

SOLDIER

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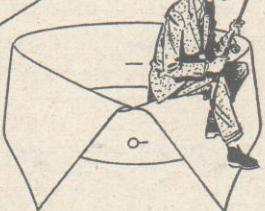
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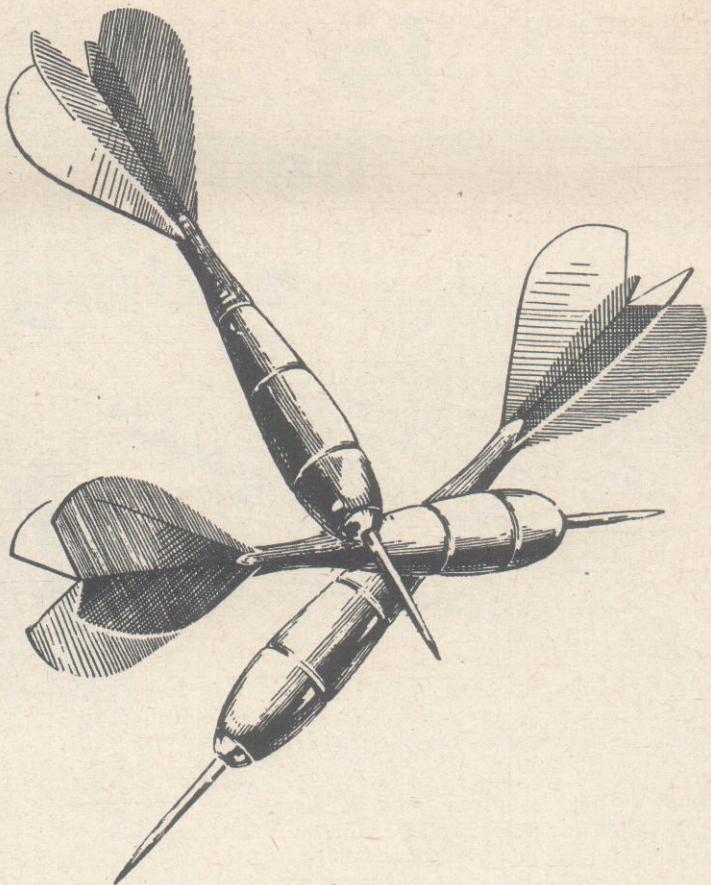
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'Stick to the island, dear,' warned her husband, plucking her second dart out of the wall.

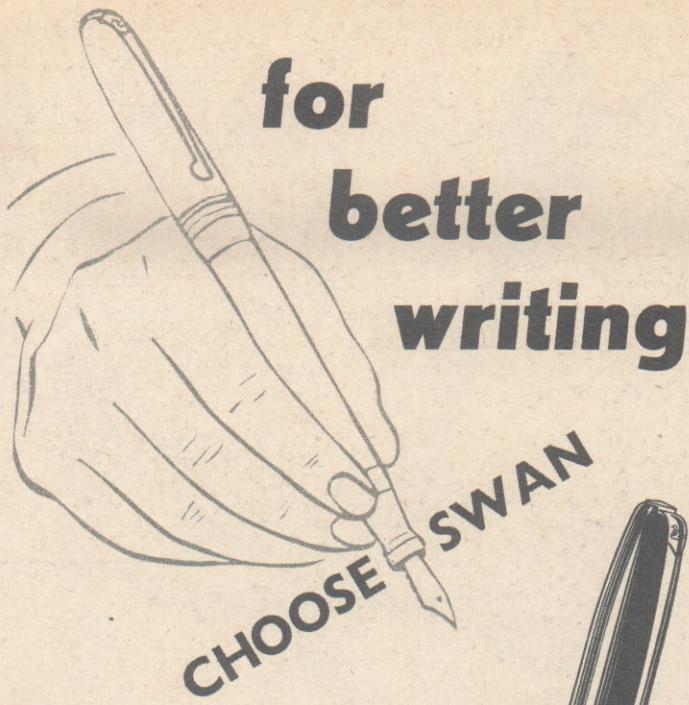
'Stick to beer, too,' said the B.M. in the H. 'You won't find a more refreshing or satisfying drink anywhere from here to China.'

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A BATON FOR A SAILOR

The Queen appoints her sailor husband a Field-Marshal. The Army will be seeing a good deal more of the Duke of Edinburgh

IT is likely that a drill instruction destined to be studied only by soldiers of the highest rank will find its way soon to the Duke of Edinburgh.

It contains the drill that goes with a field-marshal's baton.

Neither the baton nor the drill book is ordinarily to be found in the knapsack of a sailor. Yet the appointment of the Duke to the Army's highest rank came as no surprise.

The announcement by the War Office was as follows:

"The Queen has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointment: Commander, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT, Royal Navy, as Field-Marshal, 15th January, 1953."

The Press lost little time in pointing out that the Duke would now require to learn the Army salute, with the flat of the hand to the front.

The Army welcomes the Duke's appointment, as another link with the Royal Family. He will no doubt deputise for the Queen on many military occasions, as did Prince Albert for Queen Victoria.

It is probable that in due course an official photograph of the Duke in field-marshal's uniform will be seen in Army canteens and messes.

Though there had been no announcement on the subject as SOLDIER went to press, there is hope in a number of regiments and corps that the Duke may be appointed their Colonel-in-Chief or Captain-General. This hope was encouraged by an Army Council Instruction issued last June, dealing with applications for the appointment of members of the Royal Family to these posts.

The late King George VI held 24 Colonels-in-Chief in the Regular and Territorial Armies and seven in Colonial and Dominion forces. He was Captain-General of the Honourable Artillery Company, Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Artillery and Combined Cadet Force.

OVER →



As Field-Marshal, the Duke of Edinburgh will now learn to salute the Army way. The contrasting styles are seen in the picture below, taken when the Duke inspected Territorial units in Edinburgh.



Colonel of the Camerons (TA). Until he became a field-marshall, the Duke's only Army appointment was as Colonel-in-Chief of the Army Cadet Force. He has visited and inspected a variety of Army units, however, and recently toured the Military College of Science at Shrivenham.

The Duke becomes the ninth field-marshall in the Army List. The most senior is the Duke of Windsor, whose appointment dates from his accession as King Edward VIII in January 1936. The others, in order of seniority, are Lords Ironside, Alanbrooke, Alexander of Tunis, Montgomery of Alamein and Wilson of Libya, Sir Claude Auchinleck and Sir William Slim. As a field-marshall, the Duke will always be on the Active List. He will not draw the half-pay usual for "unemployed" field-marshalls.

It is the custom for newly-appointed field-marshalls to receive their batons as personal gifts from the Sovereign. The baton is about 17 inches long, made of soft wood covered with crimson velvet studded with 18 gold lions. At the top is the traditional full figure of St. George and the Dragon, below which are two chased bands of rose, shamrock and thistle. At the bottom are two similar chased bands, and a flat base on which is a record of the gift.

Prince Albert Smartened Up the Army

● The Victoria Cross was the Prince's own idea

● He drew up the system of Army "returns"

UNLIKE the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Albert, Consort to Queen Victoria, had no Service experience when he was appointed Field-Marshal, a few days before his wedding.

When the 11th Hussars escorted him from Dover to Canterbury, for the wedding, he did not even know the English words of command.

Soon, however, he was exercising with the Life Guards in Windsor Park. Later he was attached to the Scots Fusilier Guards for parades and field days in Hyde Park, and learned much about military procedure.

Before long, he had gained the respect of soldiers and statesmen alike. Two years after his marriage ministers were privately discussing whether, when the time came, he should succeed the ageing Duke of Wellington as Commander-in-Chief of the Army.

Eight years later, the old Duke made the same suggestion to the Prince and offered to coach him. The Prince, however, was firm: he could not do the duties so well as some of the experienced generals who were available, and if he devoted himself to the Army

he would be unable to assist the Queen in other matters.

As the theory of the Constitution was that the Sovereign commanded the Army, he wrote, it was a source of great weakness "that the Sovereign, being a lady, cannot exercise that command as she ought, and give the Commander-in-Chief that support which he requires under ordinary circumstances, and that consequently it becomes my additional and special duty to supply the wants in this respect and to bestow particular care and attention on the affairs of the Army."

The Duke's successor, Lord Hardinge, frequently asked, and used, the Prince's advice, and it was Prince Albert's scheme which was used to supply the British Army in the Crimea with reserves.

Prince Albert had no high opinion of the War Office, which he thought was slovenly over welfare and discipline. He complained that the clothing of the Rifle Brigade, was "very badly made up" and was shocked by a junior officer who slouched up to him in a shooting jacket. He sent out to the Crimea fur greatcoats for officers of the Brigade of Guards, also tobacco for the Guardsmen, the Rifle Brigade and 11th Hussars.

It was the Prince Consort who in 1855 conceived the idea of the Victoria Cross, a proposal which met with some objection on the grounds that it was every soldier's duty to be brave.

During the Crimean War the Prince suggested that soldiers ought to receive field training. A temporary camp was opened on Chobham Common, and here the Prince himself took command of a brigade of Guards during exercises. From this project grew the permanent camp at Aldershot, and the Prince took a great interest in its development. The Prince Consort's Library, on which he spent many thousands of pounds of his own money, is today his memorial in the garrison.

Another lasting reform of the Prince's was a system of returns. Information from the Crimea was not enough to tell

the Government what was needed in the way of men and materials. The Government could only guess, and there was chaos. The Prince wrote to the Duke of Newcastle, then Secretary at War: "I know but one remedy... and that is, an efficient and detailed form of Returns to be filled up by them. These Returns should be framed in such a manner that the mere act of filling them up shall compel attention to all the points which ought to be brought under the wholesome influence of method, and on which the Home authorities imperatively require the amplest information."

With the letter, the Prince sent a complete scheme of tabulated returns, drawn up by himself. A few weeks later, Lord Raglan, the commander in the Crimea, was ordered to have such returns rendered — one of the first steps in restoring the efficiency of the Crimea army.

"The wonder is," writes the Prince's official biographer, "that a reform of this nature should have been left to emanate from one who had no practical experience in war."

When the Crimean War was over, the Prince was concerned lest the Army should be cut to uselessness, as it had been before. "I saw no intention on the part of anybody to grapple with this question," he wrote, and so he drew up a memorandum of 28 large pages on peace establishment which went to the Commander-in-Chief. At the time of the Indian Mutiny, he worked out a scheme for the reform of the Indian Army. When the Volunteers were raised at home in 1859, he evolved a code which set the pattern for the organisation and working of the new units.

The education of Army officers was of much concern to the Prince. "Get gentlemen with a gentleman's education from the public schools," he wrote. "Do away with military schools as a competing nursery for the Army. Test their qualifications by two months' probation, and then give them a commission for specific regiments. When they are officers, require them to make themselves proficient by giving them two years' education at a military college. Don't promote them till an examination has proved that they have really learned what was required." On the insistence of the Prince a system of good conduct marks was introduced at the new College at Sandhurst.

It was while inspecting building work for the new Staff College and the Royal Military Academy, in unceasing rain, that the Prince contracted the illness from which he died.

His name remains in the Army List — in the 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own), Leicestershire Yeomanry (Prince Albert's Own), Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Albert's) and Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own).



Prince Albert, Consort of Queen Victoria — with Field-Marshal's baton.

The world at large has heard little of "Northern Army Group." That is the name on the new sign erected recently outside the Headquarters of the British Army of the Rhine at Bad Oeynhausen. The staffs speak three languages but they have one common plan

IT is not only at Fontainebleau that military staffs speak in many tongues under the same roof.

Behind the new sign on the Konigshof at Bad Oeynhausen — "Headquarters Northern Army Group" — British, Belgian and Dutch officers and men are working side by side on those problems of training and co-operation which affect all three armies.

This headquarters with the rather unfortunate initials NAG is notable evidence of the closer linking of the armies belonging to Allied Land Forces Central Europe. The "merger" was first planned in 1948 by the Western Union Defence Committee in London.

Mixing of nationalities extends from the office of the British Chief of Staff, Major-General C. S. Sugden, who has Brigadier C. Cumont, a Belgian, as his deputy, through almost all grades of staff officers down to clerks and typists. In one branch a British brigadier has on his staff a Dutch colonel, a British major, a Belgian captain and clerks of all three nationalities.

The current success of the headquarters owes much to the drive and encouragement of General Sir John Harding, formerly Commander-in-Chief Rhine Army and now Chief of the Imperial General Staff. To overcome the language difficulty, the Belgian and Dutch armies appointed English-speaking officers; others have learned to speak it more fluently by attending classes organised by the Royal Army Educational Corps at Bad Oeynhausen. Most of the Belgian and Dutch officers have passed through their own staff colleges at Brussels and The Hague, and many, especially among the Belgians, have attended a Staff College course at Camberley.

Both the Belgian and Dutch armies are organised for supplies on the American pattern, so that Allied officers joining the new headquarters have had to learn the British system. But to guard against error and to assist staff officers of all three countries special "logistical" sections of both the Belgian and Dutch armies were set up.

Some of the Dutch and Belgians served with British units during the last war.
Brigadier Cumont,

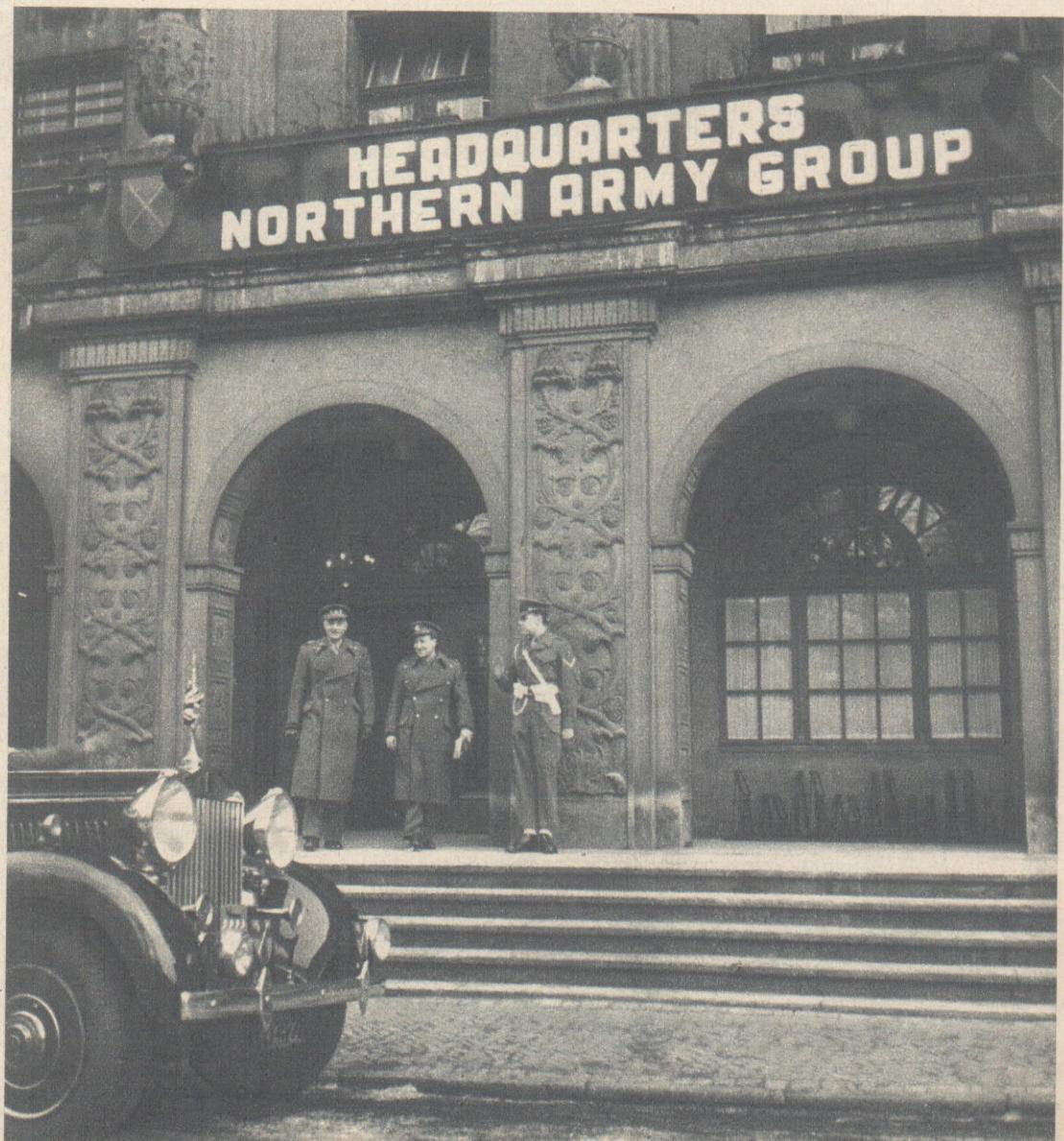
OVER →



1945

A New Sign Goes Up

1953



NEXT YEAR IT WILL BE —

Good-bye to All

The only German town which the British Army took over completely will be evacuated in 1954: Bad Oeynhausen

BY next year, when the Headquarters of Northern Army Group begins its trek to the other side of the Rhine, the British Army will have spent nine years in the spa town of Bad Oeynhausen — the Llandrindod Wells of Western Germany.

The town was captured by United States troops on 3 April 1945 and handed over to the British Liberation Army, appropriately enough, on Hitler's birthday, 20 April. At that time the British Liberation Army's headquarters were in a mental asylum at Suechtern, near Krefeld, not far from the site of the new headquarters at Moenchengladbach.

Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery's advanced headquarters were still on Luneburg Heath, where he was planning the final ruin of the German forces in North-West Europe.

It was decided to make Bad Oeynhausen the British Army's main headquarters in Germany. On 4 May the Burgermeister was ordered to have the town evacuated within eight days. Bad Oeynhausen is believed to have been the only German town entirely taken over by the British after the war. Many of the inhabitants had fled northward and the large hotels and houses were unoccupied, except for some which had been turned into military hospitals.

In that time there have been many changes in Bad Oeynhausen. As the headquarters staffs became smaller, houses, shops and hotels were handed back to the Germans and the perimeter was drawn tighter, until today only that part of the town around the main headquarters building is used by the British Army. The barbed-wire barriers disappeared in 1952 and patrols ceased shortly afterwards. Anyone may enter the town today without having to show identity cards except in the immediate entrances to the headquarters.

It is strange to remember that in the early days of the occupation soldiers used to go armed to the cinema, and that every ATS girl out after dark had to have an armed escort.

With the news that the headquarters will soon be moving from Bad Oeynhausen, the local authorities have prepared plans to make Bad Oeynhausen once again a leading watering-place in Germany. Recently one of the 40-ft high fountains in the Kurpark was re-started for the first time since the end of the war. Local industries thrive again.

In Bad Oeynhausen, the Konigs-hof Hotel, largest in the town with 800 rooms, became the main headquarters building. Other hotels and luxuriously appointed houses which used to shelter ailing Germans lent themselves admirably as branch headquarters offices and store rooms. NAAFI set up a large canteen alongside a welfare centre in the main bath hall and rooms of the famous Kurpark. The Chaplains' branch took over a large house where the ex-Kaiser used to stay before and during World War One, and turned it into a rest centre and offices. There was hardly a villa in the town which did not have a raw military signboard outside it. Cinemas showed British films; the Kur Theatre staged the efforts of Army amateur drama clubs.

