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(See page 38)

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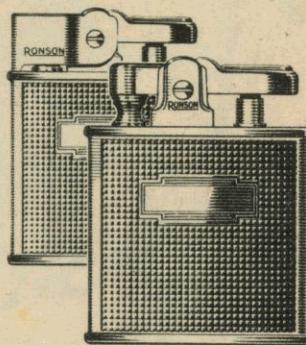
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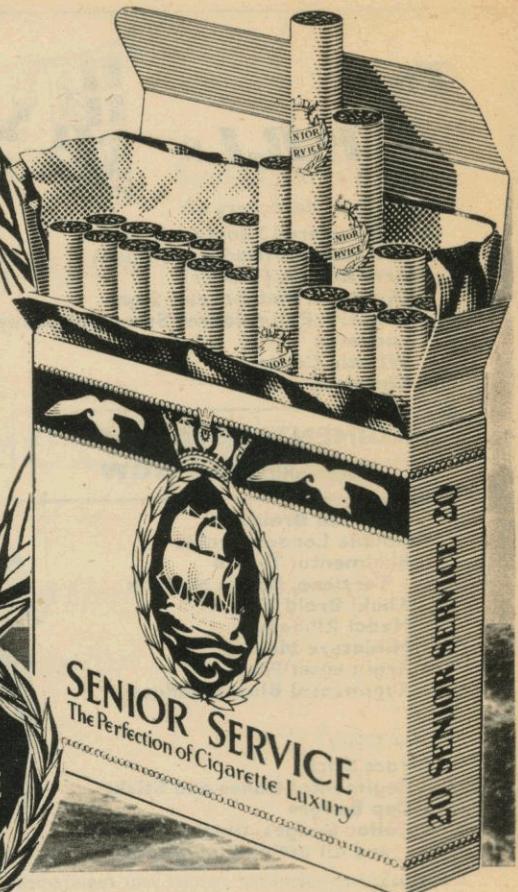
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BRITISH TROOPS WILL PLAY THEIR PART IN A NEW, THREE-NATION STRIKE FORCE—ARMED WITH CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS—WHICH CAN MOVE TO THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME. THEY WILL SERVE SIDE BY SIDE WITH AMERICAN AND FRENCH CONTINGENTS



A British Infantryman stands guard with the new FN General Purpose machine-gun.

Below: A French Infantryman in action with his country's new machine-pistol.

A FLARE-UP FORCE FOR NATO



BRITISH soldiers at present stationed in Germany will soon be making history.

By the end of the year they will become part of a fully integrated, 3000-strong, three-nation task force—the first of its kind in peace or war—and will serve alongside American and French troops as the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's highly mobile, hard-hitting "fire brigade."

The new task force, which will be equipped with both conventional and tactical nuclear weapons, will have its own fleet of transport aircraft and naval forces always standing by to rush its men and weapons to trouble spots anywhere in the world at a moment's notice.

Announcing this revolutionary plan—one of the biggest practical steps forward in military co-operation between the armies of the NATO countries since the alliance was formed eleven years ago—the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, General Lauris Norstad, said that 1000 men from each of the three countries would form the task force in its early stages. They would come from units already serving under NATO command and would continue to carry out their normal tasks but would be withdrawn periodically for training together in their new role. The new force would have its own commander and staff,



and weapons and supplies would be earmarked for it.

"It will be a small force but it could have a very direct military significance," he added. "It could move to the right place at the right time and would give an allied complexion to problems in any area."

SOLDIER understands that the task force may later be increased to 5000 men by the addition of German and Italian troops and possibly develop into a "division" of seven or eight NATO nations.

The commander of the new force has not yet been decided but, says General Norstad, "I hope that it is not an American."



A NEW LOOK IS ON THE WAY

THE soldier in Britain's new streamlined, all-Regular Army (lowest-paid private £4 7s 6d a week and all found) will not only be better armed and equipped than ever before.

He will also be the best-dressed soldier in the world...

On parade and when walking out he will look like an officer in a smart new Service Dress and on training and in action he will wear the latest thing in combat suits.

The battledress, which has served the Army well, if unglamorously, for more than 20 years, is to be abolished in the Regular Army,

although it will continue to be worn by men of the Territorial Army.

The new Service Dress—chosen from five which have been on trial for more than a year to test the reactions of the men who will wear it and the civilian population—is an officer-type jacket and trousers made of khaki barathea. The jacket has pleated breast pockets, flap side pockets, shoulder straps, a cloth belt and gilt buttons which will not need polishing. With this uniform, which will also be worn for ceremonial, the soldier will wear a khaki shirt and tie, the present No. 1 peaked hat and black boots.

This is how the troops will look in their new Service Dress. It is in khaki barathea and will be worn with the No. 1 peaked hat.

Right: Back view of a soldier in the new combat suit and web equipment. The Regular of the future may also get new boots.



This Korean-type, fur-lined parka will be worn in very cold climates. Note the hood, sloping pockets and codpiece.

THE REGULAR SOLDIER IS TO HAVE THREE NEW SUITS: TWO OFFICER-TYPE SERVICE DRESS UNIFORMS FOR PARADE AND WALKING OUT AND A COMBAT OUTFIT FOR FIGHTING. THE ARMY'S WOMEN WILL GET A NEW LOOK, TOO

Every Regular will eventually receive two new Service Dress uniforms. The first will be issued in 1961 and the second after all troops have received the first. "Blues" will remain, for the present, the dress uniform of officers, non-commissioned officers and bandsmen.

All other ranks in the new all-Regular Army may also get a civilian-style, belted raincoat made of fawn wool gaberdine, which has been on troop trials for more than a year, and a suitcase to go with a new-style kit bag.

The new combat suit consists of a water-resistant, windproof smock of cotton-sateen and a pair of trousers of the same material. It is an improved version of the combat uniform worn by British troops in Korea. The smock, which is fitted with a detachable hood, has a "poacher's" pocket at the rear and its breast pockets slope inwards to allow easy access.

In very cold weather troops will wear a fur-lined parka and be issued with a special pullover and long woollen pants.

New web equipment, designed to spread the load more evenly and keep the front of the soldier's body clear of encumbrances, has also been undergoing troop trials. It includes a pack which is larger than the present one and which can be jettisoned in seconds to leave the soldier fully-equipped for battle. New boots with moulded rubber soles and plastic insoles and a new foam-rubber liner for the steel helmet are also being tested.



This is the attractive new Service Dress, in Lovat green, for the WRAC.

THE CLASSICAL LINE FOR THE WRAC

OTHER ranks in the Women's Royal Army Corps and Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps have not been overlooked in the plan to give the Army a new look.

They will be issued with a "figure-hugging" Service Dress coat and skirt to replace battledress, and high-heeled shoes.

Both uniforms are cut on the same classical lines—the WRAC Service Dress in Lovat green worsted and the QARANC uniform in grey worsted. The jacket, which has no belt or breast pockets, will have shoulder straps piped in dark green for the WRAC and in scarlet for the QARANC. With both uniforms go nylon stockings and black court shoes, a white poplin shirt and a tie (bottle-green for the WRAC and grey for the QARANC).

SOLDIER TO SOLDIER

THERE have been few more important moves on the military chessboard since the end of World War Two than the recent decision (reported elsewhere in this issue) to set up under the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation a multi-nation "fire brigade."

This hard-hitting strike force will act as a danger signal to any potential aggressor and be visible proof of Allied solidarity in an emergency.

It will be far from symbolic. Armed and equipped to deal with any contingency, it will be ready to rush to trouble spots at a few hours' notice to snuff out incidents which could lead to world-wide conflagration. Its very existence will make an enemy think twice before embarking on dangerous military enterprises.

The British troops who are selected to serve in the strike force alongside the men

from other NATO nations will have a proud and vital task to perform.

★

THE Press, the public and the Army have all been enthusiastic in their praise of the new Service Dress and combat suit which the troops of the all-Regular Army are to have.

And rightly so. It is high time that the best fighting man in the world was also the best dressed.

But little has been said about the battledress which, in the not-too-distant future, will disappear from the Regular Army to make way for the combat suit.

Admittedly, the battledress, with its all-too-often bulky blouse and trousers that rarely fit and are almost never the same shade of khaki, is not glamorous. But it has served its purpose well for more than 20 years in every kind of climate and country.

It is the uniform in which World War Two was won.

Whatever its faults, the battledress is comfortable, hard wearing and has no buttons and badges to keep clean. There may be many who will lament its passing.

★

FOR the first time since the end of World War Two no British troops are in action anywhere in the world."

So recently wrote a leading London newspaper which ought to have known better.

Many readers probably believed it, but soldiers chasing the last of the fanatical terrorists in Malaya, patrolling the Yemen border and hunting rebels in the mountains and deserts of the Oman are not amused.

Ignorance of the Army's activities in the Oman is perhaps not surprising because little news comes out of that country where, for

eight years, British troops and the Trucial Oman Scouts have been waging a bitter, hit-and-run little war with dissident tribesmen and rabble-rousers from across the border in Saudi Arabia.

But the news is there to be had if only the Press would take the trouble to seek it instead of giving so much space to the unsavoury sexual adventures of film stars.

★

EACH year, when the Army Estimates are debated in the House of Commons, Members of Parliament are prone to make some profound, and generally sensible, statements about the Army.

This year was no exception, as for instance when Brigadier Sir Otho Prior-Palmer, formerly Commander of 7th Armoured Brigade, told the House: "There are far too few bands in the Army and they do not play

often enough in public. I am convinced that they have a tremendous emotional effect. In my own regiment, a great friend of mine once walked over to the orderly room to hand in his resignation. On the way, he met the regimental band coming round the corner. Thereupon, he tore up his resignation papers and threw them in the waste-paper basket."

And Colonel George Wigg, the only Member of Parliament with a Long Service and Good Conduct medal, had a point when he suggested that the present pay system was "anachronistic nonsense."

He was more or less mollified when told that the Army is soon to install an electronic calculating machine, costing several hundred thousand pounds, which would make "either a mass of errors which would put everyone in credit to the tune of millions or would avoid the nine months' delay that troops had suffered in the past."

ADVENTURE FOR THE DESK-BOUND DRAGOONS

From the precipitous rocks, the Dragoons look down on the Hadhramaut Valley, once on the trade route between India and Europe. Here, in Biblical times, grew the world's supply of frankincense.

HAVE you ever thought how depressing life can be spending all your time signing forms, bashing away at a typewriter and doing all those other administrative jobs that no-one seems to appreciate?

That's how the officers and men of the Regimental Headquarters of the 1st The Royal Dragoons felt as they sweated it out in their offices in Aden while their more fortunate comrades with the squadrons patrolled the Yemen Border in their armoured cars, occasionally being shot at by dissident tribesmen and sometimes shooting back.

Then someone had a bright idea. Why not give some of the headquarters' staff a taste of excitement by sending them on an expedition?

The form-signers, typists and clerks jumped at the chance and within a few days a journey had been planned to take eight of them—four officers, a staff-sergeant, two lance-corporals and a trooper—to the almost legendary Hadhramaut Valley, a great natural and fertile rift valley more than 1000 miles away in the Eastern Aden Protectorate, an area where few Europeans have set foot.

The party, led by Major C. A. Banham, the second-in-command, set off in four Land-Rovers laden with petrol, oil, spares, water and "compo" rations, and made good progress along the hard, sandy beaches of the south-



ern coastline until the advancing tide drove them inland. The first night they slept in the open, huddled against the walls of an

Arab fort at Husn Billeid, and before dawn the next day were bumping along the rocky desert track to Makalla, 220 miles away. They soon ran into trouble when one of the vehicles got bogged down in a sand-drift and had to be hauled out by the other three.

By nightfall, however, they had crossed the Wadi Hajar, the only permanent water-course in Arabia, and, suddenly, as they left a green valley and headed into the steep and rocky sandhills, they came face to face with a "mirage" which turned out to be the shining white home of an agricultural officer and his wife, the only Europeans living in a desolate area the size of Wales.

There the party stayed the night and next day moved on through Makalla and northwards along the camel caravan tracks through razor-backed hills and stony desert to the Wadi Hadhramaut. Early in the morning of the fourth day they topped a rise and saw, stretched out more than a thousand feet below the almost precipi-

tous rocks, the green ribbon of fertile fields and palms in the Hadhramaut Valley floor.

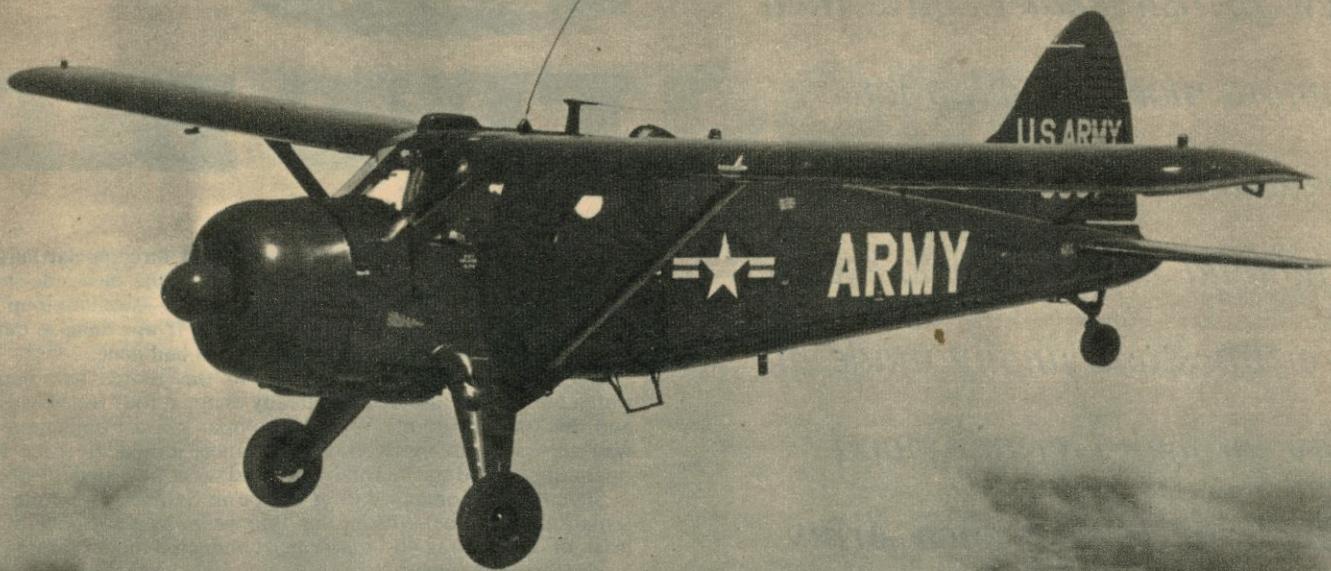
They still had 20 miles to go, twisting and turning down countless hairpin bends so steep that the local inhabitants have to blindfold their camels, before they reached Shibam, a fascinating, 2000-year-old town in the Valley where all the houses are built of mud and straw and are at least ten-storeys high.

Later, the Royal Dragoons visited other towns in the Valley, including Tarim, where their appearance caused something of a sensation, particularly among the hordes of children who followed them wherever they went.

Eleven days, and 23 punctures, after they had left their desks in Aden, the Royal Dragoons were back, refreshed by their unusual experience and pardonably proud that they had been to a place the men in the squadrons had not visited.—From a report by Sergeant D. G. Stone, Military Observer, British Forces Arabian Peninsula.

The Dragoons collect water from a well at Shibam, the largest town in Hadhramaut. Note the skyscraper buildings, made of baked mud and straw.





The Beaver, already in service with the United States Army, in flight. It can carry a pilot and crew of five and cruises at nearly 150 mph.

THE ARMY GETS THE BEAVER

THE Army is to have a new light aircraft and men of the Army Air Corps will fly it.

It is the *Beaver*, a sturdy, all-metal, high-wing monoplane which will replace the *Auster* 9 in the liaison and communication roles.

The *Auster* 9 carries only two passengers, but the *Beaver*, a larger aircraft weighing 5100 lbs, can seat five passengers (or over half a ton of cargo) in addition to its pilot, and has a greater speed and range. It is simple to maintain.

