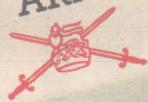


SOLDIER

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

MARCH 1956

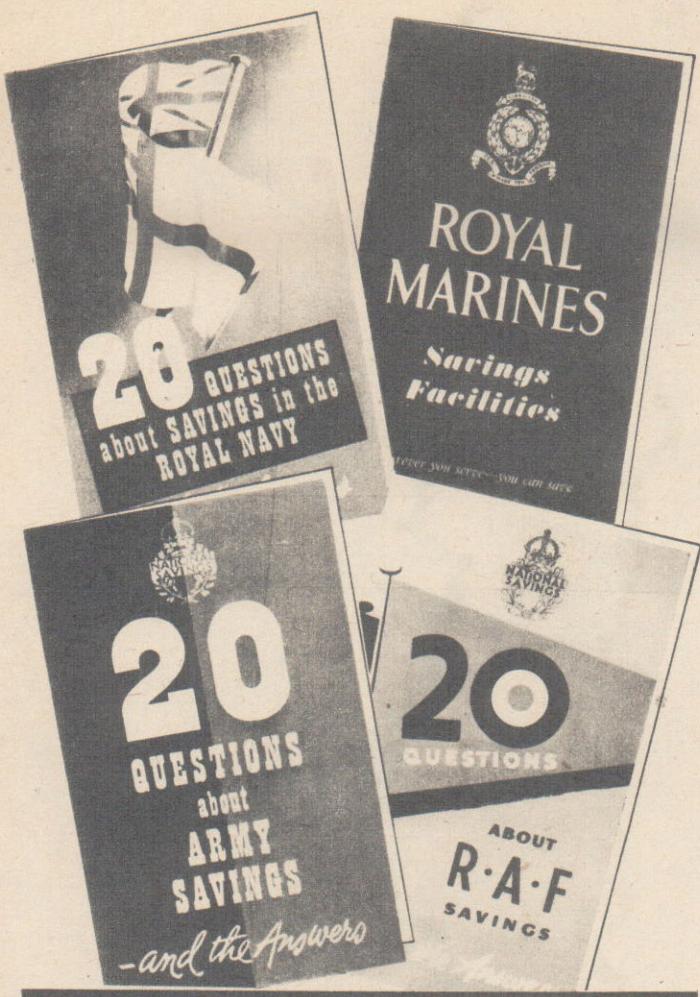


NINEPENCE



THE SMOKE OF WAR

—See page 28



From: Air Marshal Sir Thomas Williams,

K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., D.F.C., M.A., J.P.

Chairman, H.M. Forces Savings Committee

To: All Serving in Her Majesty's Forces

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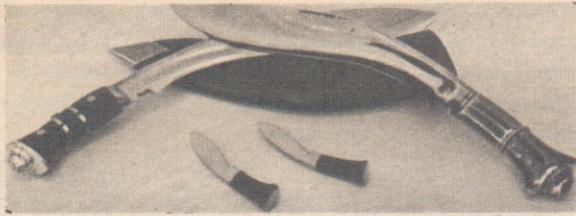
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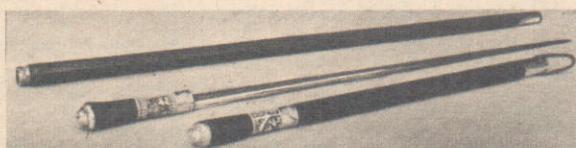
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SUBJECT(S) OF INTEREST



THE ROLL OF HONOURS



A famous picture of the Battle of El Alamein, taken from a tank: Infantry, silhouetted against smoke, in a bayonet charge.

Regiments are now claiming their battle honours of World War Two. It was no easy task to decide what was, officially, a battle and what was not

IF you visit a certain Cavalry regiment in Germany, you will see ornately inscribed on the board at the camp gates a list of battle honours which include "Kasserine Pass," "Tunis," "Cassino" and "Gothic Line."

The regiment is one of several which, impatient at the wait for an official announcement of World War Two battle honours, have listed, proudly if prematurely, some of the battles which they regard as "theirs."

Soon these unofficial battle honours will be regularised. The fighting of World War Two has been broken down into three main categories: battles, actions and engagements. Claims for honours are now being submitted on behalf of Guards, Cavalry, Yeomanry and Infantry regiments. They will be examined by the Battle Honours Committee before being finally approved. It is expected that lists of awards will be issued monthly.

Under General Sir Harold Franklyn, a Battles Nomenclature Committee met 28 times in order to classify some 1000

operations. Early in 1947 they had to adjourn for six years to await the sifting of documents by the Historical Section of the Cabinet Office, which prepares official war histories. Many high commanders were called in and consulted by the Committee.

It has never been easy to define a battle, and modern war does not make the task any simpler. When fighting is increasingly fluid, and is conducted over wide areas of desert or unpopulated jungle, how is the locality to be defined? Again, when does a battle begin and end? The Battle of Waterloo lasted for three days. The Battle of Malta lasted for the best part of three years. Was it a battle in the strict sense? Fortunately, there was the precedent

of Gibraltar, which withstood a three-and-a-half years siege, and is one of the Army's proudest battle honours.

In the official view, "a battle honour is a public commemoration of a battle, action or engagement, of which not only past and present, but future generations of the Regiment can be proud. There will be no question of an honour being awarded merely because a unit was present at a battle. It must have taken an active and creditable part in it . . . a unit claiming an award must have been actively engaged in the battle with enemy ground troops."

The Committee were anxious not to bestow the status of "battle" lightly. They did not want to apply it to a series of operations directed towards different objects. Yet they recognised that certain operations had assumed, in the public eye, an importance out of proportion to

their size and military significance. They found it impossible to arrive at any rigid definition and were forced to consider each operation on its merits.

These were the main factors they had to consider in granting battle status: the size of force and degree of concentration; the intensity of the fighting; the duration; the strategical or tactical

OVER

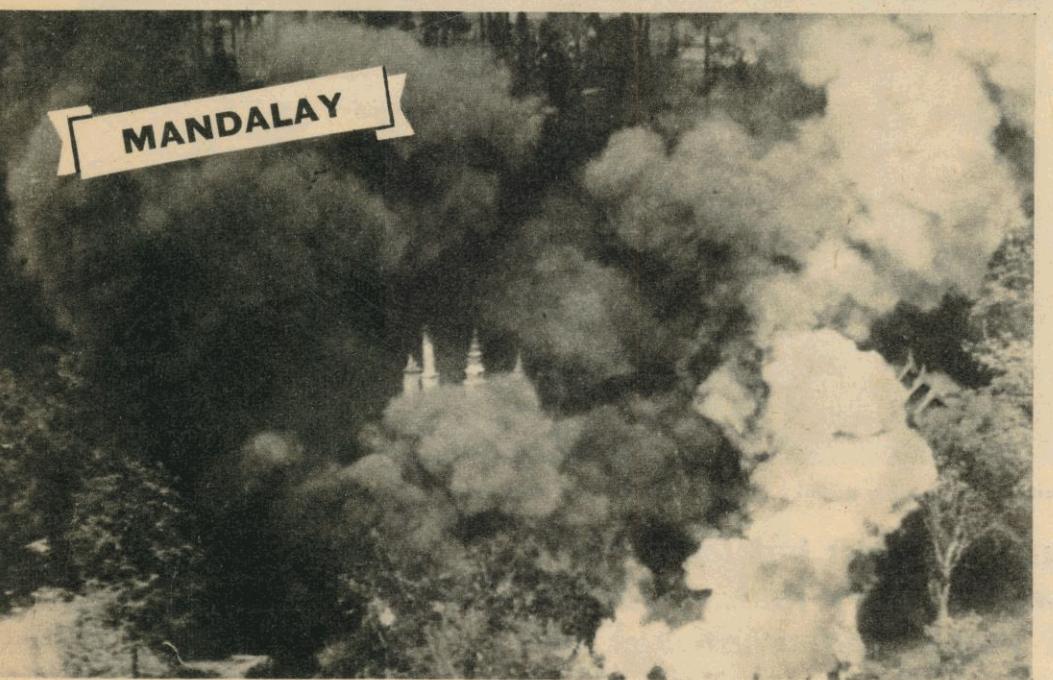
He will examine regiments' claims to battle honours: General Sir John Crocker, who is chairman of the Battle Honours Committee.



CASSINO 1



MANDALAY



NORMANDY LANDING



THE ROLL OF

importance of the result; the relation of the episode to the size of the campaign; public sentiment and popular designation.

Note that "number of casualties" does not figure in this list. In the good old days, the status of the combat was often measured by the number of broken heads.

Operations of less importance or magnitude than battles are classified as actions. In the third category of engagements come "particularly meritorious operations by units or small formations" (after World War One what are now called engagements were termed "miscellaneous incidents".

Some battles were prolonged and sprawling affairs which included operations deserving to be classified as actions or engagements. Since many regiments expressed a wish to have as a battle honour the place name of a lesser operation in which they particularly shone, many battles have been further divided into actions and engagements. These, while forming part of the battle, are held to merit consideration as battle honours.

Thus, one battle in North-West Europe is listed as "The Nederrijn (including action Arnhem 1944)." In the popular view Arnhem was one of the famous battles of the war. The rule mentioned could make it possible to grant "Arnhem" as a battle honour instead of the less familiar "The Nederrijn."

It was thought that some provision ought to be made for regiments taking part in a campaign which were not present at any of the battles, actions or engagements in the list. Such regiments may claim the general title of the campaign or theatre as a battle honour: for example, "Burma 1942-45".

Malta is a problem on its own. There were Infantry in the island during the siege, but through no fault of their own they were not in a position to be "actively engaged in the battle with enemy ground troops." They may, however, be held to qualify for the award of a campaign title "Malta 1940-42." Primarily, Malta was a Gunners' battle—but the Royal Artillery do not have battle honours.

As far as possible, battle honours have been chosen in such a way as not to duplicate names made familiar in earlier wars. When this was impossible, a date was added to the place name: for instance, "The Somme 1940" (classed as a "separate action"). Cassino figured in two battles in a year, so the honours will be "Cassino I" and "Cassino II." El Alamein yielded two battles, "Defence of Alamein Line" and "El Alamein," and a whole string of actions and engagements. Tobruk is named in two battles and two actions.

Much spirited fighting took place in areas which had no names apart from the ones improvised on the spot. So the list includes The Cauldron, The Kennels and Longstop Hill (North Africa), Hangman's Hill (Cassino), 42nd Street (Crete) and sundry entries like Point 23 and Point 93. The Wingate expeditions, both classified as "separate actions," are commemorated as "Chindits 1943" and "Chindits 1944."

The problem "What is a battle?" is rivalled in complexity only by "What is a unit?" A general rule is that in order to be awarded a battle honour the headquarters and fifty per cent of a unit should have taken part. There are modifications in favour of such units as armoured car regiments and machine-gun battalions, which normally fight in sub-units. There are also concessions in respect of units which were combined with others during battle, and of detached squadrons or companies which took an important, independent part in certain operations.

Several Line battalions were converted to an airborne role. Their battle honours will

HONOURS (Cont'd)

go, not to the Infantry regiments from which these battalions originated, but to the Parachute Regiment, which will thus be receiving its first battle honours. These former Infantry battalions may apply to have badges of their parent regiments borne on their Regimental Colours.

If any unit submits a claim on behalf of an operation not men-

tioned in the official list, its application will be considered, but the grounds will have to be "very strong and exceptional."

After World War One, regiments were allowed to carry ten of their battle honours on the King's (now Queen's) Colour, Standard or Guidon. Previously all honours were borne on the Regimental Colour. Battle honours of World War Two will also be emblazoned on the Queen's Colour, the maximum permitted

number again being ten. Several regiments are due to receive new Colours in the latter part of this year, and will be anxious to have their new honours on them.

Rifle regiments have no Colours but record their battle honours on their cap badges, shoulder belts or elsewhere. Certain Cavalry regiments—Lancers and Hussars—carry their honours on drums or appointments.

The award of battle honours is more highly organised than it

was in the old days. The South Wales Borderers had to wait the best part of 200 years before being awarded honours for four battles in which they distinguished themselves under Marlborough. In 1947 the Battle Honours Committee was asked to consider a claim in respect of a battle fought in 1810.

By now, there is hardly a country in the world which has not yielded a battle honour to the British Army.

Line), LIRI VALLEY (including actions Hitler Line, Aquino, Melfa Crossing, Monte Piccolo), ROME (including action Advance to the Tiber), TRASIMENE LINE, AREZZO, ADVANCE TO FLORENCE (including actions Monte San Michele, Cerbaia, Paula Line, Il Castello, Incontro), GOTHIC LINE (including action Monte Gridolfo), CORIANO (including actions San Clemente, Pian di Castello, Croce, Gemmano Ridge), LAMONE CROSSING (including action Defence of Lamone Bridgehead), RIMINI LINE (including actions San Martino-San Lorenzo, San Marino, Ceriano Ridge, San Fortunato), THE SENIO (including action Santerno Crossing), ARGENTA GAF, BOLOGNA (including actions Sillaro Crossing, Gaiana Crossing).

Separate actions: Landing at Reggio, Landing at Porto S. Venere, Taranto, Termoli, Campobasso, The Trigno, Orsogna, The Moro, San Leonardo, The Gully, Ortona, Villa Grande, Teano, Monte Maju, Colle Cedro, Monte Ornito, Bagnoregio, Citta della Pieve, Capture of Perugia, Citera, San Martino Sogliano, Monte Cavallo, Capture of Forli, Cosina Canal Crossing, Casa Bettini, Pergola Ridge, Faenza Pocket, Senio Pocket, Senio Floodbank, Misano Ridge, Rio Fontanaccia, Cesena, Pisciatello, Capture of Ravenna, Naviglio Canal, Fosso Munio, Conventello-Comacchio, Marradi, Monte Gamberaldo, Monte Ceco, Monte La Pieve, Monte Pianoereno, Monte Spaduro, Monte Grande, Monte Stanco, Monte Salvato, Valli di Comacchio.

GREECE 1941

Battle: MOUNT OLYMPUS (including actions Servia Pass, Olympus Pass, Tempe Gorge). Separate actions: Veve, Brallos Pass, Molos.

GREECE 1944-45

Separate action: Athens.

MIDDLE EAST 1941-44

Battle: CRETE (including actions Maleme, Galatas, Canea, Heraklion, Retimo, 42nd Street, Withdrawal to Sphakia). Separate actions: Madagascar, Adriatic.

MALTA, 1940-42

Battle: MALTA.

MALAYA 1941-42

Battles: NORTH MALAYA (including actions Kota Bahru, Jitra and Gurun), CENTRAL MALAYA (including actions Kuantan, Kampar, Slim River), JOHORE (including actions Gemas, The Muar, Batu Pahat), SINGAPORE ISLAND.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA, 1941-42

Separate actions: Hong-Kong, W. Borneo 1941-42.

BURMA, 1942-45

Battles: NORTH ARAKAN (including actions Buthidaung, Razabil, Point 551, Mayu Tunnels, Maungdaw), NGAKYEDAUK PASS (including action Defence of Sinzweya), IMPHAL (including actions Tuitum, Sakawng, Tamu Road, Sangshak, Shenam Pass, Nungshigum, Litan, Bishenpur, Kanglatongbi), KOHIMA (including actions Defence of Kohima, Relief of Kohima, Jail Hill, Naga Village), MANDALAY (including actions Myitson, Myinmu Bridgehead, Fort Dufferin), MEIKTILA (including actions Nyaungu Bridgehead, Capture of Meiktila, Defence of Meiktila), THE IRRAWADDY (including actions Yenangyaung 1945, Shandatgyi and Kama), RANGOON ROAD (including actions Pyawhe, Shwemwoy Bluff, Pyinmana, PEGU 1945), SITTANG 1945, ARAKAN BEACHES (including actions Myebon, Ramree, Kangaw).

Separate actions: Sittang 1942, PEGU 1942, Paungde, Yenangyaung 1942, Kyaukse 1942, Monywa 1942, Shwegeyin, Rathedaung, Donbaik, Hitzwe, Ukkur, Tengnoupa, Kennedy Peak, Pinwe, Shwebo, Monywa 1945, Kyaukmyaung Bridgehead, Sagaing, Kyaukse 1945, Mayu Valley, Mychaung, Chindits 1943, Chindits 1944.

IS YOUR BATTLE HERE?



THIS list contains the battles and actions of World War Two, as officially classified. It does not contain the engagements. Battles are printed in capital letters.

Two theatres—Norway 1940-41 and Iraq 1941—are not included, since they yielded only engagements.

Among the engagements are some operations which made headline news in their day. In the Norway list is Vaagsø, where there was a Commando raid on fish-oil factories and shipping. The raids at Bruneval and St. Nazaire are "separate engagements." Iraq engagements include the Defence of Habbaniya and its Relief.

The Tobruk, Benghazi, Barce and Gialo raids of 1942 and the Cos and Leros operations of 1943 are "separate engagements."

Lists of honours for the South and South-West Pacific are still to come.

NORTH-WEST EUROPE, 1940-2

Battles: ST. OMER-LA-BASSÉE, YPRES-COMINES CANAL.

Separate Actions: The Dyle, Withdrawal to the Escout, Defence of the Escout, Boulogne 1940, Calais 1940, French Frontier 1940, Dunkirk 1940, The Somme 1940, Withdrawal to the Seine, Dieppe.

NORTH-WEST EUROPE, 1944-5

Battles: NORMANDY LANDING, THE ODON (including actions Cheux, Defence of Rauray), CAEN (including actions The Orne or The Orne (Buron), Hill 112), BOURGUEBUS RIDGE (including action Cagny), MONT PINCON, FALAISE (including actions Falaise Road, The Liaison, Chambois), THE NEDERRIJN (including action Arnhem 1944), THE SCHELDT (including action Breskens Pocket), THE RHINE-LAND (including actions The Reichswald, Goch, The Hochwald), THE RHINE, SOUTHERN FRANCE.

Separate actions: Villers Bocage, Verrières Ridge—Tilly La Campagne, The Seine 1944, The Lower Maas, Venruij, Geilenkirchen, Venlo Pocket, The Ourthe.

ABYSSINIA, 1940-41

Battles: KEREN, AMBA ALAGI, THE JUBA, GONDAR.

