SOLDIER

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 1957

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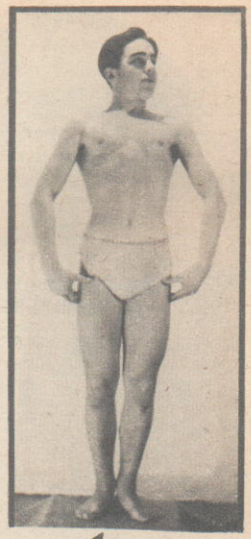

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We ask the reader to make a careful study of the three illustrations of pupil GORDON WYER to note the various stages of development, and to make a personal estimate of his own possibilities of future progress in development. A normal condition of fitness is the foundation for increased muscularity and strength.

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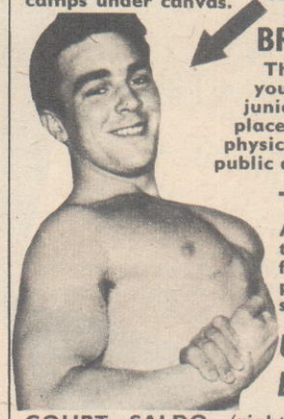

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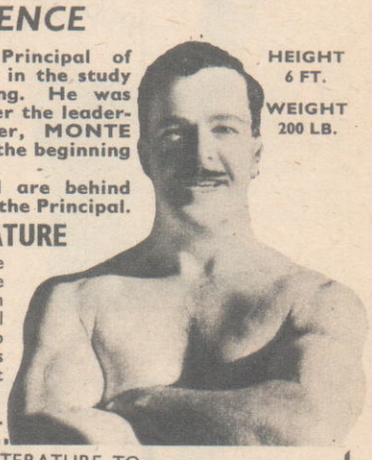

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COURT SALDO (right) is the Principal of Maxalding, and has spent a lifetime in the study and application of scientific training. He was born into the profession and took over the leadership of Maxalding from his father, MONTE SALDO, who founded the method at the beginning of the century.
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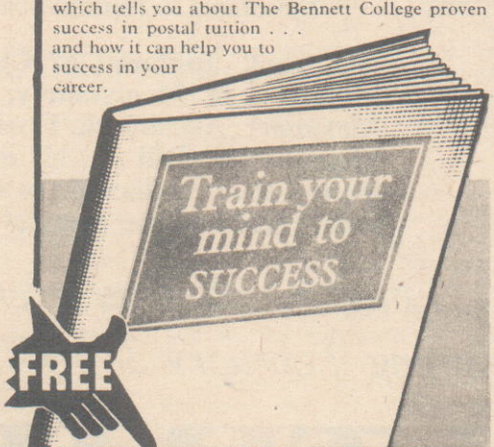

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Vol. 12, No. 12 **SOLDIER** FEBRUARY 1957

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

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SOLDIER to Soldier

IN the good old days the commander of a military expedition beyond the seas was magnificently on his own. History was his to write, in his own style. Nobody could send him instructions or advice by way of the ether. If Westminster or Whitehall changed their minds, they had to find a fast vessel and wait for a favourable wind.

Of course, there were drawbacks. The war might go on overseas for two or three weeks after the peace had been signed back home.

Well does the British Army know its duty, which is to carry out the orders of its political masters; but a modern commander would hardly be human if, secretly, he did not sometimes sigh for the freedom of the good old days, before the telegraph and the radio were invented.

This was how the special correspondent of *The Times* in Port Said summed up the late venture in Egypt:

"So this most unusual campaign came to an end. By military standards it began brilliantly, but almost immediately all the initiative passed to politicians thousands of miles away, and the point was reached where all troops, of high and low degree, had to listen to broadcasts to know where they stood each day."

To evacuate Egypt twice in a year was like divorcing the same woman twice in the same span; an ordeal which should befall no man.

Forgetting all the frustrations of the campaign, what deserves to be remembered?

The high technical efficiency, and courage, shown by the fighting troops in their initial seizure of Port Said;

The exemplary efficiency of the troops who maintained internal security, carrying out the technique perfected in so many troubled lands;

The demonstration, once again, of an almost unnatural good temper and discipline by British soldiers in the face of intense provocation;

The creation of a new regard for each other's spirit and prowess among British and French troops.

Lieutenant-General Sir Hugh Stockwell summed it up in three words when he answered the salute of each body of departing troops with:

"Well done, boys!"

Lieutenant-General Sir Hugh Stockwell: Amid the frustrations of Port Said, he heard of a windfall for his old regiment *(see this page)*

ONE piece of news which must have cheered Lieutenant - General Stockwell while he waited for instructions from the politicians was the news that his old regiment, of which he is Colonel, had been left more than £30,000.

General Stockwell served in the Royal Welch Fusiliers and his appointment as Colonel dates from 1952. It was the previous Colonel, Brigadier Sir Eric Ommanney Skaife, who left the legacy "as a token of my gratitude to the Regiment for the happy years I have spent with it." (Brigadier Skaife was not a Welshman but an Englishman; he learned Welsh in a German prison camp during World War One so that he could speak to his Welsh troops.)

The windfall for the Regiment will go towards building up libraries, buying sports equipment and maintaining pictures and trophies.

Are there any other armies in which a man can make a benefaction to an individual regiment? Conceivably there are people who think it wrong that one unit of the public service should be richer than another. But, to SOLDIER, the fact that a man can show his appreciation of good comradeship in this way is one of the more endearing aspects of the regimental system.

Was there ever a tax inspector or customs officer who left a legacy to the office in which he spent most of his working life?

IF the Press hoped that the Wolfenden report on National Service would yield some horrible revelations about "bull" they were disappointed.

The three investigators were grieved by the thought that National Servicemen should regard their two years as "an infliction which has to be endured" rather than as a chance of serving their country.

This is no doubt a sad state of affairs, though hardly the Army's fault. By the time he is called up, a soldier's attitude towards National Service has been coloured by many influences, none of them, as a rule, very friendly ones. It is expecting much of the Army to transform suspicion into enthusiasm by informal talks and explanations, if that is what Sir John Wolfenden and his colleagues have in mind.

There is no occasion for arguing from this that the youth of today are less idealistic than those of earlier generations. If there had been conscription in Britain in those centuries when the Empire was being built up, would the young men have shown any more enthusiasm for service?

It is most unlikely.

When the nation faced the tremendous threat of Napoleon, the Royal Navy would have disintegrated without the aid of the press gang. No self-respecting young man would let himself be kidnapped by a Naval party unless he could help it. Yet those who were caught and pressed into service usually decided to make the best of it and in later years took pride in the part they had played against the ogre from Corsica. In the same way, many National Servicemen will always take pride in the part they played in resisting aggression in Korea, or in stamping out terrorism in Malaya and Kenya.

The fact is that the British are slow to enthuse. They tend to suspect those who go round talking of ideals. But when a real threat or a real crisis comes, they can be very, very tough.

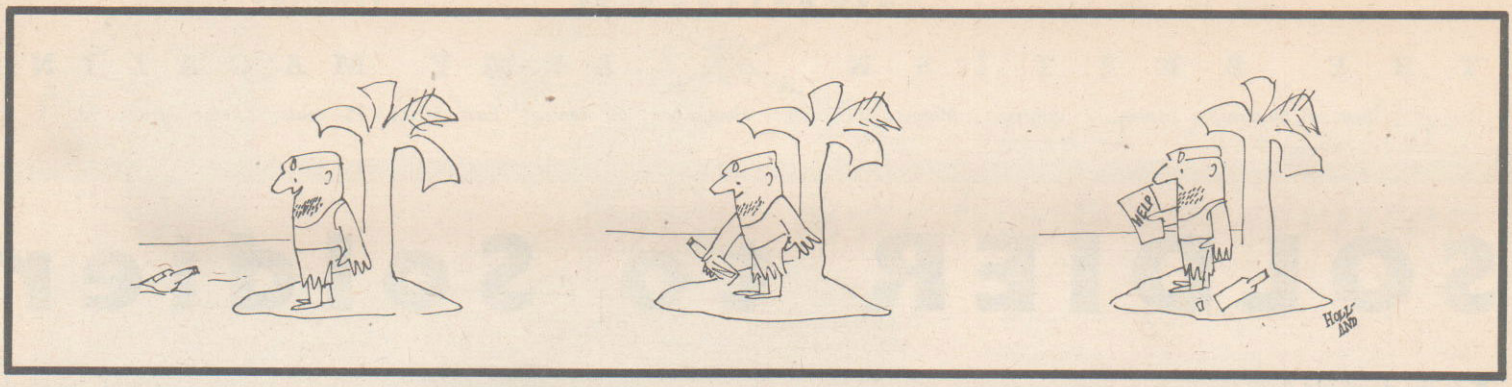
ON a more practical note, perhaps the most attractive item in the Wolfenden report, for the Regular, is the suggestion that civilian jobs in base depots and establishments should be regarded as the natural employment for a Regular when his Colour service ends.

At present there are difficulties in the way of housing; there may well be union objections; but the value of having men with Army traditions in places of this kind would be considerable. And, as the report says, it would help to create an assured, life-long career for the Regular.

"ARE soldiers more bigheaded now than they were 50 years ago?"

This question was asked recently by a Welsh news-

OVER . . .



SOLDIER to Soldier

continued

paper. It seems that the owner of a "collector's shop" at Cardiff had acquired a number of Cavalry helmets of some 50 years ago and could not find anyone who could wear them. They were all too small: size six, in fact.

Now it is well-known that the frame of the fighting man has expanded considerably since the days when knights were bold (try putting on an ancient suit of armour and see how far you get). Not so long ago SOLDIER told how a well-known firm which manufactures soldiers' uniforms had been forced to increase its average measurements to cope with today's well-fed generation.

But it seemed unlikely that the soldier's head had swollen so much in the last fifty years as to make old helmets unwearable. SOLDIER consulted a veteran Ordnance expert who produced what is probably the correct explanation. The helmets most likely to find their way into a collector's hands, he says, would be those freak sizes which the Army had to stock but for which there was only a very small demand. A modern soldier's head, he is convinced, is no fatter than his father's or his grandfather's.

IN 1920 when Mr. (Sir) Winston Churchill became Secretary for War he told the Army Council that there was "only one thing the Army was being praised for."

Few could guess what that thing was: it was the formation of the (Royal) Army Educational Corps.

Lord Gorell, founder of the Corps, in his newly-published autobiography "One Man . . . Many Parts" (*Odhams*), recalls his struggles to persuade the War Office that education need not bolshevise the Army. He faced "shattering broadsides" from the Adjutant-General and "cold hostility" from the Quartermaster-General; the Financial Secretary to the War Office said that the proposals were "a new device for creating more Staff officers."

On the other side were the Rt. Hon. H. A. L. Fisher who said the birth of the Corps was "comparable in importance only with the invention of gunpowder" (a double-edged compliment!) and Field-Marshal Sir Henry Wilson, who thought the experiment was "probably the biggest step the Army has ever taken."

All that fuss, over a proposal that soldiers should receive the benefits of education!

UNNOTICED by most of the newspapers was the death of Miss Flora Sandes, one of the small but *élite* band of Englishwomen who have served as fighting soldiers.

Unlike some of her predecessors, Miss Sandes did not try to pass herself off as a man. Early in World War One she went to Serbia with the St. John Ambulance Brigade and later became a dresser with the Serbian 2nd (or "Iron") Infantry Regiment. When this Regiment was hard-pressed by the Bulgarians she made the gradual transition from nurse to soldier (a transition made easier by the fact that Serbian girls were fighting alongside their menfolk). To the Serbian peasant soldiers the presence of this brave Englishwoman, sharing the rigours of campaigning in the Albanian mountains, was a great source of inspiration, as well as a pledge of England's friendship.

For seven years Miss Sandes served in the Serbian army, spending much of the time in the front line (once she had to be dragged from no-man's land full of grenade splinters). She rose by degrees to the rank of captain, a special Act of Parliament being necessary to obtain her a commission. The Prince Regent awarded her the Order of Kara-George, for exceptional valour.

Happily, the rigours of mountain warfare did nothing to shorten Miss Sandes' life; she was 80 when she died.

NOT long before Miss Sandes took to soldiering in the mountains of Albania, a British lieutenant-colonel had been invited to be king of that country ("Join the Army and Win a Throne.")

The circumstances have a topical interest because an international police force was involved. In 1913 Albania was in the throes of achieving her independence, after being freed from Turkish rule, and detachments from British, French, German, Austrian and Italian warships were landed at Scutari to keep the peace. In due course certain British Naval and Royal Marine elements were succeeded by a battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment, the men of which seem to have made an excellent impression on the tough Albanians—hence that handsome, if perhaps unofficial, offer of sovereignty to their commanding officer. He was not the only man to be offered the vacant throne.

Look what the insufferable English did to the Suez Canal—they rode bicycles on it! This craft was built by the Royal Engineers' Inland Water Transport Workshops Squadron at Port Said. The Commanding Officer had wagered £2 with his officers that the workshops could not make him a water-cycle. Sapper Ronald Yull is seen trying it out.

One of the most popular private soldiers in Port Said was Sapper Stanley Greig (26), a reservist. Before recall he was known to every jazz fan in Britain as Stan Greig, drummer with Humphrey Lyttelton's Band.

It wasn't all hostile taunts in Port Said. The street photographers were ready to do business and so were scores of souvenir-sellers. Here is a bargaining picture—just to keep the record straight.

AND THAT WAS THAT

Right: Out of Egypt—for the second time in a year. In the high stern of a ship, under the Union Jack, soldiers keep watch on a Port Said street—just in case.

Below: A Centurion tank heads for its waiting landing craft in Port Said harbour.

FLASHBACK

Below: This hitherto unpublished picture, supplied by a SOLDIER reader on the spot, shows a dramatic moment during the landings at Port Said. After a naval bombardment Royal Marine Commandos have scrambled ashore from LVTs (Landing Vehicles, Tracked), penetrated a colony of beach huts which are seen blazing and are advancing on the town. A landing vehicle is seen in left background.

INTO ACTION —NEW STYLE

Left: Men of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry descend by rope from one of six Royal Air Force helicopters used for the first time to speed the landing of troops on anti-terrorist operations in the Kyrenia mountains of Cyprus. Each machine carries three men. The aircraft are flown at low level along the valleys to minimise the chance of being spotted.

Like a spider dangling on its web, a soldier is joining his comrades who have already taken up position.

A student manoeuvres into position to "shoot" a sentry patrolling the railway line in the valley below.

Photographs: SOLDIER Cameraman FRANK TOMPSETT

The Lone Men of the Mountains

To find out how tough and self-reliant they are, volunteers for the Special Air Service Regiment are put through a ten-day course in the Welsh mountains. Only one in four passes

IT was two o'clock on a pitch black morning 2000 feet up in the Brecon Beacons of South Wales.

One of the cold thunderstorms for which the region is noted howled across the bare slopes. It was (as they used to say) a night for neither man nor beast.

Out of the darkness appeared the lone figure of a soldier, bent under a rucksack as he struggled up the slippery turf to the top of a hill. Exhausted, and covered with mud from the bog into which he had wandered a few miles back, he flopped to the ground.

After a brief rest he rose and stumbled towards a large stone which bore a plate recording the height above sea level. By the light of a torch he wrote the figures in a sodden notebook, hitched his rucksack so that it sat more comfortably on his shoulders and plodded off down the hill.

The soldier had been tramping through the Brecon Beacons since eight o'clock the previous morning. It had rained all day and all night. Forbidden to use roads, and aided by only a small-scale map and compass, he had completed three allotted tasks and was now on his way to carry out a fourth—to sketch at dawn a village railway station ten miles away.

Then he would make for a pre-arranged rendezvous to be picked up—24 hours after setting out into "enemy-occupied" territory. In that time he would have covered 30 miles on foot over some of the most rugged terrain in Britain.

The soldier was one of 12 who were out in the Brecon Beacons that night. They were all volunteers for the Special Air Service Regiment and were being put through a ten-days selection course to determine their toughness.

Not without justification, the Special Air Service Regiment claim that this is one of the severest courses in the Army. It has to be, for only men with the

OVER

LONE MEN

(*continued*)

right mental and physical qualities can successfully carry out the type of long-range, behind-the-lines operation which is the Regiment's main function in war.

On average, only one volunteer in four passes the test and at least a third give up before the course is half-way through. On a recent course only one man passed.

The type of soldier the Regiment is looking for is the self-disciplined individualist with plenty of initiative—the man who can live up to the Regimental motto: "Who Dares, Wins." He must be self-confident, able to operate for long periods and in dangerous situations without supervision, have a tremendous fund of patience and stamina and be able to laugh at misfortune.

Any officer or soldier in any regiment or corps may volunteer for this test. A few hours after arriving at Brecon candidates are sent round an assault course again and again until they are exhausted. The weaker ones soon drop out and ask to be returned to their units. To their chagrin, however, they are put on fatigue duties for the remainder of their stay.

