

SOLDIER

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

APRIL 1955



NINEPENCE

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AGAZINE
NINEPENCE



THE LIEUTENANT-GENERAL

By Courtesy of the Parker Gallery

from Mobiles

Napoleon's pertinent remark that an army marches on its stomach remains true for all time. But the fighting man is no longer dependent upon the resources of the country in which he campaigns. Today, it is the vital role of the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes to provide a catering service to Her Majesty's Forces, wherever they may be.

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There's something about a soldier...

EVEN WHEN HE'S OUT OF UNIFORM

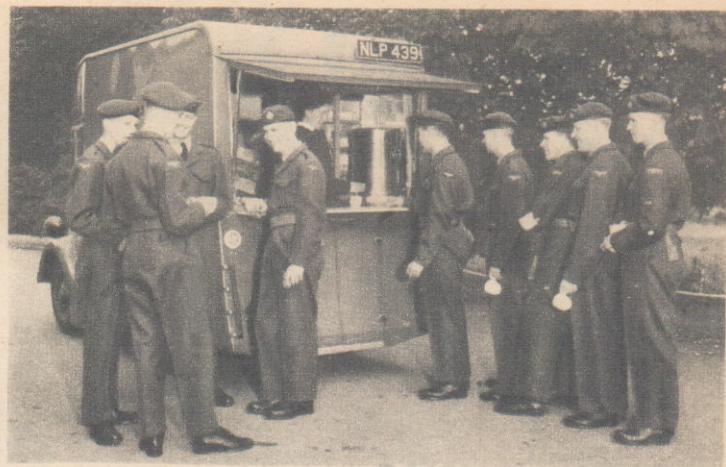
There's something about a soldier, even when he's out of uniform, that makes him stand out. Something about the way he walks — head up, shoulders back; something about the pride he takes in his personal appearance. On parade or in civvies, he's smart right down to his Kiwi shine.



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LIFE INTO
LEATHER



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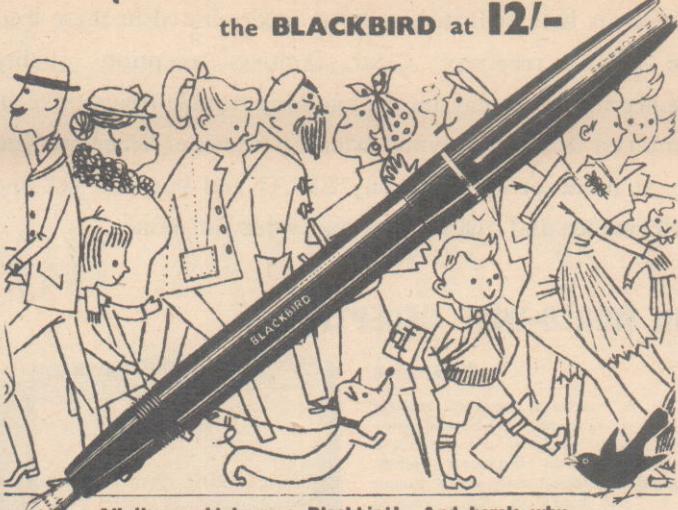
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1070-11

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You'll be the smartest man on parade when you use 'Vaseline' Hair Tonic regularly. And off parade—well, just see how the girls react! Buy a bottle today.

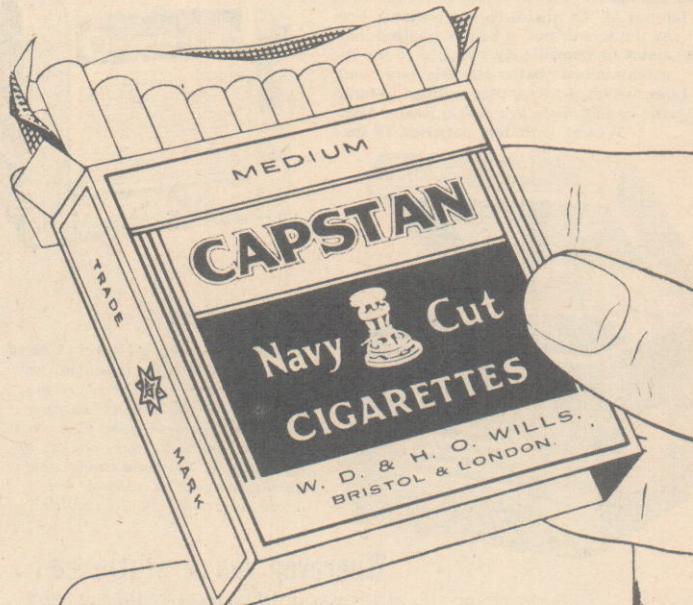


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stores at 2/9 per tube.



AND NOW THE FIRST CORPS FOR NUCLEAR WAR

The men who serve in the Army's 36 mobile defence columns will be soldiers in the full sense, liable to serve overseas. Their training-ground will be bomb ruins

WHEN the Mobile Defence Corps joins the Army's order of battle, it will have these claims to distinction:

It will be the first corps raised for a specific task in nuclear warfare.

It will be the first corps raised in the Army Emergency Reserve without any counterpart, past or present, in the Regular Army.

It will be the first corps to be formed specifically for direct support of the civil authorities since Yeomanry units were raised to suppress riots or rebellions.

For these reasons, and in order to meet the training requirement, it was decided to start the Mobile Defence Corps completely from scratch rather than to ask existing Territorial Army units to transfer. There is no link with the past to justify such a step, because the role of this new corps has no connection with that of any existing corps or regiment. This does not mean that a valuable team of officers and men from such a unit would not be welcomed as volunteers.

The Mobile Defence Corps will consist, for a start, of 48 columns, 36 of them provided by the Army and 12 by the Royal Air Force, each about the size of an Infantry battalion. The Army columns will be commanded by lieutenant-colonels.

There will be two basic types of column. The rescue column will consist of three rescue squadrons, with special light equipment, and one ambulance squadron. The other will be the fire column, which is expected to have equipment standardised with that of the National Fire Service.

The primary task of all columns will be to supplement the civil defence organisation. Members will be soldiers in the

full sense. They will carry personal weapons and belong to a fighting unit. They will be liable to be sent overseas in war like any other Army unit.

The first step in setting up the Mobile Defence Corps will be to train Regular instructors. They will probably attend Home Office civil defence schools. They, with administrative staff, will then run the training centres for the Corps. There will probably be six of these (four for the Army), and the first is likely to be at Millom, in Cumberland.

To each of these centres about 180 National Servicemen will be posted each month, towards the end of their full-time training. About 7500 National Service soldiers and 2500 airmen will be trained each year. They will each have a month's training, and then as far as possible will be posted to the columns nearest their homes to complete their part-time service. As soon as the first

trained men are transferred to the Army Emergency Reserve, the columns will begin to build up their strength.

Like other Army Emergency Reserve units, the columns will confine their unit training to 15 days a year. For that period, they will go to one of the Corps' centres, where there will be Regular instructors and training equipment. In this instance, training equipment includes suitable "ruins" for rescue work, extensive and complicated enough for realistic training, yet reasonably safe, so that they will not collapse on the men. Modern fire-fighting appliances will be held at the fire training centres.

In rescue and fire work, the new Corps will be able to draw on all the experience of the Home Office experts, together with the plans they have made to combat nuclear warfare. It will be recalled that experimental mobile columns were formed in 1953 and 1954, consisting of Servicemen under Home Office control, and the experience gained in this way will also be valuable.

National Service-men are expected to

OVER →

Rhine Army showed the way in 1951, when this picture was taken. In the ruined village of Haustenbeck, in the Westphalian plain, a monitoring team leads the rescue party. One man locates radioactive areas with a dose-meter, the second is in radio touch with headquarters, the third tapes off danger spots, the fourth charts affected areas on a map. All are masked.





A streamlined Army, with fewer weapons and vehicles but able to strike swiftly, hard and often, is being planned for the age of nuclear warfare

BUILDING

TOMORROW'S Army must be quicker off the mark, with fewer vehicles. It must pack as hard a punch as ever, with fewer weapons.

This sounds like nonsense, but it isn't. The feat can be done largely by simplification of the range of vehicles and weapons.

These and other problems of the Army's future are outlined by the Secretary for War, Mr. Antony Head, in a Memorandum to this year's Army Estimates. The Army's main tasks are these:

To provide strong land forces ready for instant action in the defence of Western Europe;

To provide additional forces for fighting Communist guerillas in Malaya, for restoring order in Kenya, for maintaining confidence and stability in other parts of the world, notably in the Middle East;

To train Territorial forces

simplify and speed up methods of supply.

These problems have been studied during the past winter. As a result "experimental organisations" will be tested this year.

Units and formations chosen for these tests will lose some of their existing weapons and a great many vehicles—all in the interest of mobility.

But the division, as a fighting formation, is likely to stay.

"There are some advocates of 'light divisions,' and others who

urge the reorganisation of armies on commando lines. The essential differences between the famous 'Light Division' of the Peninsula War and other formations of the same period, and between the commandos and the battalions of the line in the last war lay not so much in any form of 'lightness'

A SIMPLER, SWIFTER ARMY

as in higher standards of leadership, greater skill and endurance, and simpler weapon systems. Except for the load on the soldier and the weight of pieces of equipment, 'lightness' has no military value, in fact, lightness, in the sense of a lack of administrative support, is likely to lead to weakness."

Supply is the big problem. Nuclear weapons have arrived, but not as yet the new forms of supply to operate in nuclear war.

"All large terminals, such as established ports and modern airfields, and all permanent routes, such as roads, railways and inland waterways, are fixed and known. They will, therefore, be extremely vulnerable to attack by enemy aircraft and guided missiles."

The threat may be diminished

the object now is to keep them simple and light, and to avoid too many types. They must be portable by air. They must not impede river crossings.

In any future land war, equipment will have to be either self-contained with its crew within armoured protection, or capable of being easily and quickly dug in.

Some heavy equipment there must be; but it must be cut to the minimum.

Mass production of heavy load helicopters is "still some way off."

As for the Army's weapons,

mediate future are the Conqueror tank, for destroying such enemy heavy armour as may hold up Centurions; the L70 light anti-aircraft gun, with its associated radar, a potent weapon against low-flying aircraft; the FN rifle; and the new sub-machine-gun. All arms are to have new wireless equipment.

Finally, the Army can look forward to operating a surface-to-surface guided missile, to be used tactically by a commander in the field at his discretion.

First Director of the Army's Mobile Defence Corps: Brigadier G. P. D. Blacker, until recently Chief of Staff, Anti-Aircraft Command.

NUCLEAR WAR

continued

provide the subalterns, corporals and privates of the new corps. Senior non-commissioned officers and officers of the rank of captain and above must be found from volunteers.

"We want volunteers from all arms of the Service," says Brigadier G. P. D. Blacker, the first Director of the Mobile Defence Corps. "I think we shall get them. It is a brand-new job and an interesting one. We shall start from scratch and build up everything, including an *esprit-de-corps*."

Brigadier Blacker may well go into history as the "father" of the Mobile Defence Corps. He was Chief of staff in Anti-Aircraft Command until three weeks before the Corps was announced, then he moved into the War Office to start his new work. SOLDIER found him wrestling with some of the problems which starting a new corps involves.

"Establishments? We are trying to write them now. Medical categories? The medical branch of War Office is working on that now. The men will have to be pretty fit. Rescue work and fire-fighting are strenuous. Cap badge? Yes, I've been thinking about that. It will have to be something pretty simple. I would like some suggestions."

STRIPES

National Servicemen provide one-quarter of the Army's corporals and one-half of its lance-corporals. They serve as junior NCOs for an average of 10 months.

More than half the Army's tradesmen are National Servicemen. In some highly-skilled trades the proportion of National Servicemen is almost 70 per cent.

PIPS

Fewer officers are now needed and the number of non-Regular officers is to be reduced. In technical arms, officers are still short, but a valuable contribution is expected from Welbeck College, which now contains its quota of 150 boys. The first batch will complete their two-year course at the College this summer and go to Sandhurst.

REGULARS

The number of men who enlisted from civil life on a 22-year engagement in 1954 was 18,425, representing 61 per cent of all men recruited from civil life. The figure for the preceding year was 49 per cent.

Almost twice as many Regulars on the old type of engagement prolonged their service to 12 years in 1954 as in the previous year; thanks, no doubt, to the pay increases and bounties introduced in April 1954.

The effect on men serving on the new type of engagement (three years and 22 years) cannot yet be assessed; but of those who have decided to extend beyond three years, 67 per cent have chosen to extend to 12 years rather than to six.



ON THE MOVE

More than 200,000 soldiers are stationed overseas, from British Guiana to Korea.

Excluding the British Army of the Rhine, 186,000 officers and men were moved in 1954-55 between Britain and overseas commands, or from one overseas command to another. With them moved 29,000 members of their families and 21,000 soldiers on leave.

In Rhine Army the corresponding figures were 133,000 officers and men, 32,000 members

MAN, WOMAN AND BOY...

THE total strength of the Active Army, including the two women's corps and boys, was 440,784 on 31 December, 1954. This was a decrease of only 213 compared with the previous year, but of more than 10,000 compared with December 1952.

Of the total, 18,729 male officers and 192,101 men were long-service Regulars. National Servicemen provided 5028 officers and 199,807 men. The two women's corps totalled 8316.

The number of men recruited to normal Regular engagements during the year, from civil life and from serving soldiers, was 35,675; in addition, 2784 boys were enlisted. The total was 3336 less than in 1953 and 13,418 less than in 1952.

It was estimated that by April 1955 the Active Army would be down to 435,000 and by April 1956 to 410,500.

The Territorial Army, on 1 January, 1954, was 297,444 strong, of whom 65,101 were normal volunteers, 54,900 National Service volunteers and 177,443 part-time National Servicemen. In addition, the Territorial Army included 8567 members of the Women's Royal Army Corps and 197 of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps. The Army Emergency Reserve (excluding women) was 158,869 strong.

The Home Guard at the end of 1954 had 37,000 enrolled members and a reserve roll of 39,000, making a total of 76,000—an increase of 14,000 over the previous year.

LIFE...

Cyprus; it is likely that Viscounts will soon be introduced and—in about three years' time—Britannias.

In the Far East, air trooping puts an extra 1400 or 1500 men in the field for 10,000 moved each year.

Air passages to the Far East and Middle East cost the Army less per head than sea passages.

GENERAL

Army hospitals at Millbank, London and Cowglen in Scotland are to be modernised.

The training of girls in the uncommissioned ranks of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps is being reviewed. More emphasis is being put on nursing as against military training.

In 1954 new churches were built in almost every overseas command. The number of confirmation candidates increased from 2900 in 1953 to 3600 in 1954.

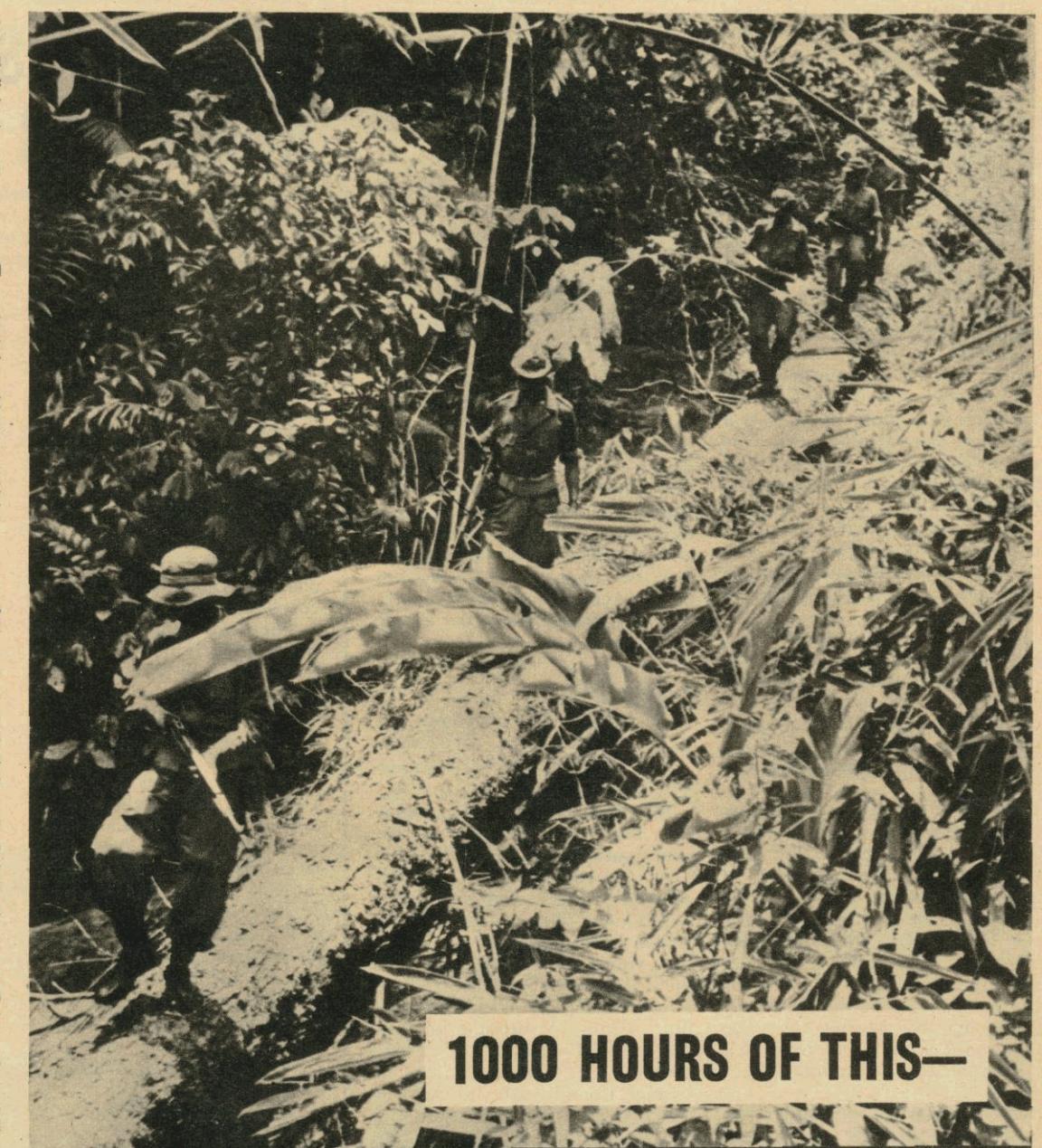
In Korea and Japan 16 per cent fewer men went into hospital than during the previous year; in the Middle East 22 per cent fewer.