Two features of the *Beaver* which make it particularly suitable for use by the Army Air Corps, are its ruggedness—it can withstand heavy jolting on make-shift landing strips in any climate—and its short landing and take-off characteristics. Fully loaded and with no wind, the *Beaver* can take off or land in 560 feet and against a 20-mile-an-hour head-wind this distance

is reduced to less than 330 feet.

As a civil aircraft the *Beaver*, which is made by de Havilland Aircraft of Canada, has operated at 60 degrees below zero in Canada's North-West Territories and at 110 degrees Fahrenheit patrolling oil pipelines in the Middle East.

The military version can also be used for photographic survey, search and rescue operations, supply dropping and as an air ambulance. Flying with the United States Army during the Korean War, the *Beaver* earned a reputation for versatility, reliability and rugged durability. Fifty *Beavers*, in four hours, moved a regiment over mountains that would have taken lorries three days to cross, and one *Beaver* evacuated 200 wounded soldiers from the front line in three weeks.

The *Beaver* can be fitted with skis and floats so that it may land and take off on water, snow and ice.

- A distinctive shoulder flash for Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers attached to the Army Air Corps is under consideration. The new flash to be worn below the "REME" title, will bear the words "Aircraft Servicing Regiment." Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers serving with the Army Air Corps wear the Corps' sky blue beret when they have completed their training.

Tough and easy to maintain, the Beaver can be fitted with polythene-coated skis for landing on snow and ice.



Now remember. Step off with the left foot, chin in, chest out and put bags of swank into it.



Few British soldiers gave their
captors more trouble than
Signalman Thomas, of 51st
Highland Division, who escaped
five times and finally made his
way through Germany and
joined the Free French Army



While other prisoners created a disturbance, Thomas and another British soldier climbed over the fort wall to safety.

Illustration

by

ERIC PARKER

ESCAPE: 5

FIVE BIDS

AS a group of Allied prisoners marched through Salzburg, in Austria, one morning in June, 1944, two of the men side-stepped swiftly out of line and in a flash disappeared—swallowed up in the crowds of civilians on their way to work. It was done so quickly that the German guards did not notice that the men had gone.

Signalman William Thomas, whom the guards had been warned to watch closely because he had already escaped four times, was free again—and this time for good. With his companion, a Frenchman, he made his way across Germany by train to France, joined the Free French Army operating behind the German lines and was "liberated" four months later.

Signalman Thomas's daring escape in Salzburg was one of a series of remarkable incidents during his four years as a prisoner of war, not the least of which was his marriage, conducted under armed guard, to a

FOR FREEDOM

French girl who, unknown to the Germans, was a member of an Allied escape organisation! His five escapes are probably a record for a British prisoner in World War Two and his exploits won him the Military Medal.

Thomas, a signalman in 51st Highland Division, was captured by the Germans at St. Valery-en-Caux in June, 1940 and was one of thousands of British soldiers marched through France for prison camps in Germany. He wondered vaguely as the column neared Loos if he would see Julia, a French girl to whom he had become engaged during his unit's stay there, and was astonished to see her waiting with her sister as the prisoners entered the town.

The girls marched with him for 25 miles to the Belgian border, promising that if he escaped they would shelter him. At the border the girls were turned back and Thomas waved goodbye, determined to escape if he could.

The opportunity came sooner than he expected, for two days later as the column swung round a sharp bend, the German guards were temporarily out of sight. With another signalman he flung himself into a deep ditch and waited until the column had disappeared. He was free.

Five days later Thomas and his companion were back in Loos, having travelled most of the way across country at night, hiding in ditches and in hedgerows to avoid German patrols. They were given civilian clothing and for seven months lived in Julia's home before an escape organisation took them to Marseilles, in unoccupied France, from where they hoped to reach England.

Unluckily, while exploring the docks area in search of a boat, they were detained by the French Police, to whom they revealed their true identities, and were sent to an internment camp at St. Hippolyte du Fort.

A week later Thomas, with two other British soldiers, was free again. One night, while other prisoners distracted the attention of the guards, the three men climbed up the high walls of the fort and dropped to safety outside. Posing as French workers (Thomas could now speak the language well) the trio walked boldly into the railway station and bought tickets to Le Boulou, in southern France, with money they had secreted from the guards.

They hoped to make their way to Spain and then to Gibraltar, but their hopes were short-lived, for at Le Boulou they were arrested during a snap police



Signalman Thomas and his bride on their wedding day in prison camp. Their wedding breakfast was beer and bully beef! Mrs. Thomas was a member of an Allied escape organisation and after the war was commended for her courage and determination by the British Government.

check and sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment for carrying false papers which had been provided by the French Underground. But after two months they were returned to the internment camp at St. Hippolyte where, in March, 1942, Thomas and his fiancée, now an active member of an escape organisation in nearby Marseilles, were married.

It was a "shot gun" marriage with a difference and one of the most unusual weddings of the war. The bride and bridegroom (accompanied by Wing Commander Witney Straight DSO, the famous racing driver who, as Senior British Officer in the camp, was the chief witness) were taken to a local registry office under armed guard and the marriage papers were signed in the presence of drawn pistols!

After the ceremony, the happy pair and their guests sat down to a wedding breakfast of bully-beef and beer!

There was no wedding night, Thomas returning to prison camp and his wife to Marseilles.

Thomas was now more than ever determined to escape again, but several months later was moved, with other British prisoners, to a camp at Carpi, in Italy. It was not until one night

in September, 1943, as the Germans were taken over the camp, that the chance came. Armed with a pair of cutters they had bartered from an Italian with cigarettes, Thomas and another British soldier cut the perimeter wires and made a dash for the open countryside. But they were caught almost immediately.

They tried again several weeks later by digging a tunnel under the wire, and this time the Germans caught them red-handed. As a punishment they were forced to carry in the bodies of three other prisoners who had previously been shot attempting to escape and were then beaten senseless with life-preservers, rifle butts and sticks, and flung into a train bound for another camp—10,000 feet up the Gross Glockner Mountain at Markt Pongau St. Johann in Austria.

As soon as Thomas had recovered from his injuries he began to plan another escape and with this in mind volunteered, with a Frenchman, to work in Salzburg as a tailor.

One evening in May, 1944, on the way back from work, they slipped out of the column and boarded a goods train bound for Switzerland. For five days and nights they hid in a wagon half-filled with haricot beans and at last the train reached the Swiss border at Bregenz.

Freedom was only minutes away—but Thomas and his companion had forgotten that the Germans would search the train. Desperately, and half-blinded with the dust, they tried to claw a hole in the beans, but as fast as they removed a handful other

beans tumbled into the space. When the door was opened Thomas and the Frenchman were still on their knees trying to bury themselves under the beans.

Thomas was sentenced to solitary confinement on bread and water for 17 days for this escape, but his determination to escape was as strong as ever.

Again the chance came a month later, and this time he escaped the Germans for good. After mingling with the crowds in Salzburg, Thomas and the Frenchman bartered their store of chocolate and cigarettes for civilian clothes with the inmates of a French forced labour camp near Salzburg, and boarded a goods train loaded with military vehicles for the Western Front—an unlikely place and an unlikely route for any prisoner.

Comfortably settled in a lorry mounted on one of the open wagons, Thomas and the Frenchman were whisked at speed through Munich, Ulm, Stuttgart, Karlsruhe and on to Mulhouse, where the train stopped for six days.

Their rations of water and food ran out and for two days they had nothing to eat or drink. But at last the train moved on again and soon reached Belfort, where they alighted, dashed across the platforms and caught a passenger train to Chaumont. Here they dropped off before the train stopped and made off across the tracks, spending the night in the fields and gorging themselves on turnips and fruit.

The following day the pair parted company, Thomas heading

OVER...



"I won't tell you again. Get that thing repaired!"

for Montlucon, where he had been told by the Frenchmen in Salzburg there was a Maquis group which included a British officer. He had also heard that the French railway workers were all anti-German and would help any prisoner.

This information paid big dividends, for during the next fortnight he travelled on various trains towards his destination, hidden in coal tenders and sometimes posing as a member of the crew when the trains were searched by German soldiers.

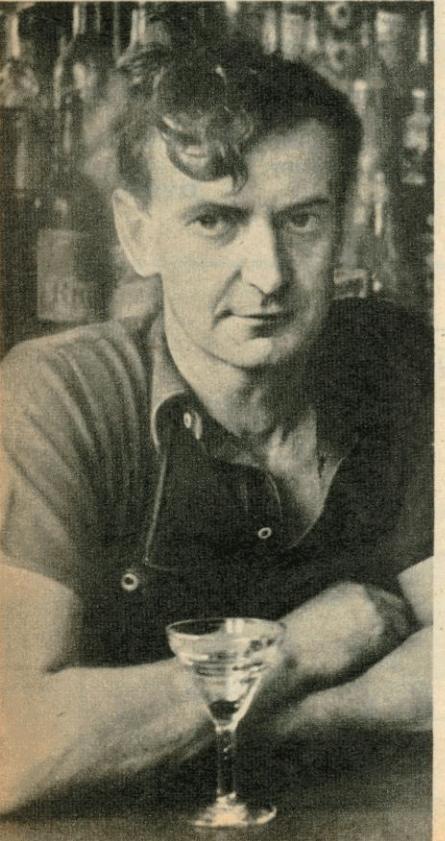
Thomas reached Montlucon at the end of July and was put in touch with a Gunner captain who was operating with the Maquis behind the German lines and wanted a wireless operator. For two months Thomas operated the radio set, transmitting and receiving information from the advancing Allies.

Then, just over four years after he had first been captured, Thomas was sent by the Maquis to Paris and, after a belated honeymoon in Loos, to England.

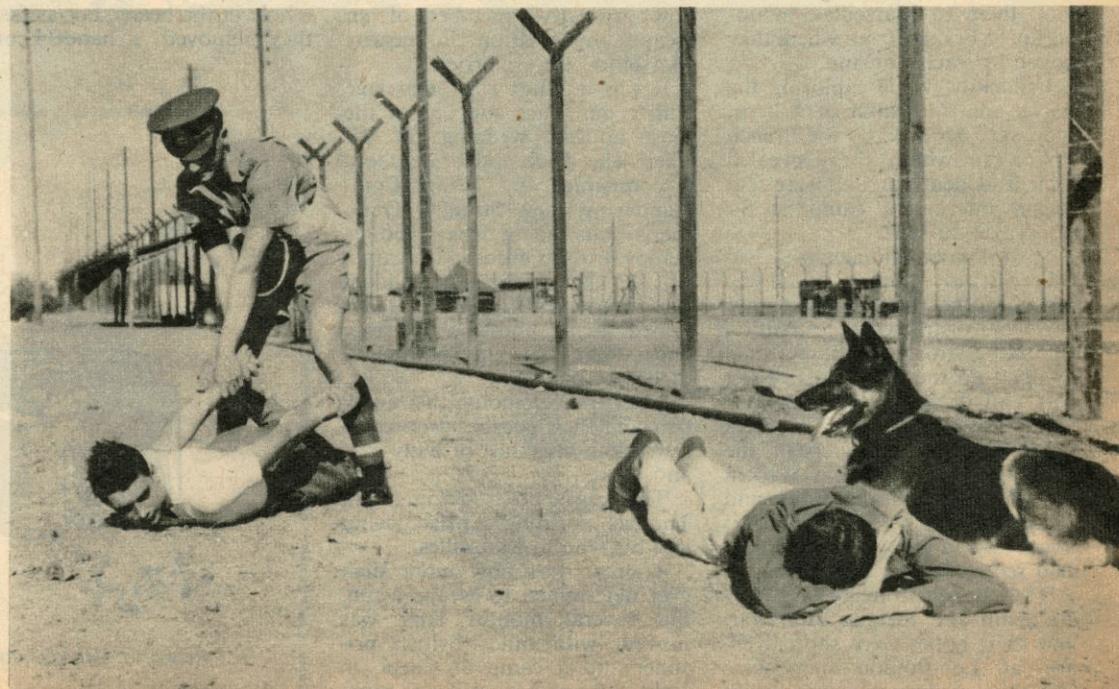
Signalman Thomas, a Regular soldier, left the Army in 1947, when he returned to Paris to rejoin his wife and set up business in a *delicatessen* shop. Mrs Thomas received a certificate of commendation from the British Government for her work with the escape organisation.

LESLIE HUNT

Signalman Thomas recalls his experiences over a glass of wine at his delicatessen store in Paris. He has lived in Paris since the end of the war.



Quick as a flash, an Alsatian brings an "intruder" to earth during a training session near Nicosia. For this demonstration the dog was muzzled.



IT'S a lonely job patrolling an ammunition depot in Cyprus at night when even commonplace objects cast strange shadows and the perimeter wire stretches grotesquely across the dusty plain.

But the men of No. 6 Guard Dog-Unit, Royal Military Police, who guard military installations throughout the island, do their job with confident alertness. Although the nearest sentry is often more than a mile away, each patrolman has the equivalent of several assistants padding silently by his side—a courageous Alsatian dog trained to go into action the moment danger threatens.

Since the end of the Emergency the unit's activities have become less hectic but they are still vital for the Army's security. The mere presence of the guard dogs and their handlers are a deterrent to would-be saboteurs and thieves.

The unit now has only guard dogs but during the Emergency it had several specialist teams trained in finding caches of arms and ammunition and terrorist hide-outs, in ambushing, tracking and unearthing mines. They were used in every major operation mounted in the island and carried out thousands of patrols and raids, some even jumping into action from helicopters.

Although EOKA issued leaflets ridiculing the use of dogs, it is known that the terrorists feared them. One dog, which died later from his wounds, tackled three terrorists single-handed and, although handicapped by his injuries, brought them all to book.

The handlers and their dogs are trained at the unit's base near Nicosia where man and dog work as a team throughout the course. If a dog fails the severe tests of obedience and guard duties its handler, too, is put back for further training.

Most of the handlers are Military Policemen who have already attended a preliminary course at the Royal Veterinary Corps Depot at Melton Mow-

bray, in Leicestershire, and the rest are volunteers from many Infantry regiments.

Sometimes, military policemen on horseback (the unit has six horses and is probably the only Military Police unit abroad with its own saddle club) accompany handlers and dogs on patrol.