Next morning, before dawn, the "survivors" set off by truck for their first 24-hour cross-country exercise over fairly flat ground in the Hereford area. They are dropped off soon after first light at different points and have to make their way by map and compass, each along his own route, over some 25 miles of country. During the journey they have four simple tasks to perform. These vary from obtaining the name of a certain gamekeeper to finding out the population of a town. Always, one of the tasks is the making of a sketch map. Forbidden to use roads, the candidates must act as if they are in "enemy-occupied" territory. They sleep in ditches, wash and shave in streams. Any man not at his rendezvous on time next morning has to make his own way back to Brecon. The pick-up truck does not wait.

At dawn each man is dropped off a truck to make his way alone across 25 miles of rough country, assisted only by a map and compass. He is forbidden to use roads. In his rucksack he carries 35 pounds of sand.

This first exercise always produces a crop of casualties. Some candidates find the course too strenuous, others become hopelessly lost and fail to carry out their tasks, others prove to have no talent for operating singly in deserted countryside.

After the exercise each man is questioned about his movements. The officer who does the "debriefing" knows every yard of the ground over which they work and can soon tell whether a man is bluffing and how observant he is.

The second 24-hour exercise, in the Brecon Beacons, is tougher than the first. Armed with a rifle and laden with a rucksack con-

Left: Traversing this kind of country, day after day, tests even the fittest. Below (left): There's plenty of rock-climbing, too, for those who like taking short-cuts; (right) An officer candidate takes a compass bearing on a distant hill.

On a "point-to-point" exercise a student reports for further instructions at the end of the first leg. By the end of the day he will have walked 30 miles across some of the most mountainous country in Wales.

taining 35 pounds of sand, each man has to carry out four harder tasks over very rough and sometimes precipitous country.

After a 24-hour rest, the now thinned ranks of volunteers are taken into the Black Mountains of Brecknockshire. Starting off at different places they cover three legs of a tortuous, undulating course, through streams, up and down steep hills and across muddy fields, at a pace which, by the end of the day, leaves most of them limp. But there is no let-up. Next day they are out again on a "point-to-point" march across similar mountainous country.

Then comes another exercise, this time in the mountains near Llandovery, when each man, with the aid of a rough sketch-map, has to find a "partisan's" house, hidden in a small valley and then walk five miles across country to "shoot" a sentry guarding a railway tunnel.

The course is not yet over. On the next day the weight in the rucksack is increased to 45 pounds, and the wearers perform a forced march of 12 miles from their barracks to the top of the Brecon Beacons and back. Next day, similarly laden, they cover 32 miles among the Brecon Beacons. Those who drop out have to find their own way home. Generally, only two or three finish this test.

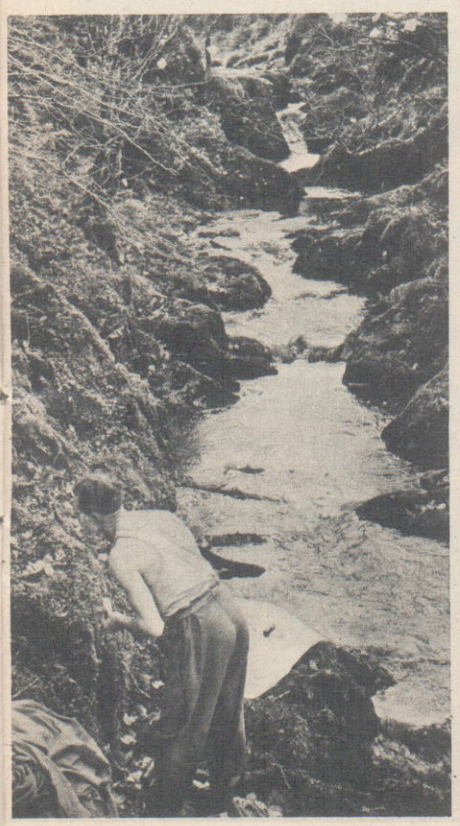
During his time in Wales every candidate is watched to assess his reactions when faced with unusual situations. Those empty hills are not always as empty as they seem.

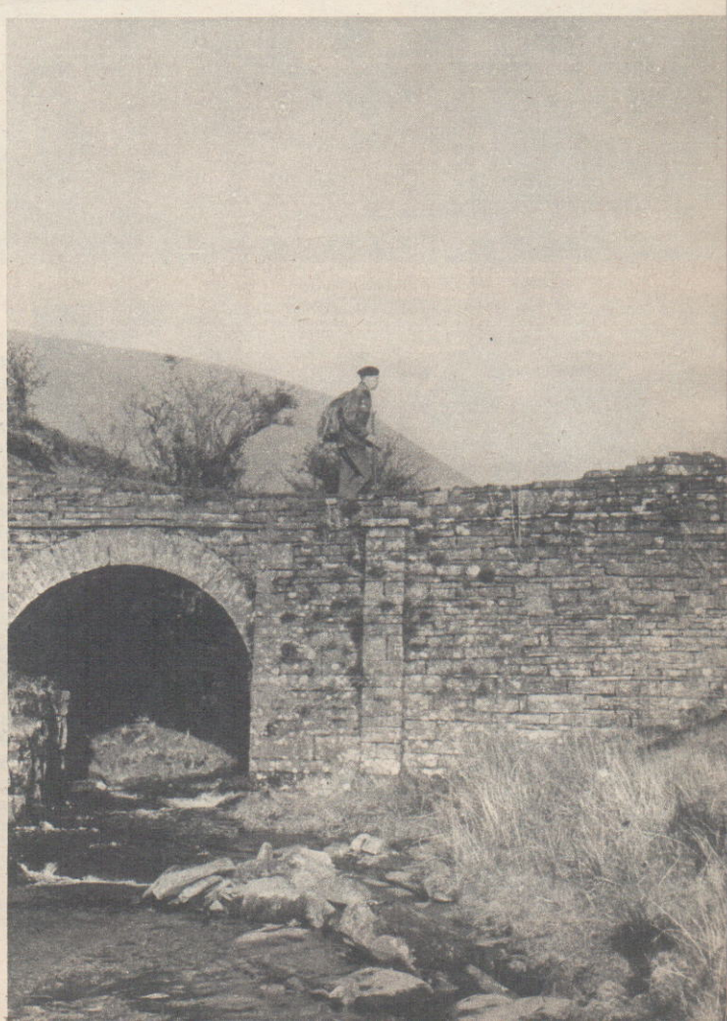
Men are not failed solely because they cannot stand up to the physical rigours of the course at the first attempt. If they possess the right mental characteristics they are given another chance on a later course. Character cannot be taught, but stamina can be built up. Some volunteers who were not fit enough were put through three courses before they were finally accepted. Officers, however, are automatically failed if they are not physically fit.

Successful candidates do not rejoin their units. They are put on an advanced weapons course at Brecon and eventually sent out to join the 22nd Special Air Service Regiment in Malaya. Every man reverts to the rank of trooper when he joins the Special Air Service, but retains his seniority in his own unit. Promotion prospects in the Special Air Service are better than in most units, however. After passing a parachute course each man is paid an extra six shillings a day. Normally he will serve for two years with the 22nd Regiment and then go back to his parent unit. If he wishes to rejoin the Special Air Service he has to go through the ten-day test at Brecon again.

Those who OVER

Right: The scene is picturesque but the lone soldier has no time to admire it. Below (left): A wash and shave in a stream puts new life into a tired man; Below (right): From a "partisan's" house students set out to find the "enemy."





Ten miles inside "enemy" territory a candidate sketches a railway bridge. Now he has to get the information back to headquarters.

LONE MEN

(continued)

operate the course at Brecon have all seen action with the Special Air Service in Malaya. Major D. Newell, who commands the Regimental Headquarters in London, and Captain R. Carey were both mentioned in despatches during their four years in the jungle. Sergeant E. Walters has served six years in Malaya, Sergeant E. Nugent and Sergeant G. Merritt, a former paratrooper who landed at Arnhem, four years. They are all hoping to rejoin the 22nd Regiment soon.

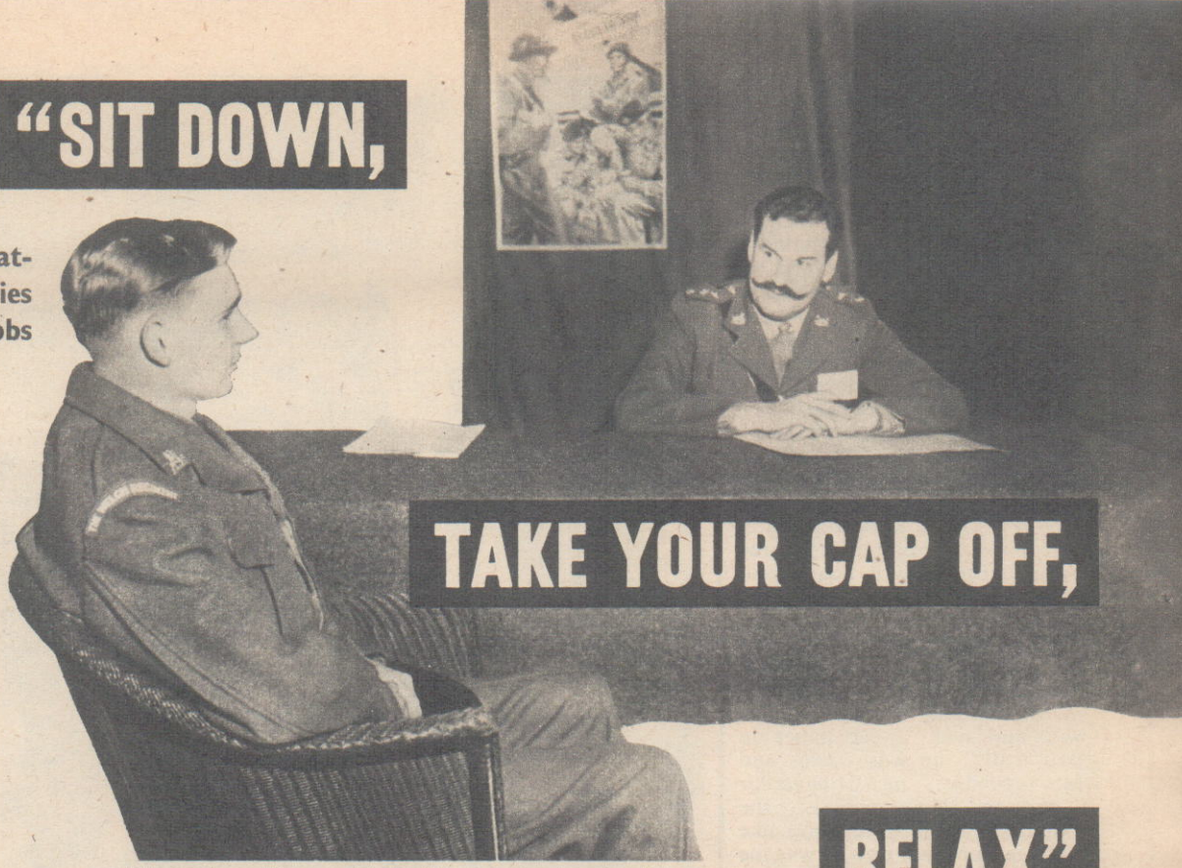
"It's sometimes tougher at Brecon than in the Malayan jungle," says Sergeant Walters.

E. J. GROVE

Above (left): An Irish Guardsman prepares to snatch a few hours sleep under a tree; (right): A candidate collects the evidence to show that he has visited a village post office. Left: Four of the men who operate the course (left to right): Captain R. Carey, Major D. Newell, Sergeant E. Nugent and Sergeant E. Walters. Right: Major Newell interrogates an officer candidate at the end of a 24-hour exercise.

"SIT DOWN, TAKE YOUR CAP OFF, RELAX"

The Army has been demonstrating to headmasters how it tries to fit men into suitable jobs



"And what did you think of your schoolteachers?"—"Oh, some of them were all right." The part of a backward recruit is played by a sergeant-instructor, RAEC.

IT is about ten days after he first puts on Army boots that Private Atkins is called in for his first personal interview with an officer.

Whether Private Atkins is a university graduate or an illiterate, this interview may colour his attitude to the Army for the whole of his service.

The interviewing officer, otherwise the Personnel Selection Officer, is well aware of this and is careful to put the recruit at his ease.

After Private Atkins salutes, the captain sitting behind the table indicates an armchair and says:

"Sit down. Take your cap off. Relax."

And, as Private Atkins still looks a little uncertain of himself, the officer adds, "Smoke if you'd like to." (But Private Atkins must find his own cigarettes.)

Conversation is much less formal than Private Atkins imagined. The officer asks about his parents ("Are they in good health?"), his education, his hobbies, his likes and dislikes. Has Private Atkins any worries, any pet ambitions? Is he keen to travel? Does he think he has the ability to control others? What does he want to do after leaving the Service?

This goes on for about twenty minutes, the officer making unobtrusive notes all the while. On the recruit's answers, and the way he answers, depends his Selection Group classification and, to a large extent, his whole future in the Army. There are six classifications, and only ten per cent of any intake go into the top category (incidentally, only ten per cent go into the last).

The world at large is often reluctant to believe that the Army makes any serious effort to put men into suitable jobs. That, perhaps, is one reason why an attempt has been made of late, notably in Western Command, to give headmasters an insight into the Army's selection methods. Not that headmasters are more prejudiced than anyone else, but they have a direct personal interest in what the Army does with their more promising pupils.

In several cities, parties of headmasters have been invited to watch suitably staged interviews between newly called-up soldiers and personnel selection officers. The soldiers in question volunteered to take part in the demonstrations. Of necessity, one of these interviews was faked, since it would have been unfair to expect a soldier in one of the not-so-bright groups to give a public demonstration of his shortcomings. Thus, in the demonstration SOLDIER attended at Cardiff, the low-grade recruit was impersonated by a sergeant-instructor in the Royal Army Educational Corps, a man who, as it happened, had a university degree. No one was more baffled, at the outset, by this episode than a headmaster in the audience who recognised the sergeant-instructor as one of his former pupils.

Watching how the Army grades its recruits: a group of Welsh headmasters.

Of the genuine recruits interviewed, one was a soldier who left technical school at 15 and had been servicing weighing machines. He had shown rather less enthusiasm for evening studies than for gymnastic classes, in which he had distinguished himself. His ambition, eagerly stated, was to get into the Army Physical Training Corps. "Would you be prepared to take charge of men?" he was asked. He said he would. The Personnel Selection Officer decided to put him down for a 16-weeks physical training course to test his suitability for the corps of his choice, and rated him as a potential NCO.

Another recruit was a public schoolboy who had passed his General Certificate of Education in six subjects at ordinary level and in two at advanced level. He had been a prefect and head of his house. "What did that involve?" he was asked. "Seeing that the juniors were in bed at nine-thirty and the seniors at ten, and generally keeping order," was the reply. This recruit said he travelled abroad when he could afford it and rather hoped the Army would send him to Hong Kong. Asked what was the attraction of Hong Kong, he said it was "far away." Then came the question: "What do you think about bull?" and the reply, "It's all right if it keeps you smart." To the question, "Would you like to become an officer?' he answered, "Yes," and gave as his reason, "If you go to a good school and they teach you leadership you may as well make use of it." This candidate, who had a frank and cheerful manner, was rated as a potential officer.

A third recruit, who also earned a potential officer rating, was an ex-grammar schoolboy (General Certificate of Education in five subjects, three at advanced level) who had spent 12 months studying law at King's College but had failed his first examination. He, too, had been a head prefect. ("Were you strict?"—"Quite strict.") The son of a police officer, he had lived most of his life in police stations. He, too, was keen to serve overseas.

Both these candidates showed confidence and had an agreeable manner. If any headmaster in the audience disagreed with their rating as potential officers he held his peace.

Being Welshmen all, the headmasters were duly impressed to note that the Personnel Selection Officer addressed a few friendly words of Welsh to one or two of his recruits.

The headmasters were told that there is no question of putting all the bright recruits into the scientific corps and all the not-so-bright boys into the Infantry: "That kind of Army won't work. Every arm must have its share of talent." In the Infantry, the more promising candidates were often

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

"SIT DOWN" ... *continued*

recommended for the intelligence section or signals.

In the Army's view, it was explained, an intelligent man in a dull job was as much a liability as a dull man in a job beyond his capacity. From time to time there were stories about square pegs in round holes, university men in cookhouses and so on; but it was usually found that there were two sides to these stories.

Another series of interviews was staged to show the type of scrutiny a potential officer undergoes before he is sent to a three-day War Office Selection Board. The public schoolboy appeared again before a unit board, and then at an interview with his Brigade Colonel. "If I gave you £100 to spend, what would you do with it?" asked the Colonel. The answer, "I would go ski-ing in Switzerland" seemed to meet with approval. "What paper do you read?" he was asked, and he replied, "The *Manchester Guardian*." No comment by the Colonel. "How would you like to be in Port Said now?" was the next question. The reply: "There's a job to be done there and I would do my best to get on with it." Asked whether he had found the Army better or worse than he expected, he said, "Better." How did he get the impression that life in the Army was disagreeable? "I'm not sure where we got the idea but it was the general impression at school."

