

SOLDIER

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GENERAL SIR JOHN MOORE

Remembering the Light Brigade: See Page 10

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HG 28

The Loyal Toast

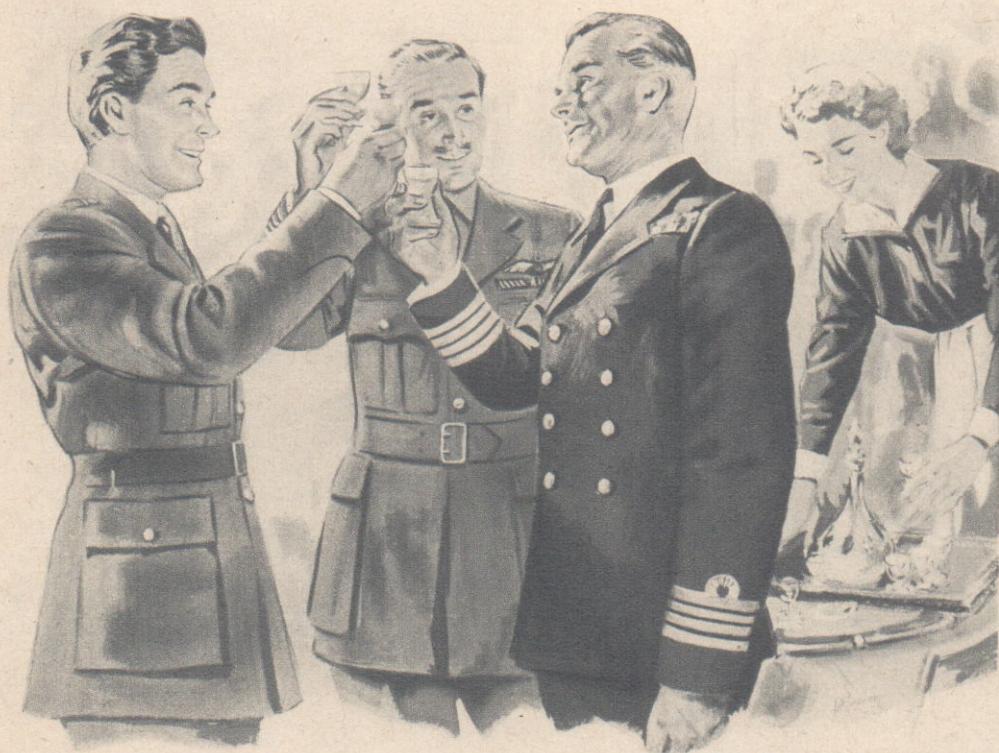
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"Luck isn't enough—only hard work and initiative lead to success."

Anne Brown :

"What a wonderful gift to be able to play like you, Miss Joyce."

Eileen Joyce :

"Thank you, Anne. I suppose most of us have some kind of gift, but it takes hard work to develop it. I had to learn music as you had to learn to type—starting right from the beginning and developing through years of hard work. I still spend many arduous hours every week studying and practising!"

Anne Brown :

"Yes—I suppose all jobs must be the same in that way—you always have to work hard if you want to get on, don't you?"

Eileen Joyce :

"You're right there, Anne. You can't rely on luck. You have to keep on trying and use all your initiative and enterprise."

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AUGUST

SOLDIER

1953

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE



**KOREA
REPORT**

TUNNEL WAR

Here is an artist's reconstruction of one of the tunnel encounters between men of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and Chinese Communists in the honeycombed Hook, in Korea

See Next Page



Three days after the Duke of Wellington's Regiment repulsed the Communists' most vicious assault for 18 months, the Regiment held a combined Coronation and Memorial Service behind the line. Here the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. St. P. Bunbury, DSO and bar, reads the lesson. At the lectern is the Regiment's padre, the Reverend W. Burns, Chaplain to the Forces.

KOREA REPORT

(Continued)

THEY BATTLED UNDERGROUND



Hymns on the hillside: Joining in (below) is Major-Gen. M. M. A. R. West, commanding 1st Commonwealth Division. On his right is Lieutenant-Colonel Bunbury.



SUBTERRANEAN warfare is just one more thing the British Infantryman takes in his stride.

Citations to the immediate awards for officers and men of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment after their brilliant defence of the Hook — a strategically important ridge in Korea — give revealing glimpses of a type of warfare rarely taught in battle schools.

It was in the tunnels that honeycomb the Hook that the Black Watch also distinguished themselves in similar attacks (SOLDIER, January).

The citation to Major L. F. Kershaw's Distinguished Service Order tells how, on the night of the attack, he was in a forward platoon command post. It received three direct hits from heavy shells. Aware that the bunker might collapse, the Major ordered his troops to take shelter in a near-by tunnel. Firing from the hip with his Sten gun, Major Kershaw killed two Chinese. He was then seriously wounded by a grenade, but, lying on the ground, he hurled grenades at the Chinese, preventing them from entering the tunnel. The Chinese blew up the mouth of the tunnel with high explosives, and another party blew in the other end, trapping the ten occupants in total darkness. Many of the men were wounded. "Although in severe pain and suffering much loss of blood, Major Kershaw took complete control and only after steadying and instilling optimism into his men did he lose consciousness." When a rescue party came at daylight, Major

Kershaw insisted that the other wounded should be removed before himself. He has since lost a foot.

Corporal John Walker, who was awarded the Military Medal, was in command of an advanced section on the Hook when the battle began. As powerful Chinese shelling made the bunkers untenable, he ordered his men to retreat into a tunnel, covering their withdrawal with his Sten and beating off numerous Chinese. Soon, however, the enemy cut both ends of the tunnel. Corporal Walker personally fought the enemy with grenades until the roof of the tunnel collapsed, sealing that end; then he attempted to break out the other end but was beaten back by heavy machine-gun fire. Twice he refused demands to surrender.

Corporal George Pickersgill, who was also awarded the Military Medal, was in a platoon command post when the bombardment started. Hurriedly leading his men along a tunnel to get to their bunker, he found an enemy party of four or five men coming towards him, firing as they came. He returned their fire and forced them to withdraw; but,

3 Years Of It

THREE years ago this month the first British troops landed in Pusan, Korea.

The war opened as one of movement, in the traditions of World War Two. It is now a static, siege war, in the traditions of World War One. But through the air hurtle the weapons of futuristic war.

In the early stages, Britain's new Centurion was successfully tried out. Today the Centurions are dug in along the battle-line like miniature forts.

The war has extended the Army's knowledge of cold weather fighting, rarely experienced in World War Two. It has enabled new kit and equipment to be tested.

On the war's credit side, perhaps the outstanding contribution has been the establishment of a Commonwealth Division, smoothly functioning and immensely reliable.

Fifteen British Infantry regiments have already taken their turn in the Korean battle-line. Newly arrived in Korea are the Royal Scots; on their way are the Essex and the Royal Warwicks.

reinforced, they came back into the tunnel, shining torches and hurling percussion grenades. He continued to engage them with Sten and grenades. Hit by a grenade, which severely wounded him in chest, face and eyes, he fired into the enemy until they withdrew from the tunnel.

Corporal Pickersgill, before joining the Army, had been an underground worker in a colliery.

Heading the list of awards was Lieut-Colonel F. R. St. Pierre Bunbury, who was awarded a bar to his DSO. His citation said that he was often in the front line under fire and timed his counter-attacks so well that three converging Chinese thrusts were cut to pieces. The Military Cross was awarded to Captain J. L. H. Gordon, observer for the 20th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, who was overdue for relief when the attack came. He volunteered to stay because he knew the local situation better than anyone else. Captain E. J. P. Emett was also awarded the Military Cross for superb leadership of a rifle company during the battle. After nearly half his company's position had been over-run he sealed off the enemy advance and regained the lost ground. Company Sergeant-Major J. C. Jobling was awarded a Military Medal for courageously continuing the evacuation of wounded after his vehicle had been blown into a ditch, and for leading ammunition parties to two platoons holding out in exposed positions.

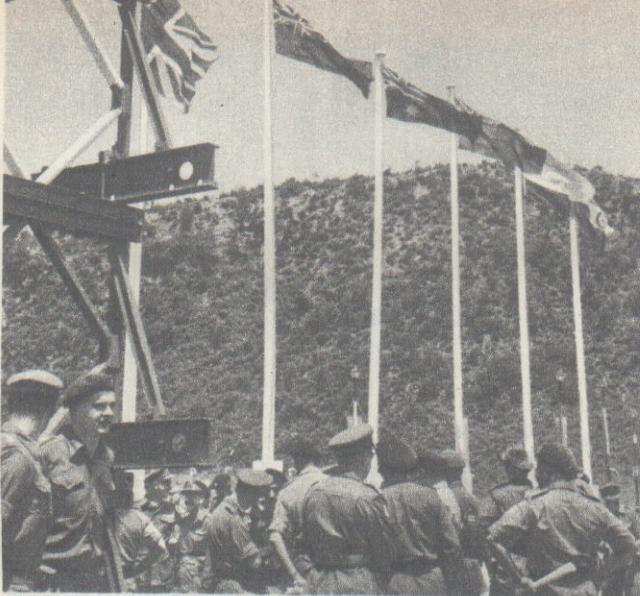
It was of this six-hour battle, preceded by an enemy bombardment of 10,000 shells, that Brigadier D. A. Kendrew said: "The Dukes did all I asked. They held the Hook. The attack was the worst in all my experience."

Korea Report Continued Overleaf



Examining the contents of a Communist leaflet bomb. Usually these burst before hitting the ground, scattering their hopeful messages far and wide. Below: a smoke before the nightly patrol into no-man's-land.

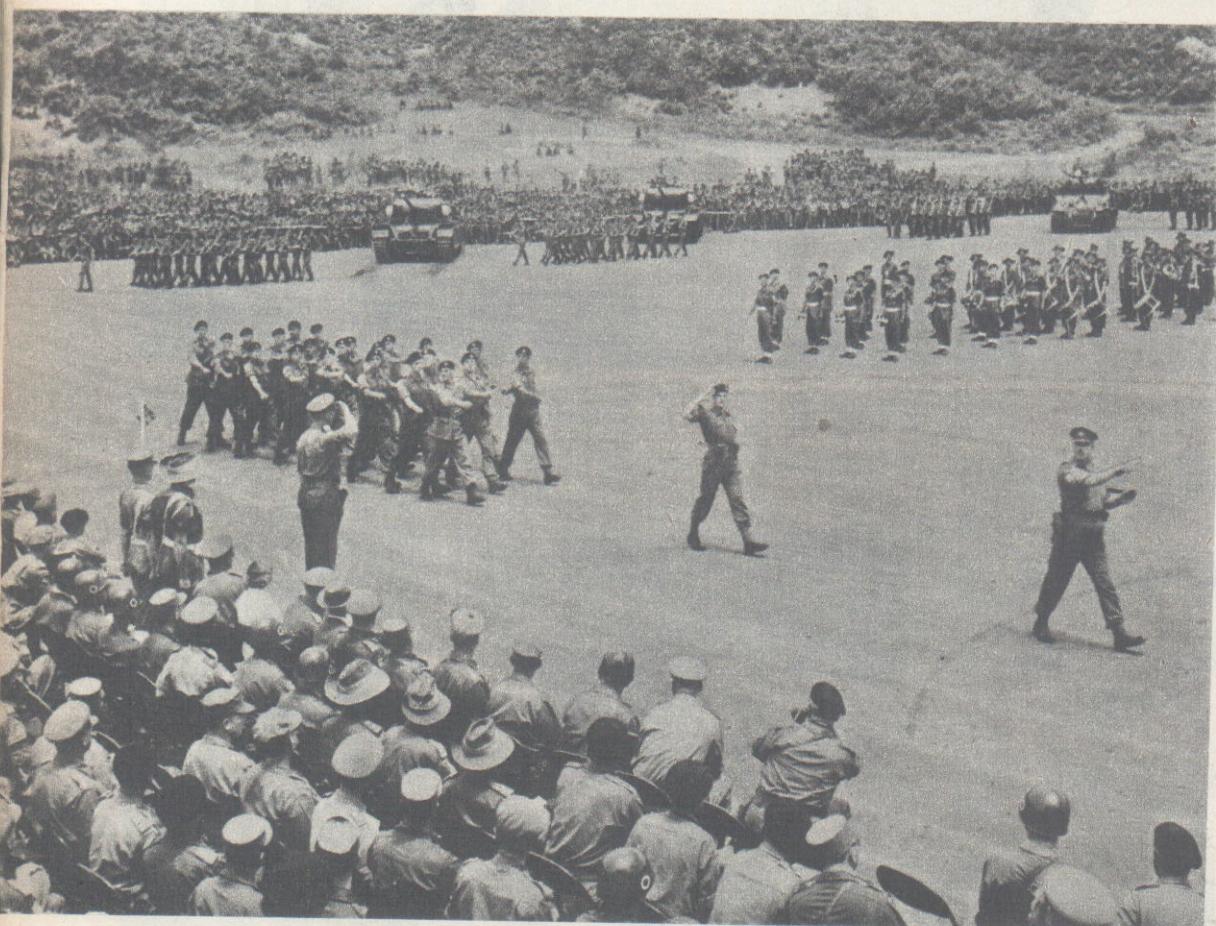




Flags of the six nations represented in 1st Commonwealth Division flew during the celebrations.



The Hyde Park touch: ready to fire the Royal Salute are 25-pounders of Britain, New Zealand and Canada.



KOREA REPORT

(Continued)

KOREA SALUTE TO THE QUEEN

Left: Coronation parade, "somewhere in Korea." The detachment of the King's Regiment (Liverpool) marches past. President Syngman Rhee is one of those in the front row.



Left: One of the many decorated archways which bloomed in the Commonwealth Divisional area. Others spanned main roads, or were slung between trees. Below: Another Coronation display. The pipers belong to the Black Watch.



THE advertisement shows a contented soldier sitting back with his feet up, smoking a pipe.

"He's happy! His future's set! But he's a man with a problem," says the text.

No, it's not falling hair this time.

"After twenty years of active service, he's planning to retire... ready to settle down with a comfortable Army income and all the other special privileges reserved for soldiers and their families. But he's not quite sure how he wants to spend his time!"

"What shall it be... a life of ease... of hunting and fishing? Shall he use his Army technical training to build a profitable business as many veterans have done in the past? Yes... it's quite a problem..."

"But, one thing is certain. Whatever he decides, his Army career has prepared him for success. At an age when most men are still struggling, his future is set. He can spend the rest of his life in happiness and security."

"How would you like that kind of future for yourself? You can prepare for it today by re-enlisting in the Army."

By this time, **SOLDIER** readers are wondering which Army this is. It is the United States Army, and the advertisement is from the *Army Times*. **SOLDIER** quotes it at length, not to tantalise readers with talk of "special privileges reserved for soldiers and their families," still less to persuade the British Regular that, when he retires, he ought to be able to contemplate a future of hunting and fishing, instead of hard work.

But the advertisement does show that both the British and American armies face the same problem of persuading Regulars to serve on for pensionable terms. The British Army, like the American, believes that specialised Army training can increase a man's chances in civilian life. It has never promised him "a life of ease" after he leaves the Army; his pension is intended only to be the foundation of his income.

SOLDIER to Soldier

After all, what man — in Britain or America — really wants to retire for good at 40?

An article to be read in conjunction with this is the one which appears on Page 26. It tells of the notable success encountered by job finders in placing British soldiers who serve on to pensionable age.

*

HAS anybody ever tried to calculate how many hours are lost in the Army through needless use of abbreviations?

Abbreviations are supposed to save time. The man who uses them, in a written document, may save two seconds of his own time and waste two hours of somebody else's. For that matter, he may waste two days or two weeks of his own time if the recipient has to write back to him and ask what the abbreviations mean. It

is foolish to contend that "everybody ought to know" the meaning of contractions. The Army has thousands upon thousands of abbreviations, and nobody can be expected to know more than a handful of them.

The unnecessary use of abbreviations denotes, not only laziness, but a parochial outlook. Because a Gunner has been talking about Ack IGs for years he must not suppose that soldiers in all other arms know he means Assistant Instructors in Gunnery.

Use of abbreviations can also be a form of showing off, like referring to the great by their Christian names (a widespread failing in the Army, too). "Blinding with initials" is as much an offence as "blinding with science."

People like windows cleaners and war correspondents whose duties take them into Army

headquarters are often awed to note how Staff officers are able to talk among themselves almost exclusively in abbreviations. It may be that the use of abbreviations in these circumstances is not without its security value. Staff officers understand their own shorthand of speech and no confusion is caused. There must be common-sense, of course, in this matter. It is not suggested that everyone should go round referring to NAAFI (frequently mis-rendered as NAFFI) as the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes. Incidentally, how many people reading this page can say what the initials ENSA stood for?

*

SHOULD there be another Welsh regiment of the Line?

The War Minister was asked recently in the House of Commons whether he would "increase the opportunities available for Welsh National Servicemen to serve with Welsh units." He replied that Welsh National Servicemen were posted to fill all available vacancies in the Welsh Guards and the three Welsh Infantry regiments. The questioner, Mr. H. R. Gower, suggested that Welsh recruits had fewer opportunities in this respect than the Scots and the people of Northern Ireland. The Minister's reply was: "We have only three Welsh Infantry regiments and we fill them with Welshmen. I do not think we can go further than that."

