patrolling, the Camel Troop of the Aden Protectorate Levies, pictured on *SOLDIER*'s front cover this month, is now restricted to special parades and VIP visits.

The Troop has 28 camels; their Arab riders, all volunteers, wear a *mushedda* headdress in the Levies' colours of green and white and carry a *rumh* (lance).

Formed in 1929, the Camel Troop made a forced march four months later to Dhala' to show the flag, riding for four days over the route since made famous by the Dhala' Convoy, the lorry supply line set up 18 months ago.

★ The official joining age is 18, but it is a nominal 18, for the Arabs have no birth certificates. Each recruit is sponsored by his sheikh who undertakes to return him to Aden should he go absent or "lose" his rifle.

★ During their 16 weeks at the Depot, in the Training Company, recruits learn squad drill and how to handle the platoon weapons—rifle, Bren and Sten guns. Drill commands and the names of weapon parts are taught in English by Arab instructors and British officers and non-commissioned officers. Part of the syllabus is devoted to physical training (the average recruit is under-nourished and under-weight) and part to education, limited to teaching English numbers and written Arabic. After the final month's training, which includes platoon exercises, the recruits join battalions as trained soldiers.

★ The Depot also runs specialist courses and courses for Arab non-commissioned officers and administrators the Force's band and the ceremonial Camel Troop. Arabs, some of them Adenese, and others from hill tribes, are recruited direct into the band and taught musicianship from scratch.

★ The trained Arab soldier readily adapts himself to service in the Levies. He is a good shot, has good eyesight, can live off the land and drink from streams and wells. His capacity for climbing rapidly up steep mountain sides, even when carrying a heavy load, is

prodigious, and in plimsolls (the Arab's favourite footwear up-country) and carrying rifle and bandolier he can cover much more ground than a British soldier. But the Arab is an individualist and needs to be well led.

The Levies, as their title indicates, serve only the Protectorate—British troops are responsible for internal security in the Aden Colony—and the battalions are deployed, with detached companies, in the three main trouble areas on the Yemen border, at Dhala', Mukeiras and Beihan. The Levies support Tribal Guards of the local native rulers and the National Guard of the newly established Federation of Arab Amirs of the South, in the Western Aden Protectorate; and they are themselves strengthened by British Infantry, artillery and armoured cars.

With one exception all companies have British commanders and seconds-in-command. Arab officers, one of whom in each battalion is responsible to the commanding officer for Arab administration, hold Governor's Commissions and bear ranks of Turkish origin—*Mulazzim al-Thani* (second lieutenant), *Mulazzim al-Awal* (lieutenant), *Rais* (captain) and *Qaid* (major). The senior Arab officer of the Force is a *Qaid al-Awal* (lieutenant colonel).

Battalion commanders hold three-year appointments and other British officers do tours of 18 months with the Levies. They include a number of officers of



Colonel D. B. Wormald DSO, MC and bar, late 3rd The King's Own Hussars, recently took over command of the Aden Protectorate Levies.

the Royal Air Force Regiment and the Royal Air Force, which was originally responsible for the Levies.

Service as a battalion medical officer (they are all British) is a rewarding experience for a young doctor, who has also to act as dentist. Arab soldiers rarely appear on sick parade, but up-country the medical officer, assisted by British corporals and Arabs trained in elementary first-aid and medicine, have a busy time dealing with invalids among the local population. In the Dhala' area there is a Government health assistant but no doctor and the battalion medical officer there has up to 40 local "out-patients" every day. Most of them reach an advanced stage



Left: Lt-Col. F. M. de Butts (centre) introduces one of his officers to Sultan Salih bin Husain CMG, CBE, the colourful and powerful Audhali Sultan and a staunch friend of the British forces.



Right: The medical officer at Dhala' talks to the brother (pointing) of young Fatima, a child who was badly burned by hot water. These local patients are awaiting searching before entering camp.

of disease—malaria and tuberculosis are prevalent—before they seek treatment, and it is difficult to persuade them to complete a course of injections or drugs once they begin to improve in health.

The battalion at Dhala', 5000 feet above sea level, has a company detached on the lip of the Jebel Jihaf, a 1500-ft. escarpment from the top of which the Shima Plateau stretches to the Yemen border. From the battalion, which occupies a tented camp surrounded by a low stone wall, the detachment can be reached only by climbing a steep and narrow track leading up from the Dhala' air strip, or by a long and slow detour over rough roads.

The Jebel Jihaf position has been occupied since last year when a company of the 1st Battalion, supported by a company of the Royal East Kent Regiment (The Buffs), fought its way up the ridge and drove Yemeni invaders from the plateau's villages back to the border (see *SOLDIER* July, 1958). In this action the Levees' company commander won the Distinguished Service Order and the senior Arab officer the Military Cross, bringing the Battalion's decorations to eight in two years.

One of the companies which has been up on the Jebel Jihaf (donkeys are used to carry stores when detachments change over) is the 1st Battalion's all-Arab company, the only one in the Levees. It is commanded by an Arab officer who was trained at Eaton Hall and Mons.

Arabs first served in Aden, before 1914, as scouts in the Aden Troop but during World War One they were recruited extensively for the Arab Legion (defending the Suez Canal Zone), the Arab Labour Corps in Aden Colony and for the 1st Yemen Infantry, a battalion drawn from Yemen and Aden Protectorate to garrison the islands of Perim and Kamaran.

This battalion, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel M. C. Lake, 4th Grenadiers (Indian Army), was disbanded in 1925, but three

years later, when it was decided that the Royal Air Force should relieve the Army of responsibility for defending Aden, Lieutenant-Colonel Lake was ordered to establish a small force to provide airfield and Residency guards in Aden and garrisons for Perim and Kamaran. This was the origin of the Aden Protectorate Levies.

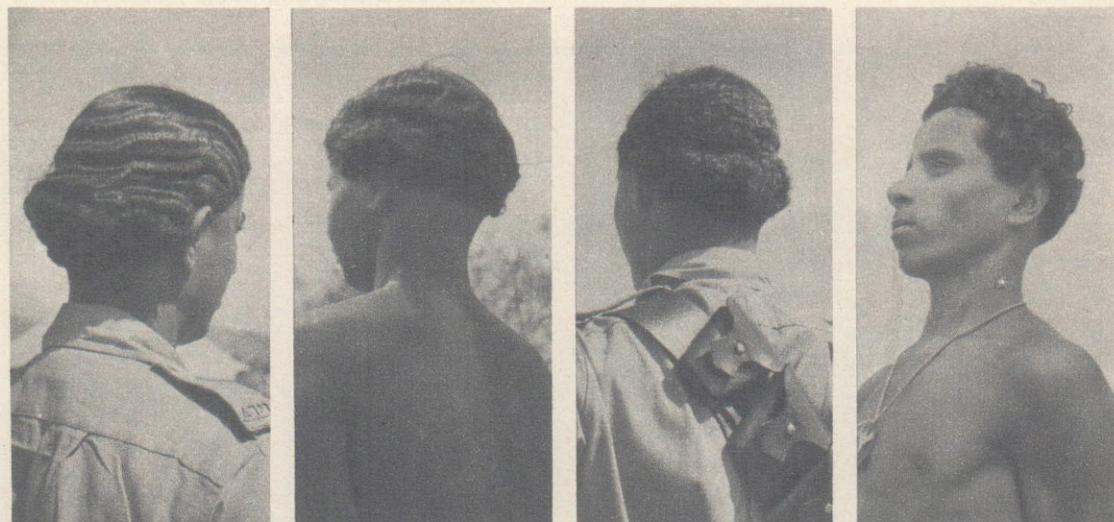
In World War Two, the Levies were responsible for the defence (including anti-aircraft defence, for which a new wing was formed, with Bofors and twin light machine-guns) of Aden Colony, internal security in the Western Protectorate, and the garrisoning of outposts and airfields.

Since then they have been increasingly active both in defending the Yemen-Protectorate frontier against frequent Yemeni aggression by Regular and irregular forces, and in supporting the Protectorate State Rulers against their own tribesmen who yield to the bribes of arms and ammunition and money given by the Yemeni authorities to create trouble in the Protectorate.

PETER N. WOOD



New recruits learn English numbers by chanting them parrot fashion after their instructor. The 16 weeks training at the Depot includes teaching recruits to write in Arabic.



The haircut which awaits the recruit on his first day in the British Army has become a music hall joke. But Arab soldiers are allowed to retain these slightly exotic styles. Some favour, too, a Vandyke beard.

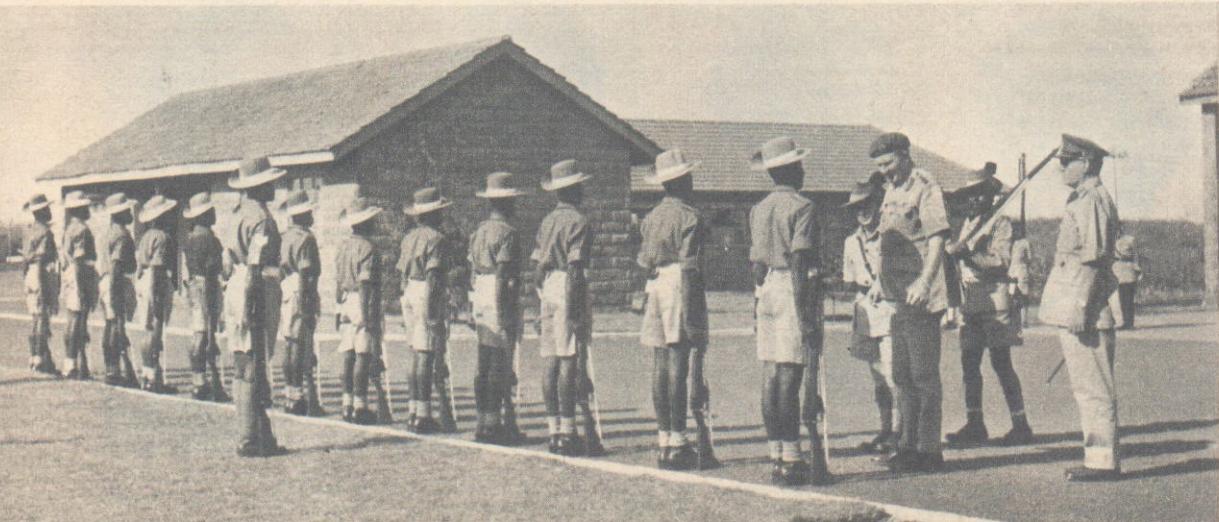


When they join the Company, new boys draw two slouch hats and the tall tarboosh worn with their Number One Dress. Boots are issued after the first fortnight.

Looking well ahead, the King's African Rifles have set up a Junior Leader Company. Boys of 13½ are learning military and academic subjects in an intensive course of four-and-a-half years; then they will join battalions as well-trained, long-service soldiers

AND ALL FOR SIXPENCE A DAY

The CIGS (General Sir Francis Festing) recently visited the Company and inspected the guard of honour.



Physical training, designed to build up below-par physiques, has an important place in the syllabus. On two half-days a week the boys play football, basket ball and hockey.

REVEILLE is at 0630 and lights out at 2100. Between these times stretches a working day of eight-and-a-half hours—for six days a week, for 44 weeks a year, for four-and-a-half years. Starting pay is sixpence a day.

This prospect might daunt the most enthusiastic youngster in the British Army's Junior Leader regiments—but not the 45 boys of the King's African Rifles Junior Leader Company.

These young Africans revel in a life of long hours, strict military discipline and a minimum of privileges, for they are amazingly keen to become good soldiers and to improve their education. Their enlistment into service in the Company is on an unwritten understanding that on its completion they continue on man's service in the King's African Rifles for six years and a further three on the Reserve.

The 45 boys are the original intake to the Junior Leader Company which was formed in December, 1957, with the principal object of producing well-trained, long-service, non-commissioned and warrant officers—and a proportion of commissioned officers—for the Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika battalions of the King's African Rifles.

This first intake of boys from three Kenya tribes, 10 from Uganda and four from Tanganyika will be joined by another 50 in October and thence by batches of 50 every 18 months. Most of the students are expected to pass their Class One Army Certificate of Education and on joining battalions as soldiers will quickly earn promotion. The Junior Leader Company hopes that at least one in ten of its boys will go to Sandhurst and take commissions.

The first boys, who joined at the age of 13½ years, have now completed 18 months training in academic education, weapon training, drill and physical education. A few boys may undergo further training as technical specialists.

In their classrooms the boys are taught English, mathematics, history, geography, rural science and woodwork by both European and African soldier-instructors. Visiting padres give religious instruction twice a week to the youngsters, most of whom are mission-bred Catholics or Protestants. English is the official language for working hours, except for weapon training when Swahili is used.

Each boy is issued with physical training kit, two working rigs of shirts and shorts, two sets of Number One Dress, two slouch hats (with the Junior Leader Company's distinctive red and green diamond flash backing the King's African Rifles badge) and boots. The young Africans had always run about their villages in bare feet, but they were successfully introduced to plimsolls and then, after only a fortnight in the Company, to their boots.

Allotted to one of three houses, named after Generals Giffard, Manning and Tapp (the latter is General-Officer-Commanding, East Africa Command), the boys sleep three to a room on bed boards (mattresses are not issued below the rank of sergeant in the King's African Rifles).

Regular meals with a balanced diet, physical training, games and an issue of milk three times a

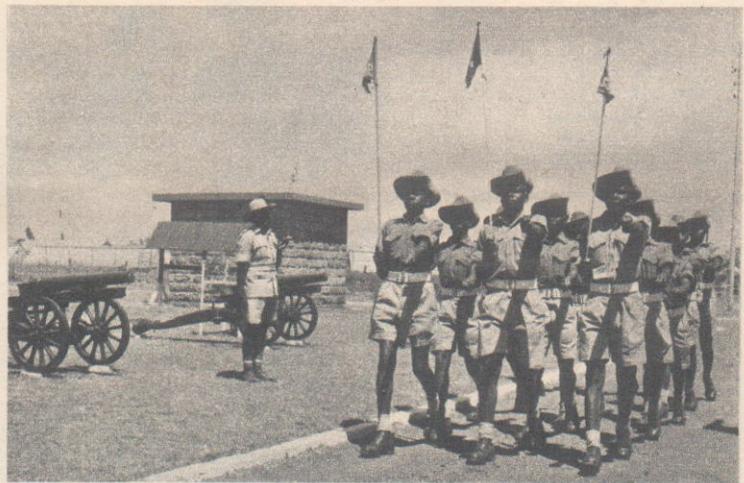
week quickly improve the boys' physique and they rapidly put on weight.

In their leisure time the boys are encouraged to take up woodwork and music. Some have been taught to play the bugle as a first step in forming a band. Although their base at Kahawa is not far from the bright lights of Nairobi the boys are permanently confined to barracks except for annual leave and camp and for educational visits. These outings, to industries in the Nairobi area, help to widen the boys' outlook—many of them had previously never seen a train, aircraft or factory.

The two fortnightly camps, in January and May, are held in various parts of Kenya and both periods are spent entirely in military training with the accent on minor tactics to develop leadership and self-reliance.

When the boys were given their first two-months leave it was feared that some might revert to village life. In fact, every boy returned with his self-discipline unchanged and only one was late, through no fault of his own. Punctuality, a word hardly known to the African, is one of the virtues constantly being impressed on the boys. Another is discipline, and its meaning, drummed in every week by a lecture by the Company Commander, Major J. C. Ballantyne-Evans. The only punishment in the Company is an hour's grass cutting in the evening—there is no pack drill, no stoppage of pay and naturally no C.B.