There will be fewer injections for soldiers when a new combined vaccine is introduced, effective against both tetanus and enteric diseases.

An intensive investigation is still being carried out in the Canal Zone into outbreaks of enteric fever.

Soldiers paid 17,000,000 visits to Army Kinema Corporation cinemas in 1953-54.

Troops at home have had more meat and sugar since last November; they had been worse off in this respect than troops overseas.



In Malaya, on average, men patrol 1000 hours for every contact with the enemy, and 1600 hours for every terrorist killed or captured.

For every success in ambush, they sit 350 hours motionless in heat, dark, rain, beset by insects.

Seven battalions of the Malay Regiment are now in the field. This year a new battalion became operational: the 1st Federation Battalion, an

infantry unit drawn from all races who live in the Federation, including Chinese.

The struggle to win the confidence of the people continues: recently a Malayan engineer unit built several miles of road through virgin jungle to link up a series of riverside villages, helped by the villagers themselves. The whole area is now opened up to Government influence.

SOLDIER to Soldier

TO the soldier who had just finished painting the camp litter-boxes, or sweeping away snow in front of the local almshouses, the news of the Army's strategy in nuclear war was not a thing to be taken too urgently.

But by now, even in those overseas stations where the newspapers are late and the news in them never seems to matter much, the notion has probably sunk in that "If They start something, We throw everything." Everything meaning nuclear weapons.

The hope is, of course, that if an enemy knows his aggression will be met by nuclear retaliation, he will hold his hand.

If a major war does start, the four British divisions in Germany now know their rôle, which is starkly defined in the Government's Statement on Defence. Russia and her European satellites (runs the argument) have six million men under arms, with enormous reserves. Within a month the Communists could deploy well over 100 divisions on the German front. Even with a German contribution, the free world cannot put up anything like this strength in "conventional" forces.

"The use of nuclear weapons is the only means by which this massive preponderance can be countered," says the Defence Statement.

Those four "conventional" British divisions, along with Allied divisions, must hold the enemy on the ground in the critical first days of a Communist onslaught. Thus they will give the unconventional weapons time to be felt.

With the aid of these weapons it may be possible to defend the Continent, instead of letting it be over-run and then invading it again, years later.

A desperate task, it may be, for the Desert Rats and the other advanced divisions. But let nobody suppose that the task of the troops stationed in Britain—including the Mobile Defence Columns—would be any less desperate, or less honourable.

THERE were many who thought the Army was going to be "axed" into insignificance. As it turns out, they were wrong.

The comedian Bob Hope may have been right all along when he said that in the "next war," after the aircraft had plastered their targets, and the tanks had broken through the enemy lines, there would be nothing left for the Infantry to do except the fighting.

Any debate over which is, or ought to be, the senior or priority service is a waste of time (the Royal Navy's claim to be the Senior Service was always a pretty shaky one, but the Army let it pass).

That arch-apostle of air power, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Arthur Harris, who in pre-nuclear days was idiotically blamed for ruthlessness in carrying out the bombing policy of the War Cabinet, has argued that henceforth there should be one fighting service only. It may come to that. Already soldiers and sailors fly aircraft, soldiers and airmen sail boats, airmen control ground weapons and train native levies, and both soldiers and airmen are now to learn the task of rescuing civilians from ruins.

The only place for inter-Service rivalry is the sports field.

WHEN the military staffs are drawing up their dispositions for this nuclear age, they may (or may not) be able to do something to help Brentwood Chamber of Commerce.

These worthy merchants have petitioned the War Office for "at least 1000 troops" to be stationed in Warley Barracks, "in order to bring more trade to the town."

The request has its comic aspect, but perhaps it is kinder to reflect gratefully on the change of heart that such an application betokens. In days of old, respectable inn-keepers hearing that troops were to be stationed in their midst just nailed up the shutters and went out of business until the redcoats had left. They were probably wise to do so.

Who can say that this nation of shopkeepers (and inn-keepers) is not prepared to accept a risk nowadays?

THE Army takes in its stride the education of Gurkhas, Malays, Chinese, Fijians, Africans and Maltese.

But what is the greatest boon the Army can bestow on the young men of these lands?

A correspondent of the *Journal of the Royal Army Service Corps*, writing from West Africa Command, has no doubt why young men clamour to join the local branch of the Corps. Every West African lad of ambition wants to become a taxi driver, and preferably a taxi owner. He does not covet a vintage London cab; he wants a shiny 1955 monster straight off the production line. What better and cheaper way to learn to drive than in the British Army? Those lads who start out to become butchers and bakers soon change their minds, apparently, and try to become drivers too. "Old Uncle Fra-Fra is not prepared to build a butchery," they declare, and bakeries are hard to come by these days.

At least, let's hope the Army turns them into good drivers.

A descendant of the founder of the East Yorkshire Regiment: Lieut - Colonel P. Clifton, DSO.

AFTER
270
YEARS

'SNAPPERS' PARADE AGAIN FOR A CLIFTON

IN 1685, a 22-year-old baronet, Sir William Clifton of Clifton, Nottinghamshire, was commissioned to raise a regiment of Foot from his own and surrounding counties.

The young colonel did not enjoy his appointment for long. Little more than a year after he had raised the Regiment, he died.

Clifton's Regiment subsequently became the 15th of Foot and later the East Yorkshire Regiment. In the American War of Independence it earned another name, "The Snappers," when it ran short of ball ammunition. The remainder was given to the best shots and the others continued "snapping," firing small charges of powder only. The enemy were completely misled.

The Regiment gained another distinction in 1944, when it was the only one in the British Army to have two battalions in the first assault waves on the Normandy beaches on D-Day.

During all this time, the only link the Regiment had with its first colonel was in the South African War, when one of his descendants served with it.

The link was re-forged when the East Yorks decided to honour their first colonel by giving his name to the latest in barrack-blocks, built in their Depot at Beverley.

Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Clifton, also of Clifton, Nottinghamshire, a direct descendant of Sir William, was invited to perform the ceremony. A Grenadier Guardsman, he was wounded in France in 1940, was a battalion commander in Italy and won the Distinguished Service Order.

The Clifton Block, built on the site of a gymnasium destroyed by enemy action in World War Two, is a bungalow with two ten-men barrack rooms, cleaning-room, drying cupboard and reading lamps.

Colonel Clifton took the passing-out parade of two platoons of recruits and saw the Depot's own farewell movement. At the end of the parade, the two platoons slow-marched between each other's ranks and so off the parade-ground while the band played "Auld Lang Syne" and a platoon made up of the permanent staff presented arms in the background. Most of the recruits will be going to the 1st Battalion of the Regiment, now in Malaya.



The plaque on the new barracks at the Depot, Beverley.



ONE SIP FROM VENUS'S BATH-

—is a guarantee of a happy married life, they say. Army husbands and wives on Cyprus can now put the legend to the test

EVEN before the troops began to stream out of Egypt, the Army had a housing problem in Cyprus. The rising cantonments of Dhekelia and Episkopi will do much to solve it; meanwhile, most soldiers on the island live in tents or huts, some of them on the edge of fruit plantations and overlooking the Mediterranean.

Main Middle East Headquarters has already been set up in Wolseley Barracks, Nicosia—a former school—with an overflow in nearby Kykko Camp. It will be joined later this year by Rear Headquarters, still sweating it out in Fayid. Then the two headquarters will go into temporary accommodation at Episkopi until the permanent headquarters buildings there are ready.

Cyprus is an agreeable station, but the married Regular looks not for lemon groves and sunken



On a route march men of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers visit the ruins of Salamis.

cities but for married quarters. To accommodate Service families, hundreds of Cyprus huts are going up. They are made largely of asbestos, which is mined in the island, and are designed to be cool in summer and warm in winter. They are spacious and well-equipped, with fitted cupboards and wardrobes, electric fires, fans and refrigerators. A few of these homes are already occupied.

To speed up the arrival of families, soldiers are allowed to take over civilian houses by arrangement with the owners. The Army pays a special local overseas allowance to cover the

high rents. Since the build-up in Cyprus began, several hundred families have been re-united. Barely a week goes by without a plane from Britain landing at Nicosia with a score of wives and children. Many families from the Canal Zone have also arrived in the island.

In Cyprus wives can shop freely in the local markets, buy what they choose. But they are not so keen on having to cook by paraffin stove. There is no coal or gas supply on the island and very few houses have electric cookers. When the permanent camps are finished, however, electric cookers will be installed.

The cost of living in Cyprus has risen considerably and the trend is still upwards. Meat, butter and bread are all more expensive than in England, but fruit and vegetables are much cheaper. Oranges are ten a shilling and a cauliflower, twice the size normally seen in England, is only a shilling. Out shopping, wives find that the traditional Middle East art of haggling is as far advanced in Cyprus as anywhere.

Children go to Army schools which have been set up in temporary buildings in all the main areas. Many grammar school children,

OVER



The Nicosia school called Wolseley Barracks sports new signs. Headquarters has an overflow at Kykko Camp. The donkeyman rides by as of old.

MIDDLE EAST SPECIAL

No. 2 in a series by SOLDIER'S E. J. GROVE
—with photographs by W. J. STIRLING

VENUS'S BATH

continued



Sightseeing in Nicosia. At the Mosque of St. Sophia (minaret on left) Army visitors put on overshoes before entering. Below: QMSI F. Eveleigh, Army Physical Training Corps, takes an outdoor fencing session at Kykko Camp.



however, are sent to Greek schools because in some places grammar school education is not yet available. The Treasury pays the bills.

At the big camps the Army Kinema Corporation has installed cinemas. It has a fleet of mobile cinemas which visit outlying stations. All civilian cinemas in the towns show English-dialogue films.

The Army in Cyprus already has its own flourishing radio station—No. 4 Forces Broadcasting Station, with studios in a large house in Nicosia. Sheep and cows used to wander through a garden shed which was once an announcer's studio.

In the early days of the station one announcer opened the day's programmes by inadvertently broadcasting a loud "Moo" emitted by a cow which poked its head through the window and gave voice before the microphone could be switched off. Last Christmas the station raised nearly £1500 by playing record requests and charging a fee for each in aid of the Wireless for the Blind Fund.

Many units have built their own sports grounds on which they sometimes play local Greek and Turkish teams.

It is not surprising that on an island whose history can be traced back thousands of years, sightseeing attracts many soldiers and their families. Units organise tours to famous places like Paphos, where Venus is supposed to have been born in the surf. They can drink from a spring which runs into Venus's Bath, a sip of which, legend says, guarantees them a happy love life.

They can go to the Temple of Apollo on a hill overlooking Episkopi, and to the ruins of Salamis. There the Royal Engineers are playing a part in helping to uncover buildings buried for more than 1500 years. The Sappers have lent the Cyprus Government a railway line and a number of tip wagons. Men of the 2nd Battalion The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers make Salamis the target of route-marches and when they arrive take a rest while the curator tells them the story of the city.

Because of the lack of public transport (there are no railways in Cyprus and few buses) cycling has become popular. Every week-end a go-ahead Greek hires out 200 bicycles to the Fusiliers. Parties of soldiers sometimes hire civilian cars for 30 shillings a day to travel round the island, or go by taxi.

When the Army settles down training areas will be provided in the rocky wastelands where already the Gunners have a field firing range. The coastline is very well suited to assault landing exercises.



There were 8000 windows to be fitted. Private F. Monty had the task of mixing putty. Right: "Spidermen" at work on girders.

On Cyprus an Infantry battalion due for disbanding has left behind it as a monument three-quarters of a mile of sheds



INFANTRY LEARNED A TRADE

THE Infantry have been helping to build the Army's new home in Cyprus.

For six months officers and men of the 2nd Battalion The Green Howards became, in effect, Sappers and built—from scratch—the largest military stores depot on the island. On a former airfield at Larnaca they erected three-quarters of a mile of single, double and triple sheds to house ordnance, engineer and

medical stores from the Canal Zone.

They dug the drains, erected steel frames, fitted corrugated iron roofs and walls, hung doors and windows, put in 8000 panes of glass and finally painted the completed sheds. They worked on compressor drills and con-

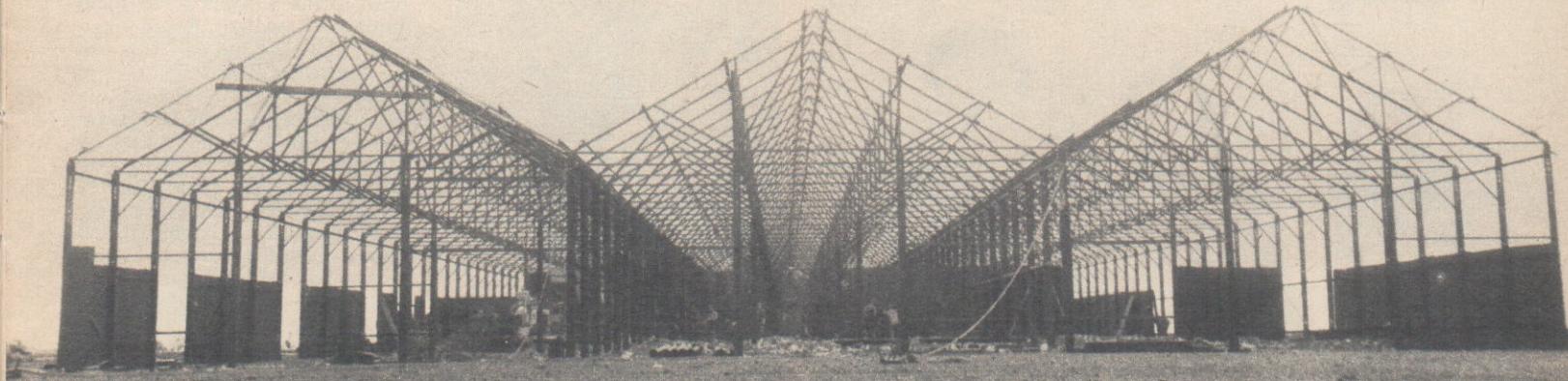
crete mixers (the latter made an interesting change for the corps of drums); they helped to operate cranes, mixed putty, laid concrete and used paint sprayers.

Few of them had done this type of work before but they completed the job in good time,

well ahead of the schedule set by the Royal Engineers.

The Infantrymen had a preliminary fortnight's course under 16 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, at Famagusta. On the project progress was slow at first, and close supervision was needed.

OVER



Part of the Larnaca project—erected by the Green Howards.

THIS SLIT TRENCH

This pipe-line was no pipe-dream—it involved 18 months hard (but honourable) labour for Sappers in Cyprus



An infantryman and a Sapper help to site drainage pipes.

INFANTRY LEARNED A TRADE (Continued)

But the Howards were not "green" for long; soon they were moving about the roof girders like experienced "spidermen." Finally, they were erecting a complete single shed in two-and-a-half days, a job which had taken them ten days at the start.

