

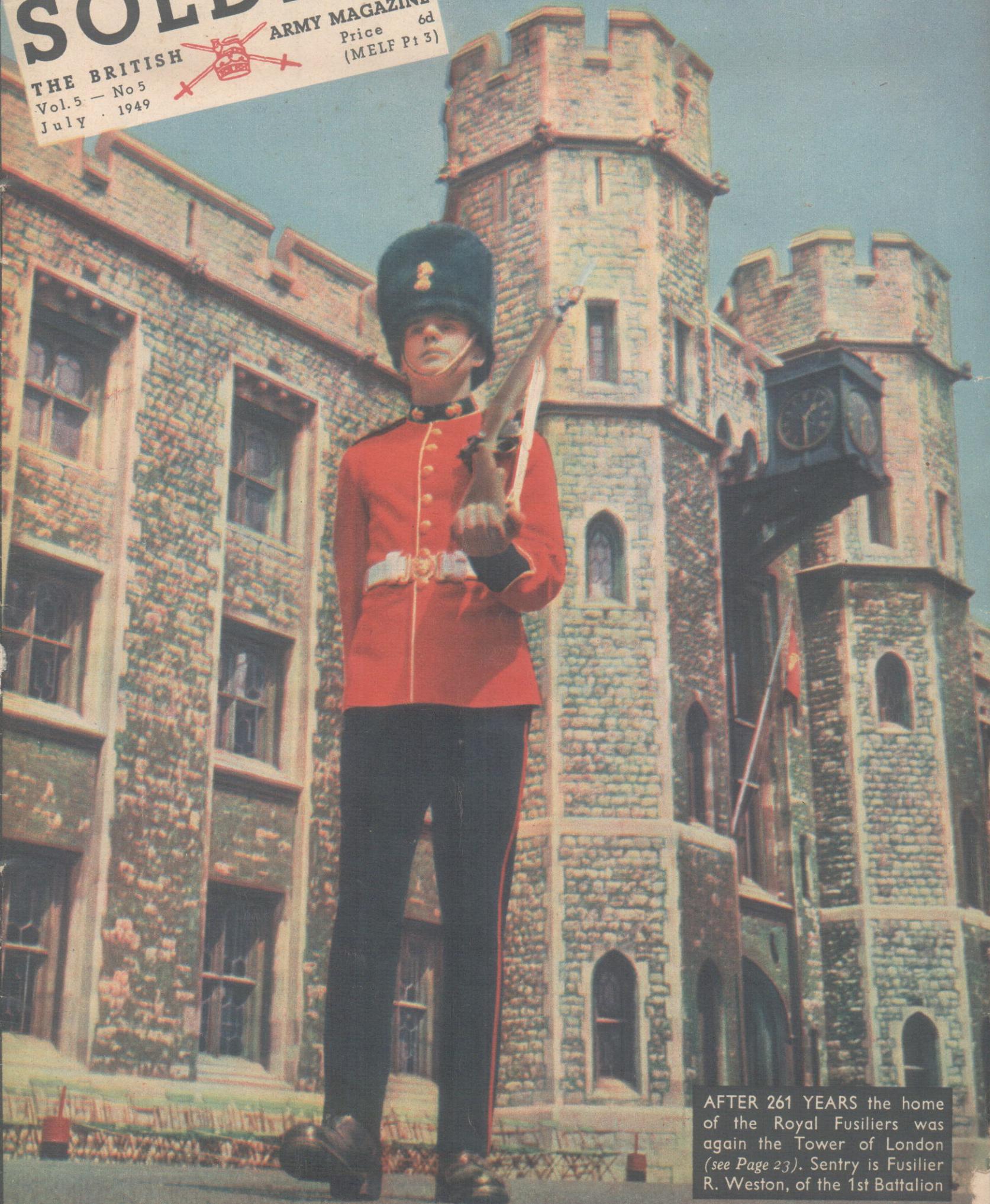
SOLDIER

THE BRITISH

ARMY MAGAZINE

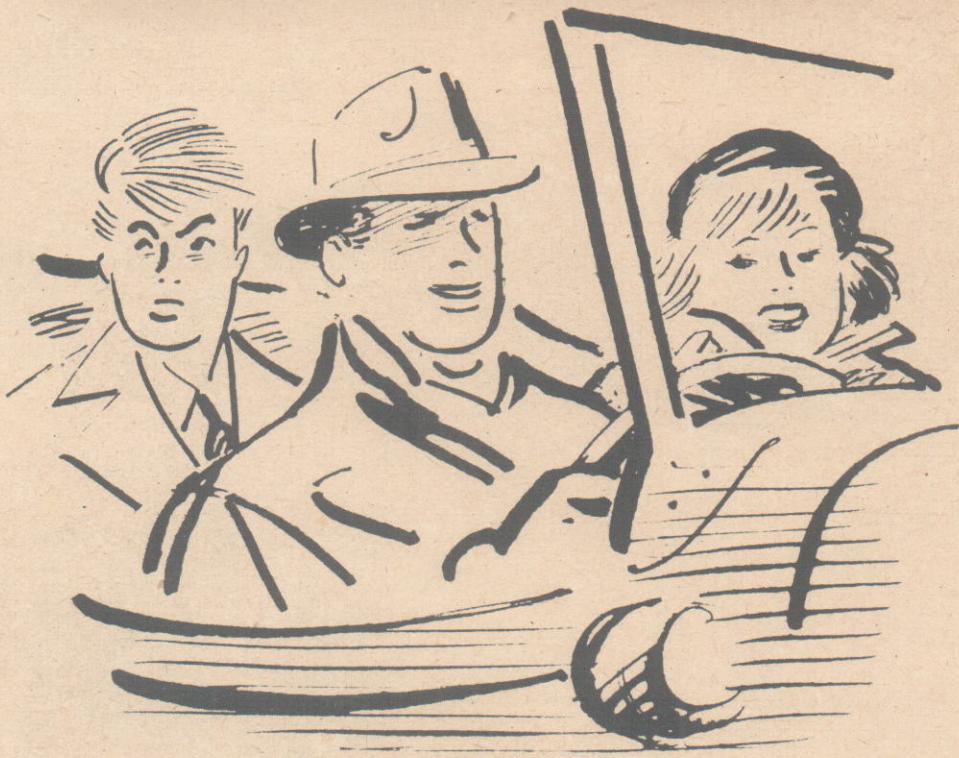
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Vol. 5 — No 5
July 1949



AFTER 261 YEARS the home of the Royal Fusiliers was again the Tower of London (see Page 23). Sentry is Fusilier R. Weston, of the 1st Battalion

If you want to get ahead...

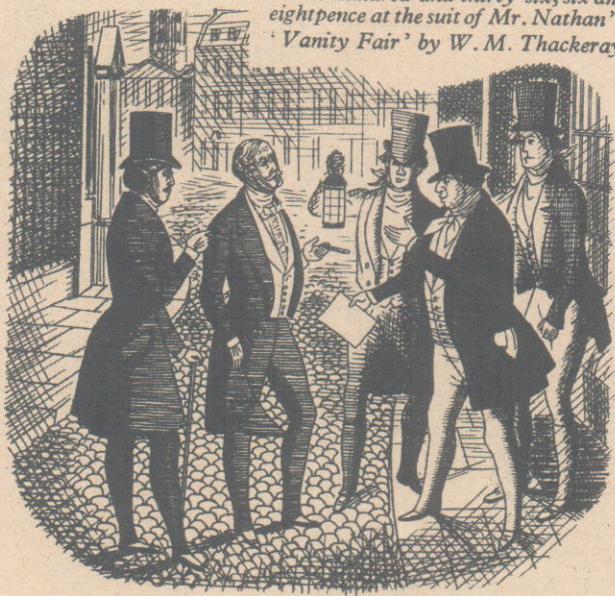


GET A HAT!

(Ask your girl friend)

"Only a small thing", whispered Mr. Moss, of Cursitor Street, Chancery Lane, and assistant officer to the Sheriff of Middlesex—

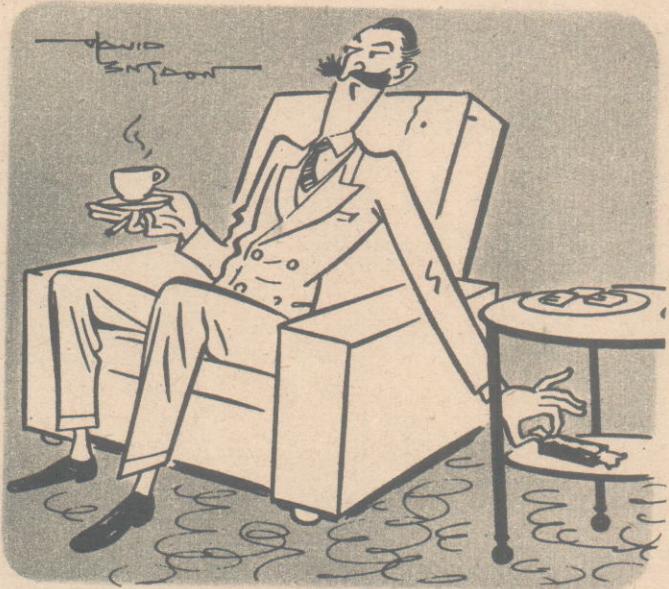
"One hundred and thirty-six, six and eightpence at the suit of Mr. Nathan".
'Vanity Fair' by W. M. Thackeray.



Colonel Crawley 'forgot' to pay

Rawdon Crawley of 'Vanity Fair' generally forgot to pay his bills, and occasionally paid for his forgetfulness as an enforced guest of the Sheriff's officer. Memories are rarely so short these days, but it is nevertheless often convenient to arrange for the routine payment of rent, insurance premiums, subscriptions and the like to be made on your behalf by the Midland Bank. The Standing Order Service is one of the useful facilities which the Bank provides for its customers, who may avail themselves of it generally or temporarily during absence on business or holidays.

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"Is anyone looking...?"

EVEN prospective sons-in-law are inclined to court disaster when there's Blue Riband for tea. Crisp wafers—delicious sweetmeat—all-over chocolate coating—these three good things give Blue Riband a triple goodness all its own. Ask for Blue Riband—everyone's favourite treat for all occasions.

BLUE RIBAND



A GRAY DUNN PRODUCT

"Quite the
best sauce
I've ever
tasted"



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makers of "Nell Gwyn" Marmalade
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SOUTHALL · MIDDLESEX

X Whichever
you serve-
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Save through the Post Office
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Their Cork-Tips
make smoking
-Cleaner!



Craven A'

made with
rich, fine
tobacco

ON SALE IN NAFFI CANTEENS AT HOME AND ABROAD



1858

OVERCROWDED and insanitary barracks . . . Canteens where he paid through the nose . . . Boiled beef, badly cooked, day after day — that was often the soldier's lot in 1858. But the Crimean War had stirred public opinion. Already voices were heard urging that profits from Canteens should be used to provide off-duty comforts for the men. Already the great co-operative principle, keynote of the present-day NAAFI, was emerging. NAAFI to-day belongs entirely to the Services, returns all profits for the communal benefit of the Forces.

Rifleman. King's Royal Rifle Corps, 1858.



NAAFI Sports Shop, Singapore.
Units benefit by discount
on purchases.

your

NAAFI

NAAFI needs female staff for canteens. Applicants should consult their nearest Employment Exchange.



To light up but never to flare up, to puff but never to blow, to smoke but never to burn — this is the wisdom of the man who packs his pipe with *Balkan Sobranie*. He hides irritation in the smoke clouds, he sees more clearly through the smoke rings, he finds answers to the unsolvable in its aroma. And when so much discord is piping up, he has the sense to light up and pipe down . . .

From NAAFI Canteens at home and abroad

SOBRANIE LTD. LONDON. E.C.I.



JULY

SOLDIER

1949

THE BRITISH



ARMY MAGAZINE

Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery—now “an international soldier”—is pressing on with his biggest job yet: building a military alliance between five sovereign states in peacetime

WESTERN UNION: PROGRESS REPORT

SOMETHING new in peacetime military history is now being established. For the first time, except in war, the threads which control the armed forces of Great Britain, France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg are being drawn together. The hand which holds the threads is “Uniforce” or Western Union.

So far the world has seen little of Western Union at labour. The reason is that most of its work has been planning — high-level planning, with everything marked “Top Secret.” But the taxpayers of five nations will be able to see something for their money when exercises which are being planned for the joint air forces and navies of the principal four nations (Luxembourg has no navy or air force) are held. And for the armies of the five nations it is hoped to hold joint exercises on the Continent, probably in Germany.

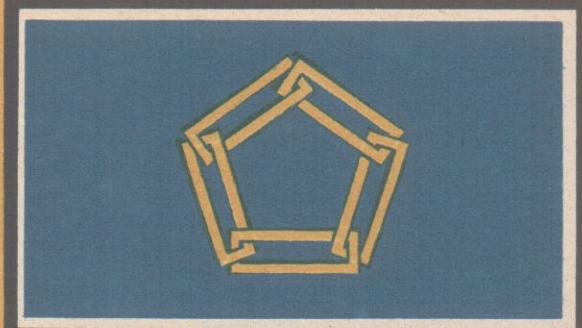
For Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery, who now describes himself as not only a British soldier but “an international soldier” the building up of Western Union defence is a bigger than man-size

job. He must take into account not only grand strategy and questions of supply and equipment, but national temperaments, traditions, loyalties and rivalries — all the intangibles which mean so much in persuading free nations to cooperate.

The job of being an international soldier means that Field-Marshal Montgomery spends much of his working life in staff cars and aircraft. It has taken him to some extent out of the headlines in Britain, but it has put him back into the headlines on the Continent. If anyone can “sell” the idea of Western Union to the man-in-the-street in Paris and Brussels and Amsterdam that man is Field-Marshal Montgomery.

One notable development in Western Union is the two-way traffic between Britain and the Continental allies of fighting men learning each others methods. A good example of the help given

OVER



Field-Marshal Montgomery has a new flag, as chairman of the Western Union Commanders-in-Chief. The five links represent the five Western Union countries in an unbroken chain, and colours of all five nations are incorporated. Below: Where they might ask for your pass in several languages. An entrance to the Palace of Fontainebleau.



10 LA DERNIÈRE HEURE 10

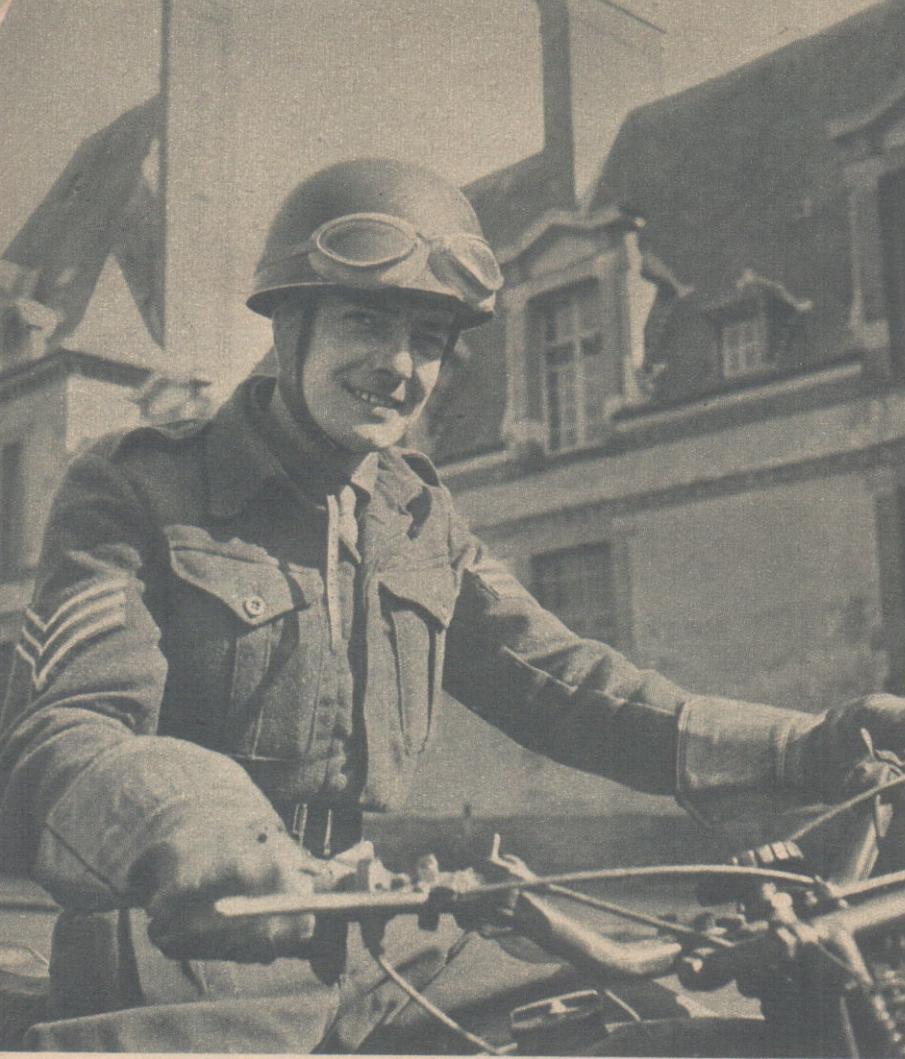
La Dernière Heure

Samedi 14 mai 1949

Voilà une batterie lourde de D.C.A. emportée en Belgique par les unités anglaises — X.

Parmi les passagers du « Washington » qui sont arrivés à Paris le vendredi 13 mai, il y avait le général de Gaulle, la délégation française, avec Gloria Nord en tête, qui est arrivée à Paris pour une réunion — X.

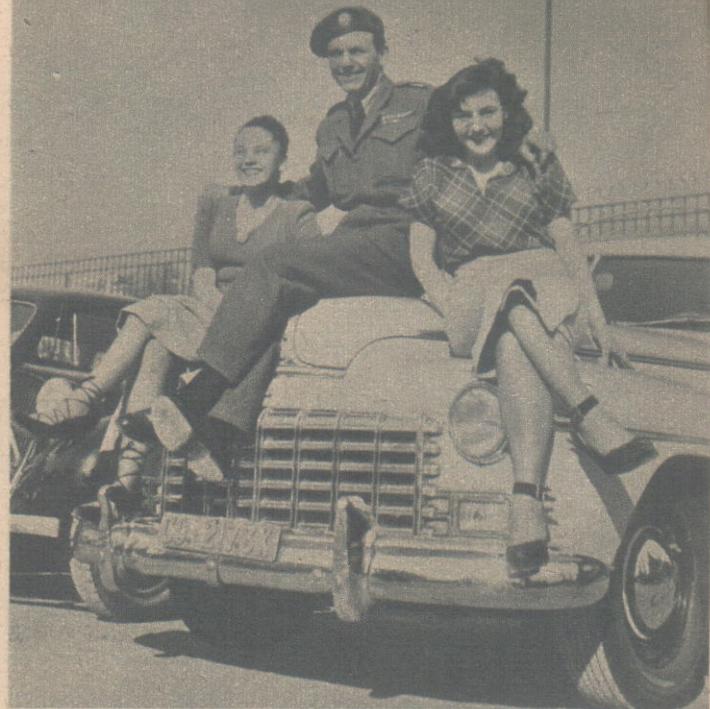
How Belgium sees Western Union at work. Cutting from Brussels paper shows British gunners who are demonstrating to the Belgian army.



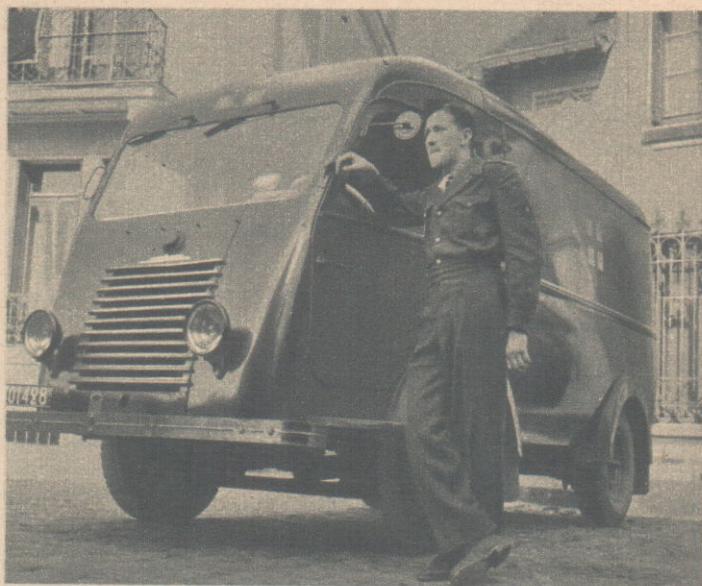
Above: There are British NCO's working for the Western Union at Fontainebleau.

Left: No bicycles—even led by the hand. No walking or sitting on the grass. No picnics. Dogs must be kept on the lead.

Below:—The sign-post was intended for tourists. Now it helps Allied soldiers find their way to the Palace.



Above:—Canadians get around Fontainebleau sometimes, too. This pose is in the best Transatlantic tradition. Below: The French Army is there, of course. This ambulance driver is attached to the Western Union staff.



Below: You have to look twice in these days of universal battledress. This driver is a Belgian soldier.



PAGE 6

WESTERN UNION

(Continued)

by the British soldier is the visit of heavy anti-aircraft units to Holland and Belgium to demonstrate their guns and drills.

More than half the 130 men who went to Holland are National Servicemen. One of their first "social" jobs was to take part in a "Parents' Day" when the parents of the Dutch National Servicemen visited the barracks to see their sons in training.

The British troops can use both British and Dutch canteens, get cigarettes at 10½d for 20 and have trips organised to World War Two battlefields, the bulb fields and beauty spots.

In Belgium the Gunners expressed their appreciation of what had been done for them by cheering their Belgian cook on their first night.

Fontainebleau, home of Uni-force is the hub of Western Union defence. Traditionally it is the home of French artillerymen and engineers; now the shopkeepers are growing accustomed to seeing the soldiers of five nations peering through the windows.