Separate actions: Sudan Frontier, Gallabat, Agordat, Barentu, Massawa, Gojjam, El Wak, Mega, Marda Pass, Wadara, The Omo, Combolcia.

BRITISH SOMALILAND, 1940

Separate action: Tug Argan.

SYRIA, 1941

Battles: DAMASCUS, DAMOUR.

Separate actions: Syrian Frontier, Merjayun, Kissoe, Palmyra.

NORTH AFRICA, 1940-43

Battles: SIDI BARRANI (including action Buq Buq), BARDIA 1941, CAPTURE OF TOBRUK, BEDA FOMM, DEFENCE OF TOBRUK (including actions El Adem Road, The Salient 1941), TOBRUK 1941 (including actions Sidi Reisegh 1941, Tobruk Sortie 1941, Omars, Belhamed, Relief of Tobruk 1941), GAZALA (including actions Bir el Aslagh, Bir Hacheim, Sidi Muftah, The Cauldron, Hagia er Raml, Tobruk 1942), MERSA MATRUH (including action Minqar Qaim), DEFENCE OF ALAMEIN LINE (including

actions Deir el Shein, Ruweisat, Tel el Eisa, Ruweisat Ridge, El Mreir, Sanyet el Miteiry, Qattara Track), ALAM EL HALFA, EL ALAMEIN, MEDENINE (including actions Wadi Hachana, Zemlet el Lebene, Tadjera Khir, Metameur), MARETH (including action Wadi Zigzaou), TEBEKA GAP (including actions Point 201 (Roman Wall), El Hammam), AKARIT (including actions Djebel el Meida, Djebel Tebaga, Fatnassa, Wadi Akarit East, Djebel Roumana, Wadi Akarit West), ENFIDAVILLE (including actions Takrouna and Djebel Garci).

Separate actions: Egyptian Frontier 1940, Giarabub, El Mechili, Sidi Suleiman, Alem Hamza, Bardia 1942, Saunnu, Deir el Munassib, Advance on Tripoli.

Operations of 1st Army in Tunisia. Battles: TEBOURBA GAP, BOU ARADA, KASSERINE (including actions Sbiba, Thala), FONDOUK (including actions Pichon, Djebel el Rhorab, Fondouk Pass), OUED ZARGA (including actions Djebel el Dourat, Mergueb Chaouach, Djebel Bel Mahdi), EL KOURZIA (including actions Ber Rabal, Argoub Sellah), MEDJEZ PLAIN (including actions Grich el Oued, Gueriat el Atach Ridge, Longstop Hill 1943, Peters Corner, Djebel Bou Aoukaz 1943 I, Si Abdallah), TUNIS (including actions Djebel Bou Aoukaz 1943 II, Montarnaud, Ragoubet Souissi, Massicault, Hammam Lif).

Separate actions: Medjez el Bab, Djebel Azzag 1942, Longstop Hill 1942, Djebel Azzag 1943, Hunt's Gap, Tamra, Djebel Chouha, Kef el Debra, Banana Ridge, Djebel Djaffa Pass.

SICILY 1943

Battles: LANDING IN SICILY, ADRANO (including actions Sferro Hills and Centuripe).

Separate actions: Lentini or Primosole Bridge, Agira, Pursuit to Messina.

ITALY 1943-5

Battles: THE SANGRO (including Mozzagrogna, Fossacesia and Castel Frentano), SALERNO (including actions Salerno Pass, St. Lucia, Vietri Pass, Salerno Hills, Battipaglia), CAPTURE OF NAPLES (including action Cava di Tirreni), VOLTURNO CROSSING, MONTE CAMINO (including actions Calabritto, Monte La Difesa—Monte La Remetanea, Rocca d'Evandro), GARIGLIANO CROSSING (including actions Minturno, Damiano and Monte Tuga), ANZIO (including Campoleone, Carroceto), CASSINO I (including Monastery Hill, Castle Hill, Hangman's Hill), CASSINO II (including action Gustav

IN the article "Fall In the Scientists!" elsewhere in this issue is a reference to the sad, but familiar, fact that a high proportion of university graduates make a poor showing at officer selection boards.

The trouble is that after years of intensive study a man tends to be over-developed in one direction and under-developed in others. His "officer-like qualities" are often the ones which lie dormant.

It's an old, old problem, and it was being discussed with much animation a hundred years ago, when examinations for officers were introduced. "Stuff an officer's mind with knowledge and he is useless as a leader," said the old school. Prince Albert, anxious though he was to improve the education of officers, said the Army most emphatically did not want mathematicians, who of all people were most narrow in their vision. Earl Grey warned that the passion for examinations in France was causing an increase in brain disease among the young. Generals and politicians alike deplored the way in which public schoolboys were being pushed through the "crammers" in order to get them into the Army.

What the nation demanded from its military leaders, they said, was men with uncluttered minds who could make quick decisions. Scholars and pedants might make sounder decisions, but they would take too long in doing so.

There was a certain amount of truth in all this. The Indian Mutiny was put down through the quick action of young officers whose heads were not exactly supercharged with learning. The situation demanded action and resolution, and that was what these officers supplied.

Since then, war has become alarmingly technical. The Army still needs officers who can make quick decisions, men of firm purpose and resolution. But it also needs officers with a trained, scientific background. How can the two be combined? It may turn out to be one of the Army's biggest problems.

A high proportion of brainy young men look forward to a "back room" life in laboratory or drawing-office, where they will not be "messed about" and where no particular call will be made for a parade of "initiative, leadership and all that rot."

Only a limited number in any generation feel the "call" to join a fighting service, and they are rarely the studious type. They tend to be cheerful extroverts and, of course, the Army is delighted to have them. They make good members of a team and they do not dither making up their minds. But the Army wants its cut at the higher learning, too.

What is to be the solution? Is the Army to encourage the growth of specialist officers, who will carry out their duties in their own little compartments, taking no more part in the corporate life of the garrison than they find convenient? It is not an ideal

answer. A service which is only a collection of individuals is not a service.

IF an attempt were made to compute the total number of Victoria Crosses by inviting all regiments and corps to contribute their own totals, the grand sum might prove to be nearer 1500 than 1347.

Since **SOLDIER** published, in January, a detailed analysis showing how those 1347 Victoria Crosses were distributed, several readers have claimed that their regiments won more VCs than were shown. They cite the figures they were given in their depot, or battalion.

Investigation has shown that these regiments were including the Victoria Crosses of men who won them when serving in some other regiment.

There is, of course, every reason why a regiment should be proud of the prior achievements of those who transferred into its ranks. It would be an odd regiment which was not. But if all these gallant soldiers are classed as "regimental VCs" life becomes very difficult for the statistician.

Not that this will stop any regiment working out its own total, and sticking to it!



It had to happen some time and the Belgian Army thought of it first: an electrically heated sentry-box outside the Royal Palace in Brussels. When the weather grows really chilly the sentry just switches on to keep warm. It's enough to make a Guardsman go cold.

SOLDIER to Soldier

MUCH has been said, and is still being said, about the Victoria Cross, but perhaps the most important single thing about it is this: that bravery is, beyond all questioning, the quality the British nation sets highest of all.

The man who goes to receive his Victoria Cross from his Sovereign takes precedence over birth, genius and scholarship. No feat of atom-splitting or drug-invention, no industrial empire-building, no "political and public services," no record of piety, no lifetime's dedication to the sick and suffering can put a man in the front of the queue if there is a VC winner present.

It is a solemn thought.

A RECENT novel about the war of 1914-18 reviewed in **SOLDIER** — Henry Williamson's "A Fox Under My Cloak" — has as one of its characters an elderly officer, serving in 1914, who took part in the Charge of the Light Brigade. One reviewer thought that this was a bit too much to swallow.

Was it?

At the beginning of the Kaiser's war a number of very venerable retired officers were called up and employed in various capacities. They were known as "dug-outs." An officer aged 78 in 1914 could have ridden in the Charge of the Light Brigade at the age of 18.

Lord Roberts, who entered the Army in 1852 (two years be-

fore Balaclava), died on active service in 1914. As colonel-in-chief of the overseas forces in Britain, he had gone to France to inspect troops. At St. Omer he caught pneumonia; and there, to the Army's grief, died a soldier who, as a subaltern, had seen Indian mutineers blown from guns at Lahore, in 1857.

In *The Times* the other day a reader wrote to ask: "How many men now living have been on parade with a Crimean officer?" He said that he had served in 1886, at the age of 16, in the City of London Artillery, commanded by Colonel William Hope, VC, of Crimea fame.

This claim to distinction is probably a long way from being unique. There must be many scores of men still living who were inspected by the Duke of Cambridge. He was a Crimean officer and did not retire, as Commander-in-Chief, until 1895.

Nobody now asks, "Are there any officers still alive who purchased their commissions?" Purchase went out in 1871, and one would have to be more than 100 years old to enjoy this distinction.

THE Editor of *The Daily Telegraph* also published an interesting letter the other day. It was from a reader who said:

"As a war-time member of the — I was ashamed to see your picture of the CO of the first battalion carrying a brief case.

"What were the adjutant, IO or RQMS carrying? Ladies' handbags, perhaps."

Strange though it may seem, many soldiers of the old brigade are shocked by the unmilitary baggage carried by the Army of today. Troops at railway stations are burdened down, not only by their kitbags, but by civilian suitcases in varying stages of dilapidation (and even plastered with foreign hotel labels). The smarter the man, the more incongruous the effect of the civilian kit. What is the answer? An issue of two kit-bags per man? Or the introduction (as some have urged) of a new type of hold-all which will carry clothes without crushing them?

The oddest sight of all, in **SOLDIER'S** opinion, is that of Servicemen in full kit with coat-hangers tucked under the straps of their packs. There are such things as folding coat-hangers, which can be packed out of sight.



Taking part in an operation against terrorists in the Cyprus mountains: The Mark Two Ferret armoured car, with shield on turret.

ON THE BEAT

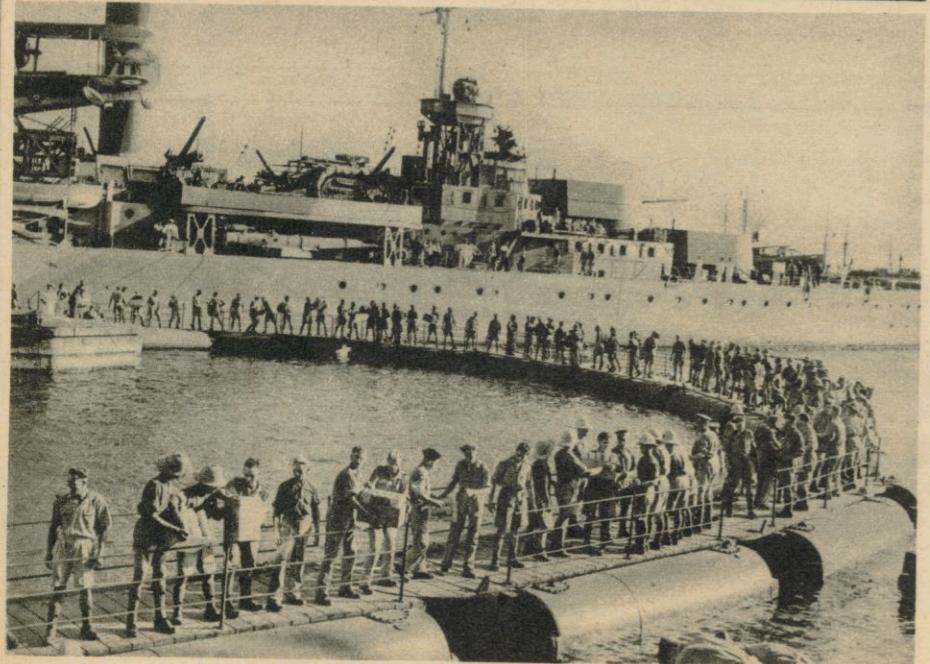
The day the Army came to Phlamoudhi. Below: Soldiers stand guard at the "well." Right: Advancing through a village "street."





The Army in Egypt is falling back rapidly on Port Said, where the last Union Jack will be hauled down. It is a colourful town familiar to many generations of soldiers

The domes and arches of the Suez Canal Company's building dignify Port Said's waterfront. Below: A 1940 memory—troops form a chain to load HMAS Sydney.



EARLY this Summer a troopship will anchor at Port Said to evacuate the last of the Canal Zone garrison. Down will come the Union Jack over Admiralty House, the last building in Egypt to be given up.

For generations, first glimpse of Port Said has brought a thrill to British Servicemen, whether they set foot there or not. It was their introduction to the East—and to the novelty of the Canal. Until not so very long ago the port had a "wicked" reputation, which gave it a dubious kind of lure.

Port Said had been established less than a quarter of a century when the British Army first descended on it—in 1882. The town began to spring up only when the engineers got busy digging the "ditch." It was named after Said Pasha, who eased the way for de Lesseps' great project.

Wolseley's men landed unopposed at Port Said at the start of the campaign which ended with the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir. To succeeding generations of Servicemen the town had the reputation of being the friendliest in Egypt.

During World War Two Port Said was heavily guarded by anti-aircraft Gunners. It was one of the ports from which men and stores were sent to Italy and Greece when the Mediterranean was swept clear of enemy shipping.

Here, at the end of the war, the Sappers built

their own dockyard, complete with slipways, and made spare parts to keep their sea-going and inland waterways fleets in good repair. One of their feats was salvaging a German all-metal lighter and converting it into a self-propelled cargo boat.

Since the war Port Said has been the main base for the Royal Engineers' "Z" craft and the Royal Army Service Corps launches which plied in the Suez Canal, collecting and delivering stores to the desert camps. From here Army craft carried fresh water to the isolated garrison in Tobruk, 500 miles away and ferried hundreds of worn-out

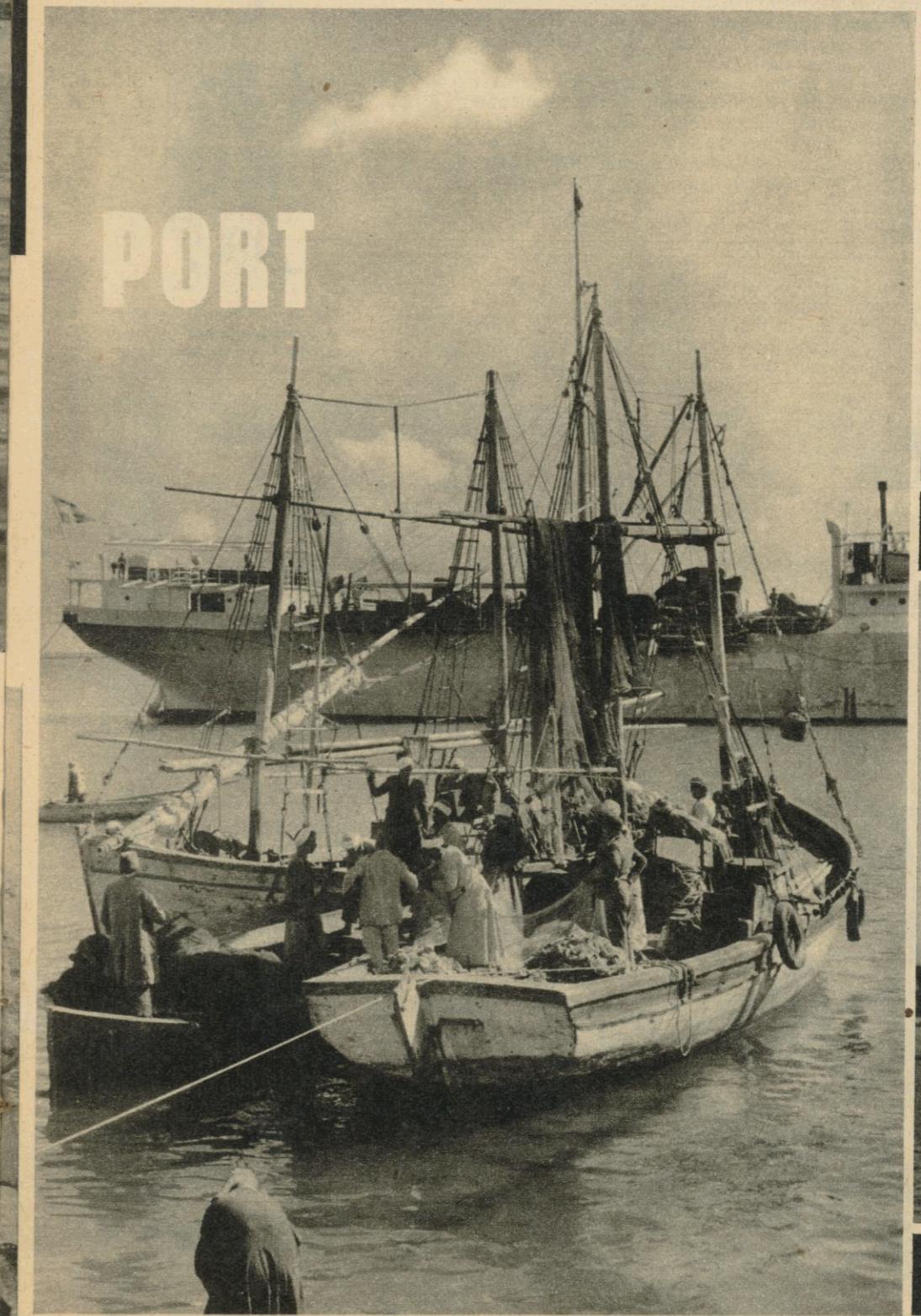
tanks and lorries to far-away ports in Tripolitania and Cyrenaica for repair.

In Port Fouad, a garden suburb reached from Port Said by ferry, NAAFI operated in the post-war years its popular Seaview Holiday Camp. During the 1952 troubles this became a reception centre for Service families and achieved headlines when soldiers' brides-to-be were landed there, married in the camp chapel, and sailed back home the following day.

In the last 18 months the camp has served as a transit centre for troops and their families leaving Egypt.



The store that is reputed to sell everything. It used to supply the Kaiser with six-inch cigarettes. Soldiers bought souvenirs there.



Last building to be given up will be Admiralty House. Left: A typical scene in Port Said's teeming harbour. Photograph: W. J. Stirling



The massive statue of Ferdinand de Lesseps, the Frenchman who built the Suez Canal. To him, Port Said owes its existence.