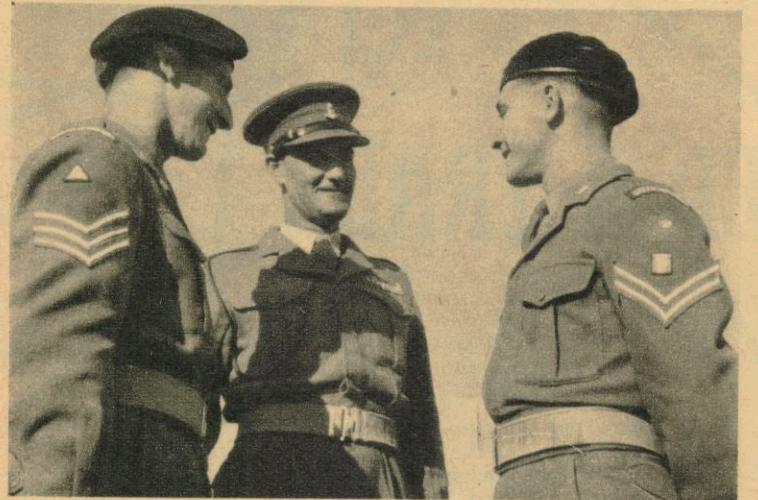
To speed the work still further the Green Howards were offered an afternoon's holiday each week if they completed their tasks on time. Not once did they lose it.

All the material which has gone into the building of the depot was sent to Cyprus from the Canal Zone. Some of it had belonged to the ill-starred Mackinnon Road project.

Recently, Field-Marshal Sir John Harding visited the depot and congratulated all ranks.



For tasks like this, those log exercises were useful after all.



In the Battalion were two fathers, each with two sons. Above: RSM C. Peacock, with Sergeant Walter Peacock and Corporal J. Peacock. Below: Sergeant B. Rowell, with Lance-Corporal D. Rowell and Private B. Rowell.



MIDDLE EAST SPECIAL

continued



Sappers link two sections of pipe.

WHEN Episkopi was chosen as the site for Middle East's new joint headquarters town in Cyprus one of the bigger problems facing the planners was shortage of water.

There was no piped supply in the area, which had always suffered from severe droughts in the semi-tropical summers. The local wells were quite inadequate. But up in the hills, 18 miles away at Kassousa, was a spring estimated to be capable of providing the new headquarters with half a million gallons a day.

To hire civilian contractors to build a pipe-line would have been too costly; so the task was given to the Sappers of 35 Field Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers. It has taken them 18 months to complete.

The job was back-breaking and often heart-breaking. Every foot of pipe had to be laid by hand in a trench at least two feet deep and the supply had to be gravity fed. No pumping machines were available. In the highest parts of the hills, deep, sheer-sided river banks and boulder-strewn ground prevented the use of motor transport and mechanical trenching machines.

Often stores had to be carried by donkey. Over the more precipitous slippery rock teams of Sappers and Cypriot labourers

STRETCHED EIGHTEEN MILES



Left: Not all the joins were underground. Some were in mid-air.

had to manhandle the heavy pipes, sometimes for more than a mile.

When the ground was too rocky for the trench to be dug by hand or mechanical means the Sappers laid down explosive charges and blasted a path. Only a few of the 18 miles of trench could be dug by spade. Often the direction of the pipe line was changed to avoid damaging trees.

For much of its length the pipe line follows a rocky river bed but in a score of places it has had to be carried across rivers. At such times the Sappers built concrete piers, some of them 14 feet high, to prevent the pipe being washed away when the rivers are in flood. As it was, during the torrential rains last winter two pipes were torn from their piers and one, 35 feet long, vanished from

the scene.

Meanwhile, Cypriot labourers in Episkopi were making a reservoir to hold half a million gallons. When SOLDIER visited the Regiment the pipe line was only 20 feet from the reservoir. It had been tested the day before and the Sappers raised a cheer as water first trickled and then gushed out of the pipe.

"It was a great moment for us," said Captain N. Prescott, of

42 Field Squadron, which with 35 Field Squadron built the pipe-line. "It was hard work but it was worth it. The lads are particularly happy for this is one job from which they can see real results."

The water supply to the new headquarters town is now assured, for a reserve supply has been found in nearby Happy Valley and piped into the main line from the mountains.



This section appears to be emitting flame. Soldier-welders found plenty of work.



MIDDLE EAST SPECIAL

continued



BY road, rail, air and water the British Army in Egypt is moving northwards, towards Port Said, leaving behind a trail of deserted camps.

This month the last British soldier will have left Suez, the port at the southern end of the Canal. The nearby military garrisons of Kabrit and Shandur will soon be evacuated. In the centre of the Zone around Fayid and Moascar several camps are already empty. Egyptian soldiers, wearing British battledress and armed with British weapons, are beginning to move in.

Many installations, including the jerrican factory at Fanara which used to turn out half a million petrol containers each year, have been handed over to the Egyptian Government.

Already more than 10,000 British soldiers, with their vehicles, stores and equipment, have sailed from Port Said or left by air to be re-deployed elsewhere in Middle East or sent back to Britain. In October more than half the Army will have left the Canal Zone, which by then will be only half its original size, stretching from Port Said down to Moascar. By June 1956 the withdrawal will be complete.

Not all the camps, depots and buildings will go to the Egyp-



Photograph: Captain G. S. Hatch

A picture from Geneifa gives some idea of the Army's packing problem. Below, left: a sign at Moascar.

tians. The world's biggest military stores depot at Tel-el-Kebir (its perimeter measures 17 miles) will be handed over to British contractors, who will maintain it as a supplies base in case the Army needs it again. Contractors will also take over and maintain ammunition and engineer stores depots, power stations and filtration plants. Part of Moascar Garrison, including the married quarters, the English-style garrison church, a secondary school, sports ground and a cinema, will also be retained for British civilians. The lidos on the Great Bitter Lake at Moascar and Fayid may remain under British control.

What? Shipping sand to England? No. "Hot Sand" is the code-phrase for the evacuation of the British Army's stores from Egypt.

THE GREAT CAMPS ARE EMPTYING

At Suez, Kabrit and Shandur the tents are being struck . . . and 75 years of history are gone with the desert wind

The evacuation of the Canal Zone involves moving 80,000 Servicemen and women, 50,000 vehicles and half a million tons of stores. At the same time it means stocking and leaving in good order the installations to be maintained by civilian contractors. Also, there are thousands of tons of worn stores to be sold.

The Egyptians today are more amiably disposed towards the British soldier than for many years, but troops will continue to live behind barbed wire and patrol it with loaded rifles up to the last day.

Off duty they can walk unarmed, night and day, outside the barbed wire, and armed vehicle escorts are needed only at night. They can go sight-seeing in Cairo again.

As more married quarters

become available in the "thinning-out" process more wives and families will be joining their husbands. They will continue to arrive in the Zone until July.

"I intend to see that right up to the last few weeks soldiers and their families go on enjoying all the usual amenities. Schools, cinemas, clubs, canteens and bathing beaches will be kept open as long as possible," Lieutenant-General R. A. Hull told SOLDIER.

With fewer men required to guard the reduced number of camps, more soldiers will be released to take part in desert exercises. These will continue down to platoon level, until the last few days. Some units have held more exercises in the last six months than in their previous two years in Egypt.





An Infantry camp once stood here. The regimental badge now wastes its glory on the desert air.

The heaviest burden of the withdrawal is being shouldered by the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, which will remain until the last day. Their biggest task has been at No. 10 Base Ordnance Depot in Geneifa, which will be handed over to the Egyptians. They had to call in Infantrymen and Gunners to help sort 50,000 tons of stores, all of which, down to the smallest nut and bolt, had to be unpacked, checked and, in some instances re-scaled. Many of the stores had come from Palestine and Mackinnon Road in East Africa in boxes which were now rotting. These had to be unpacked, examined and repacked in new crates made on the site by East African Pioneers and Egyptian workers.

To relieve pressure on roads and railways and to reduce the danger of theft, the Army's power barges and Z-craft of Inland Water Transport, Royal Engineers, ply up and down the Suez Canal carrying stores from Fanara to Port Said. Some stores



Under the splints and bandages is a 25 - pounder, ready for shipment from Port Said to Malta.

Left: One of the Egyptian soldiers who are taking over in the Canal Zone of Egypt.



needed in Cyrenaica, Tripolitania, Malta and Cyprus are being taken by landing craft, and the Royal Army Service Corps Fleet is ferrying stores from the quayside at Port Said to cargo ships in the harbour.

The unit with the longest spell of service in the Middle East since the outset of World War Two, 80 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, has left the Zone. Fourteen years ago, newly raised, it landed to join the Desert Army. It fought at Sidi Rezegh, Knightsbridge, El Alamein (losing three-quarters of its strength), and took part in the Dodecanese landings (engaging targets on land, sea and in the air). In the North African campaigns it destroyed over 150 aircraft and 25 tanks. During recent years its Gunners have gone to Akaba in Transjordan for practice firing.



Not till the last regiment embarks will Lieutenant-General R. A. Hull step on the gangplank.

LAST MAN OUT

THE last British soldier to leave the Canal Zone will be the man who is directing the evacuation—Lieutenant-General Richard Amyatt Hull, CB, DSO, commanding British Troops in Egypt.

"With a few other officers I shall stand on the quayside at Port Said watching the last unit, the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards, embarking on the last troopship," the General told SOLDIER. "When the Guards are aboard all the other officers will embark. I shall be the last man up the gangplank, probably immediately behind the Guards commanding officer."

As an officer of the 17th/21st Lancers, which he commanded in 1941, Lieutenant-General Hull has a special reason for wanting to be the last man out. It was a 17th Lancer, Lieutenant-General Sir Drury Curzon Drury-Lowe, who was the first commander of British Troops in Egypt. He led the British Cavalry under Sir Garnet Wolseley at the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir and captured Cairo.

As a colonel in 1942 Lieutenant-General Hull was given command of "Blade Force," consisting of his own regiment, 1st Parachute Brigade, a squadron of the Derbyshire Yeomanry, a battery of 12 Royal Horse Artillery, a company of the Rifle Brigade, some anti-tank and anti-aircraft guns and Royal Engineers. After the landings at Algiers his task was to seize Tunis before the Germans were aware of the danger. In two and a half days "Blade Force" covered 350 miles across difficult country and against some opposition. It was one of the swiftest advances in military history, but when only 10 miles from Tunis Colonel Hull's force was ordered to halt. He had outrun the main invasion forces.

At the age of 37, Lieutenant-General Hull commanded 1st Armoured Division during heavy fighting in Italy and in 1945 led 5th Infantry Division in Holland and Germany.

In 1953 he was appointed Chief of Staff to Middle East Land Forces. He has commanded British troops in Egypt since June of last year.



MIDDLE EAST SPECIAL

continued

Worn out tyres have a high value. One lot recently fetched £200,000.

MONEY FOR OLD ROPE

In the wake of the Army follows the auctioneer. The British soldier's cast-offs bring in big sums

A WAL . . . Tani . . . Talat!" yelled the auctioneer and down went his hammer. In other words: "Going . . . going . . . gone!"

Lot No. 32, bundles of old rope which the Army did not want any more, was sold to a rotund Egyptian with a large moustache and a red tarboosh.

The auctioneer had to yell to make himself heard, for this was no ordinary auction sale.

Inside a wired-off enclosure at No. 10 Base Ordnance Depot at Geneifa in the Canal Zone the Army was selling some of its surplus and worn-out stores and equipment which it would be uneconomical to ship out of Egypt. There were piles of rusty barbed wire and tin cans, squares of torn tentage, rotted camouflage net-

ting, old rubber tyres, broken chairs and bedsteads, tins of paint, old boilers and electric batteries and a broken-down crane without an engine. In one corner was a mound of old Army clothing shredded into rags, and next to it a heap of chamber pots minus their handles. In half an hour every lot had been sold.

The buyers were all Egyptians, some in silk *galabiyas* (the Egyptian ankle-length men's dress),

Another popular line with Egyptian buyers—piles of old ammunition boots.



Military policemen attend every auction sale, to watch for thieves.

others in two-piece suits. Some wore the tarboosh, some the burnous and others tropical-style trilby hats. As the auctioneer went from lot to lot they crowded round him, shoving each other out of the way, shaking their fists under the noses of rival buyers and all the time shouting their bids in high-pitched, penetrating voices.

Only the stolid British military policemen, standing at ease with their hands behind their backs as they kept an eye open for thieves, seemed unaffected by the excitement.

Scenes like this have become a commonplace in Egypt. Already the sales have raised many thousands of pounds to offset the inevitable losses of the withdrawal.

Lieutenant-General R. A. Hull told *SOLDIER* that he hopes to raise several million pounds. "As a taxpayer myself I am anxious to help the taxpayer in Britain. All we are selling to the Egyptians is material we do not want. If it is worth while we send it home or elsewhere for use in the Army. One hundred thousand tons of valuable scrap iron has already been shipped to Britain along with a tidy amount of non-ferrous metals."

Because of a shortage of most materials in Egypt, the Army is able to command high prices for its surplus stores. One big tyre dump was recently

sold for £200,000. Most of the tyres were worn out or of sizes no longer used on Army vehicles. The Egyptian who bought them will use them to repair boots and shoes and sell to fishermen to protect the bows of their feluccas.

Several units have raised as much as £4000 from the sale of their unwanted stores and equipment. Old iron and timber from one dismantled check post fetched £40. A number of vehicles, some of which were used by Eighth Army, have also been sold.

Teams from the Royal Army Ordnance Corps inspect the material before it is put up for sale. If the Egyptian Army want any of the equipment and stores, and their price is acceptable, those lots are withdrawn. Precautions are taken to prevent price rings operating.

Permanent buildings which the Egyptian Army does not want are also sold by auction—for good prices. In Fayid former Army camps have been bought by an Egyptian firm for conversion into holiday camps and boys' clubs.

NAAFI holds its own auction sales, offering anything from three-ton trucks to worn-out refrigerators, rusty kettles, perambulators, linen teacloths and bottles of ink. "Tiny," the world's biggest mobile canteen which is built on a Royal Air Force Queen Mary chassis and has served millions of cups of tea and cakes to soldiers in Egypt and Palestine since 1946, is due to come under the hammer this month.





PENSIONS: It's All Simpler Now

A new Army Pensions Office inherits a 265-year-old tradition

The Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

THE Army's pension system has been simplified since World War Two. Now every soldier nearing pension should be able to calculate without difficulty how much he stands to receive.

A new Army Pensions Office is to be set up at Stanmore, Middlesex. It represents a major break with tradition in that the award of soldiers' pensions is removed from the Commissioners of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. The Commissioners have handled this work for some 265 years.

The new office will also handle officers' retired pay, the superannuation of the Army's civilian employees and family pensions, all of which were previously awarded by the Finance branch of the War Office. The staff of 150 will have 120,000 pensions on their books.

Concentrating the work is expected to make for more efficiency and a saving of staff. The post-war pension code (which now applies to every new soldier-pensioner) has already helped. The 1940 code was a lengthy document containing provision for such oddities as counting a saddle-tree maker's service as a corporal's, and doubling certain service overseas. The post-war code is not only more generous, it is much shorter and more easily understood.

The story in which the Army Pensions Office will write a new chapter began when the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, was being built as a home for old or infirm soldiers who received temporary pensions (from fivepence to 1s 6d a day) administered by the Commissioners. It was soon obvious that the Royal Hospital could not accommodate all eligible old soldiers, so in 1689 it was decided that those for whom there was no room would continue to receive pensions and be known as "out-pensioners," a name which will cease to be used when the new office takes over.

Since then, the Royal Hospital has awarded pensions for all soldiers below commissioned rank, except those given for disabilities due to service in World War One or since the outbreak of World War Two. These are dealt with by the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance.

British Army pensions are paid out all over the world. From villages in the Himalayas, Gurkha ex-soldiers make an annual pilgrimage to a Brigade of Gurkhas recruiting centre to draw their pensions. In Jerusalem, ex-soldiers of the Palestinian units which served in the British Army in World War Two receive disability pensions from the British consulate. In Cyprus and Mauritius similar pensions are distributed by Army paymasters.

British ex-soldiers, some now naturalised citizens of other nations, draw pensions from consulates in Vienna and La Paz

(Bolivia) and in most of the 48 United States. In some of the Dominions there are so many British Army pensioners that the Dominion governments handle the pay-out.

The men who award pensions are proud to say that, unless there are unusual complications, pension and terminal grant are assessed and authority to pay them is ready with the paymaster before a man finishes his terminal leave. If a pensioner is not satisfied that he is getting his due, pension officials are willing to discuss the matter, by post or interview.

"To us," a senior pensions official told *SOLDIER*, "the pensioner is Thomas Atkins, Esquire. We must remember the recruiting slogan, 'You're somebody today in the Regular Army.'"

For some men, there are additional pensions. Service pensioners who hold the Victoria Cross, Military Cross, Distinguished Conduct Medal or (if it was won after the beginning of World War Two) the Military Medal may receive an extra sixpence a day. A few, mainly World War One veterans, draw this extra sixpence for holding a Meritorious Service Medal given for gallantry—a very rare award.