In four-and-a-half years of intensive tuition receptive young



A drill squad marches smartly past the Company Sergeant-Major. Carrying pennants are the potential leaders who will become lance-corporals when the second intake joins. Promotions, with pay, will be up to sergeant.

lads can learn a great deal. They will have to if they are to achieve the ideals behind their Company. The training aims "to develop, on and off duty, the qualities of leadership essential for non-commissioned or junior officers," and militarily to give the boys a grounding in drill, map reading, weapon training, minor tactics and, where there is aptitude, instruction in wireless, vehicles, mortars and other specialist subjects.

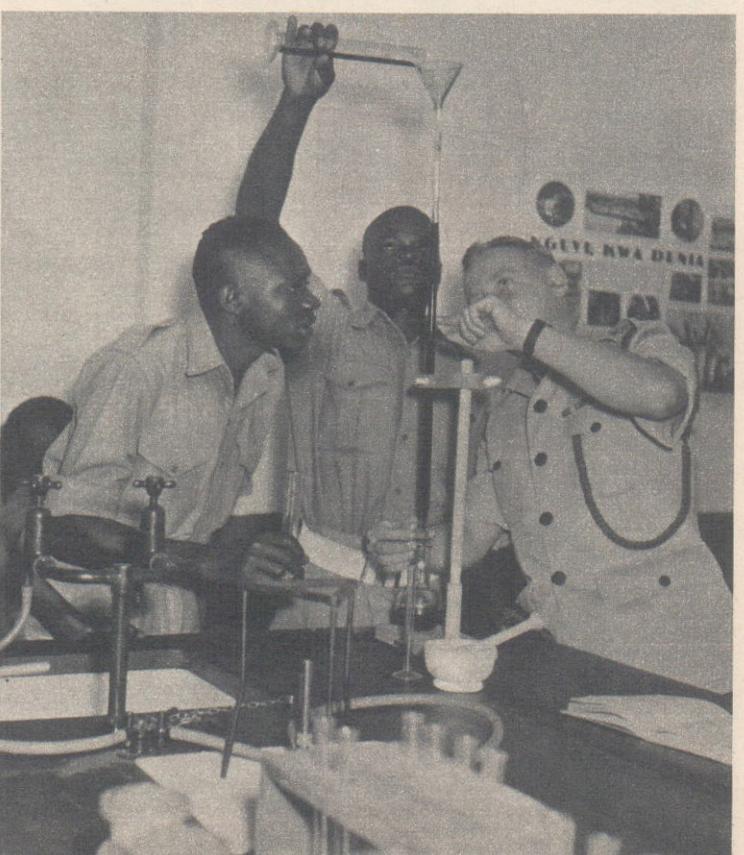
Academically, the object is "to achieve a standard where the boys can receive, issue and fully comprehend all orders and instructions in English and become capable of understanding all normal duties carried out by senior British non-commissioned offi-

cers." Their general education is intended to enable them to live alongside men of equivalent status of other races. They are also taught to appreciate their responsibilities as citizens, the contribution made by Britain to the development of their country and the position of East Africa as part of the British Commonwealth.

When the new intake arrives in October, paid promotions to lance-corporal (eventually to sergeant) and an added status above the "new boys" will give the original 45 an even greater incentive to become good soldiers.

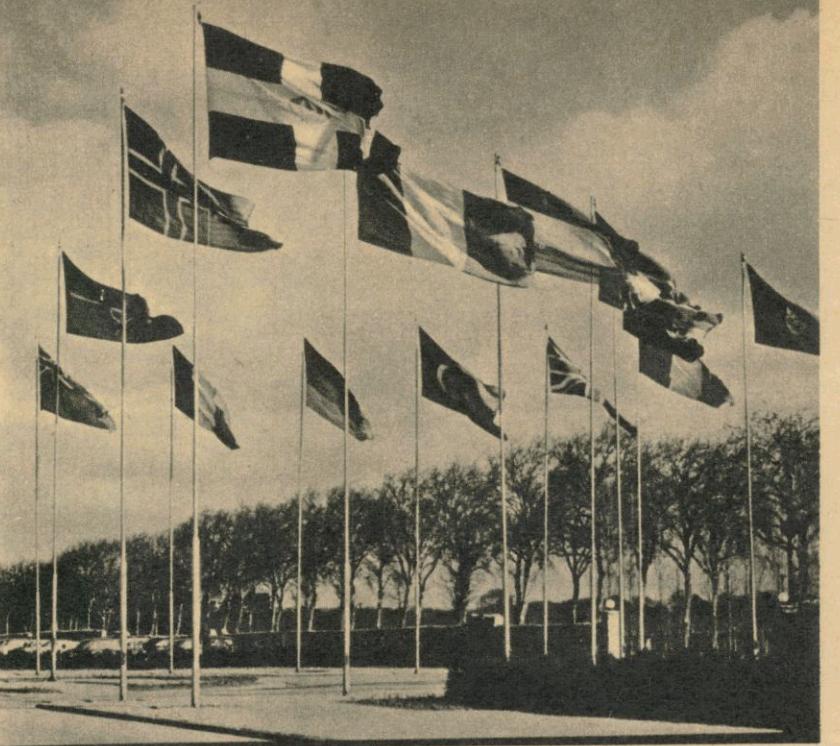
They will need it in this monastic life of long hours, hard work, no smoking and no beer—and all for sixpence a day!

The Company's Chief Education Officer gives a lesson in the well-equipped science room. A free education is a big attraction to the boys, whose parents would otherwise have had to pay to send them to secondary schools.



Right: The flags of the 15 member nations fly over the entrance to SHAPE Headquarters near Paris. They stand for the hopes of 450,000,000 people.

Below: The emblem of NATO, "a four-pointed star representing the compass that keeps us on the right road, the path of peace," and a circle representing unity.



The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, a coalition of 15 nations pledged to resist Communist aggression, is ten years old. In this article SOLDIER discusses its achievements, its failures and its hopes for the future



NATO: THE SWORD



Men of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry were among the 3500 soldiers from nine nations who took part at Mainz in the largest military parade in Western Germany since World War Two.

Royal Air Force fighters flew past in tight formation with American, Canadian, Belgian, Dutch, French and German aircraft, river patrols were reviewed on the Rhine and in the evening the West German Army took part in a torchlight procession.

This was one of the many ceremonies held to mark the formation ten years ago of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation which links 450 million people of 15 Western nations in the greatest peacetime defensive coalition in history. There were naval reviews in Malta and Naples; military parades in Norway, Denmark, France, Turkey and Italy; a military ball in Norfolk, Virginia and a special mass in Westminster Cathedral. To commemorate the occasion special postage stamps were issued in the United States and mobile exhibitions toured the member countries. In London this month the Queen will open an Atlantic Congress which will bring together 600 leaders of the NATO world.

Dramatic changes have taken place in the world situation since NATO was set up in a climate of Western fears and weaknesses during the 323-day blockade of Berlin in 1949. There has been the Korean War, which hastened the establishment of NATO's military shield. Risings have occurred in East Germany and

Hungary and there has been unrest in Poland. Russia has made spectacular gains in the Middle East and is now active in Africa. Chinese Communists are practising subversion throughout South-East Asia. Most important of all the nuclear intercontinental ballistic missile has arrived and the United States has lost its atomic monopoly.

But Russia has not gained a single inch of ground in the NATO area and although the target in men and weapons has not yet been reached the member countries are immeasurably stronger than ever before.

Britain has played a leading part in giving the alliance substance and effectiveness by committing strong, well-trained and well-equipped forces.

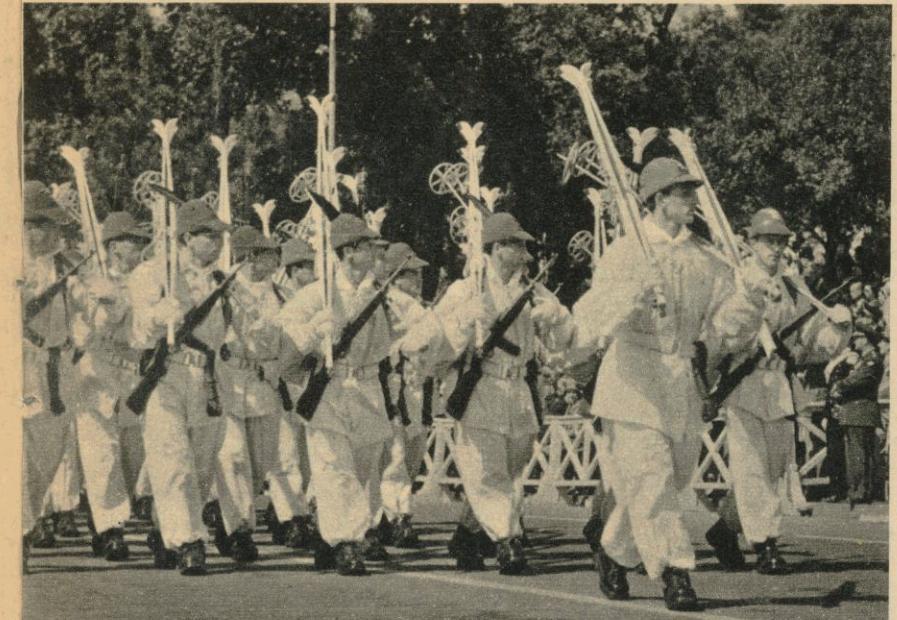
NATO's limitations and quarrels have been loudly advertised. Some complain that it has not conducted global strategy; that the challenge it faces is economic rather than military; others want its command structure overhauled.

Such criticism may be justified but there are reasons for NATO's shortcomings. The Alliance is a regional association of free nations and not a supra-national body. It works by consultation and persuasion in the democratic way and its decisions, which must be taken unanimously, are therefore all the more binding. Some members—Britain and the United States, for example—have worldwide responsibilities; others, like Denmark and Norway who have a long tradition of neutrality, are not prepared to assume further commitments.

The military problem facing NATO is formidable. In Eastern

OVER...

The "Honest John" guided rocket from the Southern European Task Force was the highlight of NATO's tenth anniversary celebrations in Naples. Two Italian armies supported by American guided missiles guard Northern Italy.



Part of NATO'S European defence line are these highly-trained Alpini troopers. Their white uniforms make the men almost invisible in the snow-covered mountains.



Troops from Luxembourg, the smallest member country, march past at the parade in Mainz. Luxembourg was one of the first to join NATO.

AND THE SHIELD



A Turkish Army Colour Guard passes the reviewing stand in Naples. A Guard of Honour was mounted by Portuguese troops and NATO's air forces flew past.



General Norstad, the American Supreme Allied Commander in Europe. He can call on forces many times more powerful than when NATO was set up.



General Sir Richard N. Gale DSO, MC, the Deputy Supreme Commander. He commanded the British 6th Airborne Division in World War Two and was later Commander-in-Chief of Northern Army Group.

Germany, Soviet Russia has 20 armoured or motorised divisions, with strong artillery and anti-aircraft support and some 1500 tactical aircraft. In that area she has nuclear weapons and the entire equipment is post-war. These forces could be reinforced in less than two weeks by another 20 divisions.

In all, some 175 Red Army divisions could be launched against the West. She has 20,000 front-line aircraft and a further 2500 in the satellite countries; more than 450 submarines.

In Central Europe, a vital and vulnerable industrial hub, NATO has only 21 of the 30 divisions it regards as its minimum requirement.

This is a critical area but it should be seen in correct perspective.

NATO's land defence line runs 4000 miles from Northern Norway to the Turkish Caucasus and there are other major avenues of potential attack. The seizure of Norway would outflank the whole of Central Europe; the Jutland Peninsula and Denmark hold the key to the exit from the Baltic. In Northern Italy, there is the Brenner Pass, leading from Western Austria, and the Gorizia Gap, which opens directly on Italy's most productive region, and over which stand guard two Italian field armies supported by a United States task force of

Honest John and *Corporal* missiles. Greece and Turkey, at the other hinge of the line, guard Thrace and the Bosphorus exit from the Black Sea.

Should the land routes be avoided and a vast outflanking movement made at sea, powerful Allied fleets operate in the Atlantic and Channel commands, from the North Pole to the Tropic of Cancer and between Europe and North America. To protect the North American power-houses, factories and farmlands which contribute so much to the strength of NATO, distant early warning radar systems have been set up across Alaska and Canada and a completely integrated United States-Canadian air defence command is in operation.

With this giant shield is linked the sword of retaliation. In the Mediterranean is the United States Sixth Fleet which has been described as "the biggest single offensive unit, possibly in the world, and the most powerful." The United States Strategic Air Command, from bases all over the world, and the Royal Air Force's V-bombers stand in the highest state of preparedness. Intermediate-range, inter-continental missiles, and *Polaris* nuclear submarines are coming off the production lines to join them.

The vast NATO machine has a common tactical doctrine, standardised procedures, common communications, and a multi-national network of docks, airfields,

stockpiles, ammunition dumps, pipelines, early radar warning and navigational aid stations.

Some £450 millions have been spent by member countries on these plates of the shield. More than 26,000 miles of submarine cables, land lines and radio links have been added to the existing civilian networks, principally of Italy, Norway, Greece and Turkey, and 5400 miles of fuel pipelines and storage tanks with a total capacity of 410 million gallons have been laid.

A new telecommunications system beaming signals towards the tropospheric and ionospheric layers is replacing the old transmission systems. This "Forward Scatter," regardless of atmospheric conditions, can transmit messages accurately from 50 to 250 miles using the troposphere, and from 600 to 1300 miles through the ionosphere. The first elements linking Bodoe, near the Arctic Circle, with Oslo opened last summer; longer links, from Paris to Naples, and from Naples to Izmir in Turkey will soon be operational.

The Fiat G-91, the first internationally-conceived lightweight ground-attack fighter, is now in the hands of an internationally-manned squadron in Rome, and is to take part in manoeuvres in Germany this year.

Good progress has been made towards the introduction of new weapons. By 1963 guided missile battalions will have grown from 30 to over a hundred, replacing some 30 to 40 air defence squadrons of manned aircraft. *Thor* intermediate range ballistic missiles are now in Britain; Italy has agreed to handle *Jupiters*. A mobile force, which could be flown to strengthen the forward line at any threatened point, is under consideration.

Much remains to be done, however, and little has been achieved over collectively balanced forces and co-ordinated production of weapons. But France, Germany and Italy are now co-operating closely in some weapon projects, joint European production of some United States missiles is being pressed, the Dutch and the Belgians have taken the first steps towards integrating their air forces, and air defence co-ordination is making headway.

Few would maintain that the NATO machinery is perfect but, as General Sir Richard Gale, Deputy Supreme Commander Europe and former Commander-in-Chief of Northern Army Group and British Army of the Rhine has said, "it certainly works. Many solutions which might be militarily more simple, might well be politically objectionable. One of the great problems which confronts the Alliance is the correlation of military necessity with political possibility. In fact the strategy works; in fact the deterrent deters; and in fact the machinery for exercising military command has achieved and is achieving its object."

PETER LOVEGROVE

SOLDIER to Soldier

THE brilliant action which quelled the rebellion in Oman (reported elsewhere in this issue) will rank high among the countless small campaigns fought by the British Army.

