

SOLDIER

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ACK-ACK

Big Changes Coming

See Pages 5-11

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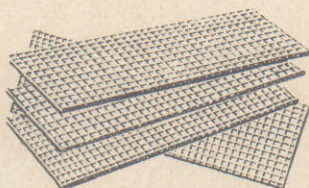


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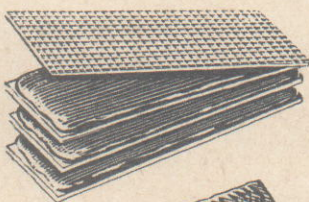
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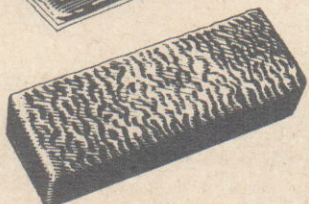
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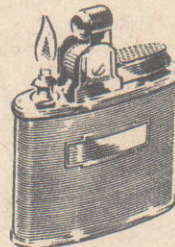
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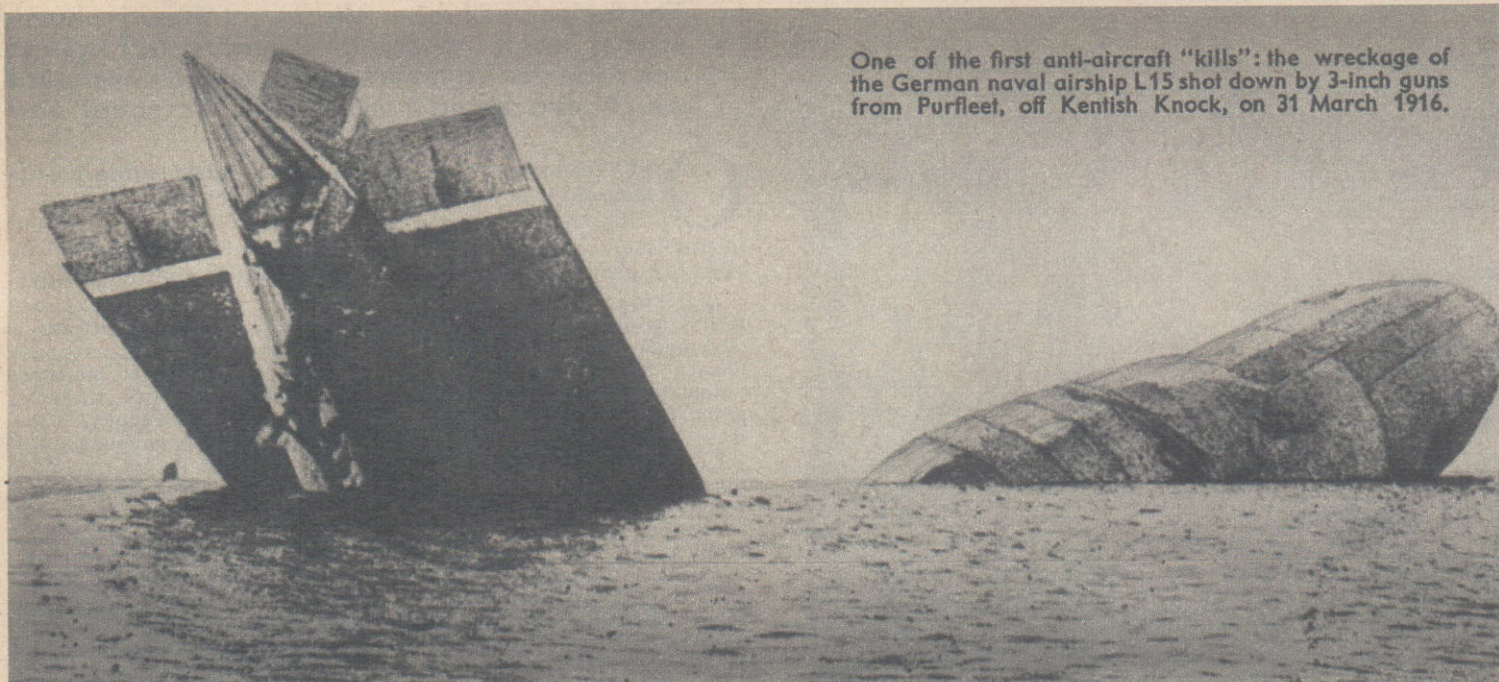
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One of the first anti-aircraft "kills": the wreckage of the German naval airship L15 shot down by 3-inch guns from Purfleet, off Kentish Knock, on 31 March 1916.

