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BELOW are the facts of the New Deal for the soldier, as announced in the Government's recent White Paper. This charter gives a recruit twice as much pay as he received in 1939, affords him broad equality with men in the other Services and in industry and — quoting Mr. Jack Lawson, War Minister — ends the era when front-line soldiers, looking at the better-paid Army tradesmen, could ruefully call themselves the "PBI". This is the charter which reduces over 100 rates of pay to four, and thus — quoting Sir Ronald Adam, Adjutant-General — enables the soldier to know what pay he should receive. The Army's "little revolution" comes into effect on 1 July 1946. Arrangements for officers will be announced later, and will also take effect from 1 July 1946.

THE ARMY'S NEW DEAL

THE White Paper — as far as it affects the soldier — falls into three broad divisions: Pay; Marriage Allowances; and Pensions and Gratuities.

PAY

The Army is to have a common pay scale in the ranks of corporal and below for all men whether they are tradesmen or non-tradesmen. Progress in all cases will be governed by the award of "stars" for qualifications attained. Hence the soldier with military skill will be able to earn the same number of stars, and so the same rate of pay, as the tradesman with qualifications of equivalent value to the Army.

There will thus be only four separate rates of pay for privates, including recruits. For sergeants and above there will be two rates of pay, one for the highest group of tradesmen and one for all the rest.

In the ranks of corporal and above there will be increments for length of service in the rank, at the rate of 3s. 6d. a week after four years service as corporal, 3s. 6d. a week after each four years service as sergeant, staff-sergeant and Warrant Officer Class II, and 10s. 6d. a week after each four years period as Warrant Officer Class I. Good Conduct Pay will be replaced by increments of pay for all other ranks after five and 10 years man's service (3s. 6d. a week in each case); these increments, once earned, will be retained throughout service, irrespective of rank.

The White Paper states that while all the various categories of Servicemen cannot be fitted into one uniform pay system, the three separate systems which have been devised give a broad equality to men of similar skill and qualifications, no matter which service they join. A similar broad equality is established between the man in the Services and the roughly comparable civilian worker in Government factories. In assessing this, it has been necessary to take various special factors into account.

Thus, the present system continues whereby the soldier is remunerated on the basis of pay plus provision in kind (food, clothing, accommodation and so on), with a separate marriage allowance in addition to his pay for a married man. Account has also been taken in the comparison with civilian wages of the various expenses to which the soldier is not liable.

In view of these and other factors, it was decided to fix the pay of the Serviceman in the basic grades—the two-star private, the able seaman or stoker first-class, or the aircraftman first-class—at 42s. a week. In the case of a married man receiving marriage allowance this, it is claimed, may be taken as the equivalent of a civilian wage of £5 a week.

These new rates of pay show a considerable increase — especially for the

fighting man who is not a tradesman — over the existing rates of basic pay, including the 7s. a week war increase but excluding war service increments. They are much in advance of pre-war rates, notably for the recruit, who received 14s. a week on entry, who now receives 21s. a week and who will in future receive 28s. a week. Similarly, the trained Infantryman who before the war received 21s. a week, and who now receives 31s. 6d. a week, will receive 42s. a week.

MARRIAGE ALLOWANCE

There will no longer be a system of family allowances varying according to the number of children. It is pointed out that while this system might have been appropriate in war conditions when men with several children had to enter the Army in junior ranks, it gave the married man very much more than the bachelor for doing the same work. Now there will be a flat rate of family allowance for all men of the same rank.

This rate will be 35s. a week (exclusive of qualifying allotment) for all married men in the lower ranks: minimum qualifying allotment will be 10s. 6d. a week, so that a family will receive a minimum 45s. 6d. a week. It is the man's personal responsibility to supplement this to whatever extent may be necessary.

In the higher ranks there will be higher rates of allowance, and of qualifying allotment, as follows:

Sergeant 17s. 6d.
Staff sergeant 24s. 6d.
WO II 28s. 0d.
WO I 28s. 0d.

It is important to note that allowances will be payable, under the Family Allowances Act, in respect of children of Servicemen at the same rate as for children of civilians: namely 5s. a week for the second child, 5s. for the third, and so on.

Men aged 21 and over will be eligible for married allowance. There will be special arrangements for married men below this age.

The income tax concession by which marriage and family allowances have not been included in a soldier's taxable income will be discontinued.

Dependants' allowances and war service grants, which are special war-time



measures to offset the hardships of conscription, will not be continued under the new charter for regulars entering direct from civil life. Men drawing such benefits who have entered into regular engagements will be allowed provisionally to remain eligible, as will men serving on war-time engagements. The whole question of special grants will be reconsidered before 1 July 1947.

PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES

The existing system of granting pensions to men discharged with certain minimum periods of service will be continued. There will be a new basic scale of pension, common to all three Services, for men completing 22 years service, and a higher scale for men completing longer periods. The aim has been to provide a pension of the order of 34s. a week for the Serviceman discharged on pension in the rank of sergeant after 22 years service. The new scale will be in general more favourable than the 1919 scale, and considerably more favourable than the 1930 scale.

There will be, also, a new scheme of gratuities for men discharged or transferred to the reserve without being eligible for service pension, on completion normally of not less than 10 years service. The maximum gratuity is £200 for 15 years service.

The various special war emoluments which cannot be incorporated in a peace-time code will be dealt with as follows:

WAR GRATUITY:

Qualifying service will be reckoned, for officers and men, until the anniversary of VJ-Day; i. e. 15 August, 1946.

POST-WAR CREDITS:

These will cease to accrue from the date of the new pay code: 1 July, 1946.

WAR SERVICE INCREMENTS

These also stop after 1 July 1946, for officers and men.

JAPANESE CAMPAIGN PAY

This will be reviewed in the light of circumstances, but in any case will continue for officers and men up to 15 August, 1946.

* * *

When the new system comes into force it may happen that a man's pay on 30 June 1946 was higher than that provided for under the new code. This man will continue to draw the difference temporarily as a "war excess". These "war excesses" will be reduced by half-yearly instalments.

Similarly, where the total of marriage allowance and qualifying allotment proves smaller under the new code, the total amount issued under the old code will be continued subject to the man contributing the new allotment rate in place of the old. The excess payment will be reduced if the man becomes eligible for a higher rate of allowance under the new code, or is required to pay a higher qualifying allotment through promotion.

The new pensions scheme will come into operation at once, and will apply to all men entering into pensionable engagements after the issue of the White Paper.

The new gratuity scheme will apply to men entering into regular engagements after the issue of the White Paper, and also, if they choose, to men serving on regular engagements on the active list, though only service after 19 December 1945 will reckon in such cases when assessing the gratuity.

Finally, it is pointed out that the new rates of pay and marriage allowance will be subject to review from time to time, but changes will not be made unless there is a marked alteration in conditions. There will be no regular provision for the revision of pensions.

The table below shows the weekly rates of pay and family allowance for a soldier with a wife and one child — under the pre-war, the present and the future scales of pay.

A second child qualifies the parent for a grant of 5s. a week under the Family Allowances Act, as in the case of civilians.

Rank	Pay	PRE-WAR		PRESENT		NEW	
		Family allowance (5/- only subject to tax)	Total	Pay (excluding war service increments & post-war credits)	Family allowance (not subject to tax)	Total	Pay
Recruit on entry	14/-	22/-	36/-	21/-	44/-	65/-	28/-
2 star Private (or previous equivalent) ...	21/- (N.T.)	22/-	43/-	31/6 (N.T.)	40/6	72/-	42/-
2 years' man's service	19/3—26/3 (T)		41/3—48/3	31/6—33/3 (T)	40/6—38/9	72/-—73/-	
3 star Private (or previous equivalent) ...	26/3 (N.T.)	22/-	48/3	35/- (N.T.)	38/9	73/9	52/6
5 years' man's service	31/6—40/3 (T)		53/6—62/3	38/6—47/3 (T)	37/-	75/6—84/3	35/-
Corporal — 2 star ..	33/3 (N.T.)	22/-	55/3	42/- (N.T.)	37/-	79/-	63/-
5 years' man's service	33/3—47/3 (T)		55/3—69/3	42/-—54/3 (T)	37/-	79/-—91/3	35/-
Sergeant	43/9 (N.T.)	22/-	65/9	50/9 (N.T.)	36/6	87/3	77/-
8 years' man's service	59/6 (T)		81/6	64/9 (T)	101/3	117/-	

N.T. = non-tradesman. T = tradesman.





"S-Day" — 21 September 1940 — as it might have been: Germans swamp the South Coast defences.

OPERATION "SEELÖWE"

OPERATION "Seelöwe" — "Sea Lion" — was Hitler's master plan for the invasion of Britain in September 1940.

It was the plan to launch the full weight of two German armies against Southern England to deal the final knock-out blow to the only nation standing in the way of Hitler's mad ambition — world domination.

Three-Prong Assault

Documents discovered in Berlin shortly after its capture reveal the carefully prepared scheme to conquer Britain in one tremendous assault, and in the following pages you may read the detailed Top Secret operational orders issued by Hitler himself, Keitel, the Commander-in-Chief of the German Armed Forces, and his second-in-command, Jodl.

If Hitler had given the word to put operation "Sea Lion" into effect, 26 German divisions, highly mechanised and magnificently equipped, would have set out from French, Belgian and Dutch ports. Ten divisions would have been landed simultaneously on the shores of Southern England from Folkestone to Brighton, with a "follow-up" rate of three divisions every succeeding four days. Other shock troops would have landed between Brighton and Southampton, while a third attack, with its focal point in the Portland Bill area, would have created the necessary diversion. Had resistance been stiffer than Hitler at first anti-

cipated, airborne forces would have been thrown in north of Eastbourne and in the Dover area.

The attack was to have been made by the Sixteenth and Ninth Armies forming Army Group "A" under the command of Col-Gen. Rundstedt, and the German Sixth Army, with attached formations, forming Army Group "B" commanded by Col-Gen. von Bock. This force also included one airborne division led by General Student. The Sixth Army was commanded by General von Reichenau, the Sixteenth by General Ernst Busch, and the Ninth by General von Strauss.

The main assault would have been the responsibility of the Sixteenth Army, which was to sail from Boulogne, Calais, Dunkirk, Ostend, Antwerp and Rotterdam, and come ashore between Dover and west of Eastbourne. The "thrust" was to have been made between Folkestone and Dungeness, with the object of "fanning-out" after the initial landing and forming a bridgehead on a line running from the North Foreland in the east to Worthing. The Ninth Army, sailing from Le Havre, would have landed in the sector from Eastbourne to Worthing. Following the diversionary attack by Army Group "B" further to the west, the bridgehead would have been extended to the first objective, a line

from Tilbury south-west through Orpington, Dorking, Petersfield and Southampton.

After crippling the bulk of our forces in the close country in Kent and Sussex, the two Army Groups were to have linked up and driven north on to the line of the second objective — from Maldon (Essex) in the east, through Chelmsford, St. Albans, Aylesbury, Oxford, and west to Gloucester.

It was the German plan to cut off London and then to deal piecemeal with the Midlands, the North of England and Scotland. The strength of the Sixth Army was 10 infantry divisions with attached armoured forces, while Army Group "A" was made up of 16 infantry divisions, four armoured and two mountain divisions.

Token Defences

To meet the fury of this attack, Britain possessed 24 divisions, understrength, badly equipped, and spread very thinly throughout the country, in addition to three brigades of the 1 and 2 Canadian Divisions, two Australian brigades, and one New Zealand brigade. Our complete strength in armoured forces was only five armoured brigades. Many divisions were little more than training formations. The vast majority were well below war establishment, and none was fully equipped. The appalling shortage of arms is exem-

plified by the fact that in July 1940 there were only 40 Tommy-guns in the country. The Home Guard, on whose shoulders the brunt of the German assault would have fallen in the early stages of invasion, was three months old. Their weapons were loaded walking sticks and rusty shot guns. Yet, in spite of the huge preponderance, both in men and material, of German strength, Hitler did not give the word.

Why Hitler Halted

Before the invasion could begin two over-riding conditions had to be fulfilled — the defeat of the Royal Air Force, and the provision of a German Navy capable of bringing troops across the Channel, or, alternatively, the destruction by the U-Boat campaign of the British Navy. Even without meeting the second condition, Hitler might have attempted invasion as an act of sheer desperation born out of the realisation that a long war of attrition, enabling Britain to build up her strength, spelt eventual defeat. But his vaunted Luftwaffe, pride of once-arrogant Hermann Goering who now stands trial as a war criminal, failed to smash the RAF and gain mastery of the skies over the English Channel and the South Coast. With the RAF in control of Southern England, invasion was no more than the wild dream of a megalomaniac whose goose-stepping soldiers sang "Wir fahren gegen England" as they marked time on the coast of France and were brought to a halt by the heroism of British fighter pilots, the stoicism of the British people, and the terrors of the English Channel.