In eight years, Bad Oeynhausen has welcomed many distinguished Service chiefs to the Konigs-

hof. They include Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Douglas, General Sir Brian Robertson, General Sir Richard McCreery, Lieut-General Sir Brian Horrocks, General Sir Charles Keightley, Lieut-General Sir Colin Callander, General Sir John Hardinge and the present Commander-in-Chief of Northern Army Group and British Army of the Rhine, General Sir Richard Gale.

Major-General C. S. Sugden, the British Chief of Staff, confers with his Belgian deputy, Brigadier C. Cumont, who served in Britain during the war.

A New Sign Goes Up (Continued)

the Deputy Chief of Staff, spent five years in Britain, commanded a Belgian battalion for two years and was chief instructor at the Western Command Company Commanders' School. Since the war he has served on the Belgian Army General Headquarters in Brussels and was a member of the Western Union Defence Committee. A Dutch officer, Captain J. Luyckenaar, who is on the exercise planning staff, recently returned from Korea, where he commanded the Dutch battalion for two months after being its second-in-command.

The only two members of the Netherlands Women's Army Corps in Germany are to be found at the headquarters. They are Staff-serjeant Aly Beekman and Serjeant Leonie van den Steen,

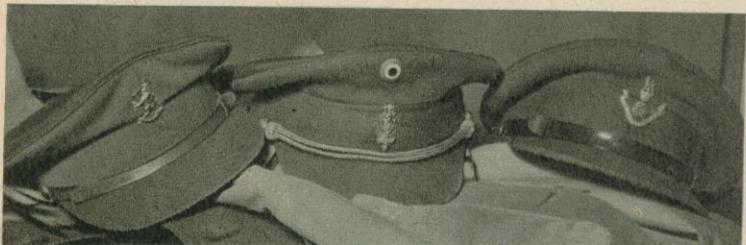
who speak English and German fluently.

The formation of the new headquarters has not meant that Headquarters British Army of the Rhine has ceased to exist as such. The domestic problems of Rhine Army are dealt with by British staff within the new headquarters, which is under the command of General Sir Richard Gale. He is now known as Commander-in-Chief, Northern Army Group and British Army of the Rhine.

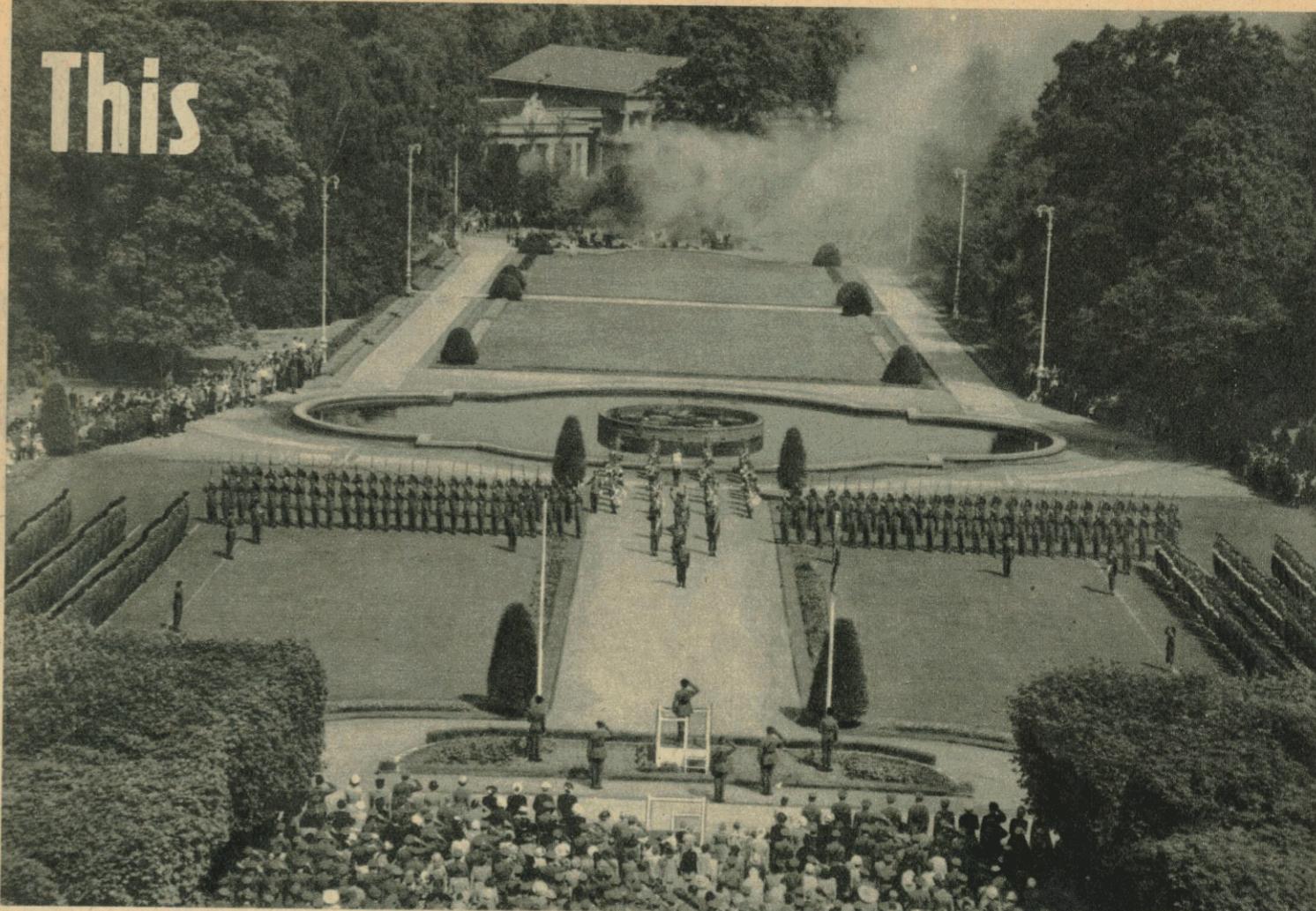
But the titles of three branches which are partly staffed by Belgian and Dutch officers have had to be changed. The Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers branches have lost the prefix "Royal" and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers branch has become Mechanical Engineers.



A three-nation job: SQMS C. Rowbottom (British) issues instructions for the day to Serjeant Leonie van den Steen (Dutch) and Warrant Officer Charles Pauwels (Belgian). Below: symbolic of the new headquarters: the hats of a Dutch colonel, a Belgian captain and a British major.



This



A feu-de-joie is fired by the Royal Hampshire Regt at a King's Birthday parade in Bad Oeynhausen's Kurpark.

Right: The architect who designed this bathhouse with the classic pillars would have been distressed to think that one day it would shelter a NAAFI Families Shop.

Right, below: To keep Bad Oeynhausen free of "incidents," German and Military Police co-operated.

Below: The Army at one time occupied all the hotels in the spa town. This one became a families hostel.





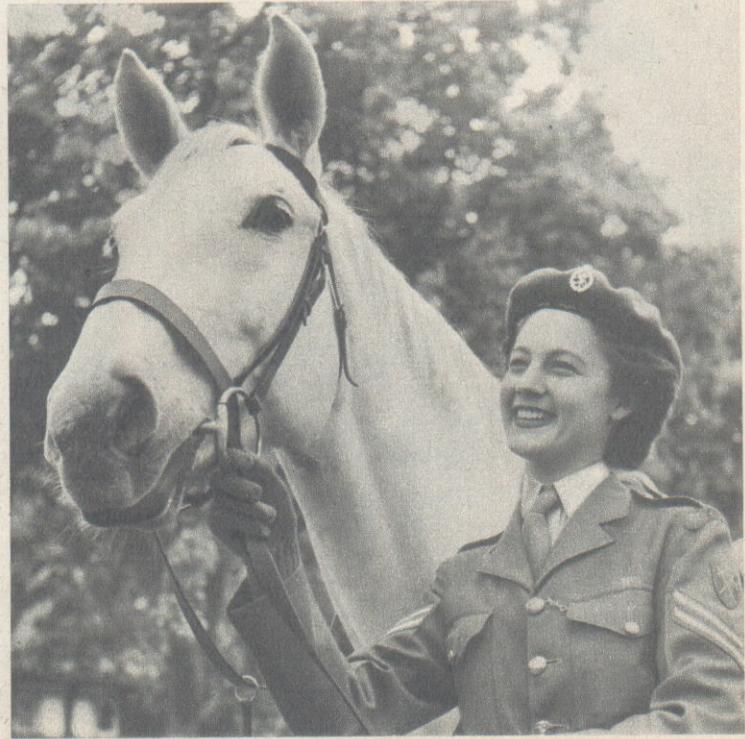
When Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery paid his last visit to Bad Oeynhausen, before leaving his newly victorious Army, troops pulled his car through the streets.

General Sir Richard McCreery was Rhine Army's second Commander-in-Chief. There were Russian parties in those days at nearby Bad Salzuflen.

Good-bye to All This

(Continued)

Riding has always been popular at Bad Oeynhausen. Pictured here is Corporal Jean London, Women's Royal Army Corps (Provost).



A new town without a name is beginning to take shape in the Rheindalener Forest, a well-known beauty spot near Moenchengladbach on the west bank of the Rhine.

When it is completed next year at a cost of £12,000,000 (provided by the German Federal Government) it will become the headquarters for Northern Army Group, 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force and the Royal Navy in Germany. It will be the first fully-integrated permanent Service headquarters.

Why is this new headquarters necessary? The answer lies in the change of role of Rhine Army. When Bad Oeynhausen was taken over as headquarters town in 1945, the occupation forces' task was to maintain law and order in Germany. Today Rhine Army is one of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's main bastions against aggression from without. Therefore it is strategical common-sense that the headquarters should be moved back behind the forward troops.

Today, in the Rheindalener Forest, bulldozers are levelling off road foundations and clearing building sites. Huge hoppers have been built to receive the thousands of tons of sand and gravel for concrete making. The first of the married quarters in which the Army's planning and building staffs will live until the project is completed are nearly ready.

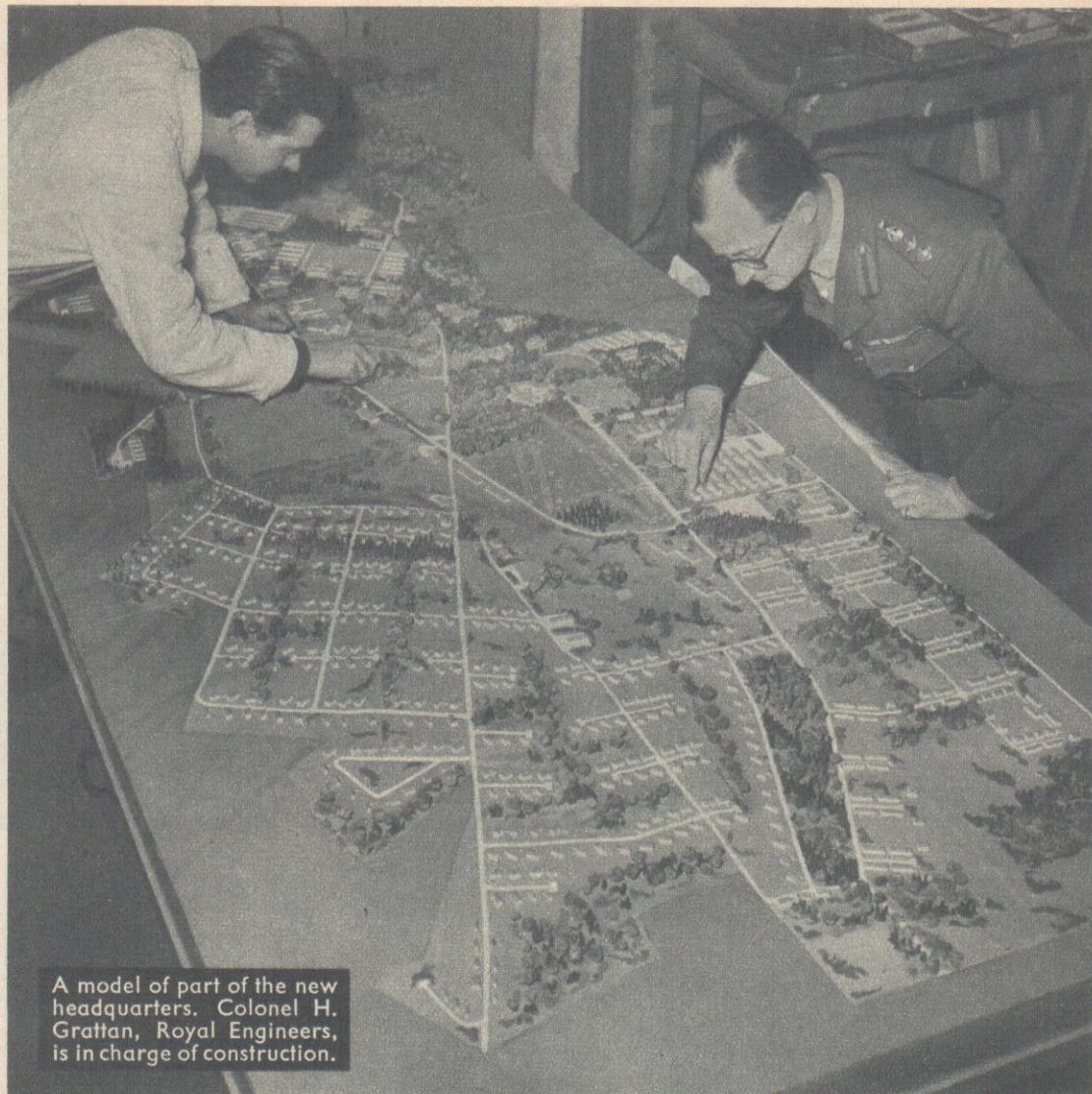
Headquarters town will be of single-storey construction except for the main office block, which will contain 1200 separate offices. Near by will be modern, concrete barracks for the Army and Royal Air Force. More than 700 homes will be built for families. There will be two churches, a swimming bath, a cinema, an education centre, squash and tennis courts and playing fields. The school will accommodate 500 pupils under the age of 11 (older children will go to boarding schools elsewhere in Germany).

In a separate enclave will be German civilian workers — drivers, maintenance teams, clerks and watchmen — who will have their own canteens and shops.

Work first began on the new headquarters last August when Royal Engineers from Rhine Army and War Office drew up their zoning plans, and draughtsmen of both Services began to produce the first blueprints.

To preserve natural beauty, the Army has curved many a road which might otherwise have slashed through woods. Farms have been left undisturbed. Only one house has had to be requisitioned, that belonging to the owner of the estate.

Few complaints are **OVER**



A model of part of the new headquarters. Colonel H. Grattan, Royal Engineers, is in charge of construction.

And Now for This...

In a forest on the west bank of the River Rhine a new headquarters town rises. It will house Rhine Army staffs from the villas of Bad Oeynhausen



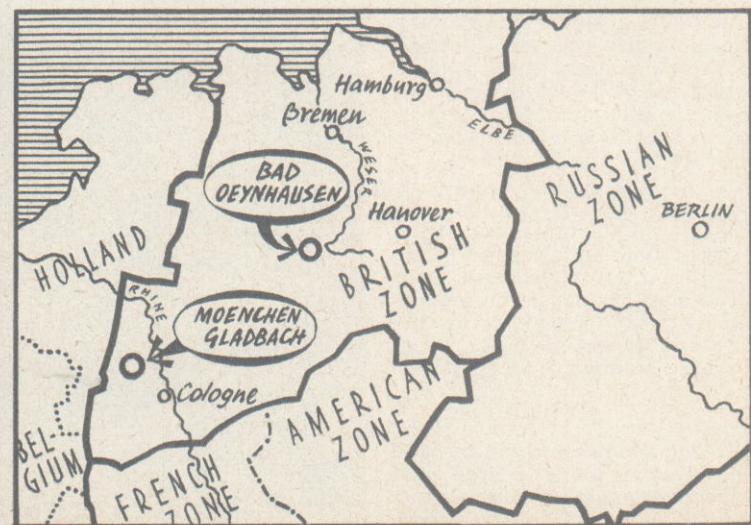
The main roadway will run through this swamp. Much energy was expended digging out the morass and filling in with layers of sand.



A road being cut through the Rheindalener Forest.



As few trees were felled as possible, but even so there was plenty of work for bulldozers. Below: Studying blueprints and aerial photographs are Lieut-Colonel J. M. H. Lewis and Lieutenant L. R. Dollery, Royal Engineers. Right, below: Map shows location of the new headquarters town.



Now for This . . . (Continued)

heard from Germans living in the Moenchen-Gladbach area, for when building is fully under way more than 7000 workers will be hired. When the British Army leaves Germany the headquarters will almost certainly be handed over to the Germans for their own purposes.

When excavators on the site began turning up relics of earlier civilisations, the German Federal Government was allowed by Rhine Army to attach to the site a well-known archaeologist. A 50-yard section of land in the centre of the site has been cut for him to continue his investigations. Discoveries include Roman pottery of 1700 years ago, relics of a graveyard and village believed to have existed between 800 and 300 BC, and Stone Age axes of about 2000 BC.

E. J. GROVE

TURKEY



Mediterranean Sea

- and an "Ideal Home" for the Middle East

This map shows Dhekelia, but few other maps do. Right: A stretch of the coast where the Army will build its "ideal home."

On the island of Cyprus the Army is building a model cantonment which may become a military show-place

A long time ago, the goddess Venus, wearing only a few drops of salt spray, rose from the Mediterranean and sauntered ashore at Paphos, in the isle of Cyprus, to disrupt the peace of man.

Today, if Venus were to reappear as shamelessly at Dhekelia, at the other end of Cyprus, she might well find herself in a guard-room, accused of conduct prejudicial to military discipline. For at Dhekelia the British Army has a serious job of work to do — laying the foundations of a history-making home for itself.

For some time the newspapers have talked — not always knowledgeably — of a "new base" which the British Army was proposing to build in Cyprus.

The Secretary of State for War scotched some of the rumours when he visited the island recently. It was not true, he said, that a great base to replace the Canal Zone installations was planned for Cyprus; it was true that a cantonment to house a brigade group, with families, would be built at Dhekelia, in the south-east of the island.

If plans go through, this new cantonment will be an Army "ideal home" setting a new pattern for the Middle East, and indeed for the world. The designs for it are being drawn up in an architect's office in Soho, London.

SOLDIER visited the site of the Dhekelia cantonment in its early infancy. It is a spot not entirely unknown to the British soldier. During the late war Dhekelia housed a small military hospital; and at the end of the war illegal Jewish immigrants to Palestine were shipped there, to a camp no longer existent. More recently,

men of 16th Independent Parachute Brigade Group were stationed at Dhekelia.

The site of the future cantonment — seven miles from Larnaca, about 18 from Famagusta — consists of three low, stony ridges sloping south from a height of 250 feet to the sea, with a pleasant view over the Mediterranean.

A project of this type is long overdue in Cyprus. As military amenities go, the island is little altered from the days when Captain Herbert Kitchener, Royal Engineers, surveyed it at the end of last century, and laid the foundations of the main road network. In those days the garrison marched every year from the coastal barracks at Polymedon (on the western end of the island) to their mountain camp at Troodos, 5600 feet above sea level, to escape the hot weather, and were occasionally snowed up for two months on end. In recent times the Army has lived in improvised quarters — anything from a converted school to an ancient fortress, from a tented camp to a hired garage.