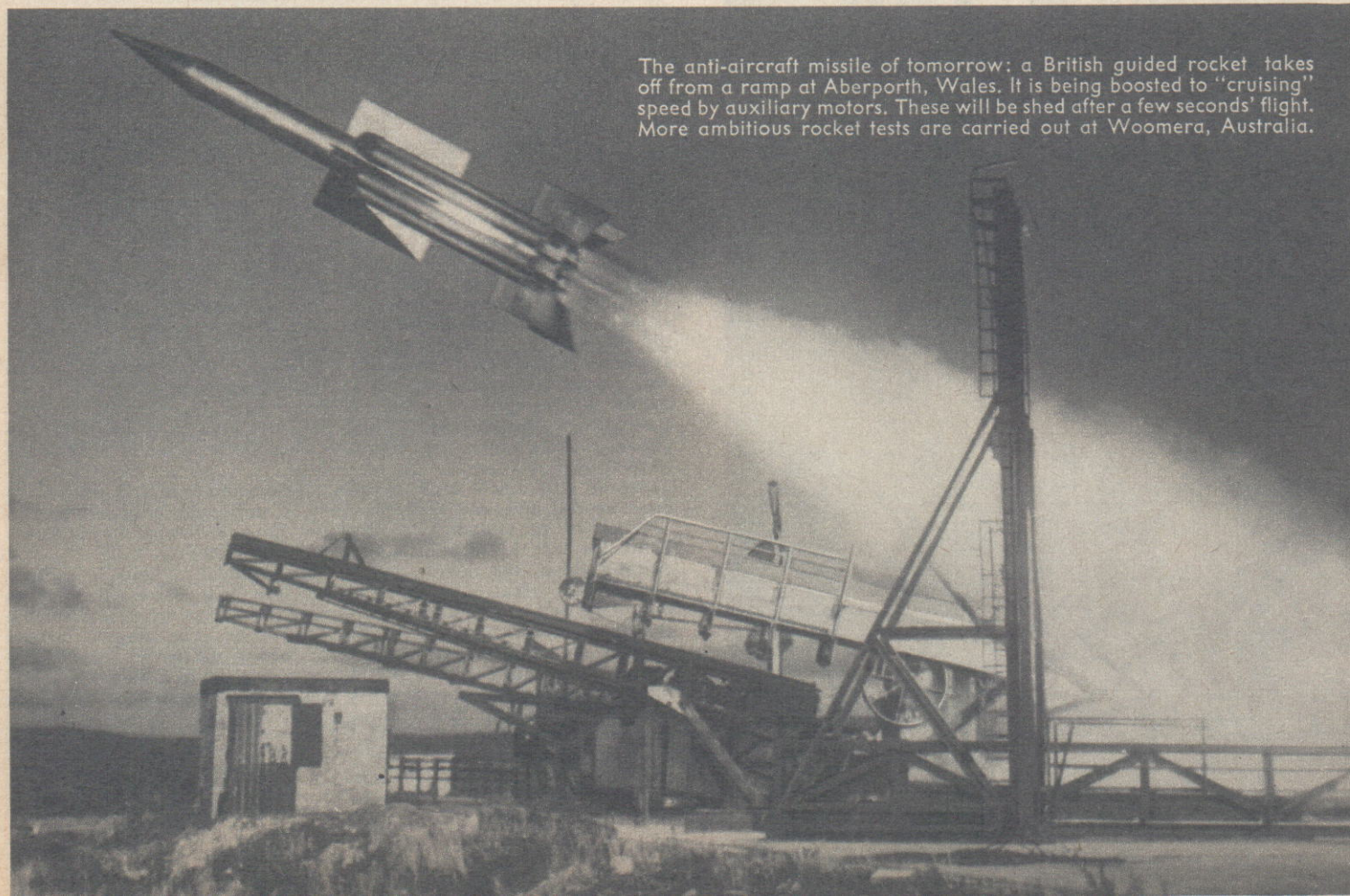
ACK-ACK

BIG CHANGES COMING

NO fighting arm of the British Army is likely to undergo such a fundamental shake-up in the next few years as "Ack-Ack."

The once-despised rocket is tomorrow's weapon against aircraft. Already Britain is perfecting powerful ground-steered rockets like the one depicted below. The United States Army already has its seek-and-destroy guided missile; so has the United States Navy.