The effect of that reply, it is to be hoped, was not lost on the headmasters.

Most schoolmasters are very interested to learn how their best pupils fare at War Office Selection Boards and the War Office is willing to keep them "in the picture." But it will not undertake to tell a candidate's father why he failed. It seems there are some things which fathers will not, or cannot, understand.

The Brigade Colonel of The Welsh Brigade reminded the headmasters that schoolboys and their parents are invited to attend pre-National Service meetings, in order that they may ask questions about the Services. One recent meeting, he told them, had been attended by three boys with their mothers who had been chiefly concerned to know how to get their sons out of the Army. "We felt that meeting was not worth while," said the Colonel. Happily, there were headmasters present who could report more useful meetings than that.

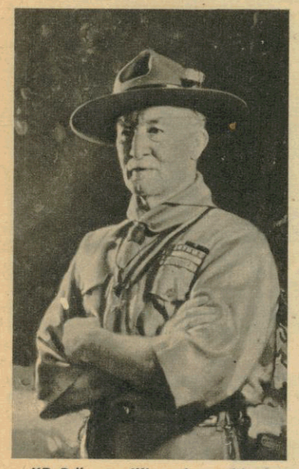
NOTE: The three civilian experts who recently reported on the Army's use of National Servicemen (*see pages 24-25*) also watched selection procedure and "formed the impression that this responsible work is very conscientiously done." They thought that the more a Personnel Selection Officer could tell the recruit about the Army and his obligations and opportunities in it the better.

★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★

The Grand Old Man of Scouting—but the public rarely thought of him like this. He had just attended a levée at St. James's Palace, in Hussar full dress uniform, when this photograph was taken. His rank: lieutenant-general.

THIS YEAR THEY HONOUR "B-P"

Lord Baden-Powell, a soldier with "an unquenchable attraction towards the unusual in warfare," was born 100 years ago. The Scout movement is organising special celebrations in his honour



"B-P," as millions knew him.

IT was Mafeking that made Baden-Powell, that unconventional soldier, a national hero. It was the Boy Scout movement that expanded and perpetuated his fame throughout the world.

This month sees the hundredth anniversary of his birth. The Jamboree at Sutton Coldfield in August will celebrate, not only this anniversary, but the golden jubilee of Scouting. Thirty-five thousand Scouts, Rovers and Scout leaders from 56 countries will be there to pay homage to their founder, the man whose foresight and energy bequeathed to them this fine brotherhood, and whose own initials provided them with their motto: "Be Prepared."

This soldier who was said to have "a certain unquenchable and almost exotic attraction towards the unusual in warfare" gave up a brilliant military career before the outbreak of World War One in order to devote himself to creating the Boy Scout movement. He died Lord Baden-Powell, at the age of 83, during the second world war.

Fifty years ago, when he took a party of boys to the first experimental Scout camp on Brownsea Island, he had already established himself as the best scout the Army had produced. Long service in India and Africa enabled him to perfect ideas which came to him as a boy, playing in a copse at Charterhouse School.

From his school cadet corps he won a direct commission into the Army. Of 700 candidates who sat the examination the first six were excused Sandhurst. Being one of them he gained two years seniority.

He joined his regiment, the 13th Hussars, in India, there to spend most of the next 14 years. On the first inspection of his troop he had just come to the end of the front rank when with the tail of his eye he saw a man step from the rear rank into the front rank which he had just inspected. He said nothing until he had finished the inspection, then addressed the man who had moved. "Private Ramsbotham, step to the front. Have you got your cholera belt on?" Private Ramsbotham had not—and was much jeered at afterwards for being caught out by a new subaltern.

At one stage, like most soldiers in India, Baden-Powell became a fever victim, despite having evolved his own "cure." This consisted of champagne with a light meal, a hot bath with cold water on the head, castor oil, a warm bed, rest and quinine.

Most of his fellow Cavalry officers were men of substance. He, eighth of a family of 10 children, left in straitened circumstances when their father died, had to exist on Army pay, a mere £120 per annum. Despite his necessarily frugal habits, he was well liked by the other officers and respected by the men.

His high spirits found an outlet in hoaxes. Once at a regimental entertainment he took in everyone, including the colonel, by impersonating a major-general. Such attempts at disguise may well have been useful training for his later activities.

Baden-Powell was attracted to scouting almost from his very first days of soldiering. He believed that it was the best way to make a soldier self-reliant and mentally alert. History helped to prove him right.

After six years with the 13th Hussars he became their adjutant. Two years later the Boer threat caused the regiment to be moved to Africa. Although they did not take part in any fighting, Baden-Powell, wearing old civilian clothes and a red, straggling beard, carried out some valuable reconnaissance. Years later, it was argued in certain military circles that if due notice had been taken then of his report there would have been no siege of Ladysmith.

Baden-Powell became one of General Sir Garnet Wolseley's bright young men. In 1886 he was sent to watch German and Russian military manœuvres. These trips were the real beginning of his Intelligence activities.

Until that time "secret" information at the War Office had tended to consist mainly of cuttings from foreign newspapers. Baden-Powell's task was to find out how foreign armies trained their men, the armament they used and the strength of their fortresses. The work was sometimes humdrum and he needed the minimum of disguises to carry it out successfully. In Dalmatia he posed as a butterfly-hunting Englishman and incorporated details of gun positions into the wing designs of the butterflies he drew in his notebooks. If anyone had demanded to see the notebook he would have seen—butterflies.

Sent back to Africa, Baden-Powell seized the chance to learn all there was to be discovered from the methods of Zulu scouts. He also heard for the first time the Zulu song . . . *Ein-gon-yama*. It has since been passed on to generations of Boy Scouts. No doubt it will be sung again at the forthcoming Jamboree.

Baden-Powell's next spell of active service was when he was sent on special service against the Ashantis. His talents as a scout had full scope in this brief operation. Not long afterwards he helped to suppress the Matabele revolt. Had a native warrior, who dropped in front of him and fired after taking most careful aim, not missed the target, there might have been no Boy Scout movement today.

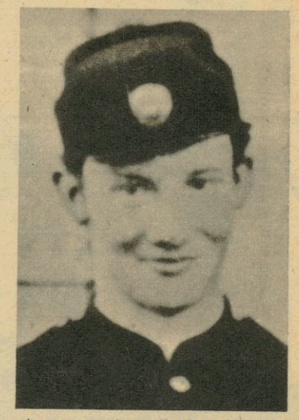
In fact, the Matabele were more anxious to get him alive than dead. They had nicknamed him "Impeesa," the wolf that never sleeps.

When he returned to his regiment Baden-Powell held the rank of colonel, but as a regimental officer he was junior to both the lieutenant-colonel and the senior major. This contretemps was solved by giving Baden-Powell command of the 5th Dragoon Guards. Almost at once he departed for India, anxious to apply there his own well-founded theories of what the Army in general and Cavalry in particular should be. Very soon he made changes which proved beneficial both to the health and well-being of his men.

While in India he was promoted major-general, but after four days was demoted by the War Office, being considered too young for the rank. He was little more than 40.

Almost as soon as he reached England again came the Boer War and . . . Mafeking. For nearly eight months an ill-equipped force of little more than a thousand men held out under Baden-Powell's command against overwhelming odds. (*See next page*). When Mafeking was relieved there were wild scenes in London. Baden-Powell was promoted major-general in despatches.

Later he helped to create the South African Constabulary which, within 10 months, had 7500 men ready armed for conflict or police duties.



As a member of the shooting team at Charterhouse in 1874.

With the end of the Boer War he was appointed Inspector-General of Cavalry, began to mould a new Cavalry and established the Cavalry School.

Placed on half-pay in 1907 with the rank of lieutenant-general, he soon afterwards accepted command of Northumbrian Territorial Division. Three years later he retired to devote himself to the Boy Scout movement.

He offered his services again at the outbreak of the 1914-18 war, but these were rejected by Lord Kitchener on the grounds that he could serve his country best by organising the Scouts.

Eleven former Scouts won the Victoria Cross in that war and 24 in World War Two.

CONTINUED OVER ▶

One of the £1 notes issued by Colonel Baden-Powell during the siege of Mafeking. For more Mafeking pictures, see next page.

A MARCH TO THE CEMETERY

LORD BADEN-POWELL published several books on military topics, including a classic on pig-sticking. He considered that this sport, more than any other, gave a man the "stalker's eye."

At the outbreak of World War One he produced a pocketbook *Quick Training for War*, enumerating the four "Cs" of soldiering as Courage, Common-sense, Cunning and Cheerfulness. "Drill has its uses for moving bodies of men rapidly and in good order for manœuvring purposes, but it is not the end-all of their training. The spirit which is inculcated into the men is of far greater importance. . . . Too much drill at an early stage of their career is very apt to drive out every spark of this spirit."

He told a story of how General Sir William Knox, welcoming a draft of young soldiers to an overseas garrison, had them marched straight to the cemetery. There he told them that, out of his experience, he had drawn up a guide for their welfare and sanitation in the field. Pointing to the cemetery he said: "There are 750 of your comrades there, not 50 of whom died of wounds. You are 780 strong and you will all be there unless you obey my orders. I have enlarged the cemetery for the purpose."

The warning was heeded.

THE COLONEL OF MAFEKING

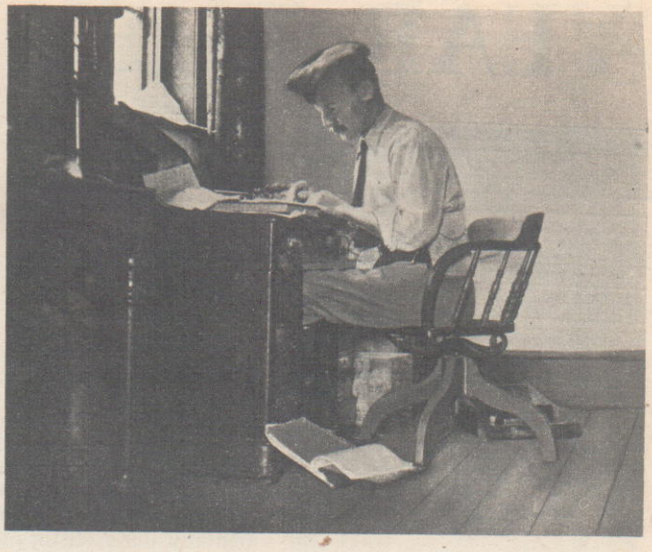
Officers on look-out duty at Mafeking.

WHEN the South African War began, 9000 Boers under Cronje laid siege to Mafeking, a key town on the veldt. Colonel Baden-Powell with 1000 men held it by bluff.

His defenders built forts and works, many of them make-believe, on a seven miles perimeter. They installed dummy men, improvised grenades and mines, laid imaginary barbed wire (stepping with exaggerated motions over the "strands" in enemy view), planted mines and used an 18th-century carronade.

The Colonel himself scouted at night, up to the Boer lines. By strength of personality he kept the town morale high. He ran a newspaper, issued stamps, organised gymkhanas.

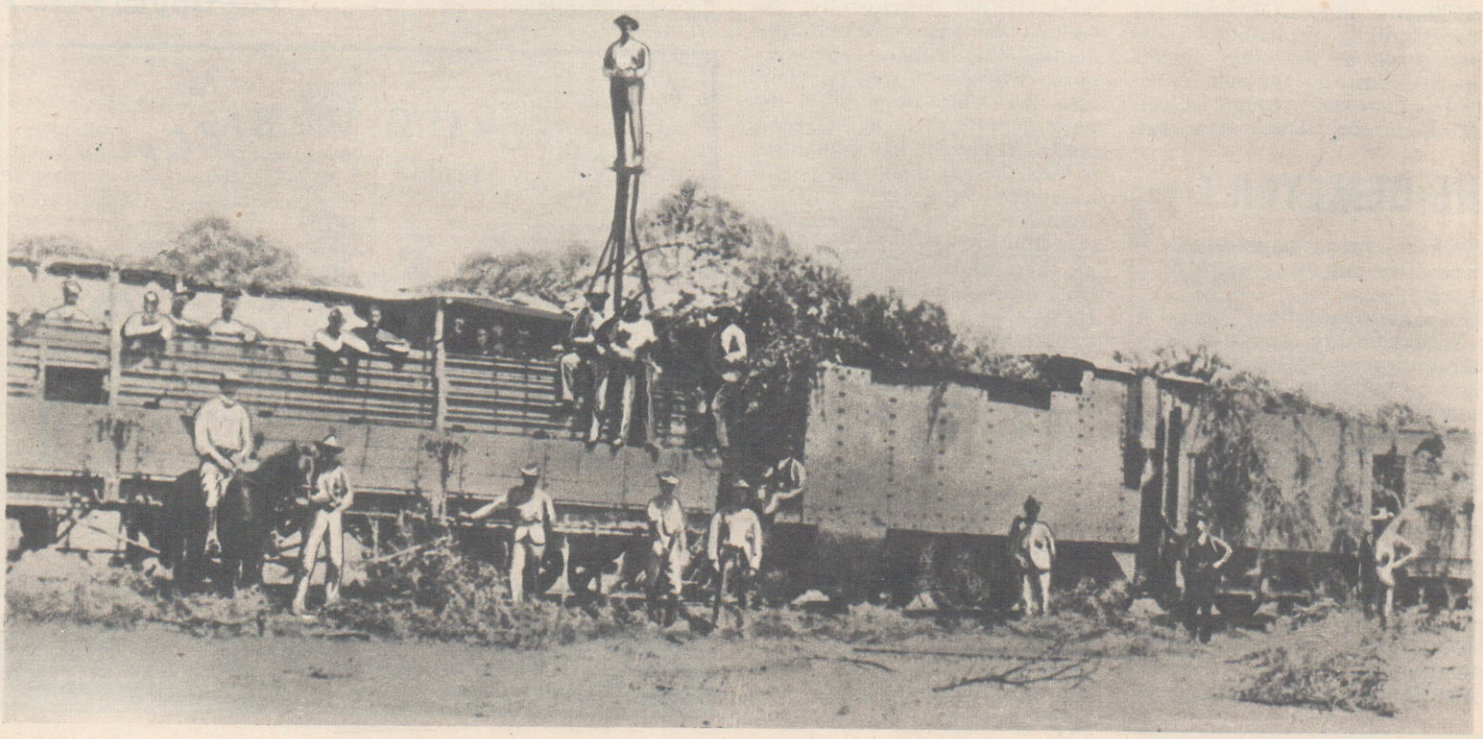
When Mafeking was relieved after 217 days 20,000 shells had fallen in the town. The Boers should, and could, have taken it—but they didn't.



Above: Colonel Baden-Powell at his desk during the siege of Mafeking. Left: A group of Mafeking's boy orderlies.

Below: A machine-gun in the outermost trench. Photographs reproduced by courtesy of the Boy Scouts' Association.

One of the half-dozen or so guns which were all the Mafeking defenders could pit against the Boers' long-range German cannon. Below: The improvised armoured train which Colonel Baden-Powell sent out to attack the besieging forces.



THE ARMY WAS PROUD TO HELP

One of the most satisfying jobs that comes the way of a soldier is—helping refugees

Army doctors attended the sick and wounded. Captain I. Scott runs the stethoscope over a Hungarian baby.

Soldiers at Dover served the refugees with goulash and plum duff.

Below: There was music, too—a Royal Marines Band gave a concert.

OFF and on, the British Army has been helping refugees for a couple of centuries—refugees from war, refugees from political terror, refugees from earthquakes.

Whatever the cause, the job's the same. The families fleeing from Hungary needed shelter, food and a cheerful welcome—and the Army provided all three.

At 48 hours' notice barracks in Aldershot, Colchester, Crookham and Dover, which had been vacated by troops sent to the Middle East, were re-equipped to provide temporary shelter for some 8000 refugees.

Work parties, composed in part from volunteers on leave, laboured day and night to get the barracks into order again. Stores, canteens, cinemas, recreation-rooms and medical centres were re-opened and teams of soldiers moved in to help the Red Cross with documentation. Cooks sent from the Army Catering Corps at Aldershot and the Women's Royal Army Corps at Guildford had hot meals ready by the time the first refugees arrived.

At Dover, where nearly 2000 refugees were cared for in three barracks, Gunners from 26 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, worked for 48 hours with little sleep, collecting stores and erecting and making up beds.

When the first group of 870 refugees (300 more than had been expected) arrived in darkness, men of 223 Maintenance Battery, Royal Artillery, who were dismantling coastal guns in the Dover area, provided artificial moonlight by shining a searchlight on the clouds.

In the barrack-rooms each refugee found on his or her bed a pair of pyjamas, toilet articles (given by the Women's Voluntary Services) and a message of welcome, in Hungarian, from the headquarters of Home Counties District. Meanwhile seven learner cooks from the Women's Royal Army Corps, some with only three weeks service, and Army Catering Corps cooks had prepared the refugees' first meal—goulash and plum duff.