One relic of the past, which will shortly fade away, is the special campaign pension de-



"Out-pensioners" are paid at post offices—but they will now be plain "pensioners".

signed last century to keep from starving old soldiers who had not qualified for service pensions. This may be awarded to ex-Regulars who earned campaign medals before October 1931, and who are 65. The pension varies from two to 14 shillings a week. No ex-soldier is eligible if he has an income of more than 19s. a week (double if married). This rules out men in Britain, where national insurance and national assistance have replaced it. There are, however, a few men in Eire (where old-age benefits begin at 70) and a few former West Indian troops who qualify.

A pension, once awarded, does not necessarily remain fixed. When the cost of living rises, the soldier pensioner is not forgotten. Since World War One, there have been five separate increases to out-of-date pensions. To qualify for one the pensioner must be at least 60, or have been invalidated from the Army or be physically incapable of earning a living. He must also have a

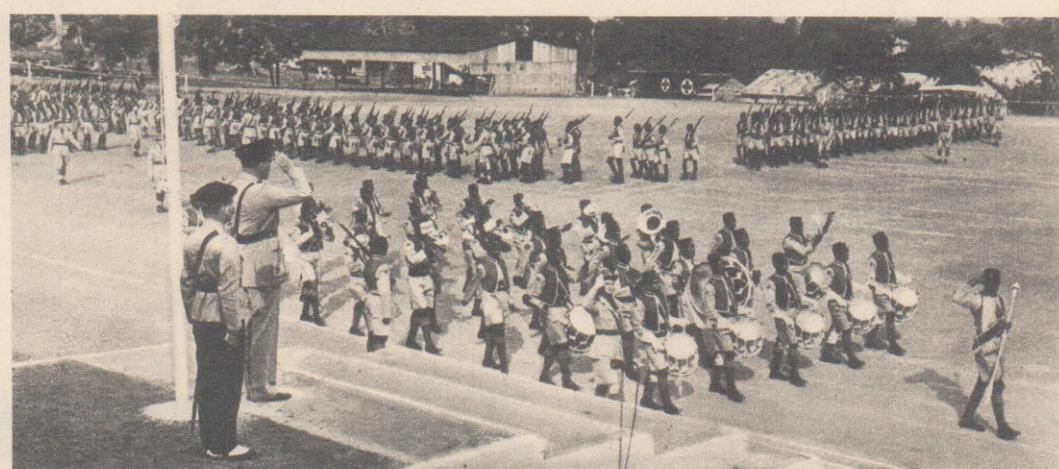
total income below a certain figure. On his sixtieth birthday a pensioner receives leaflets giving conditions for the increase.

During World War Two, certain British Army pensioners voluntarily gave up their pensions as a contribution to Britain's war effort. A number of Canadians receiving extra pensions for World War One gallantry awards made over their extra sixpence a day to a Spitfire Fund.

A pensioner who commits treason may forfeit his pension. A man sent to prison for six months or more may have his pension suspended, but if his wife and children are left in penury, the authorities may pay some or all of it to them. A man may have his pension restored after leaving prison.

Medical reports connected with disability pensions claims come from medical boards all over the world. The most difficult boards to arrange are those for Gurkhas. Sometimes the men are not fit enough to descend from their mountain homes to meet the doctors and the doctors cannot travel to inaccessible parts of the Himalayas. Elsewhere, if the Army is not present, consuls arrange boards.

Among other tasks the Army Pensions Office will take over is that of considering applications to commute pensions. Pensioners seek lump sums to buy businesses, to emigrate, to buy houses and furniture. The most popular purchase is a public-house; after that come general shops, boarding-houses and smallholdings.



SIERRA LEONE REMEMBERS: At Myohaung, ancient capital of the Arakan, the 81st and 82nd West African Divisions met in 1945 to take part in the successful assault on the city. Ten years later, two oceans and two continents away, the Sierra Leone Military Forces celebrate Myohaung Day at Freetown, with a ceremonial parade.

Led by the men of the 1st Battalion The Sierra Leone Regiment, in scarlet and gold tunics, and

with the band playing, more than 400 troops march on to the square of Wilberforce Barracks. Also taking part are members of the Sierra Leone ex-Servicemen's Association.

The spider flash of the 81st Division and the crossed spears and carrier's head-band of the 82nd are absent. But the spirit of the Divisions is symbolised by the palm badge of the Royal West African Frontier Force, worn by the soldiers of Sierra Leone.

NOW THEY CALL IT THE STERLING



Mrs. Helen Tyrrell, milling machine operator, tries out the finished weapon on the company's range. Below: Ice-caked from the deep-freeze, the gun is ready to fire at the first pressure on the trigger.



The latest version of "the gun for tight corners" has modifications suggested by soldiers who used it

THE gun which winged Mau Mau's General China (and might have winged many more Mau Mau if Kenya's envious civilians were allowed to use it) is now known as the Sterling, after the firm which make it. When first introduced to readers of *SOLDIER* ("The Gun For Tight Corners," February, 1954) it was officially the L2 A1, also known as the Patchett.

British troops have tried out this close-quarters weapon all over the world. They were invited to fill in questionnaires saying what they liked or disliked about it. On the latest version—the L2 A2—a few of their suggestions have been adopted. One is a guard to prevent the finger accidentally reaching beyond the end of the short barrel, when firing. Another is the strengthening of the butt. A third is a modification to the back sight.

On the whole the six-pound sub-machine-gun seems a very popular one, and a conspicuous improvement on the Sten. One testimonial came from an officer in East Africa who killed a rhinoceros with it, which seems to show that the small calibre bullet (.357) is reasonably lethal.

On a visit to the Sterling Engineering Company's factory at Dagenham, Essex, *SOLDIER* saw the gun fired successfully after it had been brought ice-caked from a deep-freeze, drip-

ping from a mud-bath, and gritty from a "sand-storm." The self-cleaning breech block is the secret; as it moves backwards and forwards, its spiral ribs cut away and eject any fouling.

The forerunners of the Sterling were on display. At the outbreak of World War Two, the Army had no weapon of this type. In 1940 large numbers of Thompson machine-guns (tommy guns) were imported; then the first Stens were produced in 1941. About the same time the Sterling Company turned out its Lanchester machine carbine. It was modelled on the 1928 pattern German Schmeisser, which in its turn had followed the original Bergman. The Lanchester was heavier than the Sten, and was produced in large numbers for the Royal Navy.

In 1942 the same company began to develop another weapon which was to become today's Sterling sub-machine gun—lighter, handier and safer than any of its forerunners.



The family tree: From top to bottom: the German Schmeisser (8½ lbs); the Navy's Lanchester (9½ lbs); an early Sterling (6½ lbs); and the latest Sterling (6 lbs).



How the Christmas pudding reached the troops in 1900.

Self-heating soup tins, on this principle, were used in the Boer War.

It was war which first stimulated the canning industry. Today the Army's experts are still ranging ahead, working out new ideas

TINNED BOILED EGG? MAYBE

NAPOLEON started it. One of his big "Q" problems was to preserve food for his armies on the move. He put up a prize of 12,000 francs to stimulate ideas . . . and the first step was taken on the road to bully beef.

Today the problem facing the British Army's canning experts is not "How?" but "What next?"

Bread can now be satisfactorily canned—a feat commercially uneconomic, but useful in emergencies.

The experts are busy on the boiled egg, although that may be some time in reaching the soldier's breakfast table. Meanwhile, the Army will be receiving a new form of tinned bacon, tinned crab, curried herrings, bloaters and fish roes.

It took the experimenters a long time to tin bacon in such a way that it does not crumble into small pieces when removed from the tin.

All of which would have delighted Napoleon and his Grand Army. In fact, the Emperor's 12,000 francs were won by Nicholas Appert, a skilled chef and confectioner, who after nine years succeeded in preserving foods in sealed containers. His canning methods were soon copied elsewhere. In 1813 the first canning factory was opened in London and samples of their products were submitted to the Army and Navy for trials. The War Office chose the Gibraltar garrison—was it because there was no escape for them anyway?—and they pronounced the new food "very satisfactory."

In various wars, the science of canning was forced forward—notably in the American Civil War. Most soldiers will be surprised to know that soldiers ate preserved food in the Crimea, and that the self-heating tin—usually regarded as a novelty of World War Two—

appeared in the Boer War.

Today the Food Research and Development Section of the Royal Army Service Corps devote their full-time energies to this problem of feeding the Army from cans. Bright suggestions are encouraged, so long as they are not in the caviare or pâté-de-foie-gras class. If the resident scientist considers an idea sound, contractors are asked to produce a limited quantity of the new product which then goes out to commands—with questionnaires. If the reports are favourable the new commodity goes into quantity-production for the Army.

There are now seven different combo packs, with seven different menus, in general use in the



Men of the Sherwood Foresters warm their pork-and-beans at St. Pierre-Divion, 1916. Modern campaigning would break down without huge reserves of tinned food.

British Army—four more than in World War Two. Foods in them range from apple pudding to ham-and-eggs, ham-and-beef roll, hamburgers, Irish stew, vegetable salad in mayonnaise, plus the six-ounce tin of dehydrated soup. The self-heating tin of soup will continue to be used, mainly in rear areas and at field hospitals.

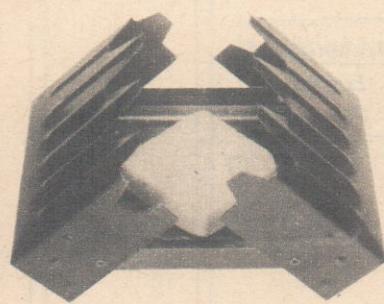
Certain products are canned exclusively for the Army. No housewife would spend her housekeeping money on, say, canned apple pudding when she can bake her own.

Sixteen items in the compo ration alone are exclusive to the Army. The 24-hour pack contains 4000 calories, the highest of any Army ration. That it is "the best-balanced and most sustaining in the world" can be claimed with some justification.

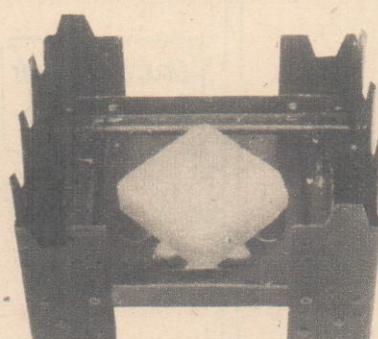
The current problem is to reduce the pack's weight without prejudicing the nutritional value. To get it down from its present $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds to 28 ounces, as is hoped, will involve dehydration and a preference for vitamin foods. Some foods which used to be tinned are now preserved in air-tight, waterproof paper. Packs must be able to resist extreme heat and cold, and experimental ones are deposited in suitable parts of the globe.

Dehydrated food has never been very popular with troops. Dried potatoes were just as heartily disliked in the Crimea as by the majority in World War Two. Since then better methods of preparation have produced a more palatable article.

Recently a tin of "meat and veg."—the good old stand-by of the 1914 war—was opened and found to be fresh and edible. A portion of veal was also taken from one of the first cans ever to be made in 1824. The meat, in powder form, was fed to rodents without any ill-effects.



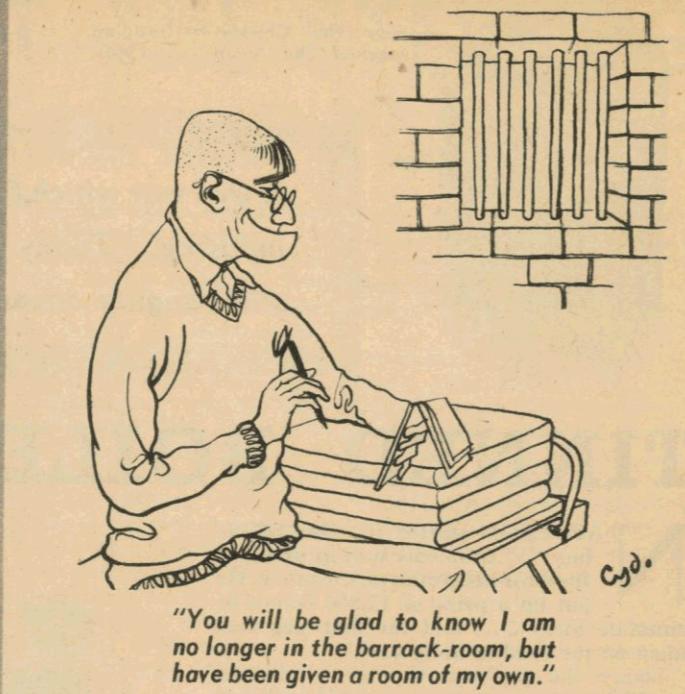
A clever pocket stove newly devised by the Army for heating tinned food. The metal box breaks open to make a support for the tin. A cube of solid fuel, ignited, furnishes the heat.



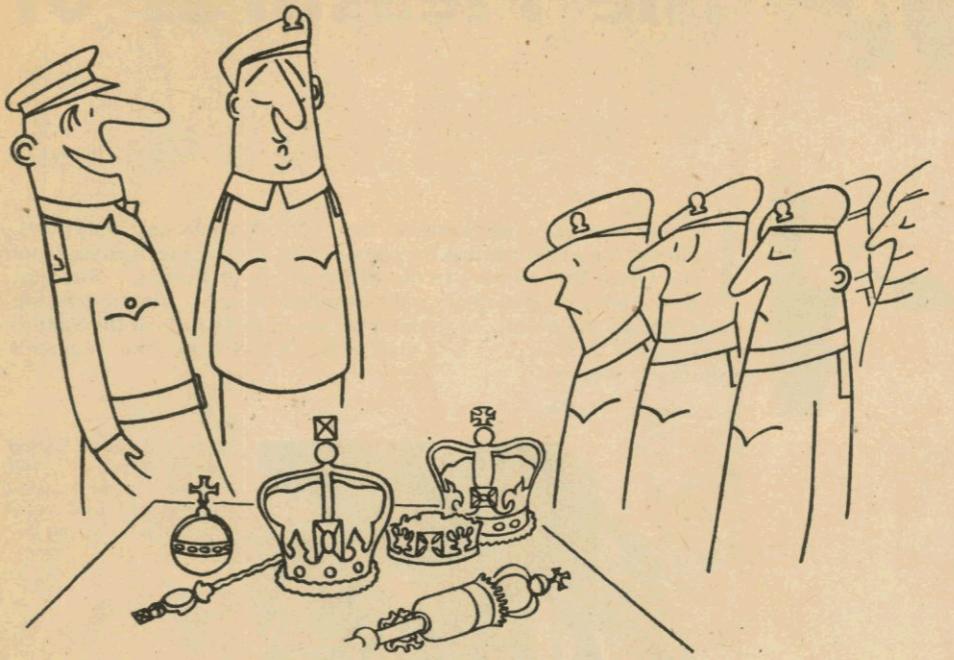


"Well, you never know who it might be."

SOLDIER HUMOUR



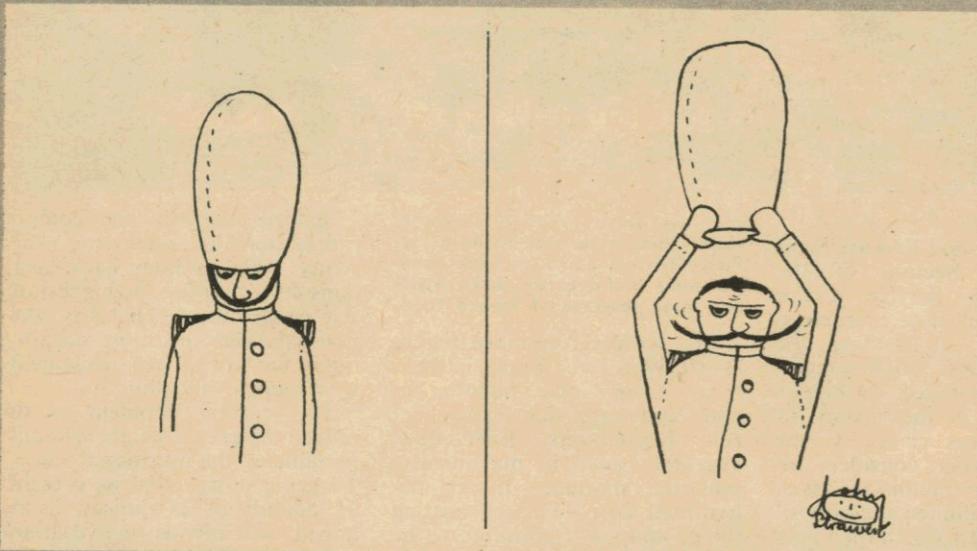
"You will be glad to know I am no longer in the barrack-room, but have been given a room of my own."