However far he climbs the military tree, the modern commander

TOP OF THE

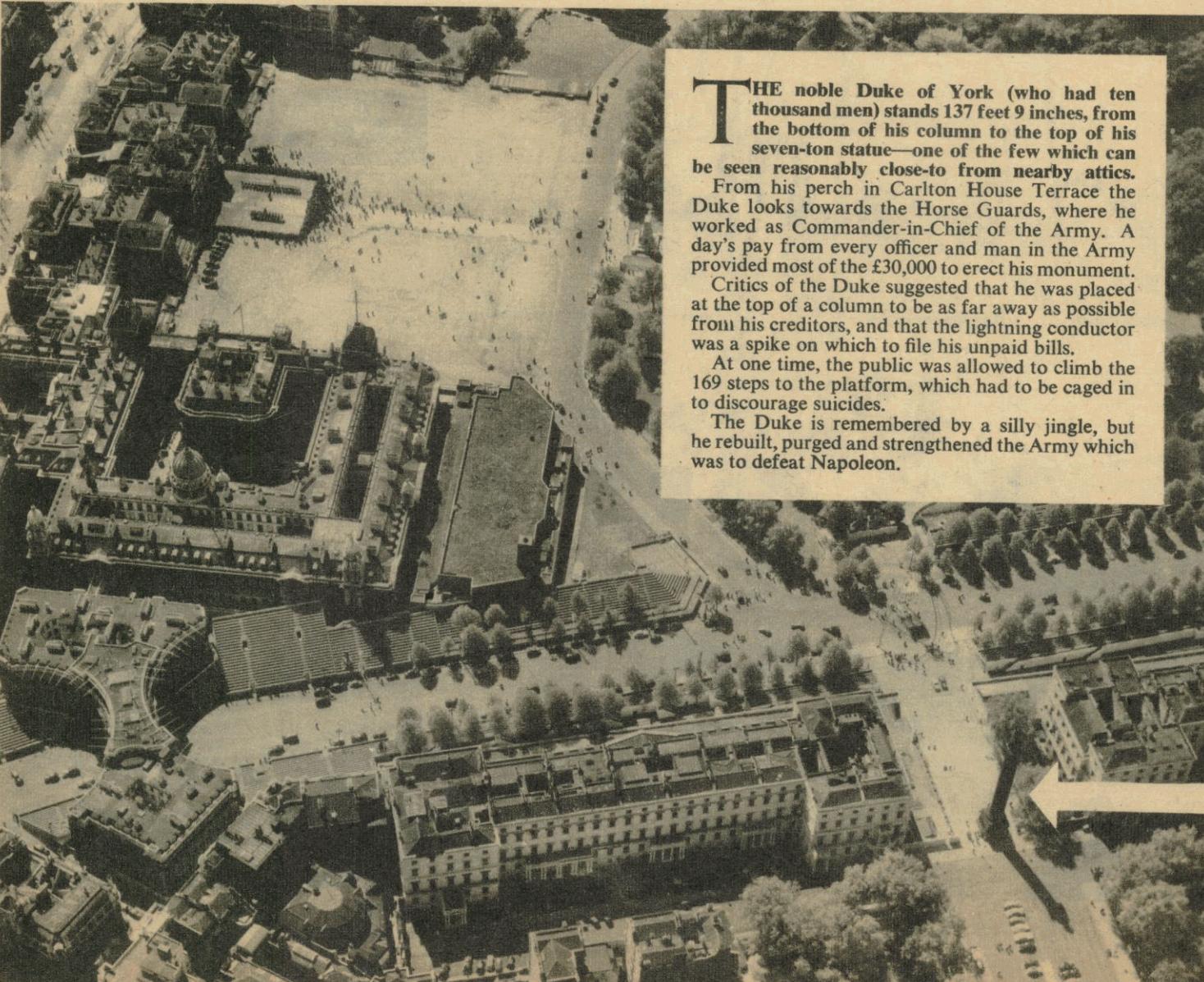
PUTTING a hero's effigy on a column is an ancient and respectable way of honouring his memory. But it is unlikely—if only because of the expense—that any modern general will receive this form of tribute.

IN the grounds of Blenheim Palace the first Duke of Marlborough stands, in Roman garb, at the top of a 130-foot Column of Victory erected by his widow. The column faces the Palace across the lake.

On three sides of the column's plinth are inscribed the Acts of Parliament in which the gift of Blenheim by the nation and Queen Anne are set forth. On the fourth side are recounted Marlborough's ten campaigns. This inscription, by Marlborough's old enemy Henry St. John, Viscount Bolingbroke, has been described by Sir Winston Churchill as "a masterpiece of compact and majestic statement."

The introduction describes Marlborough as "The Hero not only of his Nation, but of his Age; Whose Glory was equal in the Council and in the Field; Who, by Wisdom, Justice, Candour, and Address, Reconcil'd various and even opposite Interests; Acquired an Influence Which no Rank, no Authority can give, Nor any Force, but that of superior Virtue . . . Who, by military Knowledge, and irresistible Valour, In a long Series of uninterrupted Triumphs, Broke the Power of France."

Marlborough at Blenheim.



THE noble Duke of York (who had ten thousand men) stands 137 feet 9 inches, from the bottom of his column to the top of his seven-ton statue—one of the few which can be seen reasonably close-to from nearby attics.

From his perch in Carlton House Terrace the Duke looks towards the Horse Guards, where he worked as Commander-in-Chief of the Army. A day's pay from every officer and man in the Army provided most of the £30,000 to erect his monument.

Critics of the Duke suggested that he was placed at the top of a column to be as far away as possible from his creditors, and that the lightning conductor was a spike on which to file his unpaid bills.

At one time, the public was allowed to climb the 169 steps to the platform, which had to be caged in to discourage suicides.

The Duke is remembered by a silly jingle, but he rebuilt, purged and strengthened the Army which was to defeat Napoleon.



Close-up of the Duke of York's statue. From his pillar (below, bottom, right) he gazes to the Horse Guards, where he toiled.

Liverpool. Two of his generals were similarly elevated: Lord Hill, at Shrewsbury, and Sir Galbraith Lowry-Cole at Enniskillen. So was the royal soldier-reformer, the Duke of York, who has a column in London.

"Why," asked a writer more

has little chance of finishing up—

COLUMN

than a century ago, "place statues on columns considerably above the roofs of ordinary houses, where they can only be seen by neighbouring chambermaids from the attics?"

Nobody ever answered that one satisfactorily. Even from

the gallery at the top of a column it is impossible to see the statue properly.

The grandfather of all existing soldiers' columns was that erected in Rome in A.D. 113 to Trajan, a Roman general and emperor. Inside it were laid his ashes.

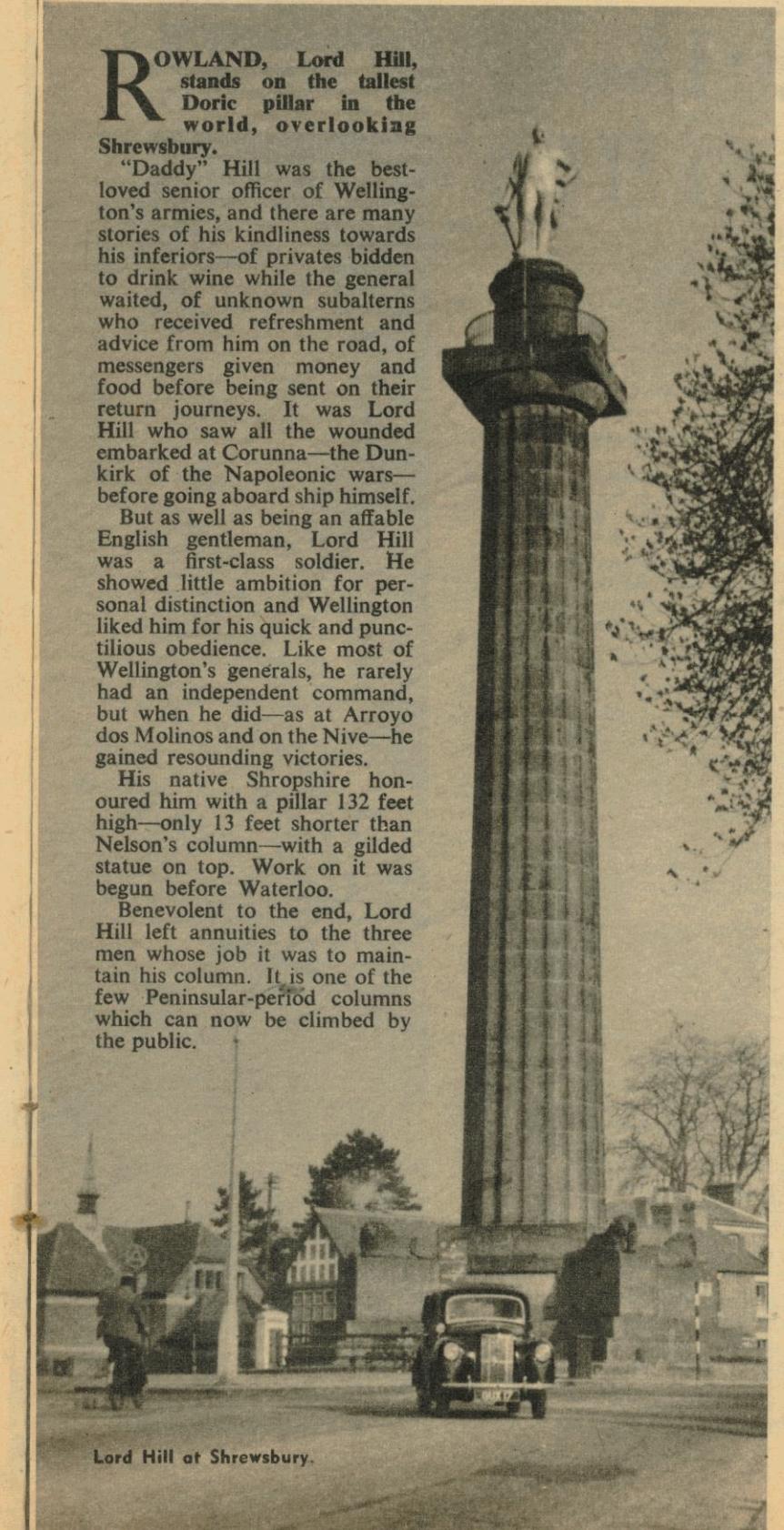
ROWLAND, Lord Hill, stands on the tallest Doric pillar in the world, overlooking Shrewsbury.

"Daddy" Hill was the best-loved senior officer of Wellington's armies, and there are many stories of his kindness towards his inferiors—of privates bidden to drink wine while the general waited, of unknown subalterns who received refreshment and advice from him on the road, of messengers given money and food before being sent on their return journeys. It was Lord Hill who saw all the wounded embarked at Corunna—the Dunkirk of the Napoleonic wars—before going aboard ship himself.

But as well as being an affable English gentleman, Lord Hill was a first-class soldier. He showed little ambition for personal distinction and Wellington liked him for his quick and punctilious obedience. Like most of Wellington's generals, he rarely had an independent command, but when he did—as at Arroyo dos Molinos and on the Nive—he gained resounding victories.

His native Shropshire honoured him with a pillar 132 feet high—only 13 feet shorter than Nelson's column—with a gilded statue on top. Work on it was begun before Waterloo.

Benevolent to the end, Lord Hill left annuities to the three men whose job it was to maintain his column. It is one of the few Peninsular-period columns which can now be climbed by the public.



Lord Hill at Shrewsbury.

WELLINGTON, the most widely-famed of British generals (historians still dispute whether he was the greatest) is probably commemorated by more monuments than any other public figure, Royalty excepted.

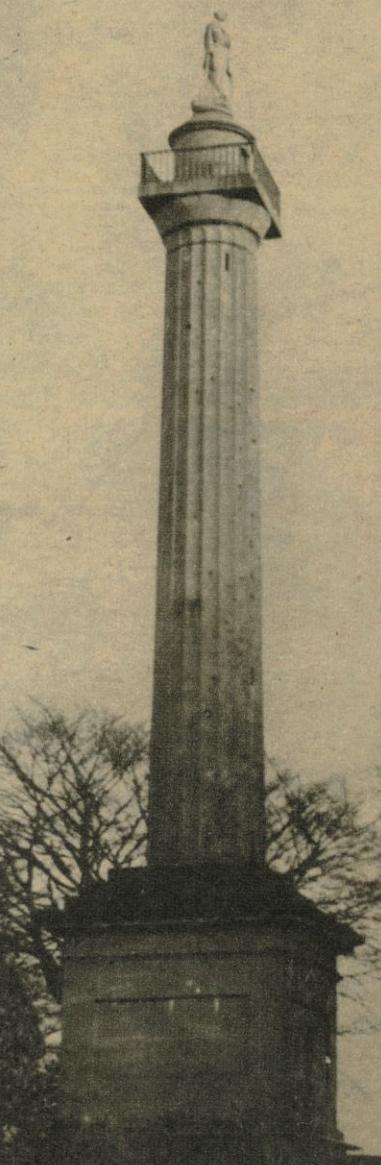
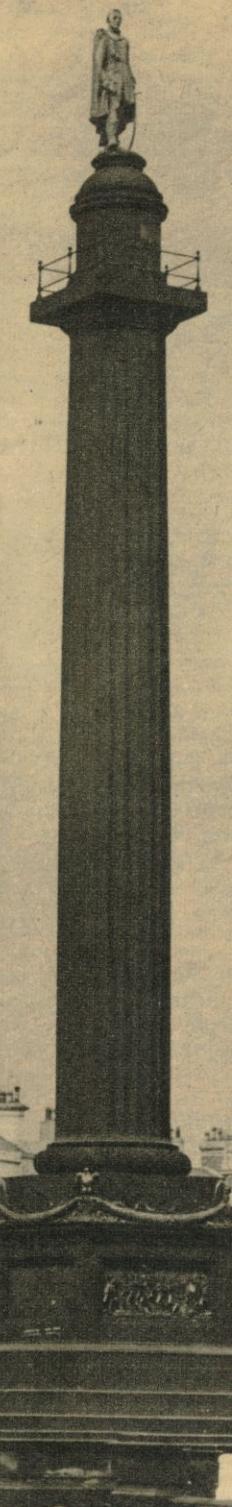
His best-known column, a heavily smoke-grimed one, is a feature of the plateau by Liverpool's St. George's Hall. It is rarely mentioned, however, by those who write about the city.

It is said that the Iron Duke's statue on the top was cast from a cannon captured at Waterloo. Into the granite base of the column is inset a plaque on which the Duke is portrayed giving the order for the charge which sealed Napoleon's fate in that battle.

A cleaner, but smaller, Wellington column is that at Stratfield Saye, on the border of Hampshire and Berkshire. It stands at the gates of the fine estate which a grateful nation bestowed on the Iron Duke and his successors in return for a payment of a tricoloured flag, to be deposited in Windsor Castle on the anniversary of Waterloo.

Wellington's column at Liverpool (left) and (below) that of General Sir G. Lowry-Cole, a Peninsular War commander, at Enniskillen.

Photograph: The Impartial Reporter



THE COLUMN WAS BARE

Wellington, the little Somerset town from which the Iron Duke took his title—because he liked the name—also erected a column to his memory.

Before his effigy could be placed on top, however, money ran out. A plan to build cottages for Waterloo veterans at the base was abandoned. The untopped column now belongs to the National Trust.

The Duke is said not to have visited Wellington until five years after taking its name.



Walter Young operates the electric gramophone which played 250,000 records to Services audiences in World War Two.

Photographs:
ARTHUR BLUNDELL

"Music is fun" is the motto of Dobson and Young, who have a way with Service audiences



TWO 'FORCES FAVOURITES'

THE team of Dobson and Young, who lectured on music to half a million men and women of the Services during World War Two, have renewed a friendship with the Army by entertaining an audience of the Women's Royal Army Corps at Guildford—with BBC television cameras in attendance.

The partnership of Dobson and Young—Mr. Walter Dobson and Mr. Walter Young—is really a trio, the third and indispensable "member" being the electric gramophone on which they have played a quarter of a million records to more than 4000 Services audiences.

It was in the early days of World War Two that Dobson and Young were appointed by the Central Advisory Council for Forces' Education to lecture on appreciation of music to all three Services in Britain.

They were an immediate success, in spite of those who said that soldiers would never willingly listen to talks on music and would learn nothing even if they did. The secret of Dobson and Young was their unorthodox and light-hearted approach. They never talked down to their audiences. Their sessions were spiced with broad humour and amusing mimicry, under cover of which they drove home their message that music was fun and not so difficult to understand after all. Almost without knowing it, the troops began to take an intelligent interest.

Proof of the success of the Dobson and Young lectures was the rapid growth of gramophone record clubs in all three Services. Such clubs were almost unheard of before the pair appeared on the scene in 1941. By 1942 more than a dozen had been formed in Northern Command alone and in the following year there were nearly 200 in the British Army at home. Just over 70 percent of units' record requests in 1943 from ENSA and the Royal Army Educational Corps' gramophone

RETURN

libraries were for symphonic music and opera.

In the early days troops were often paraded to attend the lectures, a mistake in Dobson's opinion, because it built up audience resistance. On the other hand, says Young, it was better than preaching to the already converted.

Dobson recalls arriving at a Gunner unit in Scotland in 1941 and hearing the sergeant-major bawling to his men, "Come on, you Toscaninis, fall in for your music lessons and don't forget to bring yer 'arps."

"That type of audience took a lot of breaking down," says Dobson, "but when they realised there was more fun in music than they had dreamed the battle was half over. They never had to be paraded a second time. Many of them went out straight away and formed unit gramophone record clubs."

Only once was Dobson completely put out of his stride. Addressing a mixed anti-aircraft unit he began to make fun of bagpipe music. A grim-faced Scots girl in the front row rose and said, "It's easy tae ken ye know nothing aboot the pipes, so stop your blatherin', do."

Not only in Britain did Dobson and Young lecture to the troops. In 1944 they toured Belgium and Holland with their gramophone, addressing crowded audiences of the British Liberation Army, and later that year went to Malta, Sicily and Italy.

It was just like old times when Dobson and Young turned up at Guildford. Half the audience were not particularly anxious to learn about music; the other half thought they knew enough already. At the end of the lecture they had all learned something and wanted to know more.

Dobson and Young had done it again.



Walter Dobson does the talking, tells the funny stories, plays the piano and mimics opera singers.