It was a triumph of planning, co-operation and deception, and success was due in no small measure to the fighting spirit, tenacity, superb physical fitness and intelligence of the men of the Special Air Service Regiment, operating in their true peacetime role of "trouble-stoppers."

A few days after leaving the swamps and jungles of Malaya the S.A.S. were hunting rebels in the mountains of Arabia. A few weeks later they had shattered a ten-centuries-old legend and helped to put down the rebellion.

The operation in Oman taught many lessons, not the least of which is that tough, well-trained troops flown to trouble spots as soon as danger threatens can restore order rapidly and prevent small incidents developing into long-drawn-out emergencies costly in lives and money.

DIGNANT members of Parliament have said that there is public disquiet over the ease with which, they allege, some young men escape National Service because they are prominent sportsmen or rock-'n'-roll singers earning fabulous salaries.

The facts do not support the allegation. Certainly in recent years a well-known cricketer, a racing car driver and two rock-'n'-roll singers have been discharged as medically unfit. But they are the exception rather than the rule and therefore attract more attention.

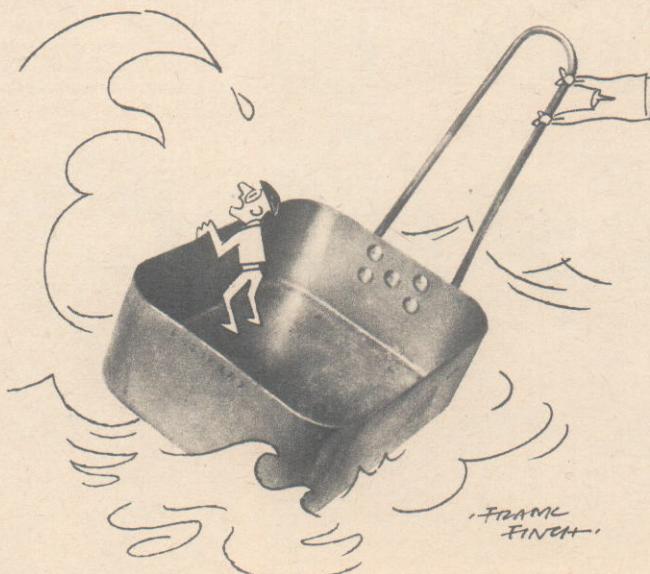
Many more just as prominent in the public eye have done their stint as National Servicemen, among them Dr. Roger Bannister, the first man to run the mile in less than four minutes, the late Duncan Edwards, the English international footballer, Peter Richardson, the Test cricketer, and Dai Dower, the boxer. Less has been written and said about them than the very few who are rejected.

Not all sportsmen and rock-'n'-roll singers are mentally or physically equipped to be soldiers, which is their loss. And it would be the Army's loss, too, if it tried to make efficient soldiers out of unsatisfactory material.

Privates' Predicaments...1

In this new series of wordless cartoons SOLDIER artist FRANK FINCH portrays the appalling predicaments in which soldiers may sometimes find themselves in nightmares.

The man below, for instance, is a quartermaster's storeman who dreamed that as a punishment for forgetting to indent for 500 mess tins he was posted overseas in one.



INSIDE a little group of bivouacs almost buried in the snow, eight boys snuggled down into their three blankets and tried to sleep in a temperature of eight degrees below freezing point.

The bivouacs looked like the camp of a trans-Antarctic expedition—but they were pitched 6000 feet up on the sunny Mediterranean isle of Cyprus.

The boys, aged 13 to 15 and the sons of Servicemen, were from the Army School in Berengaria Village, on the south-east coast of Cyprus, and they were taking part in an experiment in adventure designed to test their initiative and powers of leadership.

Their week-end camp on the slopes of Mount Olympus, in the Troodos Mountains, was run on a pilot scheme based on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Believed to have been the first trial of the scheme overseas, this successful experiment will probably lead to boys from Service schools all over the world entering for the Award.

On the night before going up to the village of Troodos the boys slept in a local Scout hut to acclimatise themselves to the changes in temperature and atmosphere between their homes almost at sea level and the heights of the mountain range. Their first job on reaching their camp site was to clear away the snow with entrenching tools so that they could pitch their tents. Then they had to light a fire, which was no easy task with wood that had been out in snow, and cook a meal.

The camp was pitched in the grounds of a ski centre. The boys slept out for two nights and did everything themselves, with two masters and a school-mistress to keep an eye on them. Boots had

ADVENTURE ON MOUNT OLYMPUS

After a cold night under canvas on Mount Olympus, members of the party prepare to set out for a ski trip.

to be thawed out in the morning before they could be worn, and as water would not boil because of the altitude, the boys had to drink tepid tea. But despite the cold they thoroughly enjoyed "roughing it."

By day, the boys went skiing, some for the first time, and rock-climbing, and marched several miles across country on compass bearings. For the week-end camp the boys, five of them Boy Scouts, were divided into two groups, each under a leader. Roy Dangerfield, one of the leaders and son of a Royal Army Pay Corps captain,

is a patrol leader in 51 Combined Services (Cyprus) Boy Scout Troop and has built his own canoe which he hopes will help him win his Award. The other group leader, Brian Thomas, son of a Royal Air Force sergeant, is keen on rock-climbing, which he practised when living in North Wales.

To encourage the scheme, the Army in Cyprus provided all the camp equipment, including tents and special winter clothing.—*From a report by 2/Lt. D. A. HARRIS, Public Relations, GHQ, MELF.*

FOOTNOTE: Berengaria Village (named after Queen Berengaria of Navarre who married Richard Coeur-de-Lion in nearby Limassol) was built four years ago when General Headquarters, Middle East Land Forces, left the Canal Zone, to provide temporary accommodation for families until their permanent re-housing ten miles away at Episkopi. Berengaria's school, designed for 360 grammar, secondary modern, junior and infant pupils, has had as many as 500 children on roll.

Warm work even in the snow 6000 feet above sea level. The young adventurers haul away at a boulder. Note the first-aid kit in case of accidents.



A brew-up for the boys. At this altitude water would not boil so the lads had to drink tepid tea. Lighting fires with wet wood was a big problem, too.





An Auster of 656 Squadron parachutes supplies to an Infantry patrol who mark the dropping zone with smoke grenades.

The Army's light aircraft pilots have played a big part in routing Malaya's terrorists. In eleven years they have made thousands of sorties and flown a distance equal to . . .

498 TIMES ROUND THE WORLD

NO men have a more outstanding record in the anti-terrorist campaign in Malaya than the men who fly and service the Army's tiny Auster aircraft.

They belong to 656 Light Aircraft Squadron, Army Air Corps, which in a wide variety of roles—from leaflet dropping to spotting for the Gunners—recently set up what is believed to be a record by completing 150,000 operational flying hours during the emergency in Malaya.

This means that in that time the Squadron has flown 12 million miles (equal to 498 times round the world), a distance that would take a single Auster 17 years of continuous flying to attain.

These figures are a striking testimony to the remarkable achievements of 656 Light Aircraft Squadron in Malaya where, since 1948, its men and machines have proved invaluable in the war against the terrorists.

The Squadron has more than 80,000 reconnaissance sorties alone to its credit, many of them in support of Infantry patrols in

the jungle. It has also been responsible for locating more than 1750 terrorist camps, many of which have subsequently been destroyed.

Flying for up to two-and-a-half hours searching dense jungle for cunningly camouflaged camps and cultivation strips requires great skill, vigilance and perseverance. As well as examining the ground in detail, the pilot must fly his aircraft, read a map, operate the wireless set and keep an eye on the weather which can change rapidly and become hazardous to small aircraft with limited instruments when surrounded by jagged jungle-covered mountain peaks.

Another important part of the Austers' work is supply-dropping

ration packs for isolated patrols, wireless spares and batteries, medical supplies, ammunition and mail.

The average Auster load weighs about 70 pounds, but single loads of up to 130 pounds have been handled. During the eleven years emergency 400 tons of supplies have been dropped to troops in the jungle from Austers of 656 Squadron. Sometimes, in thick jungle, supplies packed in metal ammunition boxes are dropped without a parachute through the trees.

Since 1948, the Squadron's Austers have dropped over 150 million leaflets and made nearly 8000 reconnaissance sorties for helicopter landing grounds and supply dropping zones. They have also marked targets for bombers and ground-strafing fighters, first by dropping smoke hand grenades and later by dropping parachute or anti-submarine

flares, and have observed 3500 artillery shoots.

Artillery observation in jungle country is directly related to the weather. On good days, when the sky is overcast, 25-pounder and 5.5-inch shell bursts can easily be seen from 400-500 feet 12,000 yards away. On hot sunny days, with a great deal of cloud shadow, observation is almost impossible.

Among the Austers' other duties is photographic reconnaissance (an area of ten square miles can be photographed in a few hours) and, until recently, when helicopters took over the task, casualty evacuation. One type of Auster is equipped with a stretcher.

The Squadron has also carried some 50,000 passengers on operations and played a leading role in the development of wireless techniques, with the result that commanders are now able to exercise a degree of control that was not

thought possible at the start of the emergency.

In emergencies the pilots are grateful to the Squadron signallers who man the flight ground stations and keep contact with the aircraft, logging all messages and distress calls. Most of the signallers are Gunners, and many of them are National Servicemen.

Not all the tasks undertaken by the Squadron's aircraft have been directly in support of operations. At Singapore, light aircraft operating with the police have flown numerous searching patrols for illegal *samsu* stills, many of which have been found by the pilots and their locations radioed to the police.

They have also taken part in more than 1000 air-sea rescue operations off the coasts of Malaya and, fitted with voice-production equipment, have flown over the jungle by day and night broadcasting messages to terrorists.

No. 656 Light Aircraft Squadron, which has also flown more than 40,000 hours on training and demonstrations, was founded in 1942 and its first commander was Major D. W. Coyle DFC, Royal Artillery. It took part in all the major actions in the Burma campaign from 1943 and in 1945 went to Malaya where Major Coyle accepted the surrender of the Japanese in Kuala Lumpur a few minutes after landing. The Japanese commander's sword now hangs in the Squadron Commander's office at Noble Field, Kuala Lumpur.

After nearly a year in Java, the Squadron returned to Malaya in 1947 and then disbanded except for one flight which later became 1914 Air Observation Post Flight and which is today the senior flight in the Squadron.

When the Emergency broke out in Malaya the Squadron reformed. One flight later went to Korea where it served with distinction, winning one DSO and several DFCs. In 1950 a new flight—No. 1911—was formed and was the

first to have men of the Glider Pilot Regiment serving with powered aircraft.

The Squadron ceased to be part of the Royal Air Force on the formation of the Army Air Corps in 1957 and a year later No. 16 Reconnaissance Flight was formed, bringing the number of flights in the Squadron to five.

Pilots in the Army Air Corps are Army officers, warrant officers or non-commissioned officers selected from all regiments and corps of the British Army.

Many have been involved in outstanding exploits, like Captain M. P. E. Legg whose keen eyes led to the destruction of a strong terrorist gang in Southern Malaya. While on a flight over the jungle in the Kluang area he spotted smoke and reported it to ground troops. The area was sealed off and 16 hardened terrorists were killed or captured. As a result terrorism in that area was wiped out.

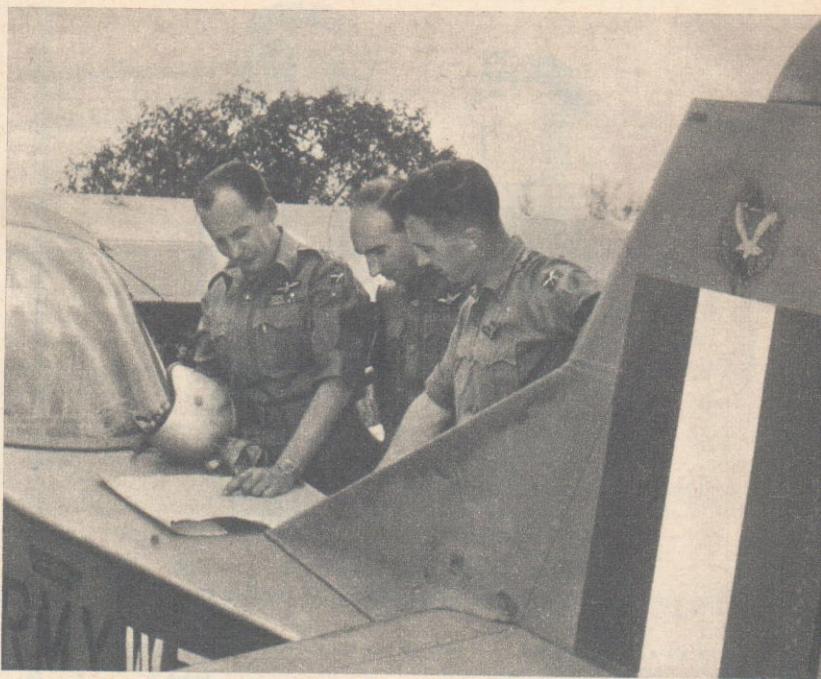
Another Auster pilot, Sergeant-Major G. D. Jenkins spotted eight terrorists crossing a river by raft. He dived so low that the bandits took to the water. Realising that the aircraft was unarmed the terrorists began to climb back on the raft so the Sergeant-Major dived again, firing his Verey pistol. The bandits took to the water once more, upsetting the raft and losing all their equipment. They were later intercepted by ground forces.

The success of 656 Light Aircraft Squadron is also due to the men who keep the Austers in the air, most of them Gunners, with men of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers to service the aircraft and of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps to supply the stores.

The Squadron, which is now commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel B. B. Storey MC, Royal Artillery, has won 17 Distinguished Flying Crosses, four Distinguished Flying Medals, five MBEs and 7 BEMs.

—From a report by Army Public Relations, Malaya.

At one of the Squadron's bases in Malaya, the ground crew park an Auster after its return from operations over the jungle.



Above: Before setting out on a mission, three of the Squadron's pilots study a map on the fuselage of one of their Austers. Note the Army Air Corps badge on the tail-plane. Below: Some of the men who keep the planes in the air at work on an Auster on one of the Squadron's air-strips. On the ground staff depends the safety of the pilots who have won 17 DFCs.





"I've just about had enough of you and your delusions of grandeur, Montgomery."