Within a ring road encircling the cantonment will be built barracks and married quarters on the approved post-war pattern designed by the Directorate of Fortifications and Works. Here, too, will be clubs, churches, institutes, playing fields, cinemas, a hospital, a hotel, a town centre with shops, bank and post office, and a market, all well served with roads and cycle tracks. Such is the layout of the cantonment that some eighty per cent of the future inhabitants will be able to claim a view of the Mediterranean.

At present the ridges and shallow valleys carry little vegetation, but already the Army has been planting imported trees and terracing the dry, crumbling slopes. Sappers have bored 15 wells to a depth of 200 feet and have assured the cantonment of adequate water. (The neighbouring coun-



tryside is dotted with metal windmills, all sucking up water to spill on the parched earth).

One of the jagged little bays will be smoothed to make a *promenade des Anglais*; bathing beaches will be prepared for soldiers and their families.

The Dhekelia project was conceived early in 1950. War Office planning teams, under the Senior Planning Officer of the Directorate of Fortifications and Works, visited the island to reconnoitre the site, and to negotiate with the Cyprus Government, which co-operated freely. With the teams travelled the architect-planner of Dhekelia, Mr. Alister MacDonald, and his associate, Mr. E.H. Jamilly, a former Sapper.

Picking the site was not so simple. For a start, much of Cyprus is liable to flooding during the rainy season, and other stretches are dis-spiriting, eroded wildernesses, vexed by "dust devils." The planners could not use arable land. Historic landmarks and villages had to be left undisturbed. It was important not to choose a site which would involve felling timber (a Cypriot can be taken to court for cutting down a tree without permission).

It was desirable to have a good training area close by, with room for a rifle range. Since any cantonment will house rustable stores, it was necessary that these should be sited as far from the

sea as possible. Even the breeze had to be considered; buildings had to be sited to enable troops who had been working in the Mediterranean sun all day to sit on cool verandahs in the evening, and go to sleep in rooms which had been protected from heating up during the day.

The planners have even occupied themselves with problems like route-ing wives to the shopping centre in such a way that they do not pass through barrack areas; commanding officers do not like wives and children distracting their men on the parade-ground. Children will go to school by paths designed to avoid military traffic.

The Dhekelia project will cost several million pounds, but there is a limit to the amount which may be spent in one year; a limit, also, to the manpower which may be employed. These restrictions are imposed in order not to upset the economy of the island, which is not over-rich in technicians. Some thousands of civilians will, however, find welcome employment.

Among the planners of the Royal Engineers, the Dhekelia project has roused considerable interest. There are at present no planned cantonments on similar lines in the Middle East. If everything goes according to plan, Dhekelia is likely to become an Army show-place.



"I don't want to worry you, but I shouldn't bother putting in for a new battle-dress if I were you."

SOLDIER to Soldier

BEAU Brummell, the celebrated dandy, who once served (more ornamentally than usefully) in the 10th Hussars, woke up one morning in the bland air of Brighton to face a nasty shock. When he had partially recovered he went along to offer his resignation from the Regiment.

"Why do you wish to resign?" asked the Prince Regent, whose regiment it was.

"Because the Regiment has been ordered to Manchester," was the reply.

The playboy Prince, agreeing that the Beau's talents would wither on the cold northern moors, accepted his resignation.

There may be soldiers today who feel that a posting to Manchester would be a fate worse than death, but it is unlikely that their resignations would be accepted. There may be others — at Fayid or Fanara, for instance — to whom the prospect of a posting to Manchester might seem like a posting to Paradise.

SOLDIER is often asked: "If I volunteer to join the So-and-So's, can I be sure of being sent to Such-and-Such a place?" The answer is that a man goes where it suits the Army to send him, though the Army will do its best to comply with any reasonable request.

* * *

THE other day, when Members of Parliament were discussing the Army, there were frequent mentions of the Canal Zone, which would not figure very high in any Army poll to determine the most popular posting.

This unlovely area was described as "the biggest single obstacle to recruiting," and as "the least-favoured station by nature that one can imagine." Speakers expressed surprise that the morale of the Canal Zone army should be as high as it is — which is the view that most visitors reach. No praise can be too high for the way the troops have stood up to sand, sun and surrounding sullenness.

The problem in the Canal Zone is easier to state than to solve. The Zone has far more soldiers than it can conveniently hold, and its married men are cut off from their families who, in present conditions, cannot be admitted there with safety. It is not worth building permanent accommodation because the political future of the Zone is uncertain. So the "design for living," in cold statistics, is a follows: men living in huts, three per cent; living in tents, 38 per cent; in camps, partly huddled and partly tented, 58 per cent; in permanent accommodation, one per cent.

Members of Parliament were told by the Under-Secretary for War that he had "a number of things in mind for the alleviation of the conditions of the troops serving out there." But no details could be given.

One Member thought that Korea might be regarded as a worse posting than the Canal Zone; but that is doubtful. The best postings, in the view of the best soldiers, are those where most action is to be had — not

where the waves are bluest, the peaches are ripest and the cinemas are open 24 hours.

* * *

AMONG the men of the Canal Garrison who would relish a bit of action are those of the 16th Independent Parachute Brigade Group. Recently the newspapers announced that this formation — the Army's so-called "fire brigade" — was short of recruits.

Not all newspaper men (or soldiers) know how Army paratroopers are recruited. This formation is made up of soldiers who volunteer from their own regiments for a three-year Airborne tour. They go to the Airborne Depot, are medically examined, and make their first jumps; then they join the Brigade Group, which for some time has been in the Middle East, spoiling for action.

During their three years the men remain members of their own regiment or corps, but wear Parachute Regiment insignia. When their time is up they may apply to stay on, from year to year.

Perhaps because the Brigade Group was unlucky in its search for adventure in the Middle East, some men have asked to rejoin their parent regiments — regiments which may be jungle-bashing in Malaya or holding the line in Korea.



Representing the Women's Royal Army Corps in America: Captain Betty Paget-Clarke, one-time ballet teacher. She is touring with the film "Never Wave At A WAC."

The Airborne standard is high. About 160 volunteer every fortnight, but only about 100 get through the training. Infantry colonels, understandably, do not say to their best men: "You are too good for us. Why don't you go away and become a paratrooper?" There is a conflict of loyalties; and sometimes a man with leanings towards wings decides to stay where he is, in the name of *esprit-de-corps*.

Happily there are signs that the Brigade Group is now recovering its strength. In the House of Commons, the War Minister said: "We are, I hope, shortly going to make certain changes in the recruiting regulations in order to help the Parachute Brigade."

* * *

WHY bother to climb Everest? Why take a senior officer from Staff duties to battle with Himalayan snows?

Somebody will probably ask these questions, but the British Army will not. The Army takes pride in the appointment of Colonel John Hunt to lead this year's assault on Everest (see Page 27) and wishes him the best of luck.

It would be a queer world today if man had sat still in the

conviction that the sea and the air were too much for him. He hates to admit that mere land can defeat him. The conquest of Everest may represent only a symbolic victory; it will not open a trade route. But it will be a landmark of courage and endurance, and it is right that a British soldier should try for this most conspicuous honour.

* * *

CLIMBING Everest is one thing. Throwing the sea back is another. As SOLDIER goes to press, some thousands of soldiers have been diverted from their duties to fill sandbags and shovel mud in the flood-tracts of Eastern England. Others have gone from Rhine Army to help in rescue and repair work in Holland.

Monotonous, cold, dirty work, but the kind of work which warms the public's heart towards the Army; the kind of work, too, in which a man can find satisfaction because, for once, he sees an urgent, clear-cut task before him.

Next month SOLDIER hopes to describe fully the Army's part in clearing up in the wake of catastrophe.

* * *

THE Women's Royal Army Corps has been having quite a Press recently.

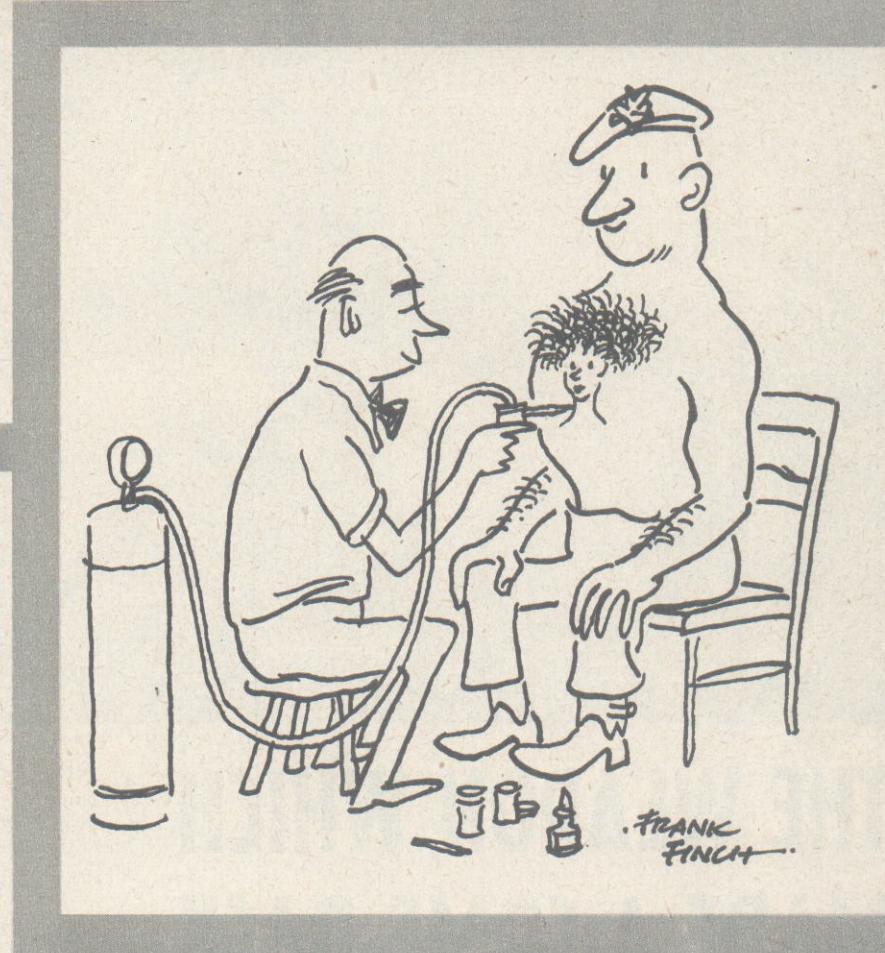
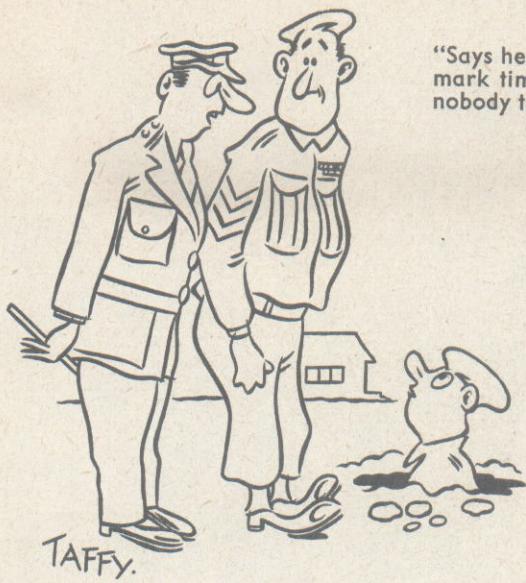
It was rather sad to read in *The Times* that parents were reluctant to let their daughters join "an army of rather bulky women in ill-fitting khaki uniforms stamping determinedly between barrack square and NAAFI."

But a day or two later the *Daily Mirror* made amends. It urged its feminine readers: "Be Like These Service Girls—LOOK SMART THERE!" Said the article: "Everywhere Service girls go they set the pace for smartness, good looks and smooth grooming. Servicemen are proud of them... Why can't the girl in Civvy Street maintain a better standard?"

It appeared that Service girls were encouraged, nay compelled, to pay special attention to the polish on their shoes, the verticality of their stocking seams, and the tidiness of their hair. A lance-corporal confessed that she "would rather stay in barracks than go out and pretend that she had just sprung a ladder in her stocking." One thing that helped towards good grooming, it was suggested, was the habit of preparing everything the night before.

Now, in women's journals, the arts of colour printing are being invoked to popularise the new green uniform of the Women's Royal Army Corps. Soon we shall know whether the lure of this uniform will enable the Corps to expand by 1000 a year for the next six or seven years. For that is the objective.

SOLDIER humour





THE WEAPON WHICH MADE A COME-BACK

"There is nothing more proper than to have GRENADES to throw into the midst of the enemy who have jumped into the ditch"

The man with a ball of fire is an instructor of the Small Arms School Corps at the School of Infantry's Small Arms Wing (Hythe).



GRANADOES: Are small Shells, concave Globes, or hollow Balls, some made of Iron, some of Tin, others of Wood and even of Pastboard; but most commonly of Iron, because the splinters of it do most Execution. This Globe or Hollow is fill'd with fine Powder, beaten and temper'd with Charcoal Dust that it may not flash, but burn gently till it comes to the charge. These are thrown by hand into Places where Men stand thick, and particularly into Trenches and Lodgments the Enemy makes, and are of good use.

THIS definition comes from a Military and Sea Dictionary published in 1711. With a few technical modifications, it would serve quite well today. In an era when most weapons have become alarmingly complex, the grenade, like the bayonet, is still fairly simple.

There has always been controversy over the difference between a grenade and a bomb. The usual answer is that a bomb has fins. Today, a grenade is normally a missile which can be thrown by a soldier or projected by his personal firearm.

Exactly when the grenade was born is hard to establish. In Germany, something of the sort was in use in 1388. It by no means eclipsed the more primitive weapons, for Spanish archers used arrows with grenades attached.

Grenades, granades, grenadoes, granadoes or granados (from the French word for pomegranate) had taken their place firmly among the warlike stores by the end of the 16th century. A few had fancy names, like the French *crevette* (shrimp).

By 1667, the grenade was so highly thought of that the French army picked four or five of the tallest and finest men from each company to be appointed grenadiers, an example the British Army followed a few years later. It was not long before the grenadiers, who wore a distinctive uniform, were formed into separate companies.

In 1693 the French army went a stage further and raised horse-



From the drill book of 1735. Left to right: "Handle your match" . . . "Uncap your fuze" . . . "Throw your grenade" . . . The last picture is intended to show the grenade beginning its flight.



grenadiers (known in French as flying grenadiers) to fight both on foot and horse-back. The British Army again followed suit with two troops which formed part of the Life Guards.

Meanwhile the grenade itself was developing. It appeared in wood, leather and cardboard for training, and in tin, earthenware, glass and iron for battle. Seasoned beechwood was favoured as fuze. In 1666 the Germans were using an early version of the rifle-grenade, one with a long stick which went the length of the musket barrel, whence it was fired in the normal way. The Swedes used a wooden hand-grenade on a stick. Some hand-grenades weighed upwards of ten pounds.

The British Army's earliest grenade, adopted in 1678, was about the size and shape of a cricket ball, filled with powder. Its projecting fuze was lit from a slow match which the grenadier wore wound round his left wrist. Besides grenades, the grenadiers carried muskets, swords and bayonets. For many years they were the only Infantrymen to have slings on their muskets, to leave their hands free for handling

For the fighting on the River Senio, in 1944, Sergeant Arthur Cross, DCM, Royal Irish Fusiliers (above) designed a special grenade with extra blast. His dog attended his experiments and became deaf as a result.

Working in the street of an Italian village (above, right), troops assembled the "Cross Cocktail": nearly a pound of ammonal, a stick of Nobel's explosive, nails and pieces of German mines, in a 40 mm Bofors shell-case.

Right: Sergeant Cross demonstrates his invention on a wrecked house.

OVER →



THE WEAPON WHICH MADE A COME-BACK (Cont'd)

the grenades. The traditional pointed, mitre-shaped grenadier hat may have been designed to let the sling pass over it easily.

New ways of firing grenades were devised. Mortars were among the earliest and the French produced one with a central tube from which a large bomb was fired and a surrounding circle of tubes which expelled grenades. It was called the Partridge because, in flight, the bomb and its attendant grenades looked like a mother partridge with her brood.

The French also developed the "spoon grenade" for firing salvoes. This called for two rows of light Infantrymen (known at this time, for some reason, as *enfants perdus*, lost children) or grenadiers. The men in the front rank had long spoon-shaped instruments, about the size of spades, which they placed over their shoulders. The men in the second rank, on the first command, put

grenades into the bowls of the "spoons"; they lit the fuzes on a second command, and on a third, the front rank swung the spoons, catapulting the grenades towards the enemy.

The ordinary drill for hand-grenades was an elaborate affair of preparing fuzes, lighting and blowing on matches, then getting into position. Its climax, in some armies, came when the grenadier turned his back on the enemy and threw the grenade over his head.

In siege work, grenades were often rolled from ramparts on to the besiegers (in Korea, the Chinese have often rolled them down hillsides). Both sides developed protective armour and fortifications against grenades, designed to roll them back into the ditch or even among the senders. For siege work, too, someone produced a cubic grenade which had the advantage that it could

be placed on the lip of a fortification without danger of rolling off.

Towards the end of the 18th century, the grenade was going out of fashion. A writer in 1779 grumbled: "Grenades have unaccountably sunk into disuse; but I am persuaded there is nothing more proper than to have grenades to throw into the midst of the enemy who have jumped into the ditch."

With the decline of the grenade, the special function of the grenadiers also declined. They were still, however, the tallest and stoutest men of their battalions. The grenadier company was the first company of its battalion and took the right of the battalion line. Along with the light companies, the grenadier companies were the élite of the Infantry.

It became the practice in the field to detach the grenadier and light companies from their bat-

ions, and form them into special grenadier or light battalions, which were used as shock troops. Wellington, for one, did not approve of this policy, which deprived the ordinary Infantry battalion of its best troops in battle. It was not until after the Crimea that the grenadier and light companies ceased to exist.

For more than a century, the grenade was in eclipse. It was not, however, entirely forgotten; in 1885 there were small cylindrical hand-grenades with conical ends. From one end protruded a plunger, from the other a feather which ensured that the grenade would land plunger first. It might, said a writer at the time, "be very effectively used in repelling attacks by boats or by persons well sheltered against others completely exposed." The plunger made the grenade dangerous to have lying about.

In the South African War, the defenders of Mafeking were said to have used hand grenades. Historians date the revival of the grenade from the fighting between the Russians and Japanese at Port Arthur in 1904, but when the British Expeditionary Force went to France ten years later, it did not carry a single hand-grenade with it.

On 27 September 1914, German hand-grenades were flung into British trenches for the first time. The unfortunate British Infantry turned to the Royal Engineers for an answer to this weapon, and received some grenades improvised from gun-cotton. The supply of Service grenades was painfully slow at first. In November 1914, the Army in France received only 70 hand-grenades and 630 rifle-grenades a week. The hand-grenades had percussion igniters, wooden handles and streamers, to make sure they landed the right way. The rifle-grenades were unhandy things with ten-inch steel tail-rods which damaged the rifles.

Soon the troops were making the famous "jam-pot" grenade for themselves. This consisted of a jam tin filled, according to the Official History of the war, with "shredded gun-cotton and ten-penny nails according to taste," and with a detonator and fuze. The top was clayed up and the fuze lit with a match, pipe, cigar or cigarette. Some French cardboard igniters were obtained, but they either worked at a touch or, in wet weather, not at all.