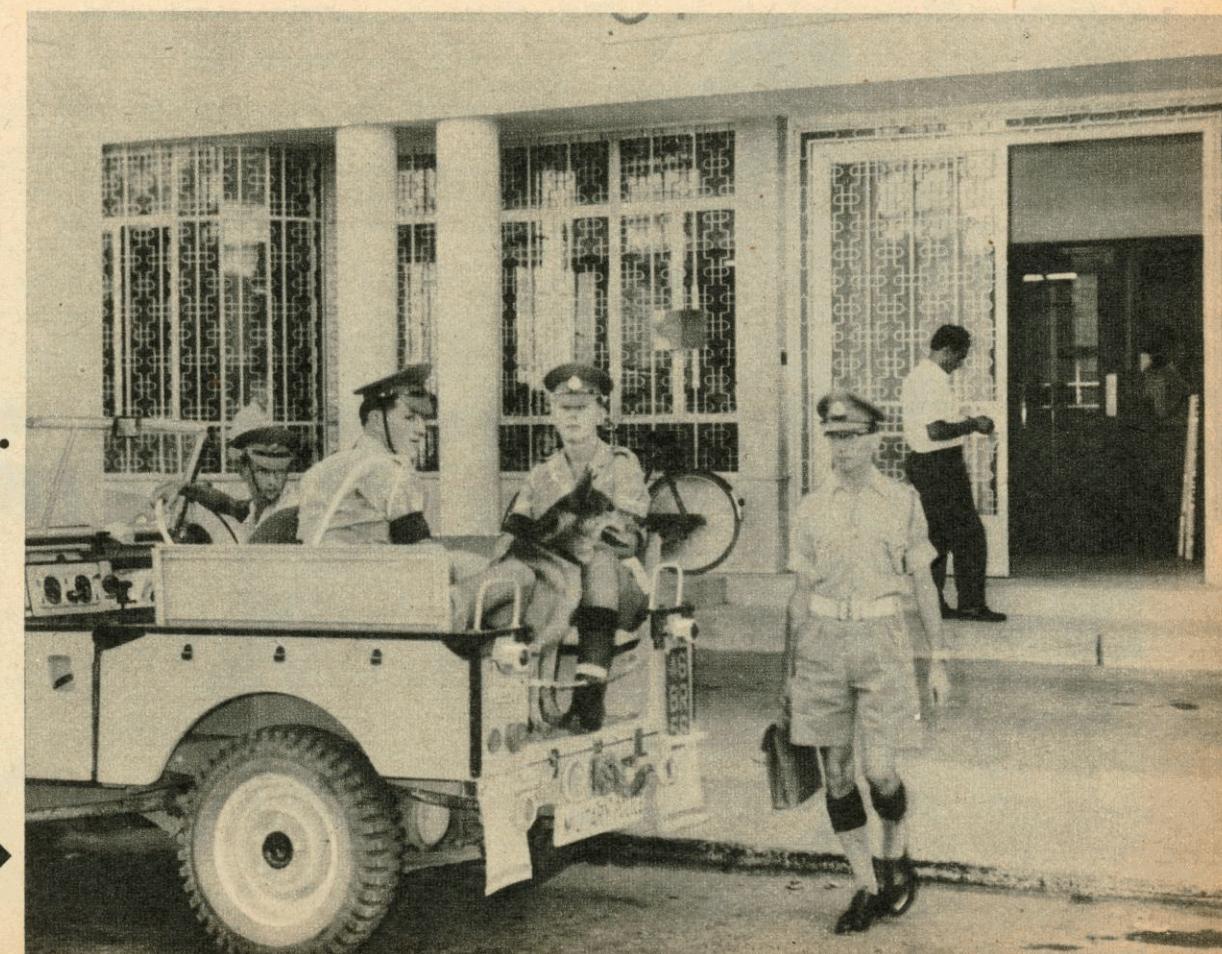
Many of the instructors are men of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps who say that the two essential qualities in a handler are a love of animals and a lot of personal courage.—From a report by Captain D. A. Harris, Military Observer, Cyprus.

Left: While the handler deals with one suspect, his dog guards the other, ready to leap into action if either of them resist arrest.

Right: And here's another important job for a guard dog: protecting No. 6 Guard Dog Unit's second-in-command, Captain I. McHart, as he returns with the company's pay from a bank in Nicosia.

ONE MAN AND HIS DOG

Man's best friend is his dog, especially in the Military Police unit in Cyprus where Redcaps and Alsatians patrol camps and ammunition dumps to keep out would-be thieves and saboteurs.



SAS ON SKIS

OME 60 men of the 22nd Special Air Service Regiment which is trained in parachuting, mountain climbing, watermanship, sabotage and raiding behind enemy lines, have added yet another skill to their already long list of war-like talents.

Now, thanks to expert instructors of the German Army's 221 *Gebirgsjaeger* Battalion, they can ski and have learned the elementary principles of snow and mountain warfare.

Led by Major John Slim, son of Field-Marshal Sir William Slim, the men of "D" Squadron flew to Bavaria at the invitation of the *Gebirgsjaeger* Battalion (with which the SAS had taken part in an escape and evasion exercise

last year) and lived and trained for three weeks 5000-ft up in the snow-covered Alps near Oberstdorf.

Only one or two had even seen a pair of skis before, but by the

end of the first week all the men in the Squadron were capable of negotiating shallow slopes without mishap and, by the end of the second week, were happily setting off on 15-mile cross country journeys each day. Most evenings the men visited local towns and villages in company with their German officer and non-commissioned officer instructors, who are among the best exponents of snow warfare in the world.

To cement further the mutual

respect and admiration between the two units, the 22nd Special Air Service Regiment presented the *Gebirgsjaeger* Battalion with a shield bearing its regimental crest of the winged dagger and the Germans gave each man in "D" Squadron a white metal replica of their own *edelweiss* cap badge.

The men of "D" Squadron, among them several World War Two veterans, were flown home in three aircraft of the newly-formed *Luftwaffe*.

On the slopes of the Bavarian Alps Gefreiter Karcher puts his two pupils, Sgt J. Morgan (centre) and Tpr Brian Anderson, through their paces.



Major John Slim shares a joke with Oberleutnant Poessinger, commanding officer of 221 Gebirgsjaeger Battalion, whose experts taught the SAS how to ski.



Rifles and tents slung, a patrol led by Lieut. A. Bennett, Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry, sets off on skis to seek out the enemy.

"WAR" IN THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

ALMOST invisible against the deep snow in their white, windproof smocks, caps and trousers, a ski patrol breasted the top of a wooded hill and swooped silently and swiftly on the unsuspecting enemy in the valley.

They were some of the 70 British soldiers from units in Rhine Army who were learning the hard way how to live and fight a war 300 miles inside the Arctic Circle, among the gaunt Norwegian mountains and frozen tundra.

For eight days, as No. 1 (British) Corps Independent Ski Detachment, the British troops took part in winter warfare manoeuvres with units of the Norwegian Army's Northern Brigade in the Bardufoss area, not many miles from Narvik where British and German troops fought a bitter battle in 1940.

Only a few members of the Ski Detachment were experienced cross-country skiers. Most were volunteers who had learned the art only a few months before with their regimental ski teams in Austria, the Harz Mountains or at Rhine Army's Winterberg Ski Centre. But, without exception, they adapted themselves rapidly to Arctic conditions and earned high praise from the Norwegians. They covered scores of miles on ski patrols, pulling their tents and

food behind them on Arctic sleds, often in howling gales with the temperature 15 degrees Centigrade below zero.

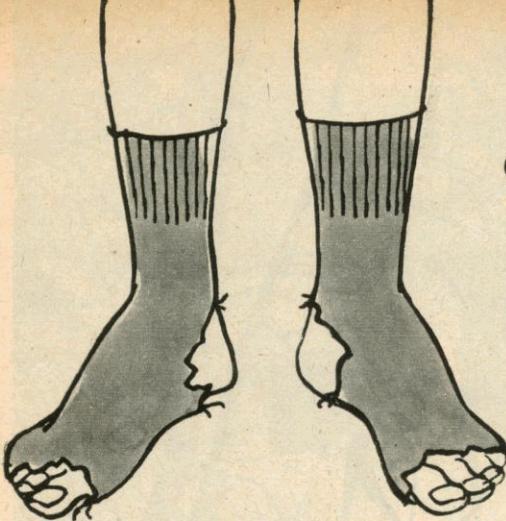
Before going into "action" on

Men of the 1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, prepare for the cold night to come, gathering wood from a forest and loading it on their sledge. They fought an eight-day battle amid the Arctic snows.



the exercise, the Ski Detachment spent two weeks learning from the Norwegians how to combat the intense cold and at the same time be ready to fight a battle—

lessons they will put into practice when they rejoin their units as instructors in winter warfare.—From a report by Captain I. J. Todd, Military Observer.



"Well I'll Be Darned"

IN THIS MODERN ARMY THE SOLDIER'S BIGGEST PROBLEM IS HOW TO MEND A HOLE IN HIS SOCK. THERE ARE ONLY TWO SATISFACTORY ANSWERS: GET MARRIED OR BECOME A QUARTERMASTER-SERGEANT

THE British Army has got rockets and radar, everything science can devise for a modern army. But the greatest hazard a British soldier still has to face is a blooming great hole in his sock!

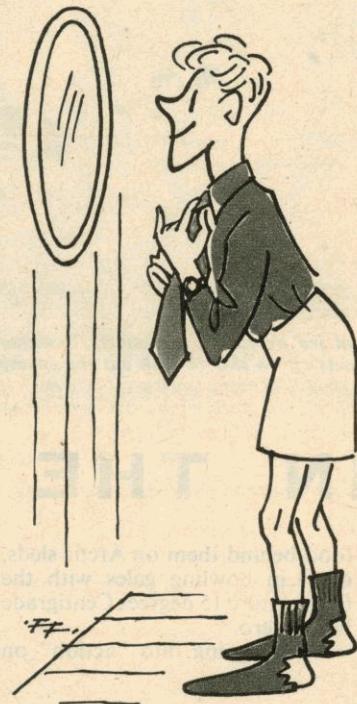
What poor, benighted lost soul wandering in the outer darkness of an army camp first invented socks? Opinions differ but I am convinced that it was a woman. Only a woman could have thought up so much misery for a man. There is another school of thought that is equally firmly convinced

his kit up before going out there is nothing for it but an uncomfortable evening in front of you.

A hole in the sock is one of the most fiendish trials that can beset a soldier with any sort of a fixation about needles. Even the Army manuals, generally so painstakingly thorough in dealing with most aspects of military life, gave up the struggle years ago and carefully leave the whole messy business to the initiative of the individual soldier.

The hole has everything on its side, even the element of surprise. No one knows, for instance, when he pulls his boots off where the hole is going to be. Every soldier recently dismounted from guard duty has experienced that thrill of seeing a perfect top to his sock—only to be followed by black despair as he feels the cold barrack room floor through the gaping hole in the heel underneath. Sometimes, just to fool you, there is no hole at all and in the joy of this discovery you proudly pull them up to show them off—and the top three inches of each leg comes away.

If you are foolhardy enough to contemplate mending your socks the Army will help you to the extent of supplying you with a "housewife", a little bag with needles and things in it. But that is all. From there on you're on



your own.

Holding the edges of the hole firmly together and not bothering with the needle, you tie it skilfully round with wool like the neck of a coal sack. But this is recommended only for the toes of socks. Try

it on a hole in the heel and you will limp for the rest of your army career.

Holes in the heel of a sock up to a few years ago were considered unmendable; however, with the introduction of new plastic adhesives and a lump cut from a still older sock, it is quite easy for a new patch to be fixed over the hole. But! on no account wear the socks again. Cut the tops off and keep them for mittens on a cold guard duty.

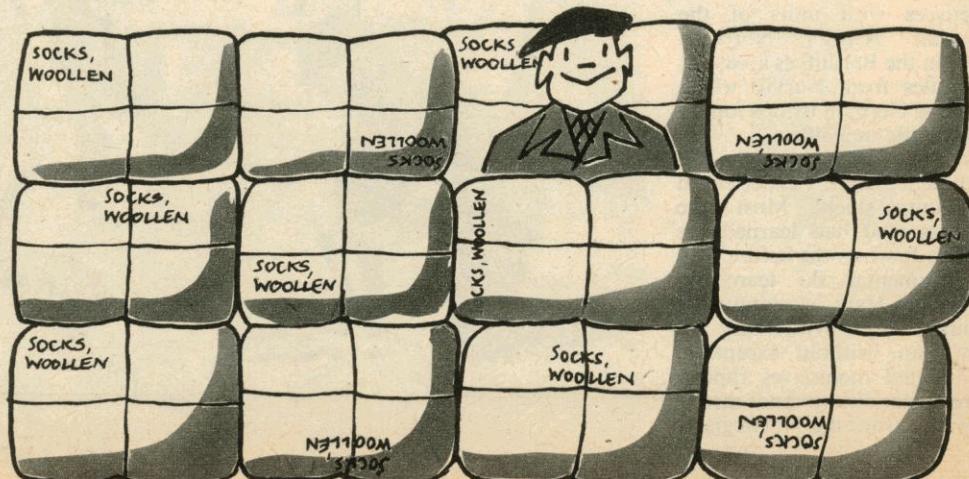
To those who cannot use a needle at all only two courses are open—the holy state of matrimony; or the unholy rank of Quartermaster-Sergeant. The first although pleasant on occasions, may land you with a wife who can't darn either, because it is not a thing you like to go into at the courting stage, which would serve you right for going to such extremes just for a hole in your sock.

Taking it all round, perhaps the second is the best. If you are prepared to stand the aching, friendless loneliness, you can spend the rest of your Army stint in the stores, surrounded by bales and bales of lovely new socks, waiting for the day when you can issue them to all the other soldiers who don't know how to mend a hole either.

OSCAR KETTLE

that it was a Quartermaster-Sergeant, permanently "excused boots" and determined to get his own back on the recruiting sergeant who waylaid him into the Army when all the time he preferred the Navy.

Be that as it may, the fact remains that the sock and all its attendant evils are with us until science can find a good substitute. Our problem is to live with it. There are, of course, those among us who can see something almost beautiful in the gradual flowering of the toes through one end of your last pair of socks as you pull slowly on the other. Normal people like me are horrified by the sight, and if your next door bedmate has been inconsiderate enough to lock all



THE THREAT OF INVASION AND THE URGE FOR SOCIAL REFORM LED TO THE FORMATION 100 YEARS AGO OF THE ARMY CADET FORCE, A NATION-WIDE YOUTH MOVEMENT WHICH TODAY MAKES BOYS GOOD CITIZENS AND SOLDIERS

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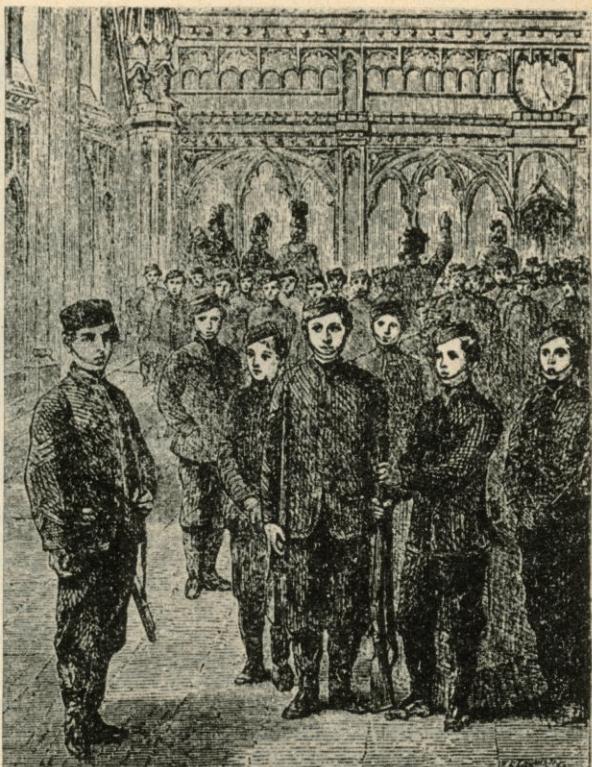
A CRIMSON and gold banner presented personally by the Duke of Edinburgh, their Colonel-in-Chief, symbolises for 44,000 youngsters the centenary this year of the Army Cadet Force, once described by a distinguished general as "Britain's fourth line of defence."

As the banner is paraded through 80 counties of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, it will be honoured by every one of the teenage boys who belong to the Army's own youth movement.

Later this year the Army Cadet Force and the Combined Cadet Force, which is also celebrating its centenary, will join in a service in Westminster Abbey and a parade to be attended by the Queen as Captain-General of the Combined Cadet Force.

Both organisations trace their origins to the founding of the Volunteer Corps, predecessors of today's Territorial Army, at a time when, 45 years after Waterloo, Britain stood in fear of French invasion. Junior units enrolled the boys not yet old enough for military service—some of these units survive to this day—and public schools formed Volunteer Corps, officered by masters, which were the forerunners of the Combined Cadet Force and the Officers' Training Corps.

But the Cadet Forces were not born entirely of military necessity. They evolved partly from social reforms which belatedly followed



Cadets of the London Rifle Brigade drill in London's Guildhall in 1862. Reproduced from The Boys' Own Magazine.

THE ARMY'S BOYS ARE 100 YEARS OLD

the Industrial Revolution. One reformer, Miss Octavia Hill, formed from London's East End urchins a group of boys modelled on the Army. This group eventually became a cadet battalion.

That realisation of the boy's need for an outlet to his energy and natural instincts is still paramount in the Cadet Forces today. The Army Cadet Force exists primarily for the benefit of the boy

OVER...



The Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-Chief of the Army Cadet Force, sharing a joke with cadets after he had presented his banner to them at the Tower of London.