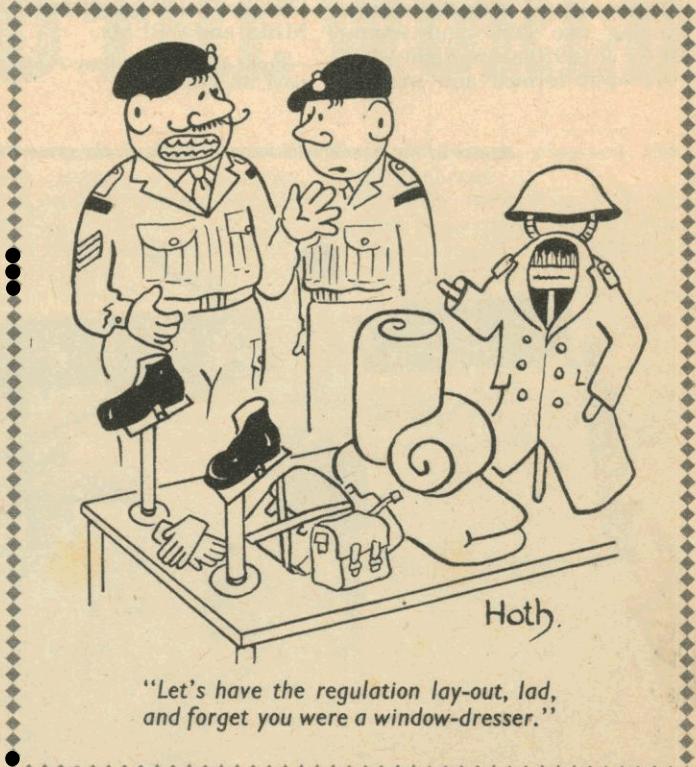
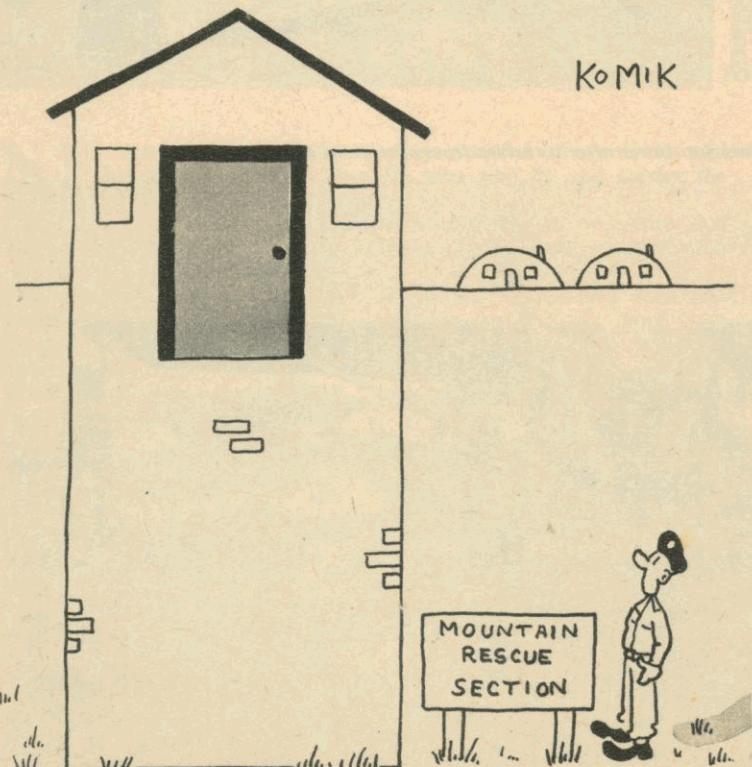


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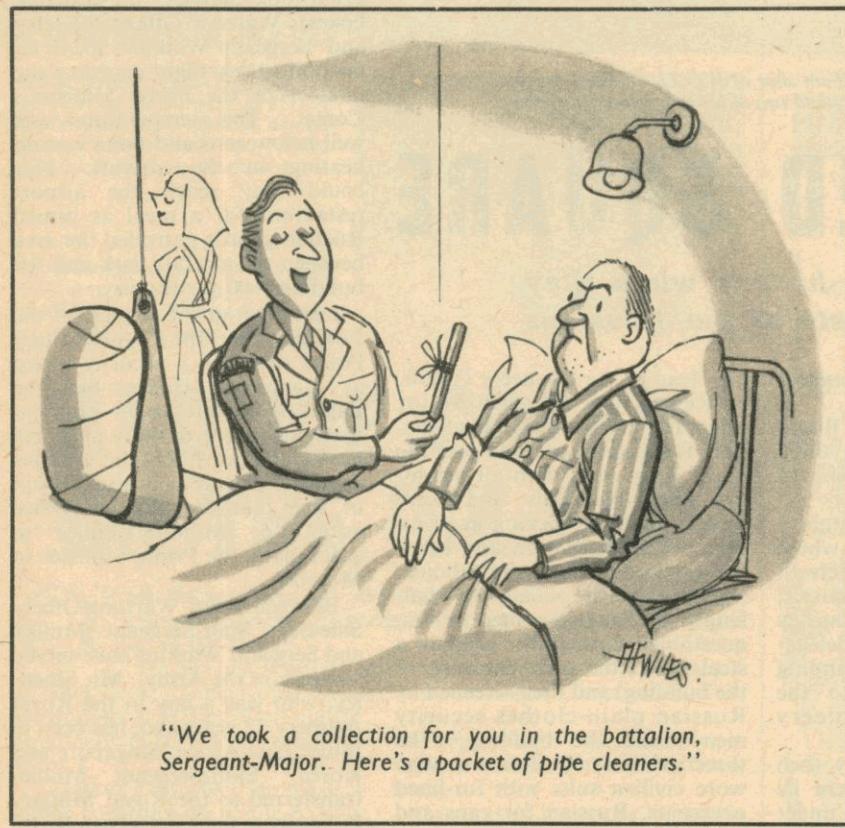
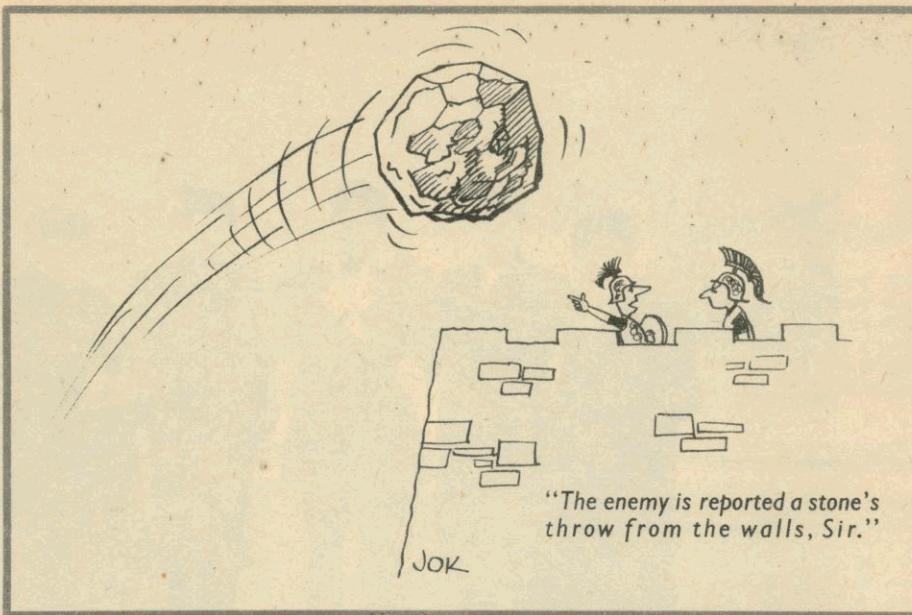
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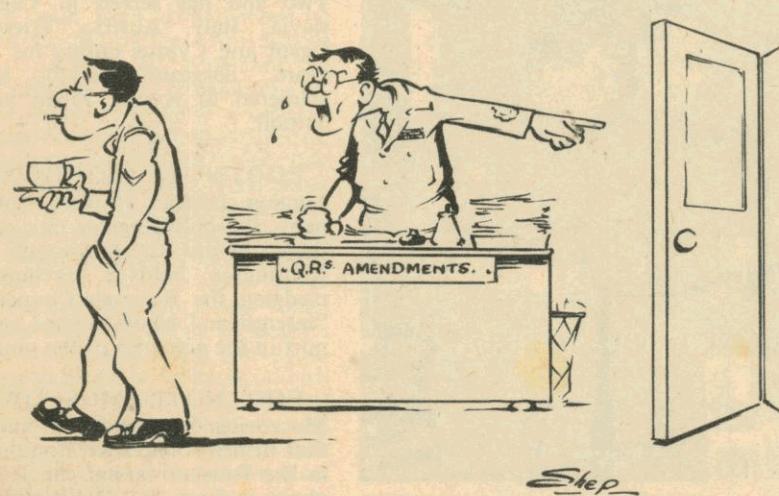
SOLDIER HUMOUR



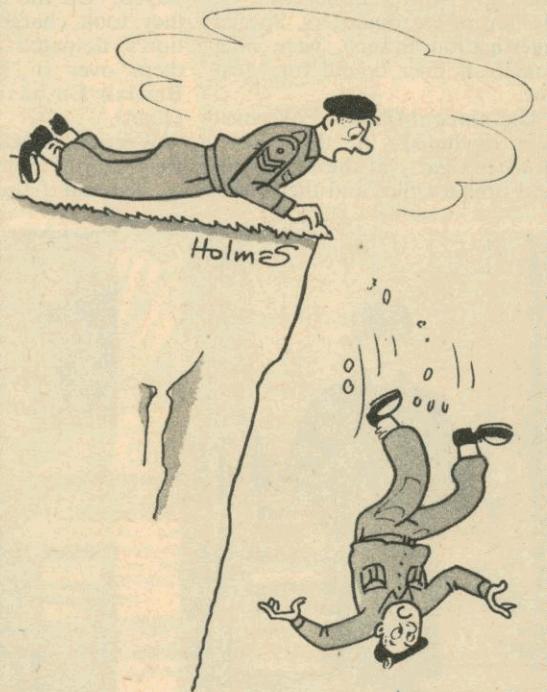
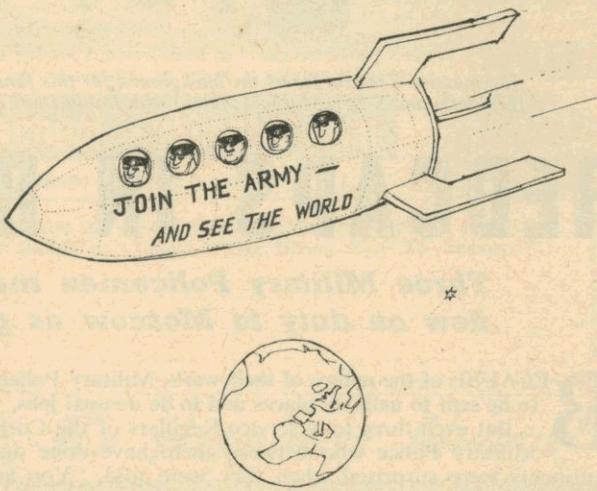
"Let's have the regulation lay-out, lad, and forget you were a window-dresser."



"We took a collection for you in the battalion, Sergeant-Major. Here's a packet of pipe cleaners."



"Delete Open, substitute Shut, and cancel Draught."



"Report on sick parade at 7.30 sharp."



The massive Kremlin forms the background for this family album shot of WO.11 Smedley (second from left) and S-Sgt. Mullan (fourth) with Robin Day (centre) and two of his television cameramen.

REDCAPS IN RED SQUARE

Three Military Policemen made history when they flew on duty to Moscow as guests of the Russians

BECAUSE of the nature of their work, Military Policemen expect to be sent to unlikely places and to do unusual jobs.

But even three long-service Regulars of the Corps of Royal Military Police who between them have done duty in three continents were surprised when they were told, "You are going to Russia with the Prime Minister's delegation."

A week later Warrant Officer J. Smedley and Sergeant O. Watkins, both of London District Provost Company, with Staff-Sergeant G. Mullan, of Headquarters, Special Investigation Branch, were in a Comet air liner bound for Moscow.

The three Military Policemen were included in the Prime Minister's party at the request of the Foreign Office and their prin-

cipal task was to man an inquiry post at the Moscow villa where Mr. Macmillan and Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, the Foreign Minister, stayed. On the outward journey they took charge of the delegation's despatch boxes, handing them over in Moscow to the British Embassy's Chancery Guard.

Warrant Officer Smedley then went to the Embassy where he carried out liaison duties under

the Head of the Chancery Guard, ex-Regimental Sergeant-Major Edgar of the Gordon Highlanders. The other two shared duty at the villa. They dealt with all incoming telephone calls and were responsible for checking in members of the delegation and keeping a record of their whereabouts.

Callers at the villa were challenged by Russian armed militia, questioned through the grille of a steel door (the only entrance to the building) and then screened by Russian plain-clothes security men inside the building. The three Military Policemen, who wore civilian suits with fur-lined overcoats, Russian fur caps and

overshoes hired in London, were themselves subjected to security checks. Sometimes, when travelling in their chauffeur-driven car (one of 20 at the disposal of the delegation), they were shadowed by Russian police cars and were "tailed" when out walking in the Moscow streets.

With other members of the delegation, the three soldiers were accommodated four miles from the British Embassy in the Hotel Sovyetskaya. When their duties permitted they joined in the programme arranged for the delegation which included a four-hour tour of the Kremlin and visits to the Bolshoi Ballet performing "Romeo and Juliet," to Moscow University and the Cathedral. They also walked through Red Square but had no time to queue with the hundreds of Russians lining up to see Lenin's tomb.

On the eve of their return to London (the Military Policemen again took charge of the despatch boxes), Warrant Officer Smedley and Sergeant Watkins spent an uncomfortable night guarding the interior of the Prime Minister's Comet. The temperature was well below zero and there was no heating in the aircraft. Nor could they reach the airport restaurant for a meal as armed Russian guards patrolled the area between the aircraft park and the buildings 600 yards away.

Last year, at the request of the Foreign Office, the Royal Military Police provided a security guard at Lancaster House for the Baghdad conference in London. Sixty men were on duty checking passes and patrolling the grounds at night. It was as a direct result of this that the Foreign Office asked for Military Police to accompany the Prime Minister to Moscow.

Between them Warrant Officer Smedley, Staff-Sergeant Mullan and Sergeant Watkins have served 44 years in the Army. Mr. Smedley, who was a boy in the Royal Artillery 22 years ago, has been in India, East Africa, Singapore and Korea. Staff-Sergeant Mullan transferred to the Royal Military Police from the King's Own Royal Regiment shortly after World War Two and has served in Yugoslavia, Italy, Austria, Trieste, Egypt and Cyprus during his 14 years. Sergeant Watkins has soldiered in Korea, Japan and Tripoli.

FOOTNOTE (LONDON): London District Provost Company, the only Regular unit stationed in the Royal Borough of Kensington, holds a parchment pledging the Borough Council's "interest and whole-hearted support in the activities of the unit."

FOOTNOTE (MOSCOW): Muscovites who did not know that British soldiers were on duty in the Russian capital can learn about it from *SOLDIER* which is one of 800 periodicals available on demand in Moscow's Lenin Library.



Left: Sgt. Watkins in his hired overcoat and Russian-type fur cap. Right: back home—and back in uniform—the Military Policemen read the letter of thanks which accompanied the Prime Minister's autographed picture. The vase is one of the few souvenirs the three brought back.



Above: In mid-winter snow reached the eaves of the base hut at Halley Bay and the men climbed outside through a door in the roof. Note the Union Jack on the radio mast.



Right: Sergeant Malcolm Edwards, ACC, kept the party happy with his excellent meals. He was the youngest member of the Expedition.

AND ICE CREAM ON THE ICE CAP

O f all the men who lay claim to improbable accomplishments Sergeant Malcolm Edwards, of the Army Catering Corps, is well in the lead.

He has just returned home after two years in the Antarctic as chief cook to the Royal Society's International Geophysical Year Expedition at Halley Bay—where he sometimes served ice cream for sweet.

Sergeant Edwards ("he made a major contribution to the morale of the party with his excellent meals," says the Royal Society) had never been abroad when he was selected by the Army School of Cookery at Aldershot to accompany the Expedition. A few weeks later, after a concentrated course on dehydrated foods, he was on his way to Halley Bay on the Weddel Sea, 9000 miles from Britain and 3000 miles from Capetown, the nearest town.