Army medical officers treated the wounded and sick. In three days at one barracks Captain I. Scott, Royal Army Medical Corps, attended to more than 200 men, women and children, including two young men who had been shot during the fighting in Budapest.

The Royal Signals set up a travelling loud-hailer system in a Jeep which toured the barracks announcing important messages. Army wives, whose husbands were in the Middle East, organised and served meals in the Red Cross messes. Refugees who could speak English were appointed interpreters on the spot.

At Aldershot, several thousand refugees were temporarily housed in Talavera and Beaumont Barracks. At Roman Way Camp, Colchester, soldiers of East Anglian District and 14 Locating Battery, Royal Artillery were called in to look after another 1000.

The refugees were the Army's guests for only a week before they were found other accommodation in civilian camps or homes, but the Army had played an important part in welcoming them to Britain.

"How we should have coped without the Army I do not know," said a senior Red Cross official at Dover.

The Gunners' scrum-half evades a tackle and gets the ball away. Below (left): The forwards clash in a loose maul in midfield. Photographs: SOLDIER Cameraman Arthur Blundell.

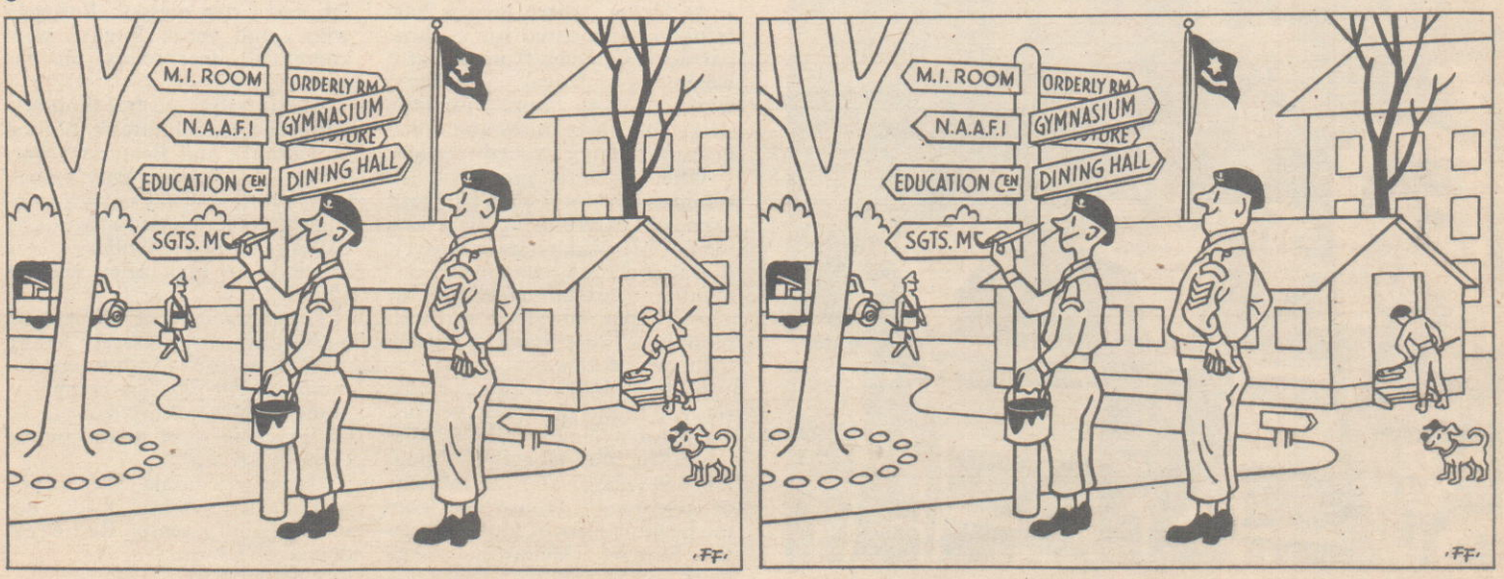
OLD RIVALS AT GRIPS

THE Gunners and the Sappers, two of the largest arms in the Service, met in combat on the rugby field for their 33rd annual match since 1887. This match is always one of the big sporting events at Woolwich.

The Gunners, who fielded two Internationals—Gunner I. Southward, of 31 Training Regiment, and Second-Lieutenant H. Ingles, Royal Artillery Depot—won by eight points to three, bringing their total number of wins to 13. The Sappers have won 17 games and three have been drawn.

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 consult the list on page 38.



FRANCE

HOLLAND

Military magazines from many parts of the world pile up on SOLDIER'S desk. Selected for special mention below is the American magazine ARMY, which contains a thought-provoking article on the war of tomorrow

SOLDIER OF THE FUTURE?

PERU

ARMY is published by the Association of the United States Army.

U.S.A.

SWITZERLAND

BELGIUM

THE soldier of the 1970s will be a superman in an armour-plated suit, equipped with his own radio set and pocket radar and able to see in the dark.

He may ride into battle in a flying tank launched from a submarine 200 miles out at sea, in an atom-driven helicopter or on an aerial platform ejected from a giant nuclear-powered aircraft.

Science fiction? Not quite. This conception of how a war in 20 years time might be fought is advanced by an officer of the United States Army who bases his views on known and foreseeable scientific facts.

Writing in the magazine *Army*, Lieutenant-Colonel Robert R. Riggs says that even in a thermo-nuclear war men will dominate the battlefields and victory will go to the nation with bold leaders and disciplined soldiers handling complex weapons and equipment.

The soldier of the future, says the author, will wear a bullet-proof, splinter-resistant tunic of lightweight plastic and a bullet-proof steel-and-plastic helmet with a built-in radio (one type of helmet radio is already in use in the United States Army).

The helmet will have a visor to protect the face. Inside the visor will be a black-out lens to shield the eyes against nuclear flash; radio-active dust goggles; telescopic lenses; and an infra-red lens to enable the soldier to see in the dark.

In one pocket he will carry a radar set, no bigger than a golf ball, to warn him of the enemy's movements. For protection equally against radio-activity and rain he will have a transparent cloak which folds into a cigar-sized container strapped to his belt. For warmth there will be another plastic cloak made of several layers of ultra-thin material which can be inflated and heated by miniature electric batteries or plugged into the electrical circuit of a vehicle.

On his belt he will also carry a lightweight gas mask of transparent plastic with a pad-type filter which obviates the use of a canister. Slung behind one shoulder will be a miniature bazooka to fire charges into the ground for making foxholes.

Reserve rations in capsule form will be tucked into the heels of his boots and wedged into the outside edges of the soles. Tiny pockets on each boot will contain an emergency first-aid kit. Vitamin pills will be stitched into the backs of his gloves.

The soldier's individual weapons will be an automatic carbine, probably firing high velocity plastic bullets, and miniature grenades filled with tiny glass and steel splinters.

The main targets in a nuclear war, says the author, will be guided missile bases, where "the push button soldier will be living in a potential tomb."

How will such an army get its supplies? Giant, nuclear-driven helicopters carrying up to 30 tons of stores in detachable holds and travelling at 100 miles an hour will replace all land supply vehicles.

Colonel Riggs served as a military observer with the Cossacks in Manchuria and Europe in 1943 and was twice arrested by the Soviet secret police. In 1945, as a member of General George Marshall's staff on the American mission to China, he accompanied several Chinese Nationalist armies into action—and was arrested again. In 1951 he took part in the American atom bomb tests at Eniwetok.

FOOTNOTE: The United States Army now has a portable radar set, weighing 85 pounds, which, it is claimed, can detect a man walking half a mile away and distinguish men from vehicles at ranges up to three miles. It can also tell whether vehicles are wheeled or tracked.

This set is intended for use in front-line foxholes. It has been used successfully in field trials and some sets have been issued to the United States Marines.

EIRE

GERMANY

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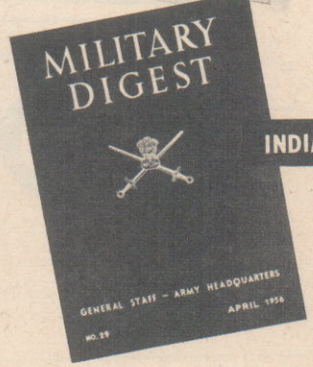
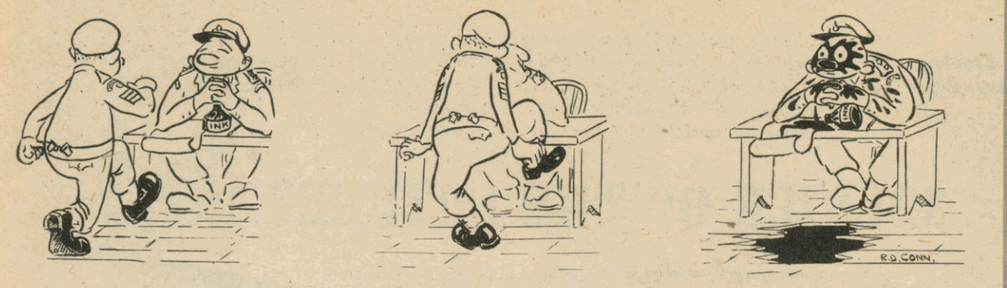
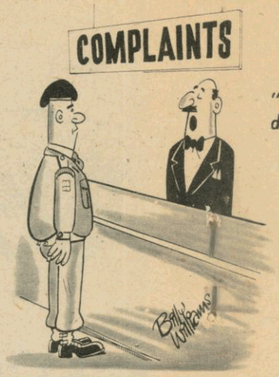
FRANCE

SOUTH AFRICA

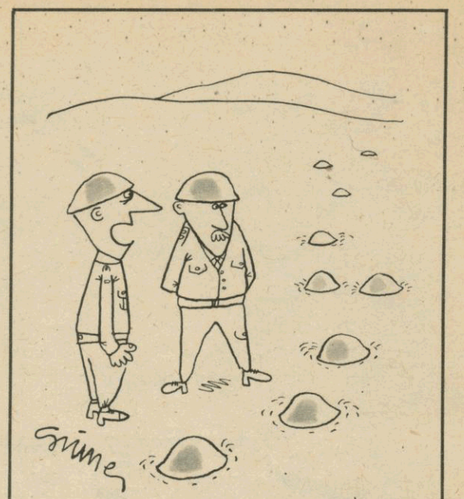


INDIA



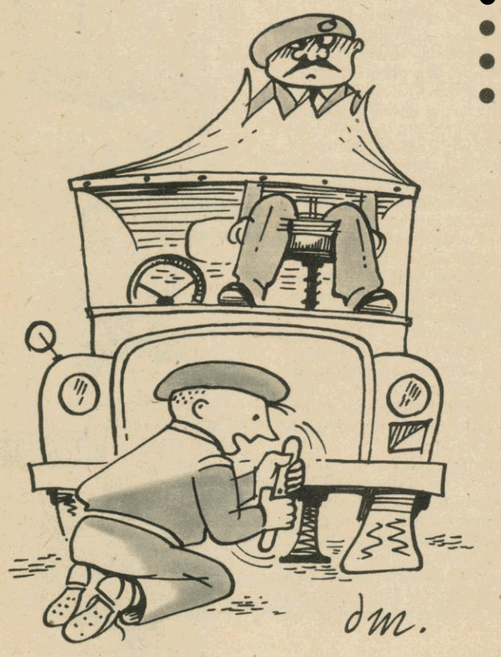


"Sorry. Nobody can do anything about sergeant-majors."

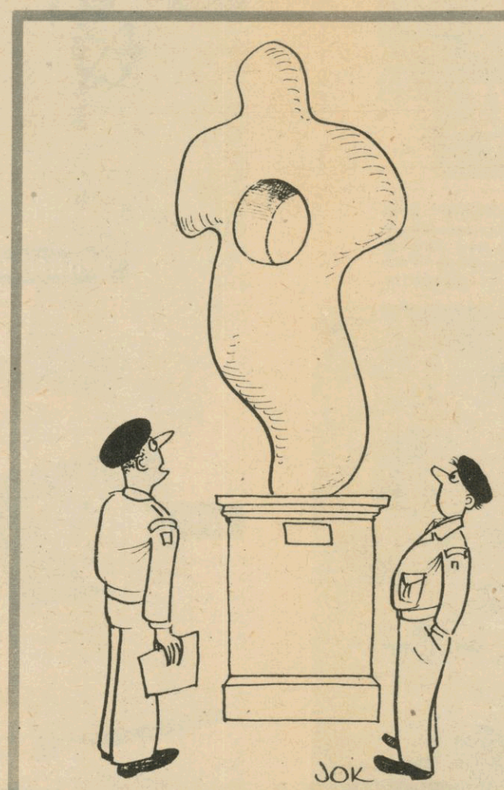


"I've got the men all well dug in."

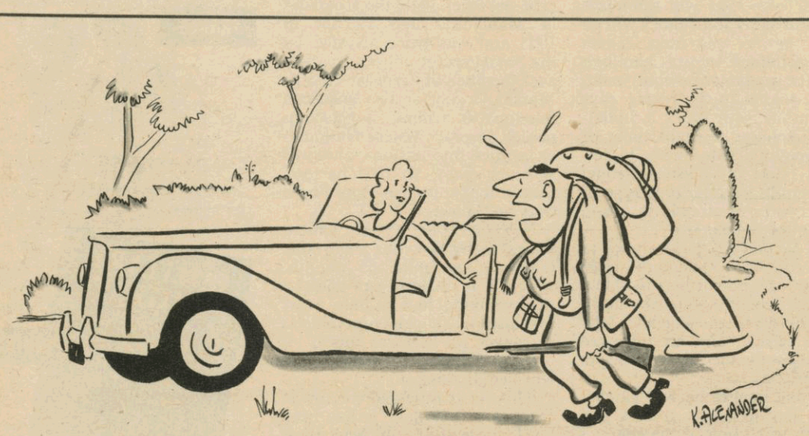
SOLDIER HUMOUR



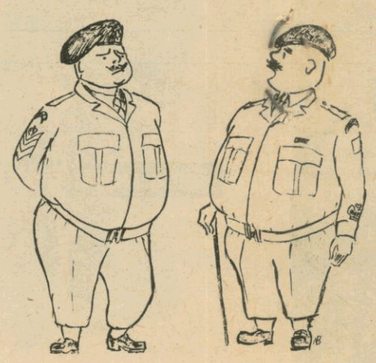
"Complaint here, sir. Not enough bull."



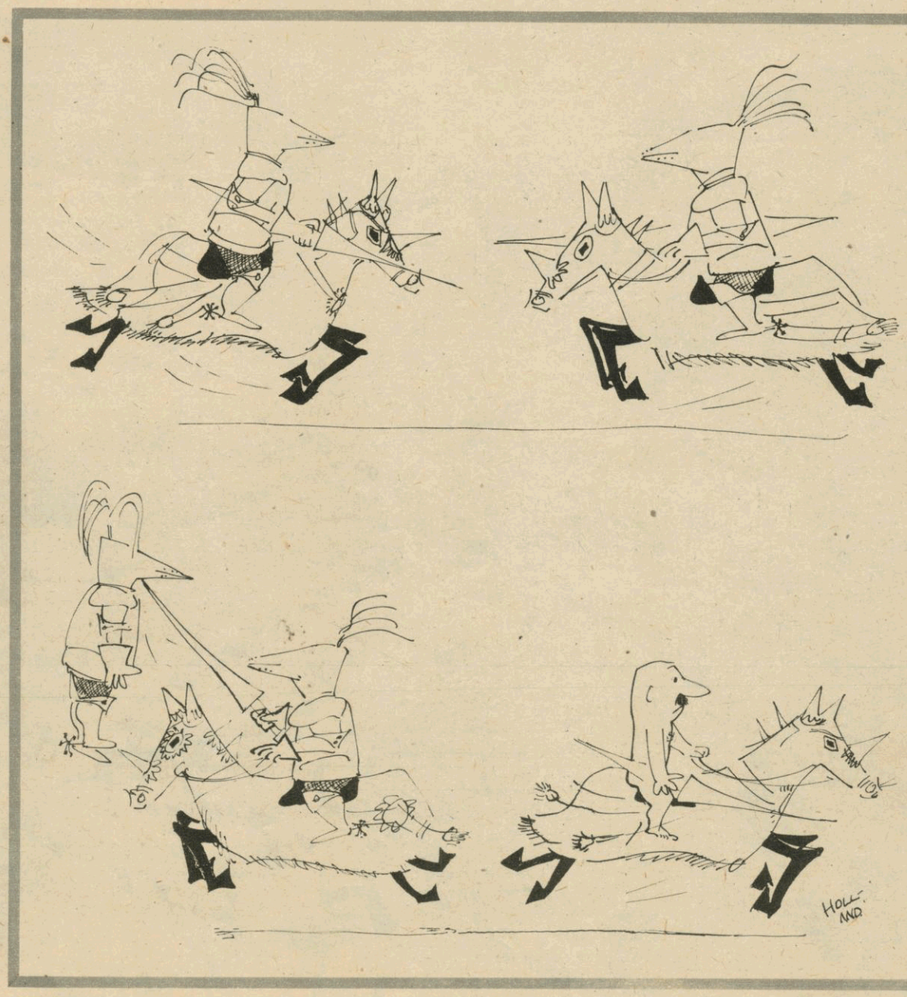
"Must have been Number Two on a bazooka."