Scotland has ten regiments of the Line and one Guards regiment. Northern Ireland has three Line regiments, one Guards regiment. The population of Scotland is approximately twice that of Wales; the population of Wales is a little more than half that of Northern Ireland. So it would seem, on the face of it, that Wales is under-established.

Perhaps another Welsh regiment will soon be authorised to raise a second battalion. The Royal Welch Fusiliers was one of the lucky seven regiments recently permitted to expand.

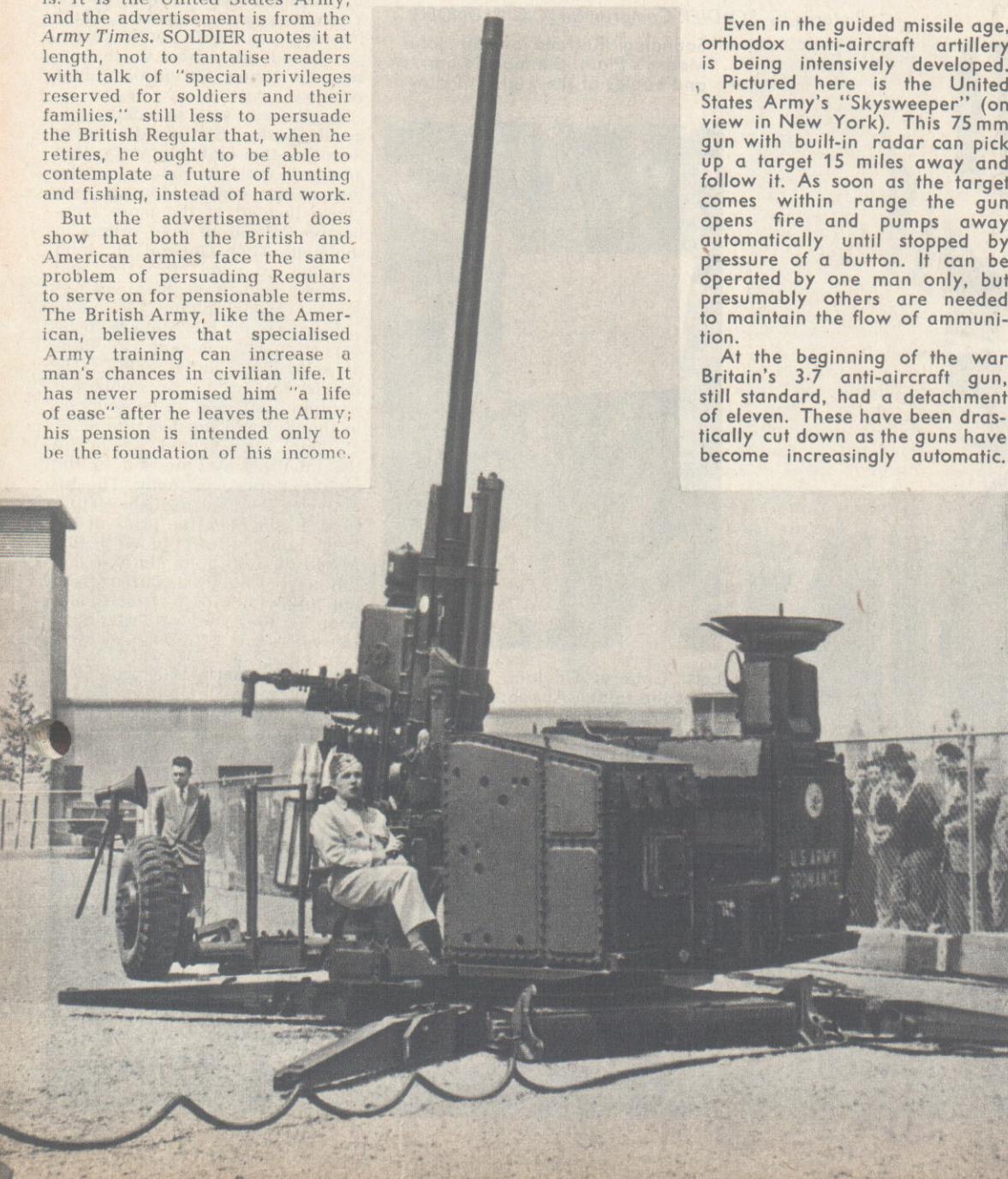
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LAST December **SOLDIER** analysed the monthly statistics issued to show which Infantry regiments are recruiting most Regulars from their National Servicemen — a useful test (with certain reservations) of a regiment's "pulling power."

In the period then reviewed the leading battalions were the Green Howards (twice), the Durham Light Infantry (twice), the South Wales Borderers, the Sherwood Foresters and the Lancashire Fusiliers.

Some readers will wish to know which Infantry regiments have headed the monthly re-enlistment totals since then. They are the Royal Irish Fusiliers, the South Staffordshires, the Green Howards, the North Staffordshires (three times), the King's Royal Rifle Corps and the Cheshire Regiment.

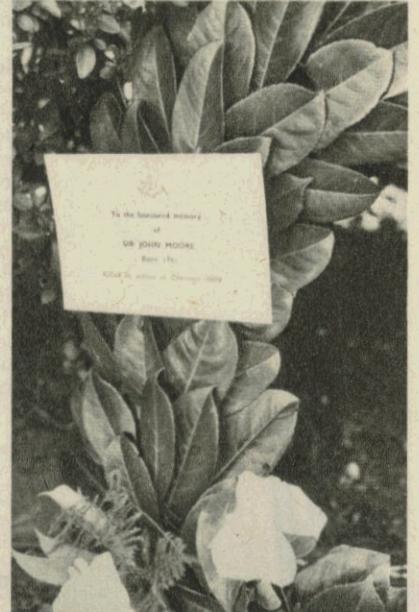
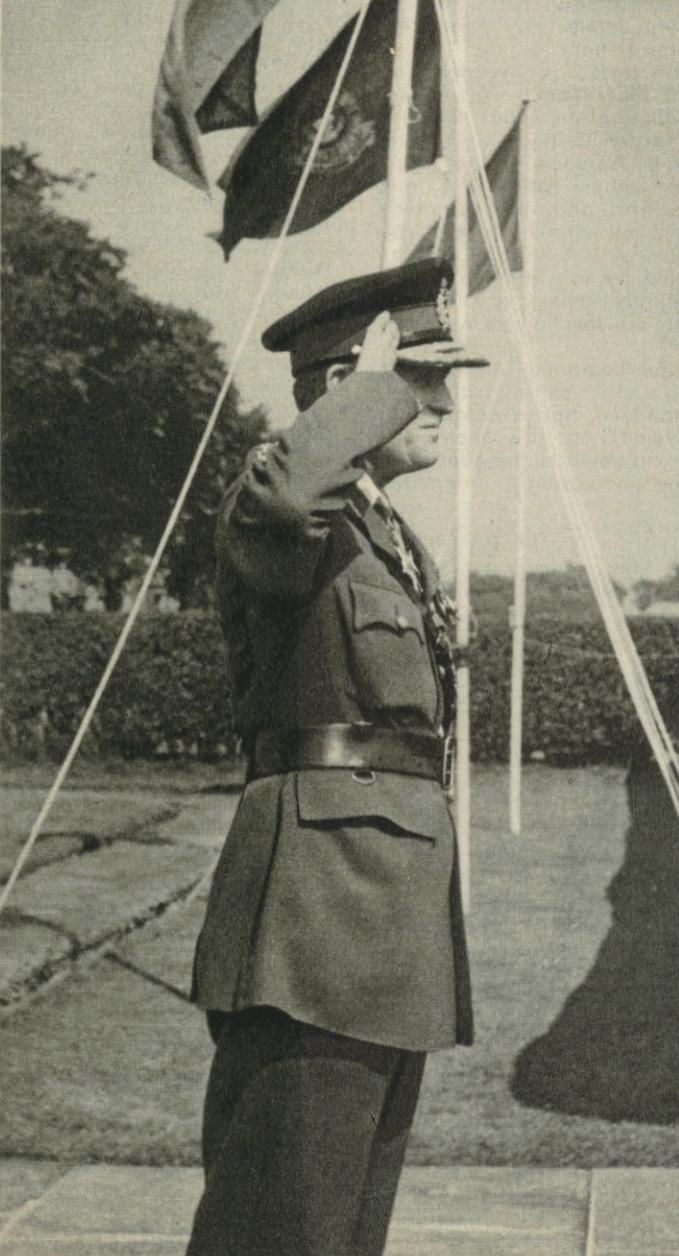
Over the same period, those Line regiments with most re-enlistments from civil life are the Highland Light Infantry (twice), the Black Watch (twice), the King's Royal Rifle Corps (three times) and the Lancashire Fusiliers.



AND SIR JOHN MOORE LOOKED ON

Pictures by SOLDIER Cameraman A. C. BLUNDELL.

Sounding Retreat on Sir John Moore's Plain: the massed bands and bugles of the Light Infantry.



Left: General Sir John Harding, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, takes the salute. Above: The wreath he placed on the Statue said "To the Honoured Memory of Sir John Moore." Below: Watching the parade were Field-Marshal Lord Wilson (formerly Rifle Brigade) and General Sir Bernard Paget, Colonel of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.



The bands marched

FROM his plinth Sir John Moore stared out across the wide stretch of grassland where his Light Brigade first drilled.

That patch of green in Shorncliffe Camp is known as Sir John Moore's Plain, and today there marched the massed bands and bugles of the 1953 Light Infantry.

Below the statue sat 1953's senior serving Light Infantryman—General Sir John Harding, the Chief of the Imperial General Staff—surrounded by Light Infantrymen, who had come from all over Britain to pay tribute on the 150th anniversary of General Moore's creation of the Light Brigade.

The 210-strong band, including 70 Buglers, marched at 140 paces to the minute as they performed the ceremony of Sounding Retreat (Light Infantry never beat Retreat). The musicians came from the Duke of Cornwall's, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, King's Own Yorkshire and Durham Light Infantry regiments, with representative buglers from the Somerset and King's Shropshire Light Infantry.

As Retreat was sounded, Corporal Leslie Stallwood slowly lowered the Light Infantry flag adorned with its bugle—the instrument which Moore's men chose instead of the more cumbersome drum to give orders in the field. Then General Sir John Harding stepped forward and placed a wreath on the statue.

Into a microphone he said: "Moore taught his soldiers to be expert marksmen and to fight as self-reliant individuals... He required them to be intelligent fighting craftsmen, to be as quick in thought and deed as the steps at which they drilled. These are the qualities still needed in the Light Infantryman today. The Infantry is the Queen of the Battlefield. It has been the pride of the Light Infantry to be in the lead."

And then Sir John Harding and the massed bands departed, leaving Sir John Moore to stare out over his Plain, with its ghosts of 150 years ago.

again on Sir John Moore's Plain, where the first Light Brigade drilled 150 years ago

TO the schoolboy, Lieutenant General Sir John Moore is the hero of the poem which begins "Not a drum was heard, not a funeral note..."

To the soldier, he is the man who revolutionised the training of the British Infantryman and popularised the idea of Light Infantry.

His personality is stamped on every regiment which boasts the bugle as a cap badge.

"No man, not Cromwell, nor Marlborough, nor Wellington, has set so strong a mark for good upon the British Army," says the historian Sir John Fortescue.

General Moore did not originate the idea of Light Infantry. For some time Infantry battalions had had lightly equipped companies which skirmished ahead as the main force prepared for the attack.

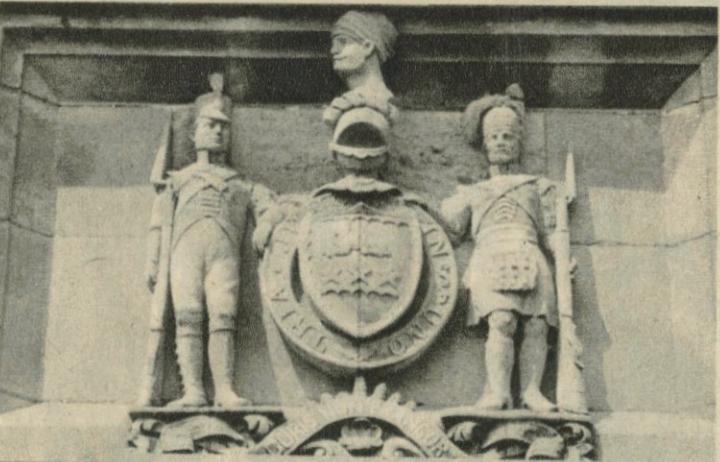
These had been used successfully in the American War in which General Moore had fought as a junior officer. By the time he had risen to brigade commander, in 1800, he was in a position to study closely the methods of a Major Kenneth Mackenzie, of the 90th Foot, who had greatly developed this type of training.

Both men were in Minorca at the time. Major Mackenzie divided his men into small parties of skirmishers, supports and re-

serves. He was untiring in putting them through exercises which fitted them for the role of harassing troops.

General Moore and General Sir Ralph Abercromby, the British commander in the Mediterranean, discussed the training in great detail. At that time it was the custom, when a number of units were involved, to link up the various battalion light companies into one composite force for the opening stages of the battle. This idea had one blemish which both Moore and Abercromby recognis-

The hero of Corunna on his pedestal—with the Light Infantry flag fluttering behind him.



Left: The arms of Sir John Moore are supported by a Light Infantryman and a 92nd Highlander.

to clear camp and remove their tents as they would on "the day."

General Moore's enthusiasm for the Army started at an early age. The son of a Glasgow doctor, he was commissioned at the age of 15. His regiment was the 51st Foot (The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry), then in Minorca, but like Wellington he frequently changed his regiments. After service in Nova Scotia and America he left the Army for Parliament but returned soon afterwards to serve in Ireland, Corsica, the West Indies, Minorca and at the Battle of Alexandria. After his tour at Shorncliffe he went to Sicily, Portugal and Sweden; finally to Spain, where he

rose to be commander-in-chief.

When his Spanish allies were overwhelmed by the French, General Moore characteristically drew the weight of the attack on to himself. So began the historic, terrible retreat to Corunna and to the ships which were promised but did not arrive.

General Moore turned and fought the French, keeping in reserve his Foot Guards. At the final, desperate moment he ordered them up. It was his last act, for he was hit by a cannon ball. Before he died he heard that his tactics had won the day. The French were routed.

To have served with Sir John Moore gave a soldier prestige. To some he was "unlucky Moore" because of his numerous wounds. In 1794, when he was bowled over in Holland, two Highland soldiers carried him to safety. When he recovered he tried to trace them and offered £20 reward. He never found them, although he knew their regiment. When he was knighted, he chose for the supports to his arms a Light Infantryman and also a 92nd Highlander, in memory of the men who carried him from the battlefield.

Today the Army numbers the following Light Infantry regiments: Somerset, Duke of Cornwall's, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, King's Shropshire, Durham and Highland. All date their conversion from the Napoleonic War except the Somerset (1822) and the Duke of Cornwall's (converted for services in the Indian Mutiny).

The 52nd, the original Light Infantry Corps, led the D-Day landings in Normandy as the glider-borne 2nd Battalion The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. It was "suspended" in 1947, along with all other second battalions.

PETER LAWRENCE

SOLDIER's cover picture of Sir John Moore is reproduced from a portrait on loan to the School of Infantry from the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

BERLIN REVISITED



The "rioters" look strangely cheerful. They are British soldiers staging a demonstration which will shortly be broken up in the approved manner — for benefit of new arrivals.

A 'RIOT' IS LAID ON

Soon after being posted to Berlin, soldiers are shown how a rowdy demonstration is handled — British fashion. They must also learn the "Do's" and "Don'ts" of the partitioned city

THE British soldier may reach Berlin by air or by autobahn; but the odds are that he will travel by night train, with all the doors chained and blinds drawn.

Since the end of the war one military passenger train has passed in each direction between Berlin and the British Zone of Germany every 24 hours during the hours of darkness.

"Night Train to Berlin" sounds exciting but the journey through the Russian Zone to the partitioned capital of pre-war Germany is no more eventful than the ride from London to Glasgow on the Night Scot.

Berlin is still the city where the British soldier must be very much on his toes. He can become the cause of an international incident merely by dozing on the Berlin Underground and letting himself be carried past Spandau station into the Russian Zone, where he may be held for days or even weeks.

In this crumbled capital, where it is so easy to put a foot wrong, all new arrivals undergo a briefing.

They are told by their commanding officer that their behaviour is watched by representatives of many nations, and that they must act accordingly.

They may wander where they please in the three Allied sectors of the city and may even go into the Russian sector if they are in uniform, are unarmed, and conform to the regulations which the Russians impose from time to time. They must keep well away from the Russian Zone of Germany unless sent there on duty.

During the next few days the soldier is given more explanatory

talks by his company and platoon officers, and is then conducted by NCO's on a tour of the sector and shown the places to avoid. After a week, perhaps, he is allowed to leave barracks if he passes a close scrutiny at the guard-room.

Each battalion is given a realistic demonstration by military policemen of No. 247 Provost Company and German civilian police of what to expect in a riot and how troops will be required to act. Soldiers from another battalion are used as mobs of "rioters" for the demonstration.