This picture, of about 1906, shows cyclists of the 1st Cadet Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps, and is one of a set of coloured postcards illustrating the cadet's activities.



himself. Its principal aim, like that of other uniformed youth organisations, is to make the boy a good citizen.

Military training takes second place and the cadet joins the movement under a "gentleman's agreement." He is not a member of the Armed Forces, nor enlisted under the Army Act, and has no operational nor Service liability. He receives no pay.

The Army Cadet Force Charter lays down that the Force will "inspire and train the youth of the Nation to serve God, their Queen and their Country" by developing character and powers of leadership, instilling soldierly qualities of discipline, initiative and self-reliance, arousing the boys' interest in the Army and its traditions and teaching them the duties of good citizens.

Many cadets later join the Army as Regulars or as boys in the Junior Leader regiments and apprentice schools. More than half the lads in Junior Leader

A tip for the youngster from an old hand—Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Newman VC, hero of the Commando raid on St Nazaire in 1942, puts a Cadet Bren gunner right during an Army Cadet Force camp near Shorncliffe in 1947.



regiments have served in the Cadet Forces where their experience stands them in such good stead that they have gained commissions in the ratio of 10 to each ordinary recruit or obtained promotion to non-commissioned rank in an even higher proportion.

At least one cadet had a field-marshall's baton in his knapsack—Field-Marshall Viscount Alexander of Tunis began his military career as a cadet at Harrow.

Cadets can serve from their 14th to their 18th birthdays and are expected to take their Certificate "A" examination within two years of joining. Then go on to more advanced training and become non-commissioned, warrant or under-officer instructors.

Military training concentrates on elementary drill, map-reading, fieldcraft up to section tactics, weapon training and rifle shooting, which in the Cadets has always been regarded as a sport. Every summer they go to annual camp.

take during the first year of his commissioned service. These and an ever-widening range of specialist courses are being run at the new Cadet Training Centre at Frimley Park.

The Duke of Edinburgh's scheme swept through the Cadet movement like fire through stubble, providing for the first time an equivalent to the Queen's Badges of the Scouts and Boys' Brigade. The Army Cadet Force has already gained several gold badges for work in citizenship, community service, hobbies, adventure and physical fitness, and within two years every boy in the movement will have the opportunity of winning an award.

Although when National Service ceases the Army Cadet Force will no longer be able to recruit a proportion of its officers and non-commissioned officers from this source, the movement is less concerned with the run-down of National Service than with the implementation of the Albemarle report on Britain's youth service.

The Cadets will back the provision of more athletic grounds as recommended in the report and, with the continuing development of adventure training, the Duke of Edinburgh's scheme and Frimley Park, the movement will be able to offer boys as attractive a programme as any youth organisation. Technical training, too, will be widened to meet the demands of the modern Army.

Since World War Two most school contingents, restricted to schools educating boys beyond the age of 17, have been in the Combined Cadet Force, affiliated to Regular or Territorial Army units and wearing their school's badge in berets and its name on shoulder titles.

PETER N. WOOD

The Army Cadet Force is organised on a county basis with battalions and independent companies training in platoons or sections at local Territorial Army centres. Many units are affiliated to county regiments.

The history of the Army Cadet Force has been closely linked with that of other uniformed youth movements. The Methodist Church's Boys' Brigade, founded in 1883 by William Smith, an officer in the Lanarkshire Volunteers, and the Church Lads' Brigade, started eight years later, were both based on a military framework. Many units of the latter brigade were affiliated to the Cadet Forces.

The Boy Scouts, too, might have been cadets. Their founder, General Sir Robert Baden-Powell, wrote in his *Scouting for Boys* that his book's purpose was to "assist Cadet officers and brigade leaders." But the Cadets did not take this up and within a year the Scouts were thriving, although Baden-Powell had never envisaged a separate organisation.

In recent years the Army Cadet Force has been revitalised by the adoption of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and by the introduction of King George VI leadership courses which every officer has now to

take during the first year of his commissioned service. These and an ever-widening range of specialist courses are being run at the new Cadet Training Centre at Frimley Park.

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PETER N. WOOD

The Army Cadet Force unit with probably the oldest unbroken tradition is the 1st Cadet Battalion, The London Rifle Brigade. It was started at the Royal Masonic School by a Lord Mayor of London who had been a prime mover in the raising of the London Rifle Brigade.

★

The 1st (C) Battalion, The King's Royal Rifle Corps, provided a complete detachment for the City Imperial Volunteers in the South African War, and is the only Cadet unit to have gained a Battle Honour—"South Africa".

★

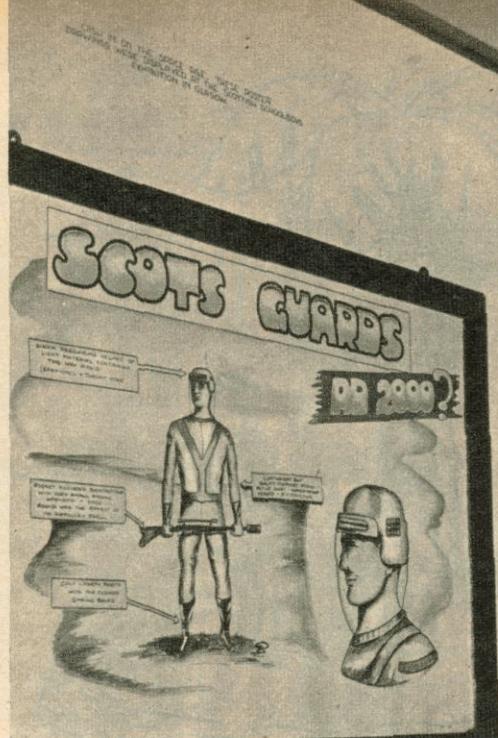
Until recently, when compulsory membership ceased, Eton had the largest Combined Cadet Force. This contingent is the only cadet unit to have official Colours, presented by King Edward VII in defiance of the tradition that Colours should be limited to combatant units.



Above: Cadets from Ellesmere College being shown over a scout car when they visited Germany for a fortnight as part of their training. Many cadets have now enjoyed these annual attachments to Regular Army units. Below: During the next few years there will be an increasing stress on adventure training in the Cadet movement. Here cadets cross a river on their home-made raft.



The Band of the 1st (London) Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment, leading the Battalion down the Mall during the Coronation Parade in 1953.



The Scots Guards cash in on the space age with this futuristic poster. Pipe-Major R. Crabb represents the never-failing appeal of pageantry.

A RECRUIT A DAY IS THE AIM

AS the end of National Service draws near the British Army increasingly turns its attention to the problem of how best, in the face of fierce competition from industry and commerce, it can enlist enough Regular soldiers.

In this sphere the Scots Guards are in the front rank. The Regiment believes that the Army should be as up-to-date and as publicity minded as any industrial concern—and puts its ideas into practice by maintaining a close relationship with the national and local press and by using every opportunity to keep the Scots Guards in the public eye.

Recently the Regiment invited the Press to an exhibition of its recruiting techniques, ranging from slogans franked on every envelope leaving Regimental Headquarters to imaginative posters of Scots Guardsmen in the Space Age.

Stills from the cinema screen, newspaper cuttings and gramophone records of the Regimental Pipes and Drums represented the indirect approach to recruiting. Shop window and exhibition displays included large pictures of Guardsmen in peace and war, old and historic uniforms, dioramas and futuristic posters designed to catch young eyes at the Scottish Schoolboys' Exhibition.

To keep their two battalions up to strength the Scots Guards need to sign a new recruit every day. They are not quite doing that, but they claim to be nearer this target, as the result of their publicity campaign, than any other Regiment.

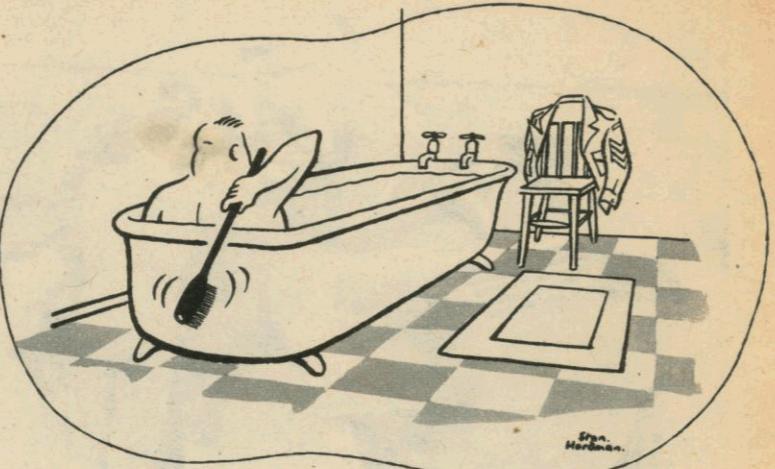
● A poster used by the 3rd Regiment of Body Guards in Peterborough during the reign of George IV called on "all young men of spirit whose hearts beat high to tread the path of glory" to report to Sergeant Titterton at the Sign of the Blackamoor's Head.

The sophistication of modern recruiting techniques would have baffled the sergeant, but he would have applauded the same challenge implicit in today's slogan: "Are You good enough for the Scots Guards?"

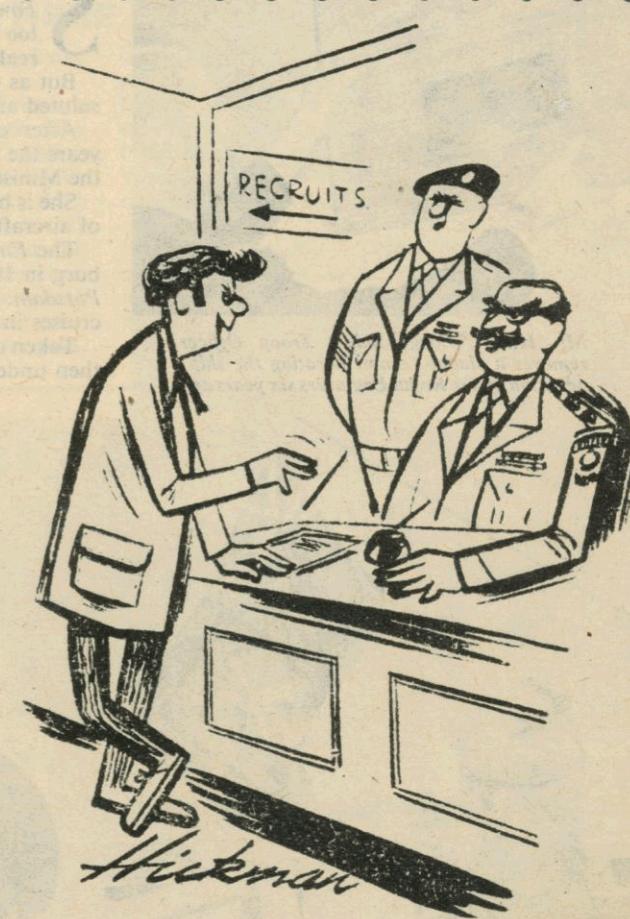
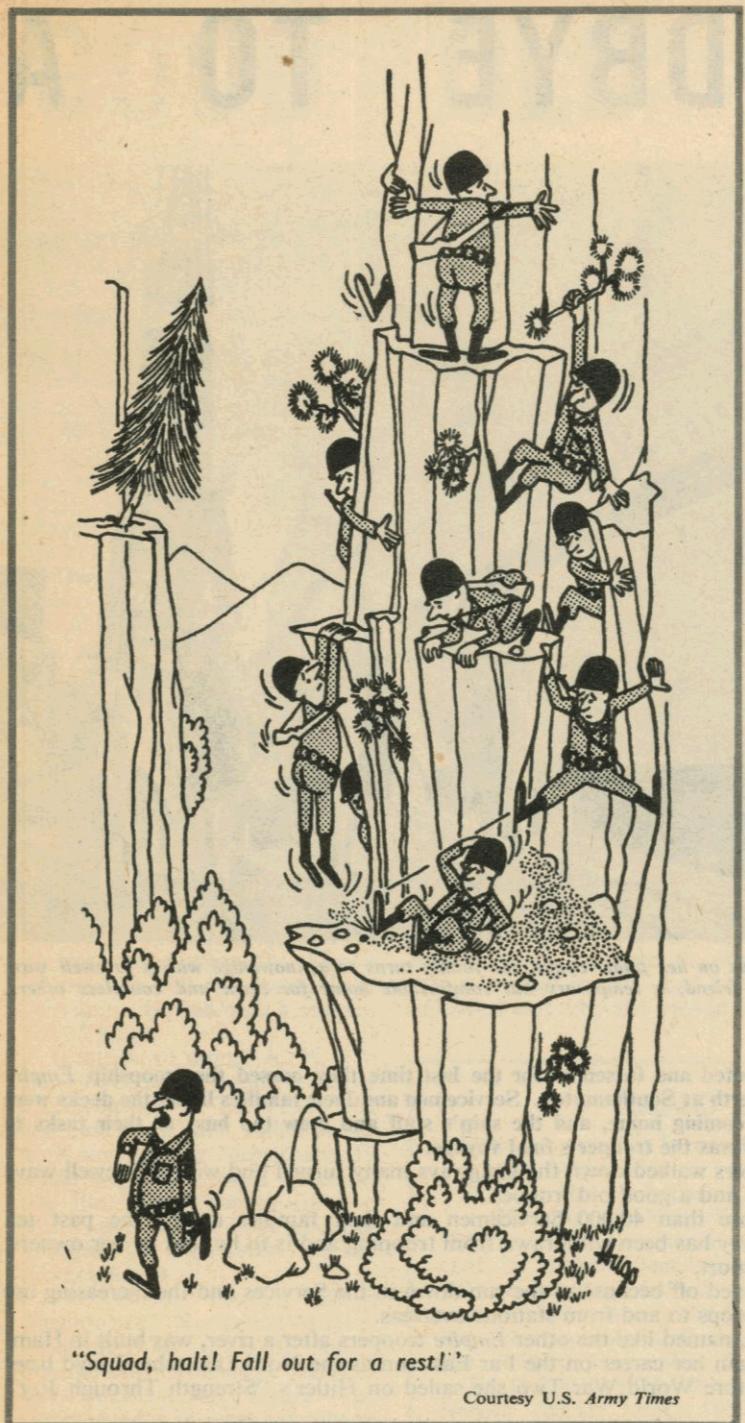
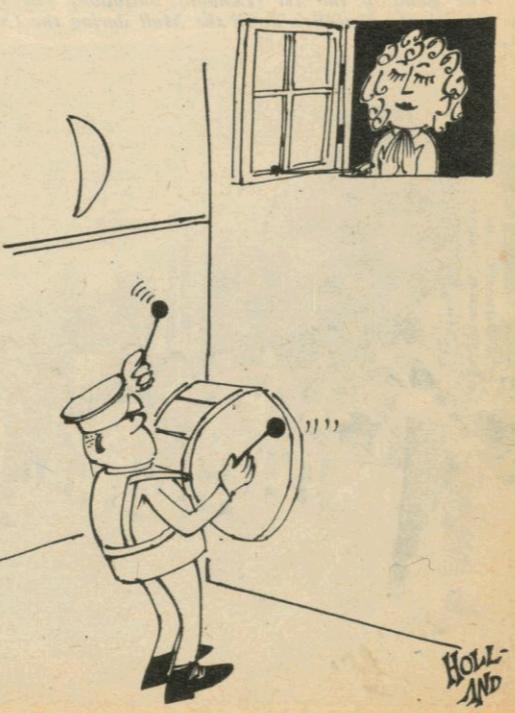
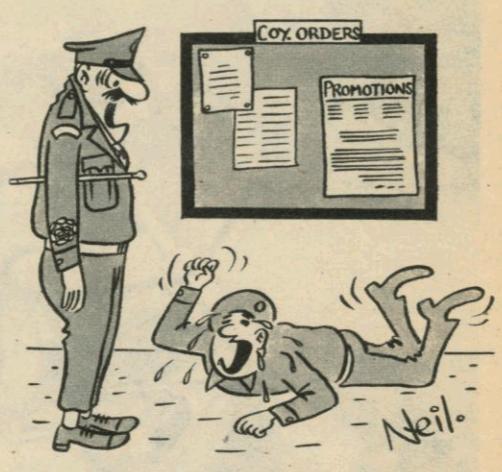


Outgoing mail is franked with this or other slogans. The gimmick is perhaps now being overdone but it is a neat, economical form of publicity. Book matches are another popular gimmick.