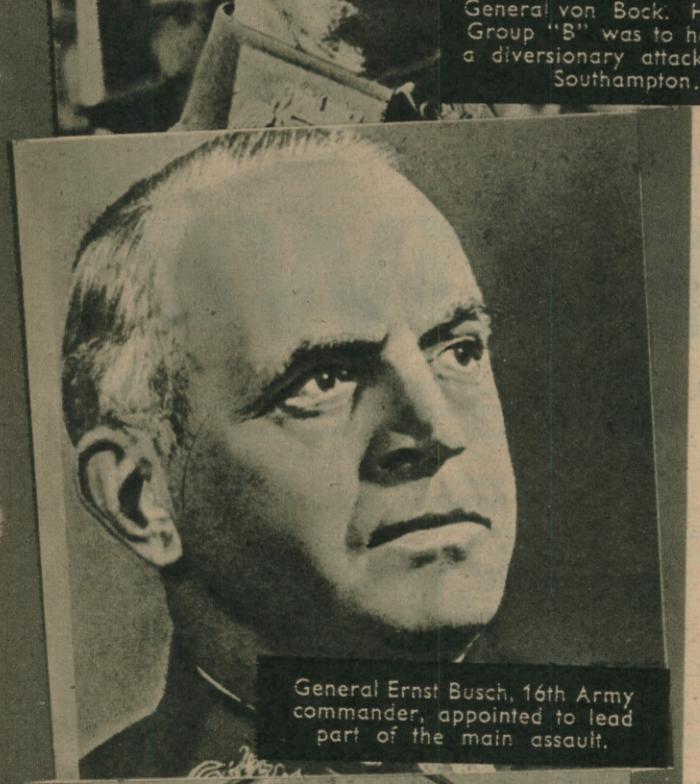
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Hermann Goering, whose Luftwaffe had the "priority one" task of destroying Fighter Command.



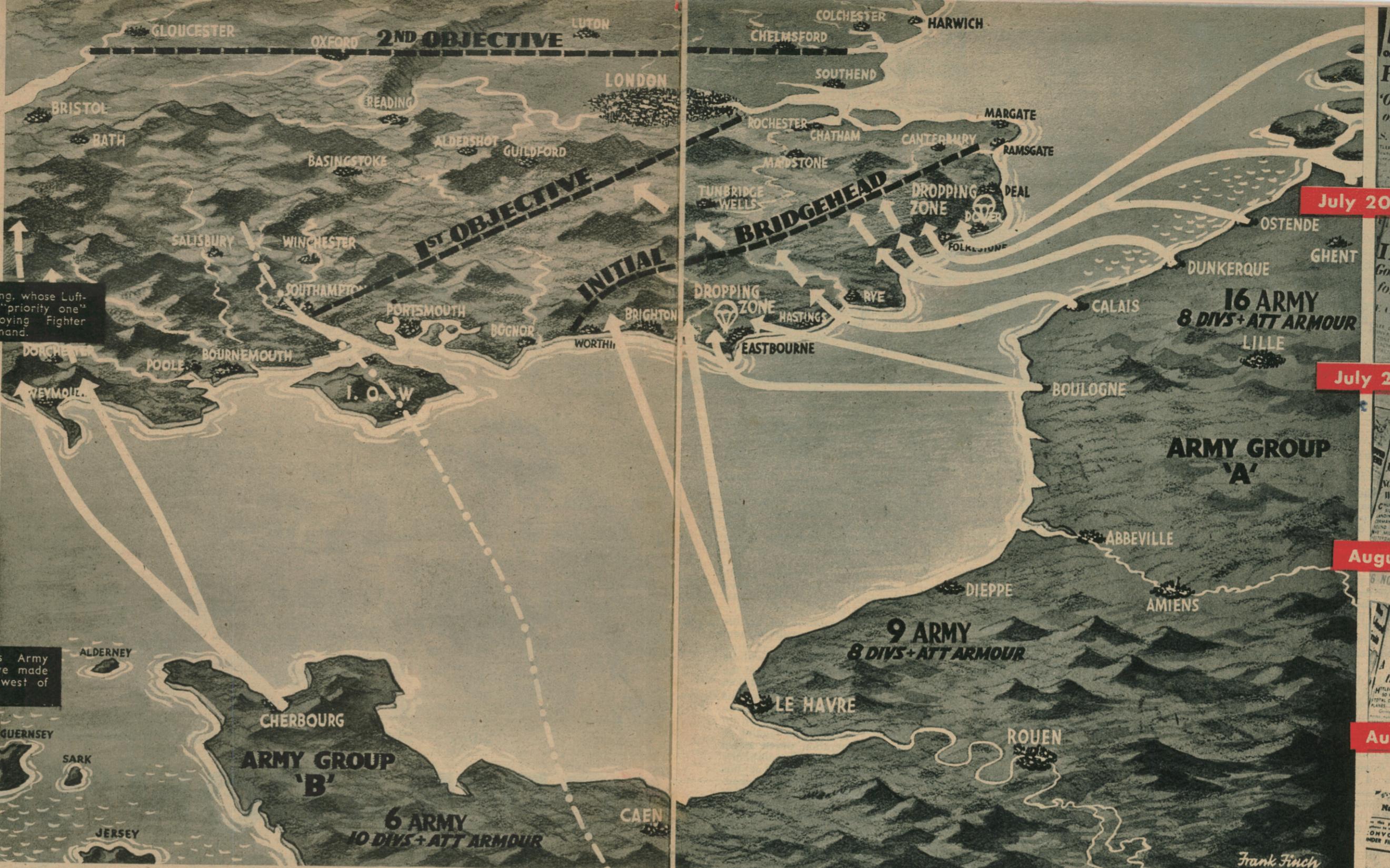
General von Bock. His Army Group "B" was to have made a diversionary attack west of Southampton.



General Ernst Busch, 16th Army commander, appointed to lead part of the main assault.



General von Strauss's 9th Army was to have shared the honours of "Der Tag" - 21 September 1940.



THIS WAS THE PLAN!

FIRST details of the German plan to invade Britain are contained in a "Top Secret" directive issued by Hitler from his own headquarters at Ziegenberg on 16 July, 1940, together with a large-scale map showing where the initial landings were to be made.

Under the heading "Preparations For The Invasion of England" the directive stated:-

"Since England, despite its hopeless military situation, still gives no sign of any readiness to come to terms, I have decided to prepare for invasion of that country and, if necessary, to carry it through."

Flush of Victory

"The aim of this operation will be to eliminate England as a base for carrying on the war against Germany, and should it be requisite, completely to occupy it.

"For this purpose I am issuing the following orders:-

"1. The landing will be carried out as a surprise crossing on a broad front from the neighbourhood of Ramsgate to the area west of the Isle of Wight; some Air Force units will play the role of artillery and some naval units will act as engineers. Exercises will be carried out on the part of all units of the armed forces to ascertain whether it would be practicable before the general operation to undertake small-scale actions, such as the occupation of the Isle of Wight or Cornwall, and the results will be reported to me. The final decision I reserve for

myself. Preparations for the entire operation must be completed by the middle of August.

"2. These preparations include the creation of those conditions which can make invasion possible:-

"(a) The English Air Force must be beaten physically and morally to a point where they cannot put up any show of attacking force worth mentioning.

"(b) Lanes will be swept through the mined waters.

"(c) The Straits of Dover must be cut off on both flanks by a thickly-laid minefield, and the western entrance of the Channel in a line from Alderney to Portland will be blocked as well.

"(d) The coastal area on the immediate front will be held under fire by strong coastal artillery to form an artillery screen.

"(e) It will be an advantage to pin down English naval forces shortly before the operation, in the North Sea and in the Mediterranean (by the Italians), and an attempt will now be made to cripple naval forces based in England by air and torpedo attacks.

"3. Organisation of Conduct and Preparations.

Cs-in-C will direct the forces concerned under my order and according to my general directive.

"From 1 August 1940 Command HQ's (Army, Navy, and Air Force) will be within a radius of 50 kms (at the outside) from my HQ (Ziegenberg). I think it would be an advantage to have the Command HQ (Army and Navy) jointly stationed in Giessen.

"C-in-C (Army) will therefore interpolate an army group for directing the invasion army.

"The operation will be called 'Seelöwe' (Sea Lion).

"In preparing and carrying out the operation, units of the armed forces will have the following tasks:-

"(a) Army

"Will draw up a plan for the operation, and will

HITLER'S INVASION ORDERS REVEALED IN HIS DIRECTIVES

tabulate a ferry plan for the transport of the groups of the first wave.

"AA guns detailed for the first wave will be under the command of the Army (the individual ferry groups) until they can take their share of the tasks of support and cover for ground troops, for disembarkation harbours and for occupied air bases.

"The Army will further distribute ferrying craft to the individual ferry groups, and in agreement with the Navy will determine places of embarkation and landing.

"(b) Navy

"Will ensure transport craft and will sail them according to the wishes of the Army, as far as they conform with the naval point of view to the individual embarkation areas. As far as possible shipping of conquered enemy states will be seized.

"For every crossing point, the Navy will create the necessary HQ with escort ships and covering forces...

"(c) The task of the Air Force will be:-

"To prevent counter-attack by enemy air forces, to neutralise coastal fortifications which could be brought into effect against the landing positions, to eliminate initial enemy resistance on the part of the ground forces, and to destroy any reserves on the march. The closest cooperation between individual Air Force groups and Army transport groups is essential for this task.

"Further tasks will be:-

"To destroy important roads used for bringing up enemy reserves and to attack approaching enemy Naval formations in areas far removed from the crossing positions.

Hitler
Führer and Supreme Commander.

Following these instructions, the Commanders-in-Chief submitted their plans, which were co-ordinated at Hitler's headquarters and issued in the form of the detailed map shown above.

Nearly a fortnight later, on 1 August, Hitler wrote Directive No 17 headed "For Prosecuting Air and Sea War Against England", by which he released the fury of the Luftwaffe on the British Isles.

The directive declared: "I have decided to carry on and intensify air and naval warfare against England in order to bring about her final defeat. For this purpose I am issuing the following orders:-

"1. The German Air Force with all available forces will destroy the English Air Force as soon as possible. The attacks will be directed against airborne aircraft, their ground and supply organisation, and then against the aircraft industry, including the manufacture of AA equipment.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6





This Was The Plan!

"2. After gaining temporary or local air superiority air attack will be continued on harbours, paying special attention to food storage depots and further on food storage depots in London. In view of our own intended operations, attacks on harbours on the South coast must be kept to a minimum..."

"5. I am reserving terror attacks as reprisals."

"6. Intensification of the air war can begin on 5 August. It is for the Air Force staff to choose the exact time, in accordance with the completion of preparations, and according to weather conditions. The Navy will at the same time announce the planned intensification of naval war measures."

Adolf Hitler

The day selected by the German Air Force for stepping-up air attacks was 8 August, when pitched battles were fought over the Channel and 60 German planes were shot down. On 10 August large raids were carried out on airfields in South-east and South-west England and in Wales, and the following day waves of German bombers, accompanied by hundreds of fighters, attacked harbour installations at Weymouth, Portland, and Portsmouth, and airfields in southern England. Sixty-five Nazi planes were shot down that day.

Realisation that air superiority was necessary before any invasion could be attempted was emphasised in a secret advice sent by Keitel, then C-in-C Armed Forces, to heads of Services. This report, dated 1 August from OKW (High Command of the Armed Forces),

Continued

says, "On the report of the C-in-C Navy (31 July) that preparations for Seelöwe cannot be completed before 15 Sep, the Führer has decided that:—

"1. Preparations for Seelöwe will be continued and will cease on 15 Sep for the Army as well as for the Air Force.

"2. After eight, or at the most fourteen days reckoned from the beginning of the great air attack on England, which can begin about 5 August, the Führer will decide according to the results of this battle whether or not operation Seelöwe can take place this year.

"3. If the decision is against carrying out Seelöwe in September, all preparations will be continued in spite of it, but, however, in a form which will avoid severe damage to the economic situation by the crippling of internal shipping traffic."

By 7 August OKW had realised that invasion of Britain was by no means the "walk-over" as Hitler in his first directive had suggested. In a directive that day Keitel put forward suggestions for deception designed to maintain the appearance of constant threat of invasion, and declared:—

"Whether or not we invade England, the constant menace of invasion must be maintained against the English people and Armed Forces. Hence the corollary that the main German operation shall appear to be preparing for landing on the English east coast as well as invading Ireland. According to German information Channel coast defences are to be made to appear to be so strong that only fake operations are

needed before the real invasion."

THE WARNING



The RAF dropped large quantities of a leaflet of "useful phrases" among German troop concentrations on the Channel coast in 1940. Specimen phrases were as follows:—

Vor der Invasion

1. Die See ist groß — kalt — stürmisch.
2. Wie oft müssen wir noch Landungsmanöver üben?
3. Ob wir wohl in England ankommen werden?
4. Ob wir heil zurückkommen werden?
5. Wann ist der nächste englische Luftangriff?
6. Warum fährt der Führer nicht mit?

Before the Invasion

1. The sea is vast, cold, stormy.
2. How many more times shall we have to practise disembarkation?
3. Do you think we shall ever reach England?
4. Shall we ever come back?
5. When will the next English raid be made?
6. Why isn't the Führer coming with us?

"Since England, despite its hopeless military situation, still gives no sign of any readiness to come to terms, I have decided to prepare for invasion of that country, and if necessary to carry it through."

Thus wrote Adolf Hitler in his first "Invasion of Britain" order, and in doing so he paid his enemies one of the greatest compliments of the war when Britain was on her knees, alone against the military might of Germany.

Left: They were all confident that Britain would fall like an over-ripe plum. Hitler with Keitel (right), Admiral Doenitz, Jodl and Mussolini. It was only with great reluctance that they recognised the heavy risks of invasion.

agreement with the Army that it is essential that:—

"(a) Landing must be simultaneous from Folkestone to Brighton Bay.

"(b) Within four days 10 divisions should be landed in this sector.