"No thanks, miss—I'm on an initiative test."



"Twenty - five years service, and what have we got to show for it?"



SCRAPBOOK OF WORLD WAR TWO

★

Snow—and smoke. In the valley of the River Sillaro, in Italy, men of a light anti-aircraft regiment 1000 yards from the nearest enemy observation post cover a village and a road with a smoke screen.

★

Below: Eighth Army transport ascends a winding road through the Muraglione Pass, near San Benedetto.

A GENERAL UNDER TOW

Honours for a popular high commander: men of the Royal Signals pull General Gale's Rolls-Royce through the Joint Headquarters at Moenchen Gladbach. Capless soldiers wait to cheer. Below: The General inspects Pioneers with axes and spades in a farewell guard of honour in Berlin.

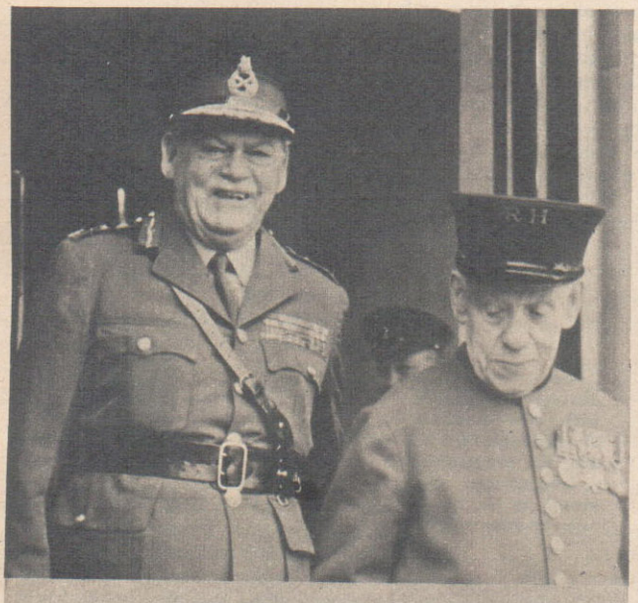
RHINE Army will hardly seem the same without the burly figure of General Sir Richard Gale, who has now relinquished his appointments as Commander-in-Chief Northern Army Group and British Army of the Rhine.

A newspaper gossip once wrote that "General Gale's slightly old-fashioned appearance masks an exceedingly modern mind."

The General learned the trade of war as a regimental officer in World War One. He won his Military Cross serving with the Worcestershire Regiment on the Western Front. His later regiments were the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry and the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. By September 1939 he held major's rank.

An early believer in the value of parachute forces, he raised, trained and commanded 1st Parachute Brigade. In the Normandy invasion he commanded 6th Airborne Division, his headquarters glider landing with a decided bump. His officers, fearing that his bravery in action might go unreported, dropped a hint to General Headquarters. The result: a DSO.

In Germany General Gale experimented with the new type of division called for by nuclear war. As a NATO commander he did much to build up the efficiency of his multi-lingual headquarters.



General Sir Richard Gale with one of the Chelsea Pensioners who attended his farewell parade.

It was a similar "drill" when Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery left Germany. The scene was in the old headquarters town of Bad Oeynhausen.

58 out of 100 "Quite Enjoyed It"

DOES National Service unsettle a lad or does it make a man of him?

There is no universal answer. It depends on the lad, his background, and to some extent his unit.

Professor T. Ferguson and Mr. J. Cunnison traced the careers of 568 young men from Glasgow, between the ages of 17 and 22. Of these 346 underwent National Service, and 222 were rejected on medical grounds (Glasgow is not the healthiest of cities).

Within a month of returning home, two-thirds of the National Servicemen were back at work. After two months, only six per cent were still idle. Obviously the Army had not bred 346 workshys.

Six out of ten returned to their former employers; of the others, some wanted higher wages or had incurred family responsibilities which made change desirable.

There was little difference between the wages earned at the age of 22 by those who had undergone National Service and those who had not. A small group of those excused Service earned markedly lower wages, perhaps because of physical incapacity.

These figures are given in "In Their Early Twenties" (*Oxford University Press, for Nuffield Foundation, 12s 6d*).

After their National Service, 58 per cent of the Glasgow lads said they "quite enjoyed" their Service experience, though only seven per cent preferred Service life to civilian. Eighteen per cent disliked Service life, and 24 per cent were neutral.

On call-up, the Glasgow lads were shorter and lighter than the average for the country, but "their gain in weight while in the Service was substantial."

The authors of this study say that, while the influence of National Service is unsettling, it is not so unsettling as that of the dubious social environment of many of the lads.

The incidence of crime was roughly the same among those who were called up and those who were not called up, and the type of crime did not vary.

In the view of the authors, it is a pity that more young men do not defer their call-up until their apprenticeship is completed. If that were done, they say, there would be less loss of potential skills.

Those searching for a club with which to belabour the Army will have great difficulty in finding one in this book.

OUGHT SOLDIERS

It might be better if National Servicemen "stuck to soldiering" instead of going home nearly every week-end, say the three civilians who recently investigated Army conditions. But the Army Council does not think that less leave would mean a happier Army.

Other recommendations by the three-man team are :

- *Since three civilians can do the work of five soldiers, why not employ more civilians?*
- *Why not make more jobs in depots for ex-Regulars—and thus help recruiting?*
- *Why not use intelligent men as NCOs in "teeth" units instead of making them clerks?*

MOST National Servicemen look on their two years' service as "an infliction to be undergone rather than a duty to the Nation."

"It is this state of mind which encourages the National Servicemen to regard 'spit and polish,' guard duty and prolonged drills as unnecessary impositions rather than as necessary elements in a scheme of training."

These are the views of the "three just men" recently appointed by the Army Council to examine whether the Army is making proper use of its manpower. The investigators were Sir John Wolfenden, vice-Chancellor of Reading University; Mr. W. D. Ross, a former trade union official; and Sir Frederic Hooper, an industrialist. They were chiefly concerned with static establishments in Britain, but they also visited a number of units in Germany.

"Tell the soldier why" might have been the title of their report. Tell him *why* he is required to undergo discomfort and discipline; tell him *why* he must serve two years; tell him *why* he cannot always enter the arm of his choice; tell him *why* a certain amount of "bull" is good for him.

The three investigators studied the soldier's progress from call-up to discharge. At the outset they gained the impression that "more effort is expended on ensuring that no man improperly escapes his national duty than in guarding against passing a man who may, on arriving at his unit, be found to be medically unfit."

They agreed that, in allocating recruits to their arms of the Service, the needs of the Army must be satisfied first and the preference of the individual must come second. But they thought that, when a man is called up into an arm other than that of his choice, "it might well be worth while to send him a brief explanation with his calling-up notice." In that way the recruit and his family would have less reason to criticise the Army for "inefficiency." At present the first explanation a recruit received was from the Personnel Selection Officer after call-up. (*See the article on selection on page 13.*)

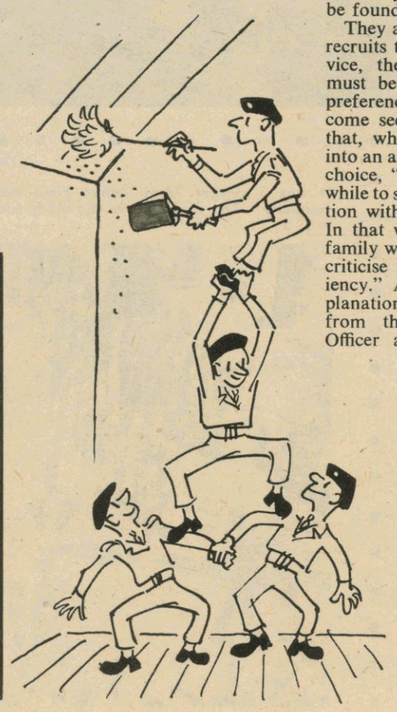
National Servicemen selected as clerks were often among the most intelligent of the intake, in the team's opinion, but the work was not always of a kind to occupy fully their intelligence. Many "teeth" units would be glad to have such men as potential or actual NCOs. Moreover these young men would benefit by learning leadership.

The investigators did not take long to decide that three civilians could do the work of five National Servicemen. This was due to "the relative permanence of the civilian compared with the very rapid 'turnover' of National Servicemen."

"Sometimes the training of clerks is of a kind which does not fully occupy their intelligence."

Many National Servicemen, they thought, were called upon to perform tasks which were essentially civilian in character and not of the kind for which they understood they were being called up.

The team were convinced that far more civilians could be employed in base depots of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, the Royal Army Service Corps, and the Royal Army Pay Corps, without prejudice to the operational rôles of these corps. "Civilianisation" had already gone a long way in Royal Army Ordnance Corps depots, though "it seems to us that in some of the depots which are almost wholly civilian there are unexpectedly large numbers of uniformed officers of senior rank." It should be possible, the team thought, for civilians to work their way to the top. It was "hard to justify" the use of National Servicemen in certain Ordnance occupations.



"The domestic duties connected with the cleaning of barrack rooms are in themselves a reasonable demand to make on any young man."

More of the work of the Royal Army Medical Corps in base hospitals could be done by civilians, the investigators argued, provided that adequate military staff were trained and available for overseas emergencies. Signals services in static establishments could be almost wholly civilianised.

Furthermore, there were miscellaneous jobs in many home establishments, like those of mess waiters, batmen, gardeners, cooks, and record-keepers, which ought to be performed by civilians.

More should be done, the team contended, to make civilian employment in base units the "natural and normal" expectation of Regulars on retirement. "This would have the advantage of making Regular soldiering a whole life career and might well have a stimulating effect on Regular recruiting."

The team were surprised at the frequency of week-end leave for soldiers in home establishments —sometimes three week-ends a month, with elaborate transport arrangements provided to make it possible. They gathered that in the world of the five-day week this was regarded as a necessary concession to the civilian soldier. But they declared :

"For ourselves, we doubt the wisdom of it. We regard it as unsettling and, on balance, not conducive to the happiness of the individual National Serviceman. It encourages him to live a 'double life,' putting up with his week's duties in the Army in the expectation of returning to his civilian environment at the week-end; and it therefore discourages him from developing the attitude of being committed to the community of his camp or unit."

It might be better, they said, if the National Serviceman "stuck to soldiering, without these repeated unsettlements." In Germany, where week-end home leave was not possible, men "seemed no more unhappy."

The three investigators tried to examine "bull" stripped of "the emotion and exaggeration" which usually goes with any mention of it.

"The domestic duties connected with the cleaning of barrack rooms are in themselves a reasonable demand to make on any young man," said the team; but men should not have to take too much time on their chores because the quarters themselves were dilapidated and antiquated.

"It is universally accepted, in our experience, that an excess of 'bull' is a bad thing. But what is to be defined as 'excess' will inevitably depend on the judgment of the commanding officer." On the whole commanding officers were very sensible on the matter; very few were excessively tough. When over-zealous junior officers or NCOs went too far in imposing "bull" they were "rebuked, and in extreme cases, removed."

"It may not be obvious to the young National Serviceman, without explanation, why he should be required to achieve a standard of 'spit and polish' which seems to him more appropriate to a professional soldier. Moreover, it may not be obvious to the young NCO, without explanation, that there are grounds for treating the National Serviceman by different methods from those which traditionally apply to the Regular."

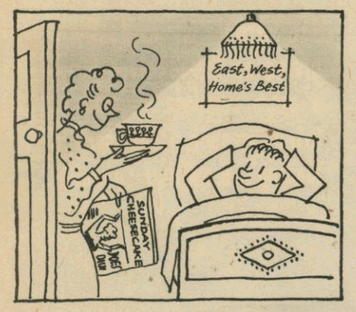
Incidentally, the committee said they could not understand why soldiers should have to pay for cleaning materials.

There was no doubt, the team said, that as he worked through the training programme the National Serviceman became a more efficient, experienced and dependable soldier. "Whether he becomes a more happy and contented person is another question."

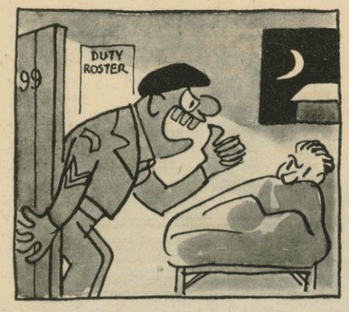
Many National Servicemen thought they were wasting their time in their second year. They should be told frankly that their second year was necessary, not to polish their training, but because the Army could not carry out its commitments without a given number of men.

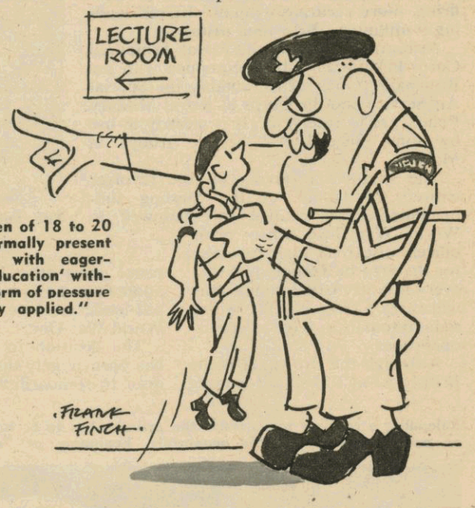
As for education, it was not enough to provide facilities. The extent to which they would be used depended on the personal interest and influence of the commanding officer and his junior officers. "Young men of 18 to 20 do not normally present themselves with eagerness for 'education' without some form of pressure discreetly applied."

TO LEAD DOUBLE LIVES?



Does breakfast in bed on Sunday spoil a soldier for Monday?





"Young men of 18 to 20 do not normally present themselves with eagerness for 'education' without some form of pressure discreetly applied."

WHAT THE ARMY COUNCIL SAID

THE Army Council added their comments to the report. They said that:

. . . they would try to arrange that, when a man was called up into an arm not of his choice, he should receive a brief explanation with his calling-up papers;

. . . they approved the policy of employing a civilian if he could do the job as well as a man in uniform; but as there were no funds to build houses for civilians and to subsidise travel "no dramatic relief" could be expected;

. . . they were once again going into the question of employing more ex-Regulars in depots and similar establishments;

. . . they have debated quite recently the desirability of granting frequent leave, but are of the opinion that "in this country a ban on week-end leave when there are no reasons of duty to keep men with their units would lead to irritation and dissatisfaction which would outweigh the admitted disadvantages mentioned in the report";

. . . they had already drawn the attention of commanding officers to the importance of distinguishing between that kind of discipline which was necessary for military efficiency and that which was merely irritating and frustrating; they agreed it was a situation that needed "constant watching";

. . . they said that as there is much misapprehension over the soldier's clothing allowance (part of which is specifically intended to buy cleaning materials), they were considering whether it might be better, if only for psychological reasons, to provide the materials and cut the allowance accordingly.

The six-shooter had its moments, even in World War Two: an Australian officer with a revolver leads an attack on a German strongpoint in the North African desert.

The Army is gradually giving up the revolver for a more compact, quicker-firing weapon: the self-loading Browning pistol

THE SIX-SHOOTER GOES OUT

THE days of the "six-shooter" revolver in the Army are almost over.

For just over 100 years it has been the officer's personal firearm. Now it is on the way out to make room for a quicker-firing, more accurate weapon: the self-loading 9-millimetre Browning pistol.

Airborne troops and the Royal Armoured Corps have already been equipped with the Browning. Other arms, notably the Special Air Service and the Corps of Royal Military Police, are to receive it. It is already in use by some Special Air Service troops in Malaya.

The Infantry is giving up the revolver entirely in favour of the Sterling sub-machine-gun, a change foreshadowed in World War Two when many officers discarded their revolvers for the Sten or Tommy-gun. But every Infantry battalion in future will carry a reserve of Browning semi-automatics for special operations.

Although the Browning is the British Army's first self-loading pistol, most other major armies adopted it or a similar type of self-loader before and during World War One.

The decision to change now has been largely dictated by the need to standardise still further the small arms ammunition used by the North Atlantic Treaty powers. The United States, Canada, France, Belgium, Holland and Norway all use a 9-millimetre semi-automatic. The change will also simplify the British Army's own ammunition supply problem, for the Browning fires the same ammunition as the Sterling and the Sten.