Cooking meals in the Antarctic, where the temperature is never above freezing point and sometimes drops to minus 65 degrees Fahrenheit, presented few problems to Sergeant Edwards and his civilian assistant, for the advance party had installed a well-equipped kitchen complete with an anthracite-burning stove, pots and pans and an electric mixer. The Expedition took a two years' supply of tinned and dehydrated foods and supplemented these on

the voyage with fresh meat, vegetables and fruit and later with seal meat.

As a result the cooks were able to produce varied meals four times a day (a typical evening meal was soup, steak pie, potatoes, carrots, rice pudding and coffee and sometimes ice bombe). They also baked a cake for each member of the party on his birthday.

Sergeant Edwards was one of four soldiers on the Expedition, the object of which included research into the ionosphere and meteorology. Another was Colonel Robin Smart, Royal Army Medical Corps, who led the Expedition for the first year.

Warrant Officer Alfred Amphlett, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and Sergeant Ivor Beney, Royal Engineers, were in charge of the diesel generators, tractors and auxiliary equipment. They kept a continuous supply of electricity to the many scientific instruments at the base.

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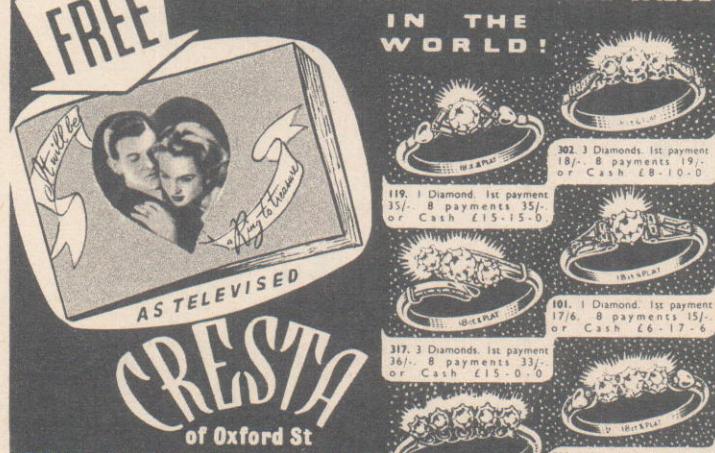
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ON PATROL IN

In the mountains near the Norwegian-Finnish border, British soldiers, carrying their tents and weapons, plod upwards to a new camp. During the exercise temperatures were well below zero and a "whiteout" blew up, reducing visibility to a few feet.

Men of the Independent Ski Detachment build a snow wall around their observation post in the mountains. They spent several days patrolling the mountain ridges.



A GIANT "Beverley" freighter plane lumbered to a halt on a tiny airstrip in a valley surrounded by grim, gaunt mountains 150 miles north of the Arctic Circle near the Norwegian-Finnish border.

From the aircraft clambered 55 British soldiers, members of No. 1 (British) Corps' Independent Ski Detachment who had been selected from units in Rhine Army to undergo special training in Arctic warfare with the Norwegian Army. It was the largest group of British soldiers ever to train with the Norwegians in the winter.

The men, who had been chosen for their ski-ing ability and suitability for operations in sub-zero temperatures, took with them British Army sleeping bags and cold-weather clothing. But they did not need them for the first week as this was spent in the newly-built barracks of the Norwegian Northern Brigade's 2nd Battalion in a valley 60 miles from the nearest sizeable village. Here, they were taught by their hosts how best to use the Norwegians' eight- and 16-man tents and *poukkas* (small sledges) and how to fight and keep alive in the Arctic.

Then they went out with the 2nd Battalion to take part in a ten-day exercise among the mountains near the Finnish border, patrolling the mountain ranges during the day and sleeping in their tents each night.

Most of the men, who were led by Major J. E. Little-Jones, of the 1st Battalion, Royal Hampshire Regiment, had had at least two months ski-ing experience before they arrived in Norway and they quickly settled down to the day-long treks on skis from their base camp not far from which wolves and reindeer roam. They were quick to learn that it is even possible, if the rules are observed, to be quite comfortable even when the thermometer registers 40 degrees Fahrenheit below zero.

On the last few days of the exercise a blizzard blew up and high winds at times threatened to pluck the tents from the mountainside in spite of the carefully-built snow walls the men had erected for protection. Once, a patrol had to turn back when it encountered a "whiteout"—driving snow which reduces visibility to a few feet.

Before returning to Germany the men of the Independent Ski Detachment paid a visit to Tromso, a northerly sea port from which Norwegian seal and polar bear hunting expeditions set sail for the ice barrier.



THE ARCTIC

If men are to survive in the Arctic Circle daily supplies of food and fuel must be sent. At the British base camp a Norwegian helicopter arrives with rations.

In camouflage clothing, a Ski Detachment team mans an observation post built with snow hewn out of the mountainside. The men are wearing anti-glare goggles.



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A contemporary painting, now in the possession of the Worcestershire Regiment, shows British seamen and soldiers rescuing French sailors from sunken ships. Men of the 29th helped to sail the captured ships back to England.

The Glorious First of

Of all the Worcestershire Regiment's many outstanding battle honours, including Ramillies, Salamanca, Mons and Gallipoli, none is celebrated with more pride than "The Glorious First of June."

On that day in 1794, more than 400 officers and men of the 29th Foot (now the Worcestershire Regiment) went into action as Marines with Lord Howe's Fleet which routed the French off Ushant. By their bravery they won the honour which is shared by only one other regiment—the Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)—of bearing the Naval Crown superscribed "1st June, 1794" as a battle honour on its Regimental Colours.

When Britain declared war on the newly-created French Republic in 1793—a war that was to last for 22 years—the Royal Navy was desperately short of men, particu-

In the gathering dusk on 28 May, the ships' lights resembled a lighted street as the two fleets faced each other in parallel lines. Nearly 21,000 men and 2228 guns were ready for battle, the French slightly the stronger with one more ship than the British and 60 more guns. The next day several French ships were damaged in a two-hour action but thick fog descended and the action was broken off.

At dawn on 1 June the fog cleared and with the sea rolling before a strong south-west wind the ships prepared for action to the death. On board HMS Brunswick, next in line to Lord Howe's flag ship the Queen Charlotte, 81 men of the 29th drank their grog and the ship's band, strengthened by several of the 29th's drummers,

struck up the stirring tune "Hearts of Oak." It was a battle cry which the ship's crew and the 29th sang lustily as the Brunswick bore down on the enemy and all through the noise of the ensuing battle snatches of the song were heard in various parts of the ship. (In memory of this incident the drums and fifes of the Worcestershire Regiment play "Hearts of Oak" on ceremonial occasions. At one time the tune was played while guards and picquets marched off to their duties.)

Soon, the Brunswick came to grips with Le Vengeur, a French man-o'-war equal in size and armament, and hooked her anchors in the enemy's foreshrouds and channels. The 29th fought furiously, causing many casualties on Le Vengeur whose small arms fire and 36-pounder poop guns wreaked terrible toll on the Brunswick's quarter deck. Captain A. Saunders, commanding the 29th detachment, and a sergeant were killed and Ensign Harcourt Vernon and 20 privates were wounded.

So furious was the fire from

This month 165 years ago, soldiers of a famous Infantry regiment took part in a memorable sea battle. They fought as Marines and helped to rout a French Fleet. By their gallantry they won the right to wear the Naval Crown on their Regimental Colours



Above: The Naval Crown is also proudly borne above the eight-star badge on the Regimental Depot notice board. Below: This medal, struck to commemorate The Glorious First of June, was presented to officers of the Regiment.



Ramillies Drummer Thomas Dorner was wounded and died seven days later. Two privates on the Alfred and an ensign and eight privates on the Glory were wounded. There were no casualties on the Thunderer.

When the battered French Fleet made off, the men of the 29th boarded the captured ships and after removing the prisoners helped to man the vessels as they were proudly towed back to Portsmouth and Plymouth.

The bravery of the 29th was almost immediately recognised by

the Royal Navy when the Regiment was awarded the Naval Crown—but the battle honour with the inscription "1st June, 1794" was not received until 1909.

The Royal Navy still commemorates the gallantry of the 29th 165 years ago. On each anniversary of the battle the officers and cadets of HMS Worcester parade on the quarter-deck at noon and the captain reads an account of the part played by the Regiment. A salute is played on a silver bugle presented by the Regiment to the Worcester in 1922. The captain of

the Worcester is an honorary member of the Worcestershire Regimental Association and telegrams of congratulation are exchanged between the Regiment and the ship on 1 June each year.

FOOTNOTE: History repeated itself when men of the Worcestershire Regiment were taken off the beaches at Dunkirk by HMS Worcester and on 1 June, 1940 helped to man the ship's anti-aircraft guns which brought down several enemy aircraft.

K. J. HANFORD

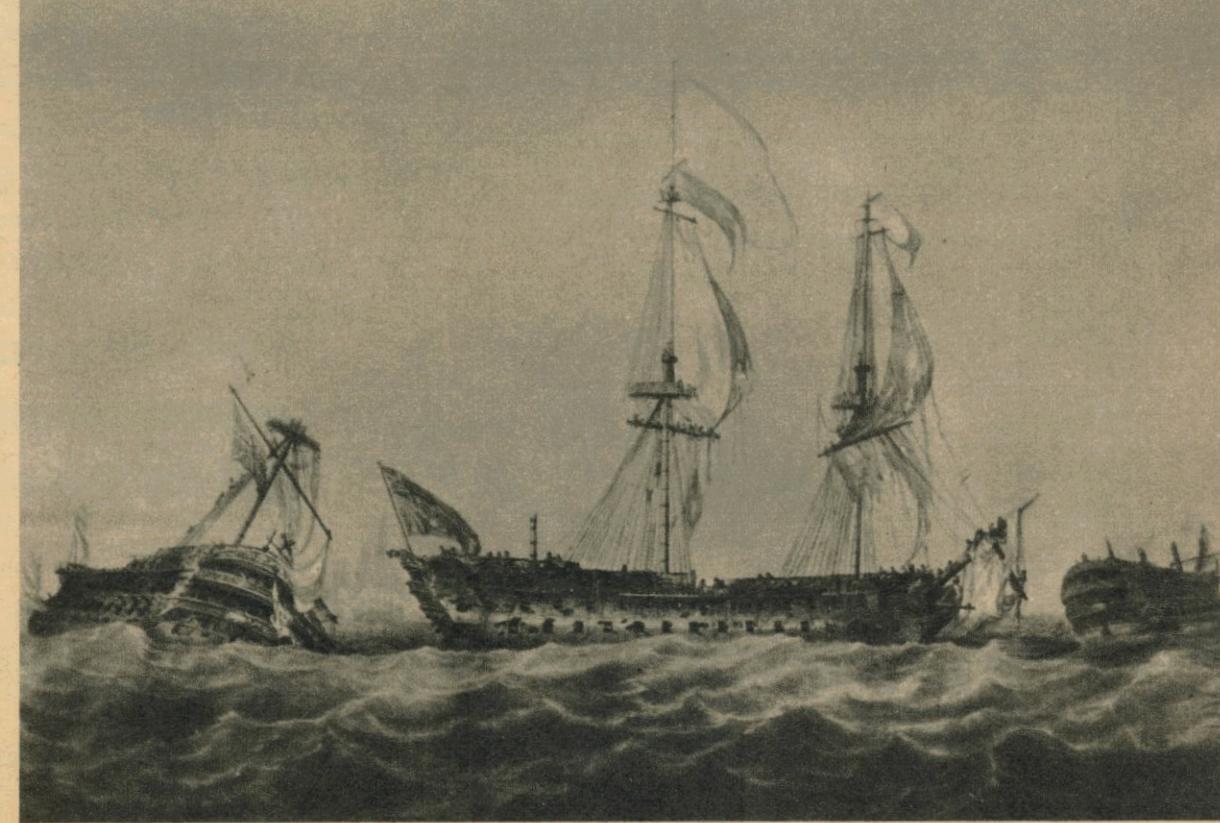
At the end of her desperate action with Le Vengeur, HMS Brunswick stands off as the French man-o'-war goes to the bottom of the Bay of Biscay. In the fighting a captain and sergeant of the 29th were killed and 20 privates wounded.

June

both ships that the French ship L'Achille, her rigging and gangways crowded with men armed with pistols, pikes and cutlasses, slipped unseen upon the Brunswick. As the French were about to board her the Brunswick loosed a tremendous broadside which brought down all three of L'Achille's masts. L'Achille struck her colours.

The grim struggle between the two locked ships went on, both sides suffering heavy casualties. But at last they swung clear and Le Vengeur, her lower deck ports torn off or shot away, began to sink. She surrendered and over 400 of her crew were taken prisoner. Some brave Frenchmen refused to leave, re-hoisted the Tricolour and went down with their ship, crying "Vive La République" as they disappeared.

The French line now began to give way in many places and ten enemy ships were captured. On board were nearly 700 dead Frenchmen and 600 wounded. The British losses were 68 killed and 129 wounded, some of them men of the 29th. On board the



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THIS month's prize is SIX recently published books, worth more than £5 5s.

All you have to do to win is to answer the questions below and send your entry to reach SOLDIER'S editorial offices by Friday, 26 June.

The winner will be the sender of the first correct solution opened by the editor. He or she may choose any SIX of the following books: "Traitors' Gate" by Dennis Wheatley; "Unexploded Bomb" by Major A. B. Hartley; "Double Webs" by Jean Overton Fuller; "Love and the Loveless" by Henry Williamson; "Gateway to the Khyber" by Robin Bryans; "Not in the Limelight" by Sir Ronald Wingate; "No Love for Johnnie" by Wilfred Fienburgh; "Normandy Revisited" by A. J. Liebling; "Outlaws of the Old West" by Carl Breihan; "The Lady is a Vamp" by Maurice Dekobra; "Your Business Matters" by Couldrey and Sheppard; "Retreat from Kokoda" by Raymond Paull; "Quick and Easy Dressmaking" by Diana Crutchley; "Puppets and Plays" by Batchelor and Comer; "The Boy's Book of Magic"; "Tame the Wild Stallion" by J. R. Williams, and a bound volume of SOLDIER, 1957-58.

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 SIX BOOKS-13" panel printed at the top of this page.
- Competitors may submit more than one entry but *each* must be accompanied by the "WIN SIX BOOKS-13" panel.
- Any reader, Serviceman or woman and civilian, may compete.
- The Editor's decision is final.

1. Who won this year's Boat Race and by how many lengths?

2. Complete these well-known proverbs:
(a) Still — run —; (b) Empty vessels make the most —; (c) All is not — that —; (d) Every — has a — lining.

3. Link these personalities and professions: Laurence Olivier, Heathcoat Amory, Cliff Michelmore, Jimmy Greaves, Dai Rees. Television star, actor, politician, footballer, golfer.

4. The world's longest big ship canal is the Suez Canal, which is 100 miles long. True or false?

5. What is the purpose of the Heath-Robinson contraption fitted to the front of this armoured car? If you read SOLDIER regularly you should know.



HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?



44



These two pictures look alike but they vary in ten minor details. Look at them very carefully. If you cannot detect the differences see page 38.

The winner of SOLDIER'S April Competition was:

SERGEANT R. A. PICKARD,

1st Battalion,

The Gloucestershire Regiment,
B.F.P.O. 36.