"(c) Within the succeeding four days at least three divisions, with complete equipment, should follow across the Straits even if sea conditions do not permit the use of flat-bottomed craft, while the troops landed further to the west will be reinforced by airborne troops.

"(d) Generally on the English South coast English war transport should have been destroyed, especially in Portsmouth.

"(e) Effective counter-action by the English Air Force is or can be neutralised.

"I believe that (d) and (e) will be accomplished by the Air Force and the next eight days will clarify the position.

"Should the Navy, however (and this cannot be determined exactly), not be in a position to fulfil conditions (a), (b) and (c), then I consider the landing to be an act of desperation which would have to be attempted in a desperate manner, but which we have at this stage no reason whatever to contemplate. England can be brought to her knees by other means. For this purpose, however, I maintain that a much closer military cooperation of the Axis Powers than has hitherto been the case is necessary. This aim can be accomplished by:—

"(a) Carrying on the air war until the economic destruction of South England has been brought about. All Italian forces not employed now should be transferred for this purpose.

"(b) Stepping up U-Boat warfare from the French bases by means of attaching thereto half the Italian U-Boat strength.

"(c) Taking Egypt, if necessary with Italian help.

"(d) Taking Gibraltar in agreement with the Spanish and Italians.

"(e) Avoiding operations which are not necessary for the conquering of England, but declaring worthwhile war aims which can be easily accomplished after the conquest of England (ie, Yugoslavia). We should fight for victory and not just conduct operations on military objectives. From now till early next year England's will to resist must be broken, if not by a landing then by other means. This most important task will take precedence over everything else."

C-in-C Army.

How will the transport possibilities from South Italy to Libya be estimated?

Three days passed. The air onslaught on Britain was intensified. German losses of aircraft mounted and on 15 August the "Few" of the RAF shot 180 German planes out of the sky. It was becoming apparent, even to the German High Command, that the task set Göring's Luftwaffe was not meeting with the success they so light-heartedly envisaged just a month before. Yet they were still confident that the RAF could be defeated. Their chief fear was the inability of the German Navy to carry out their job of landing the troops at the right places at the right time, and this fear was expressed by Jodl in a summary of the situation issued by him to Hitler's HQ on 15 August.

In this, Jodl declared: "The landing operations must not founder in any circumstances. Failure can have political repercussions far outweighing the military set-back. As far as it is humanly possible to eliminate failure I am in

The Italians have shown a certain readiness to take part in the attack on England since they themselves realise that they can bring into effect only a part of their forces in their own theatre of war."

"We shall defend our island whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches; we shall fight on the landing grounds. We shall fight in the fields and in the streets. We shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender."

— the Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill, in the House of Commons on 4 June, 1940.

Right: The man who doubted. Field-Marshal von Rundstedt (with medal ribbons) did not share the rosy views of his superiors and colleagues. He saw insuperable difficulties in the sea-crossing and maintenance of supplies.



In spite of the terrific air losses sustained by the Germans during the following fortnight, and the great damage wrought by RAF bombers at embarkation ports and troop concentrations on the French and Belgian coasts, Hitler still regarded invasion of Britain as not only possible but just a matter of time before all the intricate details involved in the operation were decided. On 27 August he issued through Keitel from the headquarters of the German High Command the following orders:—

The Plan Matures

"After an interview with the C-in-C (Army) the Führer has reached the following decisions:—

"1. Operation Seelöwe.

"Army operations will be adapted to fit in with the given facts in relation to the available tonnage and cover for embarkation and crossing. The Army Forces allocated for the crossing, including the Flak Groups allotted by C-in-C (Air), will therefore be regrouped in such a way that:—

"(a) Embarkation can take place in the area allocated by the Navy in Rotterdam and Antwerp.

"(b) From Le Havre, apart from motor-boats and coastal flat-bottomed craft, only 25 steamships will be employed for a single direct crossing to landing zone E, given a favourable enemy situation, while 25 further steamships, having loaded for a single crossing in Le Havre, will proceed along the French coast southwards of Boulogne and thence to landing zone B. If sea conditions permit, these 25 ships will likewise proceed along the English coast to landing zone E. The Führer desires OKH (Army High Command) to prepare a survey on these lines, which will state the allocation of forces, the time-table of movements and landing organisation according to groups, areas and times."

On 3 September Hitler was still convinced that invasion would be a comparatively easy operation, and again through Keitel he issued this instruction:—

"2. Air attacks on London.

"The following time-table for the preparation for operation 'Seelöwe' is valid at present.

"1. Earliest date for (a) departure of transport fleets will be 20 September; (b) S-Day (invasion day) will be 21 September.

"2. The order for the start of the operation will be given on S-10 days, that is probably on 11 September.

"3. The final decision on S-Day and S-time (beginning of the first landing) will follow at the latest on S-3 day at noon.

"4. All measures will be taken so that the operation can still be held in check before S-Time."

The next day, on 4 September, Hitler, addressing the German people, declared,

"The last island in Europe (Britain) will be broken."

He prophesied that air attacks on London by night would destroy the city. He pressed the button for terror attacks to begin, and from 5 September the German Air Force began indiscrimi-

"In view of the order to call off preparations for operation 'Seelöwe', directions for the deception of the enemy will be supplemented as follows:—

Norwegian Red Herring

"Aim of Deception:—From now on, England must continue to be under threat of a landing, thereby the impression must gain ground that Norway is always said to be the main focus of preparation.

"Execution: The OKW overseas Security Section, in cooperation with the OKW, will give out reports with the following trend:—

"1. The Führer has decided that from now until the Spring, preparations for landing in England will be maintained purely as a military and political threat. Should the intention of a landing in Spring or early Summer 1941 be renewed, the necessary state of preparedness will be ordered in sufficient time beforehand. Until then the military ground-work for a later landing will be further improved.

"2. All measures concerning the relaxing of the state of readiness for attack must be regulated from the following viewpoints:—

"(a) The English must retain the impression that from now on we are preparing to land on a large scale.

"(b) At the same time, however, German domestic economy will be released of a burden."

This was followed on 22 October by a directive from Keitel from Hitler's Headquarters on the method of deception, as follows:—

E. J. GROVE (Capt)

THE EPILOGUE

WHAT one of Hitler's greatest Commanders, Field-Marshal von Rundstedt, thought of his plans for invasion throws a significant light on the opinions that some of the Führer's generals held about the project. Rundstedt himself, during cross-examination after his capture, told Allied officers, "Hitler never had sufficient courage! Afterwards he told me: 'On land I am a hero, but I am frightened of water.' He definitely hoped that you would somehow make overtures to him. Afterwards it was too late; everything on your side had become much stronger."

Rundstedt, who would have been in charge of the main part of the operation if invasion had taken place, declared, "It was nonsense, because the ships were not available... We looked on the whole thing as more of a game, because

it was obvious that no invasion was possible, since our Navy was not in a position to cover a crossing of the Channel and the carrying of reinforcements.

"Nor was it possible for the German Air Force to play the part which should fall to the Navy. Perhaps we might have come over. But how things would have gone with reinforcements and supplies after this—that is another matter. There was another thing, too. These vessels had to be towed, and that could only be done at high tide... Supposing anything were to happen en route which meant that I lost one or two hours? The tide would then be ebbing, and there I should be off the coast! I was always sceptical about the matter. I must admit that serious preparations were made, but we only had a few paratroops at the time—one airborne division."

53 (WELSH) DIV. FOUGHT



Above: A critical moment in the battle for s'Hertogenbosch, vital communications centre of the German 15th Army. It was captured with a speed and smoothness which made it a "copybook" operation.

Left: In the Reichswald, gateway to Germany, which the enemy considered impregnable. It was cleared in 10 days.

Below: After breaking out from the bridgehead on 4 August 1944 the Division joined in the pursuit across the Seine, through France and Belgium to Antwerp, where a party are seen clearing up the dock area on 4 September.

Certain regiments of the Division will for ever be linked with features of the bridgehead: the Royal Welch Fusiliers with Evreux, where two successive night battles, seeming to achieve so little, achieved so much: the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire L. I. with Le Cahier, where a day's hard fighting produced some 150 prisoners: the Welsh Regt with the now legendary crossroads at Le Bon Repos: the Monmouthshire Regt with the Triangular Field and Point 112.

If the men of 53 Division had much to bear from the enemy's mortars, prisoners spoke with horror of the fire put down by the Divisional Artillery. There can be little doubt that it played an important part in breaking the enemy's morale on the Division's front.

After a month of cramped and over-crowded conditions the enemy's wall around the bridgehead finally gave way, and on 4 August he pulled out—to be pursued to the banks of the Orne. Then began the slow and methodical advance, side by side with the Canadians, towards Falaise. Eight hundred prisoners in five days was a foretaste of things to come. The highlights of the closing stages of the encircling operation included the destruction wrought by 4 Armd Bde on 17 August near Nevy; 1,000 prisoners taken by 53 Reconnaissance Regt on the 21st; and 4,500 prisoners taken the following day.

Then followed the chase of a disorganized enemy up to the Scheldt. The Seine was crossed at the end of August and after that came a drive across country. Place-names recalled memories of 1914–18. Maj-Gen. R. K. Ross, CB, DSO, MC, then commanding the Division, established his headquarters in the village of Fleurbaix in Belgium where, over a quarter-of-a-century before, he had spent the winter of 1914–15.

The climax of the pursuit was in Antwerp, where for a few brief days the Division shared, even at action

"LIKE TIGERS"

Maj-Gen. R. K. Ross, CB, DSO, MC, Commander of 53 Welsh Div during the campaign. His successor is Maj-Gen. F. R. G. Matthews, DSO.

No. 10
IN THE
DIVISIONAL
SERIES



stations, the joys of a newly-liberated city, the second capital of Belgium.

Next task of the Division was to protect the left flank of the Airborne forces dropped in Holland and to widen the corridor between the Escut and Wilhelmina canals. In unfavourable country and against determined opposition the Division advanced some 20 miles to the outskirts of Tilburg after crossing the Escut canal.

The Sappers did great work in bridging the Dutch waterways and even today there remain numerous bridges which, still in use, are testimonies to their prowess.

A brief spell upon the wet "Nijmegen Island" was a prelude to one of the Division's greatest triumphs, the capture of s'Hertogenbosch. The speedy seizure of this vital communications



centre, which compromised the position of the whole of the German 15th Army in Western Holland, was an operation of which it can truly be said that all went according to plan. Some 1,700 prisoners were taken by the Division in what was described by the Army Commander as "the brilliant capture of s'Hertogenbosch."

The Division was then switched to the Eastern flank to counter an enemy thrust across the Deurne canal. There followed six weeks of hard slogging over a sodden countryside. It started with the crossing of the Wessel canal; it ended on the Maas opposite Roermond.

In December the enemy's Ardennes offensive was launched, and an emergency soon developed on the American First Army front. Command of the situation was at once given to Field-Marshal Montgomery, and 53 Division, which had been withdrawn to Belgium, was switched south to defend Brussels. Positions were taken up along the line of the river Dyle, and men of the Highland Light Infantry, who were positioned on the field of Waterloo, recalled their Regiment's historic association with this ground.

To the Attack Again

Before long, however, the enemy's offensive had slowed down, and the Allies turned to the attack. It was the task of 53 Division to break the enemy's hold and dislodge him on their front before being themselves withdrawn. Much of the fighting was done in white snow suits, and conditions came near to those on the Russian front.

After a rest in the Liege area, disturbed by many V-1 casualties, the Division was called on in February, under command of the First Canadian Army, to carry out one of the most difficult and hazardous operations in the West—the clearing of the Reichswald forest, gateway to Germany. It was a formidable operation. The Reichswald itself lay upon high ground which sloped down to the Division's positions. Between the forest and the abandoned Dutch frontier town of Groesbeek lay flat, sodden country with a network of ditches and an elaborate defensive system which, though not built of concrete, formed part of the Siegfried Line.

The assault began on the grey, damp



Above: Another phase of the advance to s'Hertogenbosch. Dutch civilians are sheltering under a British position. Below: Moving past Bocholt station during the first part of the advance through Westphalia.



DONALD PHELPS (Capt.)
JOHN SUFFOLK (Capt.)



Two of the Danish recruits at Canterbury, Moyer Bald and L. Johansen (firer) have their first Bren lesson.



When you see
the flash —
"DANMARK"
it means

DANES IN TRAINING — WITH US

THIRTY-FIVE young men, the first of a large contingent of Danes who are enlisting in the British Army, are now being trained at 62 Primary Training Wing at Canterbury, the headquarters of The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) whose Colonel-in-Chief is King Christian of Denmark. They are the advance guard of 5,000 more Danes, who, following a recent agreement between the governments of Denmark and Great Britain, are to be allowed to join the British Army for the duration of the emergency, with the option of remaining in the Army for two years after the emergency has been officially declared at an end.

Already, more than 15,000 young Danes have applied for enlistment at the Anglo-Danish Recruiting Office at Vesterport in Copenhagen. Thousands of them will be disappointed, for the quota decided on will not permit all the volunteers to be enlisted.

Those who pass the examinations are enlisted for general service in any part of the world where they may be required. They will be subject to the same discipline as the British soldier, receive the same rates of pay and wear the same uniform, with the Danish national flag on the right shoulder and a flash bearing the word "Danmark" on their left arm. Their families in Denmark will be paid the same allowances as those of British soldiers.