Audience re-action ranged from the intently serious to the highly hilarious at the Women's Royal Army Corps Depot at Guildford, Surrey.



On patrol in Selangor's South Swamp which the men of the Royal Hampshires cleared of terrorists.

FOUR terrorists lay concealed, as they hoped, on a small hill on the outskirts of Kajang, in Selangor State . . . but round the base of the hill crouched a ring of men in jungle green. They were a patrol of the Royal Hampshires, under a National Service officer, Second-Lieutenant D. W. Bolam.

When his men were in position, Second-Lieutenant Bolam charged alone to the hill top and was shot dead. At once Sergeant G. Westall ordered the platoon to charge. They killed two terrorists (one of whom had taken part in many outrages). Two escaped.

This was an affray which produced headlines in the British press, but much of the work of the 1st Battalion The Royal Hampshire Regiment—as of other battalions in Malaya—is

OVER ➤

'LET US SEE WHO CAN POUND THE LONGER'

The great Duke said it—and the Royal Hampshires in the jungle acted on his advice

Troops clean up and relax in the base camp in the Bentong area after a hard day's jungle patrolling.



'WHO CAN POUND THE LONGER?'

continued

the hard-slogging kind which does not usually reach the front page.

When the Battalion first arrived in Malaya, men of "A" Company achieved the unusual feat of surprising and killing a terrorist while out on a "scheme" at the Far East Training Centre.

Anyone who supposed from this that terrorists were easy to find was soon disillusioned. Since then the Royal Hampshires have had to labour mightily for their successes.

By 1954, when the 1st Battalion came on the scene, the terrorists had been driven on to the defensive. Their aim in most parts of the country has been to hide from patrols in deep jungle.

The Battalion sought them in all types of country, from the rare good going to tangled under-



Private P. O'Callaghan, a Regular, won the Military Medal for gallantry in Malaya. Below: Corporal J. Digweed finds the milk in the coconut refreshing.



"Speedy," one of the Battalion's 17 tracker dogs with his handler, Private Victor Cutting.



One of the armoured three-ton lorries which carry troops on roads liable to ambush.

growth and deep swamp. In eight months last year they carried out 169 operations, each involving a platoon or more and lasting at least four days.

After initial training the Battalion moved up to Pahang in Central Malaya to take over operational responsibility in the Bentong district from the 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. The Battalion was spread out over 50 miles in company tented camps. The soldiers had little time to enjoy the doubtful comfort of these for, during the next nine months, all rifle companies spent well over half their time in the jungle. There were 68 air-drop re-supplies, in addition to numerous food-carrying parties. Ambushes on the jungle edge and other monotonous but necessary jobs such as gate checks in and out of villages, food control checks and anti-ambush road verge patrols were carried out. The Communists were thin on the ground and sensational results were impossible. Of 36 bandits in the area, 25 were eliminated and there were no terrorist acts of aggression.

For three months the Battalion was also responsible for a large area to the east while the 6th Battalion The Malay Regiment was retraining, and a long two-company operation was conducted in another battalion's area to the north. Several companies travelled to jungle clearings by helicopter and 45 men were evacuated with injuries or on account of sickness by these invaluable aircraft.

In December, 1954, the Battalion changed places with the 1st Battalion The Somerset Light Infantry and moved to Kuala Lumpur, the Federal capital of Malaya, to take over all operations in Selangor State. Bentong civilians showed their apprecia-

tion of the Battalion's effort by presenting a fine pair of silver kris (antique Malayan daggers) to the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Man. Another gift was to be received later in Selangor.

Almost immediately on arrival at Kuala Lumpur, the Battalion began an operation to eliminate a hard-core of 50 terrorists living in jungle swamp 50 miles southwest of the capital. Many attempts had been made to deal with these terrorists since the start of the Emergency; they remained a blemish on an otherwise fairly satisfactory situation in South Selangor. The opera-

tion lasted from January until August and at all times one or two platoons from each of three rifle companies were searching in the swamp. The ground varied from mere wetness underfoot to chest-high mud and water. Apart from the unpleasants of the swamp, leeches, mosquitoes and other insects, movement was exhausting, noisy and painfully slow. The terrorists lived in small camps built up on wooden stilts. Underwater paths of thin logs helped them to escape if patrols got too near.

Months went by with no practical result. It began to look as if the operation might be a failure.





The Regimental chapel at Wardieburn Camp in Kuala Lumpur is made with atap. Below: Beer and a buffet at an all-ranks dance makes a pleasant change from jungle-bashing. (But where are the ladies?)



At this stage the Commanding Officer quoted the Duke of Wellington: "Hard pounding, gentlemen. Let us see who can pound the longer." Success came suddenly in June with several kills and surrenders and these continued until the whole Battalion ceased operations and concentrated in Kuala Lumpur for re-training.

By the end of the operation only two terrorists remained in the south swamp, and the area was declared "white" (freed from Emergency restrictions) by the Sultan of Selangor. The Commanding Officer calculated that each Communist eliminated had cost the Battalion an average of 1200 man-days.

"A" Company did not take part in this operation, but kept the peace in North Selangor and eliminated seven bandits.

Retraining followed, until October. Meanwhile an amnesty was declared for Communist terrorists throughout the Federation. It soon became obvious, however, that the terrorists in Johore State not only intended to ignore the amnesty but were increasing their attacks. The Battalion cut short its retraining by a fortnight and flew, first by Valetta and then by helicopter,

in the largest operational air move of the Emergency.

In Selangor, too, terrorist activity flared up again, and it was there that Second-Lieutenant Bolam met his death.

The Battalion has had a tremendous turnover of National Servicemen since arriving in Malaya. Young soldiers from the regimental depot at Winchester learn about the jungle on a special course in a draft training wing, which is part of Support Company.

Although many of the Battalion's best sportsmen are on operations, the Royal Hampshires have more than held their own at football, rugby, boxing and cricket. At shooting the Battalion has come out best British battalion at the Far East rifle meeting for two years running. It is proud to hold the Suffolk Cup, a reminder of a Regiment which made for itself an outstanding reputation in the Emergency.

There are 58 wives and 108 children of the battalion in Kuala Lumpur, some living in quarters and others in private accommodation. Although scattered around the town and outskirts, they meet once a week at the Battalion wives' club.

STAMPS, SOLDIERS FOR THE AID OF

THE British Army has its own post office, but the Swiss Army, in times of mobilisation, goes one better and has its own stamps—and not just one set for the Army, but different stamps for each unit.

What makes this possible, curiously enough, is that Swiss soldiers enjoy free postage.

It started in 1915, when Swiss units, though not involved in the world war, were mobilised. The adjutant of one battalion designed two soldier stamps as souvenirs for members of his unit. The following year, three more were designed for sale at a charity ball to raise money for Swiss soldiers.

A few weeks later, the medical officer of another regiment organised the sale of stamps for charity and soon raised a considerable sum.

The fashion spread through the Swiss Army. During World War Two, Swiss units were again mobilised, though neutral, and the soldier stamps appeared once more.

Unit commanding officers controlled the issues and set the prices which ranged from 10 cents to one franc (slightly under twopence to about 1s. 7d.). Quartermasters sold the stamps, both to soldiers and civilians, and an officer administered the cash. The stamps were cancelled with the unit's own rubber stamp.

Some units raised as much as 30,000 Swiss francs by this method, and devoted the proceeds to such purposes as buying clothes for badly off ex-soldiers or paying the rent of families left without adequate funds.

Like the prolific issues of Liechtenstein and the French colonies, which any schoolboy will tell you were designed primarily to catch the collector's eye, the Swiss soldier stamps are bright and varied. Many of them show soldiers, but others are scenic or historical.

A dealer at the recent Stamp Exhibition in London estimated that there were between 800 and 1200 different faces, but to a philatelist there are more varieties than that since many of the stamps were issued both perforated and imperforated. Philatelists fall for stamps without holes, a fact of which the canny originators of soldier stamps took advantage when they set a higher price on the imperforated issues.



HOW MANY MILES A DAY?

In a recent competition organised by the United States Army in Korea three 19-men teams of South Korean Infantrymen—all carrying full fighting equipment, including rifle—made a forced march of 20 miles in two hours 57 minutes 25 seconds.

The pace was so hot that some had to be pulled along on ropes by their less exhausted comrades. Others found their boots uncomfortable so they took them off and marched bare-footed.

These competitors trained for three months and most of their route was along good roads. Even so, every British Infantryman will concede that it was a creditable feat of foot-slogging.

The British soldier may not take part in fiercely competitive events of this kind, but he also is taught to cover the ground at speed—on foot.

In his recruit training he has to complete one march of nine miles in two hours and another of six in one hour and five minutes. At least once during this time he goes out on a 36-hours exercise which includes marching up to 12 miles in "battle" conditions.

When he joins a Regular battalion he will probably do at least one route march a week, working up from 10 miles in two hours to day-long marches of between 25-30 miles. In addition, most units have monthly forced marches of up to 12 miles at about six miles an hour.

The Royal Marines train their recruits to march 12 miles in two

During World War Two, Commandos marched 63 miles in less than 24 hours. Here are recalled many other fine feats of marching.

hours on roads and 27 miles in seven-and-a-half hours across difficult country.

Here are some of the feats of marching performed by the British Army in recent—and not so recent—times:

★ During World War Two a Commando unit training in Scotland marched 63 miles in 23 hours, 10 minutes, covering the first 33 miles in eight hours. Another troop marched 42 miles in 19 hours.

Yet, in this war, some of the most determined marching was the slowest. Chindits in the Burma jungle sometimes had to hack their way a few yards at a time and did well to cover five miles in a day. There were Chindits who covered more than 600 miles on foot.

★ In the Afghan War of 1880 General Sir Frederick Roberts' Anglo-Indian force marched from Kabul to Kandahar, a distance of 297½ miles, in intense heat and across unfriendly mountainous country, in 19 days. There were few roads worthy of the name, and the soldiers carried most of their rations. As it happened, the garrison at Kandahar, which was believed to be under siege, was in no danger when the relief forces arrived.

★ Under a tropical sun, on half rations and carrying all their equipment, the 45th Regiment (now the Sherwood Foresters)

marched 300 miles across mountainous country in 24 days from Adigrat to Magdala in the Abyssinian Campaign of 1868. They covered the last 70 miles in four days. After capturing and razing the fortress of the Negus, the Regiment then marched back 370 miles to Zulla, where troopships were waiting, in 34 days.

★ In the Indian Mutiny the 43rd Light Infantry (now the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry) completed one of the most gruelling marches in history. From April to July, 1858—in the hottest part of the hottest year for 15 years—the Regiment marched 1300 miles from Bangalore to Calpee, halting only occasionally for a few days rest at hill stations. The heat was so intense that three officers and 44 men died, many from sun-stroke.

★ The Duke of Wellington's greatest march was in the Peninsular War in 1813. On 23 May he set out from Ciudad Rodrigo and, in the ensuing six weeks, his men marched more than 600 miles, crossed six rivers, gained a decisive victory at Vittoria, captured two fortresses and drove 120,000 veteran French troops out of Spain.

Only eight months before

starting this memorable mara-

thon the Duke of Wellington was

complaining bitterly about the

British soldier's inability to

march well. In a letter to Earl

Bathurst he wrote: "Our soldiers are not sufficiently exercised in marching . . . and they become sickly as soon as they are obliged to make a march." Immediately afterwards the Duke issued an order instructing all his commanders to give their men three route marches a week.

★ In 1809 the Rifle Brigade marched 52 miles in 24 hours to take part in the Battle of Talavera.

★ The Duke of Wellington first

A famous march in Afghanistan: Under General Sir Frederick Roberts VC (on horseback, pointing) an Anglo-Indian force covered the 297 miles from Kabul to Kandahar, through savage country, in 19 days.

learned the value of swift marching in India. In 1803 his force was 40 miles from Poona when he heard that Indian mutineers intended to set fire to the city on the approach of British troops. Although his men had already marched 20 miles under a broiling sun that day, the Duke set out that night with a small force of 400 troopers and a battalion of Infantry and reached the city undetected the following afternoon. Poona was saved.

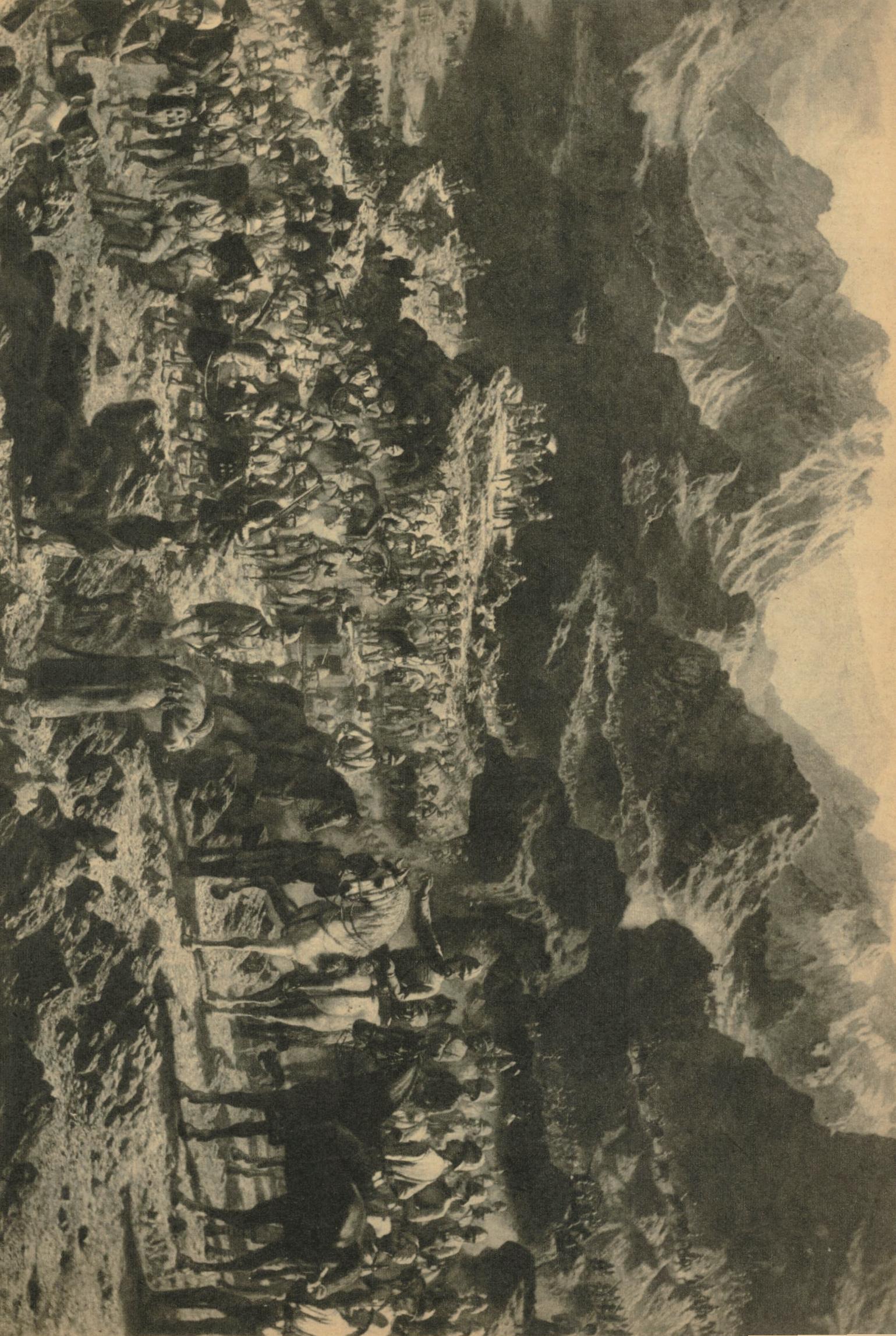
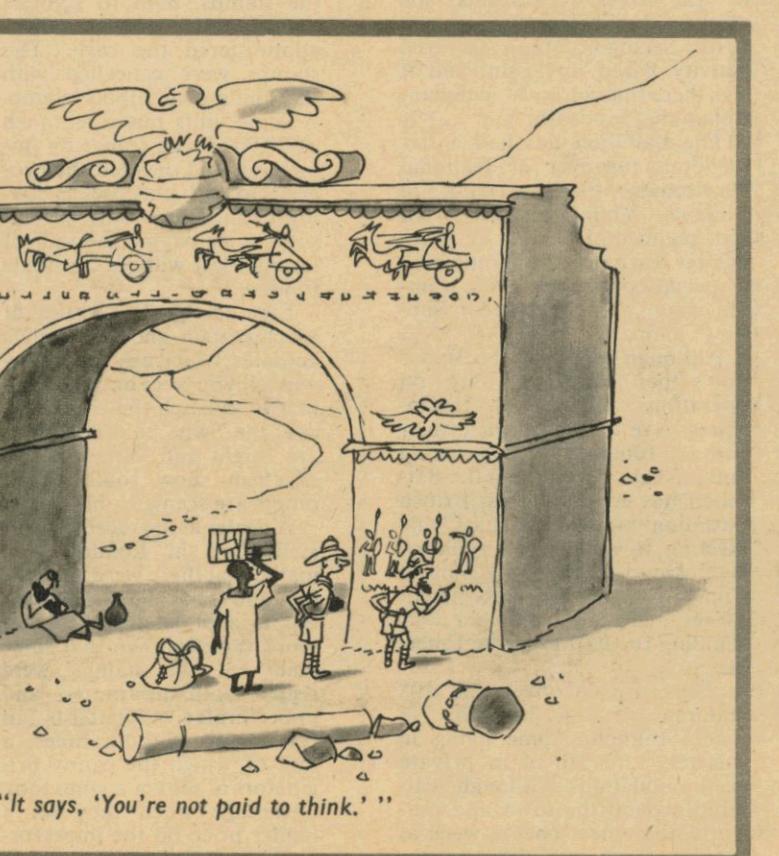
After the Battle of Assaye in 1803 the Duke marched his men for 60 miles across rough country and in intense heat in 30 hours, including a ten-hour halt.