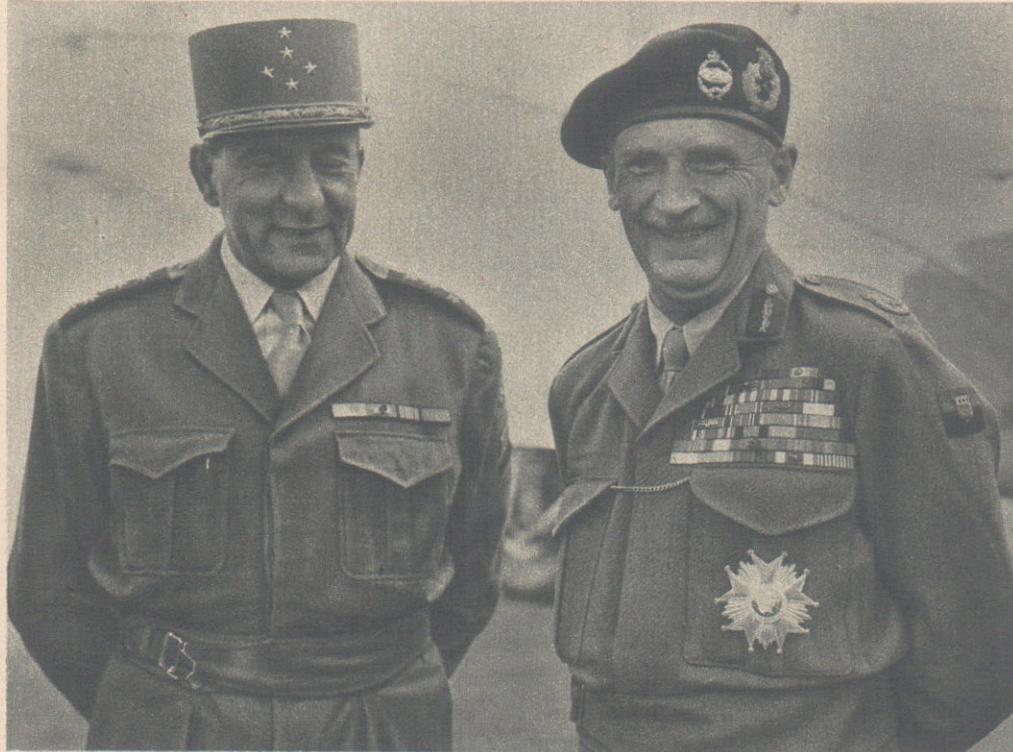
Up at the Palace, the change is less than one might at first think. The main building is still a tourist attraction: in front of it are cars bearing the number plates not only of Western Union nations but also of Sweden, Italy, Switzerland, Canada and the United States.

The Western Union staff is housed in Henry IV's Pavilion, which is detached from the main palace. On the gates is a permanent international guard of Service police. A visitor who is privileged to go inside is accompanied by a soldier who notes down the time he arrives and the time he leaves. Stringent precautions for peace-time? Perhaps, but Fontainebleau has achieved again an importance worthy of its historic past.

For the soldiers who are stationed there, Fontainebleau is a place with several advantages. They can attend the French equivalent of the "Saturday night hop"; there is swimming and boating on the Seine; there are football matches with local teams; and there is a fast train service to Paris for weekend leave. Now, too, the Army Kinema Corporation is showing British and American films in two dining halls which are some miles apart—the men of Western Union are scattered over quite a wide area. And above all, there are the attractive cafes of Fontainebleau.

For the first few weeks they were in Fontainebleau the British Servicemen stayed in hotels, waiting to enter French barracks. They ate in a local cafe and enjoyed French cooking though they were not sorry eventually to get back to English tea and Yorkshire pudding. Some soldiers already have their families with them, so that there is a nucleus of an "International set."

Many of the men could speak French before leaving home and others are learning at least enough to get on with their allies. All things considered Fontainebleau is a good posting.



The two men who would command the Western Union's armies in the event of war. Field-Marshal Montgomery is chairman of the Commanders-in-Chief; General de Tassigny is Commander-in-Chief of the Land Forces.

FIVE STAR FRENCHMAN LEADS ALLIED ARMIES

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of the Land Forces of Western Union is General d'Armée Jean de Lattre de Tassigny, a soldier whose personality is as colourful and whose history is as exciting as his name is impressive.

He is acknowledged to be a fearless, clear-thinking soldier. He is also outspoken, uncomfortably so for those whose efforts, he considers, do not come up to scratch.

He likes pageantry: when he gave a party for an American general in 1945, he lined a four-mile stretch of road with African soldiers, one every 20 feet, holding torches. Yet he wears few medal ribbons; of all those to which he is entitled he is usually seen to wear only four, or even two.

General de Tassigny, who is now 60, graduated from St. Cyr, the French Sandhurst, in 1913 and served in both Infantry and Cavalry in World War One.

In 1940 he was commanding the French 14th Division when the Germans broke through and he fought a determined defensive action against them. Just before the French collapse, he demanded that his division should be sent to Britain or North Africa. His demand was refused.

The Vichy Government sent him to Tunisia as Commander-in-Chief, but in 1942 he was recalled to France and when the Germans invaded unoccupied France, he made an isolated stand against them. For this he was arrested, tried and sent to jail.

In 1943, the General's wife smuggled a steel file to him in a piece of bread and some rope in a bouquet of flowers. He sawed through the bars of his cell and got away thanks to the cooperation of a French guard.

He stayed hidden, until a British plane landed for a few minutes to pick him up and

take him across the Channel. From Britain, he went to North Africa as Commander-in-Chief of the French forces there. In the North-West Europe campaign, he was commander of the French First Army.

If he was a spectacular success in war, his forceful personality has been of even greater use to France, and to the French Army in particular, since VE-Day.

When peace came, there was little left of France's pre-war army. Most of the force which had fought under de Tassigny was North African; no classes had been called up for training since 1940; no young officers had been trained; many older officers were past their prime or had forfeited their trust by supporting the Vichy regime. There were immediate calls on those who were available for the Empire overseas.

Of the youth of France, some had been demoralised by the long years of German occupation; there was much of the "couldn't care less" spirit abroad. There were others who had the destructive spirit of Resistance days and had not been able to acquire the constructive spirit that peace and freedom demanded. From these, de Tassigny had to make an army.

As Inspector-General and Chief of Staff, he was able to persuade the Government to agree to a completely new kind of training, in the now-famous "light camps," modern and well-equipped, away from the distractions of the towns. Here recruits spend the first six months of their army careers.

The training they are given is the most modern that equipment permits and the most realistic the army can conceive, with assault courses which include crawling beneath bursts from machine-guns. In de Tassigny's light camps many of the ill-effects of four years of occupation have been countered. The French Army is being reborn.

What They Say About Your Morals

HOW are the Army's morals?

The Church and the Press are perennially interested in this subject, though scarcely for the same reasons. Soldiers overseas are vaguely aware that their behaviour comes in for a lot of discussion at home, but they are rarely in a position to join in the debate.

Of late there has been a crop of morality reports. One of the most interesting—with special reference to Germany—is that of the Hut and Canteen Committee of the Church of Scotland.

"At one extreme," says the report, "is the view that Germany is one great piece of moral pitch which no one can touch without contamination. At the other extreme is the view that all is well there, and, indeed, that our soldiers there are better looked after than anywhere else... The truth may well lie somewhere between these extremes."

"There are regiments where the young soldiers are very well protected from looseness in conduct and from grave moral temptations. But there are many other places where young soldiers are not so shepherded. This is perhaps particularly true in the various services ancillary to the ordinary fighting regiments."

Striking an average, says this report, "it is probably safe to say that our young soldiers are not subjected in Germany to any greater temptations than they would be at home." Is that saying much? Unfortunately, no. Then what's to be done about it? "It is certainly true that those who come best through the test of National Service are those who have the discipline, the standards and the religion of the home firmly planted in their hearts. But it would be folly to imagine all is well on that score. It is probably not too much to say that 40 per cent of our youth have no knowledge of religion.

"A dramatic sermon on the parable of the Prodigal Son, broadcast on the Home Service of the BBC within the past year, completely missed its hearers in one youth club because, on the testimony of its leader, none of the members know the parable.

The report then has this to say on the posting system:

"During the early days of the war—when more mature men were concerned—the policy of posting men to the local regiment had much to commend it. Men might be far from home, but they had friends and neighbours around them. The modern tendency of posting men to any regiment at all, although perhaps inevitable from the point of view of military necessity, has not always resulted in the best environment for the National Service soldier."

Now for the Archbishop of York. Two and a half years ago he was opposed to sending young soldiers to Germany, because of the moral dangers. Today, he says, the Germans have regained much of their self-respect and the black market is less extensive.

"I am of opinion that more is done to help our young soldiers on the Continent than when they are on home service... On all sides I hear good reports of the keenness and alertness of

the National Service recruits: most of them will gain much by their experience abroad. The chaplains both in the Army and the RAF are doing fine work under difficult conditions... I was also much struck by the responsibility felt by so many of the officers for the young men under their charge."

The Archbishop of York's announcement was an echo of that by the Archbishop of Canterbury who, at the end of last year, said that young soldiers were better looked after in BAOR than at home, and that his recent visit had dispelled any fears he had had for their moral welfare.

The *Sunday Pictorial* recently asked: "Has the moral conduct of the Army, as indicated by the extent of venereal disease, grown worse since pink-cheeked boys were let loose on the harpies of Essen and Aldershot?" and answered it with a "No." Figures of venereal disease rates per thousand showed a striking decrease since 1946. As for crime, as distinct from immorality, the *Pictorial* said:

"The plain fact is that there is more crime in a big English city than takes place in the whole of the Army—at

home, in BAOR, in the Middle East and in the Far East."

One of the most recent reports on morals in Germany comes from Mr. Wilson Harris MP, Editor of *The Spectator*. In an article entitled "Morals on the Rhine" he tells of his stay as "guest of a famous British regiment in the Ruhr," and then asks: Is it enough for the Army merely to maintain moral standards, or is it required to raise them?

"Today the whole population, literally from Etonians to Borstal boys, is swept into the Army's net. In the old days a would-be recruit could be rejected on grounds of character. Not so now. It is indeed the unruly wills and affections of sinful men with which the Army has to deal. And instead of boys going out to Germany to learn evil, an alarming proportion go out in a position to teach it. When the medical officer of one regiment questioned a draft of 42 National Service recruits on arrival, 75 per cent admitted to having had sexual experience already. This is probably an abnormal case, but not necessarily, when it is recognised what the slums of great cities can produce. What is to be expected of boys from homes with no kind of contact with religion and virtually no moral standards, cast loose from the restraints of school at 14 or 15?"

Mr. Harris tells the story of an officer who gave a stop-gap talk to recruits about the public school where he was educated. His audience listened "fascinated, but incredulous." "What? Can't smoke? Can't make a date with

your girl?" were typical comments. Says Mr. Harris: "There is something to change here, and in the matter of morals the home is answerable for ten times more than the Army."

As for temptations: "There is little or no question of brothels in the towns. Anything that happens happens in the open air." He quotes the recent announcement that among National Servicemen in BAOR the proportion of men contracting venereal disease in 1948 was one per cent.

Mr. Harris's conclusion: "It is idle to expect men to whom religion never meant anything to act as though it did. And it is unfair to blame the Army for something that has fundamentally nothing to do with the Army at all." Men who had lived irregular lives in Britain would probably continue to do so abroad, "though discipline and regimental tradition may have a corrective effect."

"Will men who have lived clean lives at home be less likely to live clean lives in Germany? I doubt that very much. If a boy I was responsible for was doing his National Service, I would as soon see him in the Rhine Army as on Salisbury Plain — from some points of view sooner."

- And What We Say

PERHAPS it is a good thing that the Army's morals are constantly spotlighted. At least it shows that the public expects a high standard of behaviour from its soldiers.

This was not always so. Within living memory there was one standard of morality for the Army and one for civilians. Under the Contagious Diseases Acts many of the garrison and seaport towns of England had their own system of vice regulation, by which prostitutes were controlled and inspected on the Continental system. These Acts were abolished in the late 'eighties after long and bitter agitation on the grounds, among others, that the system was inefficient, that it was degrading to women and that it was degrading to the Army. but morality is fundamentally a matter of common sense.

The Church of Scotland report suggests that behaviour tends to deteriorate in "the various services ancillary to the ordinary fighting regiments". If this means that behaviour sometimes falls off in small units detached from their parent units, where close supervision

SOLDIER to Soldier

is impossible, the report is not without truth; though here again there are many honourable exceptions. The welfare of the small isolated unit must always be an Army problem. A big unit can more easily keep its men bodily and mentally employed; for always it is idleness—mental and physical—in which the seeds of corruption take quickest root. The curse of this age is that people reared on artificial entertainments are so often

incapable of filling in their own leisure intelligently.

On the whole the Army comes well out of the reports quoted above. It is a pity, however, that the practice is so prevalent of measuring the Army's sexual morality by the rate of venereal disease. This is an unfair and unpleasant and inaccurate yardstick. A unit may get a black mark because of two or three bad characters; conversely it is all too true that a unit which has a "clean" record may be far from moral.

Critics are now beginning to agree that it is wrong to blame the Army for the behaviour of youths who have lived irregular or criminal lives before call-up. But as Mr. Wilson Harris points out, the behaviour of these men may be improved by the discipline and example of a good regiment.

That should always be the Army's aim. In past centuries the riff-raff of Britain were drilled and hammered into the shape of good soldiers, and incidentally into the shape of better citizens. Today the Army works by different methods on different material; but the original aim should still be there: to turn out a better man physically, mentally and morally. If it does that, who can deny that National Service is worth while?

The name means "The Isle of Fragrant Streams." Today the streams get scant notice, for Hong-Kong is an anxious question-mark in the headlines. Reinforcements of troops are on their way there

Report from Army Public Relations and other sources.

THE spotlight which has played on the Army's overseas garrisons since World War Two has moved again. After Germany, Greece, Palestine, Egypt, India, Malaya, it now shines on the Army's most distant outpost — Hong-Kong, 33 days' troopship journey from Britain.

While the armies of the Chinese Communists drive southwards, British troops are on their way to the little Colony.

Not so long ago troops were being rushed from Hong-Kong — the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, it will be recalled, were switched to the jungle war in Malaya. Now the traffic is the other way. One battalion recently in action — the 2nd Battalion of the 6th Gurkhas, fresh from fighting terrorists in Malaya — is already in Hong-Kong.

At the time of going to press the total number of soldiers planned for Hong-Kong is 6000, divided into two brigade groups with air and sea support. For the first time tankmen are being sent to the Colony.

To sum up the defence position on the spot Mr. A. V. Alexander, Minister of Defence, recently flew to Hong-Kong with Service chiefs.

He told a press conference on arrival that the Government's policy was scrupulously to avoid being involved in war on the Chinese mainland, but at the same time to protect the territory in which we held a direct responsibility.

Hong-Kong Colony consists of an island of about 32 square miles, the Kowloon peninsula, some small islands and also the New Territories — part of the mainland leased by Britain for 99 years to give greater security to the island.

To defend the Colony, the garrison must hold a long defence line on the mainland. It cannot afford to yield much, or the Colony's water supply and its only airfield would come into range of enemy artillery. So would the close-packed city of Victoria on the island.

In 1941, two Japanese divisions with another in reserve disposed of the garrison before help could arrive. That garrison consisted of six Infantry battalions and four regiments of Artillery. It had virtually no armour and no air or naval support.



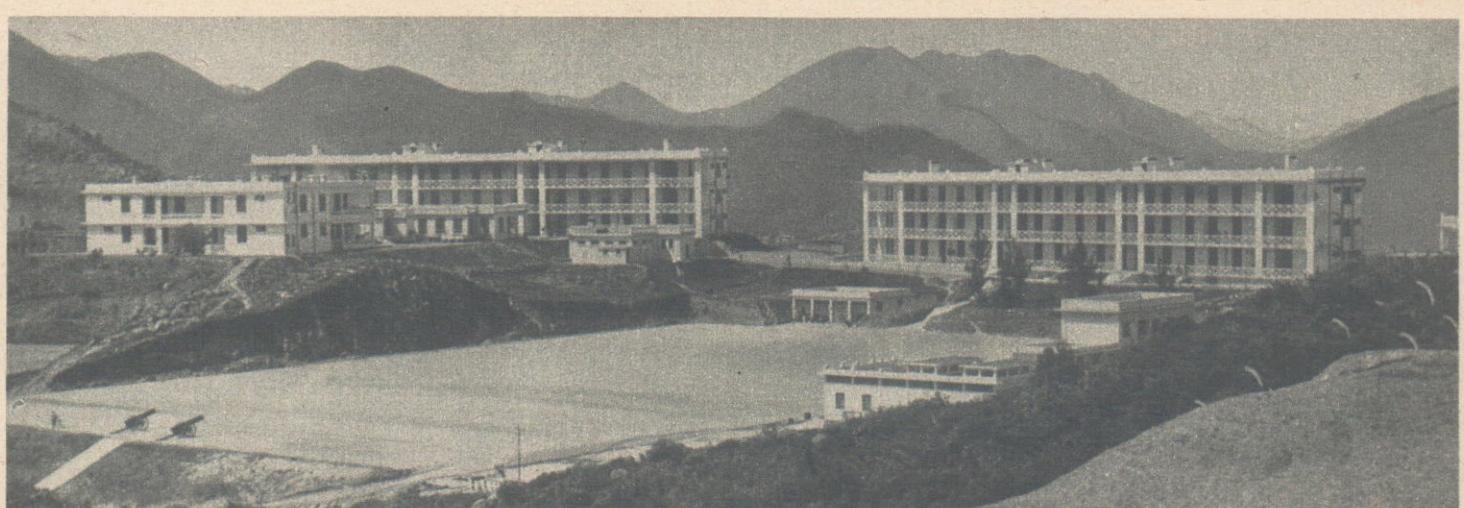
Steps to trade. Many Hong-Kong shopping "streets" are like this.

Hong-Kong today is better fortified than it was in 1941; the 1949 garrison has the air and sea support its predecessor lacked and it has armoured units. Against that, say the experts, is the danger that — if the Communists are willing to risk a Pacific war — a far stronger force than three divisions could be thrown against the Colony.

For the soldier arriving in Hong-Kong, the picture is of well-established garrison life in one of the world's most prosperous corners. Just how well-established is shown by this extract from an article written by a member of the 1st Battalion, The Buffs for *The Dragon*, his regimental magazine:

"Members of the 2nd Battalion who were in Hong-Kong in Edwardian days would be glad to know that the Regiment still supplies guards of Honour to meet notable visitors at Queen's Pier, which, if not up to the standard of that which met Lord Kitchener, none-the-less receive favourable comment; that cricket is still

OVER 



Stanley Barracks, occupied by the 1st Battalion, The Buffs, overlook Taitam Bay, on the South of Hong-Kong Island.



When a 15cwt blocks a road, what does a ten-tonner do? Hong-Kong is no place for fast drivers.

played on the delightful ground in the middle of the town; now amid the swirl of screaming trams and honking taxis; that Murray Barracks is still occupied by the military in spite of strong pressure to procure this valuable site for big business; and that officers of the Services still drink whisky with the Taipans (European businessmen) at the Hong-Kong Club or with the younger and more riotous set at the Cricket Club."

In such a small Colony, soldier, sailor and airman are thrown together a good deal for entertainment. They have several inter-Services clubs, where the cost of beer and food is related more nearly to the Serviceman's pay than in the Chinese restaurants. The Services share dances, pleasure trips and concerts. They play against each other and against civilian teams in sport and they swim and sail together. At the end of the season, sports teams go to Singapore to play units stationed there.

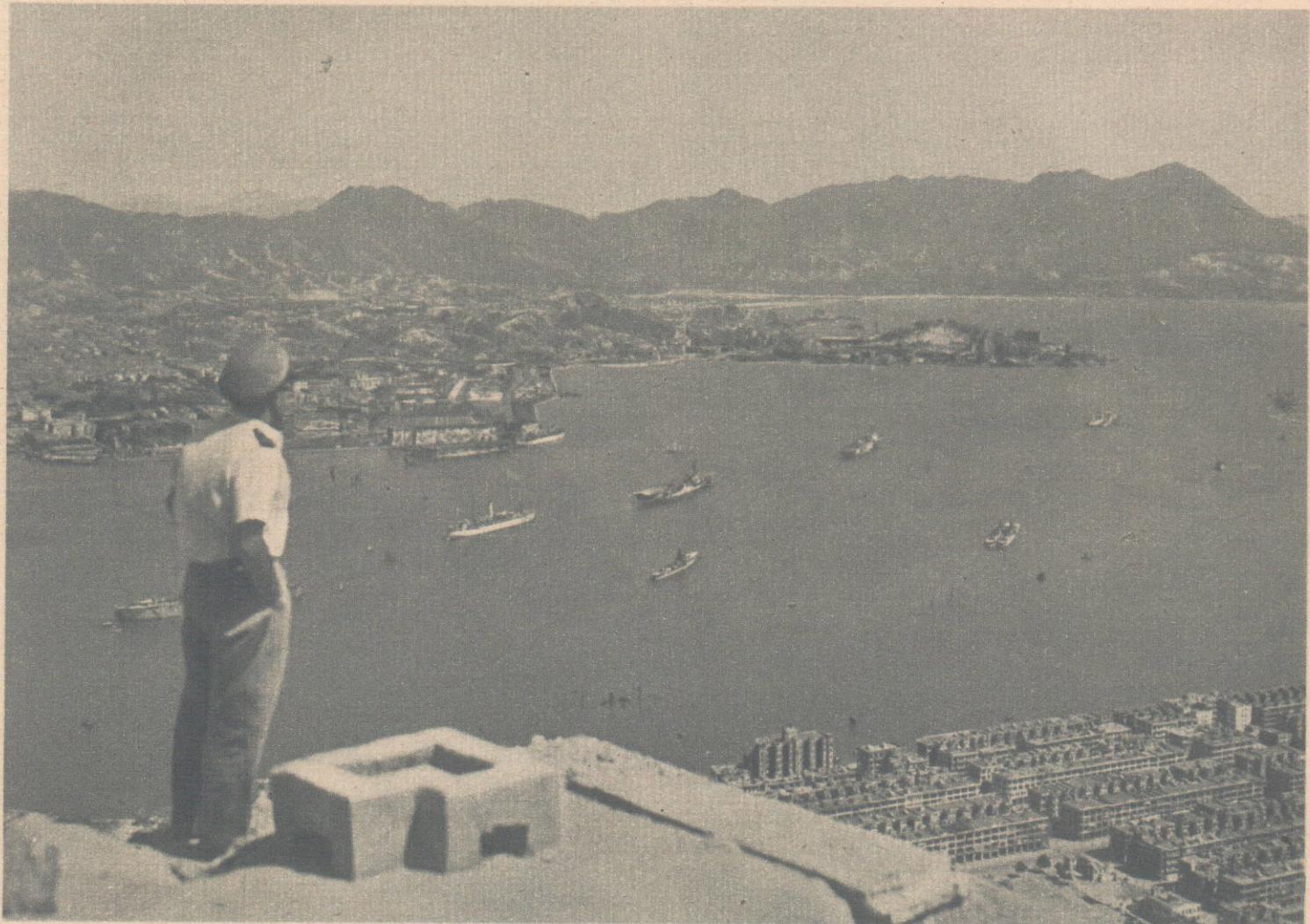
Cost of living in Hong-Kong is higher than at home, so the British soldier gets a Hong-Kong dollar (about 1s 3d) a day as local overseas allowance on top of his pay. But prices in Hong-Kong are generally lower than in other Far East stations and the shops are full of British, American and local products. Incidentally

quite a few troops have acquired the rickshaw habit.