Colourful ceremony plays a great part in the life of the British soldier in Berlin. The units now stationed there — the Royal Scots Fusiliers, the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, the Royal Irish Fusiliers and the 1st Independent Squadron, Royal Tank Regiment — take every opportunity of "showing the flag." They provide guards of honour for every important visitor, from ministers and generals to home-town lord mayors. There are guard-mounting ceremonies every day at all military and Control Commission headquarters buildings. Every four months a British guard takes over for a month at Spandau Prison, where Rudolf Hess and other Nazi war criminals are lodged.

Beating the Retreat ceremonies are carried out with all the pomp



When the troop train to Berlin passes through the Russian Zone — at night — all doors are chained. An armed guard patrols the train.



British military police and Royal Signals operators now patrol day and night along the entire length of Berlin's British Sector where it touches the Russian Zone of Germany. The route runs through forests and, at one point, along a small "international highway" into the British Sector village of Eiskeller, surrounded on all sides by the Russian Zone. The military police take care to let themselves be seen by Russian patrols and East German Police, and they visit isolated houses to see that the inhabitants are safe. They are in radio touch with emergency squads. Scout cars are used to patrol some districts.

and splendour that Scots and Irish pipe bands can produce. Regimental bands play at British and sometimes German sporting events — at horse-shows and garden parties, ice-hockey, football and boxing matches, athletic contests and swimming galas. For weeks before Coronation Day practice parades were held in barracks and on the Maifeld sports ground, to the delight of 80,000 Berliners who on Coronation Day itself saw the largest and most colourful parade held in Berlin since the end of the war.

Despite the demands of ceremonial parades and guards the

British soldier in Berlin must also find time to train for war. Into the British Sector are squeezed some 4000 troops. Only on the rifle ranges may live ammunition be used; field firing exercises must be carried out in the British Zone of Germany, which means a journey of several hundred miles. Most training, therefore, is done in the Grunewald and Spandau Forests. Rarely is there sufficient elbow room for more than company exercises, although once a year in the autumn the British hold a brigade exercise and then combine with the Americans and

OVER →



On a route march in the Grunewald Forest men of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry pass the Kaiser Wilhelm Turm. Below: In the ruins of the former Nazi Military Academy in the Grunewald Forest: a Comett tank of 1st Independent Squadron, Royal Tank Regiment.





Berlin often hears the skirl of pipes. Here the band of the Royal Irish Fusiliers beats Retreat on the playing fields at the Sports Centre.

A 'RIOT' IS LAID ON (Continued)



Above (left): General Officer Commanding Berlin (British Sector); Major-General C. F. C. Coleman CB, DSO. Right: Commanding area troops in Berlin: Brigadier F. Stephens DSO.



French in a four-day divisional manoeuvre.

Berliners who flock to the woods at the week-ends and at holiday time lend an unreal background to the training. Many a courting couple and family picnic party has found itself overtaken by manoeuvres.

Small areas are set aside in the forests for the Comet tanks of the Independent Squadron to operate on "dry" battle runs. In one place a bombed-out village has been built from the rubble of Berlin so that street fighting may be practised. In spite of the difficulties the Infantryman finds the thick woods excellent training in field-craft, patrolling and map-reading.

It is noteworthy that five of the battalions which have been stationed in Berlin during the past two years have found their way to the Far East — the East Yorkshire Regiment to Malaya, and the Black Watch, The King's Regiment (Liverpool), the Royal

Scots and the Durham Light Infantry all to Korea.

If the British soldier in Berlin lives a more circumspect life than his comrades elsewhere and has to face unusual difficulties, he has many compensations. It is well-known by now that sports facilities in Berlin are among the finest in the British Army.

British and German teams play football, hockey, rugby and even cricket against each other. It is a surprise to learn from German records that Berliners have been playing cricket since 1871, when members of British commercial firms introduced the game and formed the Berlin Victoria Cricket Club. Today there are six German cricket elevens in Berlin, some of which play against Army teams. The garrison cricket officer is helping to organise a series of lectures and practical demonstrations to persuade more Germans to play and to teach German umpires their job.

E. J. GROVE



Army teams play cricket on the Maifeld, adjoining Hitler's proudest stadium. Berliners themselves have been playing cricket since 1871.

Oh, Listen to the Band! (and the Fuss)

ARE ARMY bands making too much money?

There are Members of Parliament who think so (see *SOLDIER*, May). The Musicians' Union has long thought so. And now the *Daily Mirror* cries: "Military Bands are getting TOO MUCH BRASS."

Criticism is directed at Army bands which accept public engagements (the fees are shared among the musicians), and individual bandsmen who accept private engagements in their spare time.

The *Daily Mirror* asserts that there are 5000 lucky soldiers in 117 military bands who make extra money in this way. All profits should go back to the taxpayer, it says.

Just to keep the record straight, *SOLDIER* has worked out that half the Army's bands are overseas, where the chances of making money are usually slim. Most of these bands overseas play to garrison troops. In almost any band at home there are several men who have not progressed sufficiently to play in public. The Army trains a man for about three and a half years before allowing him to take part in a public engagement, unless he is an accomplished musician on enlisting.

This leaves about 1500 men to take part in the supposed scramble for money.

The taxpayer does not pay the cost of all instruments carried by a band. Dance band instruments and xylophones, for instance, are bought and maintained out of band earnings. Many other commitments must be met out of band fees.

The *Daily Mirror* complains that only five to ten per cent of the money earned goes back into public funds. It is worth noting that the Army is the only fighting Service which ploughs back any band earnings to the taxpayer.

Military bands do not go out canvassing for engagements. Advertising is banned. No civilian agent is allowed to tell promoters that such-and-such an Army band is available for engagements; he can only approach bands with a list of promoters who need the services of a band.

If bandmasters charge high rates, that is because the Musicians' Union insist there shall be no undercutting of civilian bands.

The Royal Artillery Band, Woolwich, is accused of taking 188 engagements, thus depriving civilian musicians of some £8000. These 188 engagements are spread over 15 months and include a large number of military functions at which civilian musicians would not be acceptable. They also include playing at places like the London Guildhall, traditionally a Royal Artillery Band "preserve." There are about 40 dance engagements in the total, and at



each a civilian band could have provided the music. But it is hardly the fault of the Woolwich band that it landed the job.

The *Daily Mirror* quotes a statement that there are bandmasters who make more than their commanding officers (this has been said in Parliament too). Before the war the average bandmaster made an extra £51 a year and his musicians about £9 annually from their share of band takings. Postwar figures are not

available, but it is highly unlikely that private profits have rocketed to the extent suggested.

If Army bandsmen made the fortunes they are reputed to make, there would be no shortage of recruits. The fact that they are so scarce shows how much more money civilian musicians can make without joining the Army.

The Army trains bands primarily to play for the Army. It is the public which demands them in the parks and on the pier, and would protest vigorously if a band descended. If they can be spared, the War Office has no objection to regiments supplying bands. It helps, in official parlance, "to bring the Army to the favourable notice of the public."

Most of these engagements take place in the evenings and at week-ends. When they occur out of normal working hours, no Army musician is compelled to take

part, provided he gives sufficient warning to his bandmaster. Once the contract has been signed and the list of players has been accepted, then it is assumed every member detailed has agreed and no one can refuse. To repay the men for this extra work, the War Office allows each man a share of the earnings.

When a bandsman goes to play at resorts he receives only the normal subsistence allowance. Landladies demand more, and the money comes out of earnings.

On his evenings off, provided he uses his own instruments, there is no objection to an Army bandsman playing in a civilian dance band, and many do. Many members of the Musicians' Union work at other jobs by day. Often the Army musician is hired simply because he is a better player.

See "Hussars Band Flew to Warsaw" (Page 31).

This Was Queen Victoria's Idea . . .

YOU read, perhaps, that the 1st Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (late of Korea) has been fighting spirited battles in the Highlands of Scotland — for a film company.

In the credits to their forthcoming "Rob Roy," Elstree Studios will no doubt express their indebtedness to the War Office and the Commanding Officer of the Argylls.

As well they may . . .

The film companies do not obtain the services of British regiments for nothing, however. This

is one of the ways (very few ways) in which the Army earns money, as a change from spending it.

The War Office is wary about the kind of film in which it allows its men to appear. It does not solicit film engagements, but it likes to supply troops when it is desirable that the Army should appear in a favourable light. You can make an Army of sorts out of film "extras," but they need a great deal of drilling (by British serjeant-majors) and hair-cutting (by Army barbers) before they begin to look like soldiers. And if it is a Highland film, there is the problem of knees. When "Bonnie Prince Charlie" was shot in Scotland in 1948 many "extras" who applied for parts were rejected as soon as they removed their trousers. Soldiers from holding regiments in Scotland were called in to help.

But the Film Artistes Association — a trade union which represents several thousand "extras" — is not happy about the use of soldiers in films. Recently it was debating with the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer company whether the projected "Knights of the Round Table" is a military or non-military film. King Arthur and his knights are remote legend; so here, says the Film Artistes Association, is no case for employing the Army, especi-

ally when "extras" are workless.

Wisely, the War Office decided to allow the film company and the union to fight this one out between themselves.

It was really Queen Victoria who started the idea of using soldiers to play soldiers. In her visits to the Royal Opera House she was shocked by the slovenliness of the "military" ranks, and exclaimed "Let my Guards serve culture, as well as their Queen!" — or words to that effect. Since then the Guards have had an annual (paid) chore at Covent Garden.

The film companies know by now that the Army will co-operate with them in many ways if the results are likely to show the soldier in a good light (and if there are men available). For instance, Rhine Army helped whole-heartedly in the shooting of the film about the Guards Armoured Division — "They Were Not Divided"; it supplied tanks, half-tracks, artillery and even ambulances. British military police were lent for a film about Berlin. The Coldstream Guards assisted in that good-natured comedy "Who Goes There?"

If a projected film is one in which the Army is held up to ridicule, the film company must train its own soldiers, and — what is worse — build its own tanks.



These men of the Queen's Regiment were issued with kilts and became Scots clansmen — for a film battle.



NEW START FOR THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT

THE Parachute Regiment enters a new phase in its young history. It can now enlist recruits direct into its ranks. No longer is it necessary for them first to join an Infantry regiment and then transfer "on loan" to Airborne.

Until now this has been the custom, for the Parachute Regiment has been without its own rank structure. Every warrant and non-commissioned officer remained on the promotion roll of his parent unit.

Under the new scheme recruits report direct to the Airborne Forces Depot at Aldershot and from the first day may wear the famous red beret. After their basic training they go to Abingdon to learn parachuting.

Those who fail their tests may transfer to an Infantry regiment or take their discharge.

Serving Regulars (including men on short-service engagements) who are attached to, or have served with, the Parachute Regiment, may ask to transfer to that regiment. Regulars with no previous parachute training may also apply. They will be accepted if they meet the required standards.

In the past, attachment to the Parachute Regiment was for three years, with the opportunity of continuing on a yearly basis. This arrangement will continue to operate, parallel to the new scheme; a Regular soldier may still undertake a parachute tour and return to his own regiment.

The original conception was that soldiers would be returned to their parent arm when they became too old for parachuting. Now it is found that there are so many behind-the-scenes Airborne jobs that men who no longer jump can be absorbed in ground roles. In fact, however, most men parachute until the end of their service. Many officers have received their preliminary training on the wrong side of 40.

The introduction of the rank structure serves to consolidate



the status of the Parachute Regiment in the peace-time Army. Already the three Regular battalions have received their Colours.

It is doubtful whether Mr. Churchill, when writing one of his famous "prayers" at the time of Dunkirk, realised

he was founding a new regiment for the Regular Army.

It was on 22 June 1940 (recognised as the Regiment's birthday) that he called for the formation of a corps of at least 5000 parachute troops.

The first parachutists, apart from the instructors (many of whom were from the Army Physical Training Corps), were volunteers from No. 2 Commando. Within three weeks of Mr. Churchill's "prayer" they were at Ringway Airport, Manchester, the war-time parachute school. By September that year 21 officers and 321 men had been accepted for training.

No. 2 Commando became in turn 11 Special Air Service Battalion and later the 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions were formed soon afterwards and in September 1941 all three linked up as the 1st Parachute Brigade, commanded by Brigadier Richard Gale (now commanding Northern Army Group). The following month Major-General F. A. M. Browning formed First Airborne Division. By the end of the war 17 battalions had been formed, three of them in India and two in Egypt.

History was made in Cyprus when men in maroon berets dropped in — complete with guns and jeeps. They had flown from the Canal Zone

THIS was the sight that Cyprus had feared in World War Two — armed paratroops spilling from the skies. It had already happened in Crete.

Somehow or other, Hitler never got round to Cyprus.

Now, on to the tawny plains, fell parachutes by the score, carrying men, howitzers and jeeps. Everywhere, like fistfuls of confetti, lay canopies of white, red, blue and green, the colours denoting the type of equipment dropped.

Many of these sun-burned lads, swinging down with their kit-bags dangling below them, were no strangers to the island. They had already "fought" over its parched slopes and gullies before leaving in a hurry for Egypt at the end of 1951. Now, from Egypt, they returned.

It was a joint Army-Royal Air Force exercise. The invading forces were 16th Independent Parachute Brigade Group, based in the Canal Zone, and 40 Royal Marine Commando from Malta.

Jet Vampires of the Royal New Zealand Air Force opened with a low-level attack at Astomeritis, a village in the north-west plains of Cyprus.

Then, the same night, came the lift of the first airborne force from the Canal Zone, preceded by 40 Pathfinder parachutists of the Guards Independent Parachute Company.

These Guardsmen dropped from two Valettes to set out guiding "T" lights on the ground for the main body.

Presently the first six of 23 more Valettes roared overhead and observers on the ground saw long lines of descending parachutes dimly silhouetted against the moon. Two further formations of six aircraft and one of five brought the total of men to 500.

They were followed by 15 four-engined Hastings of Royal Air Force Transport Command which dropped heavy equipment and 100 more men.

Once on the ground the force assembled to launch an attack on Astomeritis airfield, defended by 49 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery and 50 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers.

The jeep came by air. Crash pans under the wheels are being removed.



Carrying their Colours in the Coronation Procession: men of the Parachute Regiment.

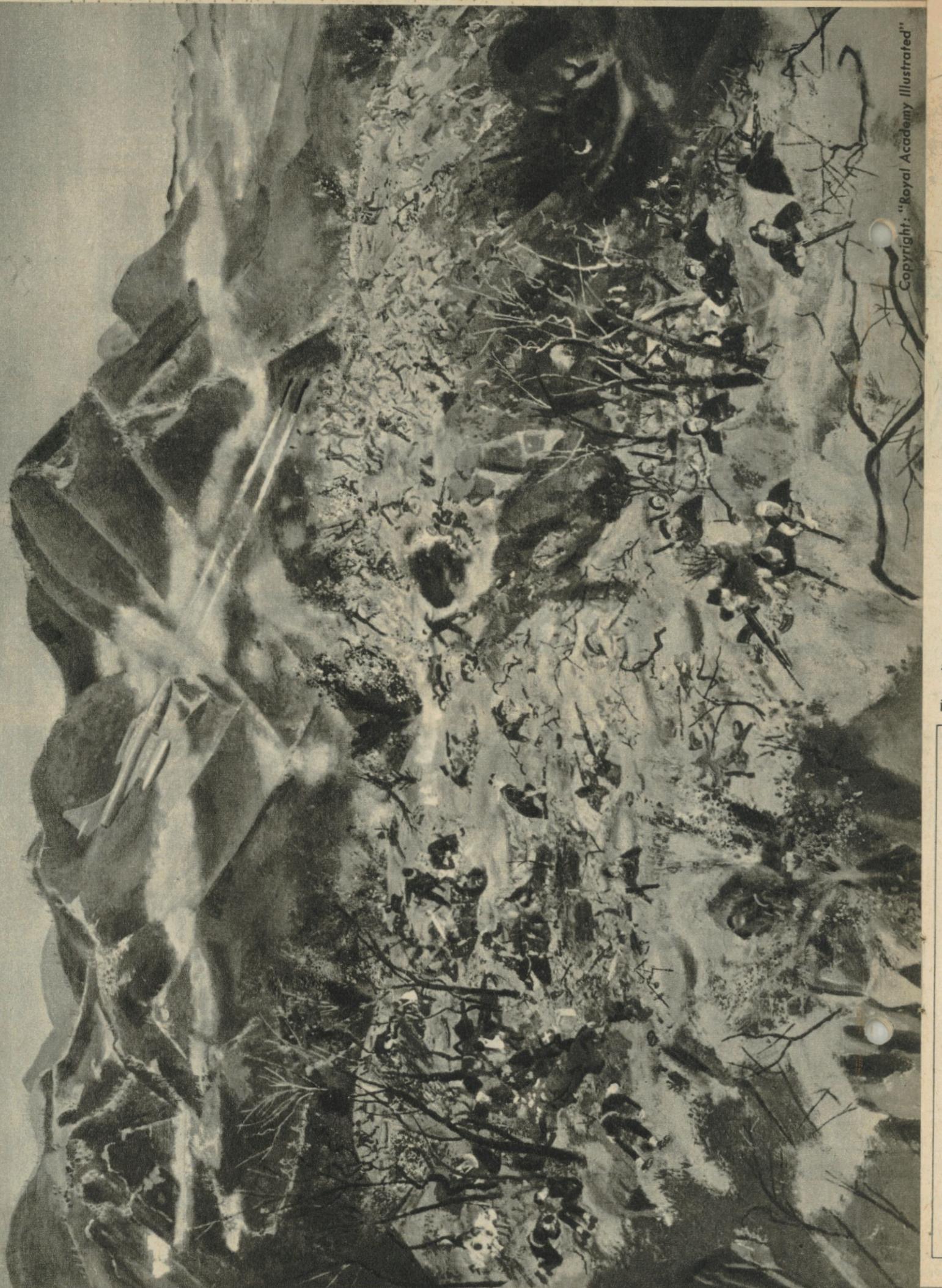


Dangling below these parachutists can be seen their kitbags. These are strapped to the men before jumping, loosened in mid-air, then lowered so that they strike the ground first.