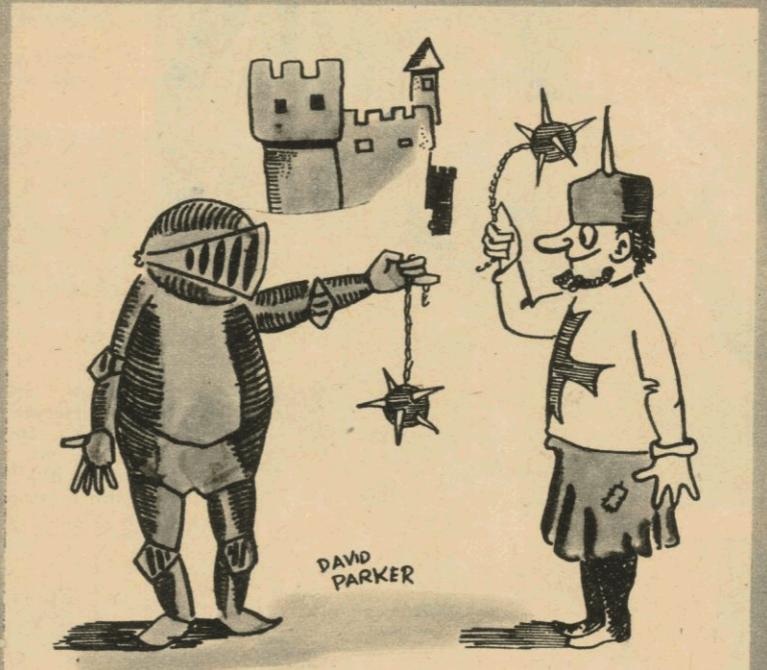
"I feel there is little doubt as to the winner of the initiative test."



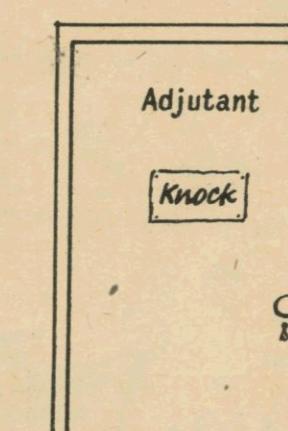
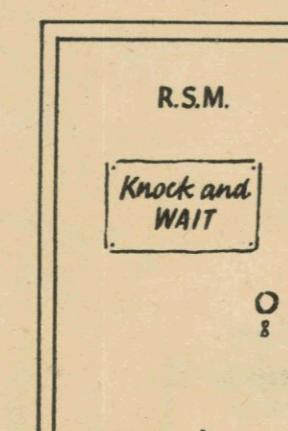
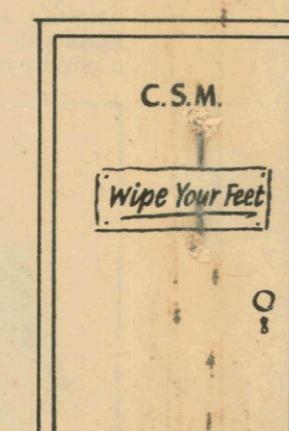
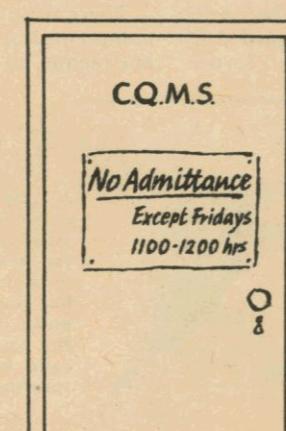
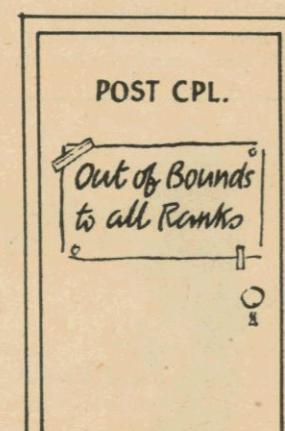
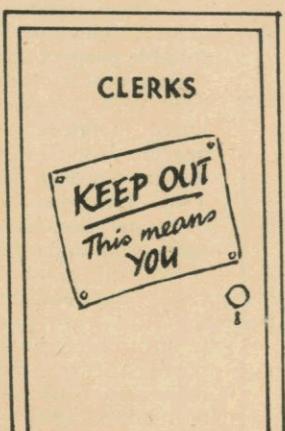
"Get your toenails cut."



"I said, 'We will attack the FORT'."



"It said quite distinctly,
'Parade in fatigue dress'."



FRANK FINSEN

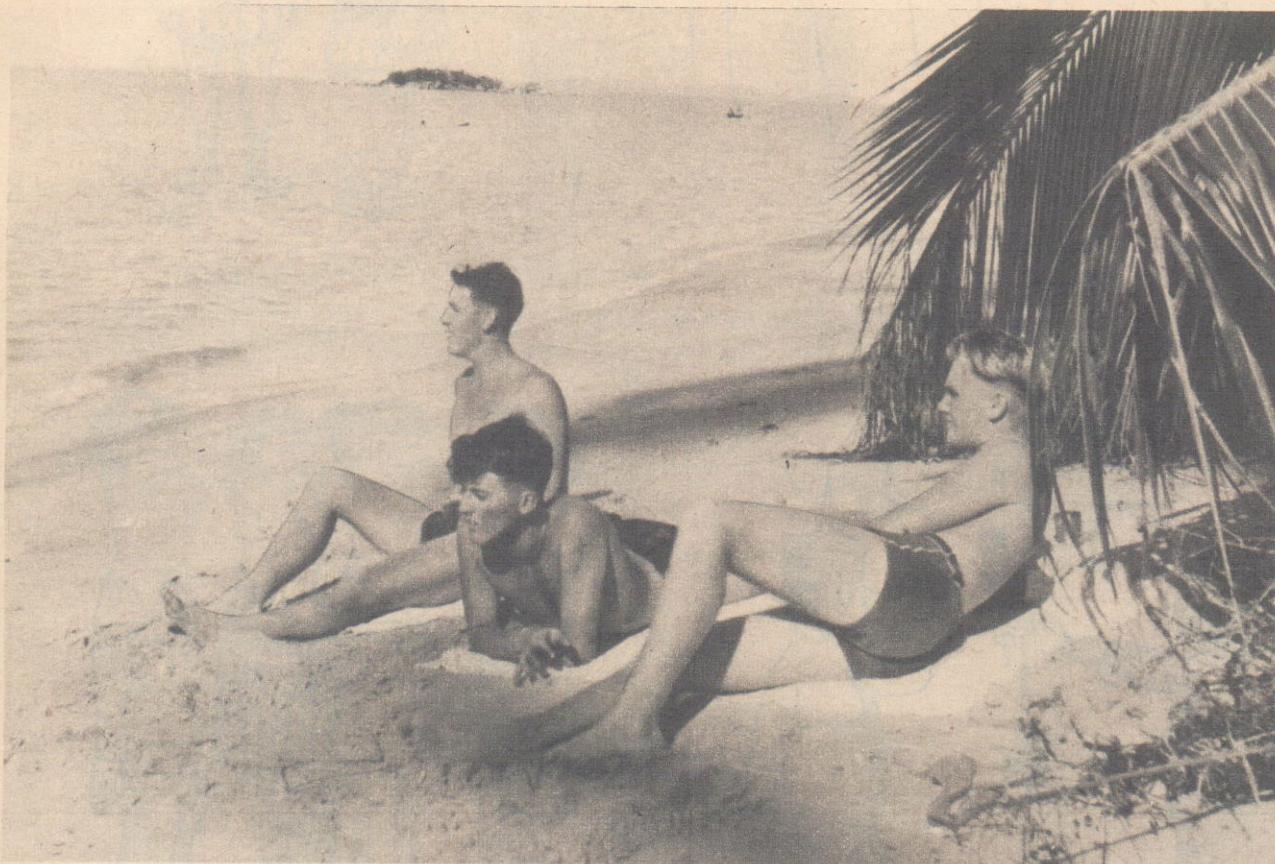


Girls from local firms and Government offices are invited to Army dances at Sandycroft.

The Pleasures of PENANG

IN one continent or another, the British Army has reserved a choice range of tropical beaches—from Jamaica to Kenya, from the Great Bitter Lakes to the Malayan isle of Penang. Not least delectable is Penang's palm-fronded beach. Jungle-bashing soldiers from the mainland spend from seven to 28 days at the Sandycroft Leave Centre, which is staffed by NAAFI and the Women's Voluntary Services.

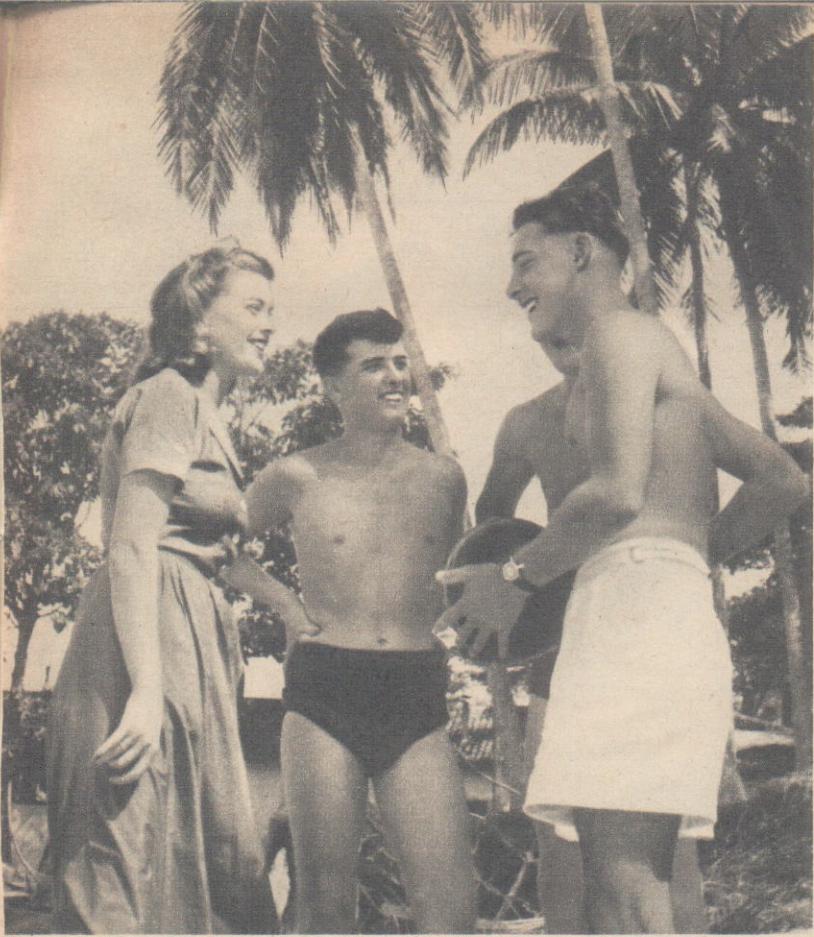
Photographs: Sergeant John McCallum, Army Public Relations.



Left: Respite from jungle-bashing. Of course, it isn't quite Blackpool, but need that matter so much?

Below and Right: Sightseeing at Ayer Itam's temple, showplace of the island and a "must" on the tours programme.





"What's on today?" The soldiers could look at the notice-board but it's nicer to ask Miss Freda Jones, of the Women's Voluntary Services.



The advantages of a current account at



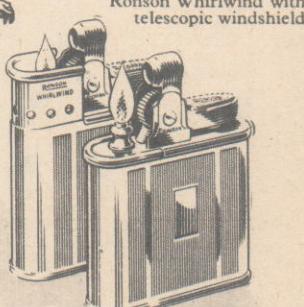
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Photographs: SOLDIER Cameraman ARTHUR BLUNDELL.

"Mum's" The Word

Unless the Army has "Mum's" goodwill, the hand that rocks the cradle may rock the boat. One regiment was not afraid to ask her views—and in front of microphones

Mother and son: Lance-Corporal Dennis Dodd lost seven pounds but gained a stripe and many friends.



WHAT are they doing to my boy?" As often as not, "Mum" views the Army with suspicion. She worries more about the effect the Army will have on her son than the effect her son will have on the Army. (That is for the generals to worry about.)

She could not agree less with the Duke of Wellington's "Mum," who thought her pink-faced boy fit only for cannon fodder (but changed her mind later).

The Army knows that "Mum" has her dark doubts about the service. Therefore it has invited her to "at homes," to passing-out parades. It would very much like to invite her to overseas garrisons.

Often "Mum" has been agreeably impressed at the transformation the Army has made in her lumbering, untidy son. She has been surprised, even a shade disappointed, to see him thrive on somebody else's cooking.

One regiment, greatly daring, decided to ask "Mum" point-blank—in front of cameras and

"Would you object to your son signing on as a Regular?" asks Major R. E. Moss of Mrs. Rose Dodd. She would.

microphones—what she thought about the Army.

It came about in this fashion. The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, the Depot of which is at Maidstone, has strong local ties with All Saints Church, the members of which expressed a wish to become better acquainted with the history and customs of the Regiment. The result was an "at home" arranged by the vicar, Canon Frank Bennett, and the Depot Commander, Major R. E. Moss, and an invitation to "a typical mum," the mother of a National Service-man, to speak publicly.

Parting with her son at call-up time was probably less of an ordeal for Mrs. Rose Dodd than those two minutes in the Depot gymnasium before a mixed audience of soldiers and civilians—apart from the unseen millions later to see and hear her on television and radio. But Mrs. Dodd, neither flinched nor tried to say what was conveniently appropriate.

Yes, she confessed, she had had misgivings about the way her son would be treated when he was called-up because she had "heard lots of things," but on seeing him again after the first fortnight of his training "we changed our minds about the Army."

She thought her son had bene-

fited—he had lost seven pounds in weight and gained a lance stripe since September—but she certainly thought the pay was not good enough.

Her emphatic "Yes" to the Depot Commander's question, "Would you object to your son signing on as a Regular?" was based not on prejudice against the Army, but pride in his profession as a carpenter. Mrs. Dodd wants her boy to go back to the tools of his trade.

Her parting shot was a word of advice to other "mums," whose sons are due soon to start their National Service.

She urged them "to send their sons off with a good heart and not make too much fuss."

"It's a thing that happens to all of us at some time or other," she added, with a touch of pride.

Thus did Mrs. Rose Dodd, of Merlin Road, Welling, Kent, say her piece. Perhaps the first "typical mum" ever to do so to such a large audience.

Her son was there to say his piece, too—Lance-Corporal Dennis Dodd. He did not like the first three weeks, he said. Now a junior instructor teaching recruits, he thought that National Service had helped him "to lose weight and gain many friends."

With some recruits, of course, it works out the other way round.

Among others who spoke was a private soldier of four weeks service. He thought the food was "very good," an admission so

unexpected that it caused everybody to laugh, except perhaps the cooks. He said he had decided to sign on for three years.

When he comes out he, like other men of The Royal West Kents, is sure of a job, thanks to a good friend of the Regiment, who was also there to speak. Mr. Harold Sharpe guarantees employment in his toffee factory to any ex-soldier living in the area. A very useful man to have around.

The Depot Commander spoke of the proud history and traditions of the Regiment.

After these discourses the audience were shown the War Office documentary film "The Infantryman"; a drill demonstration on the barrack square by recruits; the Regimental museum; a barrack-room and the Officers' Mess, where Colours and the 3rd Battalion's silver were displayed.

Thinking that the documentary "The Infantryman" might have proved a little too warlike for the more elderly of this dignified church party, SOLDIER asked one of them for her views.

This dear old lady, with gleaming white hair, answered readily: "Oh, I am quite used to this sort of thing nowadays, you know. I watch 'War in the Air' on my television regularly."

For her the curtailment of the visit to the assault course, because of cold weather, must have been a disappointment.

BILL COUSINS

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST "MUM"

A BRITISH mother who lost two sons—one killed, one captured—in Korea found a leaflet in her letter-box one morning. In large red letters it enquired: "HOW MANY MORE SONS HAVE YOU GOT FOR THE MILLIONAIRES' FIGHTING POOL?"

Accompanying the leaflet was a copy of the *Daily Worker*.

This was just an incident in the campaign against relatives of Korean prisoners, as told in the Ministry of Defence's pamphlet, "Treatment of British Prisoners of War in Korea" (Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1s.).

Not only the prisoners were subjected to propaganda and moral pressures. So was "Mum." The nature of the campaign against her is not widely known. It should be.

The bereaved mother mentioned above was visited by a woman who asked her to speak at a meeting in London. When she said she could not afford to do so, she was told that her expenses would be paid. One day she was asked to go to the house of another woman who had lost a son in Korea, and in the hope of getting news of her own son, she went. She took with her some of the leaflets she had been receiving and began to complain about them at the meeting. A woman next to her said "Ssh!" and looked nervous. The meeting tried to get her to speak at a demonstration in London.

Another mother who was persuaded to take part in a demonstration in London—fares paid—said: "When I got there it all seemed to be Communist and anti-British talk and I wasn't happy about it. Then we had a procession to the House of Commons and I had to carry a banner reading 'Bring back our lads from Korea.' I felt rather ashamed and tried to hide it down by my side."