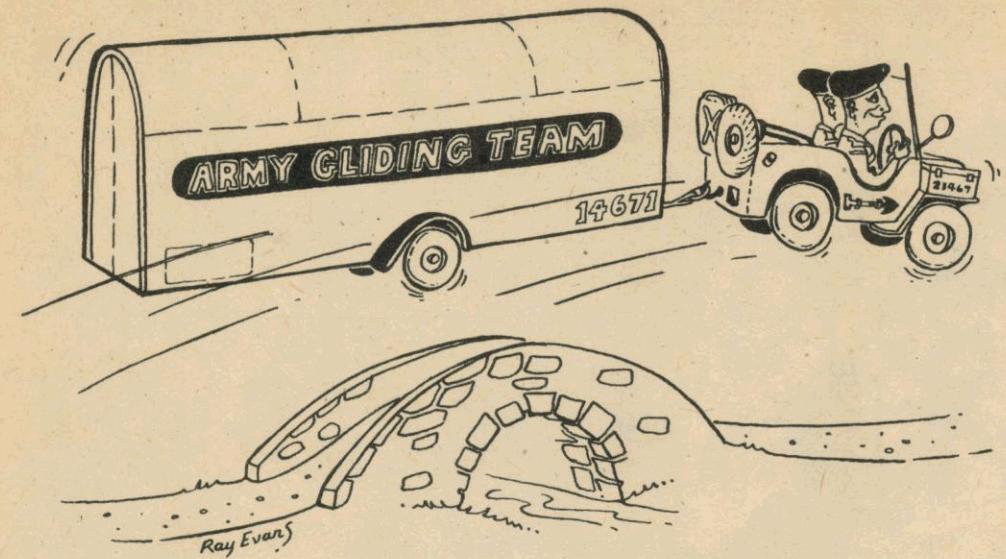
★ In 1805 Napoleon marched the Grande Armée from Boulogne to Strasbourg—400 miles—in 27 days. The Austrians, whose Army Napoleon surprised and routed at the end of the march, had estimated that it would take him at least 60 days.

In Napoleon's Army many veterans marched without socks. Instead they smeared their feet with tallow or fat—as recommended by Marshal Saxe—to prevent their boots chafing. British soldiers put tallow in their socks in India—see Kipling's "Route Marchin'."

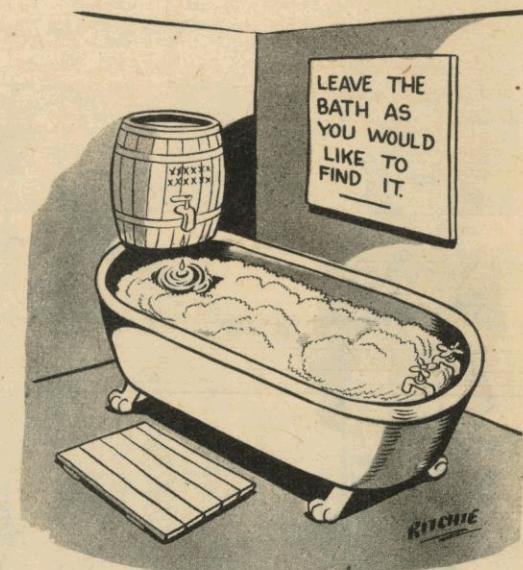
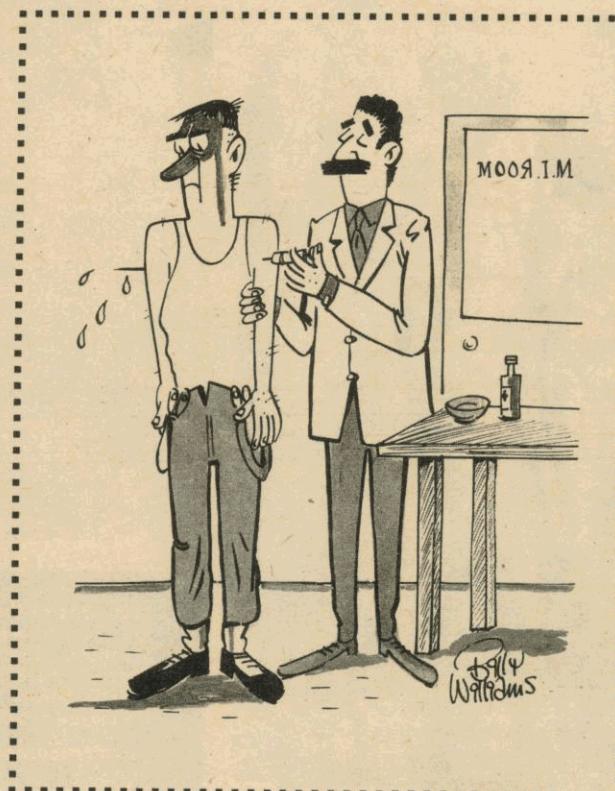
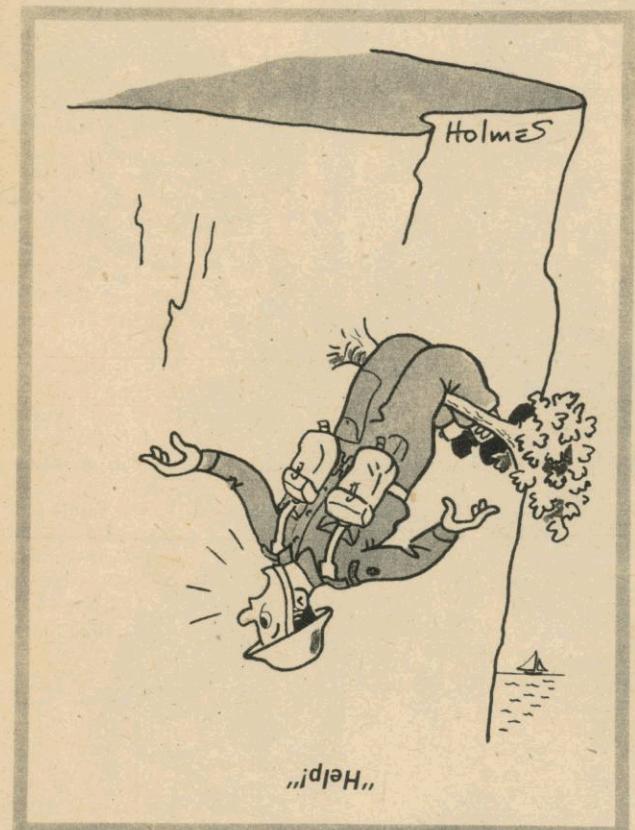
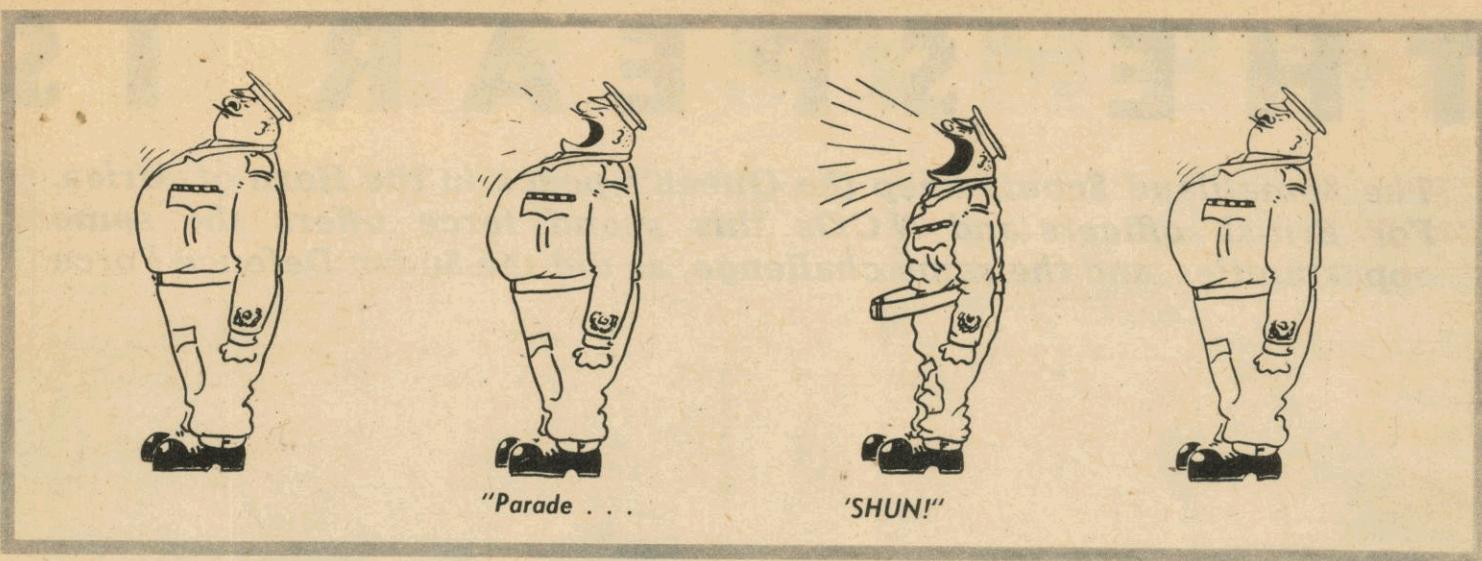
★ Marlborough's progress from Bedburg, in Holland to Langenau on the Danube in 1704 was one of the British Army's first great marches. His men covered the distance of 300 miles in 30 days. The speed of the march completely surprised the French and led to the victory at Blenheim.

Marlborough went to great lengths to keep his men fit and contented on the march. He increased their rations, paid them all in advance so that they could buy extra food and sent detachments ahead to buy up shoes and boots.

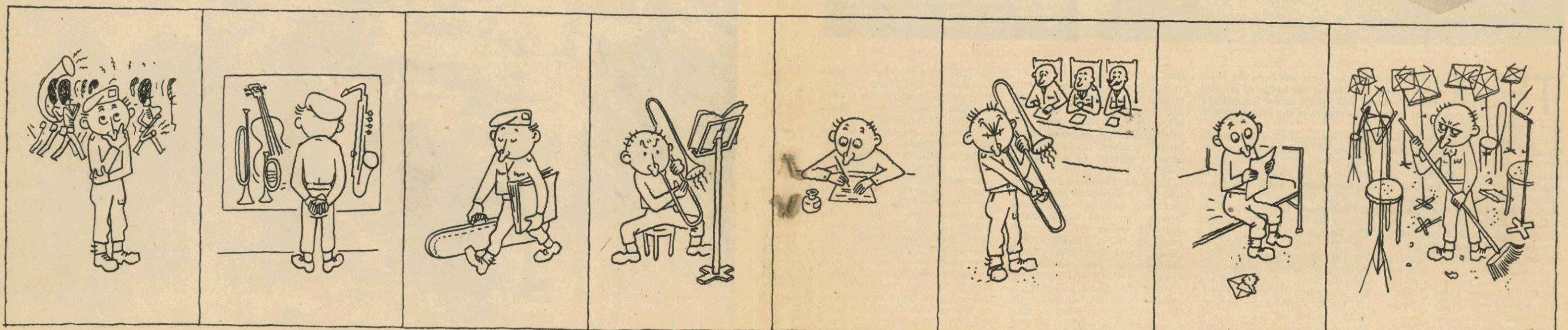




SOLDIER HUMOUR



The cartoon below appeared in *Legerkoerier*, the Dutch Army magazine, and is reproduced by courtesy of the Editor.



THE SPEAR IS THEIR SYMBOL

The Somaliland Scouts keep the Queen's peace in the Horn of Africa. For British officers and NCOs this proud force offers the same opportunities, and the same challenge, as did the Sudan Defence Force



Left: One of the post war "characters" of the Scouts was Major C. A. Hexter-Stabbins, sometimes known as "The Baron," here seen inspecting his last parade before retiring to New Zealand. He served nearly six years with the Scouts.

Photographs: Sergeant D. Steen

"Are you a credit to your platoon?" Corporal Jibrail Nur makes sure that he is. Each month, the askari compete for a spear with pennant, which is planted in the lines of the winning platoon.

THROUGH countless generations the spear has been the chief weapon of the Somali tribesmen. Today the badge of crossed spears, worn by British officers and askari of the Somaliland Scouts, is a symbol of unity and strength in the once-troubled land in the Horn of Africa.

The Scouts, who keep the Queen's peace in the 68,000 square miles of this British protectorate, were formed as recently as 1943, yet they have already taken their place in the front rank of Colonial regiments.

Under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Hill, late of the Dorsets, 28 British officers and almost 1000 Somalis are responsible for internal security. From various arms of the British Army, some 30 warrant officers and sergeants serve as technical advisers.

Selective recruiting takes place twice a year, and the balance of

Bren and the mortar.

The Scouts rarely serve on the coastal plain, where sultry desert and blistering heat deny all pleasure. Borama, near the Ethiopian border, is typical of the inland stations, in which the pleasant warmth of day is followed by cool evenings.

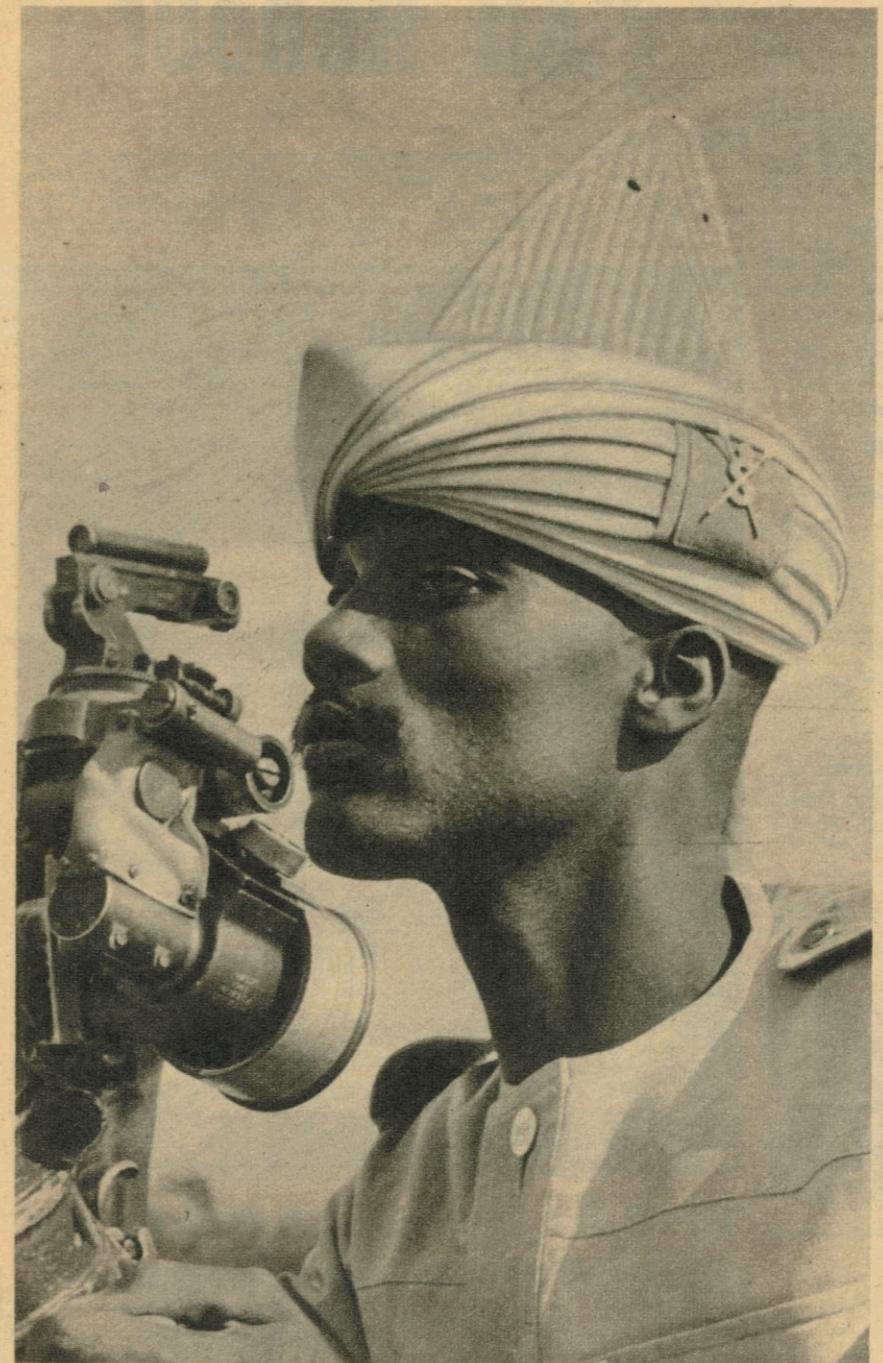
Hargeisa, 75 miles away, is the seat of Government and Headquarters of the Somaliland Camel Corps, in whose mess seven holders of the Victoria Cross are said to have dined during World War One. The town is located on the ancient trade route from Berbera, on the coast, to the fertile hinterland of Ethiopia. Here, in a picturesque fort, are stationed men of the second static rifle company.

In Hargeisa NAAFI joins the trading companies in providing groceries and provisions for the 20-odd British families in married quarters throughout the Protectorate. Compared with other

overseas stations, the quarters situation in Somaliland is good. A project to build further houses is under consideration. More than 300 Somali families live on the stations, occupying in the main the *gurgo*, or mobile house, portable by camel.

Away across the Arori plain, renowned for its wild game, is Burao, former headquarters of the Somaliland Camel Corps, in whose mess seven holders of the Victoria Cross are said to have dined during World War One. The town is located on the ancient trade route from Berbera, on the coast, to the fertile hinterland of Ethiopia. Here, in a picturesque fort, are stationed men of the second static rifle company.

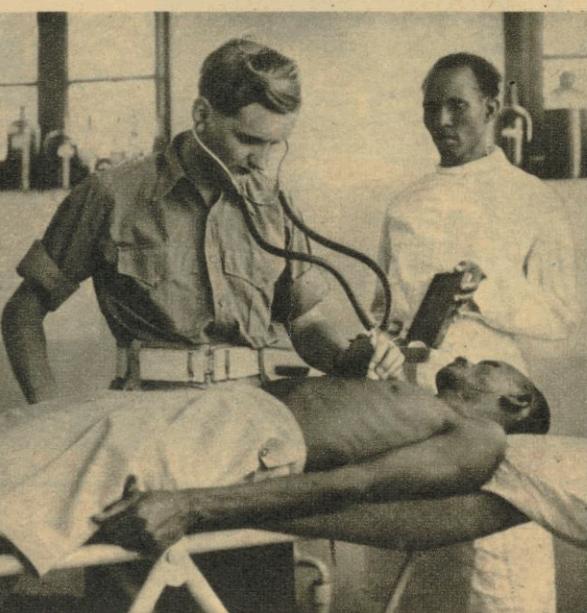
In the cantonment senior NCOs of the technical arms



Left: Taking aim during 3-inch mortar training. Private Suliman Mohammed, typical of the askari.