The correct solution was: 1. The Scots Guards. 2. Cow (calf), mare (foal), ewe (lamb), bitch (puppy), fox (cub), goat (kid). 3. False. Christmas Island was discovered by Captain James Cook on Christmas Eve, 1770. 4. Ten wickets. 5. Appurtenance, hydrophobia and lollipop were mis-spelled. 6. A guitar. 7. Don't tread on the grass. 8. (a) gathers no moss; (b) most pains; (c) easy go; (d) a muckel. 9. A bittern is a wading bird. 10. (a) The Dorset Regiment; (b) The Wiltshire Regiment; (c) The Northamptonshire Regiment.

WAR OF THE FUTURE

TAKE a look at war in 1965. Lieutenant-General James M. Gavin, until recently chief of research and development in the United States Army, is as well qualified as anybody—certainly this side of the Iron Curtain—to make forecasts about it, and he does so in "War and Peace in the Space Age" (Hutchinson, 21s).

The forces of the future, he believes, will be "hyper-mobile." They will have "sky-cavalry" in machines which can land and take off vertically. They will be armed with tactical nuclear weapons, ranging from those shoulder-fired by the Infantry to medium-range missiles, and be supported by long-range missiles. They may be supplied by more missiles.

Nuclear weapons, says the author, can now be made so small and light that they can be man-handled and fired from the shoulder. As they become "clean," that is free from radioactive effects, they will be used by even the smallest units and in limited war.

The medium-range missiles will have their reconnaissance carried out by "drones"—unmanned air vehicles which will fly over enemy-held country.

For the long-range missiles, space satellites will provide intelligence. Present geographical methods are not accurate enough to produce information for guiding inter-Continental missiles and bringing them to their targets. In any case, the targets are likely to move. Satellites, indeed, will be manned and will be used as launching platforms for nuclear weapons. Satellite interceptors will be needed.

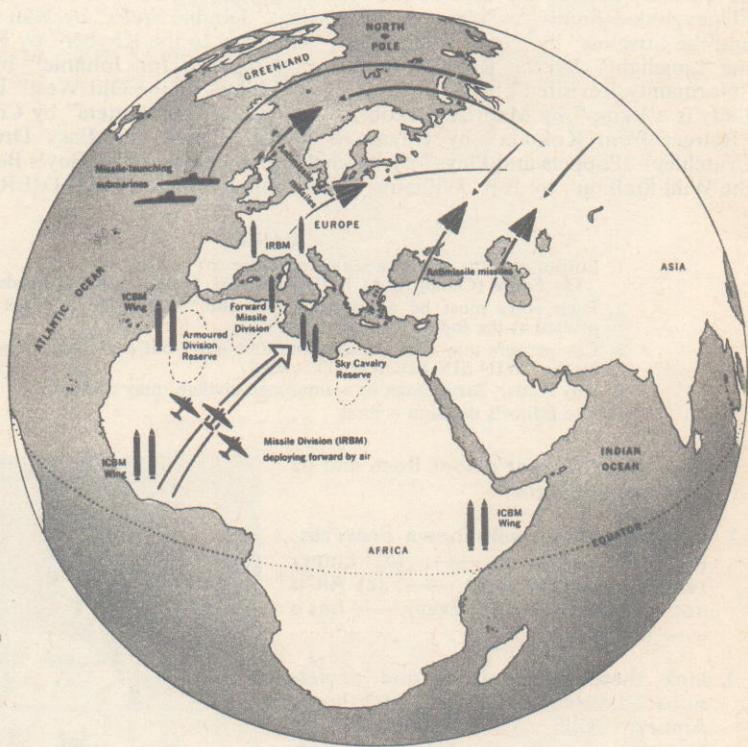
Britain was too close to Russia to need inter-continental ballistic missiles (range, 5000 miles) and putting them here would be like placing large howitzers among the foxholes of the Infantry, where they would be quickly destroyed.

These ICBMs will replace the bombers of World War Two; the intermediate-range ballistic missile (range, 1500 miles), and artillery with ranges of more than 1000 miles will replace the fighter-bomber. The whole Earth will become a tactical theatre and World War Three will be truly a global war.

In effect, General Gavin thinks, World War Three began in 1945, and the Russians have already won some strategic victories. He quotes an opinion, for example, that by showing a few large jet bombers, the Russians persuaded America to waste vast resources on obsolete strategic bombers, while they themselves concentrated on the more profitable missiles.

It was because he was not content with the progress America was making towards preparing for the kind of warfare he envisages that General Gavin retired from the Army and wrote this book. Its intention, says Lieutenant-General Sir Brian Horrocks in an introduction, is "to awaken or frighten his fellow-countrymen into setting their house in order." General Horrocks adds, "It has certainly frightened me."

In particular, General Gavin criticises the administrative machinery for research, development and supply of weapons in Washington. This is of more than academic interest to British readers since American progress contributes so much to the defence of the free world. The competition



In an all-out nuclear war, says the author, Africa will be the key to the defence of Europe, with ICBM bases located in Kenya and in West Africa.

between the Services in America, which has often been decried, he considers has been helpful and not harmful.

General Gavin worked as a paper-boy, barber's assistant, shop assistant and filling-station hand before joining the Army at 17, in search of an education. By dint of hard work, he got his education and became a cadet at West Point. In 1939 he became a captain, and his sergeants turned out his company and pinned on

the insignia of his new rank in front of the parade.

In 1941, an instructor at West Point, he volunteered for airborne duties and, after seeing action in North Africa, Sicily and Italy, commanded the famous 82nd Airborne Division in North-West Europe. Early in 1945 he was preparing for what was to have been the last airborne operation of the war but did not come off—a jump by one British and two American divisions on Berlin.

... AND WAR OF THE PAST

1917

At Suicide Corner, Dead Dog Farm, Idiot Cross-roads, Stinking Farm, Dead Horse Corner, Vampire Point and other landmarks of the hated Ypres Salient, British troops were dying.

The Salient was one of the focal points of the war. Overlooked and surrounded on three sides, it was a death-trap in which the Infantry fought bravely and hopelessly as the generals optimistically set their vain attacks in motion.

"One is entitled to doubt whether any other (army) would have demonstrated such dour bravery," writes Leon Wolff, the author of "In Flanders Fields" (Longmans, 25s). The author is American and his subject is the British campaign in Flanders in the melancholy year of 1917—

"this insane enterprise" as the then Prime Minister, Lloyd George called it—which culminated in what is known as Third Ypres or Passchendaele.

The man behind the campaign was Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, the British Commander-in-Chief in France. Haig was convinced of his own destiny to lead the Allies to victory. His inspiration came from religion and spiritualist séances. His faith was

upheld by an ability to ignore facts which did not fit with his theories—notably, that Cavalry could be stopped by machine-guns, that Russia was collapsing and releasing German divisions for the Western Front and that German morale was still high. In a foreword to this book, Major-General J. F. C. Fuller describes Haig as "stubborn and intolerant, in speech inarticulate, in argument dumb."

Supporting Haig were two other officers who have been much criticised. Lieutenant-General Sir Launcelot Kiggell, Haig's Chief-of-Staff, fought his battles from his room in headquarters and is

said to have visited a battlefield only once. Then he burst into tears and said, "Good God, did we really send men to fight in that?"

Brigadier-General John Charteris, head of Haig's Intelligence service, was an incurable optimist who handed out soothing statements to the Press and deceived the world about what was really happening. Worse, he deceived his master, by his oriental habit of telling Haig what he thought he wanted to hear rather than the truth.

The battles launched by this headquarters were mainly the conventional battles of that time. Thousands of tons of artillery

shells prepared the way for the Infantry. In Flanders, this preparation resulted mainly in breaking up the drainage system which had evolved over the centuries to keep the area dry. As a result, the battlefield became a swamp, through which advancing Infantry could scarcely plod, in which many men, even unwounded, drowned in the mud and into which shells sank so deeply before exploding that they had little effect. To make matters worse, it always seemed to rain when the British made an attack.

When the attacks petered out, as they always did, in the mud and in face of German machine-guns, the generals settled down to wearing out the enemy in a war of attrition but, as George Bernard Shaw wrote, "the war of attrition, as it was called, attrited both sides impartially."

There were, however, some successes in that terrible year. The explosion of great mines under the Messines Ridge shattered the German front-line and enabled Haig's armies to extend the Salient and take some of the high ground from which they had been observed and shelled. Late in the year, the tanks had their first great success at Cambrai, an advantage which was quickly lost through lack of reserves to exploit the gains or even to hold them against counter-attack.

In the higher councils of the Allies there were those, Lloyd George among them, who wanted to switch troops from the stalemate in Flanders to the Italian front, where the campaign against the Austrians seemed to hold more prospect of a decisive blow. Haig, supported by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Field-Marshal Sir William Robertson, was adamant: he would not part with a single man or gun. As a result, the hopes of a victory in Italy fizzled out when the Italians were routed at Caporetto, and British divisions had to be rushed hastily to Italy to prop up the defence. In Flanders, the year ended with gains of a few hundred yards, and losses of hundreds of thousands of men.

In the arguments about Haig's leadership after the war, the Field-Marshal (rewarded for his services with an earldom and £100,000) usually got the worst of the verdict.

It is only fair, however, that his case should be stated, and the author goes to considerable pains to do so. In May 1917, many divisions of the French Army, sickened by the slaughter of an abortive offensive, mutinied. France needed time to restore her fighting strength and spirit. Haig and his supporters claimed this factor compelled him to keep attacking, to stop the Germans from falling on Britain's distracted ally and smashing her.

Haig's detractors allege that this was an afterthought. Afterthought or not, it may be true that Haig's attacks saved France. The argument will never be settled.

VICTORY BY DECEPTION

MANY Allied victories in World War Two were won because the enemy was deceived before the battles were fought.

A classic example was the invasion of Normandy in June, 1944, when the Germans were led to believe that the main assault landing would be made in the Pas de Calais area and that the invasion force was twice as strong as it really was.

In "Not in the Limelight" (Hutchinson, 25s) Sir Ronald Wingate, a member of the wartime Joint Planning Staff, tells how for months before the invasion teams of officers toured East Anglia in special cars, fabricating wireless messages to and from non-existent formations and units. The Germans intercepted every message and so credited the Allies with 69 divisions stationed mainly in East Anglia. From this evidence they deduced that the assault would be launched in the Pas de Calais and that any other landing would be a diversion.

In fact, there were only 35 divisions in England, most of them stationed south of the Thames and the Chiefs-of-Staff had decided to land in Normandy.

So successful was the deception that even 20 days after D-Day the Germans thought there were still 67 more major formations in England, of which 57 could be



Sir Ronald Wingate: "Churchill had all the ideas, not the Chiefs-of-Staff."

used for assaulting the Pas de Calais. But 42 of the 67 formations did not exist. Not until D plus 40 did the Germans realise that they had been hoodwinked—but by then it was too late.

"Not in the Limelight" is the autobiography of a man who lived an eventful life in the outposts of the Empire as a political officer, a position which gave him a ring-side seat at some of the most intriguing dramas of recent times. He served in Kipling's India, in Mesopotamia and in Arabia (where he played a large part in forming the Trucial Oman Scouts) and retired in 1939.

On the outbreak of World War Two he began a new life, first as a temporary assistant in the Ministry of Economic Warfare (com-

posed of economists and civil servants who thought that the war could be won in six months by blockading Germany).

Soon he was commissioned as a colonel and sent on a secret mission, to accompany General de Gaulle's French Expedition to West Africa (security was so bad that at Freetown on the way to Dakar the fleet was met by native boys in boats shouting, "Massa, you going Dakar?").

The operation failed, says the author, because of faulty intelligence and muddled planning and the escape of six French naval vessels through the Straits of Gibraltar to Dakar. If it had been successful, its effect on the war would have been incalculable. Dakar would have provided the Allies with a base for Atlantic patrols and a supply route to the Middle East and Hitler might have reacted by occupying the whole of France which would have weakened Germany, perhaps fatally.

Later during the war, Sir Ronald Wingate joined the Chiefs-of-Staff Joint Planning Staff which worked directly under the Prime Minister. "It was Churchill who had all the ideas. It was his drive, his brilliant imagination and his technical knowledge that initiated all the ideas, not the Chiefs-of-Staff," says Sir Ronald.

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A DAY TO REMEMBER

SAILORS have always had the reputation of being superstitious. But there is no record that any of the hundreds of seafaring men in the docks at Bombay on 14 April, 1944, recalled that the date was a black one in the history of shipping. It was the 32nd anniversary of the day the *Titanic* struck an iceberg.

Two days previously the *S.S. Fort Stikine* had steamed into Bombay carrying a mixed cargo of 395 tons of explosives (including torpedoes, mines, shells and incendiary bombs) and £1,000,000 in gold bars; all taken aboard in Britain, plus 8700 bales of hessian-wrapped raw cotton, hundreds of drums of lubricating oil (some leaking), scrap iron, sulphur, rice, resin and fish manure, picked up at Karachi.

It would be difficult to imagine a more dangerously inflammable cargo; nonetheless, when she tied up at Number One berth in

Victoria Dock, the *Fort Stikine* was surrounded by 24 other vessels.

The *Fort Stikine* caught fire in the early stages of unloading and for hours the fire was fought heroically but in vain. When she blew up 300 acres of Bombay Docks were devastated, 500 people killed and 12 ships reduced to scrap iron. Flaming drums of oil hurtled through the air, belching fire and smoke like gigantic incendiaries; blazing cotton bales spurted up to fall on ships and warehouses, and set them alight.

White hot chunks of metal fell on Bombay a mile from the ship, and the million pounds of gold disappeared.

The disaster could not have occurred at a more inopportune time. The Japanese had surged northward in Assam, the Fourth Indian Corps was cut off 80 miles behind the enemy lines in Imphal, and its fate was in the balance as battle raged around Kohima.

Promptly shrouded by a Security blanket, the frightful events of that blazing hot afternoon in Bombay have never before been publicly recorded. In "Bombay Explosion," (Cassell, 16s), the story has been skilfully reconstructed by John Ennis, who has not only ferreted out the facts, but has interviewed all the survivors



who know what happened and why it happened. The result is a story of mounting tension from the beginning of the voyage to the final climax and its aftermath in one of the greatest shipping disasters of all time.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

MOST soldiers have an urge to visit the scenes of their wartime exploits but few get the chance (or have the money) to do so.

One who did was Mr. A. J. Liebling, an American, and the result of his visit is contained in "Normandy Revisited" (Gollancz, 18s), an entertaining collection of reminiscences of World War Two.

Mr. Liebling's return journey begins at Weymouth, where he

boarded a landing-craft on the eve of D-Day, 1944, and carries him through the Normandy beaches to the *bocage* country and on to Paris—a route he knew as a soldier.

AN unusual story of the life of a National Serviceman is revealed in "The Breaking of Bumbo" (Faber and Faber, 15s) by Andrew Sinclair who, like the old-Etonian hero of his novel,

served in the Brigade of Guards.

Bumbo is a military misfit and a petty snob with few redeeming qualities who gets into numerous scrapes, and finally puts himself beyond the pale by refusing to take part in the Suez operation. A diverting story which ought to be taken with a pinch of salt.

A NEW selection of paperbacks by Digit Books (Brown, Watson Ltd.) include

many World War Two stories. Among them are "Surgeon at War" by Lieutenant-Col J. C. Watts, MC; "Assault Patrol," the story of a dangerous Commando raid in German-occupied Norway, by Peter Baillie; "End Without Glory," a thrilling tale of war in Java by Richard Viner; "For Valour," the adventures of a Commando; and "Eye-Witness," the recollections of Noel Monks, a war correspondent.