There was soon a profusion of hand-grenade types. One was the "hair-brush" grenade which consisted of a piece of wood shaped like a hair-brush (to provide a handle) on to which was wired some gun-cotton. It was demonstrated, one day, to 40 generals and their staffs. When the demonstrator threw it, the handle shot forward, but the charge fell among the spectators, who either fled or crouched to the ground. No explosion followed, so a search began for the charge. It was found under a general.

There were spherical, oval and pear-shaped grenades, some with the cases segmented so that they would explode more lethally. One type had a protruding tape, which the thrower had to pull.



A war artist's impression of German troops countering a British attack in Italy with stick-grenades, still as popular with the Germans as in World War One.



Private William Speakman, of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, won his Victoria Cross in Korea by amassing "a large pile of grenades" and repeatedly charging waves of the enemy with them.

Another was lit by rubbing its head against a special brassard worn on the left arm.

Meanwhile, in England an engineer and metal manufacturer, William Mills, was busy improving on the Belgian-designed Roland bomb. He produced a grenade, weighing a pound and a half, with a segmented iron case. It was fired by a spring which was not released until the grenade left the thrower's hand. With an extra base-plate and a cup discharger, Mills' grenade could be used as a rifle grenade. It was by far the best grenade available.

The first four dozen Mills grenades were sent to France for trial early in 1915. By the middle of next year, Britain was turning out 800,000 of them weekly, and they made a substantial proportion of the hundred million grenades of all kinds turned out by munitions factories during the war.

Mills was rewarded in 1922 with a knighthood and £27,750. Despite his protests, he had to pay income tax on the money, and used to claim that he had lost financially on his invention.

Captured enemy grenades added variety to the front-line soldier's life. The Germans had a spherical one with a wire swivel which was hooked to a strap on the thrower's wrist; another German grenade was ignited by rubbing the side of a match-box on a phosphorus match-head; and

there was a German parachute grenade, to fire which the thrower had to hook two fingers firmly in the loop of a protruding cord and throw the missile to a height of three or four yards.

Grenading was considered a specialised business which occupied ten men in a platoon, or 2688 in a division, with the addition of grenade officers and warrant officers and NCO instructors. The name grenadier was much in use to describe them and this evoked a protest from the Grenadier Guards, who had gained their name not by exploits with the grenade but by overthrowing the grenadiers of Napoleon's Imperial Guard at Waterloo.

The successful Mills grenade of World War One was improved between the wars and became the No. 36 grenade. Again it made up a large proportion of the twenty million-odd grenades Britain produced annually when munitions production had got into its stride in 1942. Its role as a rifle grenade was gradually usurped by the two-inch mortar, but not completely (it is still in use for this purpose in Malaya). Soldiers of World War Two followed the example of their fathers and broke the rules by throwing Mills grenades into rivers or the sea and catching the stunned fish for the cookhouse.

Once again, there were plenty of improvised grenades, especially in the earlier stages of the war when easily produced anti-tank weapons were urgently needed. There were the Molotov cocktail (a bottle of inflammable liquid with a "fuze" of film-strip or petrol-soaked rag) and the "sticky-bomb" which was supposed to stick to the armour of its victim but was liable to stick to the hand of its thrower. An officer of the Parachute Regiment, Captain R. J. Gammon, produced a very successful grenade for use against both tanks and men, by filling an old Army sock with plastic explosive and fastening the top to the percussion firing mechanism of the light No. 69 grenade. With a stockinet bag to replace the sock, and other modifications, the Gammon bomb went into manufacture as Grenade, Hand, No. 82, Mark I.

By the end of World War Two more than 20 British grenades were listed, including smoke, signalling, training and tear-gas versions and anti-tank grenades which were used as mines.



Sikh troops using phosphorus grenades near Pagan, in Burma, in 1945. Below: Some of the modern British grenades: Top to bottom: No. 83 (coloured smoke); No. 92 (tear gas); No. 82 (a development of the Gammon bomb); No. 36 (the modern Mills grenade); No. 70 (light anti-personnel); No. 75 (Hawkins grenade, used as a mine or démolition charge).

Because it is easy to carry and use, the grenade makes a good all-purpose weapon. No well-dressed Partisan of World War Two went about without a festoon of grenades. Among more orthodox soldiers, General Matthew B. Ridgway, now Supreme Commander in Europe, always "wore" personal grenades in Korea.

The grenade has its most lethal effect in a confined space, like a dug-out, bunker or weapon-pit. In close fighting, courageous soldiers have jumped on to tanks, opened the hatch, dropped in a grenade and closed the lid again. The grenade also makes a useful substitute for a demolition charge. Raiders behind Rommel's lines in the Western Desert found that one placed in the cockpit of an Axis aircraft at its dispersal point would do all that was necessary. For booby-traps, any device which will cause an unsuspecting enemy to pull a thread attached to the pin of a grenade can be effective.

The hand-grenade has played a notable part in the winning of Victoria Crosses. One was earned in 1915 by Lance-Corporal L. J. Keyworth of the 1/24th London Regiment when, with jam-pot grenades, he fought out a long bombing match with the enemy, during which 58 out of 75 men taking part were killed or wounded.

An Australian, Private Leonard Keyvor, won his Victoria Cross when the fighting was at its fiercest in Gallipoli. He interrupted his own effective grenade-throwing to smother Turkish grenades, which had fallen in his trench, with sandbags or even his coat. The Turks, realising that something of the sort was happening, shortened their fuzes. Keyvor saw he would no longer have time to smother enemy grenades, so he caught them, like cricket balls, and flung them straight back. Many other soldiers indulged in this lethal sport, in both world wars.

It was with grenades, too, that Private William Speakman drove back wave after wave of attacking Communists in Korea, to win the latest Victoria Cross.

Nor—in the field of heroism—must one forget those soldiers who have thrown themselves on grenades (their own or the enemy's) to save their comrades' lives.



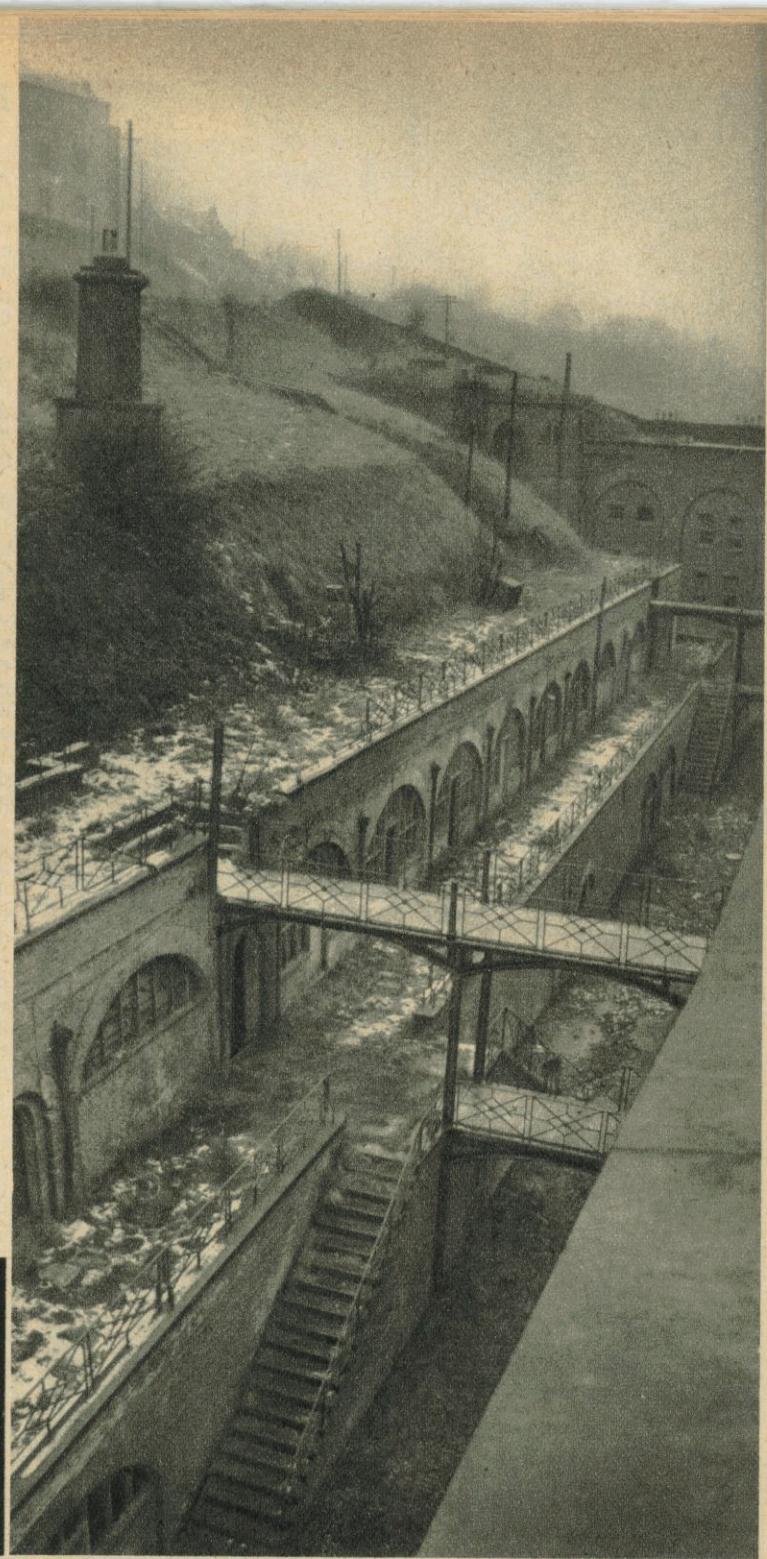
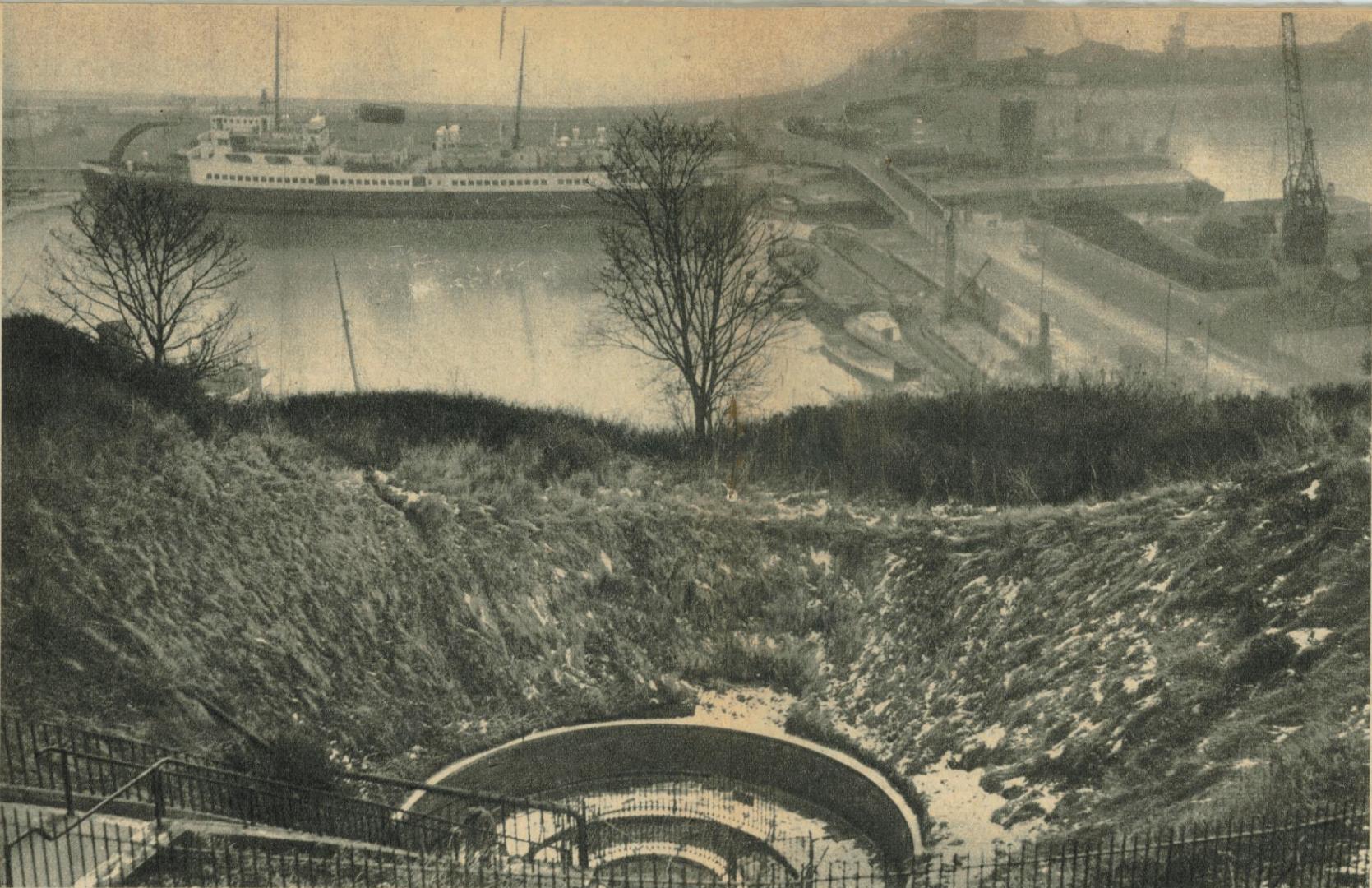
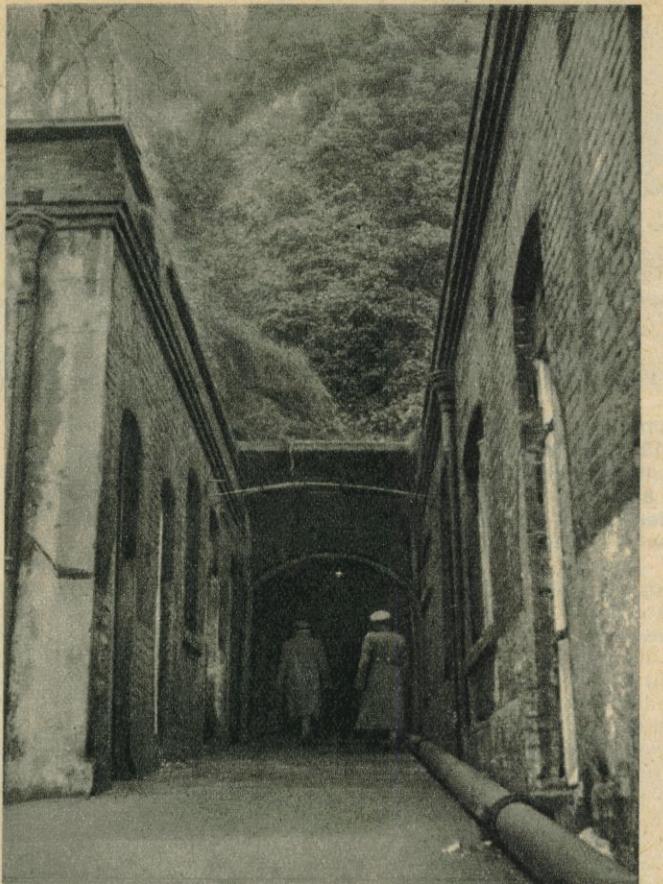
SUSPENDED BY THE PINS

MOST British soldiers treat hand grenades with caution. Some of their Allies in World War Two were less careful—or less imaginative.

In his book "Illyrian Venture" (see *SOLDIER*, January), the late Brigadier "Trottsky" Davies told how the Partisans in Albania festooned themselves with grenades suspended by the pins.

At the camp fire one night there was much excitement when a Partisan shouted that one of his grenades had fallen in the fire. "We all scattered away from the flames, hid behind a huge beech tree or flung ourselves in the snow. There was the crash of the explosion, blazing logs and branches shot everywhere, but miraculously no one was hurt. The fire was gathered together again, the circle reassembled in the slush..."

And the Partisans continued to wear their grenades by the pins.



DOVER'S GHOST GARRISON

On the white cliffs of Dover — above a vertical tunnel called the Grand Military Shaft — are empty fortifications built to hold 10,000 men. Soon a prison will be moving in

SNARGATE Street, which huddles under the tall cliff to the West of Dover, was once as well known to the Army as Queen's Avenue, Aldershot.

The Army's stake in this street with the unlovely name was — and is — limited to a narrow frontage, on the cliff side of the road, a mere gap in the buildings big enough for perhaps a couple of shops.

Today an occasional soldier passes in. Once, the place was crowded with men in red coats and, later, men in khaki Service Dress.

The gap is the entrance to the Grand Shaft, the Army's short cut to the barracks and fortifications on Dover's Western Heights. Soon it may be a short cut to jail, because the Prison Commissioners are to take over from the Army 97 acres on the Western Heights.

The Grand Shaft is simply a vertical tunnel, which was cut through the solid chalk cliff in 1802. Round it spiral three parallel staircases, which have barred, glassless windows looking out into the centre of the shaft. Probably three staircases were built so that large numbers of men could move up and down rapidly in an emergency, but in normal times their mission was to separate three classes of users:

"Officers and ladies," "NCO's and wives," "Other Ranks and women."

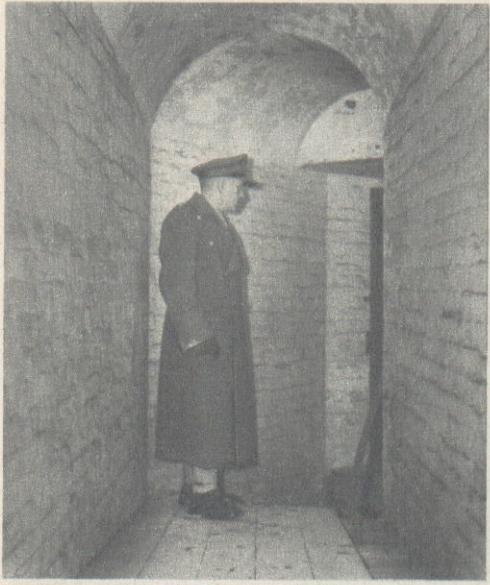
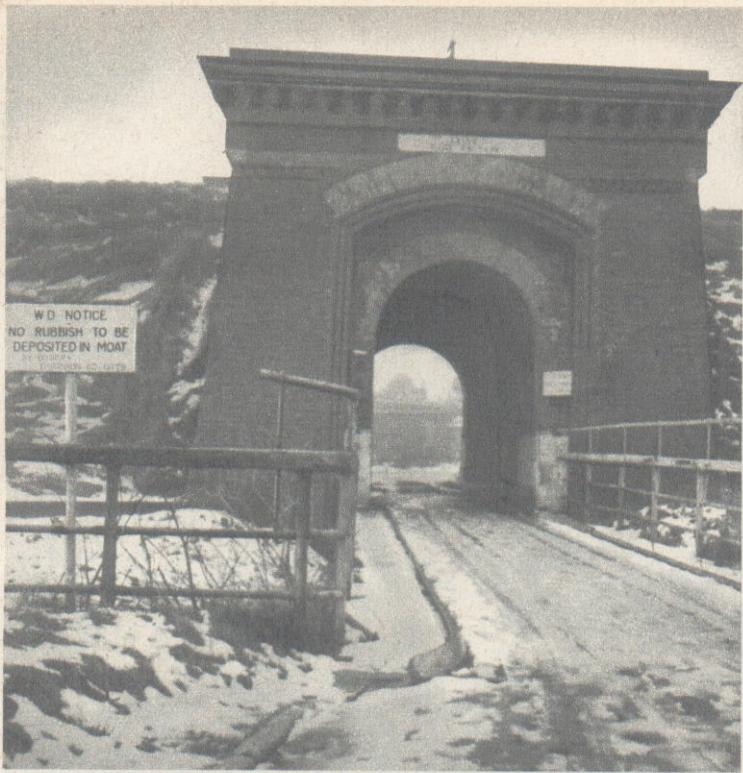
It was much quicker to use the steps to reach Dover than to go by road, but getting up the Shaft again, after an evening in Dover's taverns, was a different proposition. Each staircase has 144 steps, and there are 50 more from the top of the Shaft to Grand Shaft Barracks, the lowest of the barracks on the Heights.