The efficiency of the anti-aircraft arm will be of the utmost importance in any future war. **SOLDIER's** seven-page feature on "Ack-Ack"—by E. S. TURNER—is designed to interest Gunners and non-Gunners alike.

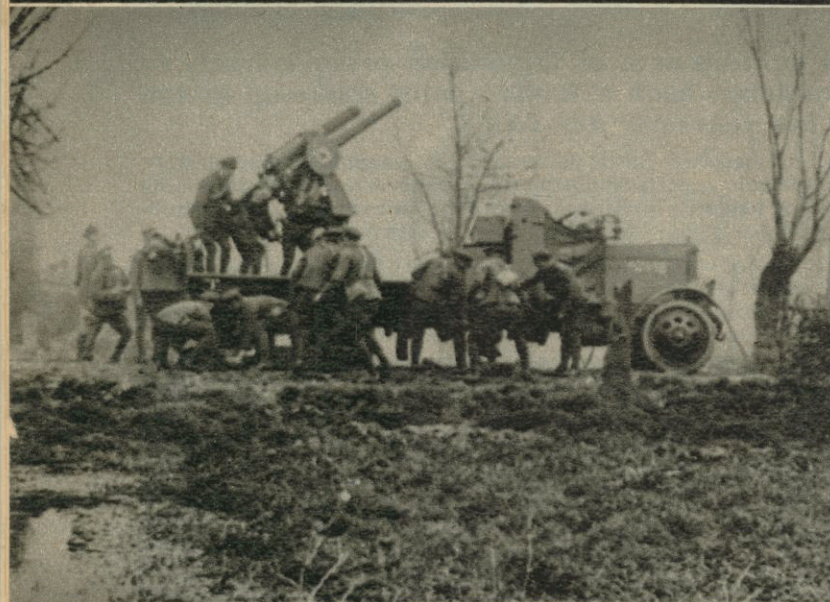


The anti-aircraft missile of tomorrow: a British guided rocket takes off from a ramp at Aberporth, Wales. It is being boosted to "cruising" speed by auxiliary motors. These will be shed after a few seconds' flight. More ambitious rocket tests are carried out at Woomera, Australia.

NO PREDICTORS IN WORLD WAR ONE



Fricourt, France, August 1916: a 13-pounder anti-aircraft gun mounted on a lorry goes into action. Tripod-mounted telescopes are used for spotting. A range-finder is being operated by the soldier in foreground.



Another 13-pounder "Archie" in action on the outskirts of Armentières. Below: a field 18-pounder adapted to anti-aircraft purposes on the Italian Front. Note carefree way in which gun numbers are passing ammunition.



ACK-ACK

WHY GUIDED

The faster and higher the target flies, the harder it is to hit by orthodox gunfire. But Britain and America have some brisk counter-weapons which are being "groomed" for robot war

ONLY a dozen years ago the art of intercepting hostile aircraft was not far out of its infancy.

Gunners often had more faith in a blind barrage than in predicted shooting; and in any event predicted shooting was possible only when the target was visible to the human eye.

In the forcing-house of war the technique of anti-aircraft gunnery developed prodigiously. Today unseen targets can be tracked automatically by radar and the guns themselves are becoming more and more automatic.

Unfortunately, the targets of tomorrow (especially rocket bombs of the V2 type) may fly far beyond the range of the British Army's (or any other army's) heaviest anti-aircraft guns, even with all their latest modifications. There is little consolation in being able to track such targets by radar if there is no means of destroying them.

The higher and faster the target, the worse the headache for the orthodox anti-aircraft battery. All that the existing guns can do — assuming the target is a piloted one, and within range — is to aim their salvos at a mathematically predicted point in front of it; but in the half-minute or so that the salvos are hurtling aloft the pilot of the aircraft can take evasive action and dodge the estimated "point of destruction" by perhaps a couple of miles. This is the old, old "Ack-Ack" problem.

So it is not difficult to see why Britain is now devoting "super-priority" to the development of guided missiles. In their interceptor role, these missiles must be able to seek out, not only a 600 miles an hour bomber, but an unpiloted rocket of the V2 type streaking through the sky at 3000 miles an hour or more.

Mr. Duncan Sandys, the Minister of Supply, has told how Britain's guided missile industry is being built up rapidly with the aid of the best brains and resources of the aircraft, engineering, plastics, electronics, instruments, explosives and chemical industries. Already there are guided rockets which "can travel at well over 2000 miles an hour." There is still much work to be done, he said, and time is precious.