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THE TALL MAN TIPPED THE SCALES

SOLDIER's Cameraman found it difficult to keep Signalman P. J. Dixon, of 7th Training Regiment, Royal Signals, out of the picture at this year's Army Basket Ball championships at Aldershot.

Which was not surprising for Signalman Dixon stands six feet seven inches in his socks and towered above the rest of the players.

It was Signalman Dixon's height and tremendous reach that gave his team an overwhelming advantage over their stockily-built opponents—1st Transport Company, Royal Canadian Army Service Corps from Germany—in the final. His was almost always the hand that snatched the ball away when the Signals' goal was in danger and when his team mates found difficulty in scoring he merely had to stretch to his full height and lever the ball into the net.

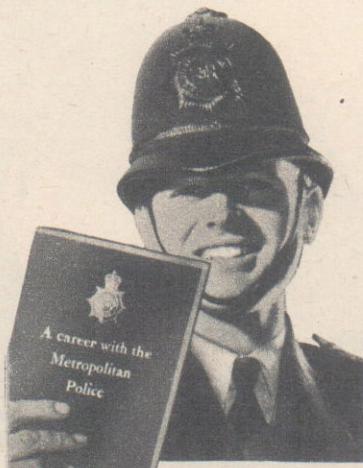
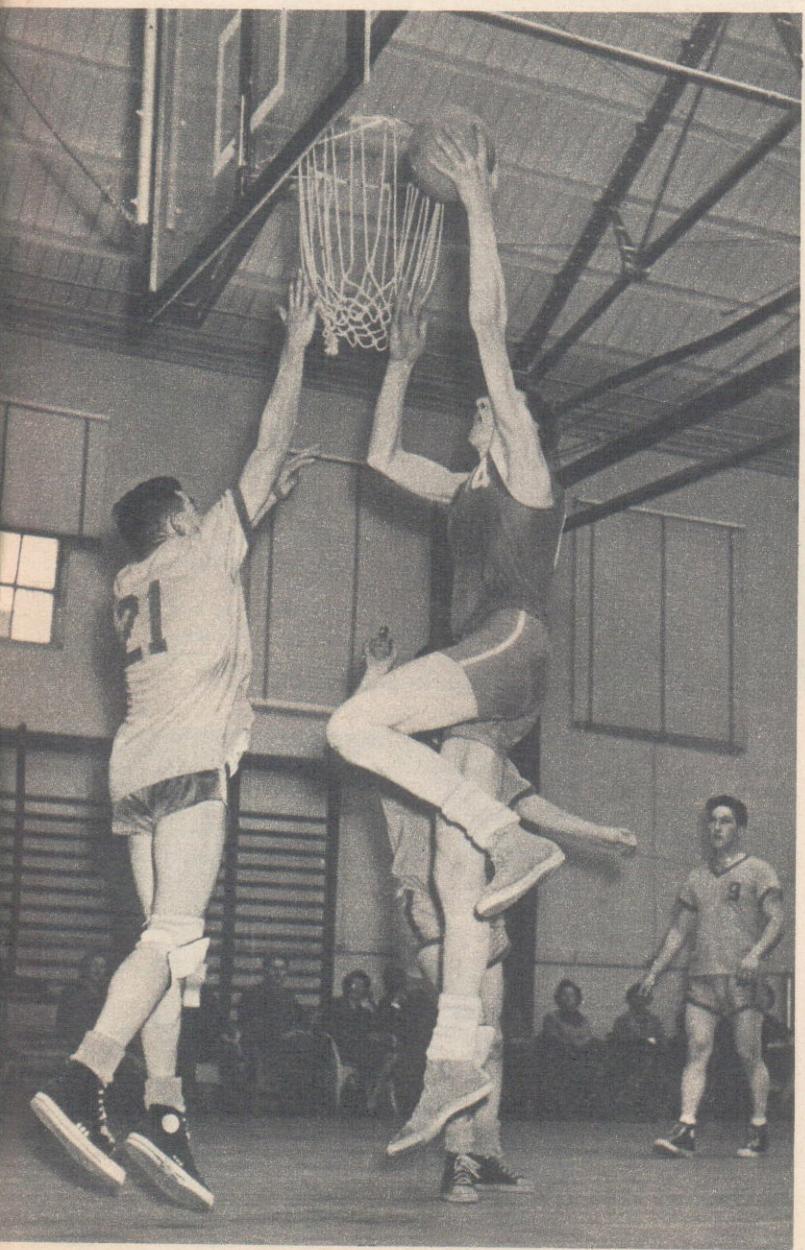
The 7th Training Regiment, thanks mainly to Dixon who contributed 24 points, beat the Canadians by 69 points to 40. Against the run of the play the Canadians secured an early lead but soon lost it when Dixon went into action. At half time the Signals led by 32 points to 16 and had no difficulty holding off a determined Canadian challenge late in the second half when Lance-Corporal R. W. Baker, who is six feet three inches tall, was brought in as a substitute.

This was 7th Training Regiment's first success in the Army championships which were fought out between 138 teams from all Home commands and Rhine Army.

The Boys' inter-unit championship was won by "A" Company of the Army Apprentices School, Chepstow, who beat "B" Company of the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, by 45 points to 38.



Above: Signalman Dixon leaps to catch the ball at the start of the game. His remarkable reach saved many almost certain Canadian goals and he scored 24 points on his own. Left: The Canadian never had a chance of stopping this easily taken goal as Signalman Dixon tips the ball into the basket.



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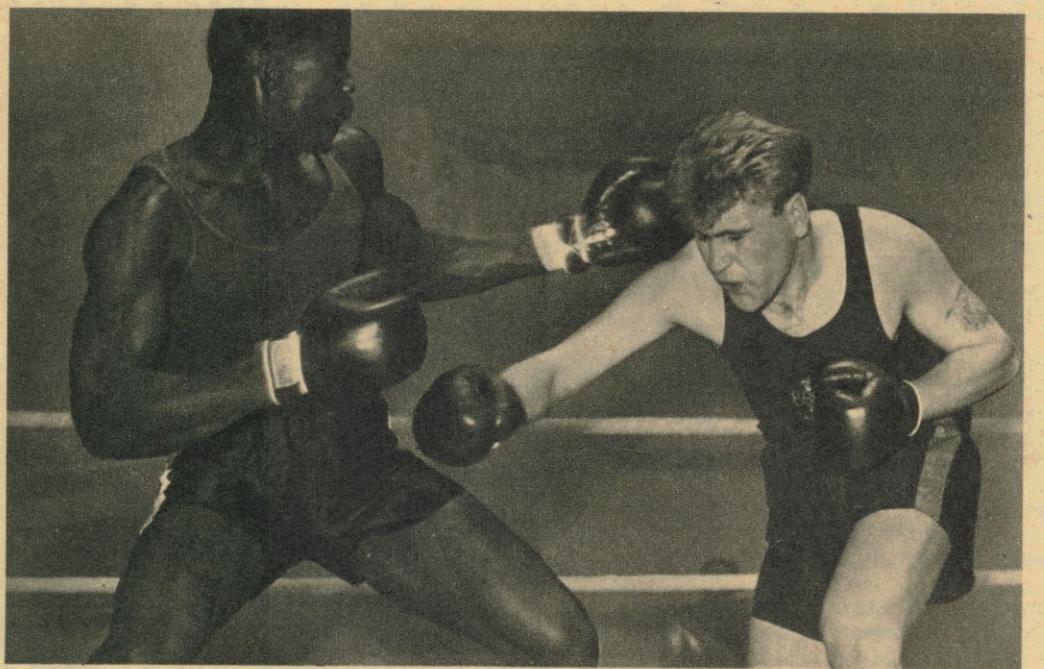
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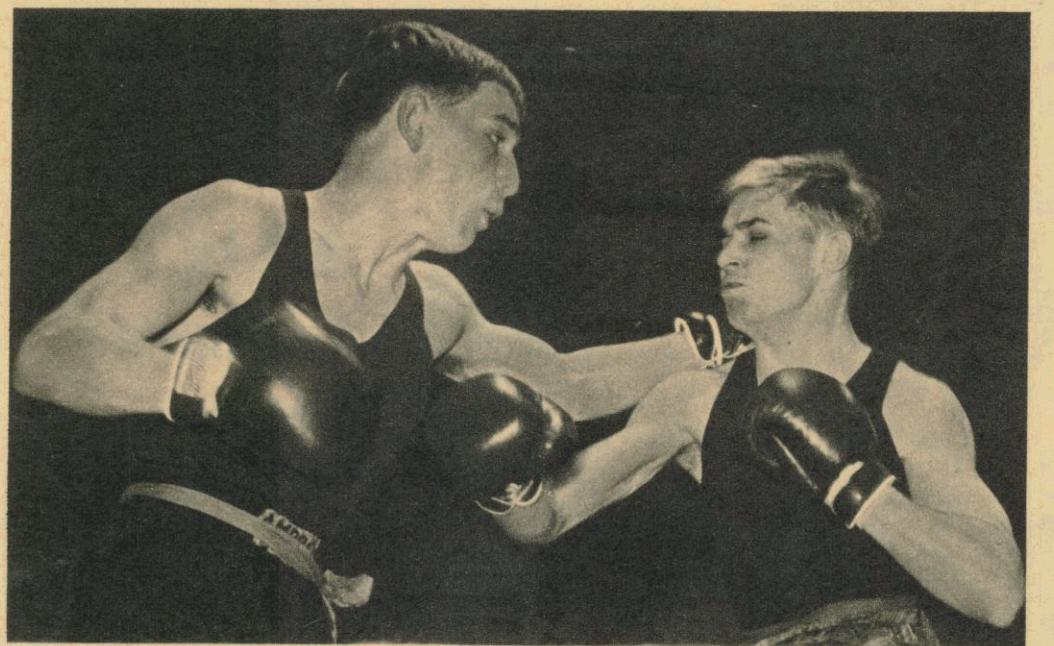
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TEN FIGHTS BUT NO

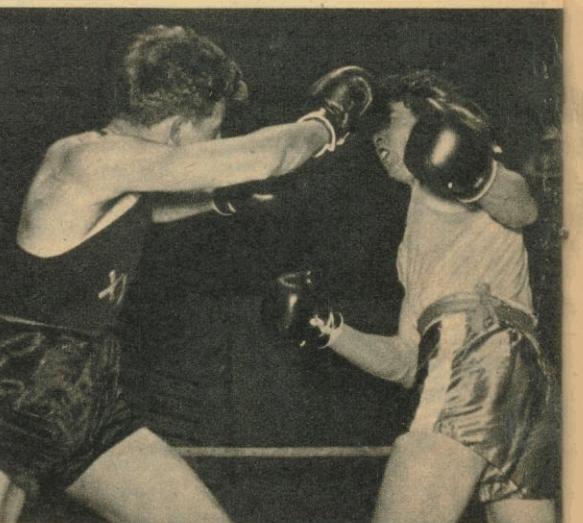


Above: Lance-Corporal Menzies Johnson, the Army's Jamaican heavyweight, sidesteps to make Lance-Sergeant Hobbs, of the Grenadier Guards, miss with a vicious right. But the Sergeant won—on points.



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Above: Rifleman Field gets home a right jab as he avoids a left to the chin. Field's victory was the surprise of the evening. He also won his bout in the Imperial Services featherweight contest.



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Right: L/Cpl. Elderfield (right), one of the RASC's three title winners, tries a left swing to Pte. Matthews' head.

Of the 20 contestants at this year's Army Boxing championships seven were from one unit—No. 15 Training Battalion, Royal Army Service Corps in Southern Command.

But they won only three titles in a fistic evening that was notable for the absence of knock-outs. Nine of the ten bouts were won on points and the tenth ended in disqualification.

The three men who were defending their titles all won their fights, the best performance being put up by Lance-Corporal Neville Axford, 6 Training Regiment, Royal Engineers, who comfortably beat Private D. Merchant, Seaforth Highlanders, in the light-middleweight contest.

Lance-Corporal Fred Elderfield, 15 Training Battalion, RASC, had a more difficult task against Private A. Matthews, King's Regiment, for the middleweight title.

The third man to retain his title, Driver Don Weller, 15 Training Battalion, RASC, was fortunate to beat Private Laurie MacKay, 3 Training Battalion, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, in the bantam-weight division.

The big surprise of the evening was the defeat of Driver M. Greaves, 15 Battalion, RASC, in the featherweight contest by Rifleman K. Field, 3rd Greenjackets.

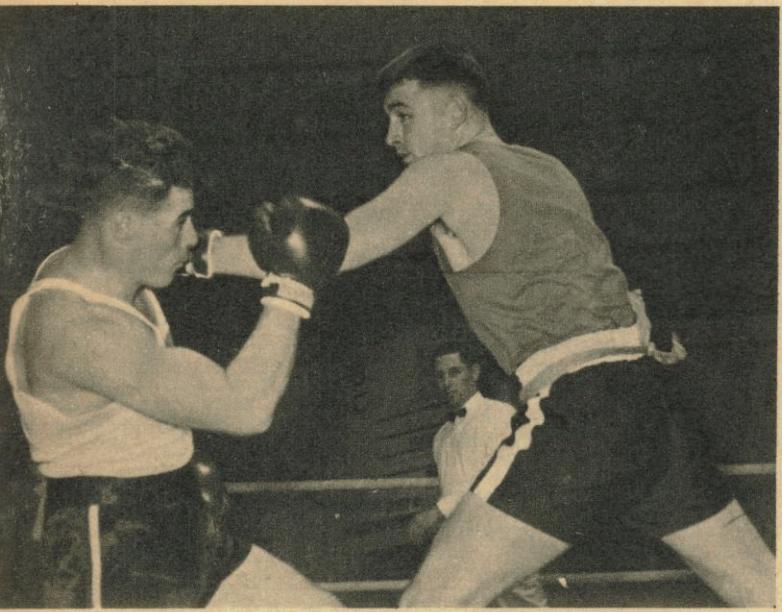
The Army's new heavyweight champion is Lance-Sergeant Len Hobbs, 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards, who beat the Jamaican, Lance-Corporal Menzies Johnson, 9 Training Regiment, Royal Engineers.

Other results were: Flyweight, Rfn. D. Rees, 3rd Greenjackets beat Pte. J. Mallon, 15 Training Bn, RASC; Lightweight, Pte. P. Warwick, 15 Training Bn, RASC, beat L/Cpl. J. Devitt, 3rd Greenjackets; Light-welter, L/Cpl. D. O'Brien, 11th Hussars beat L/Cpl. E. Carter, 15 Training Bn, RASC; Welter, Rfn. P. Morgan, Depot, Greenjackets beat L/Cpl. L. McIntosh, 15 Training Bn, RASC; Light Heavy, L/Cpl. P. Burke, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers beat Cpl. F. O'Rawe, Middlesex Regiment.

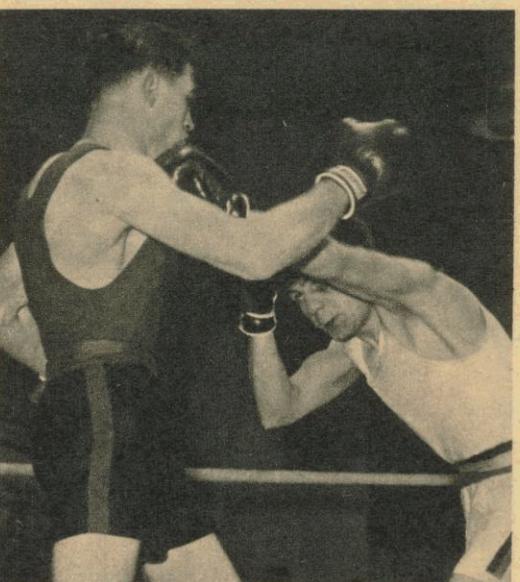
POSTSCRIPT: The Army retained the Imperial Services championship. Six of the titles were won by soldiers, three by airmen and one by the Royal Navy.