A THRILL FOR CYPRUS

Air invaders ready for the final attack on Cyprus's wooded slopes. Right: a machine-gunner takes up his position.





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BATTLE OF THE IMJIN

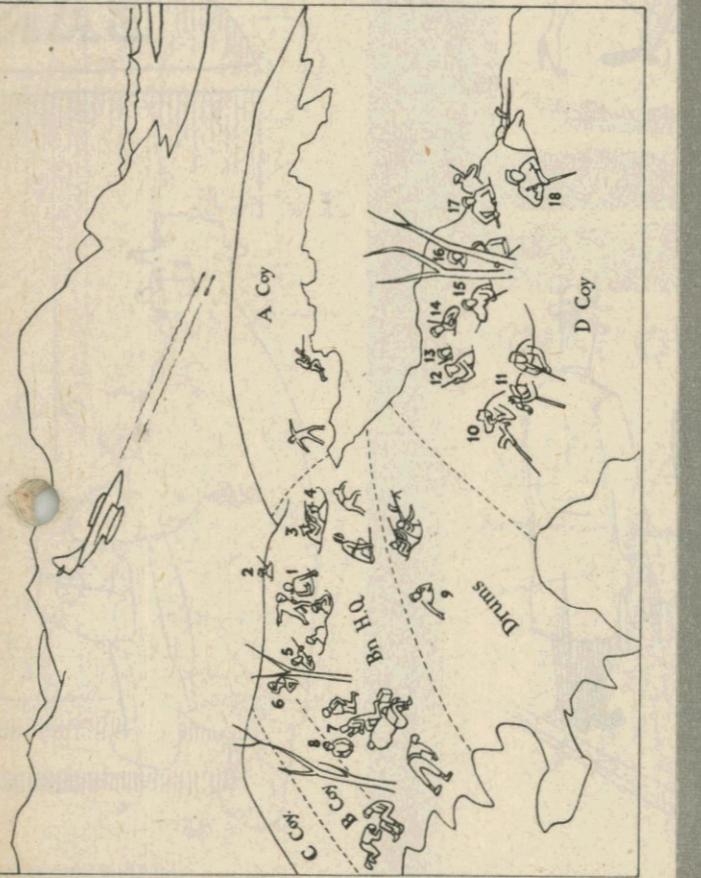
A Royal Academician was commissioned by the Gloucestershire Regiment to commemorate the famous resistance of the 1st Battalion on the Imjin River in April 1951.

The artist, Mr. A. R. Thomson is deaf and dumb. He carries on lively conversations by lip-reading, hand-signs, drawing and writing. For the painting, Mr. Thomson received a great deal of help from Captain M. G. Harvey, MC, the officer who led the successful escape party. Captain Harvey brought back sketches he had prepared in Korea and put them at Mr. Thomson's disposal. Other survivors provided sketches and information. As they were scattered over the country, work was sometimes held up.

Pictures of the dead and prisoners were collected by the Regiment for Mr. Thomson, who has since received a number of letters from relatives complimenting him on the likenesses in the painting. For accuracy, British and enemy uniforms, weapons and equipment were brought to the studio for Mr. Thomson to study. "It was like an arsenal," the artist's wife told SOLDIER.

Mr. Thomson, who is nearing 60, was born in India. His father decided he should take up farming, but Young Thomson ran away to paint. Early in World War Two, he was an official artist to the Royal Air Force and painted aircrew members all over England. Once, in a prohibited area, he failed to hear a sentry's challenge and was wounded.

- The adjoining trace will serve to identify some of the personalities in the battle.
1. Lieut-Colonel J. P. Carne DSO, commanding the Battalion
 2. Captain R. Reeve-Tucker
 3. Captain R. Washbrook, Royal Artillery
 4. Major G. Ward, Royal Artillery
 5. RSM J. Hobbs
 6. Lieutenant D. Allman
 7. Captain R. Hickey, RAMC
 8. Sjt. Peglar, Provost Sergeant
 9. Drum-Major Bussell
 10. Corporal V. Townsend
 11. Private Hurn
 12. Private Ellis
 13. Private Dickenson (Captain Harvey's batman)
 14. Captain M. G. Harvey MC (who led the escape party)
 15. Private Stanbridge
 16. Lieutenant D. Holdsworth
 17. Lieutenant D. E. Whitmore
 18. Private Cleveland MM (awarded during battle)



ARE WE SUBFUSC?

The press and the public have their own ideas on how Army ceremonial should be conducted

THIS summer of military ceremonial has touched off some public controversies.

Who set the best standards of marching in the Coronation procession? Was the Army's No. 1 Dress a success? Do serjeant-majors ruin ceremonial with their "raucous" voices?

Each regiment, said General Franklyn, should have been represented by a block of sufficient size to establish its identity.

Even the Trooping the Colour ceremony — an event usually deemed incapable of further improvement — found a critic this year. "Ex-Cavalryman" wrote to the *Daily Telegraph* to say that, thrilled as he was by it all, he felt "the beauty of the ceremonial was somewhat marred by the necessarily rather raucous words of command. One wondered whether bugle calls could not be substituted with advantage. Some musical calls would in any case be an agreeable addition to the ceremonial. One remembers how in the old days we used always to drill by trumpet call (the bugle, actually, in the field) and how easily learned were the various

Newspapers also went out of their way to praise the Royal Navy and the women's services. But the reader who wrote to the *Evening Standard* to say that the sprightly marching of the women showed up some of "the Guards officers, dear old souls, who looked as though they should have dropped out miles back," was surely overdoing it.

The diarist "Strix" in *The Spectator* thought the No. 1 Dress did not come well out of its first large-scale appearance in public:

"It imposes on all its wearers a disguise of uniformity penetrable only by near-experts, and by them only if they are near enough to make out gorget badges, lanyards and other small distinctive insignia. This would not matter so much if the colour had, like scarlet, panache in its own right; but, although station-masters, postmen and naval officers look very well in dark blue, I do not think it suits the private soldier. In the Procession it was noticeable how readily the eye was diverted from the subfusc phalanxes by kilts or trews or the dark green of the riflemen and light infantry; and even the Royal Armoured Corps, though basically dark blue, had managed to preserve some colour and (more important) individuality from their vanished splendours. I suppose it is now too late to hope for a major reform."

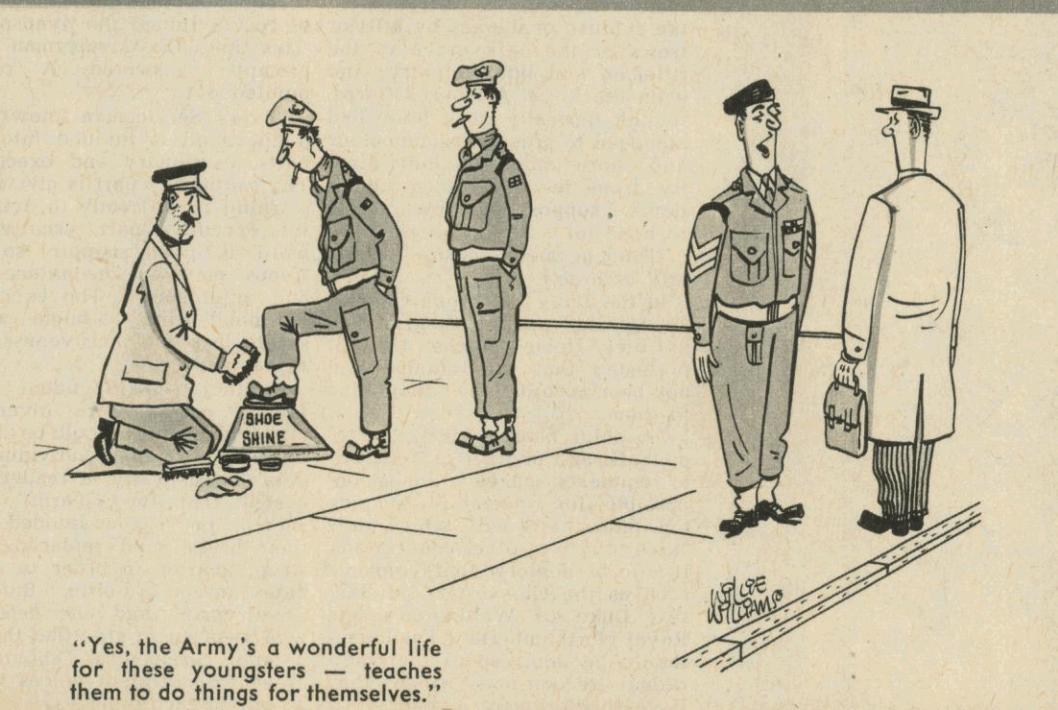
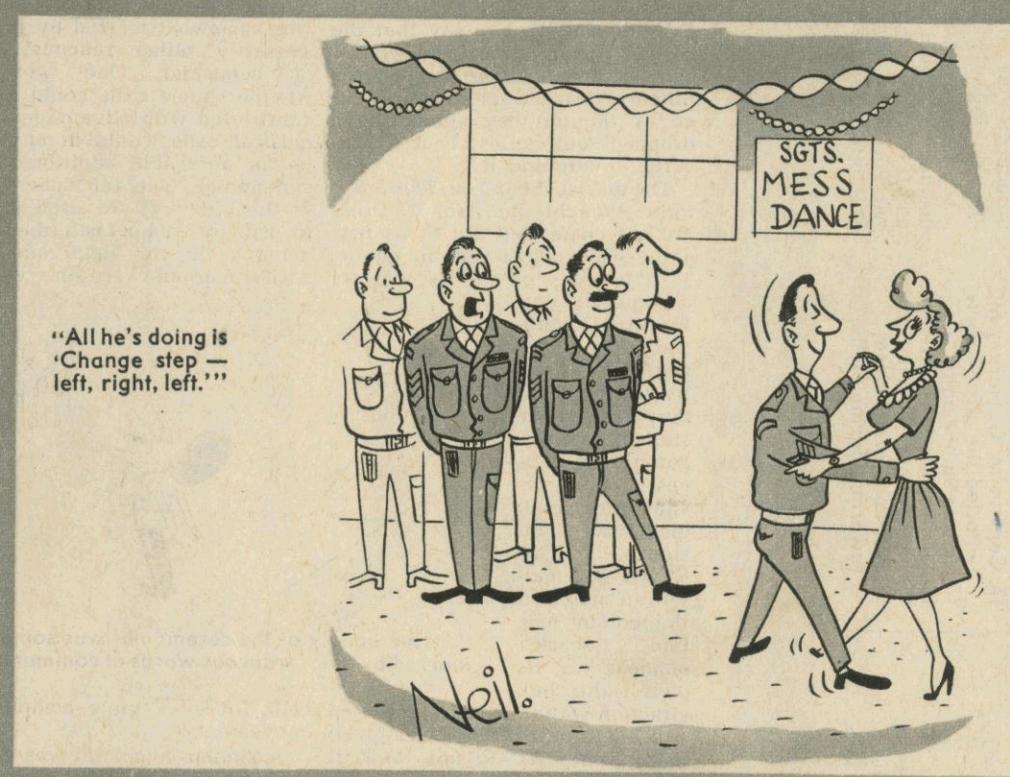
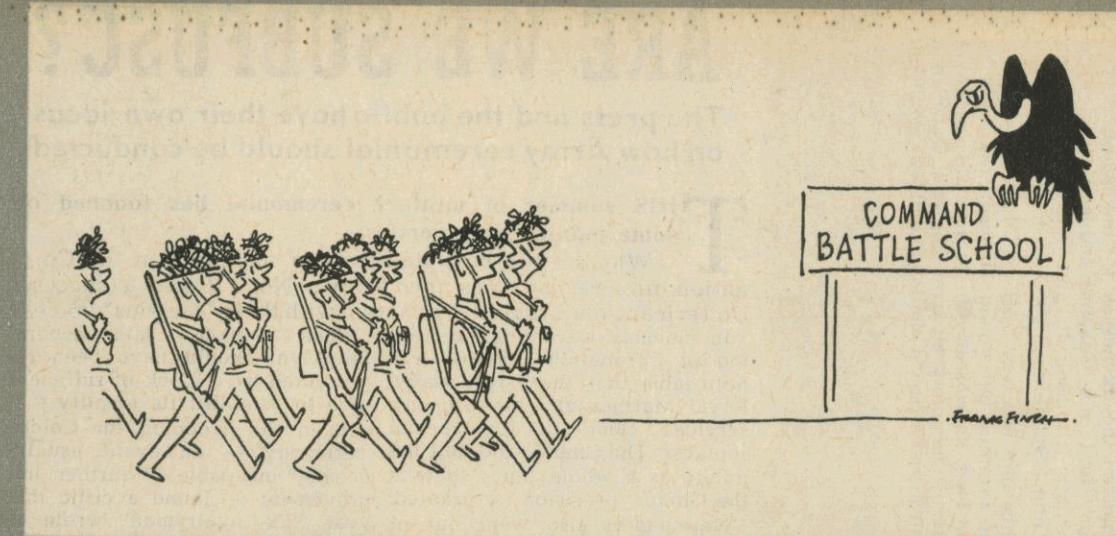
"Panache means dash; subfusc, dull or drab."

A similar complaint was voiced in a newspaper at the time of Queen Mary's funeral, when a reader said that the harsh cries of NCOs ruined the atmosphere. This time, "Ex-Cavalryman" was promptly answered. A reader pointed out:

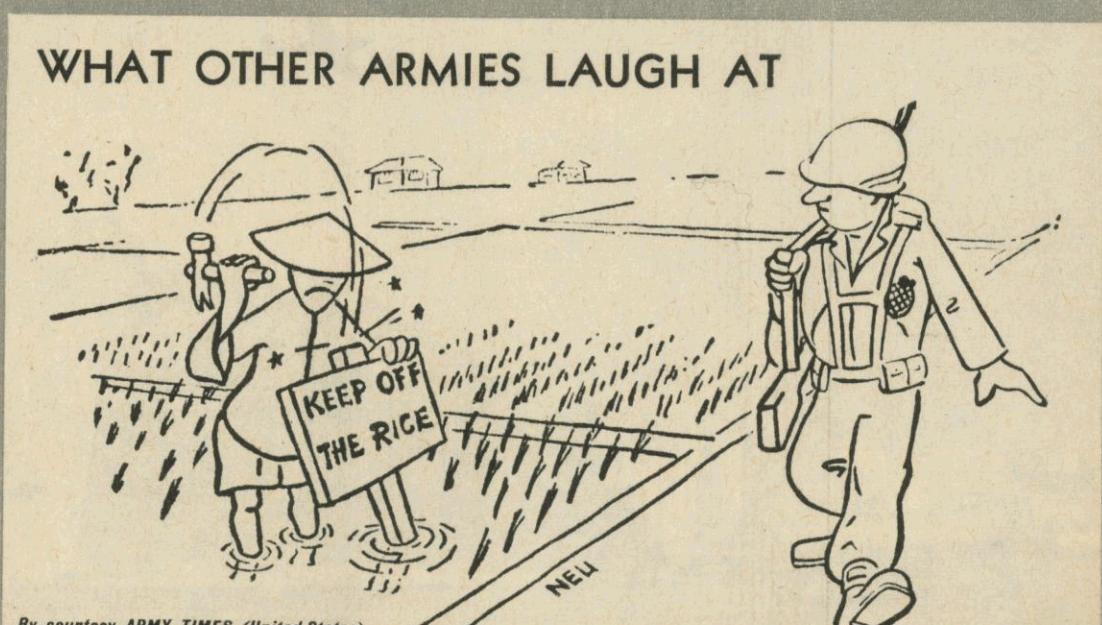
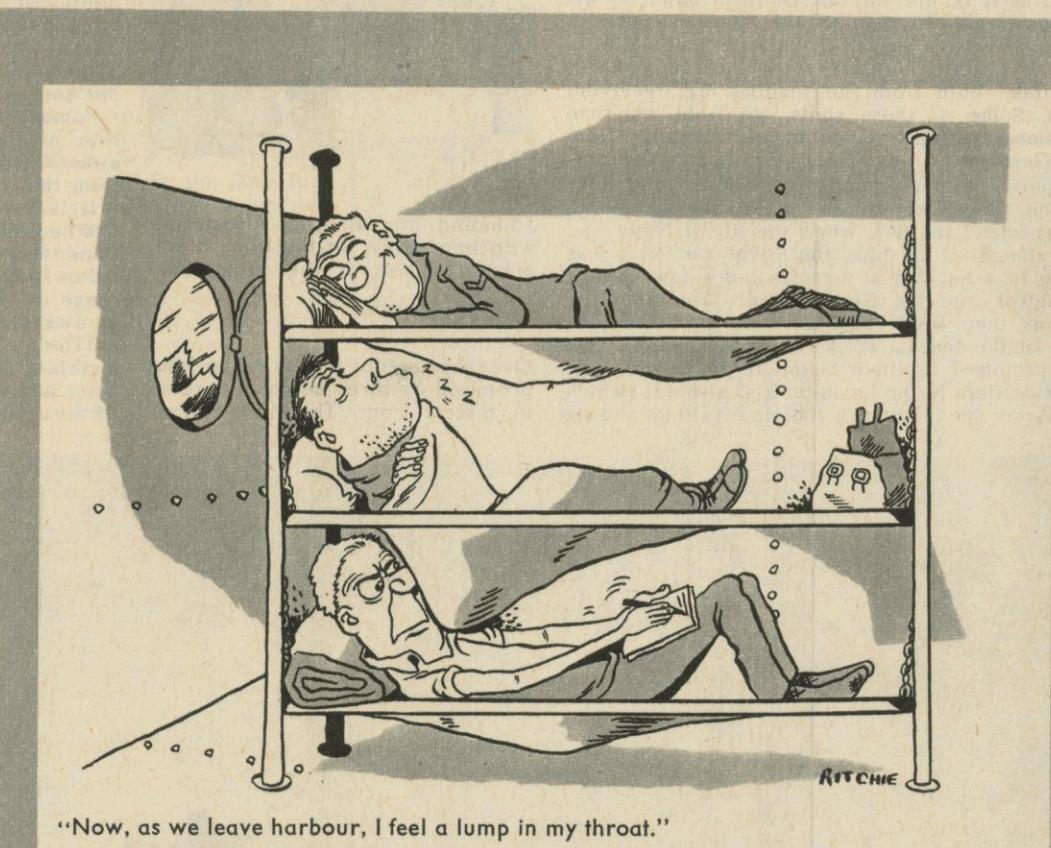
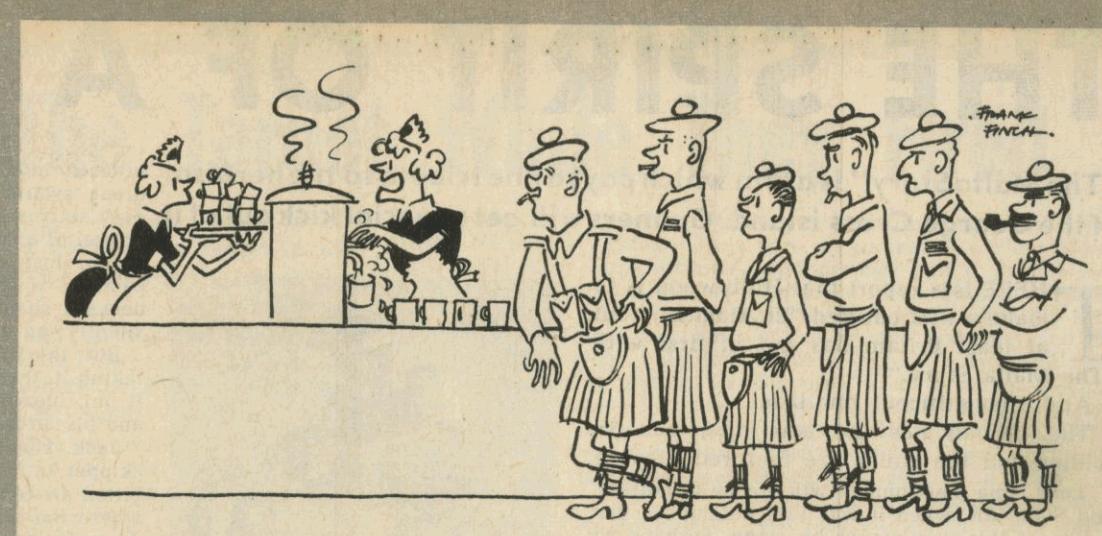
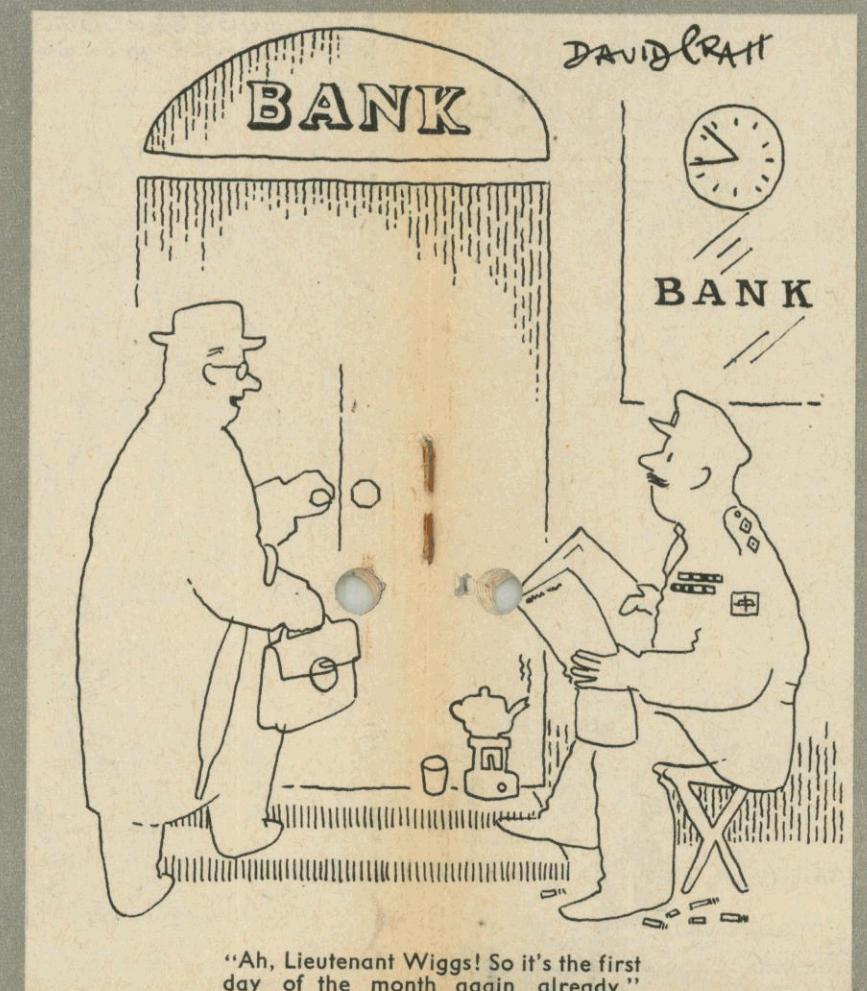
"Every Serviceman knows that a command is divided into two parts, cautionary and executive. The cautionary part is given as a warning to be ready to act, and the executive part, usually one word, is given snappily so that troops may act instantaneously and in unison... The executive command from a bugle would surely lack the incisiveness of a human voice."

Another correspondent said that if orders were given by bugle, companies would be unable to distinguish their individual orders. Sarcastically, a reader suggested that the Guards' boots should be rubber-studded and their brass band replaced by a string quartet, in order to eliminate "unseemly noises." But "Ex-Cavalryman" had one defender, who went on to urge that the Cenotaph ceremonies "should be freed from strident voices trying to outvie each other."





Soldier Humour



THE SPIRIT OF A SIEGE

"The Malta Story" is a film which pays a fine tribute to the heroism of the George Cross island. Gunners will get a special kick out of it

THERE is a report that Hollywood is to make a film entitled "El Alamein," but at least Britain has got in first with "The Malta Story."

And a magnificent film it is.

The airman has the star role, but the soldier and the sailor are featured players.

"Let's hope the Gunners will not be forgotten," said SOLDIER, when it was first announced that a film of this title would be made. Perhaps we could have done with a little more of them; but even as it is, anti-aircraft Gunners ought to get a considerable kick out of this film — especially those who have served in batteries on Malta, in war or peace. There are some startling pictures of "flak" both from the sending and receiving ends. Some of these shots are from war-time documentary films, including reels captured from the Germans.

Apart from some minor love interest, the story of the film is simply the story of the George Cross island in 1942, when the Royal Navy had lost almost all its ships, the Royal Air Force was down to a handful of aircraft and a few gallons of petrol, and the Gunners were rationing the rounds they fired from their worn-out barrels. One of the tensest scenes is when, at long last, the promised Spitfires begin to fly in from aircraft carriers to the bomb-pocked airfields (which the Army spent so much time in levelling) and are



Sounding the air-raid klaxon: a war-time study. In the film, a soldier is shown at the same task.

Over the famous ramparts the long promised Spitfires begin to scream in: a scene from "The Malta Story."

ordered into action almost immediately against great swarms of German bombers from bases only sixty miles away. Most poignant, too, is the arrival of a crippled tanker which had been given up for lost. She is towed slowly and painfully past the watching forts into Grand Harbour, her decks a shambles, with thousands looking down silently: an exceptionally moving scene.

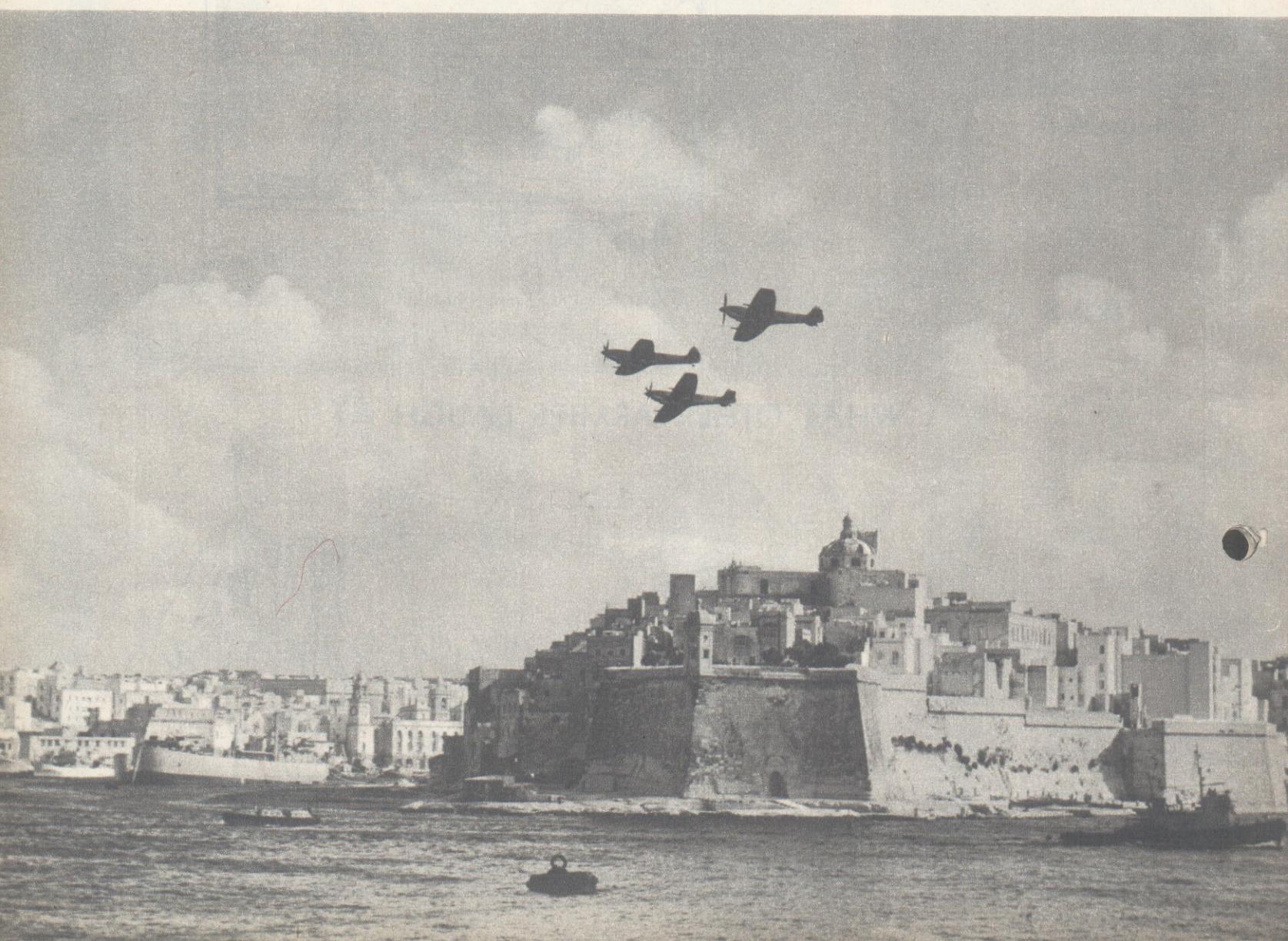
But the film does not merely show Malta taking it. It also shows Malta, reinforced, handing it out, blowing Rommel's convoys from the sea and his aircraft from the skies.

Jack Hawkins, who played the hard-bitten skipper in "The Cruel Sea," is the equally hard-bitten air commander, the man who has to worry where the aircraft and the fuel are coming from. Alec Guinness is rather curiously cast as a photo-reconnaissance pilot, fundamentally more interested in archaeology. "Not a born military type, but he's all right," says his commanding officer (Anthony Steel, ex-Guards, ex-Parachute Regiment). At times Guinness looks a little fey, but some of those fey types fought quite a war.

Almost the only tears come from Muriel Pavlow, as the girl who plots the course of her sweetheart to his death, and then lifts his marker from the great chequered table.

It is curious how familiar the cinema public has become by now with the procedure of operations rooms. Not only the schoolboys but the old ladies in the audience seem to know the significance of those little bright blobs which crop up at awkward moments on the cathode ray tube.

"The Malta Story" stands right out among war pictures. The island's enchanting roofs and ramparts and domes, familiar to so many thousands of Serviceman, form an inspiring background.



The founder of this 150-year-old volunteer regiment was proud of his unit's marksmanship, so —

He Held The Target While They Fired

A commanding officer can show no greater faith in his men's marksmanship than by holding the target in his hand while his entire unit fires consecutively into it at a distance of 150 yards.

The man with the iron nerve and unshakable confidence who did this (it was in London's Hyde Park) was John Thomas Barber-Beaumont, who in 1803 founded the Duke of Cumberland's Sharpshooters, now known as Queen Victoria's Rifles.

Other commanding officers of the day can be excused for not following this example. The Sharpshooters were the sole volunteer unit with the Baker rifle, the only accurate weapon at the time. Having thus established their lead on the range, they took good care to retain it.

When in 1814 a general order disbanded all volunteer corps, the Sharpshooters started a long, laborious but fruitful correspondence with the War Office until they had talked — or rather, written — themselves into being recognised as a rifle club. They continued to wear uniform and use their ranks until 1853, when the Volunteers were reformed.



The first Territorial to win the Victoria Cross (see this article): the Reverend G. H. Woolley. On the night of 20-21 April 1915 he was the only officer on the notorious Hill 60, and held it under heavy fire until relieved. He also won the Military Cross. In World War Two, Mr. Woolley served as a Chaplain to the Forces.

Now the one battalion of Queen Victoria's Rifles, The King's Royal Rifle Corps remains the only Territorial motor battalion in southern England.

It has more weapons and vehicles than the average battalion and a special scout platoon in each company. National Servicemen posted to Davies Street nearly all come from the motor battalions of the 60th Rifles and the Rifle Brigade.

Said Regimental Serjeant-Major Terence Abbott: "Because we are a Mayfair unit, other Territorials call us the Champagne Rifles, but we are just about as mixed a bag as you would find anywhere. One man is a tree feller in the City — I hadn't realised there were

any trees in the City until I met him; — another is a Fleet Street photographer and a third blows the stage coach horn at circuses and fairs. We also have the sons of the Foreign Secretary and the Minister of Works, and our Signals Officer is an ex-medical officer to the 60th Rifles who has given up medicine for journalism."

No member of Queen Victoria's Rifles has ever won such notoriety as the adjutant of 1814 who turned up in Dover with faked despatches reporting Napoleon's death and an Allied victory. Unfortunately his hoax cost him a term of imprisonment, as too many people made a profit from the resulting boom on the Stock Exchange.



Past the famous sailing ship *Pamir* sweeps one of the two launches belonging to the Docks Detachment of 194 Provost Company, Hamburg. Duties of the Detachment, like those of the water-borne Royal Military Police at Kure, Japan (see SOLDIER, May 1953) include the guarding of British ships carrying military supplies. The boats are fitted with wireless sets. There is keen competition to join the crews. Training consists of a 14-days coxswain's course in small-boat navigation and the handling and maintenance of marine engines.



A spot thousands of Servicemen know all too well: the Suez Bridge spanning the Sweet Water Canal near Ismailia. In the sandbagged post Private B. C. Laffar, 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment keeps an eye on the highly-assorted traffic along "Sten Gun Alley." Below: This is one command where a girl MUST walk out with a soldier. The signs appear at the main entrance to Moascar Garrison. Pictures: Lance-Corporal M. Keen, Royal Engineers



At the Canal Zone's "Western Approaches" a detached platoon of the Coldstream Guards stop and search civilians passing from the Nile Delta towards Kantara. Those who try to dodge the check-point are pursued over the sand in a Bren-carrier.