When he presented the Army Estimates last March, Brigadier Antony Head, the Secretary for War, stressed that at present the aeroplane had a marked superiority over ground defences. Until mass production of guided missiles was in sight, the Army would have to continue modernising its orthodox guns and fire control equipment — an "expensive and difficult procedure."

The major peril in any future attack on Britain seems likely to

come from high-level attack, but the risk of low-level attacks is not being overlooked. After all, the V1, which caused immense damage until it was mastered, was a low-level weapon. Brigadier Head recently announced that a new form of Bofors gun is to be introduced in the British Army. Its details are secret.

The German V2, which at least three Big Powers have been developing since the war, reached a height of more than 60 miles at the top of its trajectory, and could traverse a horizontal span of about 200 miles. Its downward speed was estimated at 3000 miles an hour, which sufficiently accounts for the well-known fact that "no one saw it coming." Only in approximately the last seven miles of its flight was it within range of 3.7 anti-aircraft guns. In fact no V2 was engaged by anti-aircraft fire, though an experimental "better than nothing" plan had been worked out on paper.

It is safe to assume that the V2 has now been developed out of all recognition. The Americans have announced a rocket which travels at 5000 miles an hour (at which speed the Moon is only a couple of days away.)

The general principles along which guided interceptor missiles can be controlled are no secret. When fired, a missile of this type would be tracked by radar, as would its target. The missile is steered into the path of the target, to a point where its own built-in radar can take over and "home" on to the target. Once in immediate range, a proximity fuze in the warhead of the interceptor missile ensures the annihilation of the target.

Alternatively a radio beam can be projected on to the incoming target, and the interceptor missile, by means of its built-in electronic devices, made to ride the beam.

Television can also be used to steer unpiloted missiles, though its scope is limited by darkness and bad visibility.

Theoretically there is another way in which guided missiles fired by an enemy power can be neutralised. The target, instead of being destroyed, would be decoyed — by "jamming" the radio or radar devices by which it is steered.

Britain's post-war rocket research has been conducted in considerably more secrecy than America's. Many stories have

ROCKETS ARE TOP PRIORITY

been written about the eerie goings-on on the White Sands Proving Ground in New Mexico, where day after day rockets rip into the blue, tracked from the surrounding hills by cinema cameras, astronomical telescopes and radar. The more expensive rockets "talk back" as they climb, giving the ground engineers all the information they want about meteorological and other conditions. (A model of a supersonic research rocket, which could be exploded at any height by pressing a button, was shown at the Ministry of Supply's Radar Research and Development at Malvern in 1949 — see SOLDIER November 1949).

During the late war rockets were used on a limited scale by Anti-Aircraft Command against raiding aircraft, but these were not guided missiles. A salvo was exploded at a predicted point in the sky.

One point which must not be overlooked is that "Ack-Ack" has a double role: it is static and mobile. Guided missiles must be developed in such a way that they can be fired in the field.

In his book "Ack-Ack", General Sir Frederick Pile, who commanded Britain's anti-aircraft defences throughout the late war, foresaw the new kind of aerial warfare:

"The target, whether bombers or rocket planes, will be picked up automatically; the defence rockets will be fired at them at the most suitable moment — also automatically."

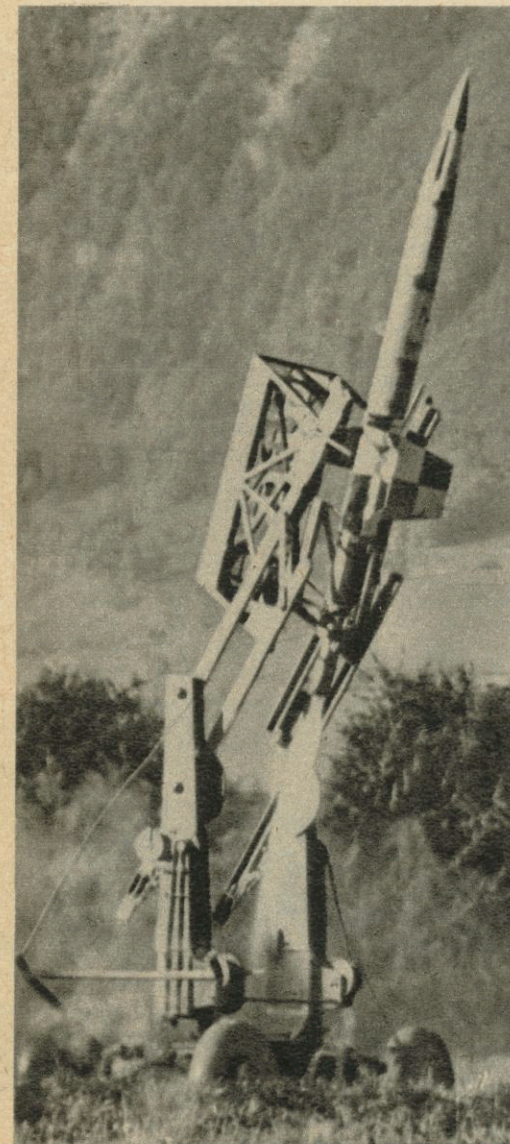
"It seems to me that science can and will do all these things, and the only real skill for the man on the ground will lie in his technical aptitude to keep all his instruments up to the highest possible standard."