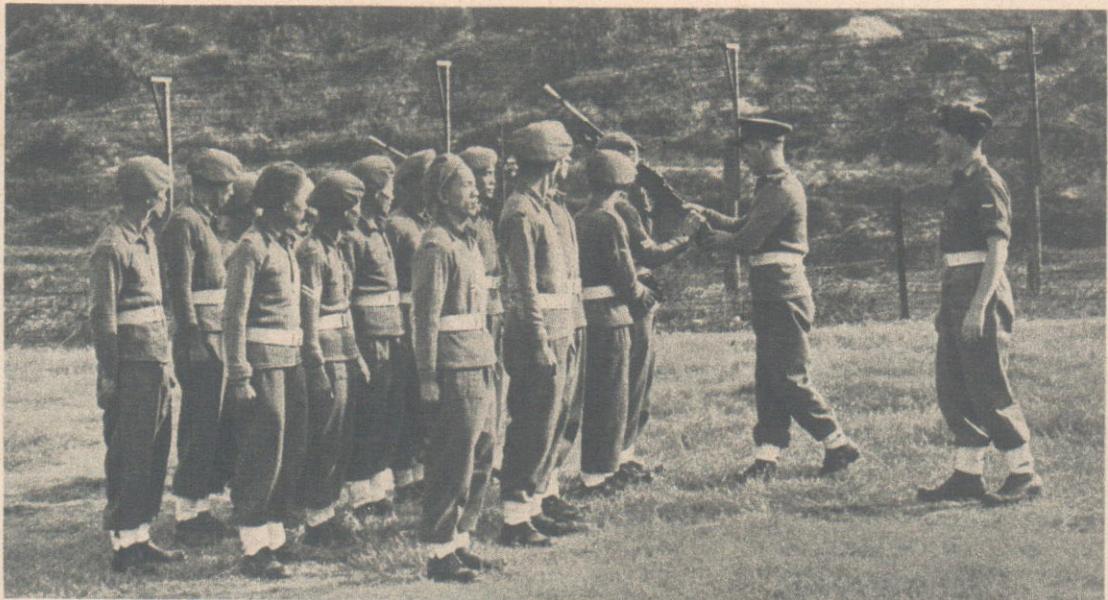
One drawback to soldiering in the Colony is that the housing situation is no better than anywhere else. The shortage of married quarters is being gradually reduced; meanwhile quarters are allotted on a points system. The civilian housing shortage has been made a good deal worse recently by the arrival of refugees from the mainland.

For many Chinese just now, housing is simplified to a bed on the pavement, though others are living in great prosperity. Opinions about the Chinese differ; some Englishmen find them all oily or surly, others get on with them well. Whichever way it is, they are always interesting people to study.

The men of the three Services see a good deal of each other in working hours as well as off-duty. Lucky soldiers get trips on warships to see gunnery exercises, or in aeroplanes to see the RAF at work. They may be put through their paces on an assault course on Stonecutters' Island by Royal Marines. They may find Gurkhas their opponents on exercises; they may help to train locally-recruited Chinese who do four months' basic training before being distributed to tradesmen's jobs in the Services.



From Victoria Peak you can look across the anchorage to Kowloon. The Colony's solitary airfield is on the mainland, at the head of the bay to the right. Far away beyond those hills rages the struggle for China.



Locally-enlisted Chinese have four months' training before being posted as drivers and tradesmen.

Much of the training takes place in the rough, mountainous New Territories, where the narrow, winding mountain roads test the drivers of heavy Service vehicles. There, recently, Service units carried out a combined operation with the civilian police.

Hong-Kong can often produce something to break the monotony of training. Two of the staple industries of the area are piracy and smuggling, and the Army may be called upon for counter-measures. For a long time thefts from Army installations on the Kowloon Peninsula were a problem; now guard-dogs have discouraged the thieves. During the first year the dogs were employed only three thieving attempts were made, all in the first three months.

The climate helps to make life interesting, too. In winter it is cool enough for battle-dress; in

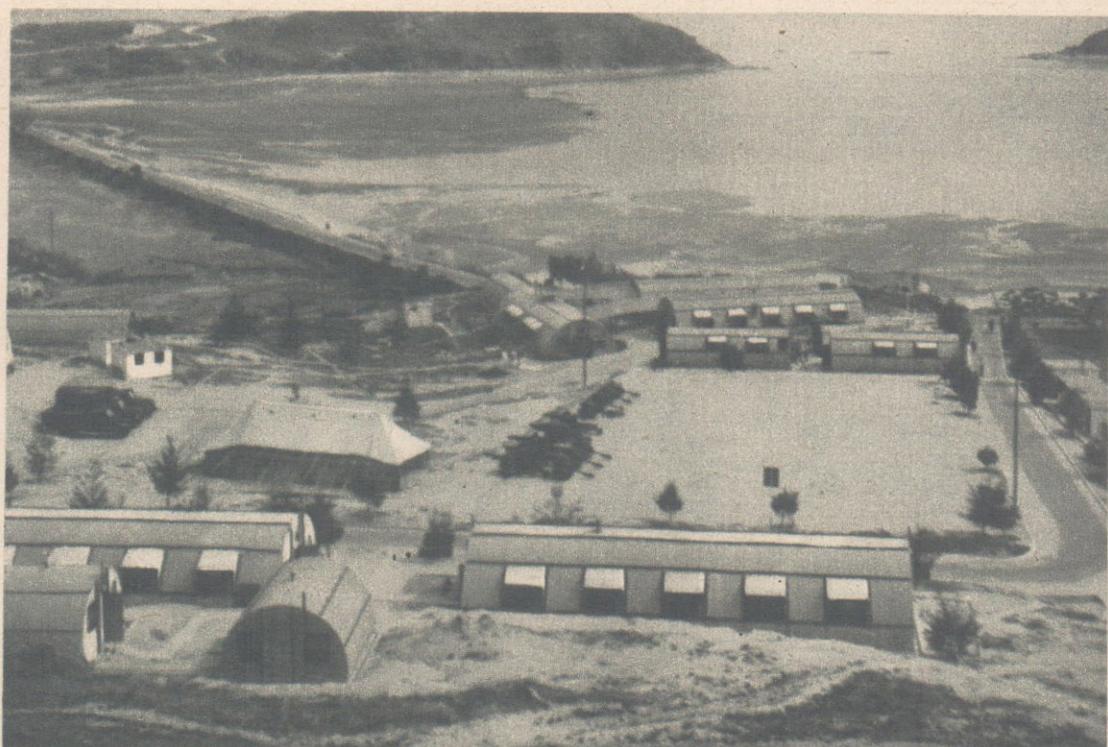
the summer it demands khaki drill and is pretty hot and sticky, with an average of about 82 degrees. But on Victoria Peak, which rises 1774 feet above Victoria City on the island, it is about eight degrees cooler, which makes the Peak a very popular residential area.

Rain can be pretty heavy and sometimes it interferes with training, games and parades. Some months ago a ceremonial parade was cancelled because of rain and a modified version arranged for another day. The rain poured down on that day, too, but the garrison was determined to finish the job and paraded none-the-less, with drums thumping out a soggy beat and the Royal Navy contingent bemoaning the disastrous decision to pipe-clay their white hats.

Now and again a typhoon whips across the Colony,

removing roofs, uprooting trees and generally playing havoc. When that happens, troops are battened down in barracks and messes, with typhoon rations, to wait until it is all over.

* Principal units in Hong-Kong garrison as SOLDIER goes to press are the 1st Battalion The Buffs, 2/6th and 2/10th Gurkha Rifles and 25th Field Regiment, RA. On the way to Hong-Kong are Headquarters 27th Infantry Brigade, the 1st Battalion, Royal Leicestershire Regiment, the 27th Anti-Aircraft Regiment (including heavy and light guns), advance parties of the 1st Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment and 23rd Field Regiment, RA; and elements of the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment and of Royal Engineers, Royal Army Medical Corps and Royal Army Service Corps units.



Tailam Camp, the home of a battery of 25th Field Regiment, RA, is in the New Territories, 14 miles from Kowloon. It is near a first-class bathing beach.

The Army in China

BRITISH troops fought in two fair-sized wars in China and in a number of "incidents" before the events of World War Two.

The two wars were known as the Opium Wars and the first broke out in 1840. The Chinese decided to tighten up controls on the illegal opium trade and seized a British consignment of the drug at Canton. For the British merchant adventurers, this was the last straw: along with other Europeans, they had suffered a lot of indignities at Chinese hands. Only by the opium trade could they pay the taxes and bribes necessary for trading at Canton.

The British Government sent a force from India, which seized the barren island of Hong-Kong, at the mouth of the Canton river. The Chinese still treated the "outer barbarians" with contempt, so the British attacked Canton and forced out the Chinese troops. Eventually, the Chinese gave in and made terms.

Thus ended the first Opium War. The Chinese ceded Hong-Kong, paid an indemnity, opened several ports to trade and received British representatives on equal terms.

In 1857 British and French forces took Canton and the Taku Forts and burned the Summer Palace at Pekin in retaliation for treacherous treatment of diplomats. This was the second Opium War, which brought about the cession of Kowloon to Britain, the legalising of the opium trade and the admitting of missionaries to China.

In 1900 a secret society called the Harmonious Heavenly Fists — soon abbreviated to the Boxers — began a rising against the "foreign devils", besieged the legations in Pekin and murdered missionaries.

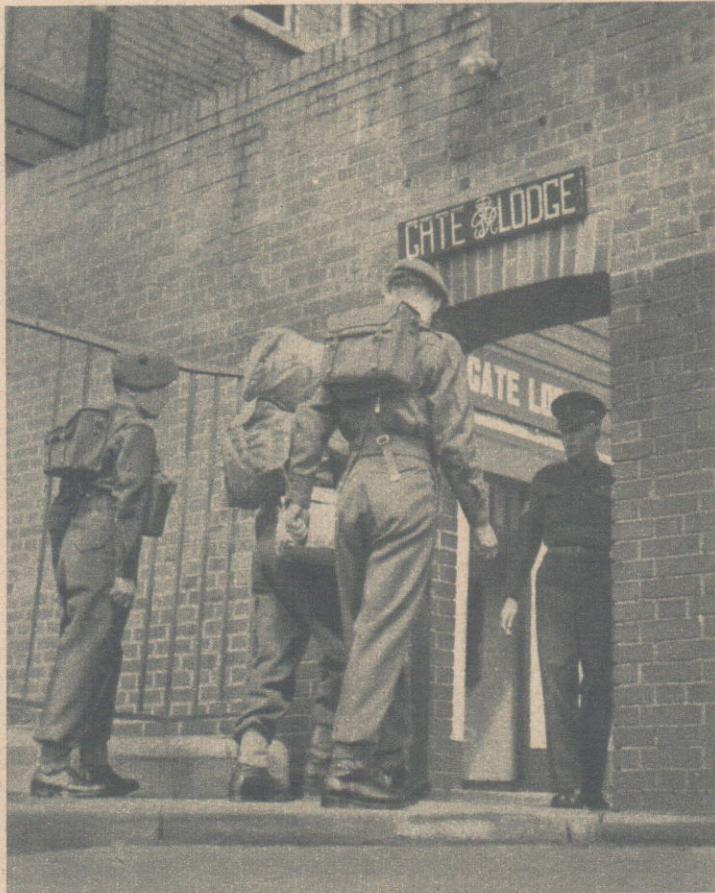
A force of British, Indian, American, French, Russian, Austrian, Italian, German and Japanese marched to Pekin and looted the city. The Taku Forts were razed and from then on the Legations in Pekin were protected by foreign troops.

During World War One a Japanese force, with a small British detachment, captured Tsingtao and other German possessions in China.

Between the two wars there were numerous alarms and excursions. In 1927 our future ally Chiang Kai-shek was leading a nationalist army which seemed to threaten the foreigners in Shanghai. Britain rapidly shipped a division to China and its presence averteded an "incident". The 1949 reinforcements may have the same effect.

FOR a year and a half the Army has been trying out a new method of dealing with soldiers who get into trouble. Those who are likely to make good again are sent to military corrective establishments, where the aim is to turn them out as better soldiers after they have served all or part of their sentences. For determined offenders there are still detention camps and civil jails. Lord Pakenham told the House of Lords that there was reason for "sober confidence" in the success of the new scheme, though it was too early to give a detailed analysis.

SOLDIER visited No 3 Military Corrective Establishment at Bielefeld in Rhine Army to see what happens to a soldier who is sent there, and how the Army sets about reforming him



A soldier under sentence is escorted by trusted inmates through the doorway to a new life—and the new life will be very much what he makes it. Below: the grim-looking buildings were once a German infantry barracks.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL

AS you round the bend of the road that sweeps down from Bielefeld towards Melle, in Lower Saxony, you see immediately below you a group of grim, forbidding-looking buildings surrounded by a 12ft brick wall topped with barbed wire.

Look closely and you notice that all the windows are caged with iron bars. If the iron bars don't suggest it to you then the painted sign — "No. 3 Military Corrective Establishment" — tells you that this is where Rhine Army's soldier-offenders are sent to serve their sentences.

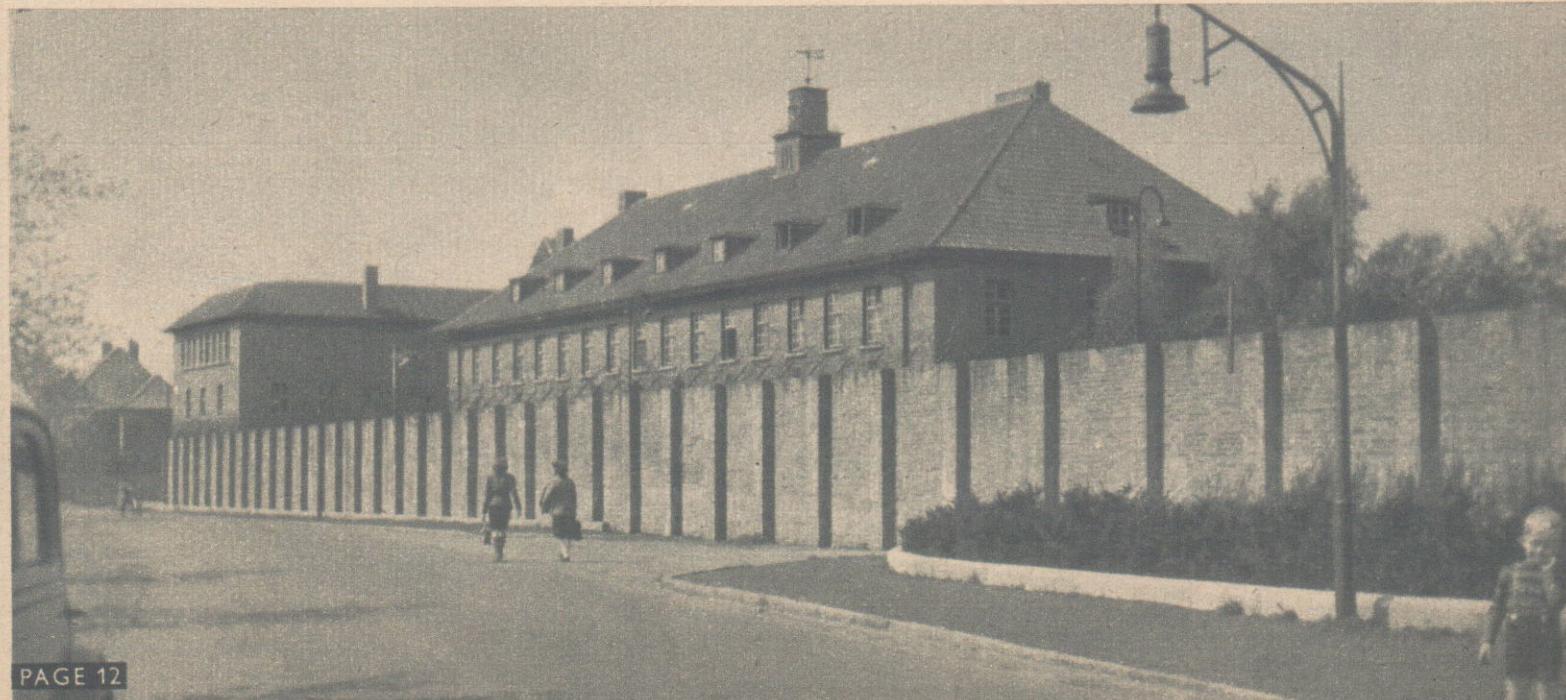
But the grimness of the buildings and the ominous look of those iron bars give a false impression of what goes on behind the high wall. Once a barracks for German infantry, this is now the place where erring soldiers are turned once more into efficient soldiers and, by the time they leave the Army, worth-while citizens.

It is one of the Army's new corrective camps (and the only one in Rhine Army). Here soldiers under sentence are punished and at the same time subjected to a course of training and re-education designed to give them back their self-respect, a better understanding of the virtue of discipline and, by a system of remission and

suspension of sentence, brighter hopes for their Army careers.

Unless you have committed an offence which entitles you to a spell inside its walls, Rhine Army's Military Corrective Establishment is a difficult place to enter. There is only one entrance — through huge iron gates which are locked and closely guarded from the inside. And unless you pass the scrutiny of an officer or the RSM you stay outside that 12ft wall.

Here comes Private Blank, sentenced by court-martial to 12 months detention. He arrives under escort in a 15 cwt. truck, having been picked up at Bielefeld railway station. He is marched to the guardroom where his



number, rank, name and regiment are entered in the daily log book, and then, kit-bag slung on his shoulder, he is taken to the reception centre in an adjoining block. Here he empties his kit-bag on to a blanket on the floor, removes all his clothes and has a hot bath. Immediately afterwards the staff barber gives him a haircut. This haircut is the first tangible evidence he gets that the methods of the old detention camps are dead and gone, for when the barber has finished with him he still has a respectable growth of hair on top.

While this is going on the staff-serjeant at the reception desk has entered Private Blank's particulars on a record sheet and has given him a number. Private Blank will be known by his name while at the establishment; his number is for record purposes only. Next he stands by his kit, clad only in a towel, while his clothing and equipment are checked. All valuables and articles he will not need during his stay are placed in a storeroom and he is given a receipt.

Dressed once more, Private Blank is escorted to "A" Company barrack block if he is a first offender (or to "B" Company if he has been here before) and allotted a bed in a room with seven other soldiers under sentence. This room in which he will live for the first two months is about 20 ft square with a high ceiling which contains two wire-guarded electric lamps operated by a switch outside the door. There are bars at the window. His bed is of wooden boards without a pillow but he has blankets and, very surprisingly, sheets. There is a large table in the centre of the room, and one of the eight chairs is for Private Blank. Against the table are some brooms and a highly-polished bucket and in one corner a built-in latrine. It will be part of Private Blank's duties to keep this room and its contents scrupulously clean, but he will find, perhaps to his surprise (if he has been listening to old soldiers' stories of life in the glasshouse) that no one will deliberately make

the bucket rusty or throw fine dust on the floor, just to keep him busy.

While in "A" Company Private Blank will wear a distinguishing armband and he will not be allowed to mix with soldiers from other companies who are in different stages of rehabilitation. He will be segregated from those who have committed really serious crimes and are awaiting ships home to serve their sentences in civil gaols or in the Military Detention Barracks at Shepton Mallet in Somerset; and also from those who are in their last stage of training and are due to return to their units.

Private Blank is now in Stage One where discipline is very strict, training is tough and privileges are few. At first he will find his meals monotonously the same. There will be little variety, but the calorie value will be as high as in the ordinary soldier's rations. Most days he will have a stew for his mid-day meal, bread and margarine for tea, cocoa with his breakfast and supper, and occasionally jam and cheese. But he will get more bread and porridge.

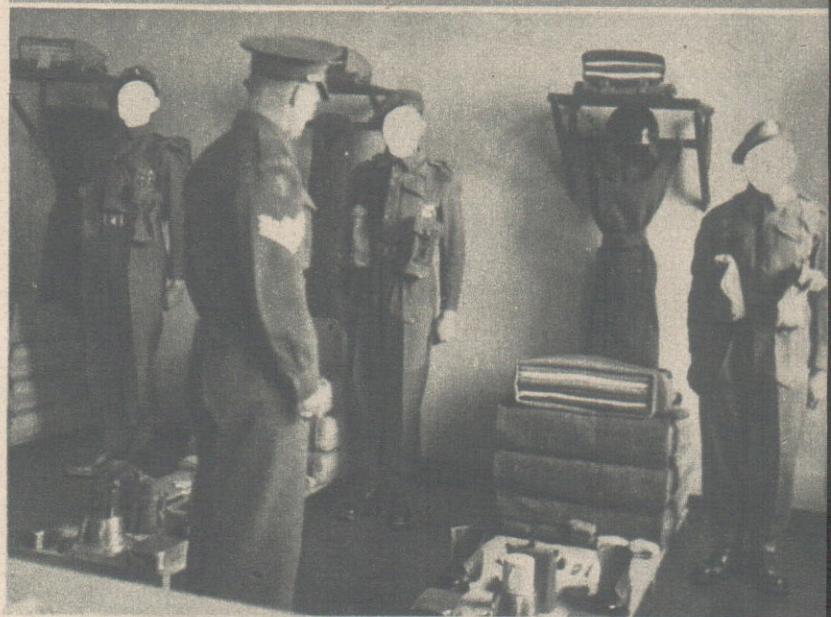
Each day he receives two cigarettes, one to be smoked immediately after breakfast and the other after his mid-day meal. He has little chance to hide a cigarette-end for as he leaves the dining hall he has to place it in a bucket, closely watched by a staff-serjeant. Occasionally a man might get away with a stub-end but as he has no matches or cigarette lighter there is little opportunity of lighting it. At one time some of the men used to hide a lighter flint in a boot brush and when locked in their rooms would strike it against a sharp edge and set light to the scrappings from an inflammable toothbrush handle. But the Military Provost Staff Corps got wise to that one and every man's kit is carefully searched on daily inspections and sometimes on "snap" checks.

Every morning the men are roused at 6 a.m. (except on Sun-

OVER



Soon after arrival every soldier sees the Commanding Officer, Lieut-Col. C. C. M. Macleod-Carey, who tells him how he can shorten his sentence by good behaviour.



A noteworthy point of this picture is the presence of sheets. These soldiers are in Stage Two of their treatment, and qualify for "biscuits" to put on their wooden beds.



After a hot bath the newcomer has a hair cut and a kit check. Cigarettes and matches must be declared.



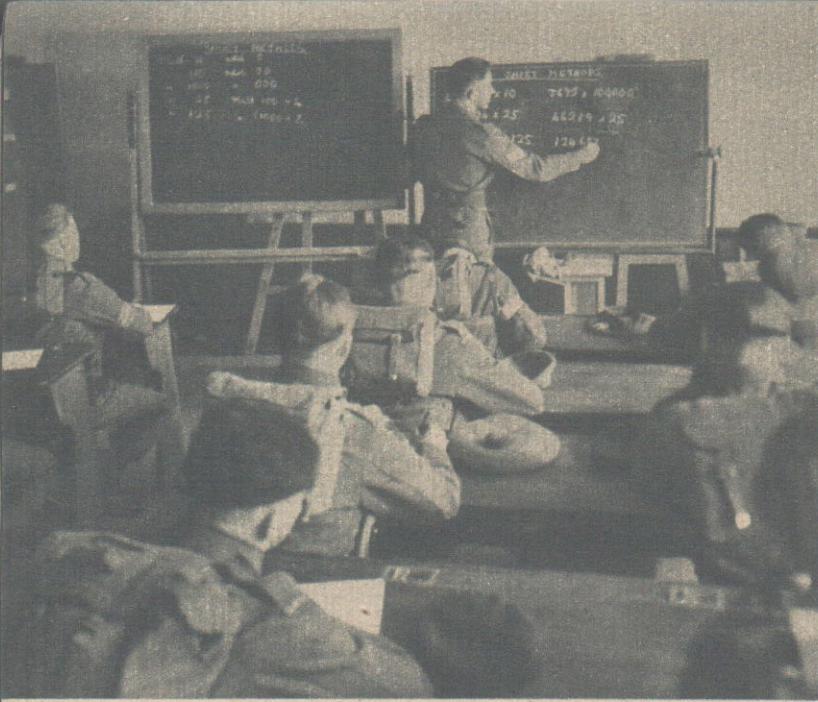
The staff-serjeant peeps through the spyholes of the rooms when training is over. Constant watch is essential.