CANAL ZONE

Round-up

THROUGH a sizzling summer, British troops in Egypt's Canal Zone have been tightening precautions against disorder.

Over the 100-mile stretch from Port Said to Suez soldiers are manning emergency positions at road junctions and camp entrances. Vehicles travel in pairs, and escorts have orders to shoot to defend themselves or Army property.

At Ismailia men of the 16th Independent Parachute Brigade Group peer through sand-bagged weapon slits along the Quai Mohammed Ali, the "Sten Gun Alley" of the abrogation troubles. It is a picturesque view — with its ancient white-sailed dhows, heavily-laden camel trains, pannier-carrying donkeys and hordes of brown bare-foot children — but its charm evaporates in two hours' sentry-go.

In a Beau Geste setting, at the western approach to the Canal from the Nile Delta, a detachment of Guardsmen from El Ballah (home of 32 Guards Brigade) live at the base of a sand dune which commands a view over miles of soft undulating sand. They stop all civilian traffic travelling along the narrow sandy track — and all who seek to by-pass it — in a search for illegal arms. Egyptian police and military pass unchallenged.

But life is not all guards and internal security duty. Each day hundreds of Servicemen, Service-women, wives and children relax in the salt lakes, the Suez Canal, and in tiled open-air garrison swimming pools. Cricket is played on mat wickets in the tented camps and on stadium grounds. — Report by Captain W. Holmes, *Military Observer*.



Near desolate El Ballah the Guards man a road check. In this torrid desert, defence pits must have shades overhead. Below: Behind the defences, life goes on. These tribal dancers of the East African Royal Pioneer Corps are in demand at outdoor fêtes and garden parties.





Two Girls in Green

Out of the Service girls at this year's Royal Tournament, photographer Robin Adler picked six as "typical of British beauties of the new Elizabethan age." The Army's two were 19-year-old Private Doreen Gilbert, Women's Royal Army Corps (above) who has served as Regimental police-woman at Guildford Depot, and 20-year-old Bandswoman Sylvia Trussell, solo cornet player in the WRAC band.



FINDING A JOB AT 40

HOW easy is it for a Regular to find a job, when he has served 22 years?

This is a question which occupies most professional soldiers. The moment comes when a man must decide, either to take his release and find a civilian job while still reasonably young, or to soldier on until he is awarded a pension—and then look for a job in a stiffening market.

The decision has to be made, usually, when a man is about 29, after he has served some ten or 11 years in the Army.

Once he has served 12 years and is embarking on his 13th, he knows that he might as well stay on in the Service. He has gone too far towards earning that pension to give it up.

It is a big decision: if he goes out before he is 30 he is still young enough to find a pensionable position, to pay off a small house, to settle his children in one school instead of trailing them round the world. But he takes with him no Army pension, only a gratuity of about £100, and he bids farewell to a substantial pay—more than he is likely to start with as a civilian. He also waives family pension rights, married quarters at low rent, free clothing and opportunities for promotion.

If he serves on for 22 years, he will be 40 when he qualifies for a pension which will only partially support him (it is not intended to keep him at that age). He will find that many employers have a prejudice against men of his age, sometimes for no other reason than that they cannot readily be fitted into superannuation schemes. On the other hand, through serving on, he will have received a terminal grant rising according to rank, and he may have had an opportunity to master a trade.

One factor in the gamble is the country's state of prosperity: today there is reasonably "full employment"—what will be the conditions ten years from now?

Much thought has been given to the problem of the Regular and his job by regimental associations, Ministry of Labour officials and employment organisations. Among these the job finders of the National Association for the Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen (which has 52 branches throughout Britain) can give some useful pointers.

They have found that they are more successful in finding jobs for pensioned soldiers than in placing men with shorter service.

Tradesmen always get the pick of the jobs, and in this respect, the Royal Navy score. But Army non-tradesmen need not feel they are destined to do badly.

Some organisations, like the General Post Office, give priority to ex-Regulars over other applicants. But as a rule

There are plenty of posts for men who soldier on to pensionable age, say the job finders

it is the smaller firms which show a marked preference for the Army pensioner—someone who is honest, smart and punctual. They do not like the man who, because he was of

senior non-commissioned rank, still expects to be in charge of men instead of working with them. The ex-Army supervisor must be prepared to get back to the bench himself.

He must also be prepared for disappointments. Take, at random, the case of a quartermaster-serjeant who served 24 years with the Royal Fusiliers. A month before his release he answered dozens of advertisements, but received only one reply—a refusal. He then went to the nearest job finder of the National Association in Newcastle-on-Tyne. During his release leave he was sent to a furniture factory with a vacancy in the accountant's office. Here it was decided his experience of Army accounting was not adequate, and he was moved to the stores where there was a job vacant. However, the manager was away ill and somehow it came to nothing. So a few days later, back went the CQMS to the job finder who sent him to a sheet iron factory which wanted a timekeeper storeman. He got the job at £6 10s a 44-hour week. He also got something unknown in the Army—overtime. Soon he found himself netting more than in the Army.

Many others have found their feet in similar fashion. At Birmingham a pensioner was appointed to a job in charge of a firm's transport at £450 a year. At Bristol another man became an advertisement manager at £500. At Chelmsford a Service-man was given a £675-a-year engineering position, with a free house (he was a qualified tradesman).

Even men who serve on to the age of 55 are by no means unemployable. At Wolverhampton a former serjeant of the King's Regiment (Liverpool) was 65 when he asked a job finder to get him a night watchman's post at £2 a week to add to his £5 pension. The job finder persuaded a firm to give him a look. The man went along in his Sunday best, sporting a buttonhole and "beaming success all over his face." He got the job at £9 a week. Another ex-warrant officer well past his 50th birthday was found a gatekeeper's post at the same salary.



SPORT

Close finish in the 100 Yards: Lance-Corporal S. G. Sandford, Royal Scots Fusiliers, the winner, is on left of picture. (Photographs: W.H. STIRLING and A.C. BLUNDELL).

In the Army's Individual Athletic Championships, a lance-corporal from Berlin won —

TWO TITLES IN HIS FIRST YEAR

A newcomer to first-class athletics, Lance-Corporal S. G. Sandford, Royal Scots Fusiliers, created a surprise when he became the Army's new sprint champion at Aldershot.

Five new records were set up in the Army Individual Championships.

In the 100 Yards Lance-Corporal Sandford beat the holder, Serjeant P. Lillington Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (who came in third) and went on to win the 220 Yards final in convincing style, to gain his second Army championship in his first year on the track. Lance-Corporal Sandford is 24 years of age, an ex-bandsman now serving in Berlin. He has no civilian club and comes from Taunton, Somerset.

In the 220 Yards hurdles 2/Lieutenant A. J. Symons, Royal Engineers, broke the Army record

OVER

On the prize-winners' stand Lance-Corporal Sandford receives his 220 yards trophy.



Breaking his own record in Throwing the Hammer: Major C. J. Reidy, Royal Army Educational Corps. His throw was 157 feet 8½ inches.



In the Half Mile, Gunner B. S. Hewson breasts the tape. Behind is 2/Lieutenant D. Williamson, brother of the Women's Royal Army Corps champion.



Left: Winner of two hurdles events, and a record-breaker: 2/Lieut. A. Symons, Royal Engineers.



Right: The Army's pole vault champion, Lieutenant T. D. Anderson, of the Royal Army Medical Corps, in action.

SPORT

(Cont'd)

for the second year running to win the championship. His time of 25.5 seconds was seven-tenths of a second better than his previous best time. Signaller K. L. Norris, Royal Signals, in the Three Miles knocked 1.4 seconds off Private F. D. Sando's record set up in 1951, to become champion and record holder with a time of 14 mins. 22.5 secs.

Major C. J. Reidy, Royal Army Educational Corps, retained the Throwing, the Hammer title for the fifth year running with a record throw of 157feet 8½ inches. This was more than a foot better

Continued on Page 31



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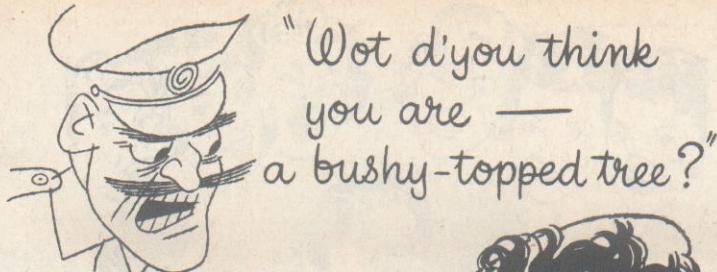
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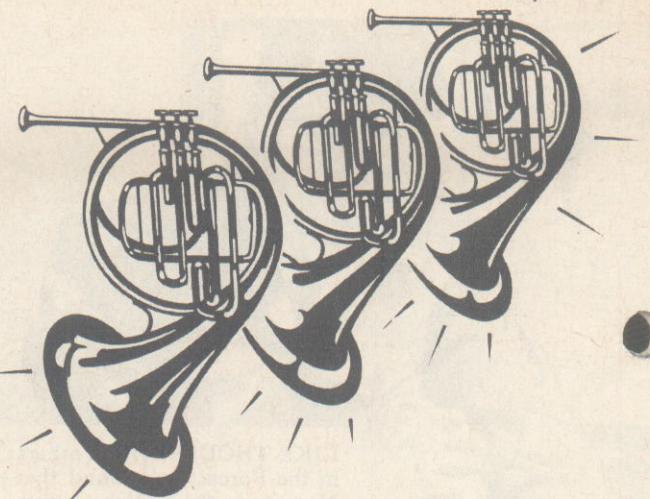
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than his previous Army record. He also won the Field Events Challenge Cup for the third year in succession.

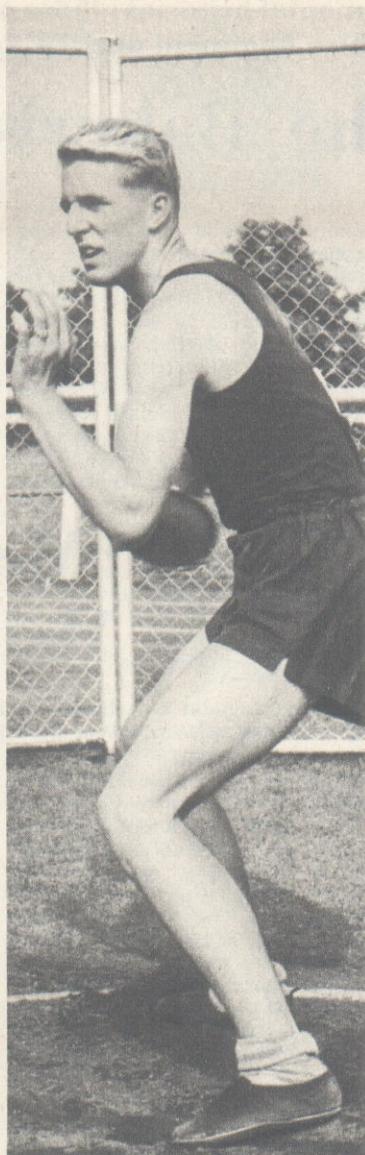
The Army cross-country runner Serjeant-Instructor J. Bromley, Army Physical Training Corps, was 200 yards clear of the rest of the field when he won the Two Miles Steeplechase in the record time of 10 minutes 35 seconds.

A young giant from the Army Apprentices School at Chepstow, Apprentice-Tradesmen J.R. Webb, achieved a distance of 153ft. 5 inches in the Enlisted Boys and Apprentice-Tradesmen Discus event, which is 33ft. 6½ inches better than the Army record when the event was inaugurated last year. The entrants last year were raw beginners and a year's field training has worked wonders. The discus used was more than two pounds lighter than that used in senior events.

In the women's events Capt. A.D.S. Williamson, Women's Royal Army Corps, who has British and Olympic honours to her credit, remains supreme. It was back in 1946 that Audrey Williamson, then a corporal, won the Army 100 Yards championship. This year she won the race for the seventh time, took the Long Jump and the 220 Yards, both for the fifth time — 17 Army championships in all. She also won the Field Events Challenge Cup for the fourth year running and took the Track Events Challenge Cup. Her brother, 2/Lieutenant Desmond Williamson, Royal Artillery, from Rhine Army, finished second to the ex-Amateur junior champion, Gunner B. S. Hewson, in the Half Mile.

Corporal Peter Goldsmith, Royal Horse Guards, won the Hop, Step and Jump for the sixth successive year with a distance of 46feet 4¾ inches, but he failed to gain his fourth High Jump championship when he was beaten by the rising young athlete Apprentice Tradesman A. Thomson from Chepstow.

Signaller Ken Norris, the young English International and Army Three Mile record holder, won the "Cotterell" Challenge Cup, presented by all ranks of the Royal Corps of Signals in 1936, for the best track performance.



Apprentice-Tradesman J. Webb shattered the Discus record. Below: Two hundred yards ahead of the field, Serjeant-Instructor J. Bromley romped home in the Two Mile Steeplechase in record time.



Hussars Band Flew To Warsaw —

And laid red and white roses in memory of Chopin

LESS than 24 hours after they marched down the cheering Mall in London's Coronation Procession, the band of the 7th (Queen's Own) Hussars climbed out of a Royal Air Force transport aircraft on Warsaw airfield, 900 miles away.

They had flown to play at Coronation celebrations for the British Embassy and the Canadian Legation and to give a concert for Polish troops in Warsaw.

The Hussars band was the first British band to enter Poland since the end of the war. Its visit aroused tremendous interest among the people of Warsaw who crowded the streets near the British Embassy when the band performed. Wherever the bandmen went their No. 1 Dress and red peaked caps added a touch of badly-needed colour to the drab city. When they wore battle-dress the flash of the "Mermaid of Warsaw," the city's emblem which all Regular soldiers of the Regiment wear on their right sleeves, drew comment. This honour was granted the Regiment by General Anders, commander of the Polish Second Corps, with whom the 7th Hussars fought in Italy.

Always close by were pressmen whose reports filled many columns in the Warsaw newspapers. When the band gave a two-hour performance to Polish soldiers they were filmed for the newsreels under glaring arc-lights.

The band played at the Coronation reception and ball at the British Embassy which was attended by all the high-ranking military and diplomatic personalities in Warsaw, including the Russian military attaché. As the guests were presented to the Ambassador the band played selections of military and operatic music. For the rest of the evening the nine-man dance-band section provided the music.

The band also played at garden parties in the home of the British Military Attaché, Colonel W. Rankin, who commanded the 7th Hussars for three years. On the Sunday morn-

ing they paraded to the church in the Norwegian Legation and played the hymns for the service.

An audience of several thousand Polish soldiers and their families gave the band a tremendous welcome at a concert in the Narodowy Theatre. In particular they applauded Chopin's "Polonaise." After the concert the Bandmaster, Mr. G. C. Hensby, was congratulated by a Polish general.

The band had little time for sight-seeing, but one afternoon they were taken round the city by Polish guides to see how Warsaw is being rebuilt. The Bandmaster, with Band-Sergeant G. Morris and Serjeant R. Price, took part in a moving little ceremony which was watched by hundreds of the city's inhabitants. Escorted by the two sergeants, Mr. Hensby entered the church where the heart of Chopin is believed to be buried. There he placed on a ledge near the supposed spot a nosegay of two red and two white roses, bearing the inscription: "The Commanding Officer of the 7th (Queen's Own) Hussars, the Bandmaster and the Musicians pay homage to the great composer Chopin."

Before the band flew back to Germany, where the Regiment is stationed, they were warmly thanked by a colonel of the Polish Army.

Note: The band of the 1st Battalion The East Yorkshire Regiment toured in the Russian Zone of Austria in 1949.

This cuijapa (a Polish mountaineering stick) was a gift to the band by the British Ambassador to Poland, Sir Francis Shepherd. Bandmaster G. C. Hensby shows it to his wife.



The Lieutenant and the Baker's Daughter

THE armoured car of Lieutenant I. Winterbottom, a future Socialist Member of Parliament for Central Nottingham, was shot up and disabled outside the German-held town of Albert, one day in September 1944. He sought to complete his mission by riding cross-country on a bicycle.

After eluding a German patrol he met a French baker, M. Felix Lefèvre, and his daughter, in a horse-drawn van. The baker gave him a lift, but soon the van encountered another German patrol.

Boldly, Monsieur Lefèvre drove straight through, while Lieutenant Winterbottom, no less boldly, concealed himself beneath "the well-filled skirts of the daughter." In this "somewhat Decameron fashion" he reached the town of Albert, first British soldier to do so.

This is only one example of the admirable enterprise shown by members of the 2nd Household Cavalry Regiment in North-West Europe. Many others are described in Roden Orde's briskly-told "The Story of the Second Household Cavalry Regiment" (Gale and Polden: 600 pages, 63s).

In a foreword, Lieut-General Sir Brian Horrocks describes as "the most daring reconnaissance of the war" an exploit carried out by Lieutenant A. J. R. Buchanan-Jardine. It was necessary to know the depth of the German defences on the Meuse-Escaut Canal, a most difficult assignment because the British Army was in

close contact with the enemy and there was no way round his flanks.