Only the researchers know how near that day may be.

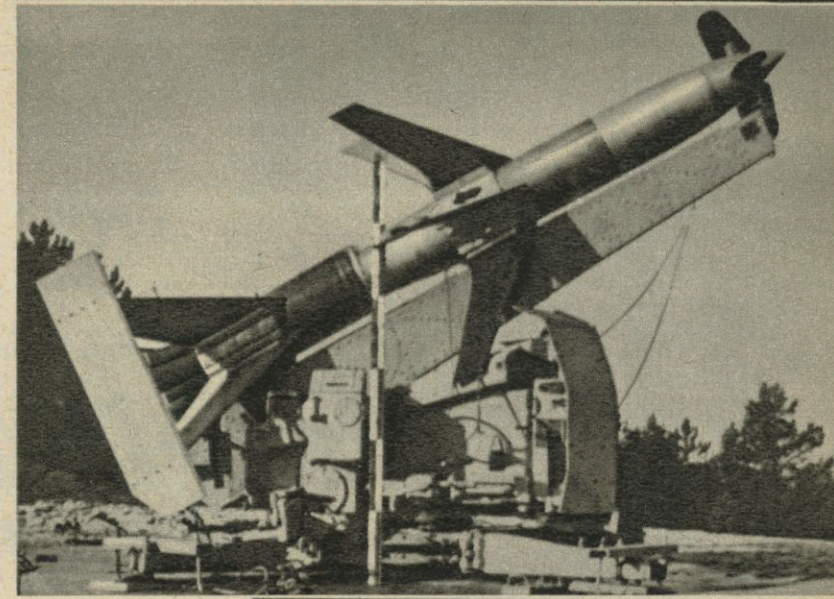
Meanwhile, what of the existing anti-aircraft battery? Let no one think that its guns and fire control equipment have ceased to be useful. Though the anti-aircraft gunner may be hard stretched to engage the highest and fastest of the new aircraft, he can still do much to embarrass the pilot, forcing him to take avoiding action and make it impossible for the bomb aimer to take accurate observations.

If the aircraft is carrying an atom bomb, the question of pin-point accuracy in dropping may be of small moment, but it must not inevitably be assumed that the "next war" will be an atom war in all theatres, or indeed in any.

In Switzerland, the makers of the famous Oerlikon light anti-aircraft gun have produced their own guided missile. The radar-controlled rocket (seen here leaving its launcher) can be useful up to a height of about 75,000 feet.



HITLER HAD HIS GUIDED MISSILE



One of Germany's "secret weapons" was the *Rheintochter*, designed to be steered against its aerial target by ground-controlled radio. Above: on the launching cradle.

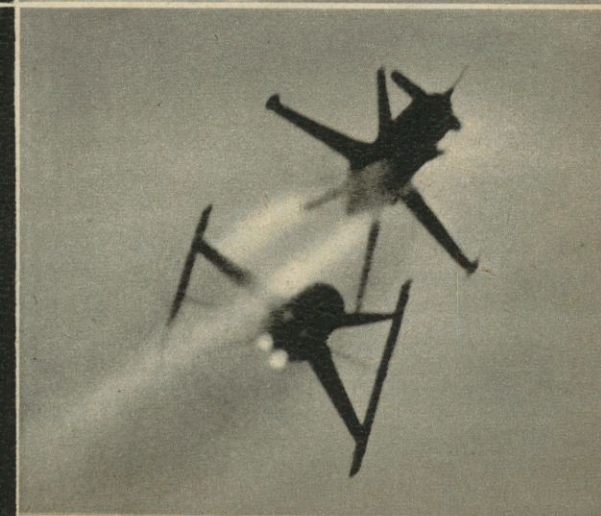
Right: the moment of firing. Much smoke and dust was created. The missile's ceiling was about 30,000 ft.