At first glance there is nothing to distinguish the recruits at Canterbury from their British opposite numbers — they all speak almost perfect English — and listening to their stories of underground activities, of bravery and reckless courage unsurpassed in any country ground under the German heel, it is easy to understand why they are so anxious to help in strengthening the bond between the two countries, and to base future military training on the example of the British Army.

They come from all walks of life. Egon Madsen, for example, was a reporter on the Copenhagen evening newspaper "Ekstrabladet", and has already packed a lifetime of excitement, danger, hate and grief into his 21 years. Egon, who is one of a family of seven brothers and sisters, joined the Danish Resistance Army in 1941. At first his activities were confined to distributing copies of the free newspaper.

At 18 he was helping to blow up factories working for the Germans, disrupting railway communications, placing explosive charges in ships and taking revenge on Danish collaborators. Later he was appointed a group leader in charge of 10 other youths, working with a Danish parachutist who had been flown over from England. The parachutist was known to Egon and his friends at "Lieutenant Henry". "He was only 23 when he died," says Egon, "and he was one of the bravest men I knew." He took poison when the Gestapo laid hands on him.

Blew Up V 2 Factory

After the loss of his greatest friend Egon assumed sole command of his group. One of his achievements was the destruction, in April 1944, of a radio factory at Copenhagen which made electrical parts for V 2. Supplied with a forged identity card, he drove a motor car filled with explosives under the noses of the German guards at the factory's main entrance.

"Once inside, the rest was easy," he recounts. "With the help of friends we placed the charges in the factory and left the same way as we had come in. Next morning in the early hours there was a terrific explosion and the factory just collapsed. It took the Germans a long time to rebuild it, and they might

as well have left it alone because it was destroyed again by another group early in 1945, using almost precisely the same method!"

Egon was one of the first Danes to volunteer for the British Army. "I wanted to fight the Japs — but I was too late," he said regretfully. "Now I want to learn all I can about England and the English and see something of the world. Later I want to write a book."

Paul Yde-Poulsen, another 21-year-old journalist, joined the Resistance movement in 1943. His first job was the distribution of free newspapers and later he helped to blow up railway lines and supply trucks, and did

espionage in Danish factories working for the Germans. Paul, who was born at Broadstairs and has an English mother now living in Denmark, volunteered for the British Army because of his great admiration for Britain when she stood alone against Germany in 1940, and because, like all true Danes, he wants to travel.

Niels Kold was a Copenhagen policeman and was sent to Buchenwald. "They treated us worse than animals," he said. "The food was nearly always turnip soup and stale bits of black bread. They kept us hard at work in the stone mines from 5 in the morning until 5 in the evening. Over 700 men slept in a room which normally would have housed 100."

Thrice Round World

Another recruit has been round the world three times, worked as a "Blues" singer in San Francisco and been arrested by both the Germans and Japanese. He is Lars Olsen, aged 27, of Odense. When he was in Shanghai he was arrested and kept six weeks in prison on suspicion of espionage. On returning to Denmark he joined the Resistance movement, was arrested and sent to Bremen concentration camp.

One of the married men is Johan Kristensen, 29-year-old father of three children. As a clerk in the Danish Department of Finance throughout the war he found it difficult to play a very active part in armed resistance to the Germans. Instead he loaned his house, garage and car to Allied parachutists when they required help. He composes ballads and is an accomplished pianist.

As Cpl. Bagge Petersen, a Dane who has been in England 11 years and in the British Army since 1942, called the recruits outside for a lesson on the rifle, Richard Lindberg Jensen, 24-year-old journalist, said rather shyly: "You British, like us, don't like flattery. What I say now is not flattery. We thank you all very much because everyone has been so good and kind to us. We have been here only a short time, but already we feel as though we had known you for years."

E. J. GROVE (Capt.)

SO YOU WANT TO BE A CIVVY?

New Scientific Course In Post-War Deportment.

CAN YOU ANSWER THESE 5 QUESTIONS?

1. Is there a chin-strap on a bowler hat?
2. Do you need a work ticket on a tram?
3. Is a civvy with three pinstripes a sergeant mister?
4. Is a teapot the same as a brew can?
5. Can civvies read standing orders lying down?

If you have any doubts—get re-habilitated!

Every home-going soldier should try our re-civilisation course to equip him for civvy street. Learn to walk—not march. How to stay in bed long after reveille. How to live in a house—if you've got a house. We have successfully reconverted R.S.M.s to bank-clerks, serjeant-majors to deep sea divers, corporals to bookies, lance-jacks to jockies, troopers to golf-ball swallowers, janker-wallahs to old lags. Don't be awkward. Stand at ease this easy way.

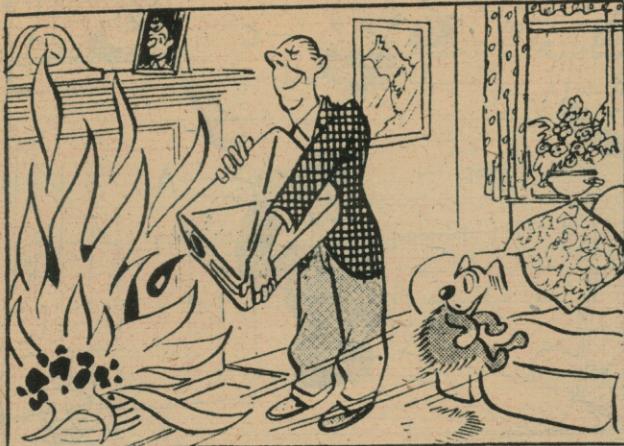
"THEY
MUST BE HALF
WAY THROUGH
THEIR COURSE,
OLD MAN"



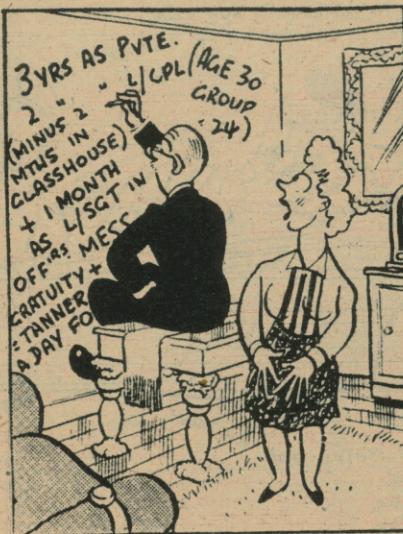
Follow the Red Light to Civery Street



Countless Testimonials from Successful students



From ex-Captain, RA: "Sir, as proof of the complete transformation you have achieved in me, I have already been accused seven times of being a conchie, three times of having deserted from the time of my call-up to VE-Day, and once of having falsified my birth certificate from 1910 to 1910 with the aid of lemon juice and Milton. Thank you, sir, too, for those handy hints from military life that fit so discreetly into the domestic scene. That jerrycan dodge is real hot stuff. The blackened ceiling is hardly noticeable, and it certainly cured old Towser of grabbing the best place on the hearth-rug."



From Nobby, ex-Trooper, Royal Armoured Corps: "Your school for civvy street has restored my self-confidence. It has eliminated all barrack-room roughness and enabled me to mingle with genuine peace-lovers with no fear of offence. Last week, when I was selling a Teller mine (one of a kitbagful I brought home with me) to the vicar at a garden party, I noticed, what you called in your course, 'the suspicion of sales resistance.' So I flogged him a dozen hand-grenades instead. Peace—it's wonderful."



From Ginger, ex-Driver, Royal Army Service Corps: "When last I had leave, about a million years before I was demobbed, I was a proper fish out of water at a party. I couldn't get over that old Army dodge of grabbing the best bit of floor to kip down on. I felt real self-conscious. Shy—that's what I was. Now, after your tuition, I bed down as bold as brass. Sometimes they're still jitterbugging at reveille, but yours truly hasn't budged an inch. And if they don't like it, they know what to do, because I tell 'em. Straight I do."

My darling
(Name of girlfriend here)

I came across this the other day in a magazine: "Psychiatrists and Rehabilitation experts are busy setting the stage for the returning soldier. They are fairly well agreed that when the fighting man comes home he will require special handling. He will be unready to look for a job, and he will be unprepared for the resumption of the mild and restraining influences of married life. This may all be true, but we suspect that the Rehabilitation people are frightening thousands of girls with these warnings and unfitting them to be the wives of returning soldiers. They are going to be something of a domestic problem themselves. A man can endure plenty of things and can adjust himself to many situations, but he can't endure being treated with studied intelligence by any other member of his household. A husband would rather be caught in the beam of a searchlight than in the awful glare of an understanding woman. Our advice to girls who have husbands in the war is to relax. Besides, there is a good chance your husband is going to be rather glad to get home, and he will act with a fair degree of normality, amiability and even enthusiasm. It's all right to mix the old warrior a drink, but our advice is to mix yourself one first—you'll probably need it as much as he does."

I think I'm a bit like that, and I thought you'd like to know.

With Love

(Name here).....

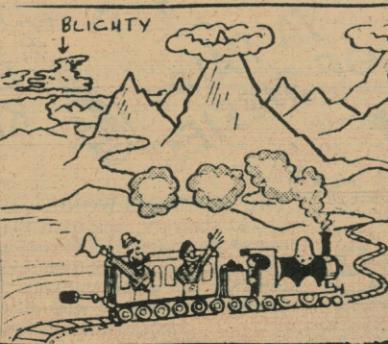
← "Eight weeks re-settlement divided by the number I first thought of plus the number of civvies in a queue six hundred yards long waiting to see what the chap in front is waiting for plus the date of birth subtracted from how many beans make five over three-pence a day divided by four creased-up coupons for as much dried egg powder as you can crowd on a button stick plus a teaspoonful of weak beer equals civvy street cripes how do I rejoin?"



↑ From an ex-Sapper, Royal Engineers: "I got charm. I got polish. Nobody never knows I been five years with the old mob. What a shower! Polite? Reeking with it. But you can't fool an old-timer in these civvy billets. Not this side of Benghazi! I been booby-trapped once, see? Open the door, you say? Pass that ten-foot pole. I was a mug once. Once."



↑ From Lady G.: "Thank you so much for sending Percival back home safely to us. All at The Grange were charmed to have the dear boy once more in our midst. He has hardly altered a whit. True, he put what he called 'the aeroplane scissors' on the footman, who was left tangled up with the chandelier in the Blue Room, and it's strange the way he keeps muttering in his sleep about what he is going to do to a mysterious man called 'Serge,' who sounds like a Rumanian to us. But he's as lovable as ever if you ignore what his Father calls his 'killing streak.' By the way, what does 'Chars-up!' mean, spoken in a very loud voice?"



This Hall was built by Edward IV in the year 1479
the Bridge over the Moat by Richard II in 1396
& the Moat Walls by Antony Bek, Bishop of Durham
about the year 1300



The Army takes a Palace

ELTHAM Palace, Kentish playground of kings and princes since the time of the Saxons, has found a new tenant. The great reception hall used by the court of King Henry VIII will never again echo to the music and laughter of royal feasting. Once leased by the famous Courtauld family, who spent thousands of pounds on renovation work, this elaborate estate is to be the future permanent home of the Army School of Education.

This will be the controlling centre of every formation college and every educational unit in the British Army. Here, living in expensively decorated rooms in a building surrounded by luxurious gardens, the Education Officers of today and tomorrow will be trained in the finer points of teaching, and here, too, they will meet brother officers — to bring forward suggestions and complaints, to discuss improvements in the important task of educating the serving soldier who will soon be facing the problems of return to civil life.

Five Million Pupils

The Army Education Scheme, under which some five million adults are to be provided with educational facilities for at least six hours weekly, requires a large administrative and organising staff. The scheme, already started at home and overseas, will operate from Eltham Palace.

The Manor of Eltham, in which the palace stands, has been Crown land since the time of Alwold, one of the first tenants under the early Saxon kings mentioned in the Doomsday Book. William the Conqueror gave the estate to his half-brother Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, and in 1270 Henry III kept his court at Eltham during the Christmas festivals. In 1308 Edward II brought his new bride, Queen Isabella, to the great house on his way to the coronation in London, and Richard II lived there too. Henry V, after his triumph at Agincourt, brought his two prisoners — the

Dukes of Orleans and Bourbon — to the palace on his way to London from France.

The AEC have long required a headquarters where their widespread education scheme might be co-ordinated. The main purpose of the new headquarters is to provide a place where officers can get together and receive further training. Courses last about 10 or 12 days and can be classed as "refresher" courses. The Chief Instructor, Major T. H. Hawkins, M.Sc, M.Ed, FLS, of the AEC, says that, as the basis of unit education is laid in units themselves, much of the success of the scheme lies with the efforts of individual officers.

"When dealing with units in the field," he says, "it is no use trying to direct everything from headquarters. You must rely on unit officers to overcome local difficulties and unit problems. Our job is to help them to do this, and to supply them with the necessary equipment. We know that facilities for education in various units depend on operational needs, and are therefore on different scales. Here, where we can get together and talk things over, difficulties can be hammered out and improvements investigated."