For many a revelling soldier the ascent was too much, but Snargate Street rose to the occasion. It filled with cheap doss-houses and, in the process, acquired a bad reputation. Any soldier who lacked the price or inclination to enjoy Snargate Street's amenities, and was in no condition to tackle the stairs, could be stored for the night in one of three guard-rooms which the Army maintained at the bottom of the Shaft. **OVER**

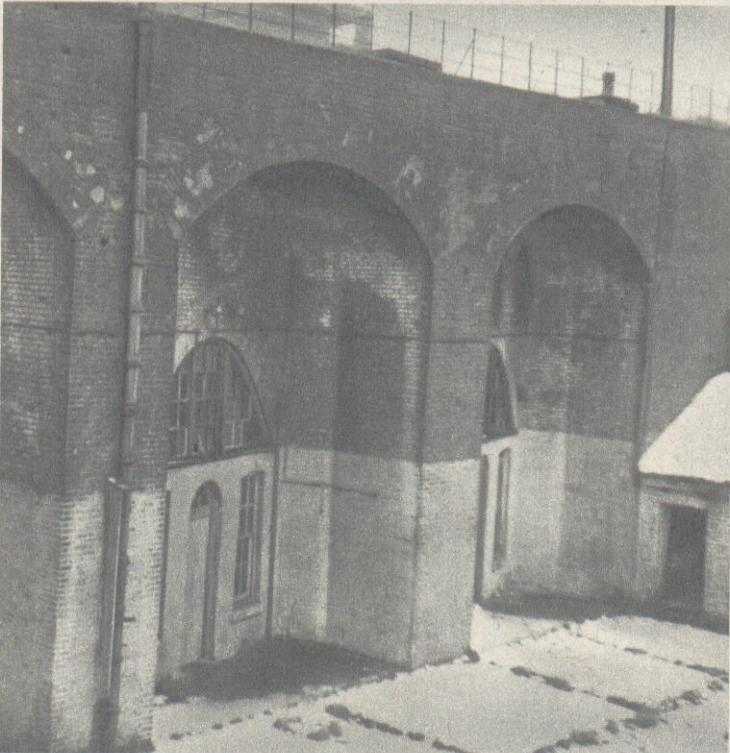
Right: South Front Barracks — now deserted — are built out on the cliff-face. They have a prison-like look. Inhabitants crossed the footbridges to the ablutions. Below: The moat round the Citadel contains a range which is marked "Unsafe."



DOVER'S GHOST GARRISON (Cont'd)



Above: One of the entrances to the Citadel. Once it had a drawbridge; now it has traffic lights. Left: A tunnel linking the Citadel's underground barrack-rooms. Below: Through these barrack-room doors will pass men wearing one of Her Majesty's less popular uniforms.



Today Snargate Street, like the Army, has grown respectable, and the guard-rooms are shuttered. Two of the three spiral staircases are sealed off. The third is used mostly by the blameless residents of 20 Officers' Families Camp, in Grand Shaft Barracks.

Beyond Grand Shaft Barracks, the fortifications on the Western Heights have an air of desolation. After more than a century and a half of service, the Army has pensioned them off.

Work began on the Heights during the wars which ended in 1783. Guard-houses were built and the positions strengthened by ramparts and other devices. Then, between 1803 and 1814, when Napoleon threatened invasion, whole regiments of soldiers, companies of miners and engineers and a force of masons, artificers and labourers were employed making excavations, breastworks, batteries and redoubts, many linked by underground tunnels.

It was naturally an imposing position. A guide-book of 1850 said: "The rugged state of the face of the Western Heights towering above the diminutive dwellings at its base presents a romantic and fearful appearance to the stranger, and seems to threaten with destruction the inhabitants residing in this great thoroughfare of the town (Snargate Street)."

The Heights are higher than the ancient, and more famous, castle which dominates Dover from the other side. Guns from the Heights command the town, the harbour, the summit of Shakespeare Cliff and the surrounding countryside. The barracks (which, said the guide-book, were "renowned for their healthy, dry and light situation") were originally planned to hold 10,000 men.

There were all sorts of underground chambers and tunnels and deep fosses (dry moats) surrounding the fortifications. Many buildings have grass-covered roofs below the cliff top. From the back they appear to have been dug deep into the ground.

The building of the fortifications disturbed even older works. It disclosed the remains of a Knights Templars' church of the 12th century. The operations also covered up most of the Bredenstone, an ancient piece of masonry, believed to be the remains of a Roman light-house, at which the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports used to be installed. Part of the Bredenstone, a V-shaped lump of flints and cement, is still visible in the Drop Redoubt, and writers of guide-books record with some petulance that it is necessary to obtain the permission of the military to see it.

The Drop Redoubt itself is an abandoned fortification surrounded by a 50-foot fosse. It is reached by crossing a footbridge, putting an arm through a hole in the wooden door, hauling out a baulk of timber which helps to keep the door closed and using the timber to lever out of the way an old boiler which rests against the door.

Inside, everything is built into the earth — now covered with long grass and cabbages which appear to grow wild. Roughly-painted signs on the doors and walls, "Company Headquarters" and "Cleansing Centre," indicate that the Redoubt was ready to welcome Hitler as well as Napoleon.

On the ridge of the hill is the Citadel, which is to be taken over by the Prison Commission along with some hutments which will be used as staff quarters. Its defences included deep moats and flanking and masked batteries, but the guns were dismantled after the peace of 1814 and some of the work left unfinished. For many years last century, however, a gun at the Citadel fired daily at noon, on a telegraphed signal from Greenwich.

When SOLDIER visited the Citadel recently, the only occupants were two friendly, collarless dogs. Most of the windows of the NAAFI and cookhouses, on the edge of the bleak barrack square, were masked with corrugated iron. So were most of those of the officers mess, a solid building which bears the date 1861 and enjoys a view of the Straits of Dover which would be worth a great deal of money to a luxury hotel. Those windows which were not shuttered were mostly broken. Inside, debris littered the floors and holes had appeared in the ceilings. For all that, the walls and woodwork were dry and solid, a tribute to the Army's Victorian builders.

The Citadel's barrack-rooms are built underground, into the fortifications, and have roofs covered with grassy earth. They are linked by tunnels and have windows which look out into the fosse.

On some of the barrack-room walls hang rusty iron lockers, and one at least bears evidence of the last inhabitants. On one of its doors is painted "TBM, 1st Bn Sherwood Foresters left Sunday 18-11-45." The other door identifies "TBM" as a Private McEvoy.

Almost the only place in the Citadel which looks as though it is still in use is the Royal Engineers' pumping station. It is built over a well, now 435 feet deep, which supplies the Citadel. Of this well, the 1850 guide-book said:

"At the sinking of the well, the water rushed in so rapidly when the present depth was attained, that the workmen were obliged to ascend with all possible speed, leaving their tools at the bottom of the well. Whether the spirits of the deep were disturbed by this innovation of mortals, or whether, disappointed at their escape... they continue to deplore their loss we will not discuss; but certain it is a mournful dirge is still distinctly sung if but a mere pebble from this land of ours is cast into the abyss beneath."

Perhaps the ghosts of those nineteenth-century soldiers who helped build the Citadel will join in the dirge when they learn that the Army is giving up the fruits of their work.

RICHARD ELLEY

WELL DONE, SUFFOLKS!

The battalion which left England to assault the coast of Normandy comes home again — from the jungles of Malaya. It took heavy toll of terrorists

A patrol tramped out of the Malayan jungle, near Telok Dato. As they came into the open, they turned round, and almost every man blazed away into the unoffending green, until his magazine was empty.

It was the last, defiant gesture of the 1st Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment to the jungle terrorists they had been fighting for more than three-and-a-half years. The patrol was the last of the Battalion's operations in Malaya.

Only 24 hours later, the Suffolks, dirt and sweat of the jungle removed, were marching through Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaya — with drums beating, Colours flying and bayonets fixed. The High Commissioner, General Sir Gerald Templer, and the Sultan of Selangor took the salute. Then the troops boarded a train for the first lap of the journey home. The Battalion had not been home since they sailed with 3rd Infantry Division to land on the Normandy beaches on D-Day. They had reached Malaya by way of Germany, Palestine and Greece.

In their three-and-a-half years in Malaya they killed 181 terrorists

and captured 15 — a higher score than that of any other British battalion. Their own casualties were 12 killed and 24 wounded.

In all their time in Malaya, at least half their numbers were made up of National Servicemen. There are more men in Britain who have had jungle fighting experience with the Suffolks than there are travelling home in the full-strength Battalion. More than 150 officers who have served in the *ulu* have been invited to a regimental gathering.

The Suffolks established a reputation in Malaya for being rapidly on the job when there was a call. At times, they were

"A fine job." The GOC Malaya, Major-General Sir Hugh Stockwell, saw the Suffolks' train leave Kuala Lumpur.



able to reap the benefit of their own quick starts only because of the skill of their Iban trackers, to whom they said farewell shortly before leaving Malaya. (The Ibans' own period of service had expired.) This combination once resulted in the death of two terrorists less than 24 hours after they had taken part in the murder of three civilians, near Kajang.

A patrol was given the direction in which the bandits were believed to be heading. After about an hour's march, the Iban noticed what he thought was a human footprint in a wild pig track. The patrol moved into swampland for about a hundred

yards. Suddenly, the tracker stood still and whispered that he smelt tobacco smoke. The soldiers crept on and the leading man was only 15 yards from a little palm-leaf camp when one bandit came out. He was killed with the first round; then the second man suffered the same fate. This quick result was of great value to civilian morale.

The Suffolks, however, had exacted even quicker vengeance. When terrorists robbed villagers of their identity cards, and bullied them into providing food a warning flash was received at a police-post. The Suffolks sent out

OVER

The Colours of the Suffolks were borne through Kuala Lumpur before the Regiment left. The High Commissioner, General Sir Gerald Templer, took the salute. Alongside the Union Jack flew the Selangor State flag and the Federal flag. The statue is that of King Edward VII.



WELL DONE, SUFFOLKS!

(Continued)

a patrol, and within two hours of the terrorists leaving the village, the patrol saw them coming. Instantly, the soldiers took ambush positions, and but for the fact that one bandit saw a soldier before they had all entered the trap, they would all have been killed. As it was, the patrol accounted for four out of five.

It was on one of those emergency calls that Serjeant David Fenton fell from a truck and was injured, with the result that he was in hospital while the march through Kuala Lumpur was taking place. He, and other sick Suffolks, were taking strength from the hope expressed by the medical authorities that they would all be fit enough to rejoin the Battalion on the troopship.

Serjeant Fenton, from Peterborough, belongs to the Green Devils, No. 8 Platoon, which has claimed 30 terrorists. Serjeant Fenton killed a few himself, but one of the most vivid memories he takes home from Malaya is of a scout moving round in circles after being stung by a hornet. "I would rather face bullets than hornets," said Serjeant Fenton.

In one of the "stickiest" actions, Lance-Corporal W. Price won the DCM (SOLDIER, October 1951).

One mathematically-minded subaltern of the Suffolks with a long list of patrols to his credit, calculated that he must have walked a distance equivalent to the length of Malaya's outer boundaries, and that the Battalion as a whole marched at least 2,000,000 miles. Firmer figures are provided by the Royal Army Ordnance Corps which says the Suffolks wore out nearly 1000 pairs of jungle boots every three months — about 15,000 during the whole of their stay in Malaya.



The platoon which killed the £1500 bandit.

Liew Was Their "Best Enemy"

LIEW Kon Kim was the most vicious and efficient of the bandit commanders. There was a price of £1500 on his head.

His unit, the Fourth Independent Company of the First Regiment of the Malayan Races' Liberation Army, had many murders to its discredit. It was the first unit to terrorise rubber-tappers.

The Suffolks, by coincidence, had their headquarters in a school which Liew Kon Kim had attended as a boy. It was adorned with his photograph — he was easily recognisable by his beard, which was unusual in a Chinese.

During a large operation last July, information was received that Liew was commanding a squad detailed to murder seven "informers."

No. 5 Platoon saw an armed bandit running in the jungle. Second Lieutenant Raymond Hands, the platoon commander, fired and rushed forward into a small jungle camp. He fired again as three people came out and killed one, then chased the other two and killed them both. The three were Liew, his second-in-command and his mistress (who also carried a gun).

Second-Lieutenant Hands received the Military Cross for this operation. He is now an undergraduate at Oxford.

Another notorious bandit killed by the Suffolks was Long Pin.

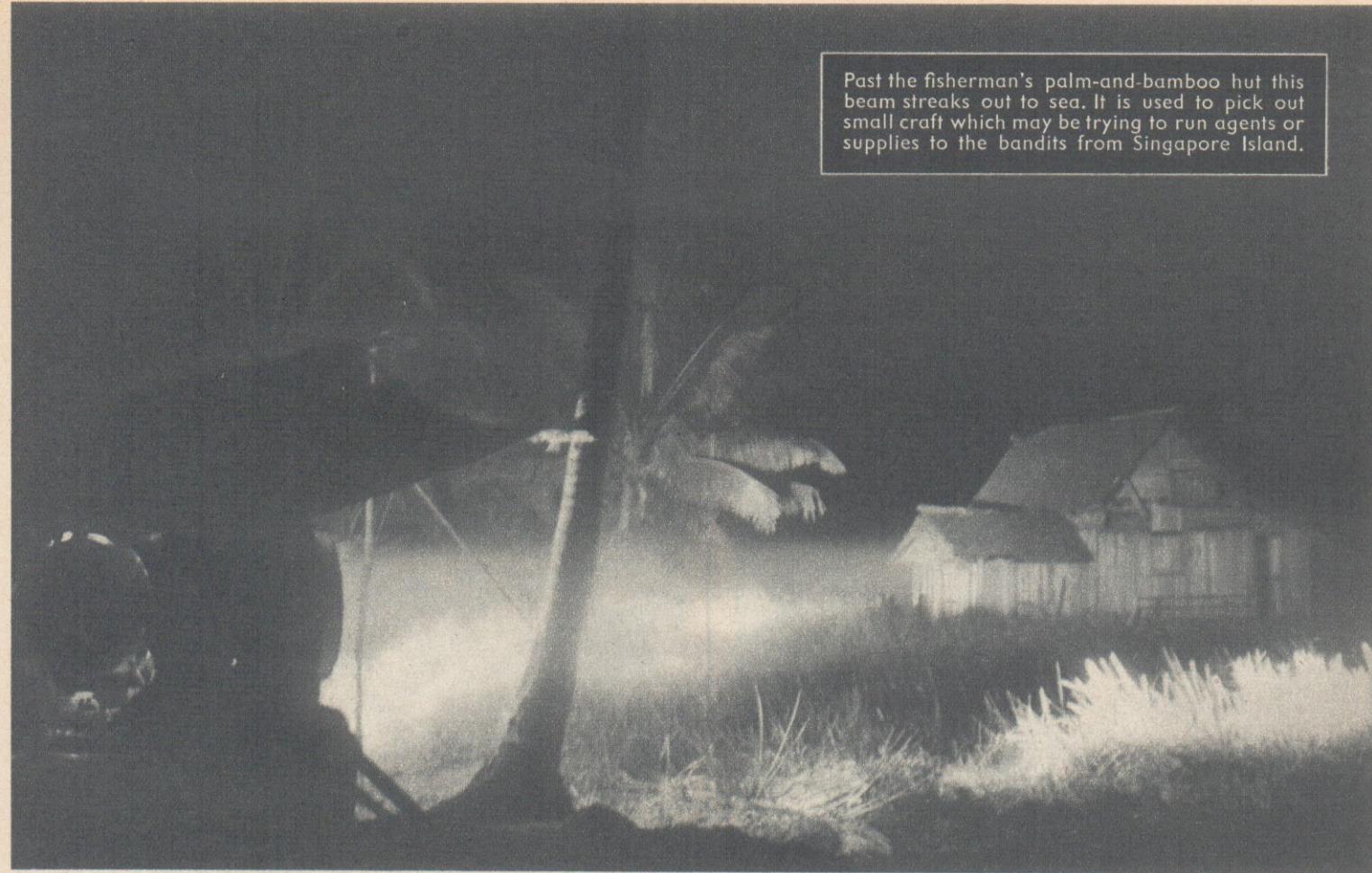


Liew Kon Kim.



One for the Regimental museum: a "bandit" under escort. Right: Suffolk heraldry. Each platoon has its own sign.





Past the fisherman's palm-and-bamboo hut this beam streaks out to sea. It is used to pick out small craft which may be trying to run agents or supplies to the bandits from Singapore Island.

SEARCHLIGHT SIGNPOSTS

An anti-aircraft "weapon" is put to a variety of new uses in the jungles of Malaya

ON a narrow road, half-way up the side of a valley in the Pahang Forests of Malaya, a small party waited in the night.

Sentries were spread out around the area. Otherwise, no man on lawful business was within miles. It was not quiet — the tigers, monkeys and other jungle creatures pierced the silence with their calls. But it was very dark.