Relatives were subjected to a steady barrage of propaganda designed to play upon their natural desire to help their sons in captivity. They were encouraged to buy the *Daily Worker*, which, thanks to its Communist contacts, was usually first with news and photographs of prisoners of war. They were told that their sons had urged them to take part in "the movement for peace."

"So far as is known," says the pamphlet, "the relatives of officers and senior NCOs were not personally approached." They were regarded as hopeless "reactionaries," likely to make trouble if harassed.

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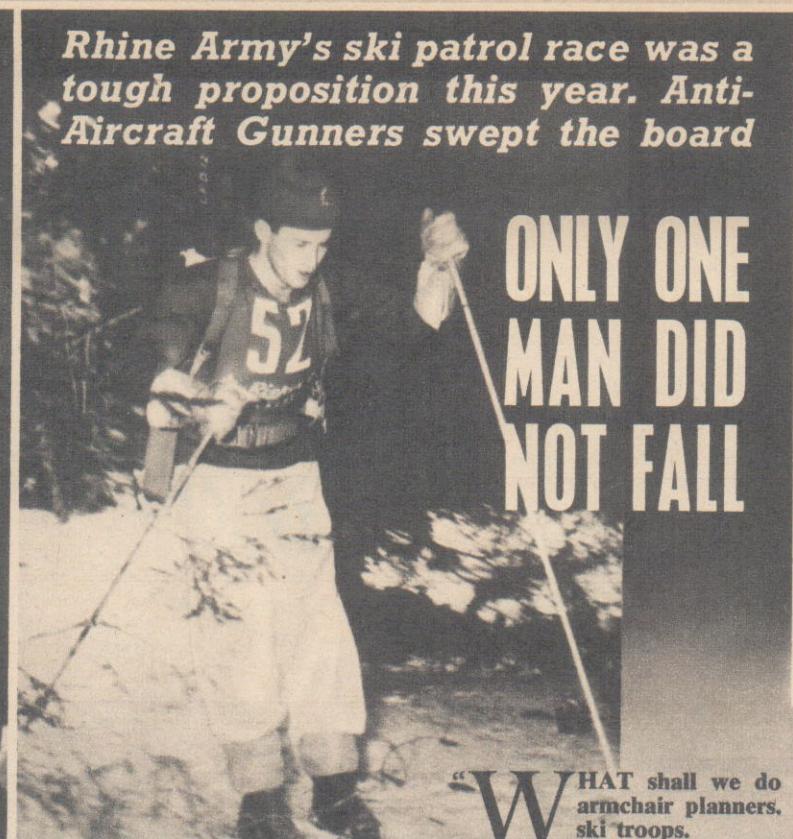
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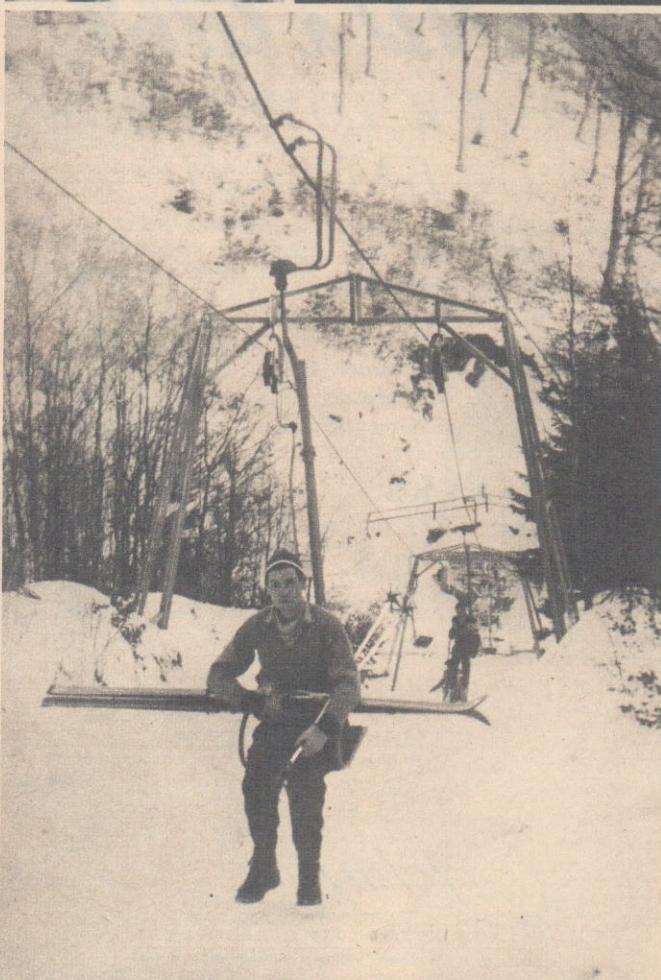
Left: Training British troops was 2nd Lieutenant Christian Kuelle, Norwegian Army. Above: This ski soldier could be at cover, rifle ready, in ten seconds.



How the ski soldier carries his rifle and equipment.

Photographs: Sergeant F. E. Preston.

ONLY ONE MAN DID NOT FALL



Left: The Army built and operates this ski lift at Winterberg. Civilians pay if they use it.

Right: Mrs. Nicholson, wife of a Green Howards officer, fed "her" team on glucose before the start.



"WHAT shall we do with anti-aircraft troops?" ask the armchair planners. One suggestion is: Turn them into ski troops.

In the Rhine Army ski patrols race, through pinewoods and over hilltops at Winterberg, Germany, teams from anti-aircraft regiments took the first three places. Of the first ten places, Gunners claimed seven.

Because of a partial thaw and presence of ice, conditions were the toughest yet. No one suffered more than a hard bruise or two. Only one man did not fall; some of the others fell as many as 20 times.

Many entrants had skied for the first time only ten or 14 days before.

The 48 teams each consisted of an officer and three men, carrying an active service load of 50 lbs per man. Officers had revolvers, the men rifles.

Half-way through the ten-mile course, the teams had to take up a firing position and burst three balloons at 160 yards.

First team home was that of the 44th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment in 124 minutes—their third successive victory. Second came 35 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment in 144 minutes and third, 53 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment in 146 minutes.

The spirit of the 1st Battalion The Royal Ulster Rifles was typical. Long after all other

teams had arrived back they were missing. When Captain Bruford Davis was asked by a search party if they wanted assistance home, and a guide to show a short cut, he replied: "Bless my heart and soul, what for? We've got so far and we are going to finish it." They did.

More than half the entrants were National Servicemen, who would probably never have had a chance to ski in ordinary life. Training at Winterberg is directed towards producing voluntary skiers.

On the slopes at Bad Gastein, Austria, 44 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment won two team events in the Army Ski Championships—the patrol race and the *langlauf*. 2nd Lieutenant J. A. G. Moore won the individual patrol and *langlauf* races and Gunner J. Platfoot was runner-up in both.

The downhill and slalom were won by 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards.

The Army's new ski champion is 2nd Lieutenant C. Mackintosh, Scots Guards.—Report by Captain D. H. de T. Reade, Army Public Relations.



Cadets on parade at West Point: from the film "The Long Gray Line," with Tyrone Power and Maureen O'Hara.

NOW IT'S SANDHURST'S TURN

West Point, America's famous Military Academy, has inspired a new film in the "Mr. Chips" tradition

NOT for the first time, Hollywood has produced a film against the background of America's famous Military Academy at West Point, on the Hudson River.

The film is "The Long Gray Line." It is based on the life of Sergeant Marty Maher, who was a West Point "institution" for half a century, and wrote a book called "Bringing Up The Brass."

As the film opens, Sergeant Maher is seen protesting to the President of the United States, whom he remembers as a cadet, that West Point is trying to turn him out because he is 70 years old. Then comes a flash-back to 50 years ago, with Marty joining as a mess waiter and later entering the department of West Point's Master of the Sword, the officer in charge of physical training. He becomes friend and philosopher to succeeding generations of cadets.

Among the memorable events of his career is the graduation ceremony of 1915, a vintage year (though nobody could know it at the time).

The film makes much of West Point's rigid honour code. A cadet who commits the crime of marrying while on leave, and thinks he can get away with it, wrestles first with his own conscience, then Marty's, and finally resigns from West Point and (since it is war-time) rejoins as a private. Cadets who have been "off limits" confess and cheerfully take their punishment, which seems to consist of marching backwards and forwards across a square bearing a rifle.

So much for the film, which incidentally is a tear-jerker of some potency. West Point's story

Academy were built up by a young officer, Sylvanus Thayer, who became superintendent in 1817, after the Academy had been in existence for 15 years. Disliking what he found, 32-year-old Thayer (later a general) purged the school of idlers and "Uncle Sam's bad bargains," and soon tightened discipline. He had studied, and been impressed by, French military methods, and was keenly interested in the scientific aspects of war. Under his firm hand America's "gentle-

men cadets" were moulded to a tradition of rigid obedience, justice and honesty.

Like Britain, America had her critics of the military. They complained that West Point was setting up a privileged army aristocracy, but grumbling was stifled by the fine showing of West Pointers in the Mexican wars. Not less appreciated were the fine feats of engineering performed by graduates as the mid-continent and the West were opened up.

From 1817 onwards the cadets had their Vigilance Committee, which disciplined those members who fell short of its standards. It was a forerunner of the Honour Committee which was set up after World War One.

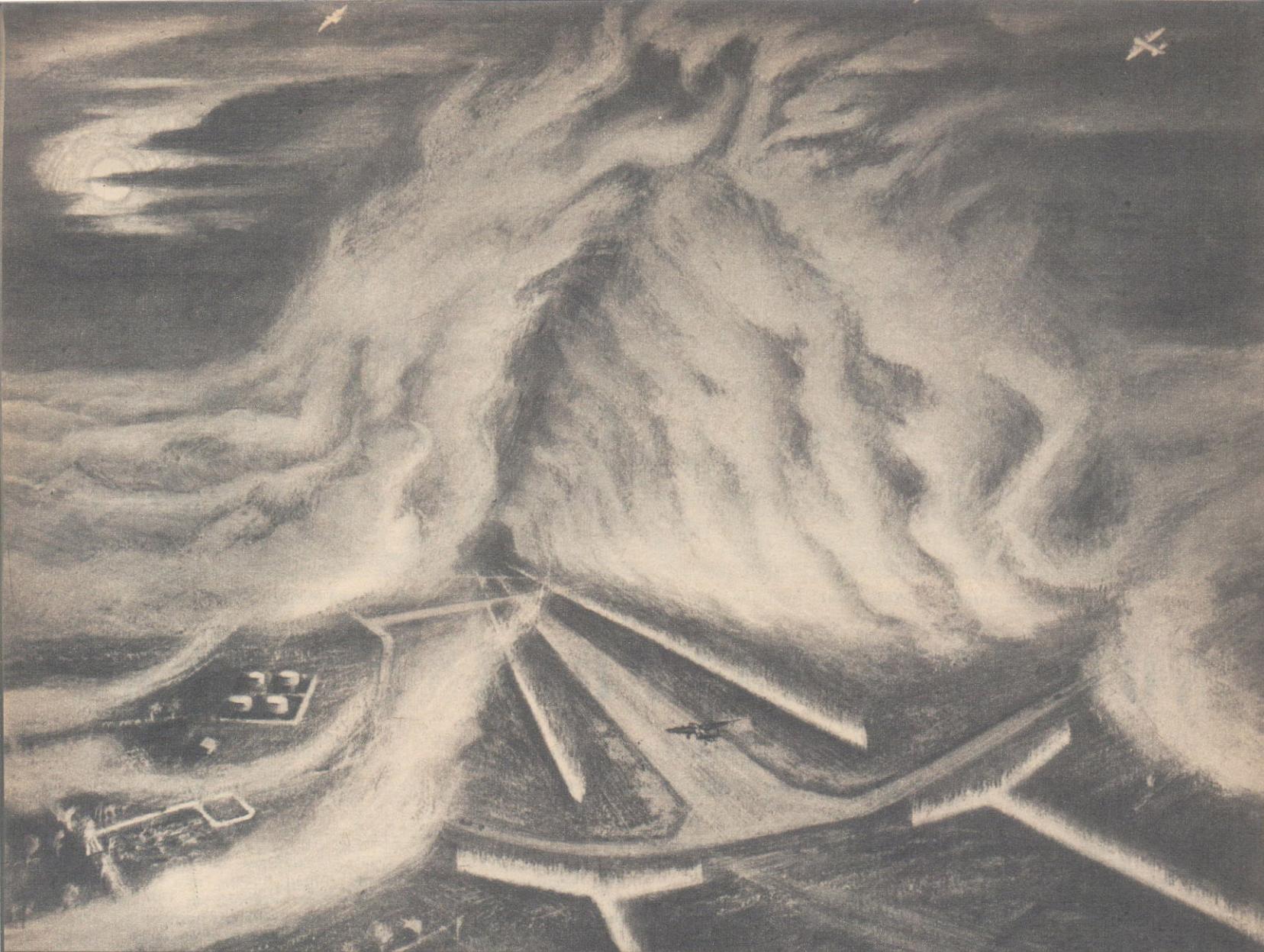
Certain unofficial traditions were shared with Sandhurst and Woolwich, notably that of practical joking, or as the Americans call it, "hazing." Late last century a Congressional committee of investigation was told that there were 100 ways in which senior cadets at West Point "hazed" their juniors. In 1901 an act was passed to stop it, but boys continued to be boys.

Two famous students at West Point did not stay the course. One was James McNeill Whistler, the artist, who was floored by the science curriculum. "If silicon had been a gas," he quipped, "I should have been a major-general." The other was the writer Edgar Allan Poe, discharged for gross disobedience. It is hard to say which of these unbalanced characters would have made the worse officer.

On the staff of West Point in 1889 was General Lew Wallace, known to millions of film-goers as the author of "Ben Hur."

The class of 1915 receive diplomas: among them were graduates called Eisenhower, Bradley, Van Fleet and Stratemeyer.





PHANTASY OF WAR

Like a Dante vision: Corporal Alan Sorrell's impression of FIDO (Fog, Intensive, Dispersal Of) on a war-time airfield. The heat from the strips of flaming petrol thrusts up the fog in menacing, ruddy shapes—and leaves the runway clear. Below: Another puzzling and macabre scene: John Piper's impression of a testing ground for air-raid shelters near Woburn, Bedfordshire. From the exhibition "Science in War" at the Imperial War Museum.



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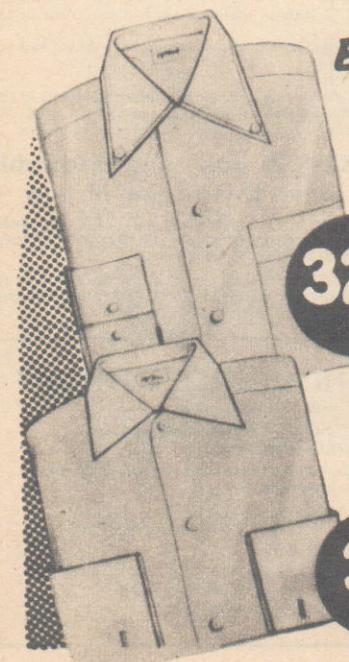
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NOTHING IN THE TEA, HE SAYS

Soldiers cherish their favourite myths and will not lightly discard them. The hoary legend about "something in the tea" has now been punctured

THE British Army sprouts myths as an old hulk sprouts barnacles. Now and again somebody tries to chip a few off, and earns nobody's gratitude. Soldiers like to cherish their favourite fallacies. As the philosopher Bacon said: "A mixture of a lie doth ever add pleasure."

The publication of a book "debunking" Lawrence of Arabia is still producing ripples of anger. Lawrence attracted (some say encouraged) myths; this was known to many even before Richard Aldington took out his scalping knife. (It was desirable, perhaps, to trim away some of the false notions, but it is going over-far to pretend that Lawrence was all myth.)

The Army has hoarser myths than any which attached themselves to Lawrence of Arabia. How many imaginary sayings and writings, for example, have been fathered on to the long-suffering Duke of Wellington?

Many battles have yielded their hard-wearing myths. As, for instance, that the Earl of Cardigan never rode in the Charge of the Light Brigade. Or that angels appeared in the sky over Mons (this had its origin in a short story by Arthur Machen).

Regular readers of *SOLDIER* will be quick to recall another Army myth—that there exists the rank of King's Corporal, the holders of which were (or still are) promoted on the battlefield for distinguished behaviour. The King's Corporal is one of the most frequent bogeys in *SOLDIER'S* postbag. Only the other day someone

wrote to a Sunday newspaper trying to clear up another persistent Army legend. He said: "The story is that such-and-such barracks, hospital, or other large permanent installation was really designed for the tropics (India and the West Indies seem to be



Army tea is no love potion . . . but does it have the opposite effect? Dark suspicions have been expressed in both world wars.

the favourite choices); but there was a War Office muddle and the plans got mixed." This correspondent says he has heard the story about numerous sites (and so has *SOLDIER*). Always the story is told "with a knowing air, as though the teller had just got it from his brother-in-law, the Clerk of Works."