Men in Charge

Commandant of the new school is Lt-Col. W. S. Beddal, OBE, and the instructors include the Chief Instructor, Major Hawkins, Captain J. Ewan, MA, and Captain G. Fitzgerald, B.Sc. Much of the administration of the school is in

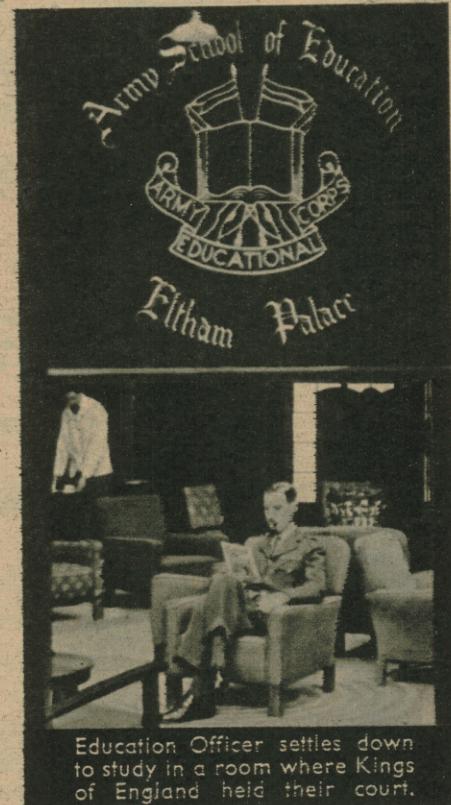
the hands of Lieut. W. Robinson, of 3 Hussars, who fought with tanks in Africa, and Captain R. Beresford, RTR. With a staff of almost 50 soldiers the palace itself is kept immaculate. Eventually the maintenance staff will be almost entirely civilian. At present most of the soldiers employed at the school as batmen and cleaners are ex POW's due for early release. Some of them may accept the Commandant's offer of continued employment as civilians after demobilisation.

The Wider Education

The AEC has not concerned itself wholly with the teaching of the three R's. In the winter of 1941, when the British Army was facing its darkest hour, education in individual units, far from lagging behind, received a new impetus. The Army Bureau of Current Affairs was formed, and later a new effort was made to teach elementary citizenship through distribution of "British Way and Purpose" publications.

During the invasion of the Continent the AEC provided a daily news service to front-line troops, and in areas behind the battle provided facilities for soldiers to study music, drama and languages. While the war was at its height stocks of books and equipment were accumulated and a programme launched to train thousands of officers and men as educational instructors.

To help the serving soldier on his return to industry six handbooks for Army teachers have been issued by the War Office. There is a wide range, and they cover the fields of man and society, home and health, arts and crafts, commerce, science and technical subjects. In addition, a formation college has now been started in every major command at home and overseas. These will enable men and women to spend a month in full-time study of their



Education Officer settles down to study in a room where Kings of England held their court.

own choosing during the closing stages of their service.

It is fitting to conclude with the words of Lord Nathan, Under-Secretary of State for War, who spoke at the opening ceremony at Eltham Palace in October. He said: "Here, in this historic and beautiful house, will be the Army's educational laboratory; here also the training college for the Army's teachers; and here the home of the Army Education Corps, whose task will be to inspire and organise education in the Army."

ROBERT BLAKE (S/Sjt.)

The Services, undertaking an immense work of detection and the revealing of hidden crime, are searching all N. W. Europe for



CLUES

S/Ldr. J. M. Morgan, double DFC, examines a piece of wreckage from which it may be possible to establish the identity of an aircraft. Other pieces of equipment lie on the table. No fragment, however small, is neglected.



CO-OPERATION

Capt. John Gregory, Senior Search Officer of 8 Corps Area, discusses some new evidence with French liaison officer Pierrette de la Pumariet. UNRRA, too, is taking a big part in finding the legion of the lost.

MISSING PERSONS

ONE of the biggest searches in history is being conducted in the British zone of Germany by the Search Bureau, a branch of the Control Commission. This organisation, which is directed by Col. J. R. Bowring, OBE, MC, and his deputy, Lt-Col. J. F. Ashton, was originally intended to find lost British nationals and POWs, but when they started operations it was found that most of these cases had been cleared up. The Bureau therefore undertook the formidable task of tracing people of all nationalities in the British zone who had disappeared into the concentration camps and forced labour gangs of Nazi Germany. This is now their biggest task, though they are still looking for lost POWs all over Germany. Their investigations have given them a particularly vivid insight into the horror of the "New Order".

Not only do they find the living but they also establish as far as possible the circumstances in which people have died. Individual officers have trekked all over Europe following the trail of a person who they are practically certain is dead before they ever start.

Apart from individual searches the Bureau has a branch in every Corps area which is run by a Senior Search Officer. He has under him Search Teams consisting of one officer and two ORs who are sent out to investigate cases in the area. Also attached to the Corps bureaux are liaison officers from foreign countries who visit HQ once a week to pick up any new cases which concern their countrymen.

I recently visited the main HQ of the Search Bureau. First to be seen was the Information Room, which is under the supervision of Sjt. G. W. Fowkes of the RASC. This room provides Search Officers with all available information about locations, routes and mileages, and even the state of the roads they will use in their investigations.

Ex-POW Runs Records

The Record Office is run by Capt. T. Shaughnessy, a paratroop officer who was himself a prisoner for some time. Corps Search Officers send him all information, however casual. The records are remarkably full and work is done very largely with the Central Tracing Bureau of UNRRA at Frankfort.

Two main files are kept for each country. The current file contains information which has come in during the week. When the liaison officers

have taken what they want from this file the remainder is sent to Frankfort.

The static file consists of copies of all death records in the British Zone. The Record Office is concerned very largely with establishing the identity of dead DP's. This job will have to be done as far as possible before winter conditions make it extremely difficult. Mass graves are being uncovered all over Germany, and members of the Search Bureau have the unpleasant duty of trying to identify the bodies.

Wreckage Speaks

In the next room is the Missing Research and Enquiry Section of the RAF. This branch, in the charge of S/Ldr. J. M. Morgan, a double DFC, is trying to find records of air crews who were shot down over Europe. Crash locations are all visited, where aircraft can sometimes be identified through wreckage.

Many remarkable things have been achieved in this way. For example, the identity of an aircraft has been established by a twisted piece of metal about a foot square which bore a few very faded letters. It was emphasised that this result was rather exceptional from so small a beginning, but it was none the less impressive.

Major E. W. Layland, of the South African section, has recently returned from an assignment to find out what had happened to a party of negro POWs who were force-marched from Silesia when the Russian advance was in progress. The first stage of the journey led him to Babenhausen in the US zone. First of all he interviewed the



INVESTIGATOR

Major E. W. Layland, South African liaison officer who has been on searches all over Western Europe. It is not everyone's job. Tremendous patience is required, as well as the ability to distinguish false trails from genuine ones.

US commanding officer, who was unable to help. Next he tried the Burgomaster, and learned that the negroes had arrived there tired out and starving, and were clubbed by the guards when they fell out although the villagers protested. They were set to work on a new airfield, and the Burgomaster had heard that of 1,000 who had left Silesia only 600 had arrived. Five more had died in Babenhausen and been buried by the Nazis in the Jewish cemetery as an insult to the Jews.

When Major Layland questioned the Jewish community they told him not to worry as, far from being an insult, it was an honour. The bodies were exhumed and he was able to establish that they were negroes from the woolly hair on their skulls.

The trail took him on to Metz, Nancy, Paris, Chartres, Zigerhain and finally Muschenried in Bavaria. It was a path of relics and fragmentary records, but he arrived back with valuable evidence about the fate of the unfortunate Africans and the possibility of tracing survivors.

—And Still They Come

Finally at HQ there is an enormous card index, one card for the enquirer and one for the missing person, a total of about 32,000. This section is run by Sjt. J. P. Dewar, through whom all the correspondence goes. He has to deal with an average of 500 letters a day.

It might be thought that the Search Officers find their investigations amid the unwholesome ruins of the Third Reich depressing, and there is no doubt that they uncover dreadful stories. As Captain Gregory says, however, they are amply repaid when they are able to re-unite families who had long ago despaired of ever seeing each other again.

A visit was also paid to the Senior Search Officer of 8 Corps District, Capt. John Gregory of the Grenadier Guards.

He has had a particularly involved area to deal with, and many of his cases concern the concentration camp of Neuengamme in the swamps of the Elbe, about 15 miles from Hamburg. At least 80,000 people of 29 different nationalities were killed there. His bureau has cleared up 420 cases, 70 per cent. of those investigated.

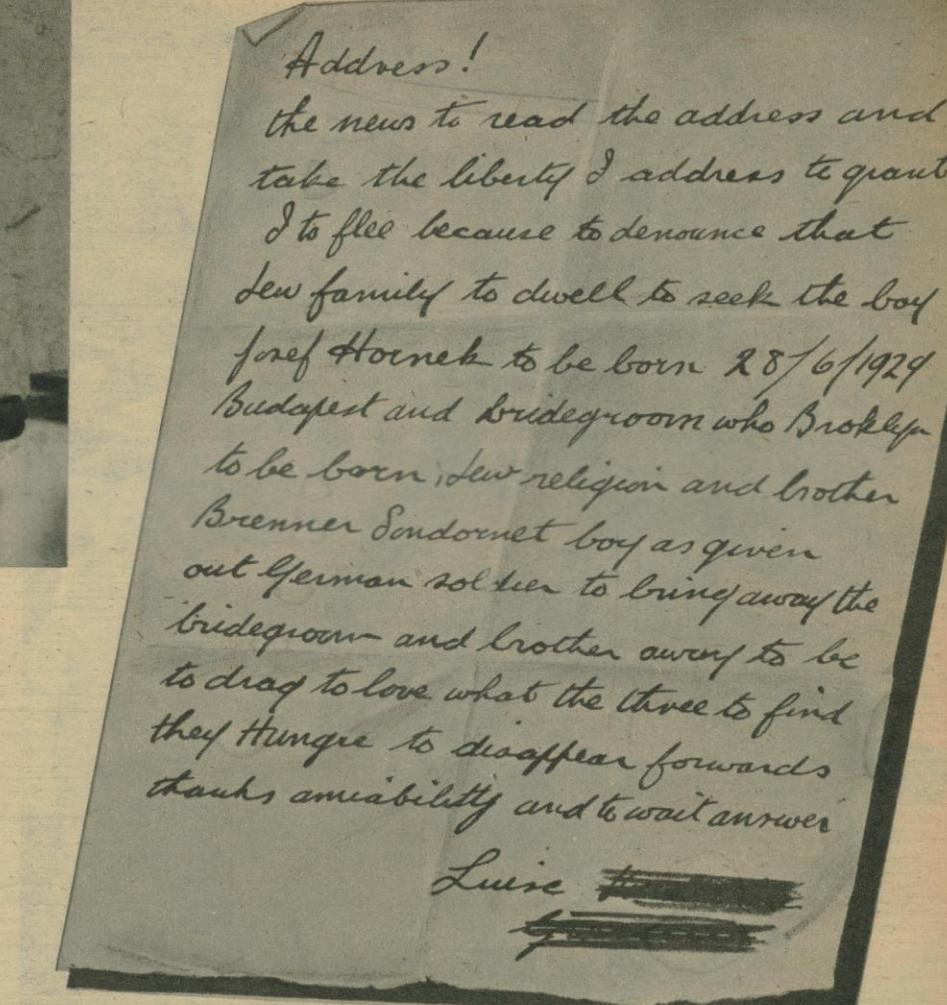
Children Given TB

A typical horror story was revealed when Capt. Gregory received an enquiry from France about a certain Professor Florence who was known to have been in the camp, where he witnessed the injection with tuberculosis of 20 Jewish children.

Former guards of the camp were questioned, one of whom finally stated that he had been detailed by the Camp Commandant to take the children to Hamburg on the night of 16-17 April, together with a Dr. Trzebinsky. There they had been taken to an isolated house in the port area where he believed they had been murdered by Dr. Trzebinsky on the personal orders of Himmler. This story was checked, and in the process another guard admitted that he had personally hanged Professor Florence and that the SS doctor had killed the children with the needle.

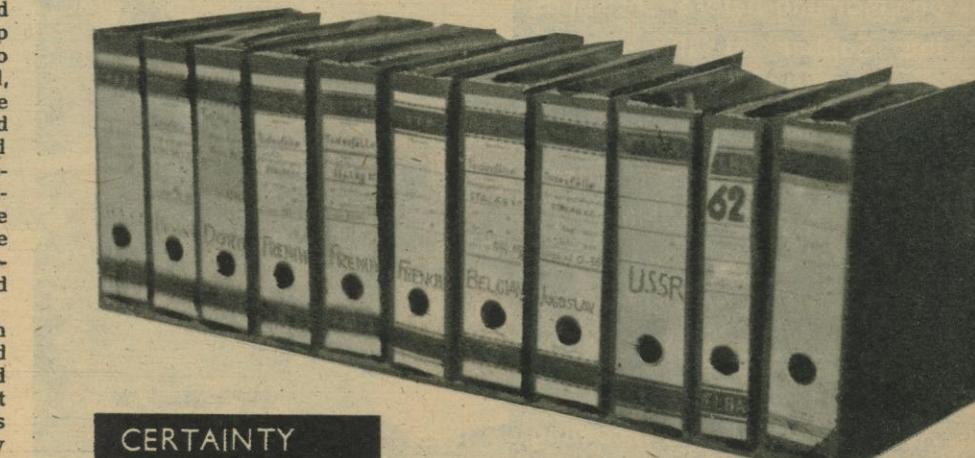
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A. C. S. WALEY (Lieut.)