HUMOUR



"So there we are on the old dotted line. Now then—holidays?"

The latest "casualty" in Britain's Troopship Fleet which once totalled nearly 200 craft is the Empire Fowey. In ten years she carried more than 40,000 Servicemen and their families across the seas. Now there are only five troopships left

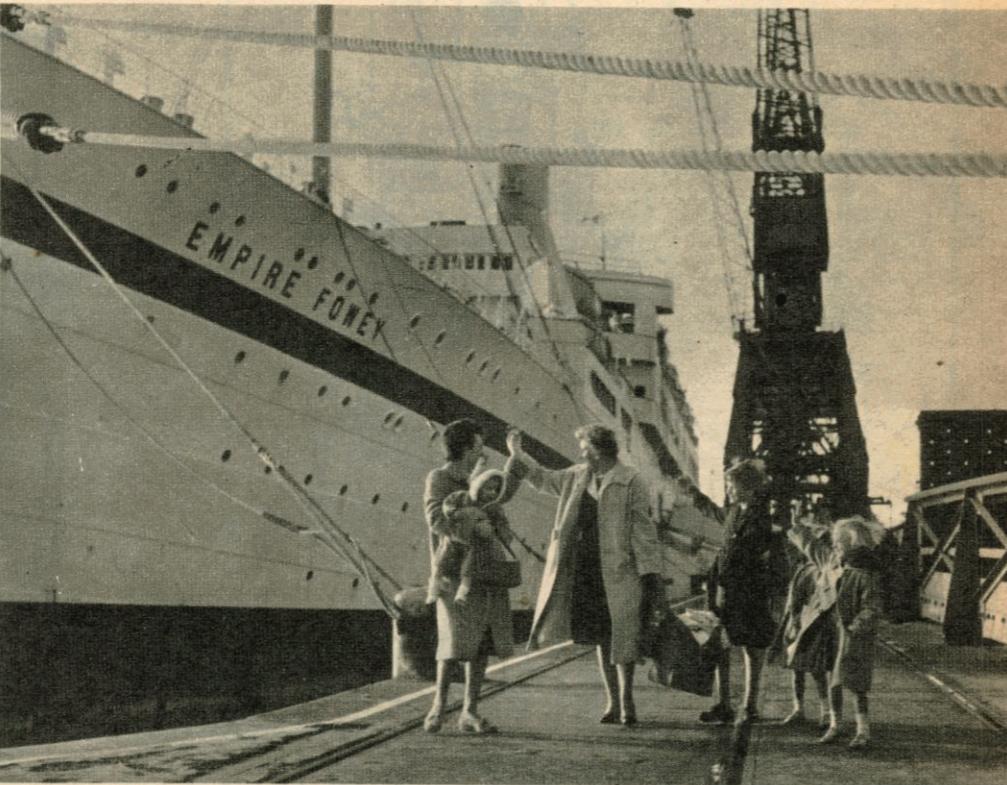


Mr. H. W. Long, Ship's Troop Officer, removes a plaque commemorating the ship's adoption by the Royal Engineers six years ago.



The Quartermaster hoists for the last time the Sapper flag, flown on entering or leaving port.

GOODBYE TO A GOOD OLD TROOPER



Back home from Cyprus on her final voyage, the family turns to acknowledge with a farewell wave the passing of an old friend, a temporary but comfortable home for them and countless others.

STUBBY tugs hooted and fussed as for the last time they nursed the troopship *Empire Fowey* to her berth at Southampton. Servicemen and their families lining the decks were too excited at coming home, and the ship's staff and crew too busy at their tasks to realise that this was the trooper's final voyage.

But as the passengers walked down the gangways many turned and with a farewell wave saluted an old friend and a good old trooper.

After carrying more than 40,000 Servicemen and their families during the past ten years the *Empire Fowey* has been withdrawn from trooping and is to be sold by her owners, the Ministry of Transport.

She is being pensioned off because of the run-down in the Services and the increasing use of aircraft to ferry troops to and from stations overseas.

The *Empire Fowey*, named like the other *Empire* troopers after a river, was built in Hamburg in 1935 and began her career on the Far East run as the Nord Deutscher Lloyd liner *Potsdam*. Shortly before World War Two she sailed on Hitler's "Strength Through Joy" cruises in the Baltic.

Taken over as a war prize in 1945, the *Potsdam*, renamed, made one voyage to Port Said and then underwent an extensive five-year refit to bring her up to post-war trooping standards.



On the bridge Mr. H. A. Strowger, Trinity House pilot, signals to his tugs.



It was the final voyage in command of the *Empire Fowey* for Captain L. H. Howard (right), a sailor for 35 years.

GOODBYE TO A GOOD OLD TROOPER

She took the 8th Hussars out to Korea in October, 1950, and in the next four years made seven more trips to Korea with Infantry battalions and Royal Artillery regiments.

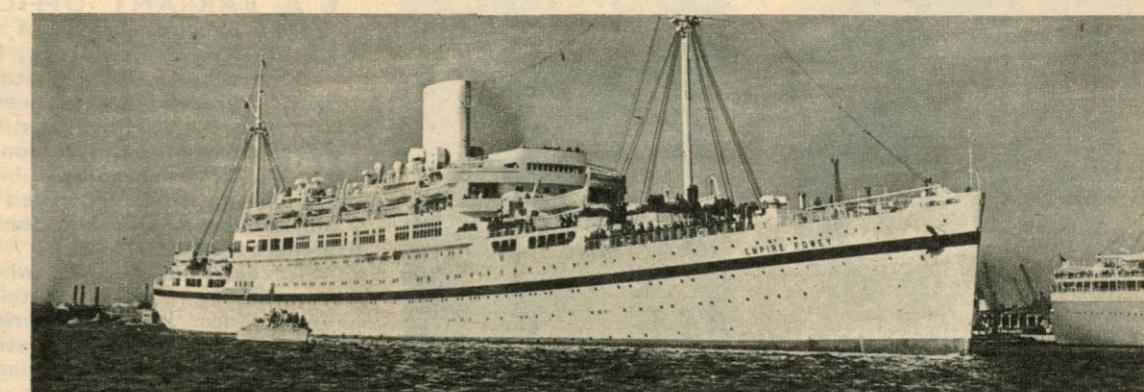
After carrying a Royal Engineer regiment to Korea the *Empire Fowey* was adopted by the Sappers in September, 1954. Subsequently, on entering and leaving port, she always flew the red and blue Sapper flag while the march "Hurrah for the CRE" was played on her loud-speaker system.

The *Empire Fowey*'s name has been perpetuated in the Suez Canal's Fowey Corner where she ran aground several times. Slow to react to her rudder when moving slowly, she was aground 15 times in the Canal but never suffered any damage on the soft sand.

She was managed and run for the Ministry of Transport by the P. and O. Company. Her commander, Captain L. H. Howard, then 3rd Officer in the P. and O. mailboat *Ranchi*, once played football in Yokohama against her German crew when the *Empire Fowey* was still the luxury liner *Potsdam*. He has been a seaman for 35 years.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. N. Til-
den-Smith, Royal Artillery, Ship's
Commandant of the *Fowey* for
the past 18 months, sailed in her
to Korea with his former unit, 19
Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.
He has been trooping for five
years and is to join another
trooper, the *Oxfordshire*, as her
Commandant.

The *Empire Fowey*'s Ship's
Regimental Sergeant-Major,
Warrant Officer C. S. H. Jones,
Royal Army Ordnance Corps, has
been posted to the *Dilwara*. Mr.
Jones was for 14 years a company
sergeant-major in the Welsh
Guards.



Her decks lined with soldiers, the *Empire Fowey*, in her hey-day, leaves Southampton Water on one of her many trooping voyages to the Far East.

Warrant Officer F. Cowell, Royal Army Service Corps, the Orderly Room Quartermaster-Sergeant, had served in the *Empire Fowey* longer than any other member of the ship's staff and her last voyage was his final trip before leaving the Army.

The *Empire Fowey* stayed in Southampton until all her ship's, Ministry of Transport and Army stores—the thousands of items from nursery furniture to rifles that a trooper carries—had been unloaded and then she moved to

Portland to lie up, waiting for a buyer.

She will be remembered for her speed—on her last trip, bringing home soldiers and families from Cyprus, she averaged 19 knots—and for the friendly relationship between passengers and ship's staff that has always been the pride of the P. and O. Line.

Her Captain told SOLDIER: "She has been a very happy ship."

The *Empire Fowey* needs no better epitaph than this.

PETER N. WOOD

Half the Servicemen posted to and from overseas stations travel by air—and the other half by troopship.

Flying saves man-hours and is no more expensive than sailing, but the trooper has lost none of its appeal to Servicemen's families. They prefer the gradual acclimatisation from tropical sun to British winter.

AND NOW THERE ARE ONLY FIVE

THE troopship is fast disappearing from the Army scene.

At the peak period, in 1945, Britain's Ministry of War Transport controlled 181 troopers of nearly two-and-a-half million tons. By 1948 the fleet had shrunk to 22. Now, with the passing of the *Empire Fowey*—the 13th to be withdrawn since 1954—its strength is only five—the post-war *Oxfordshire* and *Nevasa* and the refitted *Devonshire*, *Dunera* and *Dilwara*.

The *Oxfordshire* (20,586 tons, 1500 passengers), *Nevasa* (20,527 tons, 1500 passengers) and *Empire Fowey* (19,121 tons, 1642 passengers)

have generally plied to the Far East. The smaller and slower *Devonshire*, *Dunera* and *Dilwara*, all three of some 12,500 tons and carrying 1100-odd passengers, are used for the Middle-East run and occasional trips to the West Indies, Persian Gulf or East Africa with relief troops for major units.

Trooping is a joint service commitment but the Army, as major user, provides a ship's commandant, adjutant, regimental sergeant-major, regimental quartermaster-sergeant and medical staff on all but the *Devonshire* which is manned by the Royal Air Force.



Journey's end—and the Fourth Officer rings the final order.



Down in the dispensary S/Sgt S. Taylor and Pte P. Jackson check and pack the medical stores for the last time.



Her passengers have disembarked. Her cabins and decks are empty. The *Empire Fowey* is a troopship no longer.



Some neck—and some check-up! Oswald calmly submits to the ordeal as WO Davis runs the mine-detector over him to find what caused the indigestion.

THE CHESHires CHECK UP ON AN OSTRICH

THE Army does some very odd jobs, but never before, as far as **SOLDIER** knows, has it been called in to diagnose the cause of indigestion in an ostrich!

It happened in Chester where the Zoo authorities began to get worried when Oswald, an omnivorous ostrich with a penchant for swallowing anything within reach, developed indigestion and lost his appetite. Obviously Oswald had eaten something that didn't agree with him, but what and where it was a veterinary surgeon was unable to say.

So the Zoo asked the Army to help and within the hour Warrant Officer Charles Davis and Private Daniel Prendergast, of the 4th Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment TA, were on the job—frisking Oswald with a mine detector to find the cause of the trouble. They found it in Oswald's crop—a piece of metal the ostrich had swallowed had lodged there.

As **SOLDIER** went to press Oswald was being prepared for an operation.

A NEW BRIDGE—GERMAN STYLE

THE German Army has a new idea for getting heavy vehicles across rivers.

It is a pontoon-less bridge (seen right, being tested at Koblenz) made of floating hollow metal plates which are buoyant enough to carry heavy tanks across wide rivers. The bridge can be erected much more rapidly than the normal pontoon bridge and can be kept in position in heavy weather by craft anchored on both sides of it.



SOLDIER-ARTIST TAKES TOP PRIZE

WARRANT OFFICER Dennis Dutch, of the Royal Fusiliers, has never seen Britain's Prime Minister—but his water-colour portrait of Mr. Macmillan was so true to life that it won for him the first prize of £50 in an art competition organised by the London Art College for 300 of their students.

Warrant Officer Dutch, who is seconded to the 2nd/6th Battalion, King's African Rifles, in Mauritius, was the only soldier competitor. When he submitted his painting he had taken only two lessons since enrolling with the College through a Royal Army Educational Corps scheme. He based the head of the Prime Minister on photographs and painted the rest of the figure from imagination.

Says the College Principal, Mr. A. W. Browne: "His portrait is almost perfect and the composition is outstandingly good."

When he leaves the Army in 1968, at the end of a 24-year engagement, Mr. Dutch hopes to become a Press artist.

Warrant Officer Dutch's winning water-colour of the British Prime Minister.



MISCELLANY

THE SERGEANT HAD A BRIGHT IDEA

THE Sergeant asked the Major and the Major asked the Brigadier: "Would you buy me a No. 10 Meccano set, Sir?"

Not unnaturally, Brigadier Alec Ronald, Chief Recruiting Officer in Belfast, was a little surprised. But he said yes.

So Sergeant J. V. G. Brett, Royal Engineers, got his No. 10 set (price £43 15s, the biggest set Meccano make and the dream of all young boys) and a No. 9 set (£16 6s), too.

Sergeant Brett had had an idea. He thought working models would brighten up the windows of the Army Information Centre, in Belfast's Clifton Street, where he has been a Regular Army recruiting sergeant for over two years.

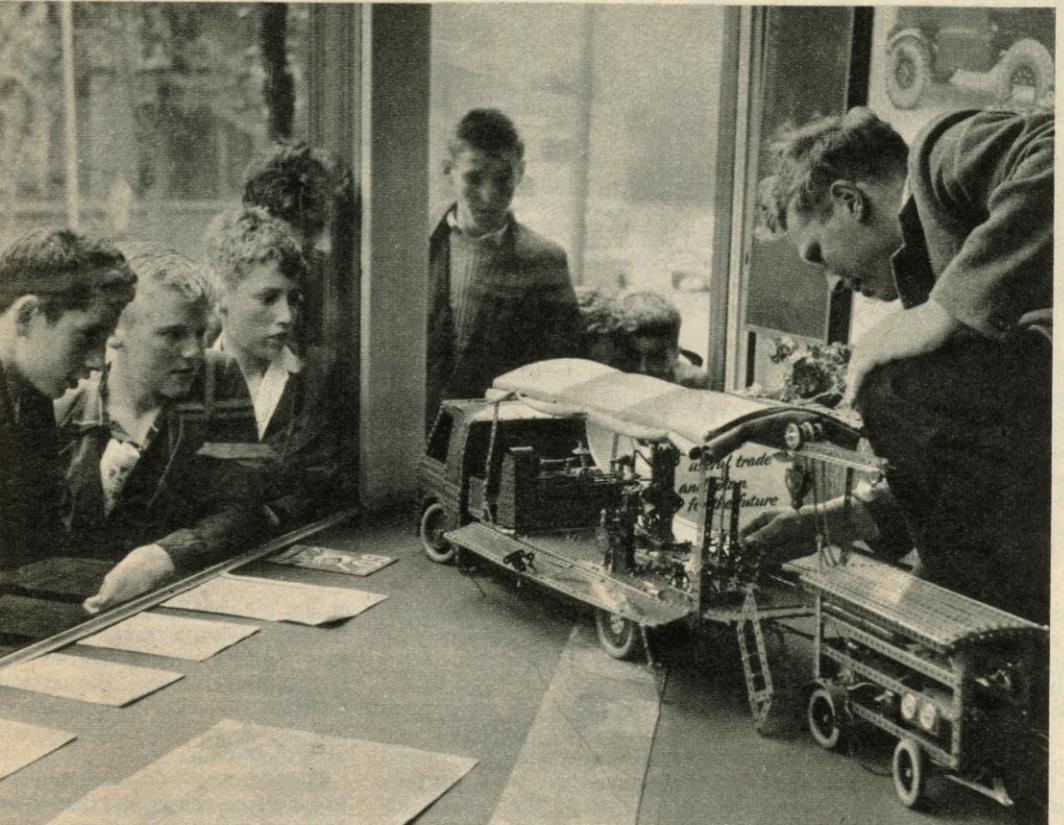
With the help of the Centre's Medical Officer, Lieutenant S. Clutterbuck, Sergeant Brett first

built a Bailey Bridge, with a Centurion tank moving across it. The model became the centre-piece of the Information Office windows, where it fascinated every passer-by, and was also displayed at the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society's show.