One of the two cigarettes allowed daily is smoked after the mid-day meal. Every butt must be dropped into a tin.



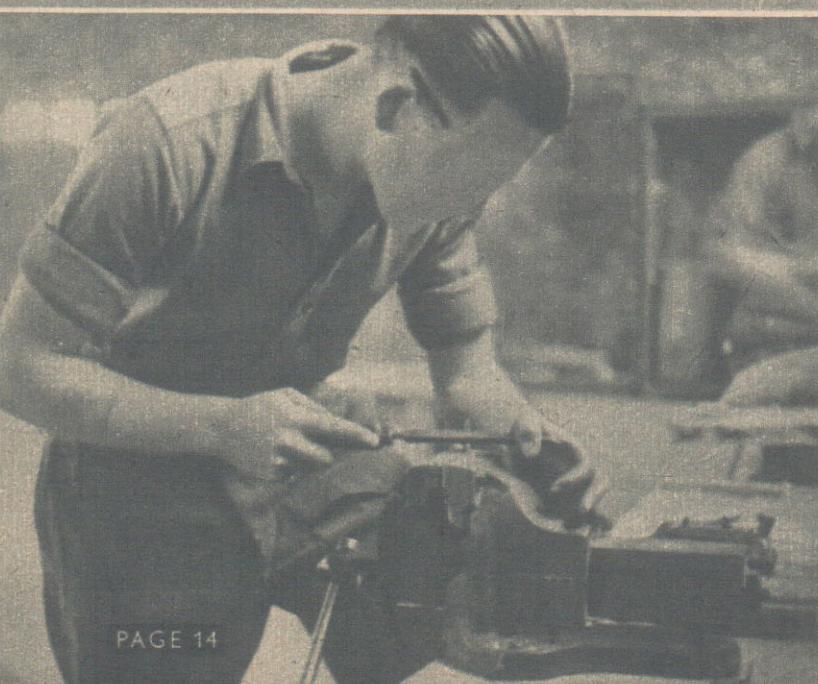
The NCO in charge of the hall gate must know where every man is at any time. Time of locking gates is entered.



Mathematics lesson: even in the throes of arithmetic the men wear their small packs. Below: in the information-room are newspapers, magazines and technical publications.



Below: Soldiers sentenced to imprisonment or to detention for more than a year are given useful jobs pending transfer to Britain. This man is repairing a hinge.



The Other Side Of The Wall (Continued)

days when they have an extra half-hour in bed) and Private Blank has to be pretty sharp at putting his feet on the floor if he wants to keep out of trouble. He is issued with a razor-blade and, under supervision, shaves and washes in a communal washroom, afterwards surrendering the blade. He then dresses, cleans out his room and lays out his kit to a uniform pattern. Unless he wants a black mark which might affect his remission he makes a perfect job of these tasks.

After breakfast he is locked in his room, while the staff have their meal, until first parade on the barrack square at 9 a.m. His turn-out in web equipment and small pack must pass the eyes of his staff NCO and company commander before he begins his training. While away from his room on training he always wears that pack. At first it's heavy and uncomfortable but inside a week he hardly knows he is wearing it.

There is a reason for every job Private Blank does and there is method in the way he does it; he does not carry out unnecessary fatigues or punishments like moving a pile of stones from one end of the barrack square to the other and then back again just to satisfy the whim of an NCO. Experience has proved that tasks like this intensify frustration and that a soldier is more contented if he knows what he's doing and why.

The aim of the establishment is to keep the level of military training at least as high as that of a primary training centre and to make the soldier as physically fit as possible while improving his morale and general knowledge. As it is impossible to cater for tradesmen, (although there are lectures on motor transport) all training is in the arts of Infantry. By the time Private Blank leaves he will know nearly all there is to know about the rifle, grenades, the mortar, the PIAT, the Bren gun and bayonet fighting. He receives instruction in map reading, fieldcraft and digging trenches, and regularly each week he keeps his eye in on the 30 yards range and the indoor .22 range.

There is physical training, both in the gymnasium and on the difficult assault course built by the staff; and drill on the barrack square under the RSM, an ex-Scots Guardsman, is guaranteed to liven him up if he's feeling at all lethargic.

Out of 39 training periods in 12 weeks 60 are spent in the education centre where two RAEC sergeants teach mathematics, English, history and geography. Most of the soldiers under sentence take full advantage of the opportunity to improve their education and regularly use the library and information room where there are newspapers and magazines. After training any soldier can take a book from the library to read in his room until lights-out. In the education centre there is also a large hall where Sunday morning services, always

well-attended, are held and where training films are shown.

After his training, which ends at 4.30 p.m. Private Blank has tea and is then confined to his barrack block. He is not locked in his room until lights-out so that he is free to roam about the corridors and talk with his friends.

The first two months in Stage One are admittedly not very pleasant. He has to knuckle down to strict discipline and train hard. But in the end, if he behaves he will get promotion to Stage Two in "D" Company. Here discipline is a little less severe, his meals are more varied and palatable, and he has a wire-sprung bed with a pillow. It pays him to behave because if he does not respond or commits other offences he may be left in Stage One until he does improve.

If Private Blank feels he has been unjustly treated and has a complaint to make he can see his company commander and, if still not satisfied, ask for an interview with the Visiting Officer who comes once a week. His complaint is fully investigated. Each week Private Blank's company commander reports to the commanding officer on his conduct and general response to treatment. If he scores 75 per cent of marks or over he is regarded as satisfactory.

Many soldiers under sentence are difficult to handle in their first week but when they have grasped the principle that good behaviour means more privileges and a less irksome life their attitude improves. Very rarely does a man stay longer than he can help in Stage One and by the time he has reached Stage Two he is anxious to enter the third and last stage before his release.

It is in this last stage (reached after one month in Stage Two) that the corrective system has its greatest strength. Here Private Blank will be treated more like a normal soldier confined to barracks. He is allowed a shilling a day to buy cigarettes, the tempo of his training eases off and his room doors are never locked. And he gets his first taste of freedom when, on one evening a week, he is allowed out on parole for two hours. Very rarely do soldiers abuse this privilege (the last occasion was nine months ago). He no longer wears his small pack all day, his meals are progressively better, he is selected to go on guard inside the establishment — in short he is almost ready for return to his unit.

It is then that Private Blank, if he has responded satisfactorily and gives every indication of having learned his lesson, receives the full benefit of the new system. If his conduct has been blameless the whole time he has been in the establishment then he has been qualifying for an automatic remission of one-third of his sentence. Now, in addition to that remission, he may have his sentence suspended after a satisfactory period in the third stage. The final result may be that Private Blank, who came in



on a year's sentence and was a model prisoner, will go out in four months or less. In the case of 28 days detention, he may earn four days remission.

Before a man's sentence is remitted, however, his record is very carefully checked and reports are received from his NCO and company commander before being approved by the commanding officer. Application has to be made to higher authority for suspension of sentence.

Also at the establishment are the class "C" offenders — those who have been sentenced to imprisonment or to detention for more than one year. In many cases they have been tried by court-martial and found guilty of major offences which would be regarded as equally serious in civilian life. Usually they are discharged from the Army and stay in the establishment to await transport back to England to serve their sentences in civilian prisons. There are some, however, who although sentenced to longer terms of detention than one year may respond to the corrective system. These are very carefully watched and if there is any possibility of their making good soldiers they are transferred to "A" Company and undergo the same treatment as Private Blank.

While in Class "C" a man has a cell all to himself. He does no military training, but performs jobs like gardening, repairing boots and shoes, mending furniture and helping to keep the grounds in order. Class "C" soldiers are in a small minority. Most of the really hardened criminals have been weeded out of the Army now and are either in civil prisons or at Shepton Mallet Detention Barracks.

When *SOLDIER* visited Bielefeld there were only 150 soldiers

Left: the library has a good range of books and is well patronised. Right: there is an assault course on which soldiers keep physically fit.

under sentence for offences which had earned them between 28 days and one year's detention. A year ago there were more than twice as many. That alone provides an overwhelming answer to critics who claim that Army delinquency is of alarming proportions. It also suggests the effectiveness of the new method of correction.

But little or none of this success could be claimed without the cooperation of the staffs in the corrective establishment. Every officer and NCO is selected for his good record, his knowledge of men and his ability to deal with them. Gone are the days when an NCO's efficiency was inclined to be judged by his bullying voice and his aptitude for inventing heart-breaking punishments. Today officers and NCO's at a military corrective

establishment have to be first-class disciplinarians, good psychologists, top-rate instructors and an example to the soldiers they are trying to teach. They must often have the patience of a saint and the skin of a rhinoceros. They must be hard to be kind and never kind if kindness is likely to be mistaken for softness.

At Bielefeld the Commanding Officer, Lieut-Col. C. C. M. Macleod-Carey, has reason to be proud of the achievements of the establishment in the past year. For 30 years he has been a regimental officer in the Royal Artillery and has commanded British and native troops in almost every part of the Empire. He escaped after the fall of Singapore and then went back to Burma and Ceylon during the war. He has one maxim which has never

failed him in his Army career and one which, he says, stands him in good stead in his corrective establishment: — "If you treat a British soldier fairly he will do anything for you."

When a soldier under sentence arrives at Bielefeld the colonel sees him the following day and by a series of deftly put questions sizes up his man. When the soldier leaves, he again sees the colonel who advises: — "Take up some sport or a hobby and use your spare time properly. Don't drink too much and keep away from loose women. The Army wants to help you not only to become a good soldier but a good citizen. Go away and don't come back." They very rarely come back.

The officers are nearly all old soldiers who have been through the ranks. Theirs is an exacting job for they must get to know each man personally and try to get under the surface to find the best way he can be helped. Few soldiers are criminals and the offences they have committed are breaches of the regulations. It is their attitude of mind that is wrong and it is that attitude which must be corrected.

Heavy responsibility falls on the shoulders of the 100 or so Military Provost Staff Corps, many of whom can recall the harsh procedure adopted at military detention barracks before and during the war. Without exception they say that the modern method of correction is the only proper way to deal with recalcitrant soldiers unless the men are determined criminals, in which case they would be criminals in civil life as well. Their duties are arduous but their reward is sufficient when a released soldier comes to thank them before he leaves.

E. J. GROVE



SOLDIER circulates here, too. Reading it is not regarded as a punishment...

MALAYAN ALBUM

NEWS releases from Malaya recently have included reports of operations by larger forces. To clear one area, a whole brigade — of Guards, Gurkhas and Malays — was used.

This kind of operation is difficult to keep secret, so bandits get wind of it and clear out of the way. The result is that while there may be little shooting the enemy get turned out of their camps, lose their stores and have to start all over again if they are to cause more trouble. It is sound but unspectacular work.

More interesting to the outsider are the adventures of the smaller expeditions, like that of a company of Gurkhas who set off from Kluang, in Johore, to find and destroy three Communist camps reported in the Sembrong region.

For 17 days they cut their way through the jungle on foot (reports Colin D. Edwards of Army Public Relations). Sometimes they were knee-deep in treacherous swamps. They carried extra-heavy packs. They were beset by leeches. They were drenched with sweat and rain. They had to limit their use of food and fresh water.

An advance party put a rough bridge across a river for them, and they established their base on the far bank of the river. Then they marched north and killed two bandits before they reached their first village.

The village was deserted, except for one old man; the Communists had evacuated the rest of the inhabitants, as they had from all the villages through which the company was to pass. Even so, it was at this first village that the Gurkhas saw their next bandit: he walked into the place and was shot trying to escape.

Finding their way through the jungle by compass only, the Gurkhas next came suddenly on a group of Communists sitting down to tea. The bandits fled and left a well-stocked base with food, ammunition, demolition equipment, propaganda material, fishing gear and loot.

There the Gurkhas took a rest, feeding on the bandit rations, which included vitamin pills, and on fresh fish they caught with the fishing tackle. While they were there, an RAF Dakota came over and dropped supplies (including a whole

Above: The owners of this hut were evicted by bandits who hoped to use it as a base from which they could operate by boat. But troops evicted the bandits. Below: Not quite as steady or as fast as motor-boats, perhaps, and you're liable to paddle as you travel. But rafting is better than hacking through the jungle.



Left: Gurkha Bridge. It was built by an advance party for a Gurkha company. (See story.) Above: You can't carry many comforts on your back, but the jungle will provide a roof and a bed if you know how to use it.

sheep's carcase) and mail. For the British officer there was a letter from his wife in Lancashire enquiring if the right sort of baby food would be available in Kluang for their infant son.

Next day a bandit tried to creep into the camp and was shot by a sentry before he could press the trigger of his raised gun. A patrol reconnoitring a river bank accounted for another bandit.

The column moved on, and found a carefully hidden bridge-walk of felled trees which the Communists had made across three and a half miles of deep swamp. Using the bridge-walk, the Gurkhas made good time to the next clearing where the RAF dropped them supplies for seven

more days. But now the company's wireless set broke down and one of the Gurkhas became seriously ill and needed medical attention.

To get the sick man back to hospital and to make Kluang before their food ran out, the company turned back on the twelfth day. The sick man insisted on walking all the way back, carrying his own rifle.

When they got back to Kluang, the Gurkhas had trekked 120 miles through some of the world's roughest country; they had five bandits and four important bandit camps to their credit. And next morning most of them were playing basket-ball.



You read about the Negritos (average height, 4 ft 10 ins) in last month's SOLDIER. Above: Belts are worn, even if trousers are not. Left: Firearms are interesting, but the Negritos have a good line in poison-darts and blow-pipes.





Above: French Infantry parade on the Field of Waterloo. The battle was fought by Highland Brigade recruits at Fort George, Inverness-shire.

Below: a famous Clyde steamer, the *Jeanie Deans*, became the ill-fated *Birkenhead*. In this sequence occurred a technical setback...





Close-quarter fighting at the Battle of Sobral, in the Peninsular War. The French won a temporary gain.

The HLI Films Its History -IN COLOUR

THE Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment) has been making history by re-making history.

It has "shot" a ninety-minute full-colour film of the Regiment's brilliant fighting story — a story which includes the Battle of Waterloo and that famous feat of silent heroism, the sinking of the *Birkenhead*.

"Proud Heritage" is the first film of this kind to be made. As a means of instilling the traditions of the Regiment into recruits, it should be of excellent service.

The idea was prompted by a successful pageant held by the Regiment in Glasgow. To Major R. W. Leckie-Ewing, Commanding the Regimental Depot, it seemed that a more permanent record of the Regiment's story would be worth while.

Ready to hand was Lieutenant Forbes Taylor, who had produced the pageant. This young Black Watch officer had newly arrived home from commanding Combined Service Entertainment units in Greece and Palestine, and he was shortly to go into films in civilian

life. He was named director, and Major Leckie-Ewing became the producer. A camera and equipment were bought from regimental funds, and shooting began.

The first scenes, featuring the Regiment's revenge on the infamous Tippoo Sahib (who imprisoned some of the men of the Regiment for over three years in Seringapatam fortress) were photographed in the ornate City Chambers, Glasgow. Though the lighting was under-strength the shots were successful, and the HLI Film Unit was greatly encouraged.

Then came the outdoor scenes. This was good fun for several score National Servicemen, who found themselves, clad in gay uniforms, charging hither and thither in picturesque corners of Scotland. The scenes depicting the raising of the regiment were photographed in the village of Gartmore, near the Trossachs; many of the villagers put on period clothes and helped in the crowd scenes.

Battle scenes were taken at Fort George, Inverness-shire, where hundreds of recruits from the Highland Brigade Training Centre helped to re-enact the Field of Waterloo — or a corner of it. At

OVER ➤



Between "shots": Left—Lieutenant John Slim, son of Field-Marshal Sir William Slim, prepares to lead a charge of French cavalry. Above: handing out uniforms. In battle-dress is Lieutenant Forbes Taylor, director of the film.

HLI (continued)

Culbin Sands, Morayshire the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir was reconstructed, and at Irvine, Ayrshire, was found a stretch of sand suitable for the Western Desert sequences of World War Two. A number of scenes were shot in Maryhill Barracks, Glasgow, the Regiment's depot.

The most difficult sequence was that simulating the sinking of the *Birkenhead*. A famous old paddle-steamer, the *Jeanie Deans*, was used in these scenes, which were photographed off Craignedoran, on the Clyde. The heavy expense of a multiple sound recording made it necessary to abandon these scenes, however.

The final scene of the film shows Princess Margaret, Colonel of the Regiment, accepting a casket from Glasgow's Lord Provost.

In the credit titles the film is announced as "Produced by the Regiment." Music was specially composed by Bandmaster A. J. Wilson and Bandsman J. S. B. Thomson, and played by the Military Band of the HLI. A young actor, Paul Connell (who appears in "Captain Boycott") was engaged to play Lord Macleod, the one-time Jacobite rebel who raised the regiment; but all the other actors were soldiers.

A parachute descent is credited to the Demonstration Platoon of the Parachute Regiment and 66th (Airborne) Anti-Tank Regiment RA; field gunnery at Assaye to the Boys of *HMS Ganges*; Royal Artillery in the Western Desert to 20th Anti-Tank Regiment RA; and an assault landing to 264 Scottish Beach Brigade (TA).

Here is a brief excerpt from the shooting script. Captain David Baird has been informed that the men do not wish the number of their regiment to be changed from the 73rd to the 71st.

* L. S. WHOLE PARADE WITH BAIRD IN FRONT.

BAIRD: You have fought well as the 73rd, and are rightly proud of it. This much I agree with. Now the order has come to change to the 71st — not from me, not from the Commander-in-Chief, but from the King himself.

And whilst you are serving under his Colour and under my command, by God, you will do what he commands.

* C. S. BAIRD.

BAIRD: I have a hat before me containing the new numbers. In my right hand I have a cocked and loaded pistol. I am now going to come to each man in his turn and he will take the new number. If any man hesitates, I shall not, but will shoot him dead on the spot.

Nobody hesitated. As the Commentator puts it:

"Deep down, their sense of duty and obedience was just as great as his. Their honour was satisfied by being forced to take the number."

* L. S. — Long Shot.
C. S. — Close Shot.



To a National Serviceman, Private Reynolds, fell the job of portraying the Duke of Wellington. His features were considered to resemble the "Iron Duke's." Below: The HLI run for the cover of a wall at Sobral.



SEALSKINS AT THE TOWER

SOLDIER'S cover picture shows a Royal Fusiller on guard duty at the Tower of London. It was taken at a great moment in the history of the Royal Fusiliers.

In 1685 the regiment was raised at the Tower for the protection and movement of the Royal Train of Artillery which was kept there. But three years later the regiment went on foreign service.

For the next 261 years the regiment's home was to be elsewhere. Now and again a battalion took over guard duty at the Tower—the last time was in 1935 when the 2nd Battalion was stationed there for a few weeks to celebrate the regiment's 250th birthday.

Now the Royal Fusiliers are back in their birth-place, this time to stay. The regimental depot has moved to the Tower from Hounslow. There a room has been set aside for the Old Comrades' Association. There, in a few months, will be the headquarters of the 8th Battalion, the only remaining Territorial Infantry battalion of the regiment. There, in the most appropriate of settings, a regimental museum will be established.

It was to celebrate their home-

coming that the Royal Fusiliers, in full dress—red tunics and sealskin busbies—took over guard duties at the Tower for a day from the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards. The guard was mounted by men of the depot and of the 1st Battalion, now at Iserlohn, in Germany. It was a double celebration, since it was held on the anniversary of the Battle of Albuhera in 1811, when 700 Fusiliers were killed in wresting victory from a much larger French force under Marshal Soult, who had out-generaled the British commander.

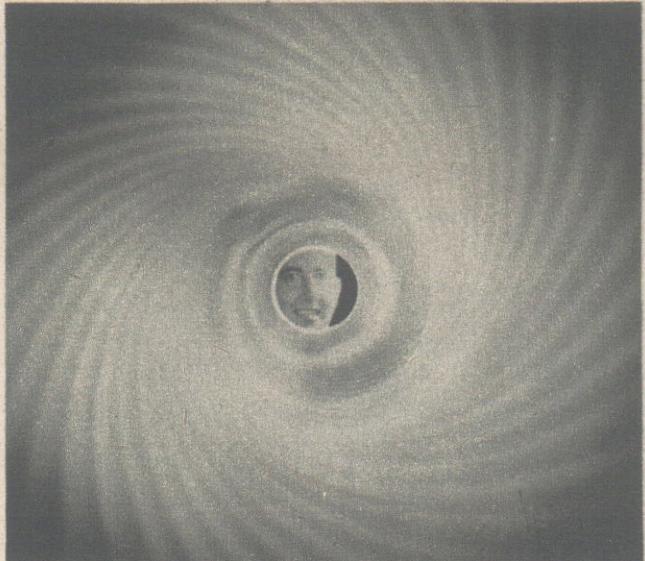
Among those who watched the ceremony were Royal Fusiliers from cadet units, from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and from all the age-groups in between. And there were Gunners from an affiliated Territorial unit: the Royal Fusiliers have had three Territorial units converted into Royal Artillery units, appropriately enough since the regiment's first job was to look after guns. Girls from one of them, a Searchlight unit, are the only WRAC's to wear the Royal Fusilier badge.

For Fusiliers who serve in the Tower there are several links with their regiment's past. A bastion is named after George Legge, first Lord Dartmouth, who was the regiment's first Colonel. In the chapel is buried the Duke of Monmouth: one of the first duties of the Royal Fusiliers was to take charge of the Duke when his rebellion against James II had failed.

And among the ancient cannon at the Tower are some 17th-century pieces bearing the Royal badge of a Rose within the Garter, surmounted by a Crown. Up to the time of Queen Anne this design appeared on every cannon that was cast and for that reason the Royal Fusiliers adopted it as their regimental badge.



Serjeant of the Guard: Serjeant R. Friend, Royal Fusiliers, who has 14 years service.



Worn gun barrels (like this) are restored by chrome treatment. Now the same process is being used in industry.

IDEAS FROM GUNS & GASES

THERE'S nothing like a good war to further the progress of science. Renewed proof of this was seen at the 1949 British Industries Fair.

At Olympia many of the chemical products had a military background. Uninteresting-looking lumps of alloy dispersed on a stand were an essential part of a new metal plating process which added years of life to guns and is now being used to improve the quality of British cars and industrial machines.

At one time when a gun barrel became badly worn it was necessary to recast it. But the new plating process makes this superfluous. The carbon and other deposits are first cleaned out with carbolic and other caustic solutions. Then the barrel is immersed in liquid chrome (nickel for smaller guns), a lead coil is inserted through the barrel and the chrome turned into a solid coating by electrical impulses. When a thick coating of chrome has adhered to the inside of the barrel it is re-bored and sent back into battle as good as new. The undersides of tanks, the bodies of jeeps bound for the jungle and of other vehicles due to be used in humid climates, are plated by this means.

The process is also being used in a big way in the motor industry. Crankshafts and camshafts are given longer life by the application of hard chrome.