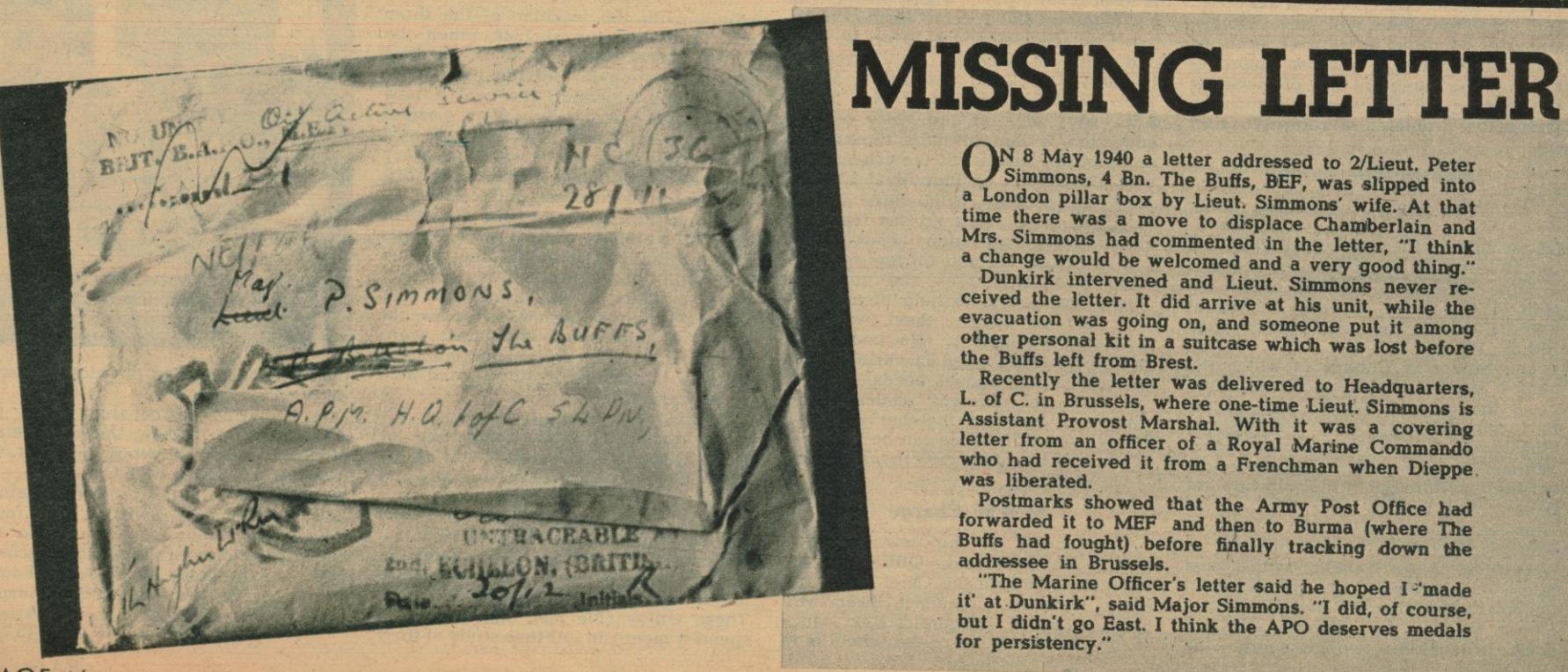
DOUBT

It takes a lot to mystify the Search Bureau, but this letter did. Read it and see if you can discover what the writer means. The Bureau has often to rely upon statements almost as baffling as this one to trace missing persons.



CERTAINTY

They might be on any office shelf, recording business transactions. They are, in fact, the grim record of happenings in Stalag 10 C. Each file contains evidence of about 200 deaths.



MISSING LETTER

ON 5 May 1940 a letter addressed to 2/Lieut. Peter Simmons, 4 Bn. The Buffs, BEF, was slipped into a London pillar box by Lieut. Simmons' wife. At that time there was a move to displace Chamberlain and Mrs. Simmons had commented in the letter, "I think a change would be welcomed and a very good thing."

Dunkirk intervened and Lieut. Simmons never received the letter. It did arrive at his unit, while the evacuation was going on, and someone put it among other personal kit in a suitcase which was lost before the Buffs left from Brest.

Recently the letter was delivered to Headquarters, L. of C. in Brussels, where one-time Lieut. Simmons is Assistant Provost Marshal. With it was a covering letter from an officer of a Royal Marine Commando who had received it from a Frenchman when Dieppe was liberated.

Postmarks showed that the Army Post Office had forwarded it to MEF and then to Burma (where The Buffs had fought) before finally tracking down the addressee in Brussels.

"The Marine Officer's letter said he hoped I made it at Dunkirk", said Major Simmons. "I did, of course, but I didn't go East. I think the APO deserves medals for persistency."



... BOUND FOR OLD BLIGHTY'S SHORE

WELCOME to the Bowler Hat Club," says the staff of Tournai's two newly-opened RELEASE EMBARKATION CAMPS, where Demob soldiers spend a 24-hour halt prior to their last journey home.

Here the time-expired soldier finds comfortable central-heated bedrooms, excellent hot meals, lounges, writing rooms, games rooms, canteens, a money exchange, and a well-stocked gift shop where he can buy duty-free presents for his family and friends at home—all part of a plan to make sure that the British soldier gets a really fine send off from the Army.

Bless 'em all, chums.

THE MAIL GETS THROUGH



WOT, NO MAIL? No, not this time. Across this counter at the Hamburg APO the Royal Engineers pass over £25,000 in postal orders each week. In two hours one morning before Christmas this Sapper at the Parcels Counter (right) sold £200 in stamps. When stamped and franked nearly three hundred bags of parcels leave Hamburg for Calais every day in specially sealed box-cars (below). Two girls (below right) operate the teleprinter at Hamburg's APO, fast work with incoming and outgoing telegrams.



WOT, NO MAIL? The bleary-eyed face leered at us from the cookhouse door, the question chalked roughly beneath it. George the driver climbed out of his cab and wiped his glove across his unshaven chin. He looked at the drawing and said something we hear often enough in the Army but never see in print.

Yes, Mr. Chad, we had brought the mail.

Hamburg to Herford overnight. Thirteen cruel hours of night-driving, and the road icing up so badly that the heavy Yankee lorry spun round on the cobbles in Verden like a child's toy. The windscreens frosted over every five or 10 minutes, and we had to pull up so that George could stand on the bonnet with his pen-knife, scraping off the ice and telling us how happy he was in his civvy job.

Mac, the guard, was less voluble. A dusty little Pioneer who seemed dwarfed even by his own Sten gun, he would say now and then, "Roll on Group 25!" It was his only complaint against the cold.

Back-Breaking Job

That ride with the parcels to Herford taught me something of the conditions in which the mail-drivers bring the post down the roads of Germany. It is a back-breaking job, and in winter there is no word for it but Hell.

The sudden ice-spell before Christmas turned the roads to glass. The cold was bad enough if you were walking from billets to work. But driving through the night for two or three hundred miles at a snail's pace because of the ice, your mouth furred up with bully sandwiches, the canteen at Rotenlig closed when you pulled in, your eyes heavy with cheated sleep, and beneath your hands a lorry that barely holds the icy road — these things put no one in mind for a smile at Mr. Chad.

An APO's duties start from the time the mail reaches them from plane or train. "From then on," said an RE ser-

geant, "you could hang the walls of this building with the cans we carry."

Three to four days is the average time for a letter to reach the Rhine Army from the UK (fog, snow, frost and gales permitting). Longer if it is from Northern Ireland.

From the time it is slipped into an English letter-box until the moment Smudger Smith answers the Post Corporal's shout of "Mail up!" a letter goes through more hands than can be counted.

On the day of posting it is sorted from home country mail. Then it is forwarded to a depot and sorted into theatres and localities. From there it passes to the airport, and the following day Stirlings fly off from Essex to BAOR.

The planes touch down at one or other of the various ports across the British Zone and Smudger's mail is offloaded and carried by truck to the APO. And with the letters from Smudger's missus and mates come the day's papers.

At the APO, where the mail arrives at night, it is sorted into unit bags ready for collection by post orderlies the following day (to APO staff their remarks often sound like faint echoes of Herford's Mr. Chad). More sorting at units into platoons or sections.

And when Smudger pushes back his cap and slits open his letter, it is ten to one that he will have a letter which begins, "Dear Bill, Are you getting my letters O.K.?"

All letters are flown to BAOR from the UK, and when it is realised that they run into hundreds of thousands a day, some idea of the bulk involved can be gleaned. Parcels and packets come across the Channel by steamer. They are picked up at Calais by the mail train, sealed into box cars and then sent off on the long journey through the British Zone, a journey taking over 30 hours to complete. All the way up the line the train drops off the mail-bags at various points where the mail-drivers collect them and bring them to area APO's.

Outgoing parcels — and there were thousands of them at Christmas time — go back the same way. Outgoing letters are brought in from units, sorted

by civilian personnel, packed into bags and despatched to the airport by the same trucks that go to collect the UK mail.

That's the procedure. You can see it working in detail on the ground floor of the Hamburg Postamt, where the "Army Post Office (British)" is to be found. There, in the high, dull-coloured rooms, through the swing doors where stands an old German postal official brushing at his Bismarck moustache, you find Sappers and civilian girls handling the letters, parcels, postal orders and registered packets for the thousands of troops situated in the Hamburg area.

During the pre-Christmas rush — which is a good example because it is only under pressure that any system proves its worth — 20 odd Sappers and about 25 civilian men and women, working 12 hours a day — the Sappers at night too — were handling a daily average of 40,000 letters and 270 bags of parcels as they were brought in from units by the post orderlies.

£100 an Hour

At the parcels counter a day or so before Christmas one Sapper dealt with £200 worth of postage stamps in two hours.

Behind the postal order counter, a Corporal and a Sapper handle something like £25,000 a week. On Saturday mornings alone nearly £8,000 passes over their counter. They are responsible for some £50,000 worth of stock.

There was a daily average of 600 registered items brought into the Hamburg APO during the week preceding Christmas. The air was noisy with the teleprinter sending and receiving telegrams, and the franking machine devoured letters at the rate of hundreds a minute.

Over the counter was a board announcing the last dates for guaranteed Christmas delivery. "No one," said one of the APO staff sadly, "seems to have paid much attention to it." Ten days after the dates given post orderlies were still staggering in with bags of presents. Taking parcels up to 11 pounds in weight, the APO grappled with all shapes and sizes.

But the mail went out and came in. There was no delay at APO's. It's a rush for the trucks to catch the parcels train, which will not wait. Bad flying weather kept down the planes in England for days, but in the APO, although the increase in staff never kept pace with the increase in despatches, the mail went out.

GPO "Regulars"

Who are the men that handle it? They wear the blue and scarlet flash of the Royal Engineers, and most of them have had long years of experience with the GPO.

Personnel from this APO started their work over here on D-day when, like Spr George Maney, for example, they landed with Beach Groups at H 10. He came ashore with a sergeant and a corporal ready to handle the mail of over 2,000 men. Their "Post Office", more often than not, was a stable, or a tarpaulin sheet, with compon-boxes as sorting trays. But by D + 3, when the mail began to come through they were ready for it (George Maney would like to find the man who was said to have had his mail handed to him the moment he stepped off an LCI. "The mail was back in the concentration areas in England," he says, "It reached us about D + 2." They hopped from sorting boxes to slit trenches whenever the Jerries insisted.

It was a long day, dawn to dusk (and dusk was late in Normandy), and, when



Forty thousand letters for the UK, gathered from trays (bottom right), are daily sorted by civilian girls. And at night the mail trucks are loaded (centre) and, with an armed guard, set out in all weathers on their long journeys to get the mail through.



the mail began to come over by plane, the APO's drivers were on the road, sweating and swearing to and from Carpiquet aerodrome.

Wherever the APO's moved it

meant improvisation — any shred of

a building or mansion over which they

could nail "APO" and keep up with

the advancing troops. In Normandy

the Royal Engineers had men of the

APO attached to the Americans and

Canadians as well as our own troops.

Getting the mail through has meant

hard work and late work, and from

the men of this army, to whom getting

a letter from home means perhaps more

than anything else, there hasn't been

much in the way of thought for the

APO. But there are no complaints

from the APO staff at what the boys

say.

Spr George Maney went out through

the swing doors of the APO with me.

In 30 minutes he was to catch the

truck for release. He was going out —

back to Battersea and work with the

GPO. He has had 18 years as a Post Of-

ice man, and work with the APO has

been tougher than the GPO. "This place,"

he said, looking up at the Hamburg

Postamt, "is like a palace compared

with some we've had to use."

He is taking his leave — "every

sweet minute of it" — before he goes

back to Paddington Post Office and the

mail that does not carry the letters

"O.A.S."

Mr. Chad will go on leering at the

mail drivers from the door of a Her-

ford cookhouse: "WOT, NO MAIL?"

The APO have an answer for him.

JOHN PREBBLE (Sjt.)



These Were The Stars

THE sports pictures of 1945 come crowding back as we swing into another year. A varied lot, to be sure. First, the almost theatrical setting of the Alamein Club on Cairo's delectable Gezira Island; then, one tumbling on the other, the sight of Wembley, West Bromwich, Cardiff, the dear old London Albert Hall, Trent Bridge, Portsmouth and those other Blighty-based spots where men of muscle toil for our entertainment.

What sort of year was it for sport? Here is the answer; it was not too good — but it could have been worse. Yes, a lot worse. Apostles of gloom are shaking their heads and saying the writing is on the wall for British sport. They base their argument on the evidence of 1945 form in football, cricket, boxing and the rest.