Lieutenant Buchanan-Jardine decided to drive straight down the main road which ran through the centre of the German line, trusting to surprise to get through and back. Two armoured cars made the dash, running the gauntlet of successive parties of startled Germans. After penetrating for several miles, the cars returned at sixty miles an hour, their "fluid flywheels screaming defiance." The Irish Guards had promised not to shoot them up if they returned, and the German bazooka men were too slow to do so. But everything on the outside of the armoured cars was punctured or broken by small arms fire. Buchanan-Jardine's feat made him the first British soldier to set foot in Holland (one day ahead of a Grenadier Guards patrol), for which he was awarded the Netherlands Order of the Bronze Lion.

Lieutenant-General Horrocks, commanding 30 Corps, prized highly the resource of the 2nd Household Cavalry Regiment. He says he does not recall a single occasion when the wireless communications of the far-ranging cars failed. "It requires strong nerves," he says, "to be the leading man in the leading car, day after day, always anxiously scanning the hedgerows for that hidden anti-tank gun which must

sooner or later be encountered."

At the end of the war the Regiment was split into Life Guards and Blues again. Its members had learned much, and travelled far, since those early days of mechanisation when the following conversation is alleged to have taken place:

"Sir, the big end on my motorcycle has gone."

"Oh, has it? Then I shall give you a quarter of an hour to find it."

"Mechanisation" Meant Bullocks

THOSE Regular battalions which found themselves in India at the outbreak of World War Two felt cheated.

The 1st Battalion The Northamptonshire Regiment had been serving on the North-West Frontier. In 1939 its first motor vehicle was "an extremely part-worn motor ambulance," which had to be towed by a pair of bullocks. No mortars, no anti-tank rifles, no carriers; machine-guns, but no tripods.

The theory of Britain's defence was that the Regulars took the first shock of aggression. Yet here

was the Regular battalion "stranded" in India, while a Territorial battalion was serving along with the 2nd Battalion in France and Flanders.

But the 1st Battalion's time came. It killed its first Japanese in Burma at the end of 1943, and thereafter was in the thick of the fighting until a few days before Rangoon was liberated. One officer attached to the Battalion, Lieutenant A. G. Horwood DCM, of the Queen's Royal Regiment, earned a posthumous Victoria Cross.

The story of the Regiment's war service is told by Brigadier W. J. Jervois in "The Northamptonshire Regiment 1934-1948" (published by the regimental history committee and obtainable from the Regimental Secretary, Quebec Barracks, Northampton: 30s).

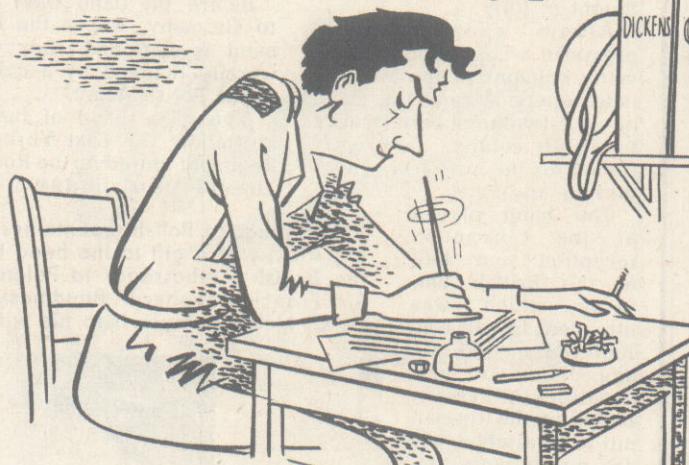
When the Germans invaded France, the 2nd and 5th Battalions fought a campaign of stubborn stands and withdrawals. The 5th Battalion padre earned the Military Cross by taking over the duties of the wounded medical officer.

Back in Britain, the two battalions built up their strength again. The 2nd soon afterwards took part in the first major combined operation of the war, in Madagascar. Next, the 5th landed in North Africa with the 78th Division and fought through that gruelling campaign.

In Sicily the 2nd, which had wandered with the 5th Division to India and Paiforce, and the 5th again fought on the same front, and both crossed to Italy. The 5th Battalion was still lucky in its padres. A successor to the one who gained the Military Cross in France distinguished himself by capturing two Germans, one of whom was motor-cycling without trousers.

The 5th Battalion remained in Italy to the end, and then moved into Austria. The 2nd Battalion left Italy in time to share the last few weeks of triumph in Germany. There, too, was the 4th (Territorial) Battalion which had seen action in Holland.

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The Solid Worth of Berkshires



A patrol of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, setting out from Razmak in Waziristan, surprised a group of tribesmen setting an ambush, and opened fire with good results.

A day or two later, the tribal leader appeared in front of the Jade commander, who mildly taunted him. The old man was furious. Did they imagine that he, Mirza Khan, was responsible for such nonsense? "It was my son. He is 16 years old and demanded to make a raid as a birthday present... If it is I whom you wish to fight, I shall be delighted — but I have a suggestion to make. You claim to be a fair-minded race. Let us fight on equal terms. Leave behind your machine-guns, your artillery and your aeroplanes: then we shall really see who is the better man."

This story, told by Brigadier Gordon Blight in "The History of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, 1920-47" (Staples, 42s) is well in the spirit of that long and bloody campaign on the North-West Frontier of India. The tribesmen considered fighting a relaxation. An ambush over, they thought nothing of entering the British camp bazaar to sell goods to their opponents. Mirza Khan himself, a notable leader, was often in camp, carrying a rifle which bore the number and title of a British regiment — loot which, by Frontier laws, had been lawfully acquired.

This story of the Royal Berkshires opens with the 1st Battalion in Persia, in action against Bolsheviks. The 2nd Battalion is discovered, at one stage, sitting

neutral in a no-man's-land in Ireland, while the Free State Army clashed with the Irish Republican Army.

In World War Two, Royal Berkshire battalions saw actions on four major fronts: there were two battalions in France and Flanders in 1940, one in Sicily and Italy, two in North-West Europe and two in Burma. They fought in the traditions of a regiment which was the first to be created "Royal" on the battlefield.

Brigadier Blight has a shrewd chapter on the qualities of the British soldier in general, and of the Royal Berkshires in particular.

"It has been said that the South Countryman is not a killer. If this means that he does not dash headlong into battle, athirst with a desire to slay, nor yet sets out with a cold relentless fury to 'get his man,' then there are grounds for holding such an opinion. The South Countryman can appreciate such action and reaction in others, but he distrusts it in the long run. For himself, he walks midway between rashness and caution, enamoured of neither. He engages himself as a man on a job, a matter that once begun is carried on, as a matter of course, to its conclusion. There will be impediments, but the good craftsmen will overcome them, if it is humanly possible."

This approach requires resolute and sustained courage, says Brigadier Blight; perhaps not a very spectacular kind of courage, but one which comes into its own when things go wrong.

The Officers Slashed Their Colours

THE officers of the 8th Foot had just dined in their mess at Portsmouth. Then the regimental Colours were carried in.

Seizing their dessert knives, the officers sliced the Colours from their poles and cut them into small pieces. Captain S. took a carving knife and hacked the poles, then broke them into pieces about three feet long. These were thrown into the mess fire. All watched "with anxiety but in silence."

Why this strange conduct by officers and gentlemen?

The answer was that the Regiment was about to be disbanded. So proud were the officers of their Colours that they refused to run the risk of them being put to degraded uses, or of the staffs being used as broom handles.

Each officer kept a scrap of the torn cloth. The ashes of the staffs were carefully separated from "the grosser and less sacred particles" in the fire and housed in a small vessel. This was carried out and buried in a prepared grave dug in the barrack-yard, where Captain S. said a prayer. That night a sentinel was appointed to stand watch over the grave.

This remarkable episode, which

occurred in 1816, is described by Major T. J. Edwards, the well-known Army historian, in his "Standards, Guidons and Colours of the Commonwealth Forces" (Gale and Polden, 30s). He has been gathering his facts for 30 years.

Today Queen's Regulations are specific on the disposal of Colours. They are to be laid up in churches or other public buildings (a regimental museum which is normally open to the general public is regarded as a public building). Colours will never be sold or given to an individual.

Major Edwards traces the tradition of Colours from ancient times. As long as men have

A Thought For The Month

"His (the British soldier's) barracks were almost always ugly, until he took a hand in their redecoration, when they became even more frighteningly hideous." — Brigadier Gordon Blight, in the history of the Royal Berkshires, reviewed on this page.

Sergeant Found Himself Magistrate and Gaoler

LITTLE has been written about the British invasion of Madagascar, the world's second-largest island, in World War Two.

With the invading forces served a Field Security sergeant, Rupert Croft-Cooke, now well-known as an author. He tells something of the story in "The Blood-Red Island" (Staples, 12s 6d).

Blood-red? It is true that there was bloody fighting against the Vichy French on Madagascar, but there were also more amiable encounters. At Vatomandry the *Chef de District* cordially invited the British to cut his communications, in order to lend support to the message he had sent his superiors saying that the town was occupied by the British, heavily armed. In fact, the British forces consisted of three men.

Many French officials had no wish to resist the British, but they owed allegiance to their government, which was represented in Madagascar by the Vichy governor. They were delighted to be ordered to work for the British, but they could not volunteer — that would have endangered their pensions.

Other matters also were settled between the two sides without rancour. Four South Africans, whose aircraft crashed in Vichy territory, removed a machine-gun from the wreck and set off for the British lines. They met a French *adjudant* (warrant-officer) and six armed native guards.

"I must ask you to consider yourselves my prisoners," said the *adjudant*. "On the contrary," said the South African officer, "you and your men must be considered ours."

The *adjudant* pointed out that his party was armed with carbines. The South African said his party had a machine-gun. "Does it work?" asked the *adjudant*. One of the South Africans fired a burst in the air. The native guards dropped their carbines and took cover. "It seems you are right," said the *adjudant*. He shook hands, and asked that there should be nothing in the captors' manner to show he was formally a prisoner — it would be bad for his prestige with the natives.

The author went ashore with the party which attacked the port of Diego Suarez, and stayed in the island for six months. Like many Field Security NCO's in primitive occupied territories, he found himself carrying out duties which had not been mentioned in the lectures at his depot back in England. For a few weeks he was administrator of a district, its magistrate, gaoler, tax-collector and commander of its armed native guards. During this period, he was offered an island off the coast of Madagascar, with plenty of tortoise-shell and oysters. He made many reconnaissances, travelling through roadless forests in litters, and came to know the Malgache — indolent, as becomes people of a land so fertile that very little work is necessary for a comfortable life, timorous and a prey to superstition. He even caught two German agents.

ARE YOUR FEET ON THE BED?

WHEN is a soldier smoking in bed, and when is he not?

The question appears to have cropped up in a United States Army camp, where the following ruling (recently quoted in *The New Yorker*) was issued:

"When an individual assumes any position on or in any bed, canvas cot, steel cot etc., with or without bedding, and then proceeds to smoke, he is 'smoking in bed,' except that when a person has both feet upon the floor or the ground he cannot be considered as being 'in bed.' In the event a person reclines upon a bed with one or both feet off the floor or the ground, and that by the further act of smoking he should cause the bed to catch fire, he should be considered as being in bed because he is using the bed as a bed and not as a chair as he is doing when he sits upon the bed with both feet upon the floor or the ground."

Don't smile too broadly. Our own Army can produce definitions like that too!



How Much Do You Know?

1. This Hollywood actress has a three-lettered surname and a four-lettered Christian name. Who is she?

2. Sir Allen Lane is noted for:
(a) climbing Everest;
(b) reorganising the signalling system on British railways;
(c) publishing cheap books;
(d) suppressing unrest in the Sudan.

Which?

3. What is the name of that British submarine which recently crossed the Atlantic under water?

4. King Norodom recently fled from his kingdom. Which kingdom?

5. Which of these is among the duties of a duenna:
(a) arranging folk dances;
(b) understudying a prima donna;
(c) training circus ponies;
(d) looking after single girls at dances.

6. Who referred to "the monstrous regiment of women"?

7. He was an American. He hired an elephant to plough one of his fields. He bought the oldest negress in the world. He toured the world with Tom Thumb. He sponsored the singer Jenny Lind. His name?

8. If you received a letter inscribed "OHMS—Service De Sa Majesté," it would almost certainly bear the postmark of— which country?

9. A celebrated skater is Sonia Henje, Sonia Henje, Sonja Henje, Sonja Henje—which?

10. In what year was Johnnie Walker ("Still Going Strong") born?

11. Each year Britain publishes, approximately, 800; 8000; 18,000; 28,000; 48,000 book titles—which?

12. About the year 1811, certain English workmen united to destroy the new textile machines which they thought would take away their livelihood. What were the rebels called?

13. Who made the first experiments with lightning conductors?

14. Everybody has a mandible, better known as—what?

15. A hippogriff was:
(a) half horse, half eagle;
(b) half man, half woman;
(c) half man, half bull;
(d) half man, half hippopotamus.

Which?

16. Which of these is the "intruder": Saluki, Dandie Din-

mont, Limburger, Samoyed, Papillon, Griffon?

17. Of what is this the definition: "An elastic fluid substance, the molecules of which are in constant motion, and exerting pressure"?

18. The late President Franklin Roosevelt defined the Four Freedoms. Three of them were: Freedom of speech and expression; Freedom of all to worship God in their own way; Freedom from

want. What was the Fourth Freedom?

19. Which of these is a funambulist:

- (a) a man who walks on wires;
- (b) an undertaker's man;
- (c) a man who hates women;
- (d) a designer of fireworks.

20. Which country is entirely surrounded by Peru, Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina and C.

(Answers on Page 37)

FILMS coming your way

The following films will shortly be shown in Army Kinema Corporation cinemas overseas:

ROUGH SHOOT

An American Army colonel (Joel McCrea) stationed in Dorset discharges buckshot at a poacher on his rented shoot—and finds the man dead from a rifle bullet. Soon the colonel is at grips with suspicious men with suspicious names like Hiart, Lex and Diss—atomic spies all. There is a chase into, and through, Madame Tussaud's. Did the colonel really shoot the poacher—ah, ha!

DESTINATION GOBI

Because the United States Navy is losing too many ships in the Pacific, an officer and seven men are dropped in the Gobi Desert, where the Mongols roam, to set up meteorological camp and send weather observations to the Navy. There is trouble, not only with Mongols, but with the Japanese, who bomb the encampment. The survivors must now march 800 miles to the sea, which they reach after lurid adventures. With Richard Widmark and Don Taylor.

CITY BENEATH THE SEA

An earthquake in an under-water city is the sort of spectacle to take your mind off your worries. The scenes for this unusual film were shot among the submerged ruins of Port Royal, Jamaica. Searching for gold are Robert Ryan and Anthony Quinn; they find girls instead—Mala Powers and Suzan Ball. There is a suitable amount of villainy.

I CONFESS!

Should a priest who has heard a man confess to murder tell the police? Father Michael (Montgomery Clift) refuses, even when he is himself suspected of the murder and put on trial. Anne Baxter is involved. Military note: For one scene showing a home-coming troopship Canadian soldiers were called out and ordered to kiss waiting "wives" and "sweethearts." Director Alfred Hitchcock urged them to put their hearts into it, and they did.

THE STORY OF THREE LOVES

Here are three dramatic episodes in the lives of passengers on an ocean liner. One of the travellers is a young man on a flying trapeze, who failed to catch his girl. Another is a governess who became fascinated by her ex-pupil. The third is an impresario who staged a splendid ballet for one night only—why? Many stars in this one, including the newcomer Leslie Caron, Moira Shearer, James Mason, Kirk Douglas and Pier Angeli.

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YOU may buy SOLDIER, price ninepence, from your unit, your canteen or your AKC cinema, or have it posted to you by filling in the Order Form.

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LETTERS

● 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 formation which you can get in your own orderly room or from your own officer, thus saving time and postage.

Will they go over to the Royal Air Force en masse?

I feel that a better reason for the transference of control could have been produced than the statement that surface-to-air guided missiles will operate "in the same air space" as fighter aircraft, and should therefore be under the same control. Right through the war the guns of Anti-Aircraft Command were operating "in the same air space" as fighters, and so far as I know there were no quarrels on this score. — "Ex-Gunner" (name and address supplied).

★ In the House of Commons on 20 May 1953 the Under-Secretary of State for Air was asked by Mr. Julian Snow: "Is the Minister aware that the many thousands of technicians — men and women — who are at present engaged in anti-aircraft are in a state of great despondency over this transfer of responsibility with which, technically, we may not disagree? Are the Army doing anything to suggest that they should, or to encourage them to, take over equivalent appointments on a territorial basis under Air Force auspices?" The Under-Secretary replied: "I am not sure what approach has been made to them, but I will look into the point."

WALKING WITH GIRLS

It seems to me that both your editorial writer (SOLDIER to Soldier) and the gallant Member of Parliament for Perth in the House of Commons (SOLDIER, May 1953) missed the point when they referred to pre-1914 servant girls paying soldiers in uniform to walk out with them. The maid servant of those days had not many half-crowns to pay out for escort duty.

I joined the Army myself only in 1914, but I had the true story from Mr. R. D. Blumenfeld, formerly editor of the *Daily Express*, and confirmed it from several old soldiers.

There was in Edwardian and Victorian days always a fear that the children of the rich would be kidnapped. Consequently parents in London — and possibly elsewhere — would pay 2s 6d an afternoon for a soldier in uniform to escort the nursemaid and infant for their walk in the Park. To this was added a pint of beer when the duty was completed. — Lieut-Col. R. J. T. Hills (late The Life Guards), *Buenos Aires Herald, Argentina*.