In the June issue of **SOLDIER** some of the abortive ideas for destroying Germany's crops during the late war were described. One that was not mentioned was the idea of spraying them from the air with selective weed killer. When peace came, British scientists were working on a chemical designed to kill grass, grain and other single-stemmed

plants without harming flowers and vegetables.

They had already produced a liquid that would do the reverse. Only one part of this harmless-looking transparent liquid in five million parts of water means death to all multiple-leaved plants. It acts on them like an overdose of thyroid on humans. The plants "grow out," increasing in size so rapidly that they collapse and die through sheer exhaustion. This preparation is now on the market. Sprayed on lawns, it kills off all daisies, clover, dandelions and other weeds while leaving the grass unharmed.

Gas, one of the most horrible war weapons, is being made to serve the humanity it was created to destroy. A derivative of nitrogen mustard gas is being used with some success in the treatment of certain types of cancer. DFP, another chemical that was developed for its war potentialities, is used in the treatment of eye diseases and muscular spasms; and BAL, originally produced as an antidote to lewisite, the corrosive arsenical gas, is now widely used in cases of arsenical poisoning. As arsenic is used in the treatment of other diseases, the doctors can thus guard against the ill-effects of an overdose of arsenical treatment.

New type walkie-talkie wireless sets, a two-way transmitter which fits on a motorcycle pillion, a radar set which detects dangerous cumulonimbus clouds, waterproof textiles and a variety of plastic materials were all on show as the latest developments of industrial science. Yet they had their roots in the race for increased destructiveness that spurred on wartime researches.



On board the troopship *Lancashire* the Plymouth band of the Royal Artillery carries on amid a "jungle" of ventilators.

ONE thing which emerges from the recent protests by the Musicians' Union over Service bands playing for hire is that even in a rumba-ridden age which calls musicians "music-weavers" or "rhythm rascals" the traditional Army band keeps its public.

Not only is the Army band popular in the parks at home; it is just as popular among soldiers themselves. Ask the members of the Royal Artillery band which recently returned to Britain from a world tour — probably the longest tour ever undertaken by a staff band.

This Plymouth band of the Royal Artillery (one of the Gunners' four bands) spent six months touring the Mediterranean and Far East. Thirty-three men under Lieutenant S. V. Hays, Director of Music, took £3800 worth of instruments and 300 pieces of music to Hong-Kong. They played on the way out and they found themselves playing on the dockside when they arrived. For two weeks they entertained troops in the colony (including the Buffs and two Gurkha regiments) and made a trip to an isolated battery at Tайлам in the New Territories.

Then back they went to Singapore whence, after a few days, they took the night train to Kuala Lumpur and gave concerts to hospital patients, staff officers of Malaya District Headquarters and men of 26 Field Regiment RA in an outlying post.

Whether their music reached the ears of any lurking bandits they never knew. On their lorry journeys through the jungle they were escorted by armed guards. Their greatest enemy throughout the tour was the weather, for the dampness of the jungle followed by the heat of the ship to Ceylon caused the string instruments — violins in particular — to burst their sides.

Ceylon itself was a high-spot of the tour. The band were given a fine reception by the Ceylon Artillery at Colombo, and again at Trincomalee where they gave concerts to British troops in the Fleet canteen. They were also

asked to broadcast and when it was found there were too many players to get into the tiny studio, they played in a back yard with the microphone slung overhead.

From Ceylon they sailed to the Middle East and played to every Gunner unit in Egypt and Tripolitania. One of their concerts was given in the ruins of the Roman city of Leptis Magna.

The band lost count of the number of concerts they gave and the number of times their dance section played at unit functions. They do know that they were asked to play selections from "Annie Get Your Gun" 63 times. "Oklahoma" was nearly as popular. The most trying request came from a Gunner in Hong-Kong who wanted the "Ride of the Valkyries." The band apologised, but regretted they were without the music. The members were not sorry. It is one of the most difficult pieces

a military band can be called upon to play.

Infantrymen nearly always asked for their own regimental marches. Elderly officers and warrant officers wanted Gilbert and Sullivan and native troops took a fancy to the Blue Danube waltz.

National Servicemen and long-service Regulars play shoulder to shoulder in the Plymouth band. L/Bdr. J. G. Briggs and Musician

R. S. Ryall, the two drummers, have had 18 years and 14 years service each, although not all of them with the Royal Artillery. Like their Director of Music they came from the South Wales Borderers. Musicians Ronald

Skilled on many instruments, Serjeant William Wiltshire here plays the bass clarinet.



Band Serjeant-Major C. Buckingham, who plays the French horn, joined up in 1913.



Two recruits from the South Wales Borderers: Musician R.S. Ryall (left) and L/Bdr. J.G. Briggs.



Musician Colin Thackeray, who clashes the cymbals, was once in the Boys' Battery.



Oboe: Musician John May, aged 19, used to play in his school orchestra, in Cornwall.



The man on the big bass is Musician Frank Charles who used to be in the KOYLI.



THIS BAND MADE A WORLD TOUR

Out from Plymouth sailed a Gunners' band on one of the longest musical tours yet — to Hong-Kong, with "stop-overs" in Malaya and North-Africa

C. Buckingham with 35 years; the one with the shortest is Musician Clifford Galloway, who at 18 has been a Regular less than a year. The man who can play most instruments is probably Serjeant William Wiltshire, who can take up the oboe, B flat clarinet, alto bass clarinet and alto, tenor and baritone saxophones.

When the Plymouth band returned to Britain they found that the Musicians Union were renew-

Above: When bandmen run races, they are expected to play their instruments too.

Left: the band made a special trip to the out-station of Tайлам in the New Territories of Hong-Kong, to entertain a detached battery of 25 Field Regiment RA.

Right: the band's Director of Music, Lieutenant S. V. Hays.



ing their attempts to stop Service bands from undertaking paid engagements. Already, of course, Army bands accepting civilian engagements are subject to a variety of regulations which prevent them being employed by a political or religious body, undercutting a civilian band or another service band, or replacing musicians on strike. They may not include musicians from any other bands, even from the bands of their own Territorial battalions.

This means that Army bands which, together with those of the Royal Marines, created the public taste for the military band type

of instrumentation (a combination of woodwind, brass and percussion) have only limited opportunities of playing in public. This is the public's loss rather than the Army's. The main role of a Service band, after all, is on the parade ground; playing to the civilian is merely a side line.

When the dance orchestra section of a band gives a performance the bandmen taking part share 60 per cent of the profits and 20 per cent goes to the conductor. The rest is given to the band funds. For an engagement of the whole band the profit is split between the director of music or bandmaster, the bandmen, band funds and public funds, according to the annual takings. If a band makes less than £1000 a year, the bandmen of a regimental band get 65 per cent, and those of a staff band 60 per cent. A director of music receives 15 per cent and a bandmaster 10 per cent.

Of the profits exceeding £1000, bandmen of both types of band get 80 per cent while the director and bandmaster get 10 and five per cent each, except that the share of a director falls to five per cent on the profit above £2000.

Bandmasters, besides their warrant officer pay, also receive £70 annually from the Government grant to each band, which is from £200 to £300, but directors of music, in view of their officers' pay (their promotion and pay is similar to that of quartermasters) do not get an allowance.

THIS BAND MADE A WORLD TOUR

(Continued)

Regimental bands (Cavalry and Infantry) are now on a similar establishment to staff bands (Royal Artillery and corps). Until early in the war each band was part of its regiment or battalion and had an operational role, for example, anti-aircraft observation in the Cavalry and stretcher bearing in the Infantry. This wholesale transfer of musicians to active service duties meant that from September 1939 the task of playing to the Army at home and abroad fell on the few remaining staff bands, and musicians of the Guards' regiments who were not affected by this order.

It was Mr. Winston Churchill who altered this. He ordered that all bands should be reformed and made independent of individual battalions. This order still stands (although with fewer Infantry battalions there are now only 108 bands to the 166 of pre-war days) and bandsmen no longer have an operational role in war time.

A player who qualifies on his instrument does not receive trade pay, and the pre-war system of granting corporals' rate of pension has ceased. Players are allowed to undertake civil engagements individually in their spare time and many are able to supplement their incomes. The luckiest in this respect are the musicians of regiments (including the Guards) stationed in or near London. The Guards' bands, having no boys on their establishments, are compelled to engage experienced bandsmen — mostly transfers from regimental bands.

There is no doubt that the Army, through the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall, has trained some of the country's finest military musicians. Last year two trumpeters from a Guards' band were welcomed into good jobs in a famous London orchestra.

The current opposition from the Musicians' Union does not perturb the Army unduly; what is causing greater anxiety is that there are not enough band boys. Considering the standard of the musical training and the opportunities that exist in the Army and civilian life, this is surprising. It may be that the public just do not know what the Army has to offer the boy with musical ambitions.

ERIC DUNSTER

The band has two librarians — and an impressive repertory.

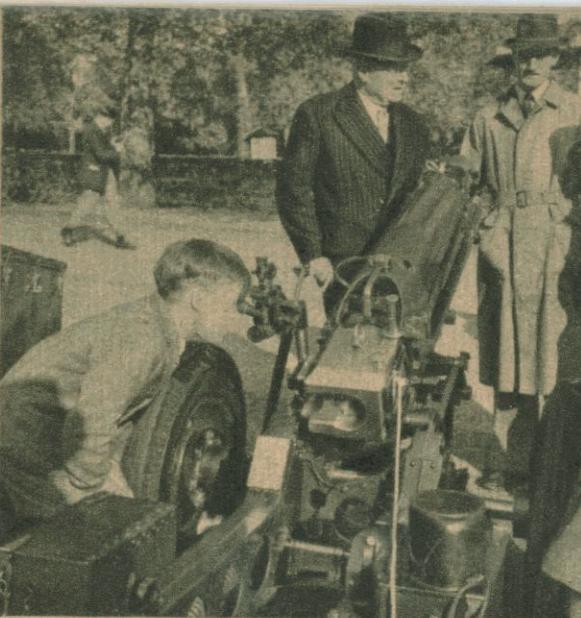


Above: For an hour or two High Holborn was freed of its untidy bustle of taxis and buses. The procession did not stop for traffic lights.

Below: The kiddies would have preferred the Life Guards on their horses. But the bands were close behind.



Even in hard-bitten Fleet Street they lined the route to see the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders march by in kilts.



All he can see is a natty pin-striped suit — but it's a thrill to get as close as this to an airborne 75 mm gun.



Above: Impressive exhibit in Hyde Park was a 3.7 inch anti-aircraft gun on a 4.5 naval mounting. Below: Portrait of a man who has seen everything.



The Army Shows Off

ARMY DAY took a lot of people by surprise. Was it an annual event? If so, how had they missed it before? Nobody seemed to know.

It was not an annual event. It was merely a day chosen by the Regular Army for an extra publicity drive in London, to show the taxpayer what he was getting for his money, and to encourage recruiting. It was, appropriately enough, held on the anniversary of the cease-fire in North-West Europe.

The main event was a seven-mile march through London by the 28th Infantry Brigade, with three regimental bands. The column was led by armoured cars of the Life Guards, guns, and Corps vehicles. As the troops passed through the West End some of London's mayors took the salute.

In Hyde Park there was a display of guns, tanks and equipment. The Scots Guards band played and a recruiting team was on duty, ready for anyone who felt the least urge to enlist. In the evening, the drums and pipes of the Brigade of Guards beat retreat.

It was a fine day, Londoners enjoyed the show and the Army got a good press. Will Army Day be repeated next year? Nobody knows.

P.S. No, the WRAC were not in the procession. Seven miles was considered too far to march — though doubtless plenty of WRAC's could have done it.

GENERAL SIR ROB LOCKHART, who served in the Frontier Force Regiment, writes of the "Piffers" — the Punjab Frontier Force, which produced Sam Browne, Lumsden of the Guides and the prototype of Gunga Din. This article is reproduced from the *Daily Telegraph* by courtesy of the Editor and of General Lockhart

DEFENDERS ON THE INDUS

YOU must know that along the North-West Frontier of India is spread a force whose duty is quickly and unostentatiously to shepherd the tribesmen in front of them.

"They move up and down from one desolate little post to another; they are ready to take the field at 10 minutes' notice; they are always half in and half out of a difficulty somewhere along the monotonous line; their lives are as hard as their muscles and the papers never say anything about them."

That is how, in "The Lost Legion," Kipling describes the Punjab Frontier Force—or Punjab Irregular Force (P.I.F.) as it was originally called—which is now a century old.

The "Piffers" were formed to keep watch and ward beyond the Indus, in the wild tribal tracts—then recently annexed—that extended for 700 miles from Hazara to Sind. The story of the "difficulties" which the Piffers subsequently overcame so gallantly is the story of India at war for a hundred years. To make a selection from the splendid chronicle of the Frontier Force must be an invidious task. It is with trepidation that I essay it.

Most memorable, for instance, was the prodigious march of the Corps of Guides, both cavalry and infantry, from the Frontier to the Siege of Delhi in 1857, 580 miles in 26 days during the height of the Indian summer.

Yet three hours after they had completed their march the Guides were in the thick of the fighting, and had all their officers wounded. Thereafter, for four months, the Guides' Infantry shared with the 60th Rifles and the 2nd Gurkhas the honour of holding the main piquet in Hindu Rao's house in face of almost unceasing attacks.

It was during this fierce fighting at Delhi, too, that the Guides' water-carrier, or bhisti, Juma, won immortal fame as the prototype of Kipling's Gunga Din. In real life Juma survived, to become an Indian officer and win the Star for Valour—till then honours unheard of in India for one in his lowly position.

Lt. Harry Lumsden it was who had raised the Guides in 1846. He enlisted men of every wild and warlike tribe on or near the Frontier, and used to hold shooting competitions on the ranges for the privilege of joining his Corps. Eventually he put his men into khaki, of which he was the originator.

Among the most notable of Lumsden's recruits was Dilawar Khan, a Khuttak. Dilawar had been brought up for the Moslem priesthood but had found the kidnapping of Hindu bankers more

profitable. When Lumsden met him, his stock-in-trade was a sword, a rope and a buffalo skin, which last he would inflate in order to float his involuntary guests across the Indus and into his own country of Yusafzai.

At first he laughed at Lumsden's suggestion to enlist. Later, however, he thought better of it. Perhaps Lumsden's warning had sunk in that he would surely hang if he did not mend his ways. Eventually Dilawar, the kidnapper, rose to be an Indian officer, became a Christian and died at last of exposure on a secret mission in Central Asia.

Yet another unforgettable incident in the history of the Guides was the last stand made in Kabul on Sept. 3-4, 1879, by Lt. W. R. P. Hamilton, VC, and 76 of men, who formed the escort to Sir Louis Cavagnari, the British Envoy to Afghanistan.

Hamilton led four sorties in his efforts to silence the guns which the attacking Afghan troops had brought up. After the fourth sortie none of the four Britons was left alive. Then Jewand Singh, a Sikh officer, went out once more with all who were left and made an end. An eye-witness describes how Jewand killed eight men before he fell. To destroy

that gallant band cost the Afghans 600 killed.

No less illustrious than Lumsden of the Guides was Lt. Sam Browne, inventor of the famous belt, who raised the 2nd Punjab Cavalry in 1849. In his delightful Journal, which covers his life from 1840 to 1878, Gen. Sir Sam Browne gives us a far too brief glimpse of his adventures.

I find his views on sentries refreshing: "The Regulation system of showing your sentries and calling out 'Who comes there?' is about the most stupid ever thought of. Conceal your sentries supported by their reliefs in different places.... No challenging, no talking. Ask no questions, but fire when within 10 or 15 yards with buckshot if possible. That's the stuff."

Here is Sam Browne's account of an afternoon's outing on the Frontier near Nowshera in 1857:

"A Ghazee (fanatic) singled me out and came at me. I guarded his cut but it caught my horse across his thigh. I gave him 'point' through his throat and finished him. The standard bearer I favoured with a bullet as he was in the act of cutting down a Sepoy, but he came on at me, when I gave him a second shot which did for him."

"A low thorn fence was then between me and the village which my horse cleared and led me into a narrow lane. As I rode up this lane a body of Ghazees came down. I drew my revolver and shot the first three of them with one shot each. The fourth I had to give two shots. This checked the remainder."

A year later, fighting the Mutineers near Bareilly, Sam Browne won the VC and lost his left arm—and very nearly his leg as well—in what he describes as "a hand-to-hand business with a gun's crew" which he had charged single-handed but for his orderly.

In the same fighting Hakdad Khan, an Indian officer of the 2nd Punjab Cavalry, rallied a company of the Black Watch which had lost nearly all its officers and NCO's. In acknowledgment of this gallant act the

Black Watch subsequently sent their Band and Pipers to play the 2nd out of Bareilly.

Of the countless gallant deeds done on the Frontier down the years I shall mention only two more, both relating to the 5th Punjab Cavalry. On March 18, 1860, Risaldar Saadat Khan with 150 of his own men and 37 Mounted Police met 3000 Wazirs and Mahsouds in the open near Tonk. He charged immediately, killed 300 and scattered the rest.

Seven years later Jemadar Imam Khan did even better. With only 27 men he charged 1000 raiders and killed 100 of them. These were the great days of the arme blanche.

In 1903 the Punjab Frontier Force as a whole lost its separate identity and was absorbed into the Indian Army. Its units still survived, however, and kept alive the great traditions of the Force. By 1914 the Frontier Force had taken part in over 50 officially recognised campaigns on the Frontier.

In the ceaseless stream of border war and foray there appear certain major rapids and whirlpools to break the normal flow. Needless to say, the Frontier Force was in these too, up to the neck. Thus in the Mutiny, the Second Afghan War (1878-80), the Boxer War (1900), the Kaiser's War, Hitler's War—in all of these the Frontier Force has played its full and honourable part.

And what of the present? Today the "Piffers" are represented by the following: The Guides' Cavalry, Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry (which embodies the old 1st and 3rd Punjab Cavalry), four Mountain Batteries, the Frontier Force Regiment (of five battalions, one being the Guides Infantry), the Frontier Force Rifles (also of five battalions), and the 5th Royal Gurkhas.

On the partition of India in 1947 all these units other than two Mountain Batteries and the Gurkhas went to Pakistan. In Pakistan today there is a Piffer Mess in Abbottabad, where also the Depots of the Frontier Force Regiment and the Frontier Force Rifles are established.

"Piffer Week"—that peacetime reunion long established—has been revived. In India, too, a Punjab Frontier Force Committee has been set up to watch the interests of all Piffers in the sister Dominion.

Finally, in proof of their faith in the future, British officers in London have formed a Punjab Frontier Force Association, membership of which is open to Piffers of any race.

The spirit of the Punjab Frontier Force is still high; its units still serve as devotedly as they have served for 100 years. That is why we celebrate this centenary.



General Sir Sam Browne invented the belt that bears his name, won the VC and lost his left arm and nearly his leg in what he described as "a hand-to-hand business with a gun's crew."

The stalwart, scar-faced warriors of the Sudan, descendants of the Mahdi's troops who killed Gordon and defied Kitchener, have now adopted British traditions. They proved their mettle against Germans and Italians

THE KAID'S MEN TRAIN THE BRITISH ARMY WAY

DEFENDERS ON THE NILE

THE British Army has given its shape, methods and, as far as possible, traditions to a good many other armies scattered across the world.

They have made good use of its teaching, and none more so than the 5000-strong Sudan Defence Force.

As a regular force under an independent government, the Sudan Defence Force is officially a foreign army. But it was British raised, its Kaid (Commander-in-Chief) is a British officer and there are British officers serving with the force.

Otherwise, it is entirely recruited in the Sudan, where its four corps with the aid of modern transport keep watch on the country's long, desolate frontiers.

During World War Two the strength of the Sudan Defence Force rose to 25,000 and its fighting qualities were proved in both Eritrea and the Western Desert. Training has not been allowed to slacken since the end of the war and new barracks are planned for the Force's infantry school at Omdurman, a few miles from Khartoum.

Infantrymen enlist in the Force for three years and technicians for six years, with the option of signing on. Seven out of ten stay on for six to ten years service and a good many complete 18 years to qualify for a pension.

Like the British Army, the Sudan Defence Force likes to get its recruits young. Incorporated in the Infantry school at Omdurman is a cadets' Infantry college, where boys from 18 to 21 are accepted straight from local secondary schools and civilian colleges and given two years' intense training to emerge as officers. Recently four specially chosen officers went to Britain on an eight-months course at Hythe and Warminster — with 12 days special sightseeing leave.

Also at Omdurman is the Boys' Technical School, where boys from 13 to 15 are taken into the Force to train for trades — building, stone-masonry, engineering, carpentry, tailoring and so on. Boys do up to five years at the school, then they are posted to their home Corps to serve as craftsmen for another nine years. The school has made the Force almost self-supporting in building work.

Another of the Force's schools at Omdurman is that of signals. Up to 1939, signals communications were limited to the old semaphore; now they are up to date.

But not all the teaching is done in schools. To save time and money, training teams tour the four Corps and give the men training on their own ground; one



Sectional bridging and assault course—the Sudan Defence Force trains realistically at Omdurman.



difficulty for instructors is the language problem — in southern Sudan the main language is English, but in the north it is Arabic.

Rations bother nobody. Most of the troops are married and feed at home; the unmarried ones buy their food at a small canteen in the camp — generally "on the book" until the end of the month.

Ranks run parallel to those in the British Army, but there is one which has no equivalent, that of Sagh. It dates back to the old Turkish Army and rates somewhere between captain and major. It was originally intended to be held by a staff officer or an adjutant.

An even older relic in the Force is the crest of the Western Arab Corps, which is a Crusader's sword. Tradition says that men from the Corps area attended the Crusades. A local sheik, Rizegait Nazir Sheik Ibrahim Mousa, owns 50 suits of ancient chain armour which, the legend says, his ancestors wore at the crus-

ades. He keeps a large guard to look after them.

The Sudan Defence Force is strong in the sports field and it has some fine horsemen. But in a Force which has to operate in places where mechanical transport would be at a disadvantage, horsemanship is not confined to off-duty hours. Officers and officer-cadets are trained in the saddle. There may be an extension of the uses of horses soon: in the southern zone, ridden with tsetse fly, the Sudan Defence Force is co-operating with government veterinary specialists in experiments with the new drug antryicide. They hope the result will be that they can use mules in the area.

Another innovation is coming the way of the Force too: each Corps has recently started to form its own band — the Western Arab Corps is making it a pipe band. Only one thing is slowing up the operations: lack of instructors.

Below: He doesn't always do this in battle-order. The Sudan Defence Force likes sport, too.



The British Legion: Is Its Job Finished?

AS SOLDIER went to press, members of Britain's biggest ex-Servicemen's organisation were getting ready for their annual conference. They had a great deal to talk about.

In the House of Commons and in the *Daily Herald*, Commander H. Pursey, Labour MP for Hull East, had been attacking the British Legion. The Legion had replied to his fire, but it was expected that plenty of delegates to the conference would also want to voice their opinions on this vexed topic.

Commander Pursey, who admits that the Legion has done good work in the past, claims that most ex-Servicemen's grievances have now been put right by the Government, and that social security schemes have solved remaining problems. The Legion, he says, is being used as a political machine.

The controversy came to a head over a House of Commons' demand for an enquiry into war pensions. It was said to have the support of the British Legion. This Commander Pursey denied.