Don't listen to them. As I say, the year which has just rolled by has produced few, if any, world-beaters back home, but there is absolutely nothing wrong that time — and training — cannot cure.

Look at football. Straightaway there comes to mind the way in which the Russian Dynamos swept through their tour to lick Arsenal and Cardiff City and draw with Chelsea and Glasgow Rangers.

Now the Dynamos were good, make no mistake. Yet I argue that they would have been given a more searching test if our Soccer were back to normal. Not until the clubs can buckle down to the business of training — and have at their command the good young players you can see almost everywhere in Services games — will Soccer return to its old, familiar Goal Standard.

Watch Wright

Even so, several up-and-coming performers now in active circulation are good enough for any company. One is fair, touse-headed Billy Wright, the boy found for the game by the player-factory which Major Frank Buckley planned at Wolverhampton, and shrewd Ted Vizard is carrying on in the tradition.

Wright was one of the big successes of the Portsmouth international trial. Given his chance at right-half, he was always forcing the pace in attack and still having the legs to bring him back to help out the defence. If he has a fault, then I say it is his tendency to cut into the centre of the field. Still, however you look at him, this young Army Serjeant — now with the PT muscle-factory — is a grand discovery for England. The craft is there, all right, and he gives a very convincing answer to those people who say there are no young 'uns of ability in the game.

Bracketing with Wright is Jesse Pye, another of the Portsmouth successes. Home from Italy, where he served with the Eighth Army, he has become one of the most discussed forwards of the season.

Big-Hearted Sheffield

He was a part-time professional with Sheffield United in the year before the outbreak of war, but failed to gain a place in the League eleven and was placed on the free transfer list.

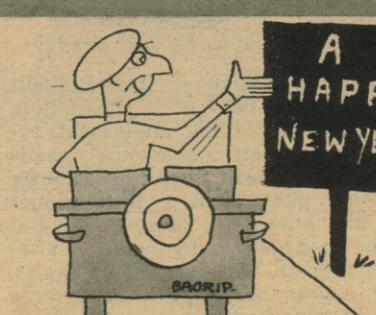
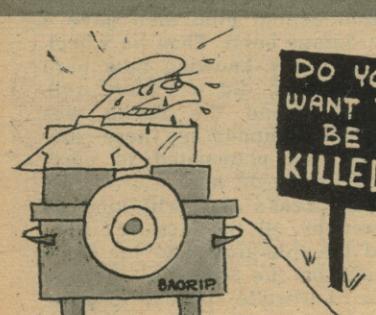
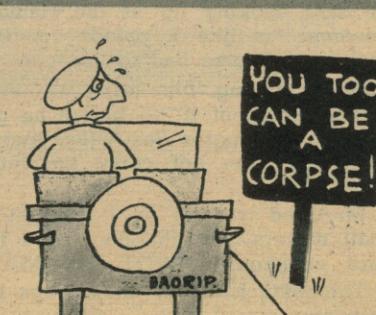
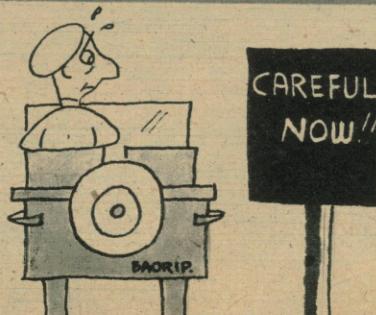
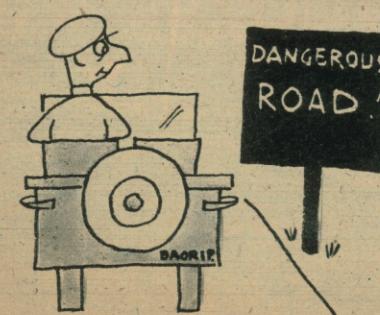
Imagine it! The best young inside-right seen around for years was thought by the Bramall Lane brigade to be a boy who would never make the grade. It may prove one of the most costly mistakes in football, since Notts County, where the Buckley genius is at present operating, will get an impressive cheque for Jesse Pye if, and when, they decide to sell.

Not that he is the finished product.

Denis Compton is shaping for selection in the next Test.

Gordon Richards' 3,000 wins are an unapproachable record.

Soccer's leading artist is still Stan Matthews.



of '45



Ex-amateur champion Kingsley Kennerley is a master of green-table tactics. He surprised even Joe Davis.



We still have no runner to match Wooderson, though the war interrupted his peak years.

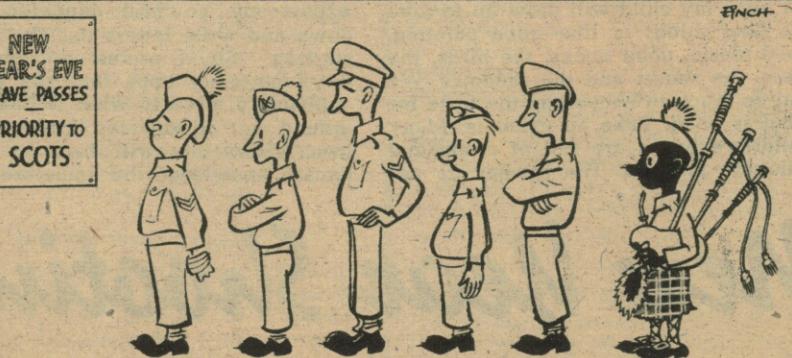
How Much Do You Know?

- If you saw these signs on an American highway, what would you understand by them?
(a) Flats Fixed; (b) Soft Shoulders?
- Highest-paid woman in America receives £84,000 a year. Her name is (a) Elsa Maxwell; (b) Schiaparelli; (c) Mrs. Roosevelt; (d) Ginger Rogers; (e) Deanna Durbin. Which?
- You'd like an easy one? All right, what exactly do the letters ENSA stand for?
- Who wanted to be in England in April?
- Only one of these statements is true. Which?
(a) A procurator-fiscal is a Scots assessor of taxes; (b) Gabriel Pascal has just produced Shaw's "Antony and Cleopatra"; (c) Lady Day comes before Michaelmas; (d) it was Shakespeare's Brutus who said, "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears."
- The football reporter who wrote this sentence committed two literary crimes. Name them: "After the goal, the forwards were given enough rope to completely square accounts."
- One of these is an "intruder" — which? Shackleton; Nansen; Livingstone; Columbus; Hudson; Swedenborg.
- Vasco da Gama received mention in the history books because he (a) descended Niagara in a barrel; (b) was one of the first to sail round the Cape; (c) was poisoned by the Borgias; (d) introduced the "flu germ" to Europe. Which?

Answers on Page 23

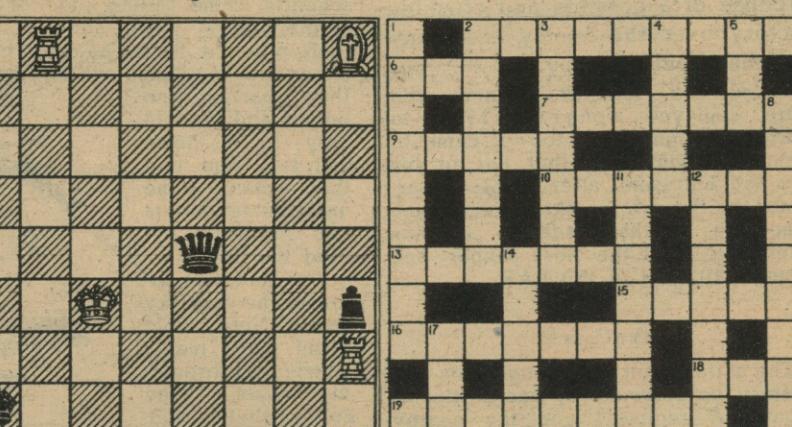


KID OGO...



CHESS AND CROSSWORD

THE Postal Chess Club, which includes the Postal Chess League, are willing to enrol troops serving in the British Army of the Rhine as members. The Club runs individual as well as team tournaments, so that units can enter individuals as well as teams for these contests. Welfare or Unit Officers who are interested are asked to address enquiries to c/o "Chess", Sutton Coldfield, England.



White to move and mate in three.

CLUES ACROSS: 1. Manual aids to signalling. — 2. It has a tracked carrier (two words). — 3. The object in periodical payment is to get some clothing. — 4. See "15 Across". — 5. Sequence. — 6. Artilleryman equipped with a spike! — 11. Aftermath of victory. — 12. Ordnance depot, in a sense. — 14. — wherein this, pluralised, of war may be stored. — 17. Half a hit on the target!

Solutions on Page 23

My Child's Charter

PRIZE-WINNING ESSAY

BEFORE I begin, may I say that I dislike the title of this article, because it seems to me to encourage the idea that most modern parents propose to have only one child, and that is an idea which definitely comes under what the Japanese would call dangerous thinking. Experts have written many thousands of words on the dangers of our declining population and of how the tendency towards the one-child family affects it; but greatly as I sympathise with their views, I am thinking now more of the unsatisfactory environment of the "only child."

I believe that my child (yes, I have one already) will be healthier, happier and a more social creature when she has a brother or sister. My wife agrees with me about this, and it is only what the War Office calls the exigencies of the Service — I have been overseas for the last three years—which have prevented the arrival of a further instalment to our family.

Instinctive Good Taste

The only child must inevitably get more attention from its parents than one of a family and, while this in itself is not a bad thing, it is so easy for "more attention" to become "too much attention," and that is liable to discourage a spirit of healthy independence and initiative in the child. (Perhaps I should add that our child's initiative does not appear to have suffered, as it ranges from drinking green ink to drawing on the wallpaper.)

I hope my child will grow up to love the finer things of life—good painting, good music, good books, the birds, the trees, the sunset and the shadows. We can do much to encourage the taste for what is good. Take an example. Many children's books are full of crude and unlovely pictures. The kiddies do not

know it, and as long as the pictures are colourful they like them. But it is just as easy to take a little care in selecting books, for just as many are illustrated in an artistic way. Without her knowing, it gives the child an opportunity to develop a taste for the good rather than for the indifferent or the bad.

"That's all very well," you will say, "but half our population live in mean and ugly houses, in mean and ugly streets, on a wage which hardly covers the essentials of life. How can a child grow up with beauty in such surroundings?" The question is a good one and it cannot be answered with any pious platitude of "pie in the sky." It reminds us that we ourselves and our children are not, and cannot be, divorced from

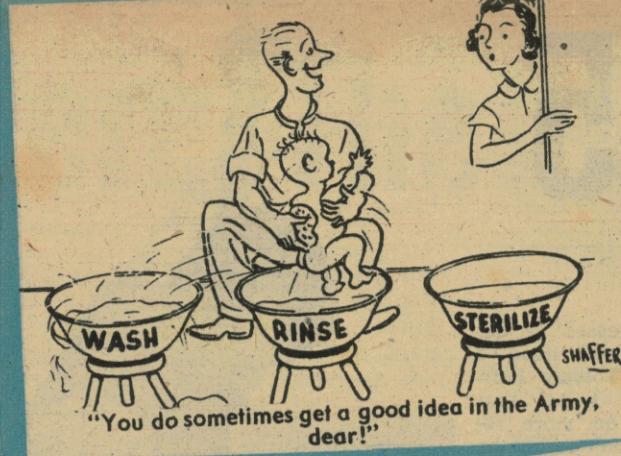
He Wins £5.5.0.

AQMS Maling, the writer of this essay, won first prize of £5.5.0 in the National Baby Welfare Council's competition for BAOR soldiers on the subject of "What I want my child to be like, and what I can do about it." Other prizewinners were:

£2. 2. 0. 970641 Cpl. M. Lerner, 34 Wing, BAFO, RAF.
£1. 1. 0. 3393718 CQMS J. Glynn, 743 German Labour Coy.
£1. 1. 0. 908526 L/Sjt. K. C. Yates-Smith, "C" Tp., 388/143 Fd. Regt. RA.

our economic surroundings, and that it is a duty not only to ourselves but to our children to work and fight for better living conditions for all our fellow-citizens.

Do not think for a moment that I expect my youthful daughter to sit down and write letters to "The Times" starting: "Sir, I protest..." Not yet. But I certainly hope that she will be sufficiently alive to what is happening around her to develop views of her own. Views that will, because of her limited knowledge, be immature, poss-



BAOR
WRITERS
AND
ARTISTS

ibly even absolutely wrong, but none the less views of her own, ideas that will grow and flower as her knowledge increases.

The example set by parents has such a lot of influence. If Dad never misses his trade union branch meeting and considers it important, then the child, when she earns her own living, will almost automatically regard it as her duty to look after the welfare of her fellow-workers.