Now an accomplished debunker, Dr. Bergen Evans, an American, has found room for a few Army myths in his diverting book "The Spoor of Spooks" (Michael Joseph, 15s). One of them is the popular belief that the Army puts "something in the tea" which makes those who drink it less interested in the game of love than they might otherwise be. This notion was certainly widely current in training camps in World War Two, and very likely is to this day.

Nobody was quite sure what it was that was slipped secretly into the tea, but all armies entertained dark suspicions. Says Dr. Evans:

"The Americans believed that it was saltpetre (potassium nitrate). The English believed it was copper sulphate. The Germans thought their coffee was drugged. The French claimed their wine had been tampered with. Many of the women's auxiliary corps believed that bromides were put in their tea."

And Dr. Evans goes on to quote from a book *Myths of War*, by Princess Marie Bonaparte (who ought to be a military expert), to the effect that feeling ran so high in the French Army as to endanger morale and Military Intelligence was compelled to make an investigation. Soldiers about to go on leave to visit their wives demanded that they should be given uncontaminated food and drink.

However, says Dr. Evans, who has possibly called in at a few cookhouses: "There is no evidence that any such substances were administered by any command or that they would have had the effect claimed for them if they had been." Physical exhaustion and fear, he considers, would account for any lack of inclination towards love-making, without any chemical support.

If Dr. Evans thinks this will lay the myth of "something in the tea" he is sadly mistaken. It will probably recur so long as there are armies. One school of barrack-room opinion will always maintain that whatever they put in the tea, it is not sugar.

If you want to believe that Napoleon's Grand Army was destroyed by the "invincible" Russian winter do not read Dr. Bergen Evans. Soldiers did not stiffen in the act of taking a step, he says, nor were their voices frozen into silence. The winter of 1812 was unusually mild. "It could not have been too far below freezing much of the time because part of the horror of the crossing of the Beresina on November 26 was that that shallow, sluggish stream was not frozen. After Napoleon left his men at Smorgoni on 5 December, the temperature fell into the twenties, cold enough, certainly, to kill the miserable thousands of sick and wounded who fell helplessly by the way, but certainly not cold enough to have demoralised any disciplined and properly provided-for body of troops."

What did ravage the Grand Army, then? Sickness, says Dr. Evans. That, and the fear of the legendary Russian winter, and all those tales of birds being frozen on the wing.

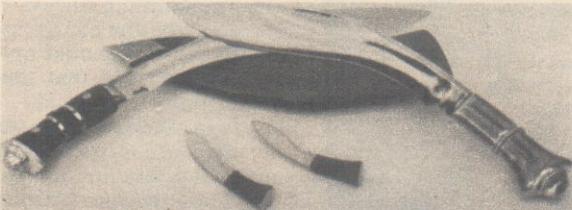
Dr. Evans goes on to spoil the gruesome story of the Black Hole of Calcutta. All military prisons were known as Black Holes, apparently, so the implications of the name were misleading. There wasn't much standing room, but there was fifty per cent more than in a crowded New York subway (which is not much, but enough, the author says, to allow the dead to fall to the floor). There was water to drink, and nobody need have been reduced to wringing out his clothes and drinking the sweat. The principal evidence about the horrors at Calcutta comes from a forger and liar. There is no doubt that the occupants of the Black Hole had a thoroughly bad night of it; but the moral seems to be that, in an age of atrocities, they had nothing much to moan about.

Dr. Evans is very caustic on the subject of water-divining—a subject in which (as told in recent

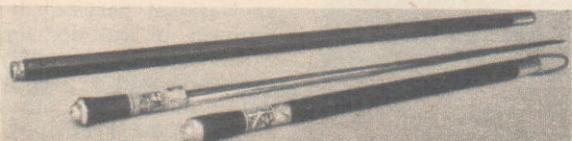
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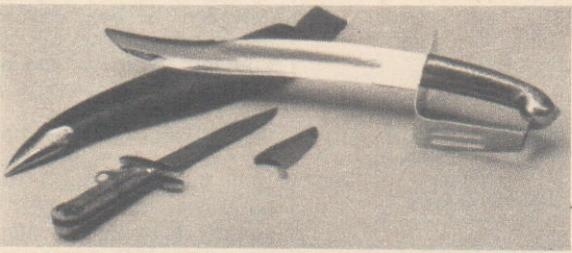
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What They Thought of the Army



Often knocking at SOLDIER's door:
the spectre of the King's Corporal.

NOTHING IN THE TEA (continued)

articles in SOLDIER) Army officers have frequently, if inexplicably, distinguished themselves, to the taxpayer's advantage. Dr. Evans wants to know more about the occasions when dowsers promised water and none was found.

It is a very entertaining and provocative book. Dr. Evans might like to investigate, some day, the indestructible myth of the Earl of Dundonald's secret weapon, reputed so horrible that it had to be pigeon-holed away for ever. The secret (that of gas warfare) was, in fact, revealed early this century, but the news has not yet penetrated into darkest Fleet Street.

SERVICE life encourages you to be lazy and it is a big struggle to get out of the habit when you return to Civvy Street." "I am grateful for the broad and varied experience of men and things."

"The considered hatred I still retain for the Army . . . will stay with me until I or others have changed it, or at least until it is openly shown to me that it cannot carry out its important duties in a manner which does not confront humanity."

"It saved me from becoming a nasty little aesthete."

"Now, I hope, I can learn to love human beings again."

"At times I loathed the Army, especially its obstinate stupidity. But I enjoyed its wonderful comradeship. . . . Any man who will not give up two years of his life for his country should be thrown out of it."

These are among the views of 16 former National Servicemen who were invited to contribute their impressions of Service life to a book entitled "Called Up" (Allan Wingate, 10s. 6d.). It is a very readable book, often extremely funny, sometimes exasperating, sometimes saddening.

The editors, Peter Chambers and Amy Landreth, do not claim that all their contributors are typical young men. "That would be too dull," they say. "But taken together, we think their stories give a true composite picture of

what National Service means to Britain's peacetime soldiers."

Who, then, are the authors? One (the least friendly to the Army) is Tom Stacey, who went to Eton and was commissioned in the Scots Guards. Another is Royston Salmon, who was illiterate when he entered the Army, and had to ask his fellow train-travellers the names of the stations. Others include a Fleet Street columnist (who before call-up wore long hair and green corduroys), an actor, an art teacher, an assistant cinema manager, an engineer, a motor mechanic, a student or two and a judo champion.

Obviously, there are several in the list who are more sensitive and articulate than the general run of National Servicemen. Sensitive and articulate young men are liable to find the Army harder to take, and are more likely to poke fun at it. This is a risk which had to be faced if the book was to be lively and readable.

The notable thing is that most of the contributors, whose ser-

vice took them all over the world, enjoyed their National Service. Many things irked them, from the excesses of "bull" to the stand-offishness of British civilians in the Far East, from the practical joking with soda water siphons to the dreary profanity ("Although I could be understood, providing my speech was simple, I was not believed unless I swore forcibly," writes Gabriel Woolf).

What did they like? Chiefly, the comradeship, the travel, the new backgrounds. (But what did Japan mean to Walter Fink? "I saw my first three-D film in Kure: *The House of Wax*.) Says Gerry Lynch, the tough little Irish boxer and judo champion: "The comradeship is a valuable experience. Overseas, at any rate, your hut mates or tent mates will give you their last farthing if necessary . . . and the harder and tougher the conditions, the stronger does the spirit of charity become." Gerry Lynch is a Roman Catholic, and constantly his mates tried to argue him out of it. "As soon as I started to answer one question about my religion, the rest were on to me like a ton of bricks." His summing-up: "If you are a religious man and profess certain principles of conduct, then you are expected to live up to them. Otherwise your mates will call you a hypocrite in no uncertain terms . . . they may not agree with your religion, but they will respect you for sticking to it."

The book is curiously chequered by references to soldiers committing suicide. In their introduction the editors are careful to say: "It should not therefore be deduced that there is a high rate of suicide among National Servicemen . . . we doubt if there are proportionately as many suicides in the Army as there are in the University of Oxford."

The editors themselves offer some conclusions about the effect of National Service. It is the prospect of call-up, they say, which unsettles a certain type and turns him into a "Teddy boy." But, in most cases, "the Army is the end of the 'Teddy boy' phase. Few of them revert to the old life after their two years' service." Apathy, and the tendency to live only for the next day, prevent many lads in the Forces from studying; besides, "the business of being 'one of the boys' is time-consuming."

In a foreword, Field-Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck says that what struck him most about the book was "the apparent lack of contact between the officer and the man." If that is the real state of affairs, he says, then something is wrong.

Lynch's contribution is a good one, and reads more sincerely than one or two of the chapters by men with more polished backgrounds.



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Letters

FANCY SPUDS

As a war-time Commandant of the London School of Cookery I was very interested in the article on troops' messing (SOLDIER, February). I have been studying the problem, both at the Guards Depot, Caterham, and in Southern Command.

At the "Soldiers' Palace" barracks, Wilton, Salisbury, I found that in one week potatoes were on the menu 31 times, and only once were they the homely "boiled." The other styles were: parmentier (three times), savoury (one), lyonnaise (three), macaire (two), fondante (one), sauté (three), creamed (five), mashed (three), chipped (nine).

Incidentally, the meat ration 50 years ago was not one pound, but three-quarters of a pound.—Captain H. Fletcher, Waterlake, Stalbridge, Dorset.

MORE CIVILIANS

Obviously there was not room in your article "Why Doesn't the Army Use More Civilians?" (February) to list them all. But may I put in a plea for the mention of those who work with the Territorial Army?

Every man who comes out of the Army at the end of his full-time service and is posted to the Territorial Army for the next three-and-a-half years will find civilians looking after him. Most Territorial orderly rooms are staffed by civilians, who ensure the continuity of service which the so-called "permanent" staff of Regulars cannot provide. Regulars have only a couple of years tour of duty in the Territorial Army, as a rule, but we civilians go on more or less for ever (even though we don't get paid much

● **SOLDIER** welcomes letters. There is not space, however, to print every letter of interest received; all correspondents must, therefore, give their full names and addresses to ensure a reply. Answers cannot be sent to collective addresses.

Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published.

● Please do not ask for information which you can get in your orderly room or from your own officer.

● **SOLDIER** cannot admit correspondence on matters involving discipline or promotion in a unit.

for doing so!). However, we are quite friendly people.—John Gillard Watson, 4th Bn. The Oxf. and Bucks Light Infantry (TA), Oxford.

CONTEMPTIBLES

I read the letter "Contemptibles" (SOLDIER, January). I remember Boy J. D. Hill very well; we were in the same room at that time. He got his first-class certificate of education and was the envy of us all because he was excused school in the afternoons. I was a Boy (No. 69616) from 2 May, 1912, to the outbreak of World War One, when I went overseas with a Royal Field Artillery unit. We had a Boy Hill, Bombardier Hill and a Trumpet-Major Hill at the same time. Is ex-Boy Hill still alive? He would be a month or so older than me. I served through World War Two, twice commanded an anti-aircraft brigade and retired as a lieutenant-colonel.—J. W. Naylor, Old Hall, Brackley, Northants.

★ Boy Trumpeter J. D. Hill was tipped by the writer of a letter in the January

SOLDIER as one of the youngest Old Contemptibles.

NO PEACE

As a private soldier I have to live in a barrack-room with more than one old soldier. All I hear from daylight till dark is talk about the amount of gratuity and pension a private soldier receives when he has completed 22 years' service. I, and others sharing this barrack-room, would be obliged if **SOLDIER** could throw some light on this matter. We shall never get any peace until it is settled.—"Infantryman" (name and address supplied).

★ **SOLDIER** sent this reader a copy of the scale of New Code pensions and terminal grants, in the hope that this will restore peace.

EX-TERRITORIAL

As a Territorial I was embodied into the Regular Army at the start of World War Two. My war service earned for me the Territorial Efficiency Medal. I re-enlisted and my previous service was allowed to count towards pension, etc. Will my six years plus, of war service, also count towards the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, or must I do a further 18 years from the date of re-enlistment?—Bombardier Colbourne, Gordon Barracks, Gillingham.

★ Service which has already been rewarded by the award of the Efficiency Medal (Territorial) is not permitted to reckon towards the qualifying period of 18 years for the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (Military).

The Territorial Efficiency Medal is awarded for 12 years' efficient service. War service was allowed to count double.

TRADE TEST FOR PRIVATE ANZAC

CONDUCT sheets for regimental pets? Yes, the 1st Battalion The East Yorkshire Regiment had one for its dog Beverley. But a trade test for a mascot? Only, so far as **SOLDIER** knows, in Australia.

The story is told in "The National Service Infantryman," regimental journal of 13 National Service Training Battalion at Ingleburn, New South Wales.

It happened when the unit decided to promote its bulldog, Private Anzac, to sergeant. Records refused to confirm the promotion without a trade test, so Private Anzac took one.

Anzac's highest marks were 99 per cent for survival: "This member's ability to find food under adverse conditions was astounding." He scored well in his leadership test: "Showed great aptitude in leading stick orderly under all conditions." In horticulture, "This soldier showed excellent discrimination in his choice of trees." Tribute was also paid to his field engineering ("ability to dig in all types of country"), bearing ("remarkable ability in . . . ignoring VIPs on parade"), and will-power ("unique record of inflicting 15 blisters on the leash-holder's hand").

SINGLE MEN

Much has been written about the difficulties of Regular recruiting, yet few people in authority appreciate that the largest single deterrent is the poor standard of single accommodation. The Army requires a man of better education for the complex weapons and trades of to-day, yet how can they expect this type of man willingly to live with eleven others in a room which has bare boards, is uncircuited and poorly furnished?

The soldier of to-day does not want, nor can he afford, to pass all his leisure hours in the canteen. This grievance is aggravated the more when he sees the married soldier with more and better furniture than there is for a dozen single men. Even the accommodation of a single warrant officer is generally worse than it was pre-war.

At the moment a disproportionate amount of the funds available is spent on married quarters. Until the Army makes a determined effort to bring existing single accommodation at least to barrack synopsis standard (and this is by no means luxurious) there will continue to be virtually no Regular recruitment from the better type of National Servicemen.

The British Army is well fed and well-paid but, with the exception of a minority of married men, generally poorly housed.—"Warrant Officer" (name and address supplied).

★ The Memorandum to this year's Army Estimates, while admitting that little has been done over many years to rebuild and modernize barrack accommodation for single men, nevertheless records progress at various Army centres, including Bicester, Deesbrook, Warminster and Windsor. This year building will start at Sandhurst, Pirbright, Colchester and elsewhere.

6700 MILES TO JOIN UP



The girl from Rhodesia: Corporal Felicia Randolph, Women's Royal Army Corps.

FELICIA RANDOLPH was a civil servant in the Northern Rhodesia Government offices in Lusaka. She read in her local paper, the *Central African Post*, that she could join the Women's Royal Army Corps, and that the Army would pay her fare to Nairobi, 2,000 miles away in Kenya.

She wrote for particulars. Within a few days she was flying to be interviewed in Nairobi, where she more than satisfied recruiting requirements. Then she returned to give a month's notice to her employers. She was attested by the Commanding Officer of the Lusaka unit of the Northern Rhodesia Regiment. Her case was unique—the Commanding Officer had to send to Nairobi for WRAC attestation papers.

Call-up came in the form of a telegram. She was to report to Nairobi and from there to fly to England. Leaving Nairobi on a Sunday morning in January 1953 she was on the square at the WRAC Training Centre, Guildford, by the following Wednesday.

That year she represented her Service at the Royal Tournament at Earl's Court and was promoted to corporal. She is now a typing instructor at the Drivers'

and Clerks' Training Centre, Hounslow Camp, Yeovil.

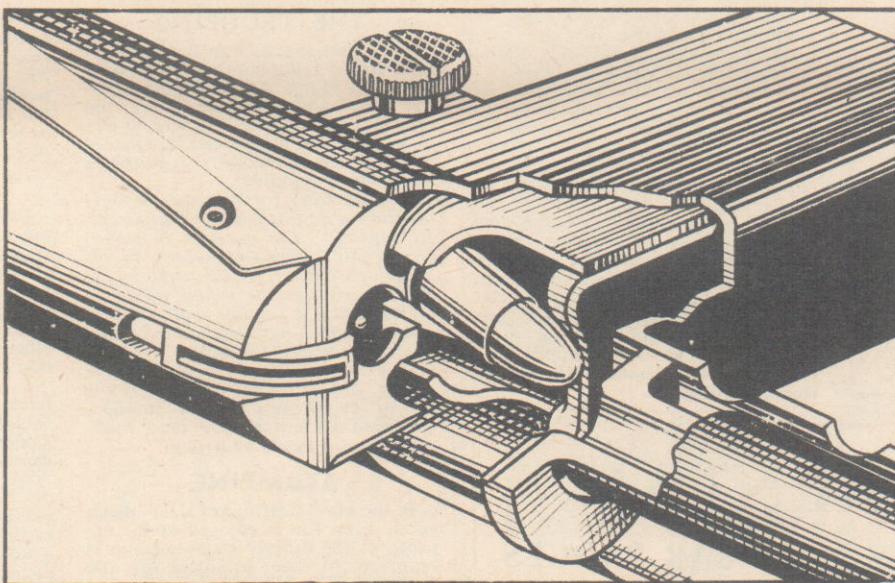
Fortunately the education officer at the Training Centre is equal to the task of providing for the rather unusual educational needs of the girl from Rhodesia. She requested lessons in Chinyanja and Swahili, native languages of the Federated States of Central Africa.