"If the Liberal Party," he said, "had introduced social security and a national health scheme in 1914 there would have been no question of this duplicated scheme for war wounds and ill-health. The war cases would have received the same treatment as those under the National Health Scheme, and there would have been no Ministry of Pensions." Following that argument, the Legion would put the Ministry of Pensions and itself out of business.

Organisations like the Army Benevolent Fund, St. Dunstan's and so on, provided almost everything the Legion offered, said Commander Pursey. Why, therefore, should the Legion need new £100,000 offices, highly-paid officers and large staffs? Why, with £1,000,000 reserve fund, was it necessary to appeal for £1,500,000? The Legion, he added, was a minority organisation with a membership of only one million out of ten million ex-Servicemen, a large number of whom were counted two or three times — he was a member of three branches.

In his newspaper article, Commander Pursey alleged that the transformation of the Legion into a political machine "began last year with the appointment as National President of Sir Ian Fraser — the first political head."

In the House of Commons, Sir Ian Fraser, blinded in World War One, denied any "political racket." The campaign, he said, sprang from a resolution passed by the Legion's conference demanding that war pensions should be doubled. "It was not the invention of any of our officials... It was an expression of opinion, to some extent damped down and held in

Commander Pursey: I am not going to give way again. The hon. Member who moved the Amendment claimed that this matter has the support of the branches of the British Legion. A large number of its branches do not support it; they disagree with this political party racket and would have taken no action whatever about it but for the fact that they were forced to do so by the Pall Mall circus headed by the hon. Member for Lonsdale (Sir I. Fraser). That will do for branches and organisations.

Lively words about the Legion in the war pensions debate. Extract from *Hansard*.

Social services, says Commander Pursey, have taken over the work the British Legion has done for nearly 30 years. The Legion says "No"

QUESTION OF THE DAY FOR A MILLION MEN

Should the Legion disband?

"YES" says COMMANDER H. PURSEY (Labour MP for Hull East) in the House of Commons debate this week on the adequacy of war pensions accused the British Legion, among other organisations, of "cashing in on this misery of human lives."

When he referred to "the crookster type in which the British Legion specialised,"

Mr. Beverley Baxter, Tory MP and a Legion branch president, interjected: "That is a caddish thing to say." Mr. Baxter refused to withdraw the word "caddish" and was escorted off the premises.

This is Pursey's case against the Legion:

THE British Legion, which claims more than 5,000 branches and 1,000,000 members, should now be disbanded.

It has done good work in the past, but there are two reasons why this expensive organisation should now be wound up.

FIRST. Most of the

charitable organisation to drive

its own redundancy.

THE Legion has a

fine record of service.

He is also a brilliant politician and a

Tory MP, and the Legion is now

nothing but a political racket.

SECOND. The Legion is

now a political racket.

It has a fine record of service.

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EVERY day 3000 ex-Servicemen go to the British Legion with a problem. Some get their answers from the London Headquarters, but most are dealt with by the Legion's branches.

There are 5300 branches with more than 1,000,000 members. These figures do not include the British Legion, Scotland, which is a separate organisation, but they do include 58 overseas branches from Australia and Belgium to Bolivia and Brazil.

The Legion is well equipped to deal with the troubles of ex-Servicemen and will help them whether they are members (qualification: seven days' paid service) or not.

The headquarters has specialist committees which deal with items like pensions, housing, employment and benevolence. Branches form local service committees of which at least half the members belong to the Legion; the rest come from organisations like the local Forces Help Society, SSAFA, RA and RAF Associations and sometimes from the nearest Ministry of Labour and National Assistance Committee. There are 4590 of these committees and they can approve financial help in small sums or make bigger recommendations.

Much of the Legion's work is for sick and disabled ex-Servicemen. After World War Two there were many suffering from rheumatic ailments and, apart from disablement pay, little was done for them. The Legion paid for and equipped two wards of 25 beds each at a Bedfordshire hospital for these men. So impressed was Mr. Aneurin Bevan, Minister of Health, that the Ministry took over the wards and had them moved to London where six beds are always kept for the British Legion by Mr. Bevan's order.

Men discharged with paralysis were sent with their families to a house at Aylesbury which the Legion had bought and converted into flats. Here for six months, living free, wives received guidance in caring for crippled husbands. This house has now been closed, its work completed.

All over the country the doors of houses owned or rented by disabled men have been widened at the Legion's expense and special ramps built to let wheelchairs through.

The Legion pioneered occupational therapy for tuberculosis cases. At Maidstone it owns a complete village for ex-Servicemen

Off the London-Folkestone road, near Maidstone, is the British Legion Village at Preston Hall. Left: It has its own shopping centre. Right: Lay-out is spacious.

THIS IS THE JOB



Mr. Winston Churchill presented Churchill Court, Seven-oaks, to the British Legion for a convalescent home.

men suffering from tuberculosis, which has accommodated 10,000 patients, some of them for five years. The men live in a sanatorium until they have progressed enough to move to one of the 149 houses in the village where they can be joined by their families. They learn a trade in the village workshops, and their work has yielded £2,250,000. The sanatorium has now been taken over by the Government under the National Health Act, as has another Legion tuberculosis sanatorium at Nayland. But the rest of the village remains with the Legion.

For men who cannot leave their own homes, the Legion runs Disabled Men's Industries, Ltd. The men are supplied with materials to make articles which the Legion buys and then resells. Thus, the men can supplement their disability pensions.

The Legion has four convalescent homes, at Southport, Seven-oaks, Weston-super-Mare and in Northern Ireland. Two country

houses at Westgate and Cromer are run for aged and incapacitated ex-soldiers.

Who pays for all this? The public, mainly through the annual Poppy Day but also through gifts and legacies, and the Legion also has investments. Poppy Day income helps other organisations besides the Legion.

Five Army formations have handed over all their benevolent funds to the Legion to administer. They are 1 British Armoured Division, 11 Armoured Division, 5 Infantry Division, 23 Hussars and 10 Medium Regt. RA.

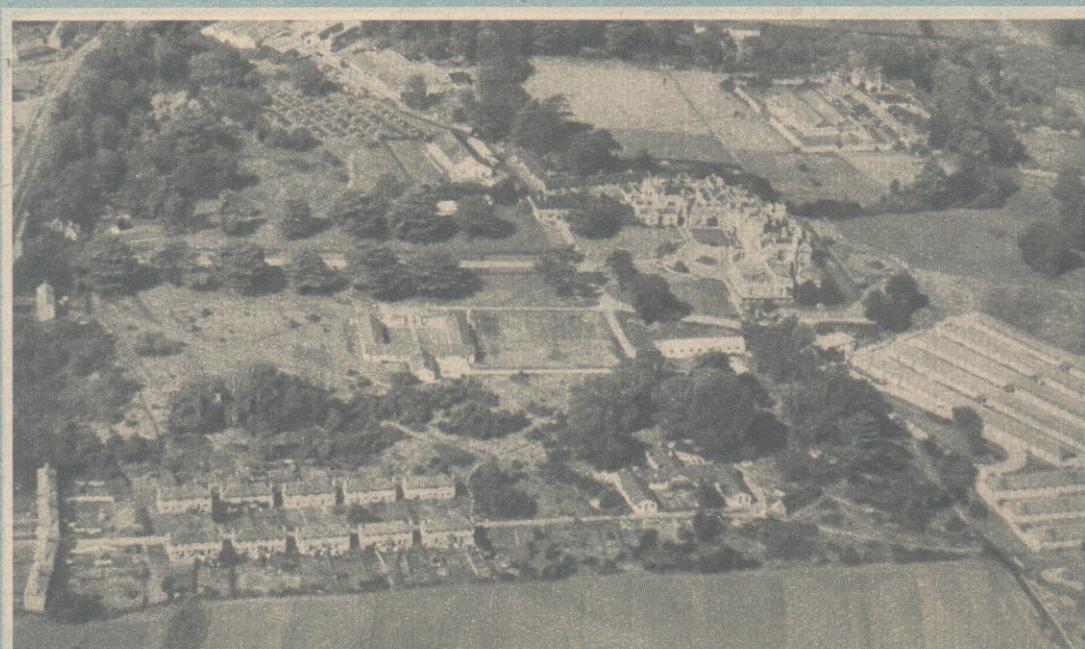
Closely allied with the British Legion are the Officers' Association, which, like the Scottish British Legion, has its own charter, and the British Legion Haig Homes Trust, which has built houses for ex-Servicemen and also helps to pay rent for many more. The Legion gave a second £100,000 to the Trust last year.

Since 1947 the British Legion has granted to 1631 ex-Servicemen interest-free loans to close the

gap between the price of a house and the amount a building society would advance.

To cope with its administrative problems, the Legion is organised into nine "areas" in which the branches are independent units. They have their own officers and committees and service rank counts for little — though senior officers are often asked to take the bigger jobs. For men still serving in the Forces, membership is honorary and does not carry the right to vote.

The lowest subscription a member can pay is 2s. 6d. a year of which 1s. 6d. goes to Headquarters. Some branches charge more — the most expensive West End branches have a 15s. subscription — but Headquarters still takes only its 1s. 6d. Branches may also run British Legion Clubs for their own members, under licence from headquarters; there are about 800 British Legion Clubs and the Legion is trustee of another 200.



NAAFI gave her a month off to go before the cameras — but Julie did not stop at one film

NAAFI Girl Goes on the Screen

JULIE Milton is one of those persons who are always willing to "have a go" but who never expect anything much to come of it.

Sitting in the NAAFI office at Uxbridge camp, issuing rations, she wondered what could be done to liven life a little. She had thought of joining the Forces and going abroad, but VE-Day came sooner than expected and there didn't seem much point in joining up after the show was over.

So when she read of a talent-spotters competition run by Denham Film Studios in aid of their ex-employees, she thought it might make quite a pleasant outing. She had always been interested in theatricals and, like all good Welsh girls, had done quite a bit of singing and amateur dramatics at her home town of Caerphilly, Glamorganshire.

The outing did not seem so pleasant when Julie found herself spotlighted on a platform at Denham Studios, about to do her stuff before some of the big noises in the film world. Still, she had not come there for nothing, so bolstering her courage with a couple of "Cymru am Bythys" she let rip the first few bars of "Jealousy."

It was awful. The notes quavered away above the piano accompaniment and the higher they flew the fewer. Julie stopped, swallowed, and started again. This time the piano tinkled an octave or so higher than her voice and she gave it up as a bad job.

"Er — do you mind if I recite instead?" she asked.

"All right then, go ahead," replied Michael Powell, who was one of the judges, in a tone which clearly meant "But try not to waste too much of our time." So Julie did a dramatic little piece called "Smiting the Rock." Both the rock and the audience must have been smitten well and truly, for she was one of the six selected to compete in the final



Above: Portrait of a career girl: pensive and just a little wary. Right: as a talent contest winner, Julie was congratulated by her NAAFI colleagues.



As the film fans will see her — with Donald Houston and Meredith Edwards in "A Run For Your Money." (The miners in the story have just won a prize for the best coal output).

at Wembley Town Hall, where, to her great surprise, she was hailed as the winner.

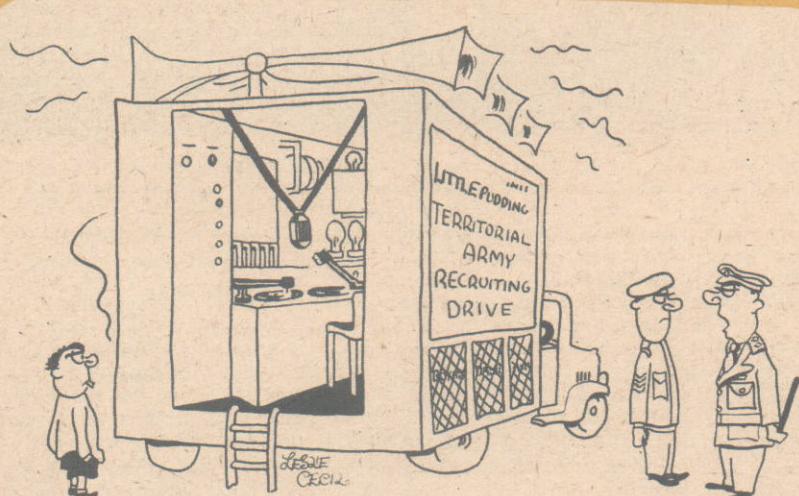
The prize was to have been a screen test, but Julie skipped that and was immediately given a small part in the film "I Know Where I'm Going." NAAFI gave her a month's leave to do it. The belated screen test came only last February, by which time Julie had married an RAF musician and borne a bouncing baby boy. Another film part followed the screen test and Julie will shortly appear as Bronwen, the Welsh girl friend of Donald Houston in the comedy "A Run

For Your Money." The film, which has just been completed in Ealing Studios, is about two miners who win a prize of £100, a trip to London and a ticket for the Rugby International at Twickenham. After a half-glad, half-reluctant send-off from Bronwen they set out for the big city and then their adventures begin.

Her latest film completed, Julie now sits in her Ilford home minding the baby, waiting for another part (she would like to get some experience on the stage) and trying to eliminate the last traces of a Welsh lilt from her speech.



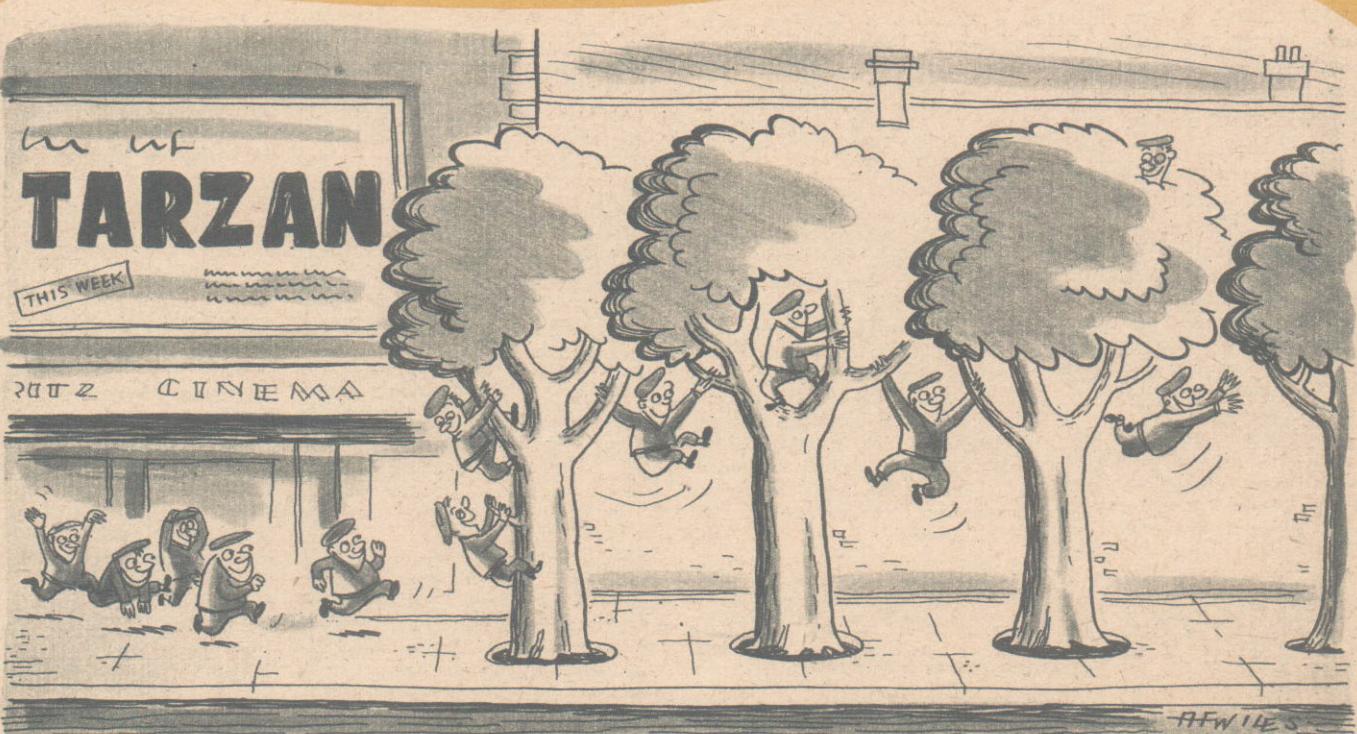
SOLDIER HUMOUR



"Results might be better if you stopped playing 'You'd Be Far Better Off In A Home'."



"The response, Serjeant, is 'I will,' not 'Just the job, Padre'."



The Guards In Their Armour

BOOKS

THE toast was: "To the gallant British Guardsmen, the best soldiers in the British Army, the smartest soldiers in the world." And the proposer: a Russian marshal.

It was just after VE-Day. Ten Grenadiers, under a sergeant, had gone to Vienna to guard a temporary British headquarters and they had become one of the city's show-pieces.

Characteristically, the Grenadiers had come through the war with their gloss and glamour unimpaired. Yet the six battalions of the Grenadier Guards had suffered more than 5000 casualties and they had fought in battles as fierce as any.

It takes two authors two volumes, totalling more than 500 crisply-written pages, to record their exploits in "The Grenadier Guards in the War of 1939-45" (Gale & Polden, £3 3s.).

Captain Nigel Nicolson describes the experiences of the three Regular battalions in France in 1939-40. The Grenadiers started off by receiving medallions from the French in the Maginot Line; they ended the campaign with a bayonet charge and the first soldiers' VC (that of Lance-Corporal H. Nicholls).

Patrick Forbes writes the remainder of the first volume, which covers the years of preparation that followed Dunkirk and the campaign in Western Europe. For the Grenadiers 1941 was a turning-point. The three battalions became six, and three of those



Advancing in the morning mists: the 6th Guards Tank Brigade at Vassy, Normandy. This Brigade fought many engagements in support of 15th Scottish Division (see opposite page).

turned to armoured warfare. How did they react to the change from their traditional Infantry role? The history is rather reserved on the subject, but —

It was a far-sighted and an extremely bold decision... bold because the Brigade of Guards had had no previous experience of armoured warfare. But bolder still because there were many responsible persons who predicted that Guardsmen, on account of their height and of their discipline and training, would never be successful in tanks.

Two battalions became tank units; the 1st Battalion became a

motor-battalion. Although the six-foot-two-inches minimum had been waived, the average height of the King's Company was a bit too much for tanks. The Grenadiers enjoyed their new training, but —

Saturday drill parades ensured that the Battalions escaped from grease-guns and petrol fumes to smarten themselves up at least once a week... There were also a number of big parades to brighten the monotony of perpetual training.

On the road to Brussels, armoured Grenadiers were in the

forefront of the longest opposed advance any division had undertaken in a single day. Later they fought in the epic battle for the Nijmegen bridges and punched a hole in the Siegfried Line. In Germany, almost four years to the day from the time they had gone into armour, the Grenadiers became Infantry again.

The three battalions which did not take armour all went to the Mediterranean and they are the subject of the second volume, by Nigel Nicolson. With Eighth Army in the Western Desert, the Grenadiers, represented by the 6th Battalion, fought one major battle, that of the Horseshoe at the Mareth Line. It was "the greatest and most terrible fought by the Grenadier Guards in the Second World War." They took their objectives but were forced to withdraw with 279 casualties, because dense, uncharted minefields over which they had made a costly advance starved the assault companies of supplies and support.

The other two battalions adventured with First Army at, among other places, Medjez el Bab, where two lance-serjeants lay up all day in the middle of a German company gathering useful information.

All three battalions went to Italy, where they fought many desperate battles, none more desperate than that of the Gully on the Anzio beach-head, where Major W. P. Sidney won the Grenadiers' second Victoria Cross of the war. It was ironic that a few weeks later Major Sidney should be held up at the point of a pistol by an American military policeman who accused him of "cluttering up the roads" with a flying column with which he was trying to get into action.

"Alex" Was Fired On By Greeks

IN 1941 British troops suffered a disaster in Greece at the hands of the Germans. It was ironic that at the end of 1944 they nearly suffered another at the hands of some of their former Greek allies.

How near that second disaster was few people realised at the time, partly because of censorship but more because interest was focussed on the main fighting fronts.

Field-Marshal Lord Alexander, as Supreme Commander in the Mediterranean, handled the situation. He has told the story in a Report to the Combined Chiefs of Staff (Stationery Office, 1s).

ELAS, strongest of the forces formed to wage guerrilla war against the occupying Germans, had also successfully eliminated all but one of the other partisan forces. Its supporters marched on Athens in an attempt to make control of the country complete.

It had been hoped that British forces would not become embroiled in these domestic conflicts. It was impossible, however, for us to allow the destinies of a country for which we had been made responsible by Inter-Allied agreement to be settled by armed revolution, and the troops were ordered to resist ELAS attack. They were few in number and badly placed, for they were not tactically disposed, but they were successful in checking the first onslaught.

Taking up positions for a siege they awaited what relief could be spared from other quarters.

Field-Marshal Alexander flew to Athens to see the situation for himself. He landed at Kalamaki airfield, which was weakly defended, with the area between the airfield and Athens in ELAS hands. The only telephone communication was through an ELAS-controlled exchange, which obligingly put a call through for an armoured car to fetch the Supreme Commander. Field-Marshal Alexander came under fire on his way into Athens, to meet the British commander, Lieut-General Sir Ronald Scobie.

It was evident that only immediate and energetic measures would avert a first-class disaster. The greater part of the British forces, as I had been able to see, were closely besieged in the centre of Athens, holding a small and dangerously vulnerable perimeter. They were cut off from the sea by ELAS control of the Port of Piraeus and their communications with the airfield were most precarious. ELAS were attacking energetically and, since so many were in civilian clothes, were being very successful with infiltration tactics and sniping.

Worse, our small force had only three days' supply of ammunition and six days' rations... All depended on the speed with which I could bring in reinforcements...

Luckily things were quiet on the Italian front just then. The 4th British Division was flown into Greece, with other reinforcements. But before they arrived...

Severe fighting broke out afresh in the Athens area on 18th December when our Air Headquarters at Kifisia about 10 miles north of Athens, was attacked by ELAS troops. An armoured force was sent to the rescue but arrived too late to prevent the rebels overrunning it. However, we were able to rescue a hundred of the Royal Air Force defenders, including 30 wounded. On the same day the British garrison at the Averoff prison was attacked and the rebels captured 700 of the prisoners who were being held there. With air support the rebels were beaten back and the remainder of the garrison and a few political prisoners were successfully withdrawn.

Soon after the reinforcements came, British troops gained control of the Athens area and advanced out into the country beyond to take a good defensive position, far enough from Athens to let the Greek Government establish itself firmly and build up its strength. Finally, the British forces agreed to a truce with ELAS.

They Took The Lift To See The War

EARLY in 1939 the Territorial Army was duplicated — on paper. But equipment, accommodation and instructors were not. All the same, the units of the 52nd Lowland Division set to work to reproduce themselves.

The day before war broke out 52nd Division's child began its separate life as the 15th Scottish Division scattered all over the south of Scotland.

Life was not easy for a new formation in those days of shortage and improvisation: an anti-tank unit, for instance, had to wait two months more before it saw an anti-tank gun.

Yet the new Division prospered. It counted itself a fair contribution to Britain's defence in the dangerous days of 1940-41. Then, later in 1941, it was put on "lower establishment" — a mere source of reinforcements for overseas.