Working mainly in their leisure time, Sergeant Brett and Lieutenant Clutterbuck next made a large-scale model of a Whirlwind helicopter, with a soldier being winched up and down. Their third model was of the latest type of mobile workshop and trailer generator used by the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers, complete with working lathe, drill, milling and stamping machines.

Says Brigadier Ronald: "It's much better than a static display of little model soldiers."

A group of fascinated boys watch admiringly as Sergeant Brett adjusts his working model of a mobile workshop.



Capt. Parker, REME, explains the intricacies of a radio set to the boys.

THE ARMY TEACHES BOYS A TRADE

THANKS to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, more than fifty young Cypriots are learning to become skilled tradesmen. And they're being paid for the privilege.

The boys—Greek, Turkish and Armenian Cypriots aged between 14 and 19—are being trained at REME's Command Workshops in Dhekelia where officer and non-commissioned officer instructors are teaching them from scratch how to be vehicle mechanics, electricians, tele-communications mechanics, fitters, turners and sheet-metal workers.

After serving a six-months probation the boys "sign on" for five years, during which they are paid between £2 5s and £3 10s a week while they learn their trades and receive instruction one day a week in mathematics, science and English from Royal Army Educational Corps officers.

The Chief Instructor is Captain A. Parker, REME, a former Army apprentice and now a qualified electronics engineer.

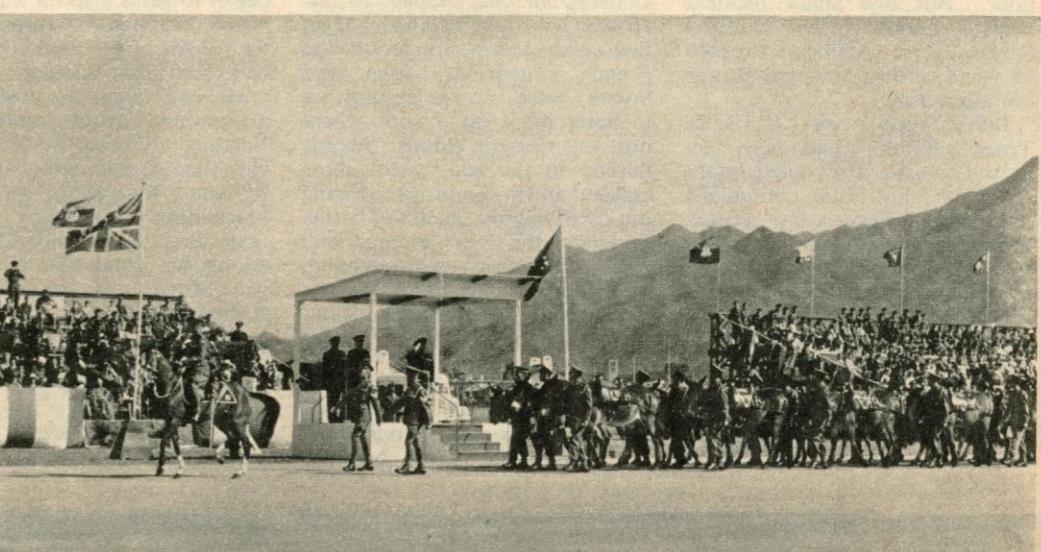
ON PARADE FOR THE GENERAL

CENTURION tanks roared past the saluting base, their guns dipped.

Behind them came field guns, scout cars, Land-Rovers, lorries, ambulances, motorcycles, columns of marching troops and, leading their mules, the men of 81 Company (Pack Transport), Royal Army Service Corps, the only mule unit in the British Army. Overhead flew three Auster aircraft.

The men and machines of 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade Group were on parade for inspection by the Commander British Forces, Hong Kong, Lieutenant-General Sir Eric M. Bastyn, in one of the biggest military reviews ever held in the New Territories.

Not the least impressive part of the parade was the playing of the massed bands of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, the Lancashire Regiment, the 1/2 Gurkha Rifles and the Pipes and Drums of the 1/7 Gurkha Rifles.



Led by an officer on a horse, men of 81 Company (Pack Transport), RASC, march their mules past the general.

29 BULL'S TROOP



Sword in hand, Captain Norman Ramsay smashes through the encircling chasseurs at the head of his gun section.—Courtesy: Parker Gallery.

FROM the heights of the little hillside village of Fuentes d'Onoro, near the Spanish-Portuguese border, on 5 May, 1811, the Duke of Wellington watched his army struggling against impending disaster. Two routed Infantry battalions on his right flank were streaming back to the village, the French chasseurs on their heels. A mile to the

west General Houston's 7th Division was in grave danger of being cut off and shattered by Montbrun's cavalry. And behind the French horsemen, 14,000 Infantry under Marchand were sweeping down on the outflanked British.

There was little enough to cheer Wellington's men at this critical hour. But one small incident brought honour to the youthful Royal Horse Artillery (formed 18 years earlier) and sent British morale soaring.

Bull's Troop —now "I" (Bull's Troop) Battery—had been deployed to assist the routed Infantry. The guns were continually unlimbering, firing a few rounds, limbering up and retiring quickly to new positions. The impetuous Captain Norman Ramsay, halting his section for a final shot at the pursuing cavalry, lingered a moment too long. In a flash he was surrounded by swarms of chasseurs.

Ramsay was given up for lost. With the British in full retreat, a rescue bid was out of the ques-

behind them . . . and the mounted Gunners . . . heads bent low, followed behind in desperate career."

Meanwhile, a squadron of the 14th Light Dragoons and one of the 1st Royal Dragoons, having noticed Ramsay's plight, turned back and clashed with the pursuing chasseurs. Continuing his headlong dash, Ramsay made full use of the breathing space and took his guns into the British lines amid ringing cheers.

From that point the British began to get a grip on a battle in which Wellington, surprised by the weight of the flanking attack, had faced utter disaster.

He had taken up position on a ten-mile front centred on Fuentes d'Onoro in late April with the two-fold aim of smashing Marshal Massena's army and blockading the French garrison under Brennier in nearby Almeida. Along his front ran a ten-foot wide stream and the village was strongly defended by picked troops.

For both sides the stakes were high when Massena's 48,000 men, marching to the relief of Almeida, came up with Wellington's 37,000 on 3 May. Massena, eager to

crown his year-long campaign in Portugal with a major victory, sent Ferey's ten battalions to assault the village. The attack was partly successful, but late in the day Ferey was driven back over the stream.

On 4 May, activity was confined to a lively fusillade, and that night Massena plotted a flanking attack. In the darkness the French were heard moving about in the marshy woods to the west and Wellington, scenting danger, moved all his cavalry, with Houston's 7th Division in support, to meet the threat, little realising that he was dispatching 4000 men to face 20,000.

The French attack began at dawn on 5 May and the Portuguese *guerrilleros*, caught by surprise, fled hastily to the south. The main body of the French cavalry swept out of the woods in overwhelming numbers, and squadrons of the 14th and 16th Light Dragoons suffered severely in brave but rash attempts to hold them.

An hour after dawn the French Infantry poured out of the woods on to Pozo Bello village, where the two defending Infantry battalions, driven back in disorder, were

SAVED THE DAY



saved from disaster only by a gallant charge by German hussars.

It was obvious now that Massena's plan was to cut between Houston and the main body of the British with his cavalry, while his Infantry hurled themselves against Fuentes from the right. Simultaneously Ferey was to renew his frontal assault.

At this critical moment Wellington coolly changed his front to meet the threat on the right and sent out the indomitable General Craufurd, with his famous Light Division, to rescue Houston's Division.

The British cavalry, having fought a magnificent delaying action, finally retired behind Houston, who was left to face the confused mass of Montbrun's horsemen. Into this desperate situation Craufurd brought his men and, with consummate skill, saved the day.

Houston moved back on Fuentes while Craufurd manoeuvred to prevent an effective charge by Montbrun.

The slender squares of the Light Division retired as steadily as on a peace-time field day and reached the safety of the British lines. So

close were the French that the Shropshire Light Infantry, at the rear of the 7th Division, were badly cut up. When a French battery got near enough to pound the retreating Infantry the 14th Light Dragoons gallantly charged it, suffering heavily but winning a vital minute or two for the British to get out of range of the guns.

Montbrun's cavalry charge had rolled up Wellington's flanking forces and gained three miles of ground. But Massena was still a long way from victory.

Now Ferey's frontal attack on Fuentes d'Onoro began and the 71st (now the Highland Light Infantry) and the 79th (now the Cameron Highlanders) were swept out of the lower part of the village.

As the Highland regiments rallied, 18 French grenadier companies came in and drove the garrison to the top of the village, where the church and a large rock formation marked the pivot of Wellington's position.

At noon ten fresh French battalions charged across the brook, through the narrow streets and up the slope, driving the defenders out of the church and the nearby

rocks. Wellington's centre was now laid bare. His weary troops had been battling in oppressive heat for eight hours. The streets were strewn with the bodies of Highlanders and men of other regiments, and French grenadiers, with their big caps and gaudy plumes, lay in piles of ten and twenty.

Across the graves and tombstones in the churchyard Highlanders and grenadiers met in desperate hand-to-hand fighting.

But help was at hand for the hard-pressed British. Wellington ordered Mackinnon's Brigade—the 54th (now the Dorset Regiment), the 74th (now the Highland Light Infantry) and the 88th (now the Connaught Rangers)—to close the gap.

The 88th Foot, charging down

the slope, clashed headlong with a French column, and at the critical moment the 54th Foot charged too. The French turned back, pursued by the remnants of the Highland regiments and the light companies, and fled over the brook. By two o'clock in the afternoon the decisive fighting was over. Wellington had turned disaster into victory.

K. E. HENLY

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WHO AND WHAT ARE THEY ?

COMPETITION 24

ALL you have to do to win a prize in this month's competition is to identify the six photographs shown below and send your entry to the editor.

Three of the pictures are of famous London landmarks and three show parts of the faces of well-known people (two actors and a politician). What and who are they?

The sender of the first correct solution to be opened by the editor may choose any two of the following books: "Wheels of Terror," by Svan Hassell; "Shoot to Kill," by Richard Miers; "Captain Cat," by Robert Holles; "Waterloo," by John Naylor; "Man With a Racket," by Pancho Gonzales; and "Offbeat in Asia," (a journey along the Russian frontier) by Michael Alexander.

The senders of the second and third correct solutions may choose whole-plate monochrome copies of any two photographs and/or cartoons which have appeared in SOLDIER since January, 1957.

The senders of the fourth, fifth and sixth correct solutions will be sent SOLDIER free for 12 months.

All entries must reach SOLDIER's London offices by Friday, 27 May.

RULES

1. Entries must be sent in a sealed envelope to: The Editor (Competition), SOLDIER, 433, Holloway Road, London, N.7.
2. Each entry must be accompanied by the "Competition 24" panel printed at the top of this page.
3. Competitors may submit only one entry.
4. Any reader, Serviceman or woman and civilian, may compete.
5. The Editor's decision is final.

* The solution and the name of the winners will appear in SOLDIER, July.



1



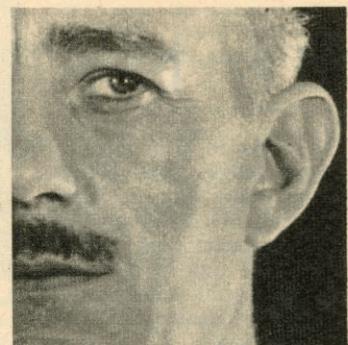
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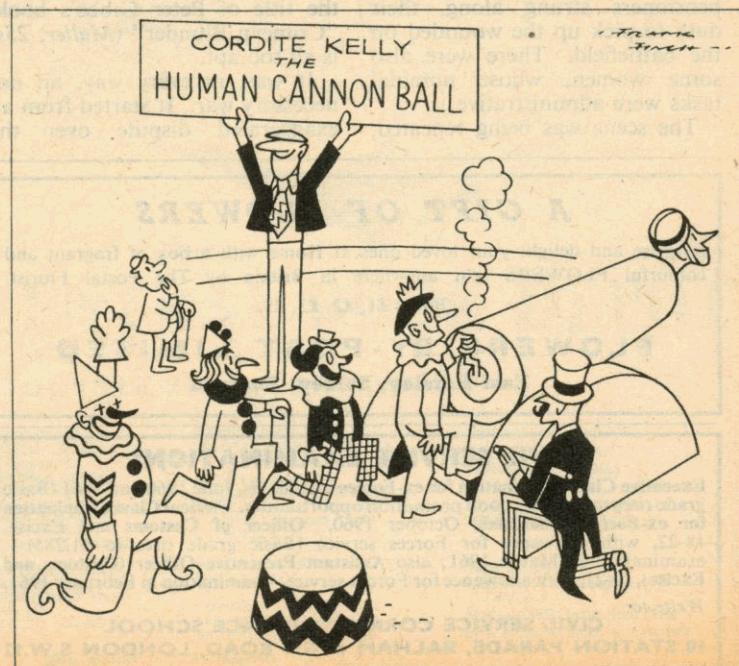
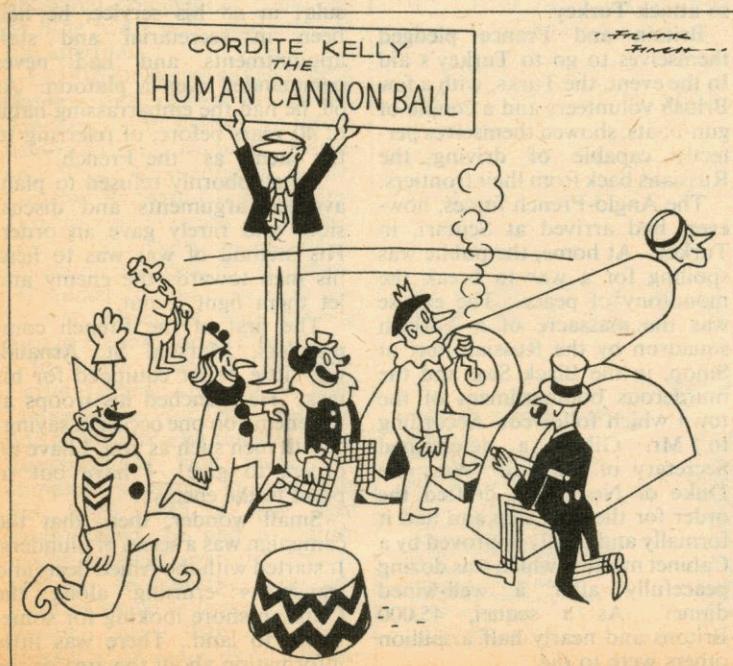
WINNERS of SOLDIER's March Picture Puzzle were:

1. Cpl G. Dinsdale, British Military Hospital, Munster, Germany.
2. Capt A. MacRae, 1 RHC, CAPO 5050, Canadian Armed Forces, Europe.
3. Mr F. A. Pull, 100 King Street, Great Yarmouth.
4. Mr A. Carr, 2 Lilac Close, Redditch, Worcestershire.
5. Sgt G. Coles, 12 Inf Wksp, REME, BFPO 36.
6. WO II J. Meader, REME, Strensall Camp, York.

The correct solution was: 1. Fork; 2. Hacksaw blade; 3. Hair clippers; 4. Matchheads; 5. Pliers; 6. Ball of twine.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU ?

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





THE MYTH OF THE MAGINOT LINE

Since World War Two, the word Maginot has become synonymous with the ostrich burying its head in the sand. This popular belief that France's great defensive wall of armoured concrete was worthless does justice neither to its originator nor to the Maginot Line itself.