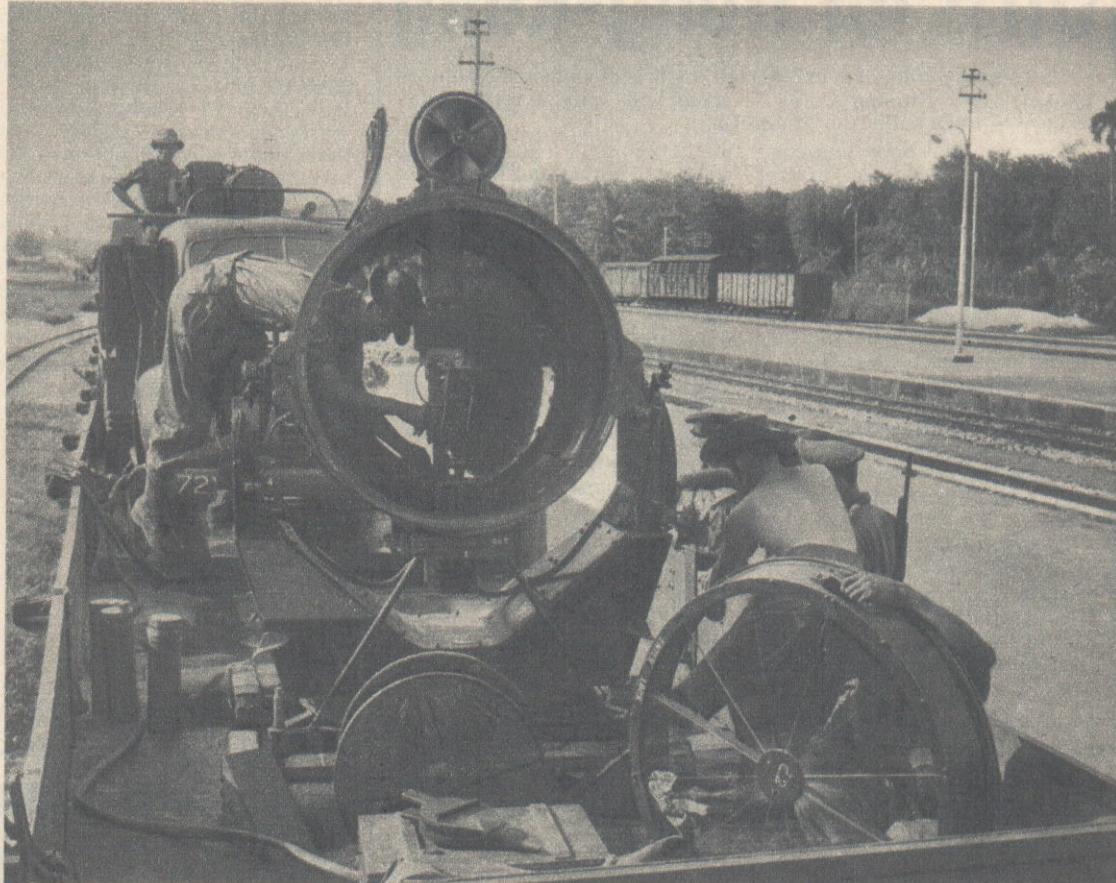
Suddenly the jungle was as bright as Piccadilly Circus, as two searchlights pointed their beams up from the roadway. A few seconds later, the heavy engine-throbs of Lincoln bombers of the Royal Australian Air Force could be heard.

The searchlights, mounted on lorries, were giving bearings to the aircrafts' navigators, helping them to pin-point their positions and plan their run-in to blast likely terrorist camps.

"Finding targets at night in Malaya's forests can be as difficult as finding one's way across blacked-out Europe in the last war," a squadron-leader told SOLDIER. "Without the searchlights to provide bearings it would be impossible to attack a target accurately."

Operating the beams is the

OVER →



This searchlight is operated on the railway in north Malaya, in conjunction with a mobile mortar team, to surprise rail saboteurs.



Showing the three uniforms they will wear in Hong-Kong: Private Thora Ryan (tropical dress), Private Christine Fraser (No. 1 dress) and Private E. Hicks (indoor dress).

Girls for Hong-Kong

IN a state of pardonable excitement, 15 girls of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps — some with only a few months service — have sailed for Hong-Kong.

They are the first non-commissioned nurses to go to that colony. Nursing sisters, of course have been stationed there for many years; some were interned by the Japanese during the war.

At the Corps Depot at Hindhead, Surrey the girls packed four uniforms: a khaki Service Dress, the smart new Number One Dress of grey with scarlet facings, a light-weight tropical dress and the grey ward dress worn on duty with white "Sister Dora" caps. They were also issued with light-weight under-wear.

In Hong-Kong the nurses will replace men of the Royal Army Medical Corps in hospital wards. Already this system has started in Singapore, at many Middle East stations and in Germany.

The 15 nurses will spend up to three years in the Colony—less in the case of those whose engagements are due to end while they are overseas. The aim of each one is to qualify as a State-Registered nurse, which is one reason why many of them join the Army.

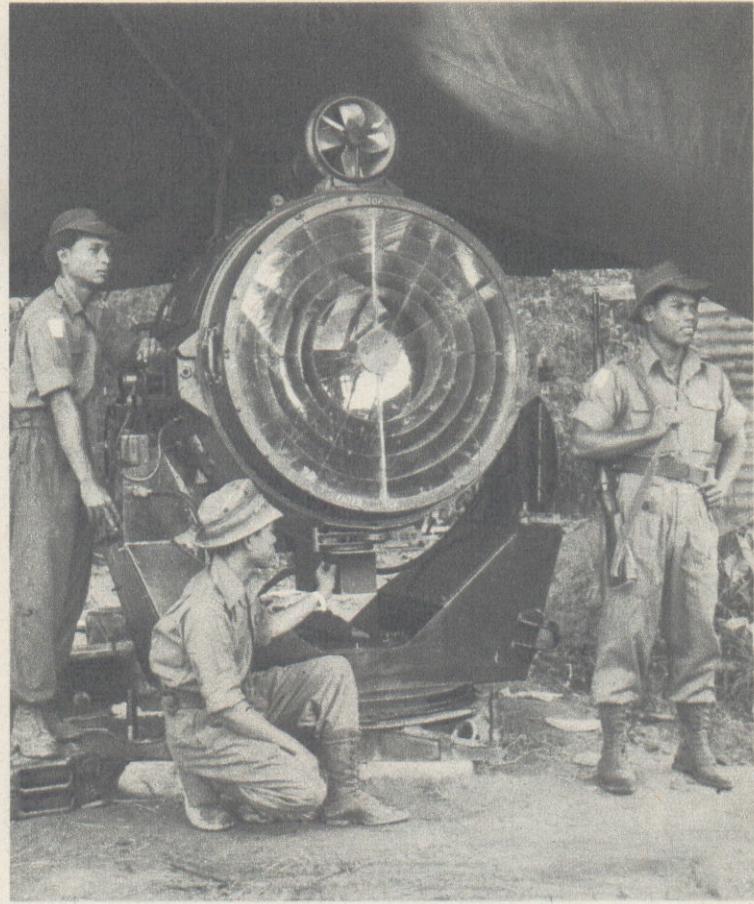
Said Private Margaret McDonald: "I was in a civilian hos-

pital before I enlisted, but I wanted to travel and learn nursing at the same time."

Not all the girls were civilian nurses. Private Mary Aitken was a wages clerk in Birmingham but for some time had wanted to work in a hospital. In three years she expects to have those letters "SRN" after her name.

A nursing sister told SOLDIER: "One advantage in this Corps is that the girls receive extra training not usually found in civilian hospitals—nursing of tropical disease cases, or treating of gunshot wounds. They also find that in the Army they do not have to nurse old people. Their patients are nearly all young, and include soldiers' children."

Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, the senior of the two women's corps is gradually taking over more and more duties hitherto carried out by men. At present the highest non-commissioned rank held by a woman is that of staff-serjeant, but a warrant officers' course, soon to start, will produce the first of the corps' regimental serjeant-majors.



An improvised shelter keeps the rain off this searchlight on the coast of Malaya.

SEARCHLIGHTS

(Continued)

Searchlight Unit, Royal Artillery (Malaya). It was specially raised for the duration of the emergency, and its strength is one officer, a handful of senior British NCO's and 45 Malays.

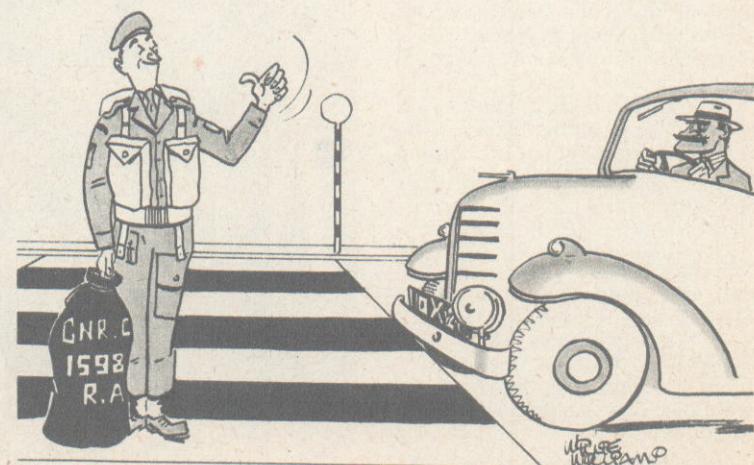
Their duties, not confined to pin-pointing the jungle, mostly take them to lonely spots. For weeks on end, at varying times, their lights have illuminated the waters between the toe of Malaya and Singapore Island, co-operating with patrol boats to prevent arms, food and terrorist agents from crossing.

Along the loneliest stretches of the railways, they have lit up areas in which terrorists have carried out sabotage. In North

Malaya, a searchlight has been mounted on a flat bogie wagon. It is accompanied by mortars and machine-guns. With this combination it is possible to take accurate action against terrorists fleeing after being surprised at their sabotage.

Motorists in Britain may complain that insects, attracted by their headlights, choke their radiators. Their collections of insects, however, are nothing compared with those of the searchlights in Malaya. Says Captain Peter Knott, who commands the Searchlight Unit: "I have seen the floor of a vehicle completely covered with insects of all sorts, from huge moths with six-inch spans to tiny sandflies. They are killed by the heat of the lights."

D. H. de T. READE



The Colonel Tackles Everest - in Army Time

FOR Colonel H. C. J. Hunt, a Staff officer at the headquarters of 1 Corps in Germany, climbing mountains was a pastime for periods of leave.

Suddenly, towards the end of last year, mountaineering became, to his delight, an Army duty. He was informed by the War Office that he had been selected to lead the 1953 British Everest expedition. For this purpose he was to be "seconded" to the Himalayan Joint Committee of the Royal Geographical Society and the Alpine Club.

Three weeks later he was in London, setting up an office at the headquarters of the Royal Geographical Society in Kensington. Photographs of Everest appeared above the fireplace. A large chart of equipment and supplies took shape across one wall. Maps, more photographs, reports of previous expeditions piled up to be studied. The conquest of Everest needs as much planning as a military operation.

This will be Colonel Hunt's first attempt on Everest, though he has made three other climbing expeditions to the Himalayas. He has also done much climbing in the Alps, Greece, North Wales and the Lake District and rock-climbing in the Sinai Desert. He sees in the fight to be the first to climb Everest something more than the question of British prestige.

"I have been enormously impressed," he told *SOLDIER*, "by the astonishing number of people, up and down the country and in all walks of life, who get a kick out of this venture. I can only take that as a justification of what we are doing.

"I feel it is because in most people there is a spark of adventure, and they see it as something not connected with the material values of life. I believe that to kindle that spark of adventure is one of the things worth doing.

"Essentially, the reason we are going is to be found in every sphere of human endeavour — a challenge, the urge to solve an

unsolved problem. In this case, it is a mountaineer's problem. Any one who knows anything about mountains cannot rest until the bogey of Everest has been laid."

The Army career which has led to Everest started in 1930, when Second-Lieutenant Hunt, fresh from Sandhurst, joined the King's Royal Rifle Corps.

A year later, he went out to India to serve with his regiment. One of his interests was in languages (the Army List records that he has qualified as an interpreter in French and German) and he studied Bengali and Urdu. In 1933 he was seconded to the Bengal Police for intelligence work, for two years, and then made his first expedition to the Himalayas. He was selected for the 1936 Everest expedition, but was unable to go.

In 1937, Colonel Hunt was back in the Himalayas, then from 1938 to 1940 served again with the Bengal Police. At the end of this period, with the Indian Police Medal to his credit, he set off climbing in the Himalayas for the third time, on a month's leave.

From this expedition, Colonel Hunt was recalled and posted to Britain. After regimental service, and breaking a leg while climbing in Wales, he became Chief Instructor at the Commando Mountain Warfare School at Braemar, under another well-known mountaineer, Frank Smythe.

In 1943 Colonel Hunt was off again, to Egypt and then Italy,



To Colonel John Hunt, a Staff officer in Germany, came a summons to high adventure

as second-in-command and commanding officer of battalions of his regiment. At the Sangro River, he won the Distinguished Service Order. In 1944, he became a brigade commander in the 4th Indian Division, and after a spell in Italy, moved to Greece.

During the Greek rebellion, Brigadier Hunt was commanding the troops in Western Greece. "I had an exciting time, trying not to fight," he says. In recognition of his success he was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

When the 4th Indian Division went home to India, Colonel Hunt returned to Britain to attend the Staff College; then he served as a Staff officer at General Headquarters of Middle East Land Forces during the Palestine troubles. Back in Britain again, he attended the Joint Services Staff College.

His next appointment was on Field-Marshal Montgomery's Western Union staff, then he was principal secretary to the

Chiefs of Staffs Committee at Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers in Europe, and later Colonel (Training) on Marshal Juin's staff. From there, he went to 1 Corps in Germany, as Colonel, General Staff.

On his trip to Everest, Colonel Hunt hopes to brush up his Indian languages. Also, on the ship to India, he is hoping to learn enough of a fresh language to be able to talk to the Sherpa porters, from Nepal, who will help the expedition. His tutor will be the only other soldier-member of the climbing expedition, Major C. G. Wylie, 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles. One other officer, Major J. O. M. Roberts MC, of the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles, will be bringing extra supplies of oxygen to the expedition.

The Army is doing its share towards equipping the Everest team. It is providing a great deal of cold weather clothing, and all the basic rations. The mainstay of the cookhouse will be compositions in 13-man packs (the expedition consists of a climbing team of 10, with the addition of a doctor, a physiologist and a photographer). For high altitudes, the climbers will use the Army's snow ration, modified to suit their own needs.

For Colonel Hunt, the Everest expedition will mean a further separation from his wife and four daughters (ages four to 14) at his home at Knighton, in Radnorshire.

And if he succeeds in leading his expedition to the summit of Everest, what will be left for other climbers to attempt?

"There are other unclimbed mountains," he says. "If we succeed, we shall do it with the help of oxygen apparatus. Someone will say that is not right, we must do it without oxygen."

"If Only Someone Would Climb It!"

Everest — by another soldier-adventurer

"I once heard a veteran of several Everest expeditions remark: 'If only someone would get to the top of the — mountain, then we could get on with some serious climbing.'"

This is an extract from "Living Dangerously," a newly published book by another soldier who has adventured in the high peaks and frozen places — Lieutenant-Colonel F. Spencer Chapman DSO.

"Except for the feeling of satisfaction afterwards, there is no pleasure at all in trying to climb the higher peaks of the Himalayas," he says. He prefers his mountains about 20,000 feet; above that height come fierce headaches, sunburn and sleeplessness, and a man draws two breaths to every step.

It is in the region of 20,000 feet that the rarefied atmosphere makes life really hard to bear. Then, "somewhere round about 29,000 feet, the height of the summit of Everest, it becomes impossible. That is really the attraction of Everest; that nobody knows whether, without the aid of oxygen, a human being can retain sufficient control of his mind and body to overcome the undoubted technical difficulties of the last 800 feet of the ascent."

Much of Lieut-Colonel Spencer Chapman's philosophy of adventure would probably be endorsed by Colonel Hunt. He thinks the greatest satisfaction in life is derived from four

sources: "A simplification of the objects of life, a degree of companionship, beautiful surroundings and — the element of danger."

But, he says, it is no use living dangerously for the sake of living dangerously — like flying in a faulty aircraft. "You must be able to justify to yourself the reason for running into danger, and you must take all proper precautions to minimise the risk of accidents. You must live dangerously as carefully as possible, so to speak."

The author's best-known feat of living dangerously was when he spent three years behind the Japanese lines in Malaya during the war. At other times he has climbed the Himalayas —

he made the first ascent of Chomolhari — and he has driven reindeer across Greenland. His proudest accomplishment, he says, was learning to control an Eskimo kayak. This slender craft has to be balanced like a bicycle. Its rider must know how to roll it, so that he can right it again when, sooner or later, he capsizes. "I found learning to roll quite terrifying. It felt so strange to see my kayak silhouetted in the green water above me, yet still beneath my seat."

This invigorating book (published by Chatto and Windus, 12s 6d) is based on a series of broadcasts by Lieut-Colonel Spencer Chapman. It embraces his Arctic, Himalayan and jungle exploits.

Thank You, Mr. Linklater!

WRITERS — especially intellectual writers — have failed to do justice to the British soldier.

That is the charge made by Mr. Eric Linklater, a one-time private of the Black Watch, in his admirable, auto-biographical "A Year of Space" (Macmillan, 18s). The book is a record of the author's wanderings in 1951 — wanderings which ranged from Sweden to Korea, from New Zealand to Ceylon.

English writers, he says, have been so busy acquiring refinement and sensibility, learning professional exactitude, and avoiding everything that is hearty and commonplace, that they have tended to take "an anti-heroical view of life." Yet, through the shocks and threats of this century, only the soldier has enabled us to live in tolerable conditions.

"We have made our scientific advances, our political experiments, behind a great wall of soldiers. We have painted our pictures, written our poems, devised our operas within the mortal protection of the Navy, the Army and the Air Force. Children have been born, love has had its day, houses have been built and gardens tended while young men — conscripts in name but volunteers in action — warded off the destroying waves of the enemy. Everything we have and are is ours, and still exists, by grace and courage of the soldiers. They are the men of the century, because without them we should no longer be numbering its years — or numbering them only to curse the wretchedness of our survival in it."

We have suffered in this century, says Mr. Linklater, from too little wisdom, and bravery has had to atone for it. Therefore it is high time that bravery was acknowledged.

These passages in Mr. Linklater's book follow immediately after the chapters which describe his visit to Korea (to write an official history of the early part of the campaign).

Mr. Linklater gives some notable instances of the adaptability of the British soldier. He was taken to meet a 22-year-old lance-corporal of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers who was teaching discipline and hygiene to a small detachment of Koreans in a special reconnaissance role. Asked "How do you make them do what they're told?" the soldier replied: "I keep them in. They get leave to go out in the evening, usually, but if they haven't done their work I keep them in. And as an extra punishment, if that's necessary — they get a bit excited sometimes — I make them stand on their hands."

It wasn't everybody who had this natural talent for handling men of a strange race, the lance-corporal's officer explained. Mr. Linklater's comment was: "If em-

pire-building weren't so unfashionable he ought to be given a bag of sovereigns and told to go out and found a colony."

In passing, Mr. Linklater recalls a conversation with the only other Royal Northumberland Fusilier he had ever met. This was during the Kaiser's war. The man had a deep, gutterlike wound on his right temple, the result of a blow from a stone axe, which he had suffered in the Mexican province of Chihuahua "while raiding, unsuccessfully, an Indian village for women." His commanding officer,

at that time, was an ex-mistress of General Villa, who had been rewarded for the loss of his favour by the colonelcy of a regiment, which she led "with great ferocity but little judgment." This man too, says Mr. Linklater, was "a simple, confident man who appeared to take for granted the strange and perilous accidents of life."

At one stage in Korea Mr. Linklater met a disputatious party of soldiers descending a hill; some were King's Own Scottish Borderers, others were Royal Ulster Rifles. As they passed, one Ulsterman paused to inform the author "in ringing tones and the poignant accent of Belfast": "Them's the — that pinched the Coronation Stone. A — insult to Bruttain!"

At a not-very-exciting film-show in Korea one British soldier fired his rifle at the hero on the screen — not once but several times.

"Let me defend him at his court-martial," asked Mr. Linklater. "He may not be a good soldier, but the chances are that he's a good critic — and such people are badly needed." But the good critic was never caught.

Mr. Linklater suggests that the British soldier's boots have a high morale value. The Americans wore "rubber-soled shoes that merely whispered to the road," but when the first British soldiers landed at Pusan, shod with iron and leather, "the cobbled quays rang like a thousand anvils ... Boot leather and drill, on their first day in Korea won a moral victory."