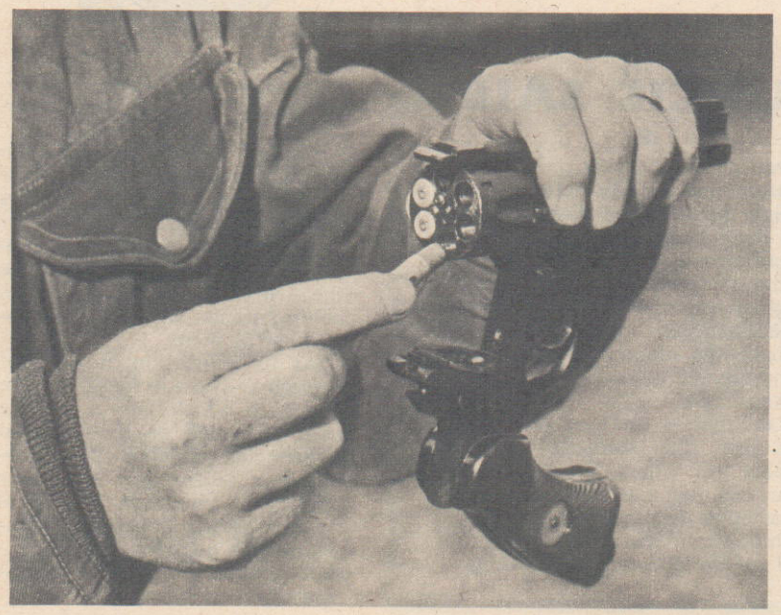
The Enfield .38 revolver: a veteran of two world wars.

The six-shooter played only a modest part in World War Two, but it had its moments. For instance, the big German coastal guns at Cape Gris Nez were captured by men armed with six-shooters (*see "Go In And Flame!"—page 30*). In World War One it was the inevitable weapon carried by officers leading their men "over the top."

The pistol has come a long way since the days when Prince Rupert, with his flintlock, holed the weathercock on St. Mary's Church, Stafford, while standing in a garden 60 paces away. When his uncle, Charles I, protested that it was a lucky shot, he drew a second pistol and repeated the feat.

Flintlock pistols were never

Reloading a revolver takes time: the cylinder has to be held in position as each round is inserted separately, beginning at "nine-o'clock."



When the Browning needs reloading, a new magazine holding 13 rounds is inserted into the butt in a very few seconds.

very highly prized. One writer said that in the Peninsular War they were of little use except to light a fire in bivouac or to shoot a glandered horse.

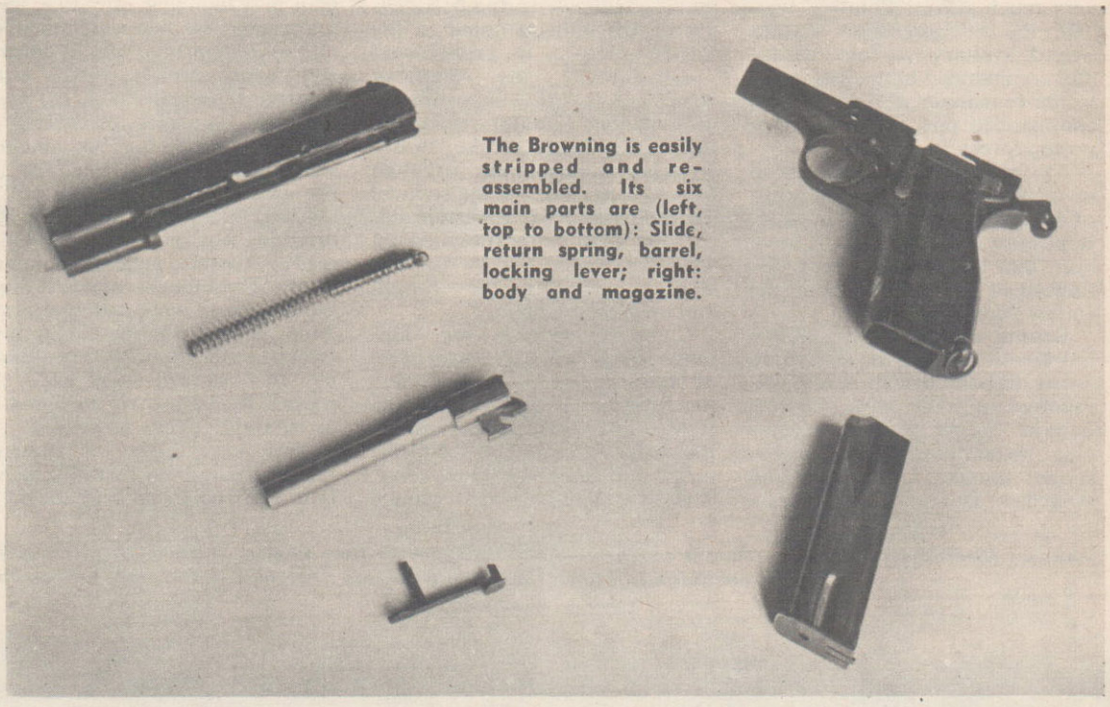
The modern revolver owes its origin to a Scottish minister, the Rev. Alexander Forsyth, who in 1807 patented a method of detonating firearms by percussion. The first percussion revolvers, in which six barrels rotated on a central axis, were known as "pepperpots." It was left to Samuel Colt to polish up the design; then Robert Adams, a London gunsmith, improved on Colt's pattern. His brother John invented the first breech-loading pistol issued to the Army in 1856. By degrees came the Enfield .455 (1872), the Webley .445 (1893), the Enfield .38 and the American Smith and Wesson .38, which was issued in World War Two.

Although gunsmiths had been experimenting with semi-automatic or self-loading pistols since the mid-seventeenth century, the first successful weapon of this type was not produced until 1893. This was the German Borchardt, forerunner of the famous Luger Parabellum, both of which used the recoil to push back a bolt which extracted the spent round and reloaded. In quick succession came many other semi-automatics based on the same principle, including the Mannlicher and Mauser. The Mauser sprang into fashion in the Boer War.

The Browning 9-millimetre self-loader, which the Army now takes over, was invented in 1923 by an American, John M. Browning, but not manufactured until 1935, when it was issued by the Belgian Fabrique Nationale, designers of the FN rifle. It is now made in Canada.

Browning is said to have designed more successful small arms than anyone else. In 1879, at the age of 25, he patented his first single-shot rifle. He designed many sporting firearms, including the Winchester repeating shot-guns, single-shot and repeating rifles and the Colt automatic pistols.

Above, the Browning self-loader is "sighted" from this position for long-range shots and (right) instinctively aimed from the front of the body for short-range targets.



The Browning is easily stripped and re-assembled. Its six main parts are (left, top to bottom): Slide, return spring, barrel, locking lever; right: body and magazine.

THE BROWNING IS A 13-SHOOTER

THE Browning has these advantages over the "six-shooter" revolver:

It can be fired more accurately because it is better balanced and has less of a kick;

It can be fired more rapidly;

Its magazine contains 13 rounds against six;

A spare magazine can be fitted in a matter of seconds.

Tests have shown that while the expert can shoot as straight with a six-shooter revolver as with a Browning, the average soldier gets better results with the self-loading pistol, and after much less training.

At the Small Arms School at Hythe three soldiers who had never handled the Browning self-loader before were ordered to fire at a figure target 30 feet away. They hit the target with every shot.

"If they had been using revolvers they might well have missed with every shot," says one of the School's instructors. "In three days they reached a standard of proficiency that would have taken them months, and perhaps years, to attain with a revolver."

Factors which contribute to the Browning's greater accuracy include these: it fits more compactly and comfortably in the hand; it requires less trigger pressure (eight ounces against 15) to fire; and a great deal of the recoil is taken up by the extra weight, thus absorbing much of the "kick."

The Browning is recoil-operated, the "blow-back" from the fired cartridge ejecting the spent case, reloading a fresh round and cocking the hammer ready for the trigger to be pressed to fire the next shot. It does not fire a stream of bullets as a fully automatic weapon does.

The Browning is some six ounces heavier than the .38 revolver and nearly three inches shorter, but the barrel is approximately the same length. It has a square notched backsight and a blade foresight and is fitted with a safety catch.

Although the semi-automatic pistol has a more complex mechanism than a revolver it is easy to strip, clean and reassemble and is robustly built.

The introduction of the Browning self-loader will not mean that revolver competitions at Bisley will be discontinued—at least for some years to come.

"A WONDER OF MILITARY HISTORY" WAS SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL'S DESCRIPTION OF THE RAISING OF AMERICA'S ARMY IN WORLD WAR TWO. HERE IS A NEW BOOK WHICH TELLS OF AMERICA'S MILITARY TRADITION

We had King Coffee, they had Sitting Bull

THE British sometimes make the smug mistake of supposing that America has no military tradition.

If this were so, the fact that the American Army finished World War Two with 89 divisions, six Marine divisions, eight air forces and three navies would have been even more staggering than it was. Sir Winston Churchill called it "a wonder of military history."

The truth is that America *has* its own clear military tradition. Proof of it is to be found in "The Military Heritage of America" (*McGraw Hill, 56s 6d*) an 800-page book written by two professional soldiers who are father and son: Colonel R. Ernest Dupuy (retired) and Colonel Trevor N. Dupuy.

BOOKSHELF

Much useful military knowledge was gained in the regrettable American Civil War. This struggle, say the authors, "produced a revolutionary effect upon the military art. From it sprang an entirely new concept of fluidity in war, of mobility and firepower in combination, which influenced later modern war."

Incidentally, the Civil War was very much a West Pointers' war. "Of the 60 important battles waged, Military Academy graduates commanded both sides in 55; in the remainder a West Pointer commanded one of the two opposing forces."

All, with the partial exception of General Lee, had been pupils of one man, Dennis Hart Mahan. It was not in the Civil War, however, that West Pointers first distinguished themselves, but in the earlier Mexican War.

During the latter part of the nineteenth century the American Army, like the British Army, was involved in "little wars." Where Britain fought Pathans, Zulus and Ashantis the Americans fought Sioux, Cheyennes and Apaches. Britain was defied by King Coffee and The Mahdi, the Americans by Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull. And doughty adversaries they were, too.

"Our regulars," write the authors, "spent their lives in tiny, isolated frontier army posts, where dull routine was relieved only by occasional interludes of deadly but relatively small-scale fighting. It was not an atmosphere conducive to the broadening of the military mind in the higher aspect of its profession."

Occasionally, the American Army was scandalously ill-used in a manner familiar enough to the British Army of old: "Congress had nonchalantly forgotten to pass a pay bill for the services for the fiscal year 1876, and officer and man both subsisted on what they could borrow for one whole year, while they fought and died on the plains."

Came World War One. This taught America the importance of "logistics"—the art of "getting there fustest with the mostest." It was an unprecedented task to maintain an army of 2,000,000 men in a theatre 3000 miles away. The British and French wanted to use General John Pershing's men as reinforcements—"They knew how to fight; we did not. They were short of men; we had them." What a row there was on that account! Pershing won: the American Army fought as the American Army.

In World War Two American inventiveness knew no limits. "Call it what you will—the American spirit of 'make do' or an equally American passion for cutting corners—our people were obsessed with the notion that improved technical methodology could be applied to the problems of war. One of its most important outcroppings was in the development of amphibious techniques."

General Douglas MacArthur has been the subject of so much sniping that it is timely to quote this tribute: "When boldness and ingenuity are combined by one man in a two-year offensive, uninterrupted by reverses, utilising all the principles of war to defeat an enemy well armed, well trained, fanatically valiant, and normally superior in strength, one can come to but one conclusion: The man is unique. He is the greatest captain of his era."

Came 1946 . . . and of those 89 divisions not one was "combat-ready." Grimly, generals pointed to the Communist menace; but "such officers were denounced as 'brass' trying to perpetuate a dictatorial authority now threatened by the sudden outbreak of peace." Korea proved the "brass" to be right. They often are.

This book is for the student rather than the general reader. It is fair, balanced and lucid.

Executioner knew best . . .

CHARLES DRAGE wrote a remarkable biography of "Two-Gun Cohen," who became a legend in the Chinese Nationalist Army.

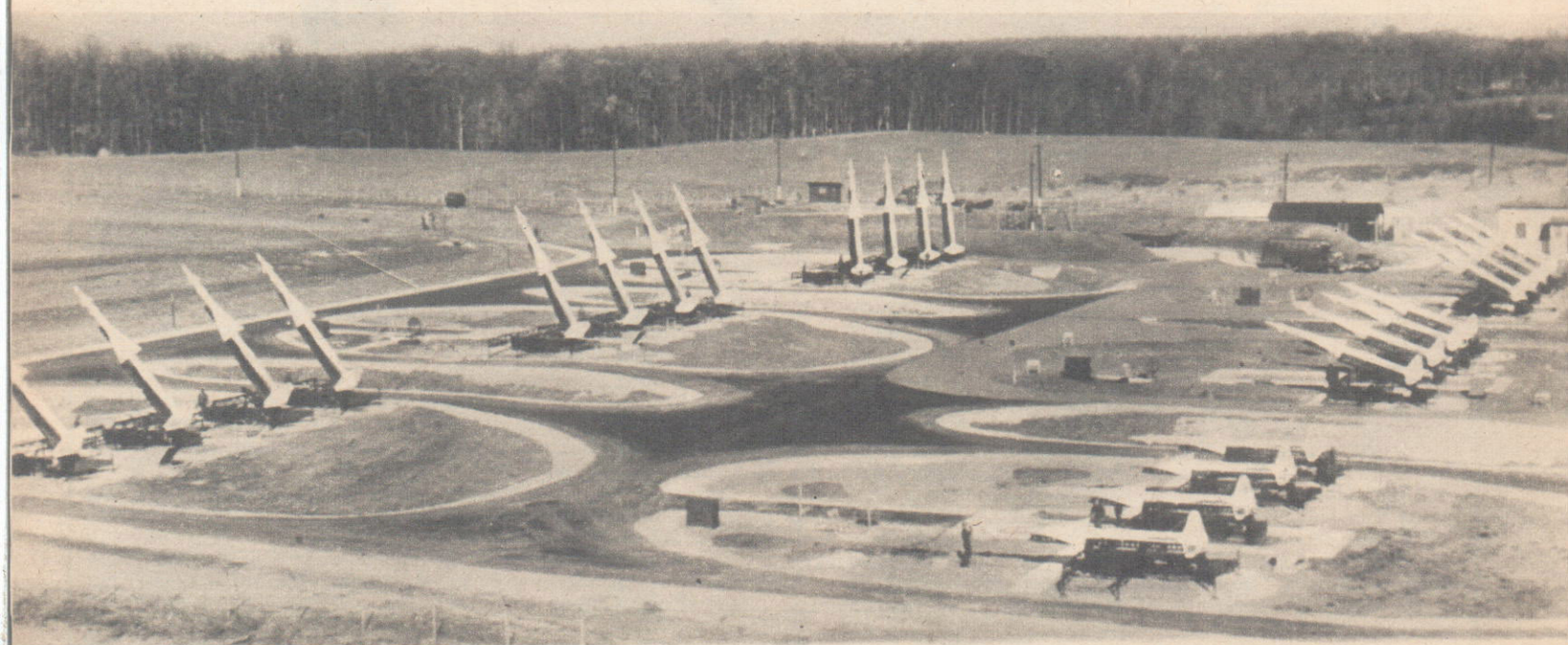
He has now found a subject for a biography in his own family. At a quick glance, "Chindwin to Criccieth" (*Gwenlyn Evans, Ltd., Carnarvon, 12s 6d*) might seem one of those unduly reverent books written for a limited circle of friends. It is not.

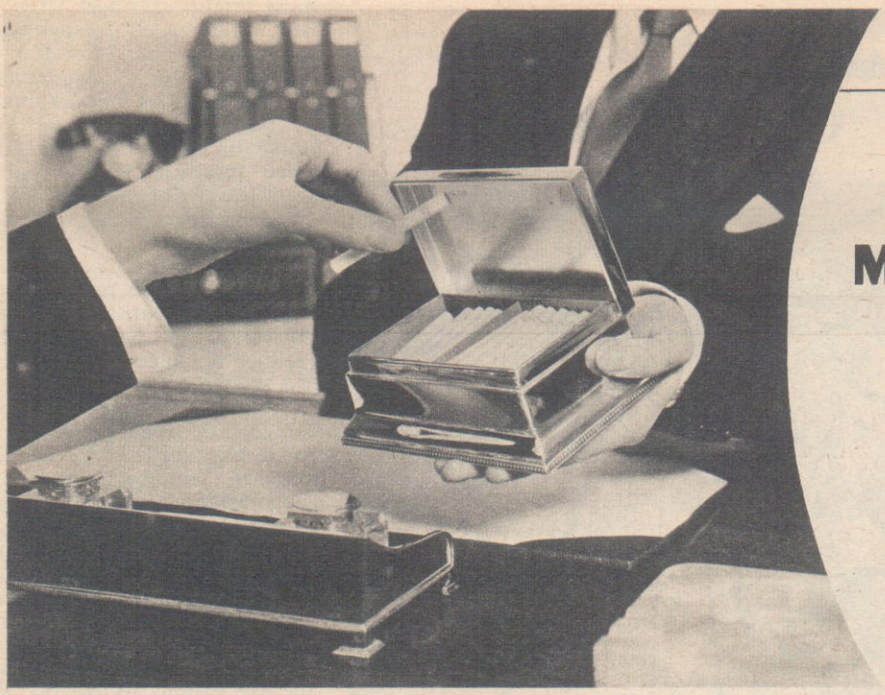
It is a delightful account of a soldier, Lieut-Col Godfrey Drage, who was commissioned at the time of the Cardwell reforms and lived to be a Home Guard organiser in World War Two.