Championing André Maginot and his fortifications in "The Great Wall of France" (Putnam, 30s) Vivian Rowe dispassionately clears up the misunderstandings of the Line, describes in detail its construction and, against the backcloth of the German sweep through France to the back doors of the Maginot forts, makes his strongest point—that the Line withstood the most determined onslaughts.

The author's vindicating portrait of André Maginot reveals him to be as remarkable as his Line. He voluntarily left a brilliant political career at the outbreak of World War One to become a soldier and by November, 1914, had been promoted sergeant, mentioned in dispatches three times, awarded the *Médaille Militaire*,



French soldiers march along the main thoroughfare in one of the Maginot Line fortresses. These underground roads had their own railway systems.

and severely wounded.

Back in Parliament, Sergeant Maginot took over the Ministry of Pensions, speeded up its work and threw open its doors, even at weekends, to help his fellow war-wounded soldiers. His obsession for protecting his native Lorraine

and Alsace eventually materialised and work on the fortifications began some four years before his death in 1932.

Maginot's Line was intended as an impregnable defence of the heavy industries of Alsace and Lorraine against sudden attack

from the east—no more and no less. In the face of siege guns and the Luftwaffe's heaviest bombs the Line held, despite withdrawal of the Interval troops (a mobile reserve between forts) and despite attack from all sides. In fact, the Maginot Line's defenders did not lay down their arms until several days after the rest of the French Army had ceased to fight.

The Maginot Line myth was not of Maginot's making. He never failed to emphasise the Line's limited scope, but his fellow countrymen chose to believe that it offered them complete security. That belief was fostered, too, in Britain. Quoting from contemporary accounts, the author shows how the British press built up a magnified view of the defences, extending them (on paper) along the Belgian frontier to Dunkirk and southwards right to the Riviera.

Had he lived, Maginot might indeed have turned to the unprotected frontiers once the threat to his beloved Alsace and Lorraine had been removed. The course of history might have been different.

A Series of Incredible Blunders

THE Coldstream Guards made a brave sight as they marched through London in 1854.

For the first time in nearly 40 years the British Army was off to war—and the crowds cheered. The Coldstreamers were dressed much as if they were going on guard at St. James's Palace—and they carried little more equipment.

They had no tents, no medical supplies, no proper stores—not even greatcoats. A few decrepit pensioners strung along, their duty to pick up the wounded on the battlefield. There were also some women, whose nominal tasks were administrative.

The scene was being repeated,

with different regiments, in many parts of Britain—and so were the mistakes. It was a glamorous and an ominous prelude to war and the title of Peter Gibbs's book, "Crimean Blunder" (Muller, 25s) is all too apt.

It was, in every way, an unnecessary war. It started from an exaggerated dispute over the

facilities which the Turks granted to the rival Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox churches in the Holy places in Palestine—a dispute which was forgotten as the war went on and did not come up for settlement at the peace conference when it was all over.

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order was to capture and destroy the Russian naval base at Sebastopol, in the Crimea.

Heading the Anglo-French forces were perhaps the worst leaders either country has ever sent to war.

Lord Raglan, the British commander-in-chief, had soldiered under Wellington in the Peninsula; in all his service, he had been in secretarial and staff appointments and had never commanded even a platoon. At 66, he had the embarrassing habit of 40 years before, of referring to the enemy as "the French."

He stubbornly refused to plan, avoided arguments and discussions and rarely gave an order. His method of war was to herd his men towards the enemy and let them fight it out.

The first of the French commanders, Marshal St. Arnaud, was little better equipped for his task. He launched his troops at the enemy on one occasion saying: "With men such as you, I have no orders to give! I have but to point to the enemy!"

Small wonder, then, that the campaign was a series of blunders. It started with the Allied fleets and transports cruising along the Crimean shore looking for somewhere to land. There was little information about the area or the

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enemy and the Allies made an undeservedly successful landing. Tempting providence, the armies cut themselves off from the support and supplies of the fleet and, without reserves or lines of communication, set off across the peninsula.

When they first sighted the enemy, the two Cavalry leaders, Lord Lucan and his brother-in-law and implacable enemy, the incredibly stupid Lord Cardigan, sat on their horses between the two forces and argued about what to do next, until a determined staff officer turned a timid suggestion from Lord Raglan into an order.

As it started, so it went on—blunder after blunder. Balaclava and the shameful mess that

Florence Nightingale cleared up in the Scutari hospital are well known. It is less well known that the Allied leaders turned down an opportunity of taking Sebastopol within a few weeks of landing because someone estimated that casualties would be 500. Instead, they settled down to a siege which was to take a year and cost tens of thousands of lives.

The Allied leaders were fortunate that the Russian generals were no more efficient—but the Russians had more men. What successes the British Army had in this war were gained by the soldiers in spite of their generals. It is to their courage and discipline that this, the first modern account of the Crimean War as a whole, pays tribute.



Lord Raglan (left), the British Commander-in-Chief confers with the French and Turkish commanders in the field. Until the Crimean War Lord Raglan had not commanded men in battle.

A Century of Harmony

IT was the Queen's Birthday, 1854. With their allies looking on, 16,000 British soldiers marched past at Scutari, in Turkey. It was a splendid occasion—until the bands struck up. They played "God Save the Queen" not only in different keys but in different arrangements.

Perhaps the Duke of Cambridge, commanding the Guards Brigade, blushed at this musical humiliation of the Army to which he was devoting his life. At any rate, two years later, when he was Commander-in-Chief, he proposed a school of music for the Army. It opened its doors in 1857.

The story of the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, is told by Lieutenant-Colonel P. L. Binns in "A Hundred Years of Military Music" (Blackmore, obtainable from the Commandant, Kneller Hall, Twickenham, Middlesex, 7s 6d).

The object of the Military Music Class, as it was first known, was to train bandmen to become trumpet- and bugle-majors and bandmasters, and to make bandmen of boys from the Royal Military Asylum (now the Duke of York's School). Training military bandmasters would mean an economy for officers who sup-

OVER...

The Cadet Who Became a Governor

THE captain in the Volunteers was upset when his men blew their noses on parade. His sense of discipline was offended. The trouble was that his men were also his friends and neighbours.

Luckily, his brother was serving among them, and so the two

hatched a plot. At the next parade, but his trumpet-blast was nothing to the violence with which his captain reproved him. The rest of the unit took note and there was no more nose-blowing on parade.

That tactful tale from the Napoleonic Wars is the most martial episode in the story of the Bonham-Carter family, as told by Victor Bonham-Carter in "In a Liberal Tradition" (Constable, 30s) until the end of last century. Then a notable cadet went to Sandhurst and the author, his son, devotes more than half the book to his career.

The cadet was Charles Bonham-Carter, later a general and Governor of Malta whose most notable contributions to the development of the Army were in training and education. He received his baptism of fire in the South African War. In World War One he made his mark as a staff officer and discovered that in static warfare an ignorant divisional commander could get by if he had a good staff and did not interfere.

In 1916 he was given the task of training staff officers in France. Among his pupils were two future field-marshals—"Jumbo" Wilson and B. L. Montgomery. Later, General Bonham-Carter became Director of Training in France, and in 1917 started a system of education by lectures to troops.

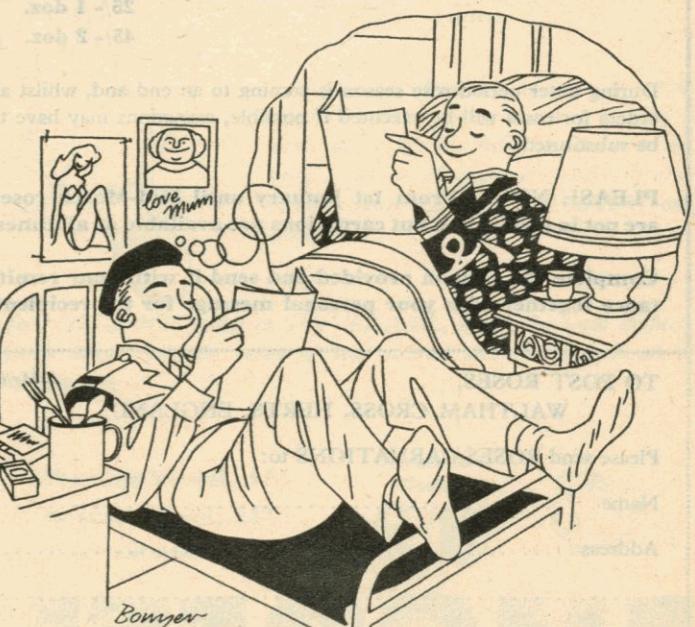
He added to this a scheme for general education and helping men to prepare for civilian life.

In 1927 General Bonham-Carter became Director of Staff Duties at the War Office and was one of the few who fought for the expansion of tank units. To stimulate progress in providing the Army with a new light machine-gun, he had a Danish model brought over for demonstration. As expected, it brought forth so much criticism from the research men that they were goaded into producing an adaptation of the Czech Bren.

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BOOKS (continued)

ported regimental bands and had to employ civilian bandmasters, many of them foreigners.

The scheme was not popular among makers of musical instruments. It was they who provided civilian bandmasters for the regiments; in return, a new bandmaster condemned the existing instruments on taking up his appointment and new ones were ordered from his sponsors, who paid him a commission.

The Duke was determined to stamp out these practices. Kneller Hall was to supply instruments to the Army, making sure that regiments received good quality in return for their money. The new system cut the cost of instruments by a quarter.

The War Office was not forthcoming with funds for this new-fangled School of the Duke's, so regiments were asked to subscribe both to its setting up and maintenance.

Four years after Kneller Hall opened, the Duke was able to order that all the Army's band instruments should be of one pitch. Kneller Hall would supply

uniform tuning forks for this purpose. A year later he laid down the key in which the National Anthem was to be played. It took some time for these orders to be obeyed—bands were still, in effect, the officers' private property—and 12 years later the Duke had to issue a reminder on the subject. Perhaps there had been another Scutari humiliation!

Another snag the Duke ran into was that the stingy War Office would not agree to graduates of Kneller Hall being promoted to warrant officers when they took over the bands. It was not until 18 years after Kneller Hall started that sergeant-bandmasters were at last promoted.

The next step, commissions for directors of music, was personally proposed by Queen Victoria, who urged: "The Army would benefit by getting a superior class of Bandmaster and better Bands; to the art of music a graceful tribute would be paid and what seems little short of an injustice removed."

The rest of the story is of steady development, which reached a climax three years ago when the Queen visited Kneller Hall during its centenary year.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

TWO new books about life in the modern army paint similar pictures. One—"Captain Cat" (Michael Joseph, 15s), by Robert Holles, author of that fine book on the Korean War, "Now Thrive the Armourers"—tells the story of life in a boys' battalion and the overwhelming influence of military training and discipline, for good and bad, on impressionable young minds.

The two boys around whom the story revolves—an odd misfit with two left feet and a "smart Alec" who knows all the answers—rebel against the tyrannies of barrack-room life and form a secret society pledged to fight against the "pack" mentality. A thoughtful, well-written book with flashes of broad humour to offset the pathos.

The other book—"Two Years To Do" (Elek Books, 15s), by David Baxter, is a pathetic tale of an even more pathetic young man who finds two years of National Service almost too much for his over-sensitive soul.

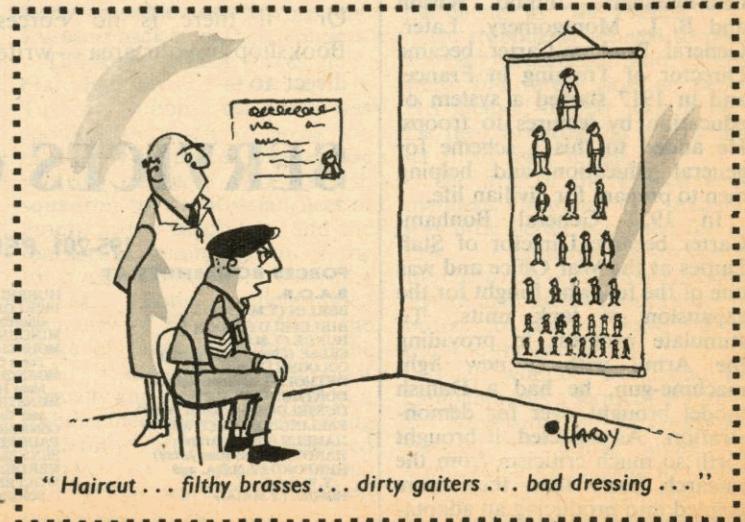
Where others made the best of life and understood the reasons for the occasional bull and boredom, the author kicked against the pricks too hard and stubbed his toe too often. Not everybody's cup of tea but worth reading if only for the writing.

The men of the 27th Panzer (Penal) Regiment were murderers, thieves, deserters and political offenders who had run foul of the Gestapo; desperate men united only in the personal struggle for survival.

One of them was Sven Hassell, son of an Austrian officer, who deserted from a German Hussar regiment at the beginning of the war, was arrested by the Gestapo, sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment and sent to almost certain death with the 27th on the Russian front.

Somehow, he survived and now tells the horrifying story of his experiences in "Wheels of Terror" (Souvenir Press, 18s), a chronicle of brutality and inhumanity on the frozen plains of the Russian Ukraine where he and his comrades killed, fought and died like half-crazed animals.

Not a book for the squeamish.



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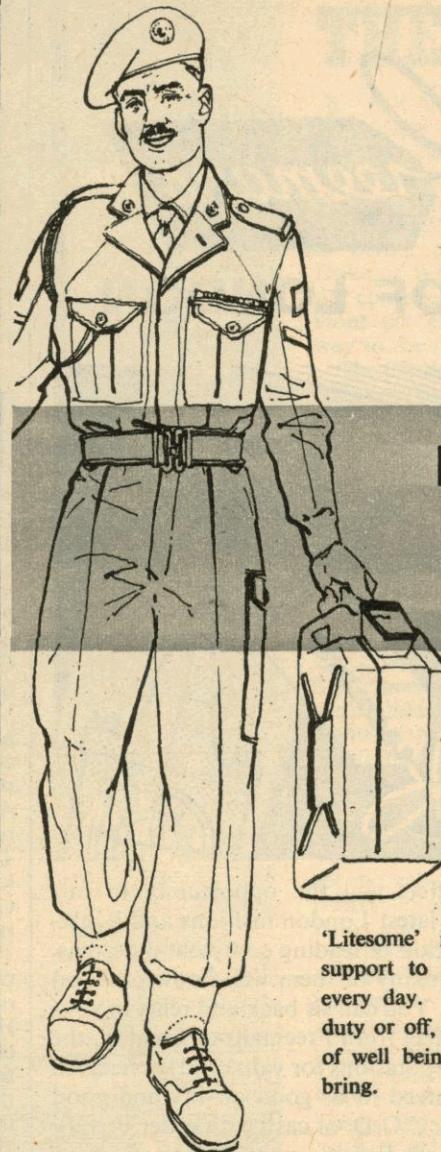
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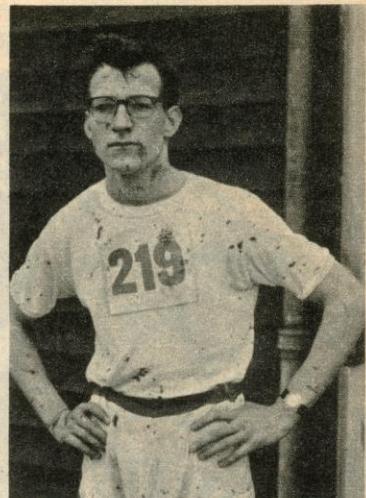
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LANCE CORPORAL LIFTS THE TITLE



The mud-bespattered champion relaxes after the race. His sights are set on the Rome Olympics.

LANCE-CORPORAL BEN GRUBB, of the 14/20th Hussars, a British "possible" for the Olympic Games steeplechase, trotted wearily across the finishing line at Crookham to become the Army's 1960 cross-country champion.

Eight seconds behind came Corporal John Snowdon, of 3rd Training Regiment, Royal Engineers, but it was over half-a-minute before the third man, Private Arthur Taylor, of 6 Battalion, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, the Army three-mile title holder, crossed the line.