With this knowledge of her local native languages, plus the experience she has gained of Army clerical work, she hopes to be even better fitted for service in her local government when she returns to Rhodesia. Meanwhile, "There isn't another job I'd rather be doing."

The Randolphs, new settlers outside Lusaka, came from Andover in Hampshire, and Felicia was educated at Notre Dame Convent, Teignmouth, Devon.—Report by Lieutenant P. Sidone, Army Public Relations.

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DIVINERS

A recent article (SOLDIER, January) dealing with the art of divining must have evoked a lot of interest and removed the subject, in people's minds, from the realm of witchcraft.

It will no doubt surprise many to know that the Army have for some time recognised not only water diviners, but geological diviners.

In West Africa some time before the last war, during a refortification project, it became vital to know whether there were sufficient quantities of rock beneath the top layer to enable concreting to proceed apace with the excavations. The reply from the geological diviner was that adequate rock would be found. The rock which we finally exposed—mostly by blasting—was in boulder form and in sufficient supply to keep stone-crushers continuously employed. Had the report been unsatisfactory suitable stone would have had to be shipped in.—W.O. 1 L. H. Clements RE, Carmel Road, Darlington.



"Private Sweetman, your suggestion on nuclear strategy has now reached War Office. Watch Company detail for posting."

more Letters

THE TROOPING

The finest spectacle in the world—I refer to the Trooping the Colour ceremony on Horse Guards Parade—has too small, and I venture to say, too exclusive an audience. Is there no way in which more people can be enabled to watch this ceremony?—J. B. (name and address supplied).

★The Secretary for War was recently questioned on this point in Parliament. He replied: "The question is hedged about with difficulties, mostly in the shape of windows. If we increased the number of seats the stands would be higher, and it is possible that people in windows which have traditionally been used for watching the parade would be unable to see. We are going into the matter, but to curtail in any way the size of the parade ground or to block out windows which have been traditionally used would be wrong."

STAMPING

In the film "Carrington V.C." much good, clean fun is enjoyed at the expense of the orderly sergeant, who is reprimanded by the president of the court-martial for stamping when coming to a halt, saluting, turning and so on. The biggest laugh I have heard in any film comes when the sergeant, after this rebuke, is about to stamp his foot to the floor, remembers in the nick of time, and lowers his heel without a sound. The laughter is such that it drowns out the president's comment, which is to the effect that stamping is "a pernicious habit introduced by Her Majesty's Foot Guards."

I think the Army ought to take the hint. The spectacle of a man halting with a crash, bang, crash—especially indoors—is in my opinion unmilitary and causes more amusement than admiration.

Incidentally, I was baffled by a sequence at the end of this film, when Gunners on parade rattled their knives and forks in their mugs as a token of sympathy with their officer, newly dismissed the service. This is more the kind of thing one expects from a mob in Dartmoor—and it would hardly be a demonstration of sympathy for anyone.—"Heel Tap" (name and address supplied).

FROM THE DESERT

I have recently read in the newspapers of "conditions of service" in Germany. It would appear that there is an acute shortage of milk, that soldiers have insufficient dances, and that when dances have been held they "haven't the 'know how'." The situation, it seems, is further aggravated by Germany not being an overseas station. It is to be hoped that the solution to this problem will not be a "milkless day" for the whole of the British Army and that volunteers will not be required to give correspondence courses in dancing or the finer arts.

I have also read that the "glamorous teachers" employed in schools in Germany are not appreciated. I feel that were these teachers sent to Tel-el-Kebir our already efficient educational staff would have an added attraction and, no doubt, more soldiers would realise the need for educational certificates.—"M P Dream" (name and address supplied).

OCCUPATION

Can SOLDIER answer these questions: (1) Who pays for the buildings used by the British Army of the Rhine as storehouses and barracks, and for factories used as workshops, etc.?; (2) Who pays for the German civilian labour employed in these places?; (3) What difference will there be if and when the Germans are allowed their own Army?—H. Baines, Bielefeld, Germany.

★Under the occupation regime, the Federal German Government meets the local expenditure of the forces of the Occupying Powers, including the costs of construction and maintenance

of buildings occupied by them and of civilian labour. When the occupation ends the Federal German Government will continue to provide financial support to the Allied forces in Germany, but this will be gradually scaled down as the build-up of German forces takes place.

MESS PROFITS

For many months I have tried to find the source of the common belief that sergeants' messes are restricted to a 10 per cent. overall profit on bar sales. In one mess, of which I was a member, the president assured the members that, together with the commanding officer, he had investigated the question and that no such restriction exists.

I am of the opinion that the fallacy is linked-up with the remarks contained in the "Notes for the guidance of officers auditing regimental accounts," which says that a "reasonable profit" would be about 10 per cent. In debating the point in my present mess it was agreed by those taking part that SOLDIER's reply would be accepted as a ruling to settle the argument once and for all. Would SOLDIER state whether there is any regulation that restricts sergeants' mess bar profits to 10 per cent.?

My sincere regards to all concerned in the production of a grand little magazine.—Staff Sergeant J. T. Middleton, 4 (GS) RSG, RAOC, BAOR.

★There is no regulation fixing the percentage. Queen's Regulations state that "cash will be kept as low as possible consistent with solvency" and "the wines account should invariably show a profit." Furthermore, "if a loss is made there should be an immediate investigation." Later this passage occurs: "In the case of a sergeants' mess where definite selling prices of beer are fixed, the percentage of profit to sales should be compared quarter by quarter. Normally, there should be very little difference in this percentage."

It is a common practice in messes to aim at a 10 per cent. profit on bar sales of liquor. Other items are usually purchased from NAAFI, for which the rebate constitutes a source of profit.

The charge to be made in sergeants' messes for the sale of liquor is decided by the members themselves at the monthly mess meeting, the minutes of which must be approved by the commanding officer. If it was desired to increase the profits of the mess by putting up the price of liquor this would no doubt be represented at a mess meeting, for the agreement of the members and, ultimately, for the commanding officer's approval.



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NO CANCELLATION

In 1947 I signed on for three years and received £25. When I had completed this engagement I was paid a further £75. Because I drew the bounty I lost three years towards pension. If I repaid the £100 would I regain those lost years? At present I am serving on an engagement of three years with the Colours and four years on the Reserve. Could I cancel it and sign on for 22 years?—Sgt. F. Hurley, 48 Zouch Avenue Married Quarters, Tidworth.

★Although this NCO cannot cancel his "three and four" engagement he may apply at any time to change to a 22-year engagement. Should he wish to count his short-service engagement for pension purposes he can refund the £75 gratuity already awarded; the amount would be offset against the terminal grant payable on completion of 22 years' reckonable service. He would retain the initial bounty of £25.

THAT KILT

SOLDIER did not mention ("The Army and The Kilt," February) that the kilt was worn by the 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders for the whole period of their service with the British Expeditionary Force from 23 September, 1939, until the surviving members of the Battalion were evacuated from Dunkirk on 31 May, 1940. The only members of the Battalion not wearing the kilt were those with the Motor Transport. However, many of the drivers still wore their Cameron tartan trews.

I think the Cameron Highlanders can claim to be the last Highland regiment to fight a campaign as a battalion in the kilt. I was a platoon commander with this battalion and I have no complaints, from the utilitarian point of view, to the wearing of the kilt in action. Any objections I might have had were strongly counterbalanced by the overwhelming advantage in morale gained by fighting dressed in a garb which had become famous in many previous campaigns and in which my regiment gained all its previous laurels.—Major D. F. Callander, MC, The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, Inverness.

I know of two Highland officers, a Cameron and a Gordon, who in 1944 parachuted into France wearing the kilt on an operational jump. They wore the kilt continuously on active service until the end of hostilities; they took no battle-dress trousers with them. I believe Brigadier Fitzroy Maclean parachuted into Jugo-Slavia wearing the Argyll and Sutherland tartan, but I think Colonel Bernard Fergusson had his Black Watch kilt parachuted to him in Burma some time after he first jumped.

Perhaps other readers know of occasions when Highlanders parachuted into action wearing the kilt.—G. M. Hallowes, Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London, W.1.

GREY BERETS

Can SOLDIER confirm the following story? A British Cavalry regiment was mechanised in North Africa just before World War Two. They were to have been issued with Royal Armoured Corps berets but departed into the desert before this could be done. Repeated efforts to make them obtain supplies of these berets failed. War broke out and while on a desert patrol the regiment found a deserted French fort in which were some French Army blankets, bluish-grey in colour. They appropriated the blankets and had a supply of berets made from them. Later in the war, after being inspected by King George VI, they were asked whether the Sovereign could grant them any particular wish. The Commanding Officer requested that their blue-grey berets should be made the official headdress of the regiment. This was done.

Is this story true and, if so, what was the regiment? Does it still wear the blue-grey beret?—John Sainsbury, Eton College.

★According to an account in SOLDIER in June, 1946, when the 1st Royal Dragoons were in the Cairo area undergoing mechanised training

in World War Two the Commanding Officer thought they should have their own distinctive beret. Grey was finally chosen because it was a neutral colour—black, red and other colours being already in use—and it was also thought that grey would tone with the surroundings. An order was placed with a tailor in a Cairo bazaar and he provided the material. The berets were paid for from regimental funds and were worn right through the desert campaigns until the regiment returned to England in January 1944. All ranks wore the grey beret; it was extremely popular with both officers and men. The Commanding Officer stated that they had received permission to wear the grey beret, although he was careful to add "it was probably verbal authority." Indeed, it could only have been so, as the grey beret as a form of headdress for the 1st Royal Dragoons was never authorised by War Office.

The "captured blankets" story is an old one, but blankets are unlikely to have been used because of the unsuitability of the cloth.

LETTERS CONTINUED OVERLEAF

FILMS



coming your way

The following films will shortly be shown in Army Kinema Corporation cinemas overseas:

THE COLDITZ STORY: Colditz Castle, where the Germans made the mistake of gathering together hardened escapers among officer-prisoners, lies in the Russian Zone of Germany, so parts of it had to be rebuilt in Britain for this film (SOLDIER, September 1954). Captain P. R. Reid, who wrote the book and was "escape officer" at Colditz, is played by John Mills. Other names have been changed and composite characters created for a cast which is headed by Eric Portman. All the incidents are factual.

SIMBA: Mau Mau in colour. Dirk Bogarde arrives in Kenya to take up farming and pursue Virginia McKenna. Operating around his area is a Mau Mau "general" who calls himself Simba—the lion. Is it a native doctor (Earl Cameron)? Bogarde and Police Inspector Donald Sinden find out.

THREE-RING CIRCUS: Martin and Lewis play proper clowns this time. Joanne Dru is the circus owner. Zsa Zsa Gabor is the star of the trapeze; she hurt an arm the day before a love scene, "which is bad because I am a two-armed lover." Elsa Lanchester plays the bearded lady. In colour and VistaVision.

SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS: Seven huskies from the mountains of Oregon descend to the city in the 1850's and kidnap seven girls. Lots of square dancing and songs. Shot-gun weddings. Starring Jane Powell and Howard Keel. In what the producers describe as "blush-ing colour."

ROGUE COP: Robert Taylor as a detective-sergeant who takes bribes. Janet Leigh and George Raft are also involved. Murders and a gun-battle.



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REGULAR'S PROBLEM

In March 1954 I joined the Regular Army on a 22-years' (three years at a time) engagement. I was 17½ years of age. I have since decided that I would like to change to National Service and fulfil the necessary obligations. Would my two years' National Service count from the date of enlistment or when I became 18? If the latter, it would not be worth my while to obtain discharge by purchase.

One reason for wanting to change to National Service is that the allowance I make home is not sufficient for my family's needs. An earlier discharge would enable me, in a "civvy" job, to provide for them better.—"Driver" (name and address supplied).

★This Regular, having less than three years service, cannot purchase his discharge. The three-year ban might be waived by War Office if there were grave compassionate reasons. Nor-

HOW NOT TO GET A JOB

THOMAS ATKINS sat in the waiting-room. The job was as good as his.

Confidence, that was all you needed. And since there's nothing like a cigarette to give you confidence, Thomas Atkins lit one.

Confidence, that was the trick. These businessmen liked a man who knew his own mind, who could sit down without having to be told to do it. So different from the Army. No saluting when you go into a room. Nobody to storm at you because of a newspaper sticking out of your pocket, or a button undone.

So Thomas Atkins marched in with his cigarette, the *Daily Blank* sticking out of his pocket, his jacket unbuttoned, and at once sat down confident in front of his prospective employer.

Two minutes later he learned that there was nothing for him.

Queer, that... Perhaps he had forgotten something? Maybe, since he was smoking a cigarette, he ought to have offered his future employer one. Yes, probably that was it. Oh well, he would have to remember that next time.

Do any soldiers act like that at interviews for jobs?

Well, judging from advice to job-seekers issued by the Regular Forces Employment Association, some of them do.

The Association offers many hints. Obvious ones, like "Be tidy." Less obvious ones, like "Be alert and cheerful" (but not aggressively so). Don't say "I don't mind," when you really mean "Yes" or "No." Vagueness is a major vice.

Obviously, some confidence is necessary. Don't underestimate your abilities, or your capacity to learn. That is as bad as over-estimating them.

Don't use slang, or purely Service terms. The prospective boss may not understand them, and they tend to put his

mannly discharge by purchase is the only way a young serving Regular can break his engagement, but the purchase price can be waived wholly or in part for compassionate reasons. Discharge by purchase is a privilege, not a right; it costs a man from £50 to £75 (full rate).

TO THE RAF

Some time ago I heard that it is possible for a serving soldier to transfer to the Royal Air Force in certain trades and grades, retaining his Army rank. Is this so? Would it be possible for an NCO of my branch of the service to transfer to the Royal Air Force

Provost Corps, without loss of service and pension?—"Military Police Sergeant" (name and address supplied).

★A Regular will not normally be permitted to transfer to another Service. An application will be considered, however, provided that the applicant has strong family associations or possesses a trade or other qualification which cannot be used in the Army. If the transfer is approved it will normally be effected by the soldier undertaking an engagement or being re-enlisted in the other Service and being discharged from the Army on so doing. See ACI 229/54.

ALL AT 20

Please settle an argument: did anyone ever win the Victoria Cross, the Distinguished Service Order and the Military Cross by the age of 20?—"Yorick" (name and address supplied).

★Captain Albert Ball, who joined the Royal Flying Corps from the Sherwood Foresters in World War One, had won the Distinguished Service Order with two bars, the Military Cross and various foreign decorations, including the Legion of Honour, before he was killed at the age of 20. After his death he was awarded the Victoria Cross. He took part in at least 100 combats. At that time no officer had won so many awards for gallantry at such an age. It is unlikely that this record has ever been surpassed.

MEDICAL SERVICES

The sergeant who wrote the letter "Doctor's Bill" (February) does not appear to be aware of the facilities in Germany. If the wife is "on station" and has Operation Union status she can enjoy the privileges of the United Kingdom National Health Scheme. If the husband is posted out of Germany the wife continues to enjoy the benefits of Operation Union for another six weeks. If she elects to stay behind in Germany and takes up employment she is required to contribute to the German National Health Scheme (Social Versicherung), a proportion of her wages being stopped for this purpose. If she is not employed she can voluntarily pay into the scheme and receive its benefits. Otherwise she is responsible for paying all debts privately incurred for medical and hospital services. —"Another Sergeant" (name and address supplied).

★Military families overseas are entitled to medical treatment from Army sources to a standard equivalent to that provided by the National Health Service, provided they live in Army premises or within reasonable distance. If medical treatment is arranged privately by a soldier, either for himself or his family, he must pay all charges.

CAPTAIN GODDARD

SOLDIER much regrets that in the article in the March issue on the Army's first woman director of music the name of the previous director of music of the Woman's Royal Army Corps Military Band was given as Captain F. Pollard. This should have read Captain F. Goddard, Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

SOLDIER apologises to Captain Goddard for this unfortunate slip.



He Gets His SOLDIER Do You?

One bright lad who looks forward to his SOLDIER is three-year-old Eric Walker, who lives with his parents in Malaya. But don't let your sons monopolise SOLDIER. Make sure of your own copy

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If you are a civilian, you may order SOLDIER at any bookstall in the United Kingdom.

Those unable to obtain the magazine through the above channels should fill in the order form below.

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