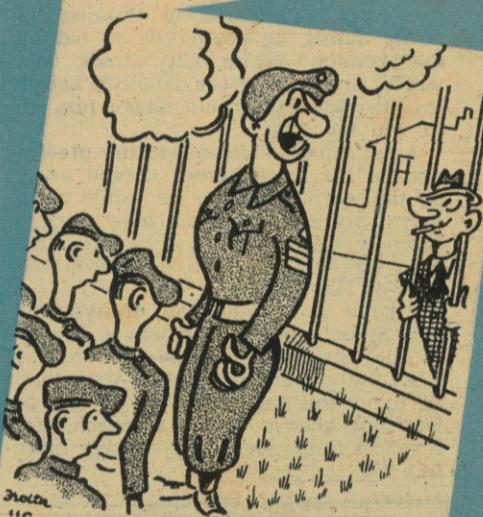
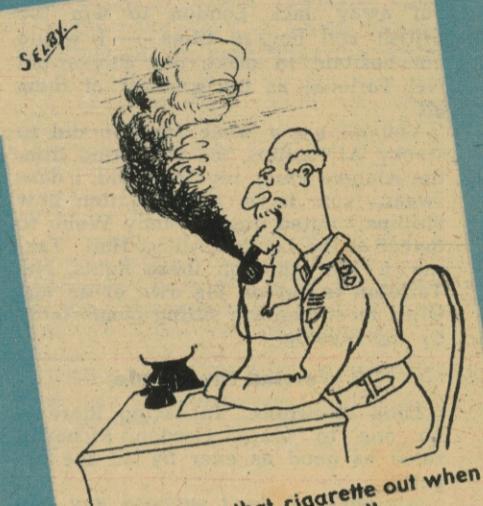
No Chances with Health

I want my child to be healthy because if she is not she will be unable to enjoy life to the full, and unable to undertake her full responsibilities as a citizen. We do not leave this to chance any more than we can help. My wife takes full advantage of all the help and advice that the child welfare centre can offer. I have heard that some people refuse to accept concessions such as free immunisation from diseases and cheap food products for babies. We are not like that.

My child must be patient, but not too patient; kind, but not foolish; sensible, but not sentimental; broad-minded, but not empty-headed; cool, but not cold; loyal, but not fawning. She must have a sense of humour rather than of humility, and of pride rather than of prejudice.

Am I setting too high a standard? Perhaps I am, but it is a standard more for my wife and myself than for my child, for she will be very much a mirror of what she believes her parents to be.

J. J. MALING (AQMS)



New Year Shooting Party —

NEW Year's Day! On 1 January 1945 it meant, to the men of BLA, the memories of an "impregnable" West Wall successfully stormed and broken, a hard, slogging drive across three countries almost to the very borders of the Reich. It dawned bright with promise of a possible and crushing victory over the enemy ere many months should roll by.

To all the Ack-Ack Gunners who were deployed along the Maas—to many an Infantryman too—it came to mean a lot more than that. For on this day the Luftwaffe, after scant appearances in the winter skies during the preceding months, made an abortive attempt to blast the close support and reserve airfields of the RAF.

Like Caen

The actions that were fought this day against the Luftwaffe by one particular Light AA regiment and the nearby Infantry with their Brens were as brisk and heavy as any they had been called upon to fight since they were in the Caen area, more than six months previously.

Early in the morning swarms of Boche fighters had been observed, far to the north and surrounded by flak, heading in a westerly direction. That looked as if a ground strafing attack was imminent on the fighter airfields at the rear. This was later to be confirmed correct; the airfields around Brussels coming in for a heavy share of their attention.

Some little time later light flak was heard just to the west, and increased in volume and intensity. Guns, already manned at full crew strength, were soon in action, and Infantry Brens from nearby positions were adding their not inconsiderable weight to the attack—for it was attack, and not defence.

One particular swarm, composed of 30 or 40 Focke Wulfs and Messerschmitts, came sailing over at an incredibly slow speed and at scarcely rooftop height. As far as could be seen, either with the naked eye or binoculars, they carried no bombs, and it could only be assumed that they had laid their eggs on some unfortunate hangars and hutments behind the line.

The flak was intense. The grey sky threw into bold relief the black, slowly mushrooming bursts of the Bofors shells, and the orange and red tracers of light automatics and 40-mm guns. Then, for some unaccountable reason, this swarm of Boches, as soon as they had crossed to their own territory, wheeled and again flew over this same small area, breaking up into smaller formations as they did so.

One lone plane, flying below tree-top level and at a much higher speed than before, was laid on by a Bofors. The DC opened fire. So low was the plane that, with the elevation gunner



Drawing by J. T. Kenney

Not far away another Messerschmitt flew between two gun sites. Both Bofors' crews had the unpleasant experience of their neighbours' shells whipping overhead, and dangerously low. This pilot lived a little longer than the other, for, despite several hits, he managed to fly nearly half-a-mile before he, too, crashed in flames.

Both pilots of these planes were under 21. One had three months flying experience — not combat experience.

The other had six weeks. A sure indication of the desperate straits the Luftwaffe was in through the constant whittling down and destroying policy of our Air Force.

Throughout the regiment similar actions were fought, but during the whole of that time not a single German plane fired a shot or dropped a bomb. Probably they had used their ammunition where they had dropped their bombs. Whatever the cause, they turned themselves into sitting ducks.

No Safety in Height

At the same time as the gunners were fighting it out from the ground, the RAF could be seen using their deadly weight to the full on the high-flying birds. One Focke Wulf was seen streaking for home, but far too high for the Bofors to waste their metal in an attempt to hit him. Then, from nowhere it seemed, a Spitfire popped up and sat on his tail.

For a second or two, as they raced across the sky, the Spitfire jockeyed for position behind him, then gave a short, murderous burst. Then he wheeled and, obviously knowing how hard hit his prey was, did a victory roll.

The next second the Boche was pouring smoke, dipped his nose suddenly and then plummeted to earth with pieces flying off him.

That New Year's Day will long be remembered by all the Ack-Ack gunners—and the Infantry who lay close beside them on the Maas—as the day when the Luftwaffe retreat became a rout.

J. MEASURES (BSM)

LETTERS

NAAFI GIRL SPEAKS OUT

I have read SOLDIER fairly regularly during the past few months—especially the "Readers' Grouse Page", as I call it. It is amazing with what frequency the subject of NAAFI crops up.

Well boys, you've had your say. May a NAAFI girl have hers? To all those who appreciate what we've done, thanks. To all the grousers . . .

I've served you—Army, Navy and RAF—for nearly four years. I've stood in Nissen huts, in barracks, in sheds and in tents. I've worked 14 hours a day to give you your cup of tea. In this theatre, we of NAAFI/EFI were not immune from lack of mail; not even from the shells over Caen or the V2's over Antwerp.

Fair enough, you say. The job needed doing. I agree. But did you

have to make it 10 times worse—haggling when I gave you a razor blade in lieu of the change I didn't possess, complaining of the tea when I made it out in the open, with the rain coming down in buckets and putting out the boilers? I've listened to your grousing about NAAFI, about the Army. And I've seen you treat an English girl, a stranger to you, like a piece of dirt.

Even a NAAFI girl has feelings. I'm not in this job for the good of my health any more than you are.

Go on grousing. Go on sneering. Maybe if you go on long enough they'll disband NAAFI in BAOR and give all the stores to the people of Europe, who might appreciate what you don't want. Then I could go home because, believe me, that's where I want to go—every bit as much as you do. —NAAFI Girl (name and address supplied).

THE NEW ARMY'S DRESS

I support Pte. Tomlinson's letter (SOLDIER No. 21) on the future dress of the Army.

Much can be done—for instance: (1) a well-fitting battledress and beret; (2) American-style uniform with peaked cap and brown shoes for walking out; and (3) definitely a military raincoat. —L/Bdr. G. Rose, 156 Fd. Regt. RA.

SIT IT THROUGH

While one appreciates the fact that all films do not meet the tastes of all cinema-goers, surely that is no reason for demonstrating disapproval during the showing of a film.

Time and again during a performance one's attention is distracted by certain childish elements in the audience who persist in making foolish remarks loud enough for others to hear.

The Army educational authorities could do worse than start some lectures on decent manners. —L/Cpl. J. Somen, c/o 202 BIS/EFI.

GERMANS SHOULD SEE IT

Why not show the film, "The Great Dictator" to the German people? One of the best ways of destroying any remaining influence of the Nazi regime is to raise a laugh at it.



IN the square at Nienberg there stands today a statue which marks the end of a long road, beginning at Gazala in North Africa and ending in the heart of Germany. Along that road through the war years hung the white sign-board bearing in its centre the ace of clubs. It was "Club Route", the road up for 30 Corps.

On a plinth which bears the simple inscription "End of Club Route", beneath the insignia of the 2nd British Army, 1st Canadian Army and 21st Army Group, there stands the figure of a tusker boar. A rampant boar in black and white was the flash which 30 Corps troops carried on their shoulders.

Club Route signs marked the roadway from Gazala to Tunisia and Sicily, from Arromanches and Bayeux to Brussels and Antwerp, up the narrow Dutch corridor and deep into Holland with the push of the 43rd Division towards Arnhem. Across the Rhine went Club Route to Bremen and the square at Nienberg.

On the spot where Club Route ends, Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks, 30 Corps Commander through Africa and Europe, held his farewell parade and unveiled the statue. Around it stood men of 30 Corps who had seen as much fighting as any in the British Army.

General Horrocks told his men how the stone for the plinth had come from the bomb-wrecked Hannover City Hall. Its designer was Cpl. Wyiam, RE, a peace-time draughtsman. Two masons, L/Cpl. W. Chapman and Spr. Chapman, erected the pedestal, and the boar itself was discovered by 30 Corps in Germany.

Leaving 30 Corps to become GOC Western Command, General Horrocks said goodbye to his men, and around the boar of 30 Corps the men who had worn the insignia on their sleeves across Africa and Europe stood silent in the square of Nienberg, remembering friends who had fallen along Club Route Up.

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by Friell



"He always says he's just keeping the seat warm for the Town Major!"

Not even a German could fail to be amused by, or fail to see the truth in, Chaplin's merciless satire and exposure of their super-leader's super-weaknesses. — Pte. P. Allardyce, 141 Field Ambulance, RAMC.

FOR BANDSMEN

Those among your readers who have learned to play an instrument during their Army service may feel like continuing to keep their hand in on their return to civilian life.

There are, I learn, a few vacancies for competent brass players (as honorary members) in one of London's leading amateur societies—the Royal Amateur Orchestral Society. A weekly rehearsal is held in central London under a well-known conductor. Address of the Society's Hon. Secretary is 52 Bishopsgate, London EC 2 (Tel: London Wall 4941), from whom further details can be obtained. — Sjt. R. C. May, 34 RHU.

NOTES ARE LEGAL

It is time agreement was reached on 50-mark and 100-mark Reichsbank notes. My unit is paid in German currency. On tendering it in our canteens, however, we are refused service, the canteen staffs stating they are not allowed to accept notes higher than five or 10 marks unless they are Allied currency. — "Hard Up" (name and address supplied).

★ Pay Services state: "Reichsbank notes of denominations up to and including the 50-Reichsmark note are valid and legal

tender in clubs and institutes within BAOR. NAAFI have been informed of these regulations and have confirmed the acceptance in their canteens of Reichsbank notes of the denominations mentioned." —Ed., SOLDIER

Answers

(from Page 21)

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

- (a) Punctures repaired; (b) Soft verges.
- Deanna Durbin.
- Entertainments National Service Administration.
- Browning.
- Lady Day comes before Michaelmas.
- Split infinitive; mixed metaphor.
- Swedenborg.
- One of the first to sail round the Cape.
- James Agate.
- Diaeresis (Umlaut).
- Jeannie; Katie; Annie.
- (a) Woodrow Wilson; (b) Wendell Willkie (c) Willie Winkie; (d) William Wordsworth; (e) Walt Whitman.
- Live for pleasure.
- A Hollywood actress pretending to be a rocket.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS: — 2. Borderers. 6. Air. 7. In-lying. 9. Denim. 10. Ex-plain. 13. Munster. 15. (Royal) Scots. 16. Spandau. 18. Rue. 19. Seaworthy.

DOWN: — 1. Hand-lamps. 2. Bren gun. 3. R-aim-ent. 4. Royal. 5. Run. 8. Gun-buster. 11. Pursuit. 12. Armoury. 14. Sinew. 17. (mag) Pie.

CHESS

Key Move: R—Q2

TWO-MINUTE SERMON

"Is there any such thing as a 'perfect' crime?" I once asked a detective inspector, who immediately and decisively answered "No!"

"How do you answer so emphatically; for if a criminal left no mark and got away undetected, the police would not know there had been a crime at all, would they?" I grinned at him. In return he grinned still wider and said, "The criminal always leaves at least three marks! One upon his victims, one upon himself, and the last . . . well that depends upon your viewpoint." I pressed for an explanation.

"Firstly," he answered, pulling reflectively upon his briar, "I remember Joe B—— who committed and 'got away with' a murder. Six months later he gave himself up, a mental wreck. He had marked himself.

"Secondly, the 10-year-old daughter of his victim, who found the body, became mentally unbalanced through the experience. That was another hideous mark he left. Every criminal leaves his mark . . .

therefore there can be no perfect crime. The very phrase constitutes a paradox."

I have often thought of his answer while in the Army, where the moral code and accepted regulation is not so much "Thou shalt . . . shalt not" as "Thou shalt not be caught doing . . . not doing . . ." There is no such thing as "getting away with it", for every act of will, good or bad, leaves a mark upon our personality, and, what is more, upon our neighbours, either indirectly or directly.

"But", you say, "what of the inspector's third point?" That depends, as he said, upon your point of view. There is a third mark that the doing of evil makes—a wound upon the heart of God, yet another crucifixion of One Who has thus "been slain from the beginning of the world".

Again, a man may commit a crime (sin?) and "get away with it" even till he dies at a ripe old age. What then? Consider this and perhaps you will agree that there can be no "perfect" crime.

SOLDIER

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE



Marie (The Body) McDonald

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