The rest of Mr. Linklater's book is as engrossing as his chapters on Korea. He never hesitates to wander down beguiling by-paths. Through it all is a high — and welcome — respect for the trade of soldier.

'They Could be Trained, like Gurkhas'

*N*OW that South Koreans are being taken on the strength of British Infantry battalions in Korea, especial interest attaches to these tributes to Koreans as fighting men, quoted by Mr. Eric Linklater.

A soldier's verdict:

"They've been badly treated, of course, and because of that they're a bit bloody-minded. What can you expect, after what the Japs did to them? But give the Gooks a fair deal and they're all right. They're bloody good, if you ask me. We've had a carrier company with us, that's never let us down. They'll come up under fire, and do what they're told, and won't grouse

about it either. They've got plenty of guts, the Gooks..."

And an officer's verdict:

"The Gooks are good material, and if we had the training of them we might turn them into something almost as fine as the Gurkhas. They're tough as hell, they aren't afraid, they're quick to learn, and they're loyal to people they can trust. They've got some bad habits — damned bad habits — but bad habits can be cured. We and the French and the Dutch know how to handle colonial troops, and if we were allowed to, we'd make a Korean army — with our officers and NCO's — that could hold their frontier till the cows come home."



"The Old Fogaboloughs" Were the Very Devils

IN August 1939 the 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Fusiliers, stationed in Guernsey, were ordered to England to mobilise. They left their mess treasures in a Guernsey bank.

The following year the Germans seized the Channel Islands, and the local commander had 18 packing cases of the Fusiliers' silver and pictures removed to his headquarters.

The bank manager and the island's Bailiff (Prime Minister) protested and all was returned to the bank except "a few articles for domestic use." The "few articles" included 463 Georgian silver knives, forks and spoons, 30 crested coffee and tea pots, a gold and jewelled snuff box and other items. They were never recovered, except for two ancient swords, but the bank's vaults yielded the rest of the Regiment's treasure to its rightful owners at the end of the war.

This story is told in "The Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1793-1950," (Oxford University Press, 42s) by Marcus Cunliffe, a young Oxford historian who himself fought in the Royal Tank Regiment. There is a foreword by General Sir Gerald Templer, a son of the Regiment and its Colonel. General Templer figures in the book as a subaltern called upon to make shakoes out of Egyptian tarbooshes for a tattoo in Cairo, in 1927.

Both regiments which went to make up the Royal Irish Fusiliers — the 87th and the 89th — were raised in the same year, 1793, and both at one stage, had second battalions. It was the 87th which shouted "Faugh-a-Ballagh" ("Clear the Way"), the phrase which has ever since been associated with the Regiment, at Barrosa in 1804. Any member of the Regiment today is proud to be known as a "Faugh."

Notable characters, as well as stirring incidents, stud the 490-odd pages of this history. There was a Captain Henry Mellish, a famous dandy and sportsman who was said to have lost £97,000 at

879 'Musts' and 'Mustn'ts'

SOLDIERS are forbidden to hang out of windows watching a parade in progress.

Soldiers are forbidden to play wireless sets and musical instruments, except during the hours authorised.

Soldiers are forbidden to go to bed at night wearing the same clothes they have worn during the day.

A soldier in plain clothes will salute an officer by touching his head-dress if wearing, or by turning his head to the left or right if bare-headed.

Buttons of tunics will not be undone in places of public entertainment.

Those are only five out of 879 injunctions and prohibitions listed in "A Guide to Battalion Standing Orders" (Gale and Polden, 5s).

This is a revised version of a similar book first published 50 years ago. The present author, Major R. C. W. Thomas of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, is now on the staff of the 1st Commonwealth Division in Korea (where the rules about going to bed in day clothes have been known to be relaxed). The

book is intended as a framework on which standing orders can be based according to local conditions and units' own peculiarities.

The same publishers have issued "The Soldier Clerk—His Duties and Training" (5s) by Major L. D. Cozens. It covers a wide field, from office organisation to Part Two orders, decorations, accident procedure, military law and Army forms. Both books contain the answers to many questions which SOLDIER's query department is often asked.

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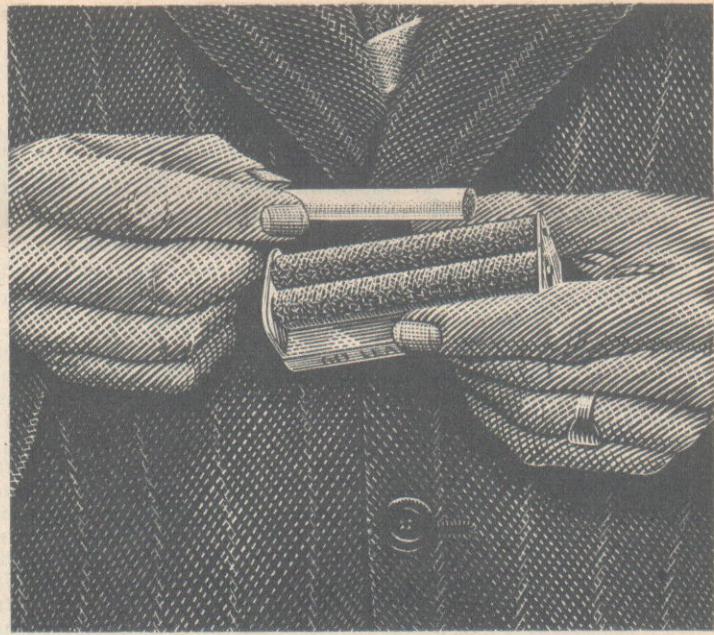


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1 He's in the Wembley Class

ON Cup Final day last year, Warrant Officer Class One A. W. Smith of the Royal Army Dental Corps took a train from Aldershot. A few hours later, he was on duty as linesman at Wembley Stadium.

This was one of the highlights of a spare-time career as a football referee which started in China 22 years ago.

There is only one greater honour football can bestow on Warrant Officer Smith, that of being referee at the Cup Final. He still has three years before he reaches the referees' age-limit, 47, but there are 39 others on the exclusive Full List of Referees of the Football League and they also have claims to the Wembley honour.

Warrant Officer Smith was born to a footballing family. His father played for Southampton, one uncle for Birmingham and another uncle for Burnley. He, too, has played a great deal. During a tour in Shanghai from 1928 to 1932, he played goal-keeper for the Army team there, and in Britain in 1934 he was captain and goal-keeper of the Royal Army Medical Corps team.

It was in 1931, during his tour in Shanghai, that Warrant Officer Smith qualified as a referee. In 1938 he went out to Hong-Kong and there, in between refereeing or playing in Army games, he played for the Kowloon Club. Then came the war, and in December 1941 he was captured by the Japanese. For four years he was a prisoner, and football was just a memory of better days.

The war over, Warrant Officer Smith was promoted to the Football League list of linesmen, and after two seasons to the League's Supplementary List of Referees, which is limited to 50 names. The following year, he was the only soldier on the 40-name Full List of Referees.

Since the war, he has been referee at more than 150 Football League matches and a grand total of nearly 400 matches altogether.

He lists among his principal honours the Army Cup final of

1950, the Arsenal-Chelsea Cup semi-final replay of 1950, a number of Football Association cup-ties, four matches between the French and Belgian armies, one between the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force and one between a Football Association side and the Royal Air Force. He was linesman at an Olympic Games match in 1948.

For many of the principal matches, the referee is given the choice of a fee or a souvenir. Warrant Officer Smith always chooses the souvenir, and the result is a glittering collection of medals, small plaques and inscribed whistles, each on its own little stand. Among them is one inscribed in Chinese, memento of a cup final in Hong-Kong.

When he has no Football League or Army commitments, Warrant Officer Smith is a referee for the Hampshire Senior League. He is honorary secretary and treasurer of the Aldershot Referees' Association and in great demand as a lecturer on refereeing and as a member of football quiz teams.

He has also done much work for Army referees in the Aldershot District. He was their appointments secretary for four years, coaches all the junior referees in the District and has seen the number of referees in the District build up from none to more than 70 since the war.

All this is in his spare time. In working hours, he is helping to train young soldiers as dental technicians, a trade he has followed since he joined the Army nearly 27 years ago.

Warrant Officer Smith has had few embarrassing moments in his career as a referee. In the Yeovil

Sunderland cup-tie in 1949, however, he gave rather a long blast on his whistle, for a foul, not long before time. The crowd thought the match was over and rushed on to the field, but Warrant Officer Smith spoke to the police and in a minute the pitch was cleared and the game resumed. He also had an excited crowd on the field during the Arsenal-Chelsea replay in 1950, when the only goal was scored, just before the end of the first half of extra time. Here again, the pitch was soon cleared.

For matches between the French and Belgian armies, Warrant Officer Smith, who speaks no French, uses his own sign-language to

address the players. "It works very well," he says. "I have never had any trouble."

Like most referees, he has been booed a few times, but he says, "I have never had anything thrown at me."

He finds League football much faster than Army football, but Army football is more sporting.

"I think professional football owes its thanks to the Army Football Association," he says. "The Army Football Association does a great deal for the young professional players during their National Service, and when they go back to their professional clubs, they seem to take Army sportsmanship back with them. On the field they are gentlemen. National Service is a good thing for professional football."

Warrant Officer Smith has decided what he wants to do when his Army and refereeing days are over. "I would like to be secretary of a football club," he says.

Continued on Page 33

THEY ALL KNOW THESE SIGNS

For matches between the French and Belgian armies, Warrant Officer Smith uses his own sign-language



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"Holding."



"Hands."



"Dangerous play."



"Pushing."



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SUBJECT

2 After Bogota, He Rejoined

IN a little office in St. John's Wood Barracks, decorated with horses' bones, Serjeant T. G. Pounder of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps will show privileged visitors his sheaf of newspaper cuttings.

Most of them are in Spanish, for one of the highlights of Serjeant Pounder's career was a year as a football referee in the South American republic of Colombia. They show that he was a considerable personality in the sporting life of Colombia.

"The refereeing of Pounder was magnificent," says a headline to a report of his first match in that country. A later headline, right across the page, hints broadly that a match was a draw, instead of a win for one side thanks to a mistake with the whistle by Mr. Pounder. "That was when I disallowed a goal for handling," says Mr. Pounder. "To the Colom-

bians, if the ball goes into the net, that is a goal."

Serjeant Pounder had left the Army (as a warrant officer) on pension before going to South America in 1950. He had served in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps since 1928, and had been an Army football referee since 1935. By 1950 he was on the Football League list of linesmen and the Football Combination referees' list. He had refereed a semi-final of the Army Cup, the boy's Army Cup final and matches between the Army and Everton and the Army and the Civil Service. When he left the Army, he was one of six British referees who were flown out to Colombia, on one-year contracts.

Segunda derrota a Junior

El arbitraje de Pounder fue magnífico. Detalles

Bogotá, 20 (De nuestro corresponsal).—Sporting 2, Junior 1. Sporting con Cardozo, Marraga y Chompi Henríquez; Pellegrini, De la Hoz y Otávio; Gámez, Romero, Noceda, Angulo y Bolívar. Cambios: Botta por Bolívar.

the Army

At that time, Colombia did not belong to any international football organisation, and its football managers could offer any salaries they liked to attract players from other countries. Serjeant Pounder met a Brazilian lawyer, whose fame as a footballer had spread into Colombia. A Colombian manager flew to Brazil to engage him, but was promptly clapped in gaol by a Brazilian chief of police. The footballer, whose law seems to have been as good as his football, came to the aid of his prospective employer, and three days later, manager and player were in an aircraft bound for Colombia.

Serjeant Pounder lived in Bogotá, capital of Colombia, and travelled to matches elsewhere by aircraft. "Sometimes I flew 2000 miles in a week-end," he



Serjeant T. G. Pounder, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, the referee who went to South America.

told SOLDIER. "We were always put up in the best hotels and there was an allowance for expenses. When we arrived anywhere, the mayor or some other important person would arrange for us to see the sights and any Britons living in the area would entertain us.

"Often we would fly with one of the teams. That was all right on the outward journey, but not

OVER



LA PRENSA — Barranquilla — Colombia — LUNES, 24 DE ABRIL DE 1950

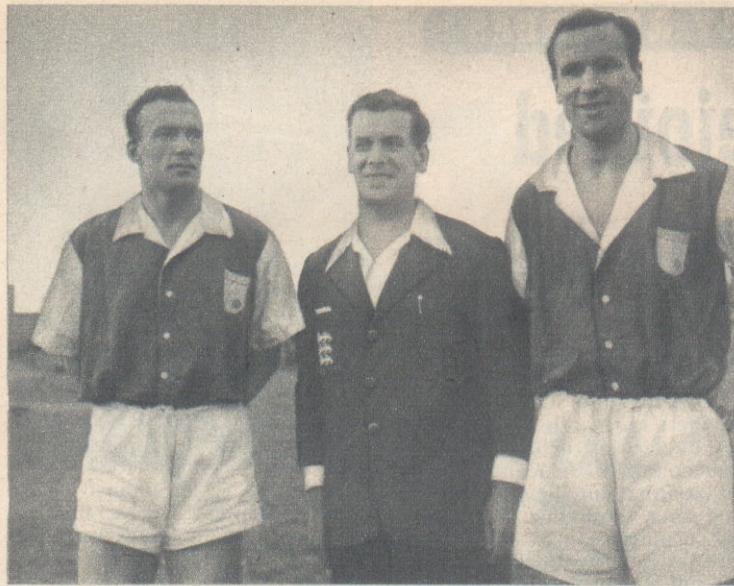
Página 7a

Triunfo del Sporting, convertido en empate

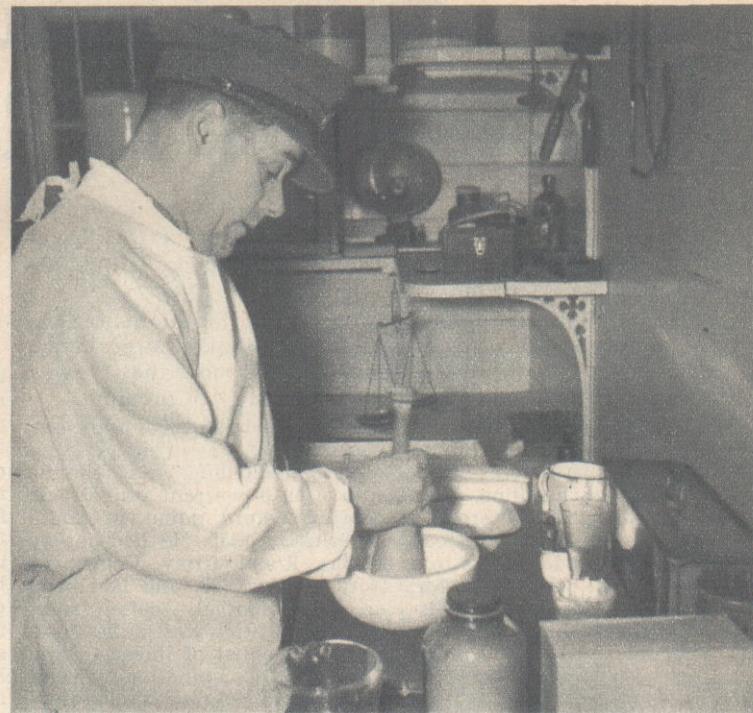
Por obra y gracia de una "pifia" del árbitro Mr. Pounder

Con el marcador una vez más favorable a los "Piraguas", Barranquilla, el empate

"The refereeing of Pounder was magnificent," says the headline on the left. The one above hints at a mistake with the whistle. Below: In this game, players protested loudly at a penalty award, and gendarmes took the field. Referee Pounder (seen at right) has never been attacked.



Referee Pounder with two of the British players who also went to Colombia: Charles Mitten (left) and Neil Franklin. Right: A dose for a horse: Serjeant Pounder pounds with a pestle in his dispensary at St. John's Wood Barracks.



After Bogota, He Rejoined (Continued)

coming back if the team had lost. The established players were friendly enough, but up-and-coming men, who thought their chances of a permanent place in the team had been spoilt by a defeat, sometimes got nasty. I have often been ragged and had oranges thrown at me in the aircraft."

Each match was attended by a local police chief and some armed men, who intervened if fights started between players or if the crowd got out of control. No player was ever violent to Serjeant Pounder — "They were sportsmen," he says — but sometimes when the home team had lost, a crowd would gather outside the referee's dressing-room yelling for blood. Only once did he hear rifles fired on a football field, and that was when, after he had left the field, two players began to argue, the crowd joined

in and the police fired into the air to disperse them.

On a day off, Serjeant Pounder went to watch a match which was controlled by another British referee. The trainer of one team made a nuisance of himself by constantly dashing on to the pitch to sponge the faces of his players. The referee warned him and finally, in desperation, snatched the trainer's sponge and flung it off the field. By bad luck, it landed in the face of the local beauty queen, who was honouring the match by her patronage. "I think that nearly caused a break in the diplomatic relations between Britain and Colombia," says Serjeant Pounder.

It was a pleasant life. The pay was good, and so were living conditions. The British referees were made members of the Millionaires' Club, and they were given facil-

ties for golf, tennis, swimming and any other sports they fancied. At the end of the season, Serjeant Pounder was offered a new contract, for two years this time. But the Colombia Football Association would not go to the expense of a passage for his wife and two young children, so he came home.

After a short time in a civilian job with a Territorial unit, he rejoined the Royal Army Veterinary Corps and was posted to the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, where he still is, as veterinary serjeant.

Neither the Army nor the Football Association had forgotten him. He was reinstated on the

Football Combination referees' list and the Football League linesmen's list. He refereed the Army Cup final last year and has been linesman at France-versus-Britain and France-versus-Belgium army matches.

Besides his newspaper cuttings, Serjeant Pounder has a number of other mementoes of his tour in Colombia given him by football enthusiasts. There are a pair of maracas (instruments used in South American dance-bands), a large machete (sheath-knife), and a pair of cranes (birds) carved in horn and given to him when, as an honoured guest, he inspected the gaol of a town he was visiting.

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It all happens because a sixpence rolls down a drain. The boy who was going to buy a yellow balloon with it starts a little mischief which ends in the accidental death of his friend. Then a crook steps in and plays on the boy's fears; murder follows. Plenty of action and a star part for young Andrew Ray. Yet, though a child stars in the picture, it must not be shown to children. The cast includes Kathleen Ryan, Kenneth More, Williams Sylvester, Veronica Hurst, Sandra Dorne and Hy Hazell.

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The dashing story of adventure around the court of Ruritania, which made a best-seller of the 1890's. It was filmed in the days of the silent cinema, with Lewis Stone in the lead. In the 1930's it made a black-and-white talkie, with Ronald Colman, Madeleine Carroll, Douglas Fairbanks junior and others whose names are still in the big lights. The new version is in colour, and the cast includes Stewart Granger, Deborah Kerr, James Mason and the veteran of the 1922 version, Lewis Stone. There is still a moat to be swum, and swords clash merrily on the battlements.

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AGAINST ALL FLAGS

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LETTERS



SWAGGER CANES

Until the war it was the practice for soldiers to carry swagger canes. I wonder why they have not been brought back? I think it would help to correct the slovenly attitude adopted by some soldiers when walking out. — Bombardier K. Pike (283rd (W) Field Regiment RA (TA)), Pontywaen, Cross Keys, Monmouth.

★ Swagger canes were never an Army issue but were bought by the men through their regiments. Most regiments have decided that canes do not go well with battle-dress.