At one time, Colonel Drage became a "political" in the Shan States of Burma. As Adviser to the Sawbwa of Hsipaw, he combated graft, theft, feminine intrigue, rogue elephants and dacoits. Riding one day in Kengtung he saw a bare-to-the-waist executioner slash off a man's head with one blow. Shooting would be more seemly, Colonel Drage decided; alas, it turned out to be less humane, for the firing squads were indifferent shots.

In the Kaiser's War Colonel Drage commanded a battalion of The Royal Munster Fusiliers, then a battalion of The Cheshires. He won two DSOs.

And now America sets the pace. Here is one of three missile-launching sites ringing Washington. Its six batteries of Nike rockets, operated by push-button, are shown in various launching positions. The battery in centre background is ready to fire.





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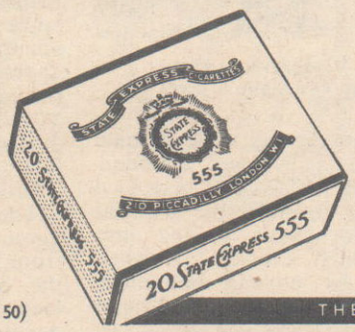

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ENCLOSED FIND ONE EAR . . .

AMONG the many odd things sent through the post, in occupied France, were human ears.

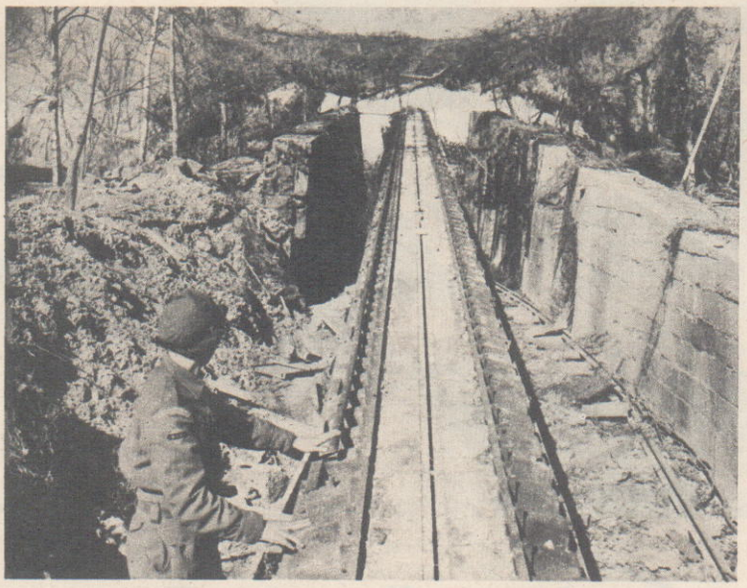
A man who paled on finding one in his morning mail would pale even more when he read the accompanying note: "This is the ear of a collaborator. If you want to keep yours in its right place be warned in time."

The ears, if truth must be told, were not the ears of collaborators. They were obtained from various medical faculties in which the French Resistance had its agents.

This story is told by Jacques Bergier in his fascinating "Secret Weapons—Secret Agents" (*Hurst and Blackett, 18s*).

The author was one of a group who specialised in ferreting out details of German scientific weapons. They tipped off Britain about both V1 and V2.

At the outset, making contact with British agents, even with General de Gaulle's organisation, was peculiarly difficult. At length, in Switzerland, the French patriot-scientists offered valuable micro-films to a British agent who, mistaking his visitors for venal secret-peddlers, asked crudely, "How much?" At the next meeting a senior British officer was there to apologise. "We were unaware that we were dealing with gentlemen," he said.



Launching ramp for a flying bomb. The book reviewed here tells how the French Resistance passed on V-weapon secrets.

Much of M. Bergier's story would fit into a Hitchcock film: the Resistance cell operated from a school for blind children who, in an emergency, tried to hide incriminating evidence; a rendezvous with an invisible man in a planetarium, under the artificial stars; documents packed into bags which caught fire when opened by anyone unfamiliar with the secret of the lock; and those cryptic messages from the BBC which meant so much to the Resistance.

The book contains an incidental glimpse of Admiral Canaris, the Nazi Intelligence chief, infiltrating his agents into New York. Their task was to plant ultra-short-wave transmitters on various skyscrapers so that, some day, guided rockets could be "homed" to the heart of Manhattan.

Inevitably, the ranks of the courageous scientist-sleuths were thinned by the Gestapo. When Jacques Bergier was arrested he was offered a chance of working for the Germans on radar development. This he spurned. In concentration camps he was subjected to tortures about which he is understandably reticent. One of them involved staggering round a pond carrying a cross nearly three times his weight. The camp commandant wagered a bottle of schnapps that the Frenchman would not last a week. He lost.

Running through this book is an expression of regret that British Intelligence were slow to appreciate the significance of the scientific information fed to them at such risk. To the Resistance, the raid on Peenemunde, where V2s were tested, seemed infinitely delayed. There may be another side to this story, but M. Bergier is entitled to give his version.

The scientists were asked many questions by Britain—anything from, "What is the diameter of the ball-bearings being manufactured for the Germans at Annecy?" to "How far have the Germans got with the uranium bomb?" (1942).

It is not hard to imagine the risks run in finding the answers to even the simpler-seeming questions. To the courage and resource of these French patriots Britain and her Allies owe an immense debt.

What It Was All About

THERE is already a generation of adults who have only the sketchiest idea of what happened in the years 1939-45. They were at their school desks, learning about earlier wars.

Members of this generation sometimes feel out of it when listening to fathers and older brothers talking about Arnhem and Tobruk. Yet they are unlikely to start mugging up a multi-volume official history of Hitler's war.

Hence the publication of "The World at War: 1939-1945" (*Putnam, 15s*), by Edgar Holt, a straightforward, single-volume account of what happened in those tremendous years. It gives not only the broad picture of the campaigns but has piquant reminders of what war meant on the home front. Many a 20-year-old today would laugh incredulously if told that, when he was a boy, there were laws against serving pots of tea and putting pockets on pyjamas.

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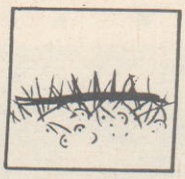
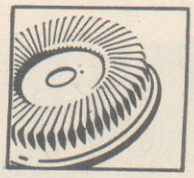
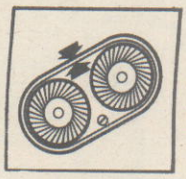


1 Here's your skin before shaving— covered with a jungle of hairs growing in every possible direction.



2 These are the slots in the 'Philishave' skin-guards— set in all directions to catch hairs *growing* in all directions.



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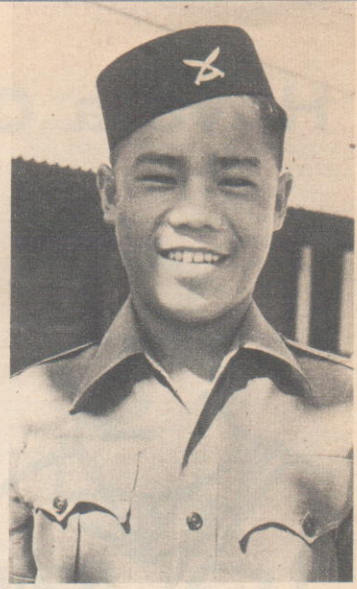

Left: "Armed" with umbrellas (gifts for the folks at home in Nepal) Gurkha soldiers wait for their leave plane at Singapore airfield. Right: Air trooping is a thrill for Gurkha boys—but they must travel in civilian clothes.

GURKHA SHUTTLE

UNTIL recently, when Gurkhas serving in Malaya went on six-months leave (as they do once every three years), they were away from their units for nearly 12 months. It took them at least five months to travel home to Nepal and back.

Now, thanks to an air-trooping service between Singapore and Calcutta, a flight of nearly 2000 miles, they are rarely away for more than seven months. Thus, the Brigade gains four months more service from each man. Recruits and replacements are also flown to Malaya.

The "Gurkha Shuttle," as the service is called by Airwork Limited, takes place twice a year, in the spring and autumn. The Hermes aircraft which fly the leave parties from Singapore return loaded with those who have completed their leave.

Singapore airfield is a colourful sight when the Gurkha families arrive. The men wear civilian clothes because the aircraft passes over Indian territory, but their wives and children deck themselves out in their gayest clothes.

On the homeward flight, which takes nine hours, the aircraft generally puts down at Bangkok and then flies non-stop across the Bay of Bengal to Dum-Dum airfield just outside Calcutta. Sometimes the Hermes flies direct from Singapore to Calcutta and passengers are served on board with curried chicken and rice.

From Calcutta the Gurkhas and their families make their way by rail to the borders of Nepal, where those who live in the interior face the hardest part of their homeward journey. The railway stops just inside Nepal near Katmandu. So they hire porters to carry their luggage and set off on foot. Sometimes they may be ten days on the road before they reach home.

The Gurkhas take kindly to air travel and air hostesses say they are the world's most polite passengers. But one hostess had a few words to say when she found two Gurkhas in the toilet cooking *chaputti* (an Indian curry dish) on a primus stove when the Hermes was well out over the Bay of Bengal.

Above: British and Gurkha military police with vehicles used by them in southern Malaya. Right: A change to an Infantry rôle. Lance-Corporal Jock Coughlin and Corporal Narsing Pun move warily through the jungle on an anti-terrorist patrol.

MILITARY POLICE AND RIFLEMEN TOO

AN unusual unit is 17 Gurkha Infantry Divisional Provost Company, Gurkha Military Police.

Established by Royal Proclamation in September 1955, it consists of a military police unit incorporated into the Infantry and the Brigade of Gurkhas, thus making it senior in the Army List to the Corps of Royal Military Police.

British soldiers volunteer for service with this unit and serve side by side with the soldiers from Nepal.

On parade, the Company has now adopted the 140 paces marching time peculiar to the Gurkha Rifle battalions. It is, in fact, as much a Rifle company as a Provost company.

Early last year the Divisional commander decided to put the Company into the field as a complete Infantry unit. The Company Commander, Major B. Bonniface, was given one week to have his unit ready at a predetermined location for anti-terrorist operations.

The Company's sections at that time were scattered throughout the Divisional area in southern Malaya. They had to be recalled to Company Headquarters, equipped, and formed into Infantry platoons—all within seven days.

There was no delay. In a week's time the Company, complete in every detail, was based on a disused tin mine in southern Malaya and under operational command.

A few days later it had taken over duties from a Rifle company of the Royal Hampshires, well-seasoned jungle fighters, and it went on to serve six months in the jungle. A few days before it was relieved from operational duties, it was honoured by a surprise visit from the Prime Minister of the Malayan State in which it had served.

In the Company commander's notes of the jungle operations is a mention of "a five-foot King Cobra that met its Waterloo whilst being refused admittance to the Sergeants' Mess."

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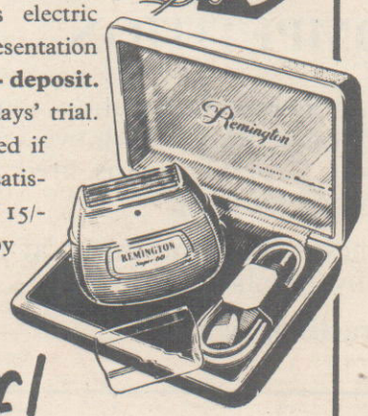

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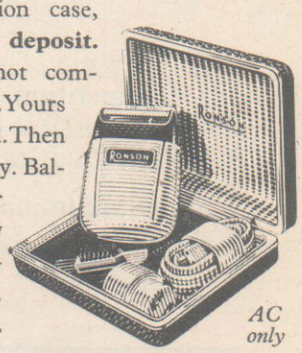

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LETTERS

TELEVISION

Having recently returned with my family from an overseas tour I expect to remain in England for two years. We would like a television set, but if I purchase one the loss on moving again would be considerable and the terms for a short-term rental are just as uninviting. Does the Army Kinema Corporation rent television sets for married quarters as well as for messes? —**"Warrant Officer."**

★*No.*

KING OF SWEDEN

Please settle an argument. Is the King of Sweden Colonel-in-Chief of any British regiment? If so, which?—**"Alec."**

★*Shortly after the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh returned from Sweden last year it was announced that King Gustav VI of Sweden had honoured the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) by becoming its first Colonel-in-Chief. King Gustav served for a spell as an officer in two Swedish Cavalry regiments.*

EMIGRATING

At the end of my terminal leave I shall emigrate to Canada, temporarily leaving my family. Can my wife draw my pension while I am away and is it possible to commute a portion of it to pay for the family's passage to Canada when I am able to send for them?—**"Searcher."**

★*A pensioner is given an opportunity of stating whether he wishes to make an allotment to his wife or allow her to draw the pension herself. The terminal grant is designed to help with resettlement, but commutation for passage money may be favourably considered. Arrangements can be made for the balance of the pension to be paid periodically by the Ministry of Pensions, Ottawa.*

I am emigrating to Australia. Having been a keen Territorial for eight years I hope to carry on my part-time soldiering "down under." Has SOLDIER any information on the Australian Territorial Army?—**R. H. Baird, 68 Mariner Road, Falkirk.**

● 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.

★*The Citizens' Military Force in Australia is equivalent to the Territorial Army in the United Kingdom. Experienced volunteers are welcome and quickly become non-commissioned officers.*

FIRST "ROYAL"

Two of your correspondents have attempted to upset the claim of the Royal Pioneer Corps to the honour of having earned the "Royal" title more quickly than any other formation of the British Army.

Claiming the distinction for the Royal Tank Regiment, the Honorary Secretary of the Military Historical Society, while admitting that the Pioneers beat the Tanks by a few days, contends that because of their remote connection with the Labour Corps of the First World War the claim of the Pioneers is invalidated, and argues that the period of the existence of the old Labour Corps should be added to the age of the Pioneers in determining the qualifying period. Mr. Martin overlooks the fact, however, that the Royal Tank Regiment was an offshoot of the Heavy Section of the Machine-Gun Corps, so that in computing the Royal Tank Regiment's claim, if his contention is accepted, he must also take into account the Machine-Gun Corps's previous service.

Brigadier James's claim on behalf of the Royal Corps of Signals has even less substance for obviously no regiment or corps, however distinguished, could possibly earn the "Royal" honour on its own merits in one month. The Royal Corps of Signals were an amputated limb of the Royal Engineers (which had carried out the signals work of the Army since 1870) and simply carried the Sappers' "Royal" title with them on formation, in the same way that REME did at a later date.

One of your Canadian readers was good enough to write to me making a claim on behalf of the Carleton and York Regiment, later designated the Royal New Brunswick Regiment, but, as he was generous enough to acknowledge, the claim made by the Royal Pioneer Corps is restricted to the British Army and so is not affected.—**Major E. H. Rhodes-Wood, Hon. Sec. Royal Pioneer Corps Historical Committee.**

BULL

Congratulations to J. H. S. Locke for his views on "bull" (December). The letter should be distributed to all the daily newspapers so fond of conversing on this subject.—**S. R. Sellwood, Shevington Camp, Chipperfield.**

ESCAPED PRISONER

In September 1943 I escaped from a prisoner-of-war camp in Italy and reached the Allied lines two months later. I contacted a Canadian regiment and remained with them for five days. During this time I went out on a reconnaissance patrol to reveal some enemy positions I had seen while getting through. Repatriated to the United Kingdom, I applied unsuccessfully for the Italy campaign star. The reason for refusal was that I was not on the strength of a unit serving in Italy at the time (I had been taken prisoner in Africa). Surely, having gone on a patrol with the Canadians, I must have been considered as on their strength? I understand that other escaped prisoners-of-war have received the Italy Star.—**"Warrant Officer."**

★*Claims for campaign medals by men who escaped from the enemy need the supporting evidence of the senior British officer present or a responsible witness who has first-hand knowledge of the service claimed. Helping a unit in the circumstances described does not necessarily mean that a man is on that unit's strength.*

WORSE THAN JAIL

I read with much interest your article on new barracks (January). One of the old barracks still in use is the Depot, Maidstone, which was built in 1797. Edgar Wallace, the prolific crime writer, served there with the Royal West Kent Regiment nearly 60 years ago and his opinion is worth recalling. In his autobiography "People," he wrote: "Generally speaking, the accommodation was inferior to the average workhouse and very much below the standard maintained at Dartmoor Prison."—**"Man o' Kent."**

TERRITORIAL MEDAL

Can SOLDIER put me right as to my entitlement to the Efficiency Decoration or Efficiency Medal (Territorial Army)? I was called-up in June 1940 and served in the ranks until April 1946. From then until June of the following year I was on Class "Z" Reserve, when I enlisted in the Territorial Army and served in the ranks until commissioned in April 1953.—**"Lowlander."**

★*Although this officer is not qualified for the Efficiency Medal, continuity of service maintained by joining the Territorial Army before 1 November 1947 enables him to count his Other Rank service from 1940 at half-rate. He should receive the Efficiency Decoration in 1959.*

HERE are four of the girls who work at the Army's Home Postal Depot, now located at Acton, London. On left are two sisters, Private Gillian and Lance-Corporal Jean Rees; above are Private Sylvia Parker (left) and Private Eleany Johnson.