GUIDED MISSILES

I had expected to see in SOLDIER indignant letters from Gunners protesting at the decision to hand over the operational control of guided anti-aircraft missiles to the Royal Air Force. ("Royal Air Force, Take It Away!" : SOLDIER, June). I have been disappointed.

What will happen now to the bright technicians of the Royal Artillery?

THE PROCESSION

To my mind the Coronation procession proved that my plea for the Queen's scarlet is a valid one. The blue compact mass of the backbone of the Army — the County Regiments of the Line — made individual units largely indistinguishable. The helmets, busbies and shakos gave way to a flat-top peak cap, and the scarlet jackets with regimental facings, which could quite well have been provided, were lacking. One feels a great opportunity was missed by the authorities to do justice to the deathless traditions of the British Infantry. — Captain R. Vyvyan Steele, Penrhyn Lodge, Gloucester Gate, London.

★ See "Are We Subfusc?" on Page 19.

TROOPING PUZZLE

Why at the Trooping the Colour Ceremony did the Welsh Guards march before the Irish Guards and not behind them? — E. Coleman, Dalston Lane, Hackney, London E8.

★ The Grenadiers, as senior regiment, form up on the right of the line. The Coldstream, who traditionally decline second place, form up on the extreme left. The Scots Guards, third in seniority, take position beside the Grenadiers; and the Irish, the next in seniority, are placed beside the Coldstream. This leaves the centre place for the junior regiment, the Welsh Guards. When the regiments march past they therefore move in this order: Grenadiers, Scots, Welsh, Irish and Coldstream.

CORONATION MEDAL

I feel that the issue to units of the Coronation Medal is somewhat haphazard. My battalion has received 12, all of which have been bestowed on officers, and warrant officers, with the exception of one to a colour-serjeant. No one below colour-serjeant has received one, nor has any National Serviceman. Five of the recipients took part in the Coronation parade in London; fair enough. The other seven appear to have been given without regard to the possible friction they may cause.

Does it make for good recruiting? I think not. Does it help heal the gap between Regulars and National Servicemen? I think not.

The Commonwealth contingents to the Coronation seem to have been liberally decorated. I feel we should have confined the issue to those who took part, or given a medal to every soldier. — "Light Infantryman" (name and address supplied).

★ There are only 100,000 Coronation Medals, and they have to be distributed among the three fighting Services, Civil Servants, Civil Defence, police, firemen and others giving public service, at home and abroad. Commonwealth countries decided that their chosen representatives at the Coronation should receive a medal each. The British Army prefers to distribute them more widely, so that men serving in distant commands shall have a chance of receiving one. Distribution in units is far from haphazard; commanding officers have had a difficult task deciding which men should receive the medal.

PLATED

The Coronation procession has started an argument about the metal from which the helmets and breast plates of the Household Cavalry are made. One suggestion that whatever metal was used the shine could only be attained by plating, would, in my opinion, set all long dead regimental-corporal-majors spinning in their graves. — R. B. Cheeseman, Grimsby.

★ Helmets and cuirasses are made of steel and have been nickel-plated since before the war.

MILITARY DIGNITY

In order to aid recruiting, the Army must not miss an opportunity of keeping in the public eye. But do we sometimes lose dignity by the methods adopted?

Recently in "Kaleidoscope," a Television show, an actress was given a small birthday party on the usual BBC lines. She had been asked beforehand what she most wanted to do and the staff did their best to oblige. We saw her being carried in the rescue gear used by lifeboat-men. We saw her chatting to an ex-Scotland Yard man. And then came her third request — to fire a gun. The War Office sent a light anti-aircraft gun, complete with detachment. When the actress fired it, there was a pathetic "click." "Is that all the noise it makes?" she asked. The officer explained kindly that he could not fire live rounds in the studio but she cared to come outside... The actress departed to her next request — to beat the big drum in a Boy Scout band.

I feel that this sort of thing does not do the Army an atom of good. I cannot see the Royal Navy agreeing to such frivolity. — "Viewer" (name and address supplied).

CONDUCT SHEETS

Some people are of the opinion that after a number of years a soldier's conduct sheet is destroyed. This is not borne out by one soldier's AFB 120 in this unit which shows he was confined to barracks for ten days in 1919. — "Serjeant, Malta" (name and address supplied).

★ A soldier's conduct sheet is not destroyed while he is still serving. When a soldier is discharged, his sheet is kept until it is 30 years old.

YESTERDAY'S ARMY

Comparing the soldier's life in 1937 and in 1953, you say "It's a Different Army Today." (SOLDIER, June.)

It is true that basic pay has increased. So has the cost of living.

In 1937 we did have sheets. We wore puttees, certainly, but only in Britain. We wore shoes and stockings overseas.

We had a better choice of overseas stations — including those in India.

Church parade was the best parade of the week. Every Sunday morning at Woolwich thousands of people came to see the soldiers march past with full band and trumpets. I was always proud to be picked for this parade. The Army has changed as the world has changed, but I do not think for the better. — Corporal E. J. Pettitt, Assaye Camp, Fayid, Middle East.

OPEN TOURER

You stated that Serjeant K. Gorman drove the Duke of Edinburgh (in Germany) in the Army's only remaining open Humber tourer. This is incorrect. Open Humber tourer WD number 32YF93 has been on this unit's charge some six years, and still proceeds on detail daily. — Major M. T. B. Worthington, Commanding 12 Company RASC MT, The Dale, Liverpool Road, Chester.

★ Other readers have pointed out that open Humber tourers are in use in Austria and the Canal Zone.

THOSE LAST MONTHS

Regular soldiers below commissioned rank may apply to spend their last six months in Britain. A Regular officer, if serving overseas, is given 56 days leave on retirement. Presumably both these concessions are to assist in resettlement. Naturally no one will quarrel with any favourable treatment given to those who have made the Army their life career.

However, one class appears to have been overlooked: the many pre-war Regular soldiers discharged to emergency commissions and who now hold short-service commissions. I am one of them and I have spent my adult life in the Army. When I retire to pension at the end of this year I shall receive only 28 days leave. As I am serving overseas any attempt to get a job must be by correspondence and I am not available for interview. At the age of 47 it is difficult for anyone to find employment, especially someone whose life has been the Army.

It would help if the concession given to junior soldiers could be given to short-service officers, or if they could be awarded the 56 days leave. — "Geordie" (name and address supplied).

★ A Regular officer does not know that he is to retire until about six months before he is called upon to do so. A short-service officer, being on contract up to ten years, knows his exact retirement date. The official view is that it is the short-service officer, therefore, who should be able to plan ahead. While it is agreed that Regular soldiers below commissioned rank may serve their last six months in Britain, the few appointments available for officers at home make it impossible to apply the scheme to them.

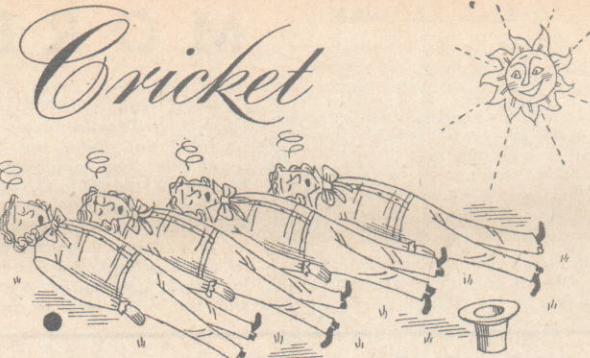
Letters Continued Overleaf

Answers

(From Page 34)

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

1. Rita Gam. 2. (c). 3. HMS Andrew.
4. Cambodia. 5. (d). 6. John Knox.
7. Phineas T. Barnum. 8. Canada.
9. Sonja Henie. 10. 1820. 11. 18,000.
12. Luddites. 13. Benjamin Franklin.
14. Lower jaw. 15. (a). 16. Limburger is a cheese; the rest are dogs.
17. Gas. 18. Freedom from fear.
19. (a). 20. Bolivia.



... then and now

"SUN SO HOT, bat in blisters, ball scorched brown . . ."

Thus Mr. Jingle described an epic game of cricket played one summer's day in the West Indies. Fielders fainted by the half-dozen and reinforcements were thrown in; the battle was fought without regard to the rigours of the climate.

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TO BE A YEOMAN

I am keen to get information on entry to the Yeomen of the Guard, for which I believe I am eligible.

I am an ex-warrant officer class one with 29 years' service and six medals, including the Long Service and Good Conduct and the Meritorious Service Medal. Where should I apply? — G. Brophy, Prince Albert Square, Earlswood, Redhill, Surrey.

★ Applications from ex-soldiers and Royal Marines (but not airmen) should be made to the Under Secretary of

MORE LETTERS

State for War, War Office (MS3 (H & A)), London SW1. A candidate must be a discharged warrant officer or NCO not under the rank of sergeant who has completed 21 years' service in the Regular Army, Royal Marines or Royal Air Force and possess a medal for field service. He must be of exemplary character, less than 50 years of age, not under 5ft 10 ins. in height (measured without boots) and not less than 36 inches round

the chest. Applications should be accompanied by Record of Service (AFB200), copies of conduct sheets and a certificate signed by an officer of the Royal Army Medical Corps showing the candidate's exact height and chest measurements at the time of application.

Appointments as Yeomen of the Guard are made by the Lord Chamberlain's Office and are notified to the War Office. An appointment is not whole-time, and normally Yeomen have to report for duty about 12 times a year.

'Medals Will Be Worn' (but there's more than one way).



A reader asks:

Can SOLDIER explain why certain officers on Coronation duty had their medals mounted in a fashion different from the usual? The OBE, for instance, was worn with the ribbon draped down to serve as a background to the Order. — "Four Gongs" (name and address supplied).

★ The reader is referring to the Court style of mounting, at one time known as the Windsor style.

It is a type of mounting dating back to the reign of King Edward VII. Before the Boer War few officers had many decorations to display. After the South African War many could boast an impressive row.

King Edward VII, it is said, considered that when his officers rode in full dress, their decorations danced about in an undignified way. It was also found that some of the carefully made decorations were being damaged by medals.

Messrs. Spink and Son, who mount the decorations of the Royal Family and many Service officers, were asked to solve this problem. They invented a brooch from which hung steel arms with clawed ends. Each arm was hidden by the ribbon, and the claws gripped the edge of the medals. But there were complaints that the claws bit into the edges and so the present method was devised.

The mounting consists of a steel "basket-work" frame on which the decorations and medals are mounted. To hide the frame, a piece of ribbon is fitted behind each medal so that it blends with the medal's ribbon. Each medal is firmly

Court style of mounting medals and (below) the ordinary style.



attached to the hidden frame by threads of cotton. When the wearer moves about the medals remain firmly in place.

Because it is difficult to clean medals on Court mountings without marking the ribbon, they are first lacquered, to eliminate the need for polishing.

Members of the Royal Household and most officers of Household Troops have their medals mounted in Court style. The custom has also spread to other corps and regiments. Officers obtain these mountings at their own expense. The award of a new medal means that a larger frame must be used.

The War Office pamphlet "Instructions Regarding the Wearing of the Insignia of Orders, Decorations and Medals and Medal Ribbons" (1949) does not mention the Court mounting, but confines itself to the wearing of medals on the ordinary issue brooch. Medals are mounted on this brooch in the absence of any order to the contrary. They should not be lacquered, as movement chips off the varnish and allows the exposed patches to discolour.

A Statuette for Prince Charles



FOX MARINES - 702

This six-inch statuette will be presented to His Royal Highness Prince Charles by the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry in token of his becoming Duke of Cornwall in the 250th year (1952) of the Regiment's history.

CHIROPODISTS

In your article, "The Army Costs £1000 a Minute," you quote the War Minister as saying that the Army found work for men in a variety of trades, including chiropody.

I have made a study of this work and now hold a diploma. Hoping that this might be of use, I volunteered for transfer to the Royal Army Medical Corps, but was told there was no trade for chiropodists in peace-time. — CQMS R. J. Palmer, RAOC, Rhine Army.

★ Although the Army employs chiropodists it is true to say that as a peace-time trade it is a very limited one. The Royal Army Medical Corps have vacancies for only eight, and their rank is not above that of corporal. In Infantry battalions, one man (usually from the medical staff) may be sent on a short course to train for the part-time duties of unit foot orderly.

BOMB CLEARING

Some time ago you said that the General Service Medal and clasp reading "Bomb and Mine Clearance 1945-48" was given for those serving on bomb disposal in Britain. As I was on this work for a short time can you tell me what the qualifications are? — "Ex-Sapper" (name and address supplied).

★ To earn this medal, a soldier had to spend 180 days in the United Kingdom on "the actual excavation down to the removal of, or final disposal of, unexploded bombs or on clearance operations inside the perimeter fencing of live minefields, on the disarming of live mines, or acting as water-jet operator." Other duties in a unit engaged in this type of work did not count as qualifying service.

HIS BADGE

I am storeman (technical B.II) in the Royal Signals. At one time our trade was in the "C" group and our trade badge was the letter "C." Since the regrouping my orderly room has hunted high and low for instructions on changing to the "B" group badge, but without success. Which badge do we wear? — "Lance Corporal" (name and address supplied).

★ The rules regarding this trade badge are being revised and will be issued soon.

UNCLASPED

I was awarded the Efficiency Medal in 1944. After leaving the Army in 1946 my training for the teaching profession prevented me from rejoining the Territorial Army until 1948, instead of in 1947. My war and post-war service is therefore not counted as continuous. My unit tell me I must now serve 18 more years from the date of rejoining in order to earn a clasp to the medal. Have I grounds for asking for my "lateness" in rejoining being overlooked? — "Territorial staff Sergeant" (name and address supplied).

★ No. Even if service is broken only for one day, a further 18 years service will be needed to earn that

clasp. This rule is strictly enforced except in extremely exceptional cases where a break of six months or less, due to no fault of the individual, may be accepted.

ATTACHED TO GURKHAS

I am on Boy's service in REME. I have lived among the Gurkhas and have a fair knowledge of their language. Do you think there is any prospect of being attached to the Nepalese Government either as an officer or non-commissioned officer? — "Boy" (name and address supplied).

★ Attachments of British officers and non-commissioned officers are made to the Brigade of Gurkhas in Malaya, not in Nepal. There are no REME officers on loan, only warrant officers and non-commissioned officers with the Light Aid Detachment and employed as armourers. Mostly these are men with long service, and there is little chance for the junior soldier just starting his man's service. Technical officers on secondment are mostly from the Royal Engineers and Royal Signals.

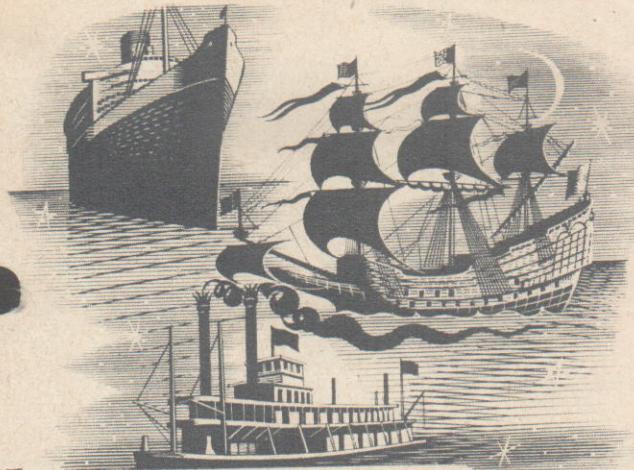
MARRIED QUARTERS

You said in your June issue that a soldier becomes eligible for married quarters on attaining the age of 22. It should read 21. — RQMS J. E. Butler, Guards Depot, Caterham.

★ Correct. A soldier is eligible for the full range of married benefits at 21.

In our June issue we published a letter from a National Serviceman who asked whether his six weeks service with the Regular Army at the age of 17 would be deducted from his present whole-time service. The answer was Yes. We are asked to point out that the soldier's age on first joining the Army was 17½. Only Regular service from that age is deducted from whole-time National Service.

If you dream of ships...



IFF YOU DREAM OF SAILING the seas in a ship, say the experts, it foretells your emigration to another part of the world — where you will settle for some years. To dream that the ship goes safely into harbour is a very good sign: you will soon receive an unexpected gift or sum of money. Now here's another dream whose meaning spells delight to everybody: Duncan Capital Assortment. What a thrill to bite through silky chocolate into sweetly crisp hazelnut or piquant pineapple dessert! No wonder young and old alike love these splendid Scottish-made chocolates with their exciting variety of centres. Always ask for Capital by name. In $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. packs.

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R.S.M. A. J. BRAND, M.V.O., M.B.E.,
gives his 7 point recommendation
for a parade ground polish.

Known throughout the British Army as "The Voice," R.S.M. Brand, late of the Grenadier Guards and the R.M.A. Sandhurst, has used and recommended Kiwi for twenty-five years. Here is his 7 point method for getting a parade ground polish on a boot.

- 1 Get a tin of Kiwi Polish.
- 2 Take the lid off the tin.
- 3 Remove dust and dirt from the boot.
- 4 Put a little Kiwi on the boot with a rag or brush.
- 5 Damp a rag with water.
- 6 Moisten the boot with the rag.
- 7 Finish with a dry cloth and "You could shave in it."

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