On guard: A squad of recruits receives bayonet fighting instruction from Corporal Hersi Fahiyeh.

A National Service officer, Captain David Pattison, Royal Army Medical Corps, looks after the health of nearly 1000 Somali soldiers and families.



work side by side with Somali artisans in well-equipped workshops. The 16-bed hospital is run by a National Service Medical Officer, assisted by a staff of Somali dressers. A Regular subaltern of the Royal Army Educational Corps continues the educational instruction which was begun at the Depot.

Such education and technical training serve to raise the standard of literacy and improve the standard of living throughout the entire Protectorate. The nomadic Somali lives today unchanged by time, dependent upon his flocks for his meagre fare. Only upon enlistment in the Scouts does he come into contact with the benefits of the outside world.

Other rifle companies are located at bush-stations, which pro-

vide the true benefits of colonial soldiering. Here the best in a

good soldier comes to the fore. The rare report of tribal warfare in the area finds the bush company alerted, and off they go on a "flag march" which in itself is usually enough to restore law and order. Long marches are a regular feature of the weekly training programme. Impressed vehicles are available as troop-carriers in emergency.

The National Service subaltern plays a great part in the work of the Somaliland Scouts. In all companies young officers, selected from regiments of the Line, accept great responsibility and develop their powers of command. Many a young man has returned home during the past few years the better in mind and



On Somaliland stamps—the Queen and her askari.

A British Major

"All Honour

The 600-year-old Steintor of Goch is seen (left) as it was in 1945, with the "Hitler Youth" sign still on its walls. The restored building (below) contains an archives room dedicated to Major Ronald Balfour, who was killed saving Rhineland treasures under fire. Wartime picture: Imperial War Museum.



TREASURES FROM



Above: The notice which put historic buildings out of bounds to troops.

HERE are more pictures showing how the Army, at the height of the Rhineland campaign in 1945, helped to preserve German works of art and historic treasures. Officers who were architects, antiquarians and scholars in civil life worked to a "brief" prepared by Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force.

Not the least problem was to find suitable storage for re-

covered treasures and to safeguard them from looters.

Many German treasures had already been removed and hidden by the Nazis, mostly in the shafts of mines, and the tracing of these hoards was by no means an easy task.

Much experience of safeguarding monuments and art treasures had already been gained in the course of the campaigns in North Africa and in Italy.



Under shelling, a soldier removes a painting from a dwelling in mined Xanten

Died Saving History

to His Memory,"

say the Germans

AS the war raged through the Rhineland towns, in the Spring of 1945, a British officer darted in and out of shattered churches and museums, carrying to safety statues, paintings and carvings.

With his own hands he salvaged from rubble the archives of several towns, including those of Goch, Cranenburg and Xanten. Those places today are among the few in that heavily pounded area to retain complete their medieval records.

On 10 March, as he was carrying two sculptured altar-pieces from the 14th century Stifts church of Cleve, under shell and mortar fire, he was killed.

The officer was Major Ronald Balfour, a former Fellow of King's College, who joined the King's Royal Rifle Corps in 1940 and served in North-West Europe as a Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Specialist Officer.

Little by little, through the post-war years, German burgomasters and architects pieced together the story of the British officer who, with great discrimination and energy, and at the cost of his life, helped to preserve for them so much of their Rhineland treasure. Finally the town of Goch decided to dedicate to his memory its newly completed archives room inside the famous 600-year-old Steintor. The building itself—so the authorities have recorded—owes its existence to a timely action by Major Balfour. "All honour to his memory" runs

the inscription under the officer's photograph, which has been set up in the archives room.

This gesture by a German town is the more impressive when it is remembered that Goch was almost annihilated by aerial bombing and ground fighting. Several German newspapers have published appreciative articles on the work of Major Balfour and of the branch of the Army in which he served.

To many soldiers in 1945, when Germany was being pounded and pattern-bombed by day and night, it no doubt seemed illogical, even absurd, that British officers should be occupied trying to save the enemy's treasures for him, and that useful-looking buildings should be barred to them by signs reading: NATIONAL MONUMENT; OFF LIMITS TO ALL ALLIED TROOPS, EVEN FOR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. The monastery at Cassino had been pulverised: why worry about a few statues and altars in Hitler's Germany? Why waste time sorting through the remains of gutted libraries?

It was easy to feel like that at the time, but it is now clear that the labours of this little-talked-of military branch have yielded an impressive dividend of goodwill.

THE RUINS



Lieutenant-Colonel Geoffrey Webb, a Cambridge scholar, assesses damage to side-pieces of the altar from the Great Church at Cleve.



"You've gummed it up!"

"Gummed what up?"

"Your hair—it looks like a glue-brush."

"If you had my hair . . ."

"If I had your hair, I wouldn't make it a sticky mess like that. I'd use Tru-gel."

"What's so different about that?"

"Well, for one thing, it isn't a cream. They call it a gel. It's crystal-clear, and just a small bead of it spreads all over your hair. It doesn't look greasy, and it never goes hard."

"H'm! Might try it. What's it called?"

"Tru-gel. TRU-GEL. All chemists and barbers have it. It's 3/- a tube, but it lasts me longer than any other hairdressing."



The whiteness of this girl's teeth is here being measured. The "whiteness-meter" showed that they were shades whiter after one brushing with Macleans.

Scientists prove teeth whiter with MACLEANS

Healthier, too! Safer from decay!

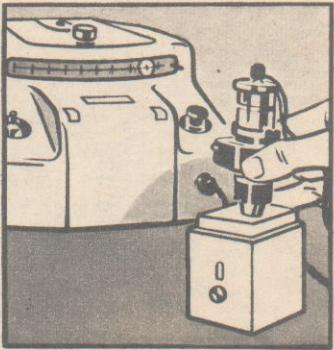
AFTER one brushing with Macleans your teeth are $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 degrees whiter. That is a scientific fact. It was proved in every single case after hundreds of tests with a spectro-photometer, or "whiteness-meter".

Dental authorities agree that to avoid

decay teeth must be really *clean*. Brushed regularly with Macleans (you'll love its clean, fresh flavour!) they'll be cleaner, whiter, healthier — and your gums will be firmer, too. Millions are proving for themselves that Maclean-white teeth are healthy teeth.



**Did you Maclean
your teeth today?**



To measure the whiteness of human teeth, a solid block of pure magnesium oxide was used as a standard of whiteness. The spectro-photometer was then set to this standard and the degree of whiteness of the teeth measured on the scale shown above.



"FALL IN, THE SCIENTISTS"

The Army is training its own scientists. Its picked men can take a university degree in "Army time." There is specialised talent in the call-up, too



THE scramble for scientists in Britain grows ever fiercer. The Army wants them. So do the Royal Air Force, the Royal Navy and the Atomic Energy Commission. So does industry—and industry has the money.

There are simply not enough to go round. Sir Winston Churchill recently warned that the nation must produce more scientists if it is to survive.

What is the Army doing about it? Obviously, to pick out National Servicemen with scientific training is not enough. The Army is producing its own scientists of all grades: at Cambridge University, at the Royal Military College of Science and at corps training centres.

The Army has little room in its ranks for "back-room boys" engaged on research and invention, except for a few (mostly civilians) in such organisations as the Army Operational Research Group. Any commanding officer who objects to losing a promising subaltern to a scientific course, under the impression that he will be turned into a "boffin," is politely told that the Army does not train "boffins." The officer, he is assured, will be returned to his unit with a sound scientific education and will thus be a more useful regimental officer.

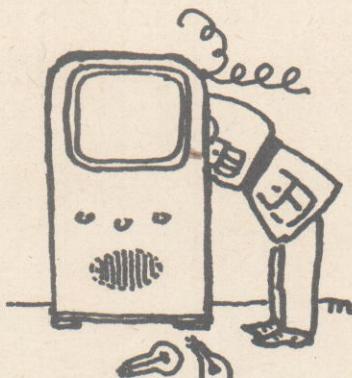
Most of the "boffin work" is done by the Ministry of Supply. The kind of scientist the Army needs is the man who can ensure that the Army makes the best use of its complex new equipment—and takes proper care of it. At the same time he should be a man who, from practical experience, can help to conceive new types of equipment.

The cream of soldier-scientists are those Regular officers who are picked for scientific training when they enter Sandhurst. They have taken their General Certificate of Education in physics and pure and applied mathematics at advanced level and in chemistry at ordinary level. At Sandhurst they keep in touch with their studies while they go through normal training.

At the end of each Sandhurst course, those who are to study for

science degrees are selected. Then they go off to their regiments for not more than two years. Each year 20 of them are sent to Cambridge, where they will spend three years at Government expense, studying for the Mechanical Science Tripos which gives them a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Once this privilege was reserved for the Royal Engineers. Now the Sappers have 11 vacancies every year; six are



divided between the Royal Signals and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and three more are allotted to "any other arm." This year it is likely that Infantry officers will fill two of the three vacancies.

Other young officers go to the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham, to study for a London University Bachelor of Science degree, either in engineering or in general science. At present Shrivenham can take 70 of these young officers annually, but the growing output from Welbeck College may help to raise that figure to 100.

Not every Shrivenham candidate succeeds in his degree examination, but all of them return to their units with a sound scientific education. The object of the course is to spread as many scientifically-educated officers as possible through all arms.

Another source of graduate Regular officers is the scheme by which a man may apply for a Regular commission within a year of graduation, whether called up or not, or after six months as a National Service officer. Short-service commissions are open to graduates on Regular engagements.

Captains and majors also go to Shrivenham for training as technical staff officers. This course, open to any officer with a technical bent, lasts two years and three months, but officers with degrees are excused the first year. One of the principal functions of the technical staff officer is to act as link between the soldier and the scientist.

Shrivenham has a "post-graduate" course in guided weapons. The College recently opened a nuclear physics laboratory which will provide either an addition to the technical staff officers' course or a separate course. An insight into the problems of development and production of modern weapons is given to about three-quarters of each Staff College intake—if they have not previously taken a long technical course—during a ten-week stay at Shrivenham. Recently one such party spent a day visiting coal mines and officers tried their hands at hewing coal.

National Service is another main source of scientists for the Army. In the War Office a retired officer, Lieutenant-Colonel G. V. Micklam, a former Royal Engineer, records the particulars of 4000 students each year. Of these, about a quarter drop from his list through joining the Regular Army, going to live abroad, or failing their degree examinations or medical tests. A little more than half the remainder are students of the arts. Thus, roughly 1400 scientists with university qualifications or high diplomas come to the Army for National Service each year.

Lieutenant-Colonel Micklam visits the universities to talk to the students. He notes their subjects, decides the arms into which

they shall be called up, and follows their progress in the Army, to ensure that the best use is made of their qualifications.

Not all scientist National Servicemen are pleased to be put into a unit where they can make use of what they have learned. After years of study, some hope to spend their National Service "away from it all."



"Zoologists rarely find military scope for their talents."

Graduates in subjects like mechanical and electrical engineering are easily posted. A few geologists can be placed in the Royal Engineers, a few geographers and printers in survey work. Others have secondary qualifications which may be more useful. Thus chemists, who are seldom needed as such, may go into the Royal Artillery or the Royal Corps of Signals on the strength of their physics. Zoologists, biologists, botanists and horticulturists rarely find military scope for their talents.

Particular attention is paid to the military careers of young scientists with honours degrees and those who have gone on to become doctors of philosophy. The Army Operational Research Group has use for some of these high-grade scientists and recently asked for—and received—the services of a young Ph.D. whose special study was the effect of light on the human eye. The Royal Military College of Science also has employment for a dozen of these high-grade scientists as demonstrators.

Inevitably, however, there are some very highly qualified scientists for whose specialities the

OVER



Army can find no use. Vast erudition in such subjects (at present on Lieutenant-Colonel Micklam's files) as ceramics, cytoplasmic heredity or the physics of electricity in gases is unlikely to benefit the Army.

Although every graduate is considered a potential officer, graduates are not necessarily the stuff of which officers are made. Too few have the qualities which make for leadership, and only two out of every seven pass the War Office Selection Board. So here and there it is possible to meet privates and non-commissioned officers who are qualified to be addressed as "Doctor."

University Officer Training Corps contingents try to help students to a commission. Those who defer their National Service to graduate before call-up may, if they have passed their officers' training corps tests, go almost directly into officer cadet school—if they pass the selection board. Those who go for their National Service before studying for their degrees may put in their part-time National Service with the contingents, and, if they were not National Service officers, qualify for Territorial commissions.

National Servicemen, graduates and otherwise, make up more than half the Army's tradesmen. In one very highly-skilled Royal Signals trade, almost nine out of every ten tradesmen are National Servicemen, mostly from the General Post Office.

There is a grave shortage of the highly-qualified (and highly-

paid) Group "X" tradesmen. In the electronic trades, in particular, the shortage is so bad that the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers consider it worth while to train National Servicemen as leading artisans, although the men will be able to give little more than six months service.

Few men can go straight from a civilian factory into one of these highly-skilled trades. Even a man who has been building electronic equipment in a factory must be taught how to maintain and repair it in the field and in the Army way.

In trades which have little or no civilian equivalent, a man may have the right background without the actual qualifications. If he has been employed in a fireworks factory, he may be a potential ammunition examiner. If he has been a television repairer, he may be ripe for training to work as a radar mechanic.

Among the most highly-qualified Army tradesmen are the armament artificers. Training in this grade (which takes longer than the whole National Service period) is confined to Regulars with at least three years to serve on completion of their courses. The main sources of armament artificers are the Army Apprentices Schools which produce a steady stream of young tradesmen of high quality. In January of this year 76 "X" tradesmen, 202 "A" tradesmen and 55 "B" tradesmen passed out from these schools. Similar numbers pass out every six months.

RICHARD ELEY

WHO WAS HE?

HE was a general who went to both Harrow and Eton, leaving the former because of "some difficulty" with the authorities; . . . was permanently lame, having cut his foot with an axe when a child; . . . refused to wear the China campaign medal of 1860 because he did not agree with the justice of the British cause; . . . commanded the Frontier Light Horse in the Kaffir War and achieved notoriety by inspecting them at first parade dressed in shirt-sleeves, slippers, riding breeches without leggings or stockings and a red scarf turned into a night cap; . . . won the Victoria Cross in the Zulu War; . . . hated war correspondents and once in South Africa pulled one through a thorn hedge "to teach him manners"; . . . was Chief of Staff to Lord Wolseley in the Gordon Relief Expedition; . . . created the Army Service Corps; . . . refused the post of Commander-in-Chief of the British Army after the Duke of Cambridge retired, on the grounds that "he was a good second but a poor first man"; . . . was the first Commander-in-Chief in the Boer War, was replaced by Lord Roberts and then led the Relief of Ladysmith.

(Answer on page 38)

THE SMOKE OF WAR

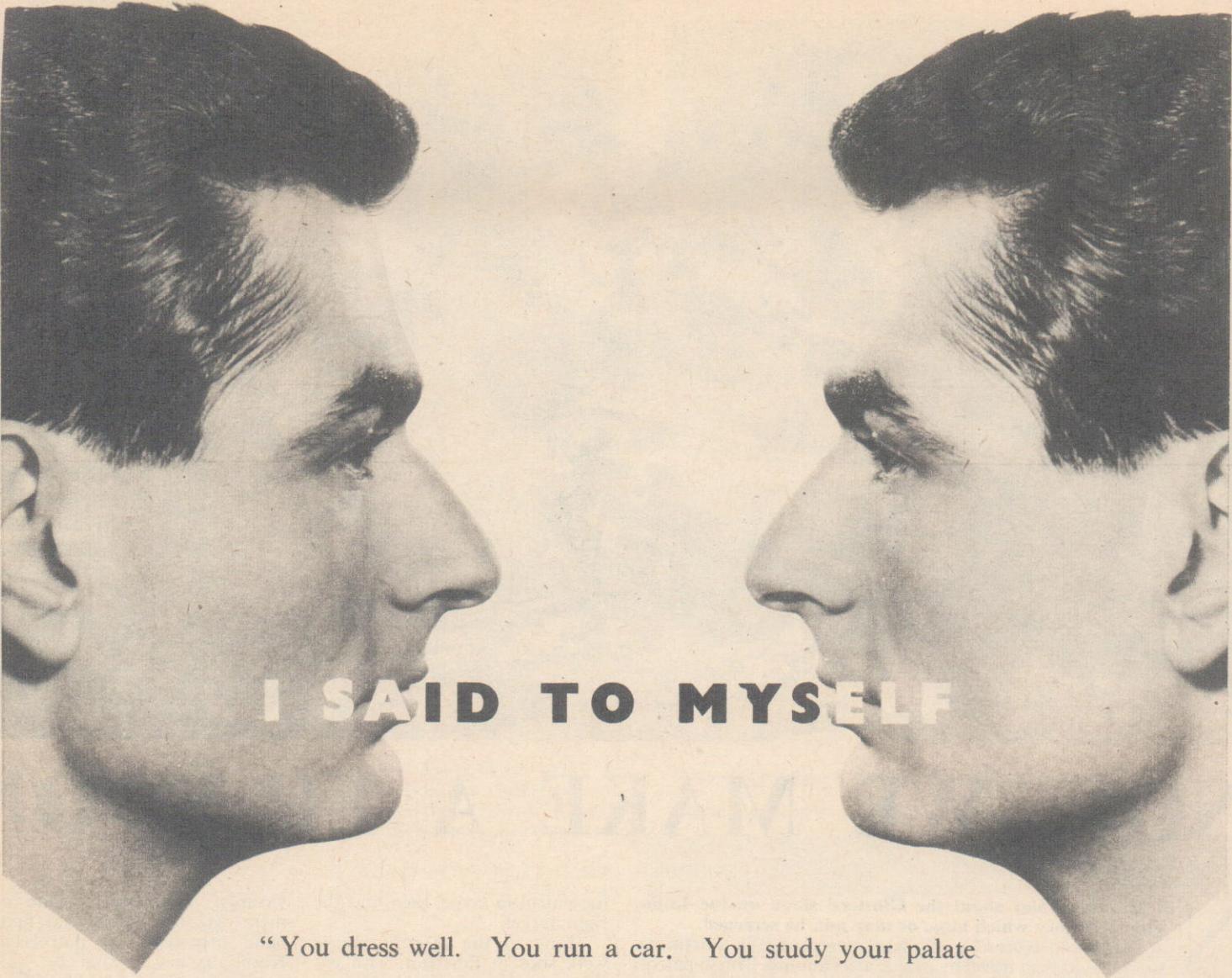
THIS photograph, on which SOLDIER's cover is based, shows down-dropping signal smokes as used in tactical demonstrations at the School of Infantry, Warminster.