In pouring rain Grubb completed the mud-bound, six-mile course of grass, ploughland and road in 31 minutes 45 seconds. At the half-way stage he led narrowly from Taylor and Snowdon. Then Snowdon surged into the lead until, half-a-mile from home, Grubb made the effort that carried him clear of the field.

Lance-Corporal Grubb was one of 27 individual runners in a field of 170, which included 14 teams. His only other appearance in the event was in 1956, when he came second to Corporal B. B. Heatley, the international runner. He left the Army in 1958 and rejoined after a 15-month break just in time to enter last year's inter-Services steeplechase championship, which he won in 9 minutes 13 seconds—7 seconds better than the previous record.

Grubb, who is 23, won the Army three-mile event when he

was only 18 and is Rhine Army's steeplechase champion.

The team race was won for the second successive year by Depot The Cheshire Regiment, whose team included three Army representative runners—Private M. Corcoran (last year's winner), Private R. Barlow and Private W. Cooper. Second were 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, and third 1st Battalion, The Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry.

There was a record entry of 25 teams for the boys' events. The Class A trophy (for units over 200 strong) was retained by the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Plymouth, with the All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment second and the Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, third.

Individual winner was 16-year-old Junior Signaller Edward Byrne, All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment, in 17 minutes 22 seconds. He recently won the North Wales junior cross-country championship.

The Royal Army Medical Corps Apprentices School retained the Class B cup (unit strengths under 200).

Long-striding Apprentice/Sgt K. Goddard, at 17 one of the Army's most promising long-distance runners, leads the field home in the Class B boys' units race. He holds the boys' mile and half-mile titles, and last year clipped 20 seconds off the Aldershot district boys' steeplechase record. His unit won the team cup.



FIRST CUP WIN FOR THE SCOTS



Above: A grim struggle for the ball during a loose maul on the KOSB 25-yard line. Lieut. M. J. Campbell-Lamerton, of the "Dukes" (light shirt, centre) looks as if he needs help.

Below: Arms upward stretch—and the KOSB get the ball in a line-out. No. 8 is Second Lieutenant MacDonald, who kicked an extraordinary penalty goal from 45 yards.



THE MOTORING MAJOR

THE prize for the best performance by a Serviceman in this year's *Rally Militaire*—a gruelling test of skill organised by the Royal Military College of Science Motor Sport Club—was won by Major A. M. H. Wyndham, Royal Artillery, driving a Peerless Phase Two (right).

The rally, which promises to become one of the classic motoring events in Britain, took place throughout the night over 350 miles of wet and sometimes icy roads in four counties—Berkshire, Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire—and ended with a series of intricate driving and braking tests.

Although only five years old, the Royal Military College of Science Motor Sport Club has over 100 members.



FOR the first time since the competition began in 1906 a Scottish regiment—The King's Own Scottish Borderers—are the Army's rugby champions.

Their victory was doubly notable for on the Maifield adjoining the Olympic Stadium in Berlin, they defeated the redoubtable Duke of Wellington's Regiment, who had not conceded a single point in all their previous six championship matches on the way to the final.

The "Dukes'" record of 173 points to nil failed to impress the Scotsmen who, from the start, attacked boldly with a strong wind and sun behind them and after 15 minutes were three points ahead, thanks to a fine 35-yard penalty kick by their centre three-quarter, Lieutenant A. J. Berry.

The "Dukes" rallied but deadly tackling and good kicking kept them out. Relying mainly on their kicking, the Scotsmen gained ground only to be stopped by brilliant catching by Private A. Keegan, the "Dukes" full-back. Then Private B. Shillinglaw, the KOSB Scots international scrum-half, who had been playing at stand-off half, returned to his accustomed position, a move that paid off just before half-time when Second-Lieutenant J. D. MacDonald kicked a brilliant penalty goal from the halfway line.

The "Dukes" put on the pressure in the second half, making several splendid movements across field, but the Scotsmen's fierce and furious tackling held them off. Gradually the KOSB took control, winning the ball regularly from the scrum and opening up the "Dukes'" defence with their accurate and long kicking. Finally, just before time, Second-Lieutenant Berry kicked another penalty goal—an easy one from just in front of the posts—and The King's Own Scottish Borderers had won a hard-fought game by nine points to nil.

But the "Dukes," who have won the Army rugby championship five times, had kept one of their records—their line had still not been crossed.

● Scottish regiments have performed some outstanding feats in Rhine Army in the past 18 months. Last season the Seaforth Highlanders won the BAOR boxing championships and the Royal Scots reached the final of the Army Rugby Cup competition. The Royal Scots also won the Rhine Army soccer and team golf and, as Rhine Army champions, have this season reached the finals of the Army boxing tournament.

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LETTERS

OUT OF DATE?

This is a time of reform in the Army. New ideas are being introduced almost daily, modern weapons are being issued or are in the later stages of development, pay and living conditions are being improved.

But what about some of the out of date office procedures? No one seems prepared to make a move because "it has always been done that way." How often do we see letters commencing with "I have the Honour to be . . ." when the writer plainly hasn't! The same letters usually end with the writer saying that he is (Sir) an obedient servant, when, judging by the tone of the middle paragraphs, he is anything but obedient and is not a servant by choice.

Other examples are the exchange of letters after telephone conversations between highly efficient staff officers on some unimportant matter.

Full use does not appear to be made of the written memorandum, although the Army provide a form with the headings and the lines already printed. The memorandum saves time all round so why don't more people use it?

Maybe there is some hush-hush branch working on the problem. If so their report is eagerly awaited by all concerned with paper work in the Army. "Ubique."

PENSIONS

The White Paper on pensions issued in 1958 states that pensions will be paid according to the highest rank held for two years during the last five years of service. Does this mean two years in a substantive rank, in a paid acting rank, or in a combination of both?—S/Sgt. A. E. Baggaley, 200 (GHO) Provost Coy, R.M.P. c/o GPO Singapore.

★ Pensions are assessed in the highest paid rank held for two years or more during the last five years of full pay service. See Article 133 Army Pensions Warrant, 1957.

CROSSING RIVERS

While not wishing to belittle the achievement of the REME team ("River Crossing—New Style," SOLDIER, March) I would point out that a similar venture was carried out with an Austin 7 at Lahore, Punjab, India in 1942, when this vehicle was successfully floated across a tributary of the river Sutlej.

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On that occasion the experts were senior NCOs of the Royal Tank Regiment who had already successfully floated vehicles across rivers for some considerable time before this date. There are, I know, many people who did the same thing during the Burma campaign.—Major V. L. Green, RTR, HQ, The Queen's Own Lowland Yeomanry RAC/TA, TA Centre, Chesser Crescent, Edinburgh, 11.

MORE GUNNERS

Which is the largest body of soldiers in the British Army to wear the same cap badge?—Cfn Langstone, 15 Liaison Flight, 653 Lt A/C Sqdn., Army Air Corps, BFPO 53.

★ The Royal Regiment of Artillery, followed by the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, the Royal Corps of Signals and the Royal Army Service Corps, in that order.

IT'S NOT SO BAD

I refer to the correspondence from "Regular Sergeant" and Lieut-Col. Sanders which appeared recently in SOLDIER.

I was the writer of the report on Cyprus referred to and would point out that I went to visit RAF stations in the Island at the invitation of the Air Ministry. I did not visit any Army formation. My report was not, as implied by Colonel Sanders, confined to the black side of Service life in Cyprus. For instance, I made a point of saying that the catering staff were doing a grand job. No criticisms of mine were "destructive" ones.

The Commander-in-Chief, MEAF (Air Marshal Sir William Macdonald) gave me every facility to see anything I wanted and I was able to speak to anyone I wished. Later, he and the Air Ministry expressed their satisfaction with the accuracy and fairness of the report. Their opinions were endorsed by press officers on the spot.

It is popular nowadays to accuse the press of playing up the bad points and playing down the good ones. This is just not true. I work closely with the press departments of the Admiralty, War Office and Air Ministry and cannot recall ever receiving a complaint from them. Nor can I remember one case of misunderstanding between us.

I was in the Army for some 20 years and am well aware that conditions are infinitely better than, say, 30 years ago. A very good thing, too. I would not wish the rough and tough life of by-gone days on any young man today. There is nothing wrong with improvements in all walks of life and I hope that this progressive trend continues in the Services. A sentiment shared, I am sure, by all the Service Departments. All that is wanted is the money!—Pat Walsh, Sunday Pictorial, Geraldine House, Fetter Lane, E.C.4.

HERO OF ALIWAL

As an old soldier and a reader of your magazine since it was first published, may I say how pleased I am with the series "Hours of Glory," particularly No. 25 concerning my old Regiment, The 16th/5th Lancers.

Some time ago I came across a pub in the village of Whittlesey, near Peterborough, and was surprised to find that its name was "The Hero of Aliwal." Sir Harry Smith lies buried in the village cemetery.—W. F. Pielow, Ashwell Cottage, High Street, Washingborough, Lincoln.

WARRANTS

When I was promoted substantive Warrant Officer Class Two in 1953 I applied for and received my warrant.

Is there a different warrant for Class One, as no class is stated on mine? I remember that my father's warrant had a silken seal attached and "Class One" included in the wording.—WO I D. C. Bowe, 34 Base Wksp, REME, Donnington, Salop.

★ Different warrants for the two ranks have not been issued for many years.

AIRBORNE DIVISIONS

During World War Two we had the 1st and 6th Airborne Divisions. Did a 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th ever exist? If so, what became of them, and if not, why the gap?—G. Monk, 7 The Glade, Old Coulsdon, Surrey.

★ There were no 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Airborne Divisions. The 6th was probably so called to mislead the enemy into thinking we had six airborne divisions.

SPRING GUN

Apropos "From Flintlocks to Self-loaders" (SOLDIER, March) your readers may be interested to know that during World War One the late Captain Jeffries invented a spring gun for catapulting hand grenades.

The grenade, with safety pin withdrawn, was fitted into a container at the end of a steel lever attached to a tripod. This lever was compressed by powerful springs, the range being varied by the amount of pressure. On release of the springs the grenade was shot into the air, the safety lever automatically discarding itself. This weapon was used solely by the 1st Cavalry Division.—A. Douglas, Stone House, Near Dartford, Kent.

PAARDEBERG

My father-in-law, Mr. J. M. Stevens, now aged 81, was a stretcher bearer with the 2nd Battalion, The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry at the Battle of Paardeberg in 1900 ("Ten Hour Battle on the Veldt," SOLDIER, February) and saw his commanding officer killed during the charge.

His fellow stretcher bearer was a soldier named Best, whose son was killed while serving as a company sergeant major in the 2nd DCLI with me in North Africa in World War Two.

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

Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published.

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

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

Before the Battle of Paardeberg the Commanding Officer of the 2nd DCLI told his men: "We will make the name of the Cornwalls ring in the ears of the world." My father-in-law says, "We charged almost up to the Boer trenches and then 'Retire' was sounded and we lost almost as many men in the retirement as we did in the charge. I was only 21 then and was the youngest man in the Battalion."

After the battle my father-in-law found General Cronje's body in his laager and it is now in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry Regimental Museum at Bodmin.—Lieut-Col. C. S. Gill, 6 Battalion R.A.O.C. Central Ordnance Depot, Chilwell, Notts.

PUMP AND TORTOISE

I recently read that the Colonel of the Staffordshire Regiment, Major-General A. W. Lee, says that the nickname "Pump and Tortoise" (SOLDIER, Letters, March) dates from 1806, when the 38th did some remarkable marching to recapture Cape Colony.

They were enlisted mainly from the country areas and their commanding officer decided that their slow, arm-pumping pace suited them better than the regulation step.—"Ex-Corporal."

LUTZOW'S WILD CHASE

The march "Lutzow's Wild Chase" (Letters, March), was used by the Church Lads' Brigade from about 1906 until after World War One.

The Brigade at that time formed part of the Army Cadet Force, and was attached to the King's Royal Rifle Corps. It was also used by them during World War One when they formed the 16th (S) and the 19th (S) battalions, King's Royal Rifle Corps. It was discontinued in 1930 when the Church Lads' Brigade ceased to be part of the Army Cadet Force.—Lieut. E. R. Little, St. John and St. Mary Company, Church Lads' Brigade, Chatham.

GURKHA COURAGE

As a postscript to your article, "A New Lease of Life" (March, 1960), may I add this story of courage, fortitude and faith in one of our Gurkha patients, Rifleman Kharkabahadur Rai, 2nd/7th (Duke of Edinburgh's Own) Gurkha Rifles.

LETTERS CONTINUED OVER

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more letters

The story began when Rifleman Kharkabahadur went on leave from Singapore to Nepal. A few months later he developed fever and a stabbing pain in the chest and feared that he must have T.B. He knew about the Gurkha Sanatorium in Kinrara, Malaya, and decided he must get there.

Normally it would have taken him four days on foot from Nepal to Jalapahar, but Rifleman Kharkabahadur Rai was so ill that he could only stagger a short distance at a time. With characteristic determination he reached Jalapahar after 17 days on foot, accompanied by a brother who carried his luggage.

From Jalapahar he was transferred to hospital at Lehra and thence to Kinrara, where he was found to have tuberculosis of both lungs. After medical treatment there he was transferred to the Army Chest Centre at Hindhead where he has undergone two successful operations.

Rifleman Kharkabahadur spoke very little English on arrival here yet while waiting for his first operation he gained the St John Ambulance Association preliminary certificate for first aid—Lieut-Col J. Mackay-Dick, RAMC, Commanding Officer and Senior Specialist in Medicine, Connaught Hospital (Army Chest Centre), Hindhead, Surrey.

WAR PICTURES

A correspondent in your March issue said that "many thousands of military photographs must be scattered about museums, libraries and in private hands."

The Scottish United Services Museum, in fact, has several thousand photographs of Scottish soldiers of all periods, as well as many of British regiments. They are catalogued and form a permanent historical record. In addition to a very large collection of negatives covering the whole British Army, between 5000 and 6000 contemporary military prints form a record of military dress from the 17th to the 20th century.

The Imperial War Museum has a unique collection of photographs relating to the two world wars, and the Army Museum's Ogilby Trust is collecting and tabulating all kinds of pictorial documents. Any photographs of no interest to their owners, will always find their proper home in these established collections.—W. A. Thorburn, Curator, Scottish United Services Museum, The Castle, Edinburgh.

SOLDIER



HIGHLAND DANCERS

The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders will be taking a breath of Scotland to the United States this summer when the Pipes and Drums and Highland Dancers of the 1st Battalion visit America on a six-weeks tour of the state capitals.

For the first time, thousands of Americans will hear the skirl of the pipes played only as a Scotsman can play them and see Scotland's Highland dances performed by kilted Cameron Highlanders.

One of the dances they will see is the sword dance shown on SOLDIER's front cover as recently performed by the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders at Canterbury.

SOLDIER cover picture by Staff Cameraman FRANK TOMPSETT.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

The two pictures vary in the following respects: 1. Walking stick of man second from left. 2. Waistline of tall man. 3. Chinstrap of man in gun barrel. 4. Hackle of clown with beret. 5. Buttons on coat of clown with check trousers. 6. Ringmaster's little finger. 7. Stripes of clown on left. 8. Top puff of smoke above gun. 9. Top button of clown on left. 10. Moustache of man second from left.

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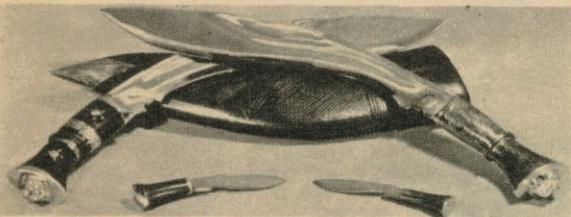
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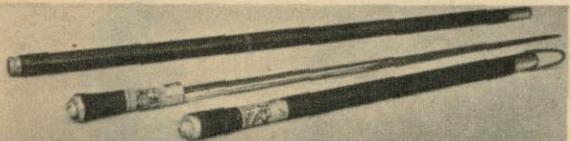
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