The Army's winners were L/Cpl. Elderfield, Driver Weller, Rifleman Field, Private Warwick, L/Cpl. O'Brien and Lance-Sergeant Hobbs.

KNOCK-OUTS



Above: Cpl. O'Rawe slips a left lead from L/Cpl. Burke, of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, who won the light-heavyweight title.



Right: L/Cpl. N. Axford (left) retained his light-middleweight title, scoring a comfortable points win over Pte. D. Merchant, of the Seaforth Highlanders.

ONE of the linesmen at this year's FA Cup Final at Wembley was an Army officer—Major Christopher Dennis, Royal Army Medical Corps, who works at the War Office.

Major Dennis (right), who is chairman of the Army Referees' Association, took his first step to Wembley in 1942 when he became a linesman and then a referee in Army unit games in Algiers. Later he officiated at many Army and Southern League games and in 1955 was promoted linesman for the Football League. Since becoming a Football League referee last year he has taken charge of 18 League games and two Cup matches.

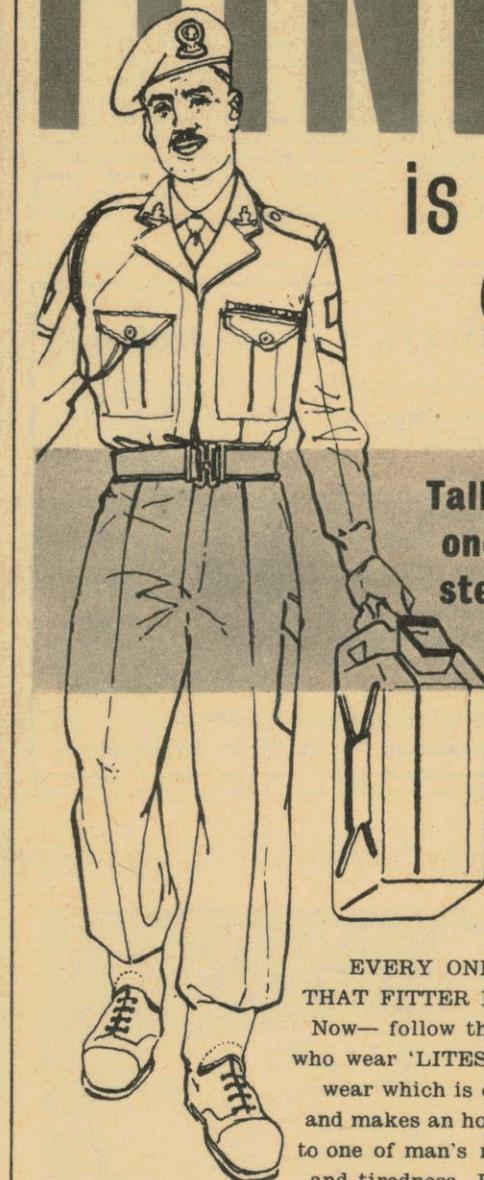
Major Dennis is not the first Army officer to be a linesman at the Cup Final. Captain A. W. Smith, Royal Army Dental Corps, carried out these duties in the 1951 Final.



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LONG LIVE "BULL"

Many soldiers deride "bull" but I think it plays a very important part in training them to overcome the first shock of battle.

The essence of this training—a kind of hypnotism—is in teaching men how to march correctly, to polish their boots, to take part in ceremonial parades, to press their uniforms and to drill with the rifle—so easily learned, but almost forgotten now except by the Royal Marines. If a soldier submits willingly he reaches the heights when the test comes.

Long live "bull," I say, and with it good rifle instruction, which is the next best morale builder.—R. J. Holmes (ex-King's Royal Rifle Corps), 3, Park Drive, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

★ Some regiments **SOLDIER** knows

will have something to say about Mr. Holmes' statement that only the Royal Marines know how to drill with rifles.

59 VARIETIES

Having read your excellent article on recruiting (**SOLDIER**, April), I feel that I must put in a word for the Territorial Army.

The 1st Battalion London Scottish (Gordon Highlanders), Territorial Army, recently launched a big recruiting campaign which cost a fair amount of money. The usual literature was published, but the main feature was a large cocktail party given not only to celebrate our centenary, but to bring in new recruits with Scottish connections. The guests represented many varied occupations. One of them was James Robertson Justice, the actor. Territorial

soldiers in Highland uniform acted as hosts and there was a pipe-band.

The real highlight was the dispensing of 59 different varieties of Scotch whisky. The campaign has had splendid results.—Private Brian L. Goddard, 19a West Square, St. Georges Road, London.

TANK TITLES

Although I work in a tank depot I do not know why all gun turret tanks are given names which have the initial letter "C", such as Comet, Centurion, Constable, Conway, Conqueror and Charioteer. Can **SOLDIER** tell me why?—A. W. Reed, 51 South View, Luddershall.

★ At the outbreak of World War Two there appears to have been no clear policy about naming tanks. By June, 1940, however, all tanks had been divided into two groups, either Infantry or cruiser, and the following year names were allotted. Classification was extended by the addition of two new groups, light tanks and American tanks, but the latter title was subsequently dropped and American tanks became, like the British, either "Infantry, cruiser or light." Cruiser tanks were given names with the initial letter "C" and American tanks were named after American generals. Although by 1951 the system of classifying tanks had lapsed, the "C" series was retained for the sake of uniformity.

How much does it cost to mass produce tanks?—Terry Canaway, 9 Heather House, Ettrick Street, Poplar.

★ Roughly £1000 a ton.

COMMISSIONS

Two years ago I applied for a short service commission and was debarred because I had completed more than 12 years service in the ranks. Are there any openings where this rule does not

apply to non-commissioned officers?—"Sergeant" (Cyprus).

★ No. The 12-year limit is lifted only in special circumstances for warrant officers.

LONGEST COMMAND

I do not know if my regiment can claim a record (Letters, April), but Colonel Philip Bragg commanded the 28th Foot (later the 1st Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment) from 1734 until his death in 1759.

He must have been a commander of great character, for his name is preserved in all time in the nickname "The Old Braggs."

It is recorded that on a Brigade parade many years ago a subsequent colonel of the 28th Foot, annoyed by the use by other commanding officers of special titles for their regiments, gave the following word of command:

"Neither Kings nor Queens nor Royal Marines,
But 28th Old Braggs: brass before and
brass behind
Never feared a foe of any kind.
Shoulder arms!"

This episode must have occurred after 1801 when the 28th were awarded the unique distinction of wearing the

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ANOTHER PRIVATE ARMY

At my school, Great Wainfleet, Lindfield, we have what may be called an "Army Training Corps" (SOLDIER, February, and Letters, April).

There are two sections with almost 20 boys in each. Each section has a leader, adjutant, intelligence officer, radio officer, medical orderly and two cooks. Manoeuvres are carried out in a large wood owned by our headmaster, and in the summer term we construct camps there. Both sections parade with home-made rifles and packs, containing sleeping bags. We sometimes have 24-hour exercises.—Guy S. Gill (aged 10), 7 Cleveland Road, Ealing.

FLINT KNAPPING

Flint knapping (Letters, April) is still carried on at Brandon in Suffolk. I was born at Brandon and lived there until joining the 3rd King's Own Hussars in 1906.

In those days the trade was carried on largely by four families named Castle, Field, Edwards and Snares. The man who dug the flint out of the heath was named Dyer, and the cooper who made the barrels for conveying the flints to China, Africa and other parts of the world had the surname Mutum.

At the "Flint Knappers Arms," an inn at the corner of Thetford Road and Market Hill, there are several flint-lock guns, rifles and pistols hanging in the saloon bar, and I believe there is also a blunderbuss. The inn sign carries a picture of Mr. F. Edwards working at the knapping block. His son Frederick, who has also done a bit of knapping, is the present landlord.—E. Edgington, 14 Cressing Road, Witham, Essex.

LETTERS CONTINUED OVER



Private Beresford Laing in action on the bass drum. "He's got rhythm," says the Drum-Major.

COLOURED DRUMMER

PRIVATE BERESFORD LAING, Royal Pioneer Corps, is probably the first "sable musician" in the British Army for more than a century.

Negro bandsmen were introduced into military bands in the 18th century, mostly to play percussion instruments. Queen Victoria, about 1844, ordered that they should no longer be employed.

Queen Victoria, however, had never thought of coloured National Servicemen. Private Laing, born in Cuba and brought up in Jamaica, had his eye on the bass drum from the moment he saw the Royal Pioneers' Corps of Drums at the depot at Wrexham.

It was not surprising. In his spare time in civilian life Private Laing played the Conga drum and the Bongo drum—and still does in the Army.

Says Sergeant L. A. Bryant, the Drum-Major, "He is good. He's got fine rhythm."

When he has finished his National Service and goes back to his trade as a welder, Private Laing hopes to get some spare-time television engagements, playing his drums and singing.

The Royal Pioneers, however, would rather not see him go. "We are trying to persuade him to sign on as a Regular," says Sergeant Bryant. "I have my eye on another coloured soldier to take over the bass drum if Laing goes—but I hope we shall persuade him to stay."

The Royal Pioneers' Corps of Drums is an "unofficial" one, formed in 1947, but its roots go farther back. The drum that Private Laing plays is one of four presented to a company of the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps in Hull in 1940.

Wompo!

THIS enthusiastic noise was once a word; in the East End of London it meant 'ale'.

Many picturesque words and phrases for different beers are still in use up and down the country. Ask for a 'mother-in-law' and you should get a stout-and-bitter. Ask for 'nuts and bolts' in East Anglia and you'll be served with mild-and-bitter.

The results of a philological survey of this order often prove most refreshing. Why not conduct some research yourself?

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Apply, stating age, details of education and experience to date to:

ASSISTANT PERSONNEL OFFICER,

111, Westminster Bridge Road, London, S.E.1.

more letters

UNUSUAL ORDER

I do not think you are correct in saying (SOLDIER, March) that the order to the Royal Fusiliers to change cap badges was the first occasion it had been given in the British Army.

The Manchester Regiment received the same order in 1923 when it changed from the Manchester coat-of-arms to the Fleur-de-lys.—Charles Gardner, Maypole Road, Clapton.

★ **SOLDIER** understands that the order to change cap badges was given to the Manchester Regiment by various platoon commanders, but there was no ceremonial parade for the occasion as there was when the Royal Fusiliers got their new cap badges.

"WILD GEESE"

Recently I read of Patrick Gordon, an ancestor of General Gordon of Khartoum, who became a general in the Russian army of Peter the Great (Letters, January). When he died in 1699 he had served in seven foreign armies.

At the beginning of World War One there was a Scotsman serving in the Russian army as, I think, a general. Much earlier than that many English and Irish Roman Catholics served in the Austrian Army. In 1853 there were several of these men in the Walmoden Cuirassiers. The Emperor had a man called Count Maximilian O'Donnell as his adjutant at the time an attempt was made on his life. O'Donnell was descended from the House of Tyrconnell.—I. Stevenson, 81 Thorne Road, Doncaster.

TRUE OR FALSE?

Many years ago I heard a story that a British military force invading a Pacific island was disarmed by the natives.

The natives then broke off the action because, as the chief told the officer in command, "We cannot fight a disarmed enemy."

Is this story true, and if so where and when did it take place?—Tage William-Olsson, Torsviksvangen 14, Lidingo, Sweden.

★ **SOLDIER** has searched the records, but is unable to find any reference to the incident. Does any reader know if the story is true?

MYSTERIOUS OFFICER

Sapper Shaw asked (Letters, April) for light on the story of the mysterious Viscount FitzGibbon.

Rudyard Kipling wrote a similar story entitled "The Man Who Was" in his collection "Life's Handicap," and the missing officer was a White Hussar who had been kept a prisoner in Russia long after the Crimean War had ended. He arrived, demented and in rags, at Peshawar, where his regiment was stationed. After proving his identity to an astonished Mess, he died a few days later.

Perhaps Kipling had heard of the original FitzGibbon and wove another tale around this happening. Or has the FitzGibbon story been woven from Kipling's tale?—Captain D. R. Keeling, REME, 4 Armoured Workshop Detachment.

Kipling's story concerns a "Lieutenant Limmason" and I think the name was concocted by the author from FitzGibbon. If one translates "Fitz" quite correctly as "son," treats "Gibbon" as the name of an animal and substitutes the name of another monkey, the lemur, and then reverses

the component words, one gets a combination which can be written phonetically as "Limmason."—Edward Sparrow, 13 Old Square, Lincolns Inn.

GSM CLASPS

You say (Letters, March) that six clasps on one General Service Medal ribbon would be exceptional.

I say that seven clasps are possible. They are: Palestine (1938), Bomb Disposal, South-East Asia 1946-47, Palestine 1946-48, Malaya, Cyprus and Near East 1956, which could have been obtained over a period of 18 years.—Captain J. A. Naylor, RA, 7 Reconnaissance Flight, Army Air Corps, Malaya.

★ So far, no soldier has yet claimed to have even six clasps. Does anyone have seven?

EFFICIENCY MEDAL

I have served for nearly 11 years as a Territorial Army volunteer, with National Service intervening. Do I qualify for the Efficiency Medal (Territorial) next year? I joined the Territorial Army in August, 1948, and was called up in May, 1951. I rejoined the Territorial Army as a volunteer the day my National Service ended.—"Somerset Yeoman."

★ By rejoining the Territorial Army immediately on his release from the Regular Army, the correspondent maintained continuity of service. Therefore, as all his previous service counts, he qualifies for the Efficiency Medal (Territorial) in 1960, when he will have done 12 years.

ARMY AIR CORPS

Can **SOLDIER** settle an argument. I say there was an Army Air Corps during World War Two. Others say no. Was there?—Staff-Sergeant J. H. Reynolds, 1 Light Aircraft Wing, Army Air Corps.

★ The Army Air Corps in World War Two consisted of Glider and Parachute Regiments and Special Air Service. It was disbanded in 1950.

AMERICAN BOUQUET

I am an American airman stationed in Germany and have read **SOLDIER** regularly since July, 1957.

I would like you to know how I enjoy the magazine, especially the "Hours of Glory" series, for I can picture in my mind those battles and the men who fought in them, so vividly have your writers composed those moments of history.

The history of the world centres on your country and in times of stress your Army has written many pages with its blood. I have served in the oldest and youngest of my country's forces, and am as proud of them as anyone could be. But I feel a thrill when I read some of the history of your units.

Keep up the good work.—A/C J. C. James Beer, OPLOC, 48th T.F.W. APO, 109, US Forces.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(See page 29)

The drawings differ in the following respects: 1. Prow of tug. 2. Pattern of flower vase. 3. Cup handle. 4. Height of chair back. 5. Girl's right shoe. 6. Fold at bottom of curtain. 7. Girl's second finger of left hand. 8. Right foot of desk. 9. Letters on second draw of filing cabinet. 10. Position of handle on bottom drawer of filing cabinet.

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SOLDIER



JANETTE SCOTT (Associated British)
—in "The Lady Is A Square"