The trails are brightly coloured—red, blue, green and orange-yellow.

Each sky-trail, as it is officially called, comes from a three-inch mortar bomb. The smoke pours from the base as it makes the downward leg of its flight. The result is a slender, zig-zag column which thickens a little. It is visible for miles.

Sky-trails may be used for signalling in any way the commander of an operation thinks fit. They are likely to be particularly useful for indicating targets to aircraft and artillery.





I SAID TO MYSELF

"You dress well. You run a car. You study your palate when you lunch and dine. Why don't you smoke the best cigarettes, when there's only a few pennies in it?"
... So I now smoke

4/- FOR 20
also in 10 · 25 · 50 · 100
(including round
air-tight tins of 50)



BY APPOINTMENT
TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
STATE EXPRESS
CIGARETTE MANUFACTURERS
ARDATH TOBACCO CO. LTD.

STATE EXPRESS 555

The Best Cigarettes in the World

THE HOUSE OF **STATE EXPRESS** 210, PICCADILLY, LONDON, W.1



Left: Try out your skill at tank recognition on this one. A "Chinese" tank is engaged by a bazooka, with gratifying results.



Right: At the sight of the bazooka is Michael Medwin, who plays a cheerful Cockney type.

NOW WE MAKE A FILM ON KOREA

NO, it's not a film about the Glosters' stand on the Imjin. That is a story which may, or may not, be screened. "A Hill In Korea" (now being completed) is a fictitious story, based on a novel by Max Catto, about a British patrol, told in near-documentary fashion. There have been several American films about Korea, but this is the first British one.

The patrol is ordered to search a Korean village but is cut off. Its survivors, clinging to their bazooka, occupy the only possible stronghold, a deserted tem-

ple on a hill. There they dig slit trenches, lay out aircraft recognition signals—and listen for the Chinese bugles. In the distance guns rumble in the United Nations' lines. Jet aircraft bomb

the patrol in error, then find the right target.

Many of the exterior scenes were shot in Portugal, with enthusiastic help from the Portuguese Army. The Korean temple, a most impressive affair, was built in the studios at Shepperton.

Since the patrol includes a number of National Servicemen, it is appropriate that there should be several former National Ser-

vicemen in the cast. One of them, Michael Caine, has first-hand experience of patrols in Korea, gained during his service with the Royal Fusiliers, but none of his outings ended as stickily as the screen one. Bermondsey-born, Michael Caine tried a great variety of jobs before becoming an actor, among them sawmill cutter, jewel box machinist, laundry loader

and labourer in a butter factory. George Baker, who plays the officer commanding the patrol, put in his National Service with the Royal Tank Regiment. Stanley Baker, late Royal Army Service Corps, plays a tough Regular once more (in "The Red Beret" he was the fierce instructor who "Roman-candled" into the ground).

There will be plenty more

National Servicemen ready to tell. Producer Ian Dalrymple and Director Julian Amyes whether their film is true to life or not.

★ In spite of anything the critics say, the British public likes to see war films. It's the kind of proposition on which a film company is least likely to lose its money. Among big hits of 1955 were "The Dam Busters" and "The Colditz Story." War films in the making include Hollywood's "The Sixth of June" (the date of Normandy D-Day) in which Richard Todd will play a British officer.

Below: The patrol sets off, led by Stanley Baker and Harry Landis. Right: Pause for refreshment.



Officer and sergeant, after the shooting is over: George Baker (left) and Harry Andrews.



UMBRO

The choice of champions

The comfort and durability of 'Umbro' Sportswear make it the popular choice

FROM ALL LEADING OUTFITTERS
AND N.A.A.F.I.

THE JOB FOR YOU

London's Police get Higher Pay

A constable now receives £535 a year after completing his two years' probationary period (starting pay, even while training, £475), rising to £640 and a pension of more than £400 p.a. after 30 years. A Chief Superintendent gets £1,570 a year, with a pension of more than £1,000 p.a. after 30 years.

The highest ranks, with salaries exceeding £2,000, are open to all.

London allowance £20 a year—and other substantial allowances, including free quarters or payment in lieu.

If you are between 19 and 30, 5ft. 8 ins. or over, in good health and want a job of interest and variety, write to-day for an interview. Return fare to London will be refunded.

Take advantage of the higher pay.

Join the

METROPOLITAN POLICE

NOW—and begin a career with a future.

POST THIS COUPON TODAY!

To: Dept. 1831, Scotland Yard, S.W.1.
Please send illustrated booklet which tells me all about the Metropolitan Police.

Name _____

Address _____

Age _____

THIS Life Has Gone For Ever

JOHN MASTERS, author of several best-selling novels about India (one of which was "Bhowani Junction"), has now turned in a book of autobiography which brilliantly summons up the atmosphere of military India between the world wars. It is called "Bugles and a Tiger" (Michael Joseph, 16s).

The period covered is from 1933, when the author entered Sandhurst, to the eve of World War Two (in which he was to command a Chindit brigade and earn the DSO).

Not the least fascinating part of the book is its description of life at Sandhurst in the nineteen-thirties, with its instructors shouting rebukes like, "Mr. Lord Greenleaf, you look like a bloody monkey on a stick—SIR," and the godlike Adjutant "communing in silent scorn with some Coldstream deity who hovered a few hundred feet up in the air in front of him."

John Masters makes no pretence that he was the most popular cadet of the course. One day he found his room had been wrecked and all his belongings thrown out of the window. When, on being commissioned, he was attached to an Infantry battalion, he narrowly escaped a "subalterns' court-martial." His weakness, as he admits, was that he expressed his opinions too freely.

It was his ambition to serve with Gurkhas before going on the Staff. In due course he found himself in the 2nd Battalion, 4th Prince of Wales's Own Gurkha Rifles. He was the fifth generation of his family to serve in India. Rapidly he fell under the spell of the fierce, loyal fighting men from Nepal—and forgot his hankerings for the Staff.

The author lists many of the legendary Gurkha stories, ranging from one about a Gurkha sentry who challenged, and held up, a British warship in the Suez Canal in 1915, to one about a man who escaped from a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp in south Burma and walked 600 miles to freedom with the sole aid of a map on which he traced his itinerary. It was a street map of London.

The author learned Gurkali from a fairy tale book and was soon trying it out on his men. They nodded, comprehendingly. Afterwards he saw them collect-

ing furtively, and heard a *subadar* saying, "What the sahib meant was this."

His most ambitious venture was to prepare a brochure to help Gurkha families in the recognition of children's ailments. "A remarkable feat for a bachelor of 23," he says. The memory of his temerity now appalls him.

To inculcate alertness — for alertness was the secret of long life on the Frontier—the officers would interrupt parades and lectures with simulated rifle shots to see how fast the men could take cover and prepare to return fire; or they would suddenly call out the name of a man whom everybody was to catch.

At one stage on the Frontier the Gurkhas made friends with British tank men and arranged tugs-of-war — a complete company of Gurkhas against one obsolescent tank.

There are skilful pictures of life in the remote "no women" garrisons of the Frontier, like Razmak, and in the families stations, which were torn by problems like, "Should the battalion invite as guest of honour at dinner a remarried divorcee?" The rule was: "Subalterns may not marry, captains may marry, majors should marry, colonels must marry." Junior officers were expected to be wedded to their regiment; only when they were indissolubly tied to it were they allowed "to commit bigamy by marrying a female animal."

The book contains grim and horrible sidelights on Frontier warfare—"imperial policing," as it was mildly known at home. It is well that people should know just what the Army in India did for its money, even in the comparatively calm nineteen-thirties. On a more personal level, the book is valuable as showing how a young man is caught, moulded, chastened and inspired by the regiment, until he becomes a selfless, living part of it. The moment when he is "accepted into the family" is the proudest of all.



"Never mind, Brown, it's all part of the pageant of the seasons."

AMID the great events of 1944 the stand of the 4th Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment at Kohima received perhaps less than its fair share of acclaim. Kohima was a long way off. Britain was busy preparing for the Normandy D-Day.

The resistance of the West Kents was, in many respects, like that of the Glosters on the Imjin, seven years later.

Major Arthur Campbell, MC, pays the West Kents a well-earned tribute in "The Siege" (Allen and Unwin, 12s 6d). This is a near-to-life novel. The author, who was serving in the Second Division which played a large part in relieving Kohima, has cast himself as the Intelligence officer of the West Kents. He has used real names but, where records and memories are lacking, has used his imagination to add detail. The result may not be strictly history, but it makes a very readable account of a splendid episode.

The 4th West Kents was a Territorial battalion, with a very small sprinkling of Regulars. It had been fighting for six months in Arakan, as part of 5th Indian Division when, 500 strong, it was flown out to hold Kohima.

The garrison contained a large number of frightened non-combatants and of sick and wounded, and it became hideously congested as the West Kents short-

ened the perimeter. There was, however, plenty of food and ammunition—one reason it had to be denied to the Japanese. Garrison headquarters was literally paved with full rum and brandy bottles, and some Indian State troops lined their trenches with canned milk. Water, however, was short and the ration went down to half a pint a day. It had to be won from a spring shared with the Japanese. Any bonus from rain went to the wounded.

One of the West Kents was Lance-Corporal John Harman, VC. He had feet of different sizes, a peculiarity for which the Army did not cater, and in the Arakan he made up a pair of boots from two Japanese he had killed. He wrote to his father (the owner of Lundy Island) about it, because he thought it amusing. His father took another view and had the matter raised in Parliament.

Lance-Corporal Harman, having dealt with two Japanese machine-guns one morning, walked into a *basha* containing ten brick ovens in which Japan-

ese were sheltering. He dropped a grenade in each oven, killed five Japanese and captured two. A few days later, he dealt single-handed with a Japanese post, well sited and protected, which contained five men, a machine-gun and two light automatics. He was killed as he went to rejoin his section.

There were many other gallant men. The sergeant in charge of the mortars fought on with half his jaw shot away. A company sergeant-major, though blinded, stayed in the fray until he was killed, led from place to place by a young lance-corporal. A sergeant remained with his men, though one side of his body was paralysed from a bullet.

There was a medical colonel who led stretcher-bearers to some trucks outside the perimeter, dealt with the Japanese guard by silent unarmed combat and returned with much-needed blan-

kets. There was the soldier who went berserk with a shovel in a *basha* full of Japanese and did terrible execution. There was an officer who, for an hour and a half, prevented a Japanese attack from forming by showering grenades on the enemy, until the supply ran out.

So intimate was the fighting that an officer, seeing an unfamiliar latrine screen within the perimeter, investigated and caught a Japanese with his pants down. One platoon was separated from the Japanese only by a tennis court, across which the Japanese attacked time and again.

After 15 days relief came: first a Punjabi battalion, to strengthen the garrison, then the 1st Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment to take the West Kents' place. The siege, though not the battle, of Kohima, was over. The Japanese never advanced again towards India.



WHO SAYS HE WAS STUPID?

Lord Amherst:
"He, not Wolfe, was the conqueror of Canada," says Sir John Fortescue.

A GOOD many British soldiers died, and quite a number were eaten, in the North American wars which are described in Bruce Hutchison's "The Struggle for the Border" (Longmans, 30s). The border is that between Canada and America.

It is now one of the most secure and peaceful frontiers in the world, yet little more than a century ago the oracles of the *Edinburgh Review* were saying: "Every man of sense, whether in the Cabinet or out of it, knows that Canada must at no distant future be merged in the American Republic."

It is a pity that in his 500 pages Mr. Hutchison does not do fitting justice to General Lord Amherst, whose achievement has been eclipsed by the tragedy of Wolfe. Mr. Hutchison dismisses Amherst, as so many have dismissed him, as "a stupid, slow but competent soldier." The references to his triumphs are scant indeed.

Let us see what Sir John Fortescue, historian of the British Army, says about Lord Amherst. He tells how this general assumed command when affairs in North America were in chaos, and firmly restored order and discipline. He showed enormous talent for organisation in a continent where transport difficulties were appalling. He launched on Lake George a flotilla of 800 boats and an army of 11,000 men—and all those boats had to be built and collected, and then manhandled through forests and swamps. Cautious he may have been, but he took 10,000 men down the St. Lawrence rapids.

"The fame of Amherst is lost in that of Wolfe," says Fortescue, "and yet it was he, not Wolfe, who was the conqueror of Canada." This "colonel from the classic fields of Flanders" was the "greatest military administrator produced by England since the death of Marlborough, and remained the greatest until the rise of Wellington."

Any comment, Mr. Hutchison? Amherst is often held to have blotted his copybook by his plan to annihilate Pontiac's rebellious Indians. His idea was to give them blankets infected with smallpox—germ warfare, in fact. But the idea was not pursued. Smallpox would have been a comfortable death compared to the fate which Amherst's soldiers were suffering. As Mr. Hutchison says: "Probably 500 English sol-

diers and 2000 settlers were killed during the summer and autumn of 1763, many of them boiled and eaten with the usual religious ritual."

The author is more generous in his appraisal of another British soldier, Sir Guy Carleton (Lord Dorchester). "Grave Carleton" helped Wolfe to take Quebec from the French. In 1775 his task was to "defend the town for England against English troops calling themselves Americans"; and he succeeded. In 1783 Carleton had the task of evacuating his fellow countrymen from New York.

Mr. Hutchison's book is a political as well as a military record. It is certainly instructive to see how British history reads from "the other side." He brings to life many odd characters, including Sir Francis Gore, "a retired British cavalryman with a wealth of ignorance and prejudice," who arrived in North America in 1806 and announced: a trifle ungrammatically, "I have had the King's interest only at Heart, and I have and ever will contend against Democratic Principles." It reads amusingly now, but the French guillotine was a recent memory in 1806.

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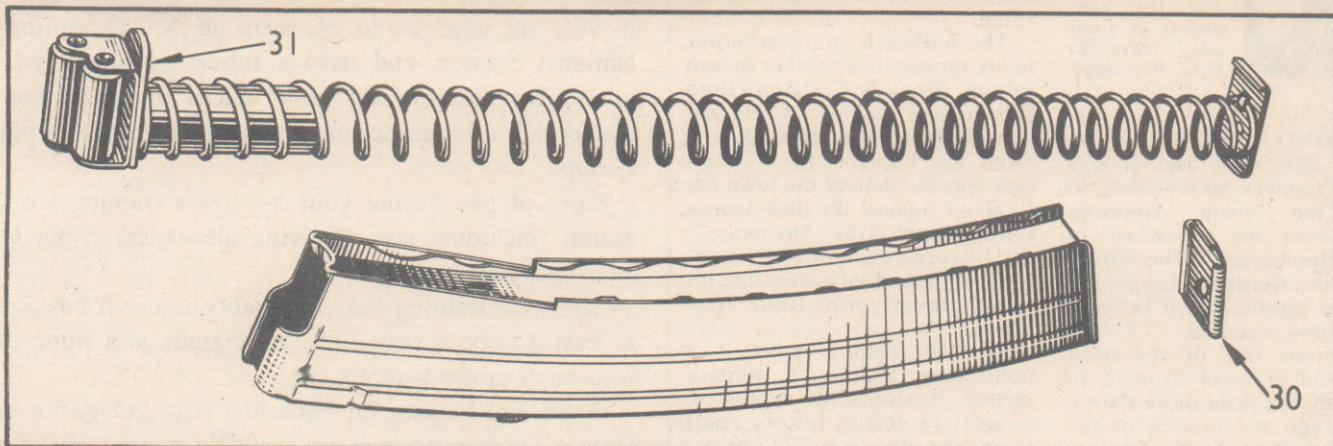
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Ronald Henderson, who broke an Inter-Services record within two days of entering the Army, is an Olympic hopeful

AN ATHLETE TO WATCH



He once beat Brian Hewson to the tape: Private Ronald Henderson.

COME ON, THE ARMY!

IN the last three years the Royal Air Force have won the Inter-Services cross-country title with ease and have also provided the first man home.

In 1953 and 1954 that man was Corporal Pat Ranger who, on each occasion, beat the Army's fine international runner Lance-Corporal Ken Norris, Royal Corps of Signals. Last year, in the absence of Ranger, Leading Aircraftman Geoffrey Ibbotson retained the title for the Royal Air Force—and may well win again this year.

The youngest Service are traditionally strong but this year the Army (although without Norris, now a civilian) appear to have a fighting chance of gaining the title. They have several fine juniors (under 21 years of age) who will probably make the team. Private D. Humphries, Royal Army Service Corps,

THIS should be a memorable year for Ron Henderson, the international half-miler—otherwise 23159181 Private Henderson R. D., of No. 2 Training Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

It was this up-and-coming athlete who, last year, broke an Inter-Services record within 48 hours of entering the Army: he won the 880 yards championship in 1 minute 54.8 seconds. Then he won the REME Championship 880 yards in 1 minute 57.7 seconds.

Private Henderson, who is now stationed at Heathfield Camp, Honiton, Devon, has a good chance of being selected for the British Olympic team.

He was born in Newcastle in May, 1934 and was, until called up, a shipwright at Wallsend. In 1949, when 15 years of age, he won three school track championships—the 440 yards, 880 yards and one mile. Soon afterwards he put up a new all-England Schools' record for the 880 yards: 2 minutes 9.2 seconds.

His track successes encouraged him to join Elswick Harriers, his local athletic club, and it was there that he met Mr. N. Woodcock, the club secretary, who has been mainly responsible for Private Henderson's improvement to international standard.

In the AAA Junior Championships of 1953, with the track puddled with rain and a strong cross-wind blowing, Private Henderson won the 880 yards in 1 minute 57.7 seconds. This was a grand performance as he was badly spiked in his heat.