Its fortunes took a turn for the better in mid-1943, when it went back to "higher establishment." What happened from then until VE-Day is a story of hardships and triumphs, told in the "History of the 15th Scottish Division, 1939-45" by Lieut-General H. G. Martin (Blackwood, 25s.).

The Division's first battle was the fiercest it was to know — the five-day battle of the Scottish corridor on the River Odon, in the Normandy beach-head.

In the first two days the Division had driven home its thrust five and a half miles deep into the enemy's vitals and had taken ten square miles of territory. For the next three days it held its ground against all comers.

At the beginning of the battle the Division had been faced by the 12th SS-Panzer-Division alone. Before the battle ended, however, the 12th SS-Division had been reinforced by the 1st, 2nd, 9th and 10th SS-Panzer-Divisions and the 21st Panzer-Division — by all of these or elements of them. These enemy troops, too, were seasoned, battle-hardened formations, whereas the Scottish infantry had come to the fight with no collective experience beyond that learnt on exercises and at the battle school. The Scot had proved himself the better man.

In those five days the Division had 2720 casualties, a quarter of the number it was to suffer up to VE-Day. The Odon was only one of several tough river crossings which the Division tackled.



The flash of the 15th Scottish Division.

There is a good story of a gunnery officer who was led to a flat in Courtrai by a Belgian captain one misty morning, to establish his observation post there. While the mist lay thick, he was given a hot bath, followed by a good breakfast.

After breakfast the mist conveniently lifted. "Look!" said the Belgian captain. "What did I tell you?" There, drawn up nose to tail on three roads not more than a mile away, stood revealed long columns of German transport — a strange array of stolen country carts piled high with loot. It was a target such as generations of gunners had dreamed of. No sooner had [he] dealt faithfully with this target than another presented itself. And so it went on throughout the day. The news spread. The lift worked unceasingly. Soon the roof-garden became a grandstand where the assembled beauty and fashion of Courtrai watched the fun and applauded the higher flights of gunnery. Later, the more enterprising spirits went out to round up prisoners and to cut steaks off dead horses. A good day was had by all.

Partisan Close-up

BOOKS about partisan warfare in southern Europe have been numerous. It was a source of rich material for writers, and writers seem to have been numerous among the Britons who parachuted to the partisans' aid.

One of them was Basil Davidson, whose first experience, with the Jugoslavs, yielded "Partisan Picture," a well-received piece of history. Later he dropped in Northern Italy, and from his experiences here came the material for "Highway 40" (Frederick Muller, 9s 6d).

"Highway 40" unlike "Partisan Picture," is a novel. Its characters are the guerrillas who waited in the Ligurian hills, through the winter of 1944-45, for an Allied advance. They are seen through the eyes of an escaped British prisoner-of-war.

Mainly, the book is a series of descriptions of hardship and an analysis of the forces that enabled the partisans to endure. It is not an adventure story so much as a close-up of adventurers:

Afterwards, in civilisation, people would say how wonderful, how romantic, how interesting it must have been: yet one must have been oneself to understand how unromantic, severely anti-romantic, their decisions were, how taken wearily from the small change of necessity, how insignificant and far remote from the great movement of world events, how lost and small among these hateful rocks.

Lovelorn In The ATS

PAMELA Frankau, the novelist, contributed an article to the first number of *SOLDIER*. She was then a Senior Commander ATS, and she was appealing for a more tolerant and chivalrous attitude by soldiers towards women in uniform. ("Admittedly, we don't look as nice as you would wish us to look. But is that fun for us? Do you think that we like wearing these clothes, these stockings, these shoes?")

Service in the ATS must have made its mark upon Miss Frankau; it has certainly made its mark on her writings. There was an ATS background to her first post-war novel "Shaken By The Wind," and in her new book, "The Willow Cabin" (Heinemann 10s 6d) the heroine becomes an ATS subaltern for the whole of Book Two.

Caroline Seward is a former actress in love with a RAMC colonel whose wife (the creature he should never have married) vanished when the Germans over-ran France. While pining for her colonel, Caroline serves as platoon officer at an "Edinburgh Attery," teaching lady cadets to be officers and gentlewomen. The atmosphere of the OCTU — "the school-atmosphere breeding emotion where none should exist" — is cleverly and wittily portrayed, though it will surprise many to hear that one of the fashionable *ripostes* in the ATS commissioned ranks was, apparently, "Drains to you!" or even "Stinks and drains to you!"

There is a female adjutant who is death on slacks and who is always seeking "a ruling from the chief." There is Hadow — "a

long thin blonde with a silly laugh and no respect for the OCTU mystique. She appeared to be divided into two halves like a wasp; her wriggling walk was accentuated by the tightness of her leather belt." But she was a Good Type really; she let the other ATS officers use the mirror in her room (the only one with a light over it) and gave them cocoa in her tooth-glass.

To Caroline, who once played Shakespeare's Viola, falls the gruesome lot of supervising, and censoring, the cadets end-of-course revue, which opens with the song:

"We're officers and gentlewomen, pillars of the OCTU, By the time the evening's over, we hope we shan't have shocked you..."

Poor Caroline! Her colonel takes an overdose of tablets and she goes to attend the inquest, which makes her Absent Without Leave. But her friend Billy Lloyd (the Brigadier) rings up the Attery and fixes that.

The ATS interlude is only one part of the book. The whole makes a good story of the kind Miss Frankau's readers expect, and it is told with wit and sympathy. It is, incidentally, a Book Society choice.



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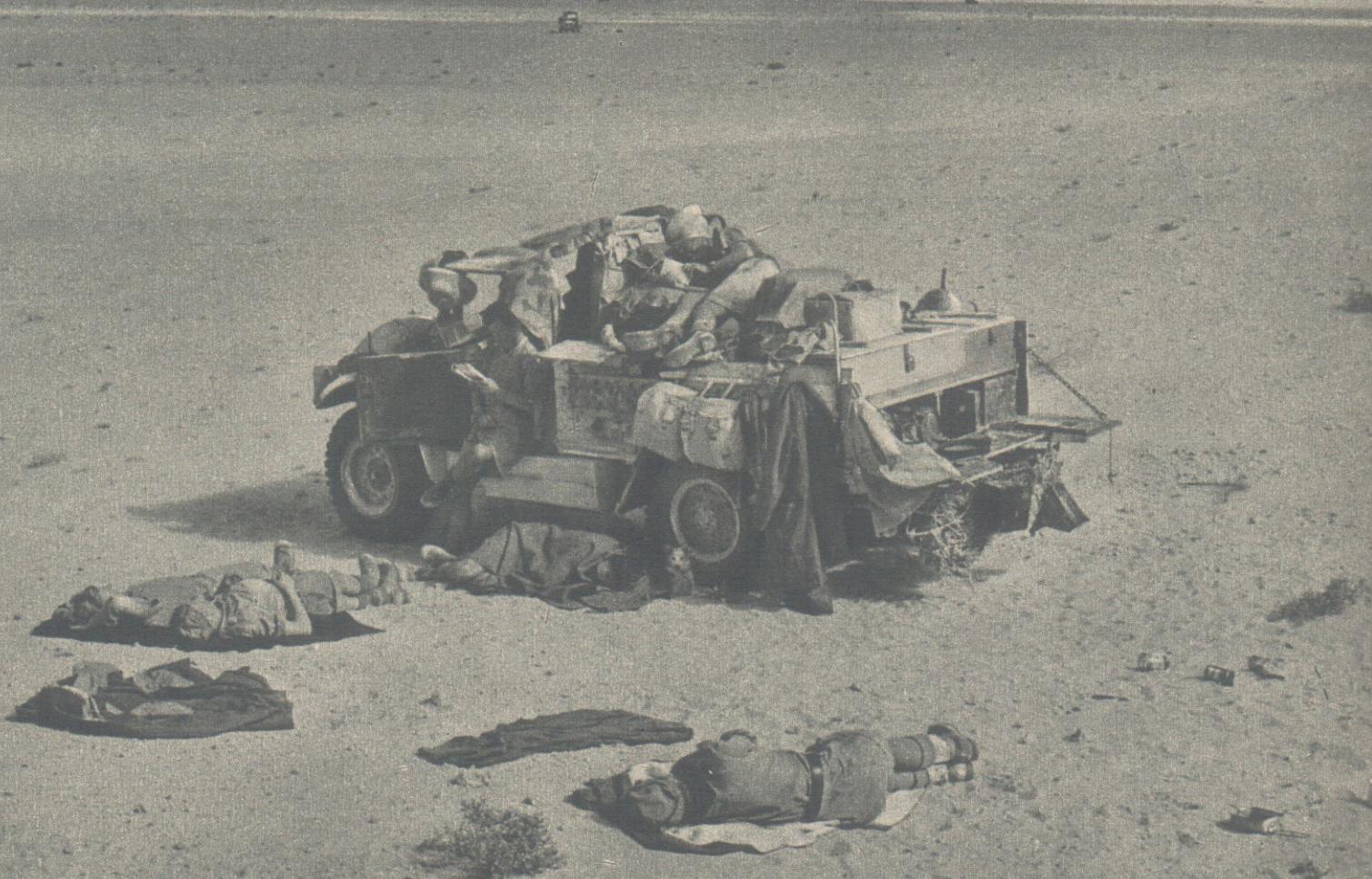
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SOLDIER SCRAPBOOK OF WORLD WAR TWO



It was many hundreds of miles from the fighting, but the Abadan oil refinery was vital to fighting men. It was guarded day and night.

Perhaps they were within sound of the guns, but men had to sleep. All they needed was a stretch of desert without mines and someone to listen for aircraft.



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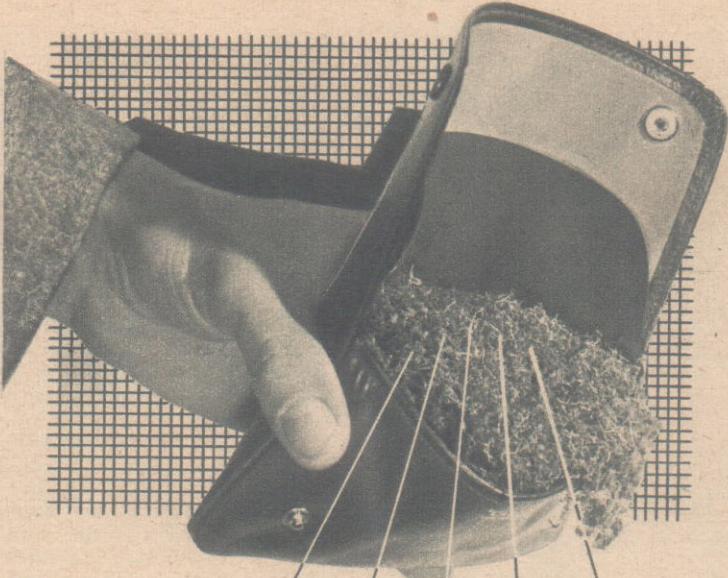


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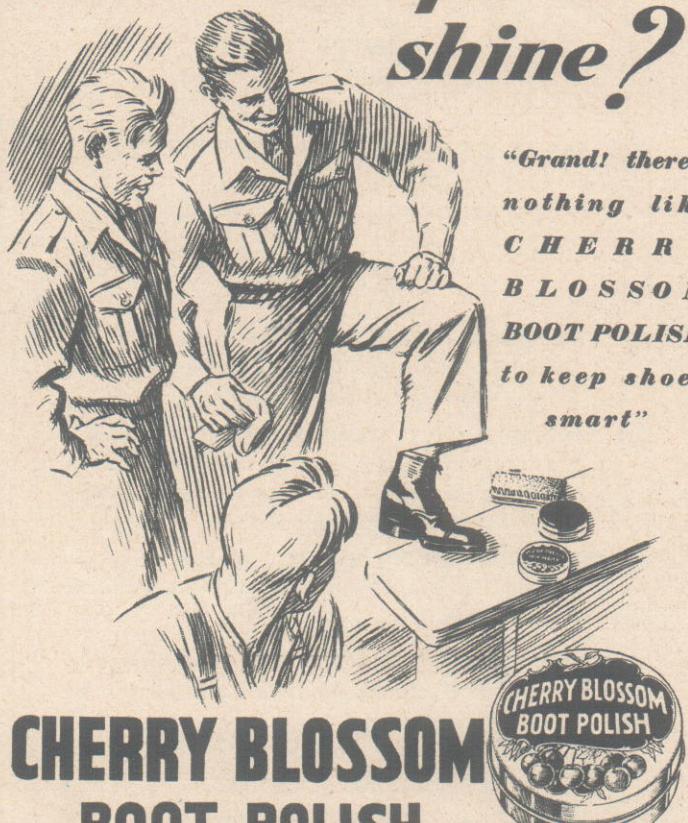
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SPORT

Report on ARMY CRICKET

CRICKET, which the Army (and the Navy) helped to popularise round the world, presents the organisers of the big Service fixtures with an annual headache: will the star players be available for each match?

This is a problem common to all sports, but with cricket there is the added complication that the game lasts longer than most others.

The soldier who leaves his unit to play in an Army soccer match may be back within a few hours. The cricketer may be away for two days. And as the Army (quite rightly) does not allow sport to take priority over military duty, a valuable player may only be there if his unit can spare him — a point not always appreciated by the civilian sporting world.

Consider what happened in 1928. Owing to reasons beyond the Army's control the two annual fixtures against the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge had been arranged for early in the season — and they clashed with the annual training period. The key men were all on the firing ranges or barrack square, which meant that a substitute team could not be truly representative. Rather than allow

the universities to get the wrong impression, both games were cancelled, and it was some years before they were revived.

This year the match against Oxford has already been played and there was no doubt that the Army side included many of our best men. Even so, military duties kept away three well-known cricketers — Major-General A. J. H. Cassels, head of the land-air warfare branch in the War Office, Lieut-Colonel R. E. H. Hudson, RA, at the moment bowling out terrorists in Malaya, and Lieut-Colonel F. W. Simpson, RE, who is in Washington.

Who are the men expected to win fresh laurels for Army cricket before the 1949 season ends? Here are a few: Major A. H. Parnaby, RAOC, who played 11 times for Durham before the war, and knocked up 162 against the Australians in 1938; Captain J. H. G. Deighton, Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, who has played for both the MCC and the Army; Captain B. C. Elgood, RE, who turned out for Cambridge in 1946,

and Major W. M. E. White, RASC, who played for the same side before the war; Captain D. W. M. Gay, Queen's Bays, who was captain of Shrewsbury; Lieut. S. T. Symington, KRRC, who is this year's captain of Leicestershire; Captain A. T. Lithgow, Black Watch, who played for Harrow against Eton at Lord's in 1939; Captain E. N. W. Bramall, KRRC, who was in the Eton XI during the war; and Major B. R. M. Hayles, Royal Signals, a pre-war Army player who is still looked upon as one of our best wicket-keepers.

The RASC has produced a promising National Serviceman, Private R. Smith, who played for Young Somerset, and from the Welsh Guards comes Guardsman A. Oakman, a slow off-break bowler who last year (before his call-up) played for Sussex at Lord's against Middlesex and bowled first Sharp and then Denis Compton, finally holding a catch near the pavilion rails from F. G. Mann.

That cricket has tended to be an officer's game has not been so much the fault of the Army as of Britain's educational system which has tended to confine good coaching to the public schools.



"Well caught, sir!" (Even the Greeks learned to say that).



Professional coach at Sandhurst is A. E. Alderman, former Derbyshire player. Four nights a week he trains cricketing cadets.

Many thousands of young soldiers of the past never knew the principles of the game before they joined up and were coached by their officers. Today conditions are rather different, for the National Service Acts have brought into the Army many public school boys — and the Army Cricket Association receives from their schools full details of their capabilities. But private soldiers had their successes, even in bygone days. Writing in 1912 P. F. (later Sir Pelham) Warner said: "Where many first-class players come to grief when playing the village side and facing the bowling of the local blacksmith, so do a large proportion of officers fail dismally when doing their best in company matches against the bowling of the company cook."

The Army is ensuring that future Regular officers shall be proficient cricketers. At the Royal Military Academy the professional coach is the former Derbyshire player, A. E. Alderman, who has the outstanding cadets in the nets four nights a week. The others are coached in their company nets (these include three concrete wickets) by their own officer-instructors.

As well as inter-company fixtures, the Academy's first and second teams between them play some 45 matches with outside elevens. This year's captain is Officer Cadet A. O. Goddard who was captain of Winchester College XI; the secretary, Officer Cadet P. A. S. Wollocombe, of

OVER

(Continued)

the Wellington XI, has already played for the Army against Berkshire as well as for the Berkshire XI. Two cadets who passed out last year, T. C. Gore, Rifle Brigade, and K. S. Lawton, RA, have also turned out for the Service.

Between them the old Royal Military College and the Woolwich "Shop" produced many notable names in the cricketing world, including those of Colonel R. T. Stanyforth (he captained the MCC in South Africa in 1927-28), Colonel R. S. Rait Kerr (now secretary of the MCC) and J. C. W. MacBryan (Somerset and England).

Other well-known Army players past and present include Bob Fowler, E. G. Wynyard, G. J. Bryan, Lord Cornwallis (Captain of Kent and later MCC president), Brigadier M. A. Green (Gloucester and Essex, now secretary of Worcestershire and manager of the MCC team in South Africa), Captain T. O. Jameson (Hampshire), Captain R. G. W. Melsome (Gloucester), Lieut-Colonel J. W. A. Stephenson (Essex), the Rev. J. W. J. Steele (Hampshire, and at present chaplain in the Far East) and the Rev. J. H. Parsons (Warwick) who was first a Regular in the 7th Hessian Lancers in India, then turned professional cricketer before becoming a minister of the church. Up to 1946 he had made 38 centuries.

Incidentally, the batsman who made the highest score ever recorded for one match — A. E. J. Collins, who hit up 628 runs in a junior house match at Clifton in 1899 when he was 13 years old — later became a soldier.

The beginnings of Army cricket are hard to uncover. One of the oldest pitches in the country is that of the Honourable Artillery Company at Finsbury, started in 1725. Probably the first cricket club in India — the Calcutta Club which dates back to 1792 — was started through Army influence.

The Australians began to play the game after seeing matches between officers of British regiments stationed there about 1803.



Two private soldiers in the Army's cricket eleven: Private R. Smith (left) and Guardsman A. Oakman, who once bowled Denis Compton.



Sandhurst's coach demonstrates how the ball should be held when the bowler's arm is at the top of its swing.

The game was taken to St. Helena by the regiments sent to guard Napoleon, and to Gibraltar by the Royal Fusiliers in 1842. Shortly afterwards the same regiment took the game to Barbados where it played the Royal Regiment. In South Africa the game was established at Mafeking in 1843 by the 45th Foot.

Troops who went to Hong-Kong had their own club by 1851 and they encouraged cricket even in China. Once

the Chinese gave an exhibition near Shanghai to which the British were invited. It is recorded that the fielders were all gathered in a bunch and that the babble was deafening. The ball was attached by string to the bowler's thumb in order to



As the coach throws the ball on to the wooden cradle the cadets dive to catch it. It may bounce off at any angle.

save long fielding; and the whole match produced only two runs.

The Duke of Wellington in 1841 ordered that where possible a cricket ground should be started near every barracks and the game encouraged by every colonel. The keenness with which this order was carried out was shown a few years later when British troops, after the capture of Bushire in Persia, bored holes for stumps in a huge flat rock.

A game of cricket has often filled in the lull between battles. An officer serving under Major-General Robert Craufurd in his famous Light Division writes that before the Battle of Busaco in 1810 "we found things pretty slow, kicking our heels in idleness at Lisbon. So one of us got a kindly ship's carpenter to make us some cricket implements. He did very well but the difficulty was the ball. He made a rough one about the size and shape of a cricket ball but the missile proved more deadly than the enemy's fire."

Over a century later much the same thing happened on the Macedonian front when the Lothian and Border Horse played the 81st Brigade Field Ambulance with bats made on the field and a ball, correct to size, weight and shape fashioned by an Army saddler. It proved more successful than the ball of 1810.

During the British Protectorate of Corfu (1815 to 1865) the influence of cricket in the garrison extended to Greece. Thus, when an English cricketer stayed in that country in 1891 and was asked to play in a local team, he found the Greeks still used such English expressions as "Well caught, sir!" and "Well bowled!"

During the early part of this century when the Sultan of Turkey saw his first cricket match

(Continued on Page 43)

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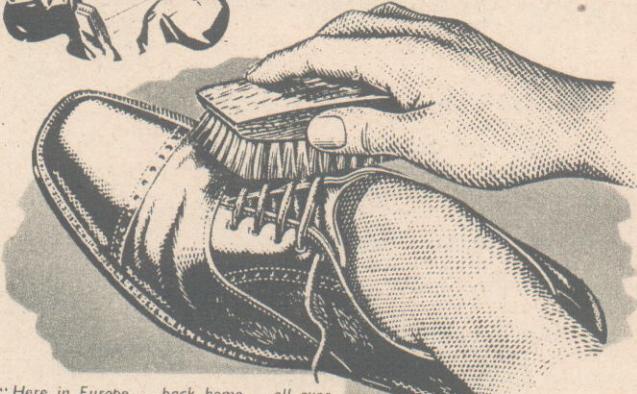
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Wartime flashback: a flying bomb dived dangerously near to Lord's in the Army-RAF match in 1944, and the players lay flat. When the alarm had subsided, the batsman, Captain J. D. Robertson, hit the next ball for six.

ARMY CRICKET (Continued)

played by British officers he was struck by the exertion displayed by the fieldsmen. He remarked with surprise, "Why don't you make your servants do all this?"

The first military occupation of the Rhine helped to popularise the game in Germany. When a competition was started by the Cologne Post 180 teams entered and it was won by the 17th Lancers. Cricket spread to Russia in the days before the Revolution but it would appear to be extinct there today. In 1946 a sergeant-major of the Corps of Royal Military Police in Vienna was arrested by the Russians when he was walking through their sector to play in a cricket match. It had to be explained that the "secret weapon" he was carrying was just a cricket bat.

Considering the Army's long association with cricket it is surprising that no organising body appears to have existed until after World War One, when the Army Cricket Association was formed. No one is sure who was responsible for selecting Army teams before that; and yet first-class cricket was played. The Army's debut in this field was a match against Hampshire at Aldershot early in the century.

In 1908 the first game against the Navy was held at Lord's. This annual event has grown to become the social highlight of the Service season.

In 1920 the Army played the RAF at the Oval, but the match proved such a débâcle — the Junior Service had not had the chance to build up a team — that it was 1928 before the airmen again put an eleven against the Army. An attempt made in 1934 to get all inter-Services matches played during a ten-day festival at Eastbourne was turned down. One reason was that it would have been impossible to grant leave to all players simultaneously.

In their annual matches against the other Services the Army have been fortunate. They have had 16 wins over the Navy, three losses and seven draws; eight wins over the RAF, two losses and four draws.

Usually the Army supplies more players than the other two Services when a combined team takes the field. The combined matches are mostly against the counties. One fixture this season is against New Zealand.

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COUNTY OR COUNTRY?

Discussing compulsory transfer from corps to corps in your "SOLDIER to Soldier" for May, you point out that a soldier is serving his country, not his county. This is so, but many other soldiers and ex-soldiers hold opinion.