These girl sorters travel by coach between Acton and their quarters at Kingston. For five weeks they are on night shift (which means an evening off before duty begins), then 10 weeks on day shift. They work alongside NCOs and men of the Royal Engineers. Often, handling mail for far-away places, they sigh for an overseas posting, but the closest they will ever get to Kingston, Jamaica while in the Army Postal Service is Kingston, Surrey.

MORE LETTERS

NEW POSTER?

I was fascinated to learn from the January SOLDIER that the "domestic comforts" which may be claimed by a regimental sergeant-major include a pair of nutcrackers, a set of "glasses, port" and a "fork, toasting."

Surely here is a chance for the recruiting experts, who are always looking for a new angle. They could put out a poster showing a plump, contented RSM sitting in front of a warm fire, a glass of port in one hand, a toasting fork in the other and a bowl of nuts in his lap. The slogan could be something like: "Join the Army for a Life of Comfort!"—**"Envious."**

CASUALTY FAKING

I am sure that a number of young men who have found "casualty faking" so fascinating during their Army service (see "The Toilers in the 'Morgue'," SOLDIER, November) will be interested to know that they can carry on with this kind of work in civilian life by joining Casualties Union.

Casualties Union is a voluntary organization of men and women who are trained to act as casualties. Make-up technique is closely allied to that of the Royal Army Medical Corps (displays of whose excellent work many of us have seen at our annual competition, Buxton Trophy). Signs and symptoms of injury and illness are carefully reproduced and special attention given to staging of incidents. The Union is an "open" organization and collaborates with all bodies interested in first aid. It has world-wide links. Those who would like more information should write to The General Secretary, Casualties Union, 318, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1.—**Mary Drayton, Publicity Officer, Casualties Union.**

RUSSIAN GUN

Was that a tank on page seven of the January SOLDIER, or, as I suspect, a self-propelled gun?—**"RTR."**

★*The vehicle (captured in Egypt) was a Russian SU100 self-propelled field gun mounted on a Russian T34 tank chassis and hull. The gun fires a 100-millimetre round (roughly equivalent to the British 17-pounder) and is mounted at the front of the vehicle in an armoured cupola which traverses through only 18 degrees.*

The gun and vehicle together weigh about 30 tons. Unlike British self-propelled guns the SU100 is steered by the clutch and brake method. It has a good cross-country performance.

The SU100 has a crew of four (commander, gunner, wireless operator and driver) and is fitted with a 12-cylinder diesel engine developing 500 horse-power at 2000 revolutions. Its maximum speed is 36 miles an hour, cruising at between 15 and 20. There is three-inch armour-plating on the hull.

"Frost-bite gangrene"—as faked by the Altrincham branch of Casualties Union (see *letter*).

BLUE AND WHITE

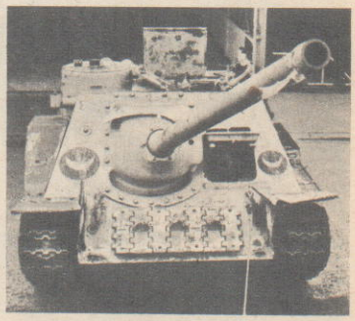
On television, I saw something of the glitter and pomp of that Royal dinner at Chelsea Hospital. What a pity we did not see the NAAFI waitresses. What did *they* wear?—**"Daisy."**

★*They wore the blue-and-white uniforms customary at all NAAFI's "special caterings."*

CHRISTMAS ISLAND

Can SOLDIER tell us something about what the British Army is doing on Christmas Island? I realise that there are probably security difficulties, but life out there cannot be as secret as all that.—**"Roland."**

* *Next month* SOLDIER *hopes to publish a feature dealing with the Army on Christmas Island.*



Two views of the captured SU 100 self-propelled gun, now in Britain.

SYMBOLISM

Who decided the choice of colours used for the ribbons of World War Two campaign stars and medals and what do the colours represent?—**Major E. H. Haskins, RA, 69 Orchard Valley, Hythe, Kent.**

★*The colour schemes were sanctioned by the late King George VI. In the 1939-45 Star, Africa Star and Pacific Star the dark blue stands for the merchant and fighting navies, the red for the armies and the light blue for the air forces. In the Africa Star the buff denotes desert; in the Pacific Star the green and yellow denote forest and beaches. The watered blue, white and sea-green of the Atlantic Star are symbolic of that ocean. In the Burma Star the orange denotes the sun, the red stripe the Commonwealth land forces and the blue stripe the merchant and fighting navies. The red, white and green of the Italy Star are the Italian national colours, and the red, white and blue of the France and Germany Star are those of the British, French and Dutch flags. In the Defence Medal, green represents Britain's fields, flame the enemy's attack and black the black-out. Obviously there must be gaps in the symbolism—there are no Belgian colours, for instance, in the France and Germany Star.*

FIELD-MARSHALS

Who are the field-marshals of the British Army? I maintain that the Duke of Windsor vacated the rank on his abdication.—**C. G. Andrews, 16 Blossom Waye, Heston, Middlesex.**

★*The Duke of Windsor is still a field-marshal and is the most senior of the twelve.*

The others, in their order of seniority, are Lord Ironside, Viscount Alanbrooke, Earl Alexander, Viscount Montgomery, Lord Wilson, Sir Claude Auchinleck, Sir William Slim, the Duke of Edinburgh, Sir John Harding, the Duke of Gloucester and Sir Gerald Templer.

BROKEN SERVICE

I served before, during and after World War Two and completed 12 years service. I was out of the Army for four years eight months, then re-enlisted for a further 12 years. On completion of my current engagement will my previous service entitle me to a pension or must I complete 22 years unbroken service?—**"REME Sergeant."**

★*As the break was less than five years, previous service will count for pension. This non-commissioned officer will, in fact, qualify before he has completed his present engagement.*

MBE AND BEM

Can SOLDIER solve a problem concerning the CBE, OBE, MBE and BEM? Which ranks are entitled to each and what are the colours of the ribbons?—**Gunner F. Fearon, 58 Medium Regiment RA, BAOR.**

★*The CBE, OBE and MBE are three of the five classes of the Order of the British Empire. The medal of the Order, the British Empire Medal, is awarded only to uncommissioned ranks. A recipient may, however, continue to wear it if later appointed a member of the Order.*

There is an appropriate grading for each of the five classes of the Order, but it is not rigid. For instance, selected nominees from warrant officer up to major are normally made Members of the Order, but in an exceptional instance a major can be appointed an Officer of the Order, a distinction usually reserved for lieutenant-colonels. Normally only colonels and brigadiers become Commanders of the Order, and lieutenant-generals Knights Commander. The first class of the Order, Knights Grand Cross or GBE, is reserved for the highest ranks.

The ribbon, originally purple, was altered 20 years ago to rose-pink edged with pearl-grey and bearing a central narrow stripe of the same shade. The central stripe is omitted in the civilian ribbon. The ribbon for the British Empire Medal is the same as that for the Order, but is a quarter of an inch narrower.

PERMANENT STAFF

It has been reported that there is a gap of 25,000 men to be filled before the Territorial Army can begin to be regarded as a balanced force. Surely the first essential is a contented permanent staff, preferably volunteers, who are prepared to undergo a course that will teach them Territorial Army methods of pay and other administrative duties, refresh their technical knowledge and provide an assessment of their suitability. There does not appear today to be the same enthusiasm by Regular soldiers for employment with the Territorial Army, such as existed before World War Two.—**"Army Enthusiast."**

RESERVE PAY

To settle an argument, can SOLDIER state whether an officer who accepts a short-service commission for three years and is on the Reserve for another four years receives Reserve pay?—**Miss F. Palmer, 5 Church Place, St. Ives, Cornwall.**

★*Only Other Ranks are eligible for Reserve pay.*

NO PENSION

I am serving on a 22-year engagement which ends next year, but as I have been offered good civilian employment I would like to "retire" a year earlier. If this is permissible, how much notice must I give and what effect would it have on my pension and terminal grant? Would I be placed on the Reserve?—**"Hussar."**

★*No fixed period of notice is required in order to obtain a free discharge after 21 years. By so doing this soldier will receive only a gratuity of £415 and no pension or terminal grant. He would be on the General Reserve until June, 1959.*

CANADIAN VC

The American Numismatic Society also has a Victoria Cross which, it is claimed, belonged to Timothy O'Hea (Letters, November). To my knowledge it was examined by the makers along with the one in the Rifle Brigade museum at Winchester. They were unable to determine which was the genuine article. Can SOLDIER say whether it has finally been determined which Victoria Cross is the original?—**Lieutenant Cushing Lord, United States Navy, Indiana, USA.**

★*The original Victoria Cross awarded to O'Hea and the copy belonging to the American Numismatic Society were examined by experts in 1953. They were satisfied beyond all doubt, so* SOLDIER *is informed, that the one in the museum at Winchester is the original.*

Private O'Hea won his VC for heroism in a blazing ammunition train in Canada, in 1866.

OVER . . .

MORE LETTERS

TWIN LOYALTIES

Men serving in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Army Catering Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps and so on, who are permanently attached to other corps and regiments, are sometimes required to wear dress embellishments and badges other than their own. There is also the vexed question of the correct shade of web-equipment renovator to be used.

It would appear from regulations that there should be no deviation from the corps dress as laid down. Many commanding officers insist, however, that items of their own unit dress should be worn by men who are attached. If this is permitted one shudders to think what uniform, for example, an Army Catering Corps cook might wear if attached to a Highland regiment—or the resulting effect on the Royal Military Police.

As a staff sergeant of the Royal Army Pay Corps, which has many of its soldiers attached to large units, I am interested in what SOLDIER has to say.—**"Fide et Fiducia."**

★*The presence in a major unit of men of other arms is the rule rather than the exception. Such specialists have dual loyalties.*

If the commanding officer of a major unit makes an official request for them to wear his regimental arm or shoulder flash, lanyard or collar badge, it is likely that he will obtain permission. Nevertheless, the Royal Army Pay Corps prefer their own men to wear a distinguishing embellishment as a matter of pride. The shade of web-equipment renovator to be used is a matter for the local commander.

NEW COLOURS

Sergeant J. B. Cavanagh stated (Letters, December) that he was not aware of any unit of the Territorial Army other than the 4/5th Battalion, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, having had a presentation of new Colours since World War Two. The Queen, as Captain-General, presented new Colours to the Honourable Artillery Company in July 1955.—**A. I. H. Richards, 67 Upton Road, Bexleyheath.**

The 4th Battalion The Green Howards received new Colours from the Princess Royal in September 1950. Like the 4/5th Queen's Own Royal West Kents. their original Colours were presented by King Edward VII in 1909.—**Staff-Sergeant C. Robinson, RASC, Hastings.**

The 4th Battalion The Dorset Regiment were given their new Colours in June 1956 by the Duchess of Kent.—**Captain D. C. Munn, Adjutant, 4 Wiltshire Regiment, Devizes.**

The 304 (Essex Yeomanry, RHA) Field Regiment RA, received new Colours as long ago as November 1949. The presentation was made by Colonel Sir Francis Whitmore, who commanded the Colour party at the first presentation in 1909.—**Sergeant P. F. Hayward, Elm Park, Hornchurch.**

The Inns of Court Regiment RAC paraded in the Inner Temple in May 1954 to receive new Colours from the Queen Mother.—**Sergeant C. C. Wicker, 10 Stuart Mill House, Killick Street, London.**

The Duke of Gloucester presented Colours not only to the 18th (Royal Warwickshire) Battalion, Parachute Regiment, but to the other two battalions of 45 Parachute Brigade, in 1952.—**Corporal P. M. Horne, WRAC, 1 Rowland Road, Great Barr, Birmingham.**

New Colours were presented to the 4/7th Battalion The Gordon Highlanders last August by the Duke of Gloucester.—**Sergeant J. J. Barker, 46 Crown Crescent, Peterculter, Aberdeenshire.**

The new Colours presented to the 7/9th Battalion The Royal Scots in August 1955 by the Princess Royal replaced those awarded to 9th Battalion in 1909 and carried since the amalgamation. The old Colours of the 7th Battalion were laid-up in 1921.—**W. A. Thorburn, assistant curator, Scottish United Services Museum, Edinburgh.**

New Colours were handed to the 4th Battalion The East Yorkshire Regiment by Colonel Lord Middleton in September 1953.—**Major H. A. K. McGonigal (rtd), 20 North Bar Without, Beverley.**

As a sergeant in the Home Guard I was present when Field-Marshal Sir John Harding presented new Colours to the 4th Battalion The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in August 1954.—**K. W. Hall, 33 Aston Street, Oxford.**

★*Doubtless there are more instances.*

NERY

The article "Come on—Who's for the Guns?" (SOLDIER, November) was of special interest to me, as I was a member of the 11th Hussars patrol on the morning in question. It consisted of a corporal and four troopers. We moved off at dawn with instructions to make contact with the French if possible. Some soldiers outside the farmhouse at the top of the hill waved to us through the mist. Assuming that they were French we waved back.

Pushing on through a field of cut corn, we were spotted by a Uhlan lancer. As the mist lifted we saw a complete German Cavalry division lined up facing Nery and ready to move. How could we warn the Brigade? Our corporal ordered me and another trooper to fire a few rounds rapid, hoping those at Brigade would hear. We made off as quickly as possible and reached Nery just as the Germans opened fire. Those of us in the patrol mutually agreed to say nothing about the incident as it was felt it might be thought that we were responsible for bringing down the German fire on our own Brigade. I have never met any of the other four since, although I go to Hyde Park each year for the Cavalry memorial service. —**J. A. Ford, 147 Old Oak Common Lane, East Acton, London.**

SOLDIER's Cover

The painting by Douglas Anderson from which SOLDIER's front cover is reproduced shows a junior officer of the 5th (Royal Irish) Lancers. The period is approximately 1900.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(See page 18)

The second picture differs from the first in these respects: Thickness of tree branch at top left; top of signpost; length of paint brush; number of drips on paint tin; number of hut windows; position of officer; direction of small signpost; distant soldier's beret; slope of broom; shape of sergeant's ear.

40 COUNTRIES—AND NEVER EAST OF IRAQ

SO far no reader of SOLDIER has improved on the total of 49 countries visited during Army service (Letters, January).

In the West Indies, however, is a warrant officer who has visited more than 40 countries without having been stationed east of Iraq or on the Continent of Europe.

He is Warrant Officer J. Mortlock, of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, an armaments inspector, now entering his 27th year in the Army.

Joining the Royal Army Ordnance Corps as a boy in 1930, Warrant Officer Mortlock first went overseas, to Palestine, with the Wiltshire Regiment in 1936. During this time he visited Egypt on duty and went on leave to Syria. In the late 1930s he was posted to the West Indies, being based on Jamaica, and spent the whole of the war in the Caribbean area, visiting almost all the islands and some of the South American republics. In 1941 his aircraft made a forced landing in Cuba. Next year he journeyed through Central America as a diplomatic courier, spending Christmas in Mexico.

At the end of the war, while on his way back to Britain, Mr. Mortlock celebrated VJ-Day in New York and a year later, returning to the Caribbean, landed in Canada.

In 1951 Warrant Officer Mortlock flew to Tripolitania and from there, on inspections of small arms, to Egypt,

Man about the West Indies: WO1 J. Mortlock.

Cyrenaica, Jordan, Cyprus, Iraq, the Sudan and Aden. While flying to Aden he had his second narrow escape, the aircraft being forced down in the Sudan desert.

Then, in 1955, he was off to the Caribbean again, this time travelling via Bermuda to Jamaica. That year, while on a tour of inspection in the Windward Isles with the brigadier commanding the Caribbean area, Mr. Mortlock re-enlisted for another three years, the brigadier signing him on in his hotel in Grenada. Later that year Mr. Mortlock also visited the South American States of Curacao and Venezuela (for the second time). On a previous tour he had been to Colombia.

Warrant Officer Mortlock has had some unusual tasks. Once, in Bermuda, he inspected a pair of Maxim machine-guns made in 1908 and still in use, and in a British Honduras prison he checked a pair of cat-o'-nine-tails.

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SOLDIER

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

SOPHIA LOREN

in "The Pride and the Passion"