'THE YOUNG REGULAR'

I am a 19-year-old Regular soldier, and I cannot see any reason for us to be given a special badge to distinguish us from National Servicemen (as suggested by "G. B." in January SOLDIER). They do not get all the overseas postings; as far as I know, the Army tries to send equal numbers of Regulars abroad as well.

The only mark of distinction which one should be able to see is that of the professional soldier doing his job much better than the National Serviceman — but very often he does not. I suggest that "GB" joins the Salvation Army. At least they would give him a trumpet to blow, which is obviously what he wants. — Gunner W. Rushworth, 77th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment RA, BAOR.

IMPERIAL SERVICE

Can you give me some information about a brooch inscribed "Imperial Service," surmounted with a crown and issued in 1914? I have been told it entitled one to the Territorial Army Overseas Medal in World War One. — H. P. Humphris, Mornington Crescent, Withington, Manchester 14.

★ This badge was introduced in 1910 to distinguish Territorials who had volunteered for service outside Britain in an emergency. Its issue continued during World War One until it no longer served its purpose, as almost every Territorial was volunteering for service abroad. After that war liability for overseas service was a condition of enlistment in the Territorial Army (except for a limited few) and so the badge was cancelled.

The medal to which this reader refers was known as the Territorial Force War Medal, granted only to those Territorials who volunteered for service overseas not later than 30 September 1914, and who served abroad during that war. A soldier entitled to the Imperial Service badge was not automatically entitled to this medal, and a soldier who qualified for the 1914 Star, or the 1914-15 Star, could not be given the medal even if he possessed the Imperial Service badge.

SWORD KNOTS

Some of us have been looking at the latest official drill book which contains pictures of saluting with the sword. An argument has developed on the method of securing the sword knot to obtain the result shown in

● SOLDIER welcomes letters.

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

Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published.

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

the photographs. Can you please settle this problem? — "Major" (address supplied).

★ Dress Regulations state: "Sword knots . . . worn loose with all orders of dress by mounted officers. Other officers will wear it [the knot] neatly coiled round the guard of the sword." The loop of the knot is passed through the guard and after coiling, the acorn is passed through the loop and the coils are pressed down neatly.

THE RSM

I liked your article on the Regimental Serjeant Major but why is it that no one can become a warrant officer class one after the age of 40? I feel this is a bit unfair to warrant officers class two who want to serve on to the age of 55. — "Long-Term Soldier" (name and address supplied).

★ Under the Pay Warrant no soldier over 40 years of age is eligible for substantive promotion to warrant officer class one except for certain individuals in REME and RAPC, where the "ceiling" is 45 years. As there are only a few vacancies for warrant officers class one as against many for warrant officers class two, the competition is very keen. The War Office have therefore decided that if a soldier has not reached this rank by the age of 40, when normally he has served for 22 years, he should be excluded from any list of candidates in order to brighten promotion chances for younger men.

TRINKET

The Scots Guards regimental serjeant-major on your January cover would appear to be improperly dressed. Paragraph 1005 of Queen's Regulations states that trinkets will not be worn. — WOII T. S. Smith, Field Security Section, Rhine Army.

★ Plain signet or wedding rings are not classified as trinkets.

Things You Wouldn't Know Unless We Told You

Officers are permitted to drink the Queen's health in water or other non-alcoholic beverages. — Queen's Regulations, Paragraph 1458

TRANSFER WANTED

I am shortly due to end my nine years with the Colours. May I return to Britain for my discharge and then transfer to, or re-engage in, another regiment? — "Infantry Musician" (name and address supplied).

★ No soldier may extend his service or re-engage if he applies to do so after having been sent home to Britain for transfer to the Reserve (Queen's Regulations, para 249). In any case, a Reservist is not eligible to re-enlist on a fresh engagement. He can only return on his old engagement which would not entitle him to a transfer. This soldier should not wait until he is sent home if he wishes to prolong his Colour service or to transfer to another regiment.

NO TRANSFER

I am a Maltese serving in REME. Could I transfer to the Royal Malta Artillery? Would my present service and that in Malta count towards pension? — Sjt. C. Degiorgio, Instow, Devon.

★ As transfers between Corps of the British Army and the Royal Malta Artillery are not permitted, a Maltese soldier serving on a United Kingdom enlistment must wait for his engagement to end before applying to enlist in the Royal Malta Artillery. If accepted, his former service will reckon for pay and pension.

RESERVE PAY

Does a soldier transferring to the Reserve receive pay based on the highest or the last rank held? I was for five years a sergeant but have come down to corporal under the peace promotion code. — "Royal Berkshire Corporal" (name and address supplied).

★ Soldiers transfer to the Reserve in the substantive rank held at the time of their transfer, and they receive Reserve pay based on that rank.

IN HOSPITAL

I am in a military hospital with tuberculosis and look like remaining here for many months. I am on a 21-year engagement with an undertaking to serve three years supplemental service beyond that term. As my 21-year engagement is due to end while I am a patient, will I be discharged from the Army? If so, will my pay and family allowances stop? — "Worried Sergeant" (name and address supplied).

★ This case is governed by ACI 48 of 1951, summarised in Notice Board

Information No 497. Briefly, if this soldier is still a hospital patient when his 21 years are up, he will be eligible to remain on full pay until the end of five months from the date of his first absence from duty. He will then be brought before a medical board. If he is recommended for discharge from the Army on medical grounds, he will receive invaliding and terminal leave totalling 56 days on full pay.

A soldier who fails to serve his supplemental service normally repays the £25 initial bounty and £8 civilian clothing grant, but when he has been medically discharged, this money is not recovered by the War Office.

FAMILY ALLOWANCES

Last September the family allowance for all children in a family except the eldest was raised from 5s to 8s a week. I am told this is not payable in BAOR. However, I am sure there is a special family allowance in this command and in addition that there is an overseas family allowance paid to families to counter the cost of living (not paid in all overseas commands). Could you please confirm? — S/Sjt. A. Holden, RAOC, BAOR.

★ A family in Britain is paid the statutory family allowance (now 8s). This is not paid to families outside the United Kingdom. However, a similar allowance, the overseas family allowance, is payable from Army funds under the same conditions and at the same rate to children of soldiers living at the father's duty station abroad, including BAOR. There is also a cost of living addition to overseas family allowance at certain overseas stations, but not in Rhine Army. Presumably it is this latter additional allowance which this reader has in mind.

FROM TURKEY

Are civilians (whether British or foreign) "entitled personnel" in respect of drawing rations from a unit NAAFI? If so, what rank should the person hold who authorises the entitlement?

Is a married private soldier entitled to draw whisky and a bachelor corporal not? — D. A. Henwood, 6 Yuksel Caddesi, Yenisehir, Ankara, Turkey.

★ NAAFI says: British civilians overseas, not normally domiciled in the country concerned, and employed by the Army or RAF, and their families, are entitled to draw NAAFI supplies if authorised by a GOC-in-C or an AOC-in-C. In addition, British

Letters Continued Overleaf

How Much Do You Know?

1. When the moon is in apogee is it (a) eclipsed by the sun; (b) three-quarters full; (c) at its farthest from the earth; (d) covered with cloud?

2. He was a famous missionary and explorer of last century. In 1871 fears were expressed for his safety and another explorer was sent to find him. He refused to be rescued, however, and died two years later. His heart was buried where he died, but his body was taken home for burial in Westminster Abbey. (a) Who was he? (b) Which continent did he explore? (c) Who went to find him?

3. Some modern motor-cars have "over-square" engines. What does this mean?

4. Over which routes run (a) The Royal Scot; (b) The Flying Scotsman?

5. In what stage of the Coronation proceedings, and in which piece of the Regalia, will the Queen wear the Black Prince's ruby?

6. Which country honours distinguished men with the Order of the Elephant?

7. If an Australian asks you, "Got the makings?" is he referring to (a) money; (b) tobacco and cigarette paper; (c) health and strength; (d) tea, milk and sugar?

8. If you are not an artist, how would you describe these colours, (a) viridian; (b) carmine; (c) cobalt; (d) chrome?

9. By which names are these cities now known, (a) Joppa; (b) Astolat; (c) St. Petersburg; (d) Christiania?

10. What is the common name of the ailment doctors describe as coryza?

(Answers on next page)

PENSIONS for WIDOWS — and GRATUITIES

A new pension scheme for widows of long-service Regular soldiers has been drawn up.

It will benefit the widows of men who die from causes which cannot be attributed to the Service. (Widows of men who die from "attributable" causes—for instance, wounds in action—already receive pensions.)

Hitherto, only widows of officers and warrant officers class one have received "non-attributable" pensions.

Under the new scheme a private soldier will require to serve a period of 32 years before his widow qualifies for a pension; a sergeant 27 years; a warrant officer class two 22 years.

For the first time, also, gratuities will be paid to widows of Regulars who die while serving.

The pension and gratuity schemes apply to widows of men who "have given full-time service since 31 August 1950." They do not benefit widows of soldiers below the rank of warrant officer class one whose full-time service ended before that date.

The new pensions will be back-dated to 1 December 1952.

The Government seriously considered a contributory widows' pension scheme similar to that existing in the Civil Service and in some private firms, but the idea was dropped.

For officers, the minimum period of service required before a widows' pension is payable will be as for Service retired pay (normally 20 years, or ten years if the officer is invalided or dies while serving). The assessment of rank, including credit for paid acting and temporary rank, will also be as for Service retired pay. The annual rates are (old rates in brackets):

Field-Marshal £500 (£300); general £425 (£225); lieut-general £350 (£187 10s); major-general £300 (£150); brigadier £250 (£120); colonel £220 (£100); lieut-colonel £180 (£90); major £140 (£70); captain £110 (£50); lieutenant £110 (£45). For each child of an officer (any rank), the new rate is £32 a year (old rate £16). If the child is motherless £50 is paid (old rate £25).

For ex-ranker short-service officers with 20 years reckonable service (or ten years if a man is invalided or dies while serving), pension will be as for the widow of a permanent Regular officer. Where his service is less than 20 years, but of 15 or more years, the pension will be £85 a year. Children's pensions will be at the same rates as for children of permanent Regular officers.

Widows of warrant officers class one will now receive £60 a year instead of £30, and £20 for each child (old rate £10); if motherless, each child will receive £40 (old rate £20). To qualify, a warrant officer class one must serve 22 years (12 if he is invalided out or dies while serving) and have two years in

his rank during the last five years of his service.

The old pension rate for widows of officers and warrant officers class one whose service ended before 31 August 1950 will be increased to the new rates for officers and warrant officers serving after that date. Conditions relating to income and age will no longer apply.

The following rates of pension will now be payable to widows of the following:

WO II 16s 6d a week after 22 years' service, 15s after 27 years, 17s 6d after 32 years, £1 after 37 years.

Staff-sergeant: 10s after 22 years, 12s 6d after 27 years, 15s after 32 years, 17s 6d after 37 years.

Sergeant: 10s after 27 years, 12s 6d after 32 years, 15s after 37 years.

Corporal and below: 10s after 32 years, 12s 6d after 37 years.

Payment for children of WO's II and below is 3s 6d a week (5s if motherless).

Pensions for children will be payable normally up to the age of 18 years to families of officers and warrant officers class one, and to 16 years for those of soldiers below those ranks.

GRATUITIES

Gratuities will be paid to widows of officers and men who die while serving after 31 August 1950, where a terminal grant would have been payable if the husband had not died.

A maximum gratuity of £900 will be paid to an officer's widow, regardless of rank. For each year short of 20 years £45 will be deducted from the £900. The minimum gratuity (for ten years' service) is £450. Where no terminal grant would have been paid, the widow will receive £200.

Widows of short-service officers or those on extended service commissions and engagements are included in this scheme.

For warrant officers and below the following is the scale of gratuities paid to widows whose husbands completed 22 years but died before their release (addition for each further year is given in brackets):

WOI £250 (£20); WOII £230 (£18); staff-sergeant £215 (£16); sergeant £165 (£15); corporal £125 (£12); private £75 (£10). For service of less than 22 years, but more than 12, a proportion of the 22-year gratuity will be payable (minimum, £75). Where no terminal grant would have been paid to the husband, the widow will receive £40.

Children of dead soldiers, who are also motherless, will receive part of, or all the gratuities. Children dependent on Regular members of the women's services who die while serving will be eligible for gratuities in certain circumstances.

More details of the Forces Family Pension scheme are given in White Paper Command 8741, obtainable from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 429, Oxford Street, London, W 1, price 4d.

MORE LETTERS

civilians overseas, if sponsored by a British Government Department and approved by War Office, are entitled to draw NAAFI supplies.

The sale of intoxicating liquor (including whisky) to soldiers is governed by Rules for the Conduct of Garrison and Regimental Institutes 1951 (para 56), which state that intoxicating liquor may be sold to married families. This means that if a private soldier is accompanied by his wife he is entitled to a whisky allocation. A bachelor corporal, on the other hand, receives no whisky.

TRIANGLES

With reference to the article "Desert Warfare Again" (SOLDIER, February):

Having served in both the 1st and 3rd Infantry Divisions, I feel bound to point out that the 3rd Infantry Division flash is a red triangle on a black triangle and the 1st Infantry Division is a white triangle, and not vice-versa as stated by you. — Sjt. F. C. Clarke, HQ 48 Field Regiment RA, Colchester.

★ Many other readers have pointed out this unfortunate error, which was not the fault of the contributor.

NICKNAMES

You said in your November issue that "Nobby" was a slang term for the well-dressed. I remember reading that it came from an eastern term, "Nobi," meaning clerk. — Wilfred A. Clark (late Dorset Regiment and Army Educational Corps), 807A, Pershore Road, Birmingham.

Why "Smudger" Smith? — WOII Smith, 53 LAA Regt RA, Rhine Army.

★ The origin is unknown, except that all smithies were termed "smudgers."

"BACK IN BELGIUM"

I was greatly surprised to read in the January SOLDIER that for the first time since 1946 British troops are again in Belgium.

In May of 1949 I was in Belgium with the advance party of 158 Independent Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery. The unit joined us five days later for a training mission that was to last seven months.

brought into, and taken out of, action. This was to take place before Chiefs of Staff and members of the Belgian Government. All was ready, the mikes had been tested and the interpreters stood by. A nod of the head from the Instructor in Gunnery and the gun-towing vehicle started on its journey.

Everyone was ready for Captain Dick to start his commentary. He be-



The year is 1949. The Union Jack flies on a Belgian sand dune as British Gunners operate an anti-aircraft tracker.

I am proud to say that in that time the unit did a fine job of work in training the Belgian anti-aircraft troops in modern equipments to form part of a co-ordinated defence under Western Union. It was called Operation Sand Dune.

I feel that some mention might be made of one incident which has always delighted me. Captain Dick, the unit Instructor in Gunnery had arranged a lecture and demonstration of a 3.7 mobile anti-aircraft gun being

gan, and for a startled moment the interpreters stared at him. He gave that lecture in faultless French.

Unlike those who are in Belgium today, we were there at the time the pound was devalued and found ourselves very badly off overnight. — WO. T. R. Brooke, REME, Langham Holt, Norfolk.

My attention has been drawn to an article "Back in Belgium" in the January SOLDIER, which contains the following sentence: — "There are no AKC cinemas (although many Belgian cinemas show English-speaking films) and canteens are necessarily organised on austerity lines."

While this is true, the impression left on the reader is that somehow or other the AKC has failed to provide cinemas. The remarks about the Belgian cinemas are placed in parentheses, as though they were a palliative only, and the statement points out that the canteens are "necessarily" organised on austerity lines, which does show that in the opinion of the writer their austerity is unavoidable. Had the sentence read "There are no AKC cinemas, but they are not at present necessary, as there are many Belgian cinemas within reach showing English-speaking films" I would have had no objection to it. There has been no failure on the part of the AKC. At the very first opportunity, many months ago, this place was visited by me and other AKC executives to ascertain what we could do to provide any cinema entertainment that might be required. This proved to be necessary in one camp only, and all arrangements were made, when a sudden change of plan, moving personnel from this camp to Belgian barracks where there was a cinema, led to their cancellation.

The moment word is received that there is a requirement again it will be met. — J. N. Soden, District Director, 30 District HQ, Army Kinema Corporation, BAOR.

Answers

(From Page 37)

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

1. (c). 2. (a) David Livingstone, (b) Africa, (c) Sir Henry Stanley. 3. The diameter of the cylinder is greater than the length of the piston-stroke. 4. (a) Euston to Glasgow, (b) King's Cross to Edinburgh. 5. As she leaves the Abbey, in the Imperial State Crown. 6. Denmark. 7. (b). 8. (a) Green, (b) red, (c) blue, (d) yellow. 9. (a) Jaffa, (b) Guildford, (c) Leningrad, (d) Oslo. 10. A common cold.

NO OPENING

What steps should I take and what qualifications do I need to join the staff of a British Military attaché in a foreign country? — "Serjeant" (name and address supplied).

★ There are no openings for warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men on the staff of military attachés. "Civilianisation" is now the policy.

ROYAL COOKS?

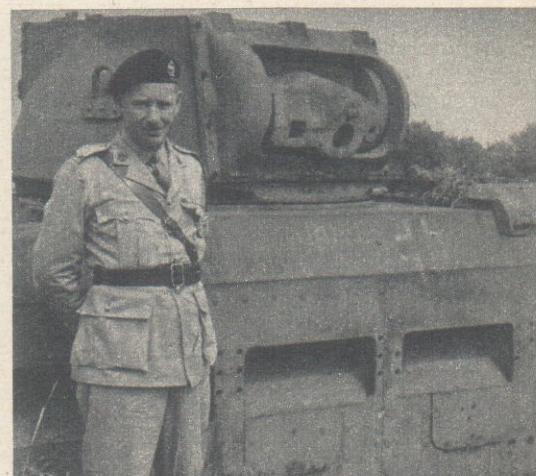
When REME sprang from the RAOC it was immediately given the title "Royal." But why has not the Army Catering Corps, which sprang from the RASC? — "Infantry Soldier" (name and address supplied).

HIS OLD TANK

During World War Two I collected many tanks for the Ordnance Museum at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, including several which were returned to the United States as salvage. Finding several British tanks among this salvage, I directed that they too should be sent to our Museum. Several were of the type I had known round Mersa Matruh and Halfaya Pass, when I was an instructor on United States Lend-Lease material to the Eighth Army.

Recently an officer whom I knew in Libya and Cairo visited me here: Major Peter Vaux, Royal Armoured Corps. You may well imagine my surprise when Major Vaux recognised two of these tanks in our tank park. I have, therefore, photographed him standing beside his old Matilda T 10099 "Rover" (see picture, below).

Major Vaux's tank became disabled at Halfaya Pass, was abandoned and later taken by the Afrika Korps, who made it into a pill-box west of the famed pass. We have preserved its final markings. The other tank is an early British medium, one of the few sent out to the Middle East when the Abyssinian campaigns were getting under way. It eventually found its way to Libya where its service was brief. It broke down and did most of its bit as a British pill-box outside Mersa Matruh. I am sure some of your readers will remember these tanks. — G. B. Jarrett, Chief, Library and Museum Division, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, USA.



In a tank "laager" in Maryland, Major Peter Vaux found the Matilda he was forced to abandon in "Hellfire Pass." It bears German markings.

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- 6 Moisten the boot with the rag.
- 7 Finish with a dry cloth and "You could shave in it."

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