When I was a young soldier, a large part of a recruit's training consisted of filling him with regimental history and tradition. By the time he was trained he was convinced that his own regiment was the finest in the Army and that he must on no account let it down. This produced a spirit which I do not think can be instilled into a soldier in any other way. When he knows by heart what privileges his regiment enjoys, and why, or what black marks have to be wiped out, he will go into whatever dirty work has to be done with a far better spirit than a man from some other part of the country serving in an unfamiliar regiment.

A case in point is that after Dunkirk certain coast defence battalions were formed, mostly from down-graded Regulars. The men of one of these battalions went to bed one night as Durham Light Infantry and awoke next morning as Northumberland Fusiliers, with different history, different traditions and completely different drill. Feeling was bitter, to say the least of it; I cannot believe that this sort of thing can add to the efficiency of the Army. H. M. Wardle (late DLI), Oxford House, Kiel, BAOR.

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

Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published.

● Please do not ask for information which you can get in your own orderly room or from your own officer, thus saving time and postage.

STAR PAY CRITIC

The new pay code does not seem to benefit the Sapper at all. When he completes his corps training he is classified as a low-rate tradesman with a daily wage of 5s 6d or 6s 6d. Although an Infantryman is still a recruit on finishing his corps training and gets only 4s a day, he finally rises to five stars with pay of 7s 6d a day. Meanwhile the Field Engineer still remains on 6s 6d.

A Sapper can take a higher trade course, but there is not always room on the establishment for a higher tradesman, which means that a man may be held down even though he is more efficient than some high-rate tradesmen and non-tradesmen Infantry, who are getting perhaps 2s a day more than he is.—Cpl. R. Whitaker, 3 Indep. Airborne Sqn. RE, BAOR 5.

★ One of the basic ideas of the star system was to give the Infantryman a chance to earn a bit more. Even though he is not a tradesman, the efficient Infantry soldier has to be expert in many subjects. He also finds himself right up at the sharp end in the event of any trouble. Not all Infantrymen become five-star soldiers; the standard laid down is high.

Although a Sapper may not be able to take a higher trade course because there is no vacancy for him, this is an obstacle common to most organisations and professions. There must be many lance-corporals who would make good sergeants if they had the chance; many navvies who would make good foremen.

CLASS LEVELLING

I have just received your April issue in which "Class Conscious" suggests that the Army does not broaden the mind of the ex-student because military castes are much more rigid than civilian ones and barriers to social intercourse almost insuperable. This may be so, but the classes themselves are quite different. It is not only the foreman who rises to sergeant and it is not only the manual worker who remains a private. Civilian classes are completely re-shuffled in the Army and I for one have lived in daily comradeship with men with whom I should only have talked professionally, if at all, in civilian life. I and others like me are therefore having our minds broadened.—Old Tonbridgian (name and address supplied).

"Class Conscious" must have had a very thin time in the army if he did not meet scores of men from all walks of life and all with different ideas and accomplishments. Perhaps, if he found "clearly defined class-barriers" in the Army it was his own fault for not responding to a wonderful opportunity to break the ice.

Among the best friends I made in the Army were a Cockney factory worker, a carpenter, a farmhand from Somerset, a journalist, a professional musician, a Regular officer, and a teacher of languages. They covered most of the ranks in the Army and we still correspond with each other. I'm proud to have known them and not ashamed to admit that my mind was considerably broadened.—Grateful (name and address supplied).

LETTERS



WITH THE CORRECT-SHAPE TOOTHBRUSH

Wisdom



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NATURAL BRISTLE
OR NYLON

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SWEARING SOLDIERS

Although I agree in general with your suggestion that soldiers use obscene language no more than do civilians (SOLDIER to Soldier, June) I do think that most men use more bad language in their first few weeks in the Army than in the rest of their service. The explanation for this phenomenon lies, I think, in the fact that some new soldiers regard the use of bad language as indicating manliness, and because most of them are away from the restraining influences of their homes for the first time. If they used such language in the home they would qualify for a thick ear from father. After those first few weeks, however, they settle down and speak quite normally.

Incidentally, it has been my experience during the past 15 years that those who swear most (and I don't mean the ordinary cusswords) are Londoners, followed very closely by Scotsmen.—Man-of-Kent (name and address supplied).

PROJECTIONISTS

May I compliment SOLDIER on the excellent article on projectionists in the May issue. It's about time someone gave us a spot of praise. If only people knew the worry we go through before a picture appears on the screen they would not be so quick to criticise us when anything goes wrong. Next time a film breaks down, consider the poor operator who has to repair it and remember he thinks more of the audience than the audience thinks of him.—**Gnr. E. H. J. Proctor, RHQ 67th Regiment RA, Park Hall Camp, Oswestry.**

MEDAL COLLECTOR

With reference to the letter in your May issue entitled "Indian Medals," I understand that a medal has been issued (or is contemplated) by Pakistan. I have seen the ribbon for it, which is dark green with a narrow central stripe of white (the Pakistan colours). As the Indian medal is an Imperial one and not a Republican one I presume that the Pakistan medal will also be an Imperial one. Although the ribbon of the Indian Independence Medal appears at first sight to be the same as an "inverted" King's South Africa Medal, the saffron colour is in fact quite different from the orange of the South African.—**G. P. L. James, Sevenoaks, Kent (Member of the Orders, Decorations and Medals Research Society of Great Britain).**

COVETED MEDAL

Regulars who received emergency commissions after 3 September 1939 can still qualify for the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. This is a fair decision which prevents them from losing a prized decoration through no fault of their own, but there are a few of us who were commissioned from the ranks before the outbreak of war. Are we, too, being allowed to earn this Medal? If not, is there any likelihood of the present regulations being altered?—**Maj. W. R. Pope, RE, Malta.**

★ The LS & GC Medal is primarily an award for Other Ranks, but it was decided during the recent war that Other Ranks who obtained commissions after 12 years' service or more, should not be debarred from

qualifying for it. Some date-line had to be fixed and 3 September 1939 was chosen.

Although regulations based on a time limit are bound to produce hard luck cases, the official view is that no exceptions can be made.

MAN FROM MALTA

My wife and I are Maltese. When my second child was born in Gibraltar last year I applied for the 5s weekly allowance but it was refused because my wife had never been to England. This seems strange to me, and a further hardship has occurred because a recent Fortress order tells troops to claim for a further 6s a week for each child after the first provided they are already in receipt of the 5s allowance.—**Sjt. J. R. Cini, 28 Coast Regiment RA, Europa Gibraltar.**

★ The ACI governing the special family allowance says it will only be paid to British subjects living overseas if they (or their wives) would have been entitled to it had they remained in Britain.

GOING OUT, BUT—

I am shortly to leave the Army. I expected to learn a lot of useful things while in the Service, and so I did—up to a point. But the Army did not teach me, for instance, how to swim or how to give first-aid. Both accomplishments, I think you will agree, are of great importance to any man, especially to a soldier. Couldn't the Army do something more in this direction?—**"Helpless" (name and address supplied).**

★ The Army physical training staffs would like nothing better than to teach every soldier to swim, but they are overwhelmed by weight of numbers. Surely, though, a man ought to be able to swim by the time he is in the Army?

For first-aid instruction, why not join the British Red Cross on release? In this way you can not only help yourself but can help others. The Red Cross urgently needs ex-soldiers as leaders in its various campaigns against sickness and suffering.

STEEL RIMS

At the moment, soldiers who wear glasses are issued with a special type of steel-rimmed spectacles, made to fit comfortably inside a respirator. As it appears that the respirator is now obsolete, surely the Army could produce some sort of cheap covering to go over the bare metal of the frames. Can't we have spectacles to be seen with as well as to see with?—**Pte. E. Bridge, Seaforths, HQ N.M.S.D., Taiping.**

★ Respirators may not be issued during peacetime, but they would soon become part of the soldier's equipment if war broke out.

FASHION PARADE?

A foreigner in London pointed to two soldiers in battle-dress and told me our Army was dressed like that of a fourth-rate Power. The men were as smart as one could expect them to be in such a "scruffy" uniform. Even our working dress is a wash-out. The pre-



war canvas protected Service Dress as denims never can and there was much more freedom of movement in it.

In a recent issue of "SOLDIER" you quote James Laver as saying that puttees were an "imbecile aberration". With trousers they are admittedly unsightly, but with breeches they are comfortable and very smart. I also disagree with the remark that we won a "tremendous victory" when we got permission to wear collars and ties with battle-dress. The RAF has produced a decent shirt and tie, but I am ashamed to be seen wearing the Army ones. The collar done up to the neck looks better, but I want the old box collar back.

I would like to organise a Services fashion parade to point out some of the

most glaring dress faults. For instance, blue berets do not go with battledress, the stiff Service Dress cap should be brought back, and we should get rid of the ugly pockets in battle-dress; they are unnecessary now the war is over.—**Despairing Gunner (name and address supplied).**

★ An army's prime reason for existence is to be able to fight if called upon. To take in every soldier's uniform and issue him with a different one would be an unnecessary complication and expense in the event of trouble breaking out. There is also the question of training. It seems to SOLDIER that fourth-rate Powers usually have the most gaudily dressed armies.

TRANSFERS

When I enlisted for a regular engagement I understood I would be entitled to three transfers during my term of service. Can you tell me if this is true?—**Tpr. A. Skilton, Transport Troop, "B" Sqn., 4/7 RDG, MELF.**

★ The belief that Regulars are entitled to a certain number of transfers during their term of service is widespread, but unfounded. A soldier may be compulsorily transferred in certain circumstances, or he may volunteer for a transfer as often as he likes, but he is not entitled to it and his application will be turned down if it is not considered in the interests of the service.

WOULD-BE G.I.'S

We want to enlist in the United States Army in Germany when our term of service with the British Army expires. Will this be possible?—**(names supplied) 20 Liaison and HQ British Troops, BAOR 19.**

★ Men enlisting in the United States Army must be American citizens. To be eligible to apply for American citizenship they must have lived in the United States for five years.

(More Letters on Page 46)

How Much Do You Know?

1. Is it legal to marry (a) a deceased wife's sister; (b) a divorced wife's sister; (c) a deceased husband's brother?

2. Name of author, please: So home they go by the windy streets, Thinking their men are homeward bound, With anchors hungry for English ground, And the bloody fun of it is, they're drowned...

3. Which city advertises itself as "The Biggest Little City In The World"?

4. Are any of these statements true:

(a) Work was begun on a Channel Tunnel last century;
(b) Daylight Saving was adopted in Britain last century;
(c) The Secret Ballot was not adopted in Britain until this century.

5. Mr. Joseph Chifley is president of the Boilermakers

Union, Prime Minister of Australia, director of the BBC's Third Programme, inventor of the ball-point fountain pen—which?

6. Which MP was recently advised by a fellow Member in Parliament to go away and play with his revolving tooth-brush?

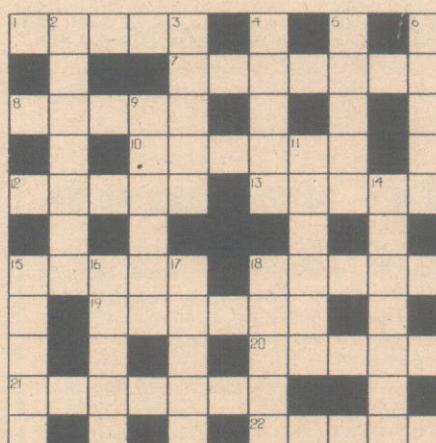
7. Which of these film titles is (or are) fictitious: "Maytime in Mayfair," "Spring In Park Lane," "The Courteneys of Curzon Street," "Piccadilly Hayride," "Belle of Belgravia"?

8. The great craze in America at present is Video, known in this country as—what?

9. A man who is oleaginous (a) has too highly developed an imagination; (b) is oily; (c) suffers from kidney trouble; (d) is kind to his wife. Which?

10. The number of babies born in the world every day averages approximately 5000; 50,000; 150,000; 500,000—which? (Answers on Page 46)

CROSSWORD



ACROSS: 1. Respectful part of a tree? 7. "Rude? Nay!" (anag.). 8. This lady sounds like a Lancashire exclamation. 10. It and twin are all mixed up and quite brainless. 12. Double-six and 500. 13. Sign of fire, they say. 15. Heavens! 18. For a hard fight, use this and nail. 19. Scents tell you their

owners at last. 20. Arab state. 21. Dear to old-fashioned writers. 22. Tantalise in the textile industry.

DOWN: 2. Sob like a monument. 3. Damp with a noisy start. 4. Birds or exults. 5. Show in which a boy is a girl. 6. Recurrent period you see on the roads. 9. Untied? On the contrary. 11. I am an attitude. 14. Young mousers. 15. In reserve. 16. These Greek letters don't mean much. 17. Do the bibulous find the this bores until they are rearranged? 18. Make an effort to start getting this date.

(Answers on Page 46)

MORE LETTERS

RESERVED RIGHT

In a recent issue you stated that men who signed on before 19 December 1945 to complete 21 years with the Colours had a reserved right to be dealt with under the old pay code when they were discharged, if this would be more beneficial to them. Although I engaged to complete 21 years before 19 December 1945, I have since signed on under the new scheme to complete 22 years. Does my reserved right still hold good? — **WO I, BAOR (name and address supplied).**

★ Yes. If a man undertook to do 21 years under the old code, he retains his right to be dealt with under that code on discharge even if he has since signed on for the extra year under the new code. If he applies for free discharge after completing 18 years pensionable service, for instance, he will automatically be considered for a modified pension under the terms of the old code.

SIMPLE INTEREST

Men serving on a short-service engagement are due to receive £25 bounty for each year served, but do not receive this money until they have completed their engagement. I wonder if the powers-that-be could be persuaded to put £25 in the post office for them at the end of each year. In this way the money would be put into circulation and at the same time earn a bit of interest for the soldier. — **Cpl. J. K. Edwards ACC att. B. M. H. Khartoum, Sudan, MEFL.**

★ The official rule is that a soldier who contracts to do three or four years service at a bounty of £25 a year is not entitled to receive any of that money until he has completed his contract or until the contract is legally cancelled (by discharge by purchase for instance).

INVALID PENSION

I began man's service in May 1934 and re-engaged to complete 22 years for pension in May 1946. Now I am on terminal leave, having been discharged on medical grounds. I have completed about 15 years Colour service. Shall I get any pension? — **J. Stevens, 8 Dundee Rd, Hebden Bridge, Yorks.**

★ A soldier invalided out after having re-engaged for a period which would complete 22 years service is entitled to a pension if he has completed at least 12 years unforfeited full pay service after the age of 18.

IN SICK BAY

I am a Regular with over four years service and am in hospital on the long-term treatment scheme. In three months I am being sent home to finish my time on sick leave. Do I get any gratuity on being demobbed? — **Sgtm. K. George, Eastleigh, Hants.**

★ You will get £1 a year for each year or part of a year of your Colour service under Art. 1056 of the Royal Pay Warrant 1940. This will be sent to you automatically by the Paymaster; there is no need to apply for it.

SOS

How could you do such a thing? I can't stand it! I'm an old supporter of SOLDIER and, like a trusting infant, I believe everything you say (nearly). I've argued and almost fought with hoary old mess members about the authenticity of your information on the subject of the King's Corporal — two nights ago I was nearly crowned with a bottle by a grey-beard who said he had actually known one (he couldn't



remember the name though) — and now you do this to me: Large as life in your May issue is a man with two stripes and a CROWN on his arm. For Pete's sake tell me what rank he is, I daren't set foot in the mess and block training is a thirsty job. — **Sgt. A. E. Bell, Block Training Centre RAOC, BAOR 32.**

★ The man in the picture (page 31), is a corporal in the Household Cavalry. Regulations for the Clothing of the Army 1936, para 159 states: Badges of Rank — Household Cavalry — Corporal — brass crown above a two-bar chevron. He is NOT a King's Corporal and Sgt. Bell can go back into the mess and collect all those drinks he's been missing.

EMIGRATING

I am a Regular. When my Colour service is finished, can I elect to be released overseas and is my family entitled to a free passage to the country in which I am released? What happens about the years of Reserve service I am supposed to do? — **Cpl. F. Rozier, 8 TRRE, Scotland.**

★ Soldiers serving overseas may take their release overseas, subject to

the conditions in ACI 257/49 para 21, but those stationed in Britain when due to be discharged to the Reserve cannot choose release overseas. When on the Reserve they can apply to Records for permission to reside abroad, but neither they nor their families are entitled to any financial aid in travelling. They must make all their own emigration arrangements.

HOME FROM GREECE

I have just come home after three years' Python tour, during which I took no leave. I have been given 45 days' disembarkation leave, but I was under the impression that I would also get 25 per cent of one year's allotment (in my case this would be ten days) for every year I went without leave in Greece. I have just met a pal who said he had this in addition to his disembarkation leave. How do I stand? — **"Corporal", Botley Militia Camp, Southampton.**

★ Under the Army's permanent leave rules (ACI 1123/48) your 45 days' disembarkation leave was correct. It is true that men who took no leave while abroad can claim extra, but in order to prove case to your new unit, you must have a certificate from your commanding officer in Greece.

LEAVE COMPLAINT

I was called up on 1 April 1948 and embarked for BAOR in May of that year. Originally I was due to be demobilised in October 1949 but now have an extra three months to serve. I went on my first UK leave after six and a half months service, expecting to get a second tour of leave before I was released. Now I am told I will not get a second UK leave until release next year. This means I have to do 13 or 14 months service without a UK leave. Is this correct? — **Sapper (name and address supplied), BAOR 5.**

★ According to ACI 202 of 1949 (Appendix C) all those called up between 1 April and 31 December 1948 and serving in N.W. Europe are eligible for only one period of 21 days leave to the United Kingdom after eight months overseas service provided they have at least six weeks service on return from leave. In addition they are eligible for seven days local leave. Those not eligible for UK leave but whose total service will be more than 12 months will be eligible for an additional three days local leave.

MINER

Before enlisting on a regular engagement of five years with the Colours and seven on the reserve I spent three years as a coal miner. Can I get Class "B" Release to return to the mines? — **Sgt. Bambrough, 53 Port Sqn., Western Camp R.E., MEFL.**

★ Not now. By agreement with the Ministries of Labour and Fuel, the "B" Release scheme for miners ended on 31 December 1948.

CLOSERS

In the resettlement article in your May issue I came across a very grave mistake. You said a "closer" was the man who fixes boot or shoe uppers to the soles. This is incorrect. A closer is the person who sews the linings into the uppers. The completed uppers are then passed to the "lasting" room to be fixed to the soles and insoles. Other operations in the closing room are "beading", "tacking" and "skiving". — **Cpl. D. Green, 58 Bty., (ACC), 22nd LAA Regt. RA, BAOR 24.**

JOBS IN CIVIL SERVICE

REGULAR soldiers and WRAC's, including those serving on short-service engagements, now have a chance to line up a Civil Service job for themselves before they leave the Army.

Starting in July this year, special arrangements are being made to allow them to compete for the executive class of the Home Civil Service and for executive posts in Branch B of the Foreign Service.

Examinations will be held every year and each candidate will be entitled to two attempts. These are to be made within a period starting one year before and finishing one year after release from the Services. In case it is not possible for the candidate to compete while still serving, this period may be extended.

The qualifying examination is in English, Arithmetic, General Knowledge and Intelligence. Successful candidates will be interviewed by a final selection board, where their order of merit will be decided. Every assistance will be given to candidates both at home and overseas to attend the examinations and interviews. For further details, ask your Education Officer.

CULLODEN

Prince Charles Stuart will be turning in his grave to think that the descendants of his vanquishers will not admit their own defeat at Prestonpans (SOLDIER, "Coming Your Way," April). He was, of course, beaten by the Duke of Cumberland at Culloden. — **Cpl. John Gamble, Havannah Barracks, Bordon.**

★ Sorry.

"QUEEN'S SALUTE"

Is there a drill ceremony known as the "Queen's Salute"? If so, how is the movement performed? — **Lieut., Intelligence Corps, Austria.**

★ We can find no trace of it. Perhaps some reader can help.

The war history of 1st Battalion, The Lincolnshire Regiment in India, Burma and the Netherlands East Indies, illustrated and with maps, will shortly be obtainable from the Officer Commanding Regimental Depot, New Barracks, Lincoln, price 1s 6d, 2s post free.

Answers

(from Page 45)

How Much Do You Know?

1. (a) yes; (b) no; (c) yes. 2. John Masefield. 3. Reno. 4. (a) true; (b) false; (c) false. 5. Prime Minister of Australia. 6. Dr Mont Follick MP (he invented a revolving toothbrush). 7. "Belle of Belgravia." 8. Television. 9. Oily. 10. 50,000.

Crossword

Across: 1. Bough. 7. Unready. 8. Begum. 10. Nitwit. 12. Vivid. 13. Smoke. 15. Skies. 18. Tooth. 19. Odours. 20. Yemen. 21. Readers. 22. Tease.

Down: 2. Obelisk. 3. Humid. 4. Crows. 5. Panto. 6. Cycle. 9. United. 11. Impose. 14. Kittens. 15. Spare. 16. Iotas. 17. Sober. 18. Tryst.

2 minute sermon

WHY doesn't God prove that He exists?

Men have always asked that question. The atheist throws it out as a challenge, and the believer offers it up as a prayer. But neither seems to have considered what effect it would have on human nature if God did prove his existence.

As people grow up, they put away childish things — among them the ability to trust. In the wisdom of manhood men demand tangible proofs for what they believe.

But human nature can never rise to the heights of which it is capable if it refuses to act until there are proofs which are certain. Unless men are prepared to take risks, they can never adventure. They might perhaps walk the earth, but they can never mount up with wings like eagles. Perhaps that is why Jesus insisted that the Kingdom of Heaven is open only to those who become like little children.

God could give proofs of his existence which no one could possibly doubt, but it would mean taking away man's freedom. That would be to give up human nature as a bad job. Can man be a creature of value if he has to be detailed to believe?



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For 5 days this British Major, badly wounded in both legs, was cut off with his Indian unit by the Japs in North Burma. The only medical stores were some bottles of T.C.P. in his personal kit. Shirts were torn

up, soaked in T.C.P., and used as dressings for his wounds, and for those of six men. None turned septic, and he was told in hospital that T.C.P. had saved his life. (Original letter at T.C.P. Laboratories).

IN the Burmese jungle, wounds turn septic almost at once. This actual incident, then, proves dramatically that T.C.P. promptly applied is a really effective safeguard against wounds, cuts or grazes becoming festered or septic. But T.C.P. is more than just a good antiseptic. It also relieves pain, it helps to reduce inflammation, it actually speeds up clean, natural healing.

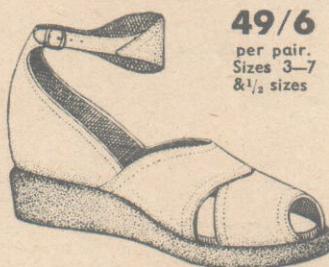
These are the reasons why you, too, will find T.C.P. a real standby. The folder with each bottle tells you how to use it for no less than 44 everyday ailments, hurts and skin troubles. You can get T.C.P. from Forces' Canteens and all Chemists.

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LINDEN TRAVERS

— Gainsborough

Peaches
Who pose on beaches
Sooner or later appear
Here.