In his first year as a senior, 1954, and still only 20 years of age, he finished second to David Law in the Northern 880 yards in 1 minute 55.2 seconds and then improved his time by exactly three seconds to finish second to Brian Hewson in the AAA Championships at White City.

This quick rise brought its reward. Soon afterwards he was invited to run in an 880 yards race at White City, when he was beaten by Gundar Neilsen,

Denmark's fastest-ever half-miler, though returning the good time of 1 minute 51.5 seconds.

In the British Games the following week he won the 880 yards in 1 minute 51.7 seconds after letting Stanley, the coloured American, lead for most of the race. He finally won by 0.4 of a second from the Hungarian I. Parkanyi.

No matter how great is the reputation of a rival, Private Henderson has no qualms. He has shown such fine athletes as Brian Hewson—in the Highland Games 880 yards—and L. de Muynck of Belgium, runner-up in the European Championships the way to the finishing tape.

Last year Private Henderson was again second, this time to Derek Johnson, in the AAA Championship 880 yards, both athletes returning the same time of 1 minute 51.4 seconds. This race is probably Private Henderson's best feat to date. Johnson dashed into the lead at the gun and led at the end of the first lap in 54.1 seconds. Henderson, meanwhile, had been boxed in and lost ground in extricating himself. Then he made a great effort over the last hundred yards and was fast catching up Johnson at the finish. He would almost certainly have won if the race had gone another ten yards.

This year Private Henderson is getting down to it more purposefully than ever before. Previously his work hindered his training early in the year, when the ground work for the coming season must be completed.

Whatever his achievements in the coming season, he should be a worthy successor to Brian Hewson as Army champion.

PETER BIRD.

won the civilian Southern junior cross-country championship last year. Private B. Heatley won the Midland championship and then, later in the year, finished ninth in the National championship. Trooper Ben Grubb finished second in the Northern event and then ran magnificently to finish third in the National.

Other junior athletes include Lance-Corporal G. Bargh of Sheffield, Signaller G. Lucas, of the Royal Signals and international half-miler Ron Henderson.

In the last 12 months three of the Royal Air Force's finest runners, Corporal Pat Ranger, Aircraftman Ken Caulder and Aircraftman Brian Barratt—all internationals—have left the Service. Those who remain, excepting Sergeant Gallagher (RAF Halton), are notably speedy track athletes rather than strong cross-country runners. The Inter-Services championship is being held at Henlow this month over a notoriously tough and muddy course, and this may prove the Royal Air Force's undoing.

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Letters

SOLDIERS AS TREES

In your January issue you ask what started the vogue for cartoons showing soldiers camouflaged as trees.

Bairnsfather's "Fragments From France," published during the First World War, contains a cartoon entitled "Frustrated Ingenuity," which shows a soldier dressed as a tree fleeing from a rain of shells.

Bairnsfather's drawing may or may not have been inspired indirectly by the "steel tree" you describe. No doubt his drawing was the inspiration of later variations on the theme—"Old Hand" (name and address supplied).

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

Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published.

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

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

THE VC

Is it true that an inn somewhere in the South of England is named after a VC winner?—"Geordie" (name and address supplied).

★ In Paddock Wood, Kent, in 1948 an

Which British county regiment won most VCs in World War Two?—F. A. Walker, Clarence Drive, Menston, Leeds.

★ The Royal Norfolk Regiment, with five. Next were the Green Howards, with three.



inn was named after Captain J. H. C. Brunt, of the Sherwood Foresters, who won the Victoria Cross in Italy on 9 December, 1944. Captain Brunt was a Paddock Wood man.

In your very interesting article on the Victoria Cross (January) you say the decoration has been won in Britain only twice—both times in the air.

It was also won—on 4 July, 1940—in British territorial waters. When 20 German dive bombers attacked Portland Harbour, Leading Seaman Jack Mantle, Royal Navy, on board HMS Foylebank, stuck to his anti-aircraft gun, although his left leg was shattered, until the end of the engagement. When the ship's power failed he continued to operate the gun using hand power.

Leading Seaman Mantle died in hospital and was buried in the Naval Cemetery at Portland. He was awarded the VC posthumously.—Captain J. Perrins, Bulford Camp, Wilts.

My late father won the Victoria Cross while serving with the London Rifle Brigade in World War One. He left me his medals and I would like to present his Victoria Cross to a regimental museum so that it can always occupy a place of honour. Can **SOLDIER** put me in touch with the person to whom the medal should be handed?—WO II F. Belcher, BEM, REME, Parsons Barracks, Aldershot.

★ This reader has been referred to the curator of the Rifle Brigade museum at Winchester.

Major Anders Lassen did not win the VC with the Commandos, as you state. He was serving at the time with "M" Squadron, 1st Special Boat Service in an action at Lake Comachio in Northern Italy.

Major Lassen was also the holder of three MCs, the first being won with the Commandos in the English Channel, the second in Crete and the third at Simi, an island in the Dodecanese. The last two were gained with the Special Boat Service.—Major C. Newell, Regimental Headquarters, Special Air Service Regiment.

You say that the oldest surviving winner of the Victoria Cross is probably Major the Earl of Dunmore who won the award in 1897.

I enclose a cutting from the *Bulawayo Chronicle* which records that Major R. C. Nesbitt, aged 88, is the oldest living recipient. He won the VC in June, 1896 while serving with the Mashonaland Mounted Police during the Mashona Rebellion.—Sergeant-Major H. K. Markham, Rhodesia and Nyasaland Staff Corps, Gwelo, S. Rhodesia.

★ Major the Earl of Dunmore will be 85 in April.

AND SO IT WAS

I came across the following in a copy of *The Army and Navy Illustrated* dated 2 April, 1897. I think it will interest your readers:

"A novel departure in the construction of engines of war is in the process of being carried out. It is, briefly, an armoured auto-car. In shape it is to be an oblong carriage, running on massive solid rubber tyres, enclosed by steel plates, about three feet high, coming to a point in the front.

"On the floor of the carriage are to be mounted four machine guns, somewhat after the style, pattern and mechanism of the Maxims, the motive power to work them being supplied by an oil motor, which is also to furnish the means of propelling the car. It might be described as a movable fort.

"It is claimed that an engine of 25 horse-power can be utilised and that the engine will attain a speed of 18 or 20 miles an hour on a road. But it is said to be able also to travel over ploughed land and, by the aid of a ram-like arrangement of the front plates, to cut its way through hedges and other obstacles. It can be used as a traction engine as well, to haul ammunition wagons. The inventors are very sanguine of its practicability.

"We may yet see an army taking the field mounted on motor-cars of various patterns, the Infantry being conveyed to the scene of action in large omnibuses, the skirmishers flying to the front on engine-driven bicycles and the cavalry charging on tandems or 'quads,' while the generals might direct operations seated in light, mechanically-propelled carriages, attended by aides-de-camp mounted on swift motors, with flying machines in readiness by which rapidly to convey orders."

The appropriate comment, I feel, would be "And it came to pass."—Charles V. Young, 395 Exeter Road, Courtlands Cross, Exmouth.

FREE PASSAGE

Can you supply any information on a new scheme which entitles a man serving overseas to a free passage home after purchasing his discharge?—"Koyli" (name and address supplied).

★SOLDIER knows of no such scheme.

IRAQ LEVIES

Can SOLDIER confirm my belief that the Iraq levies were in existence from about 1915 to 1927 or later? I understand that they were embodied until about 1935. Has SOLDIER any information on the Corps?—H. G. Harper, 5 Craigs Avenue, Edinburgh.

★In 1915 Major J. I. Eadie (later Lieutenant-Colonel, DSO) of the Indian Army, who was then special service officer in the Muntaqi Division in Mesopotamia, recruited 40 mounted Arabs from the tribes round Nasiriyeh, on the Euphrates, for duty under the Intelligence Department. From this number was gradually built up a force which, after various changes of name, were called Levies, and from a strength of 40 rose to 6199 by May 1922. After this the gradual cutting down of units, or transfer to the Iraq Army, began. The force changed from an entirely Arab one to a mixture of Arabs, Kurds, Assyrians, Turkomans and Yezidis and, finally, almost entirely to Assyrians.

On 1 July, 1928 the Iraq Levies passed from the control of the Colonial Office to the Royal Air Force. In 1933 the name "levies" was replaced by "Air Defence Force."

OLD BRIGADE

I sent a copy of the December SOLDIER to an ex-WAAC friend in Brooklyn, New York, as I felt that she would be interested in the article "A Girl of the Old Brigade." Imagine my surprise when I received this reply: "I looked again and again at the photograph on page 12 and finally said, 'My goodness, that's me.' I do

not exactly recall Miss Russell, but from Etaples we had a group go to the American Army at the time referred to. What a kick I got out of that picture in SOLDIER! It seems like ancient history to read of events in World War One and yet we lived through stirring times. I am glad I was a WAAC. It was a wonderful experience and I enjoyed my sojourn in France tremendously. I am wondering what my hubby will say when I show him the article!"

Gertrude Lamb, the girl on the left in SOLDIER's picture, emigrated to Canada, then went to New York and married an English ex-officer. I served at Tidworth in 1918-19 and volunteered again in 1942 in the United States of America. I am still struggling, trying to serve the troops for NAAFI.—Miss Elizabeth Humble, Stoughton Barracks, Guildford.

SAYING "SIR"

In May 1915 I was serving with British troops in France when we paraded for pay, which was five francs per man. Before handing over the parade to an officer, the company sergeant-major had some "special information" to impart. Said he: "This morning I have received from battalion headquarters a communication affecting my rank. From now on all subordinate ranks, when speaking to a company sergeant-major, will address him by the title 'Sir.'"

To make sure his words would register he repeated them and continued: "It is not that I want it, but the War Office say that I am to have it."

Within two months of this parade being held our company sergeant-major amply justified himself by winning the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

I trust that this little story will interest the NCO who claimed in SOLDIER (Letters, November) that nowhere in Army regulations is there an order stating that a company sergeant-major should be addressed as "sir."—G. F. Hyde (ex-1/7th West Yorkshire Regiment), Mill Road, Dunstable.



FIRST EQUERRY

THE first African to be appointed an equerry by a British Sovereign is Major J. Aguiyi-Ironsi of the 4th Battalion The Nigerian Regiment. He was due to accompany the Queen on her visit to Nigeria.

Major Aguiyi-Ironsi, who is 32, served in the ranks of the Royal West African Frontier Force for six years and was a sergeant-major before being commissioned. In 1948 he passed a War Office Selection Board, and after an attachment to the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment went to the Officer Cadet School at Eaton Hall.

When commissioned, he was posted to the Central Ordnance Depot at Donnington and in 1950 returned to West Africa, where he served in Ordnance establishments. Last year, he completed a company commander's course at the School of Infantry, Warminster.

SILVER UNDER FIRE

The writer of your article "Say It In Silver" (January) has perhaps not heard of the occasion when the 32nd Regiment plugged up the walls at the siege of Lucknow with their regimental treasures.—"Cornishman" (name and address supplied).

★SOLDIER is informed by Major A. Bartlett (ret'd), Curator of the Regimental Museum of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, that the silver of the 32nd was indeed used to help barricade the Residency at Lucknow. It was packed in wooden cases which were thrust in a breach in a wall. One bullet entered a case, pierced one side of a soup tureen, ricocheted round and came to rest in the bottom of the tureen. Both tureen and bullet are with the 1st Battalion in the Caribbean.

A case containing battered silver articles is displayed in the Regimental Museum at Bodmin. It was once in the possession of Queen Victoria.

PRIVATE TOURS

Two articles (SOLDIER, November) on soldiers who travelled back to England by their own means compel me to ask: Can a soldier claim a refund equal to the cost of a military passage when he does this sort of thing? I want to travel home from Singapore with my wife and three-year-old son by way of America. The distance is approximately 14,000 miles as opposed to 9,000 miles by the Army route. Can I claim the cost of a second-class passage for the three of us? If I do make this trip I would have been round the world in my three years overseas tour. My route would be Singapore, Hong Kong, Yokohama, Vancouver, Los Angeles, Washington, New York, Southampton.—WO II B. A. Green, REME, 52 Company RASC, Kuala Lumpur, Malaya.

★Allowance Regulations say: "If troopship accommodation, or accommodation for which the public has to pay in any other form of transport, is left empty or is filled by an indulgence passenger as a result of a journey being arranged privately, no refund will be admissible."

CLASP KOREA?

In July 1954 the United Nations ribbon, affectionately known as the 'Butcher's Apron,' ceased to be awarded to Commonwealth Forces in Korea and Japan. It seems strange that persons in that theatre, especially those serving for any length of time in the 1st Commonwealth Division, should receive no visible recognition of their service, when the General Service Medal is awarded for service in Singapore.

There are rumours of awarding a clasp "Korea" to the General Service Medal for those in Korea from the date of suspension of the United Nations medal. Has SOLDIER any inside information?—"Butcher's Boy" (name and address supplied).

★No.

DEEP DONGA

It is not a rocky gorge the animal transport is passing down ("The Old Way Still Works," SOLDIER, November), but the entrance to what is known as "deep donga," possibly leading to a water course. It is brought about by soil erosion. Those walls shown in the illustration are soil and with every heavy rain more is washed away. They provide very good cover and can be negotiated for some distance well below the skyline. The Boers made good use of them in the South African War.

I have been out of uniform since World War One and I look forward to SOLDIER each month.—R. H. Busby (ex-WO II), Rondebosch, South Africa.

NO AGE LIMIT

Is there an upper age limit for service overseas? I am 51 next birthday and have been warned for service in Korea. I have been informed that I lose my acting rank, also that I am too old for promotion to a substantive rank of warrant officer.

The situation then is: I am considered too old for promotion and yet not too old for service at the other end of the world. Surely, this does not add up. Is the Army so hard up for younger men that they are now calling on the over-50s for service overseas?—"Warrant Officer" (name and address supplied).

★There is no upper age limit for service overseas. Medical fitness is the only consideration.

FROM DOWN UNDER

The soldier using the sniper scope (Letters, September) was wearing a steel helmet. I doubt whether steel helmets were worn in 1915.—WO II A. J. McDonald, 17 Cadet Battalion, New South Wales, Australia.

It was mentioned that the sniper scope was a British idea. An Australian Light Horseman first thought of it at Gallipoli. Incidentally, we all think SOLDIER is terrific. We have no army magazine to compare with it.—Apprentice J. C. Fenton, Army Apprentices School, Balcombe, Victoria, Australia.

★Steel helmets were used in 1915 but they did not become a general issue until later in World War One. Our illustrator claims artistic licence for his sniper.

BOUQUET

I write solely to tell you how very much I enjoy your paper. It is fresh, bright and original. In fact, the very antithesis of what one might expect from a Government Department publication.

I wish you all success. You deserve it, and I hope that many more old soldiers like myself will discover your paper, and obtain as much entertainment out of its contents.—James McKillop, Sotik Estate, Kenya.

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more letters

APPRENTICESHIP

I am due to go to Germany with my unit. My son has just begun an apprenticeship and will remain in lodgings in Britain. His wage, after deductions, will be £2, the cost of his lodgings £2 5s. per week; I will have to give him 20s. pocket money. Can I claim part re-imburement? — "CSM" (name and address supplied).

★*There appears to be nothing in Allowance Regulations to cover a situation like this.*

THE WOMAN'S VIEW

As a mere woman I have often thought it grossly unfair that after my husband had completed three years boy's service and 18 years man's service, reaching the rank of warrant officer class one, he was refused a modified pension. The reason was that he had failed to re-engage after completing 12 years. At that time he was at Dunkirk and, naturally, was not thinking of filling in forms, even if he considered it necessary. Now comes, in my opinion, the humorous part. The Army has rewarded him with the Long Service and Good Conduct medal. I cannot see the logic of this. —Mrs. C. Cochran, 77 St. Mary's Crescent, Ruddington, Nottingham.

★*This may seem hard, but a soldier who wants a pension must sign on for a pensionable engagement.*

REMISSION

A free discharge may be obtained after completing 16 years on a current engagement or after completing 22 years reckonable service for pension on a number of engagements (Pay Warrant, article 435). "BSM" (Letters, January) would, therefore, be eligible for a free discharge in 1960/61 and not 1965, as stated. —Sergeant F. Bissington, Lulworth Camp, Wareham.

★*SOLDIER was under the impression that "BSM" wanted to purchase his discharge now under the 16-year rule of Queen's Regulations, paragraph 503 (ix) (a).*

FILMS coming your way

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

JOSEPHINE AND MEN: Nigel Balchin's comedy about a girl who cannot resist weak, defenceless men and of her uncle whose trouble is over-affectionate women. Glynis Johns, Jack Buchanan, Donald Sinden and Peter Finch head the cast. In colour.

THE TALL MEN: A tall story about wild women and wilder men in the Wild West. Jane Russell and Clark Gable (with some assistance) drive a herd of cattle across the American continent, fighting savage Indians, storms and the temptations of the flesh. In colour.

THE DESPERATE HOURS: Humphrey Bogart in his old familiar role as a desperate gunman. He heads a gang which invades a home and holds a family to ransom, without the neighbours knowing. With Frederic March, Martha Scott and Mary Murphy.

TROUBLE SHOOTER: When gunmen get too big for their boots it's time for a hero to step in and clean them up. Robert Mitchum does the job single-handed and in the process wins back the woman who left him because he, too, was a gunman. With Jan Sterling, Karen Sharpe and John Lupton.

AN ALLIGATOR NAMED DAISY: A pet alligator keeps turning up in the most embarrassing places. When Diana Dors takes a foam bath in a bathroom about the size of the Albert Hall you know the alligator will join her — but you are wrong. Donald, Sinden and Jean Carson are in it (the film, not the foam bath); so is James Robertson Justice, as a blustering millionaire.

WHO WAS HE? (From Page 28).

Answer: General Sir Redvers Buller VC.

HOW TO GET SOLDIER

SERVING soldiers may obtain SOLDIER from their units, canteens or AKC cinemas. Presidents of Regimental Institutes should ask their Chief Education Officer for re-sale terms. Civilians may buy or order SOLDIER at any bookstall in Britain.

Those unable to obtain the magazine through these channels may subscribe direct to Circulation Department, SOLDIER, 433 Holloway Road, London N 7. The rate is 10s. 6d. a year post free. Cheques or postal orders should be made payable to "Command Cashier" and crossed "a/c SOLDIER."



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BELINDA LEE
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