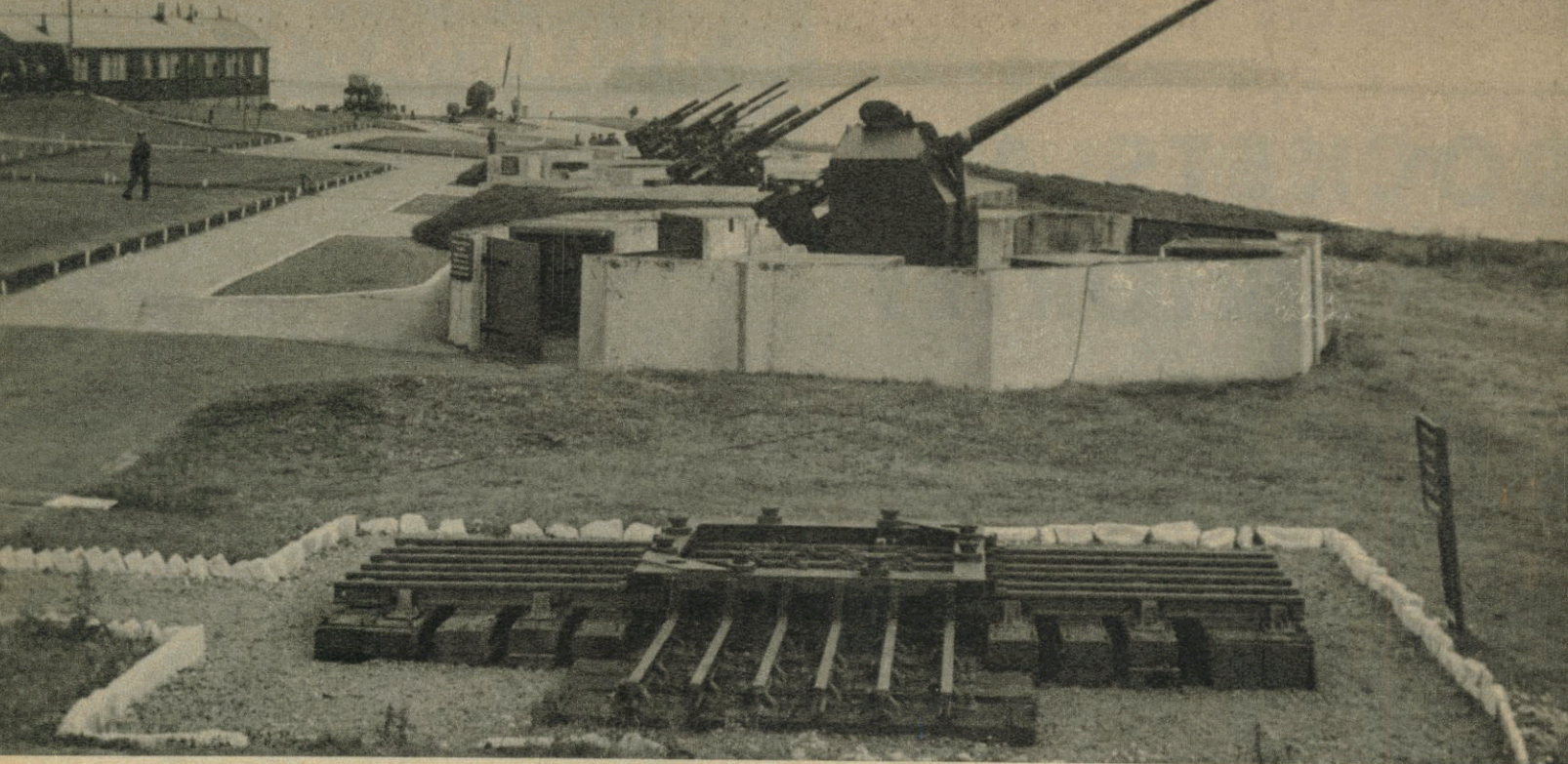


Like the British rocket pictured on Page five, the *Rheintochter* was a boosted missile. The boost section fell away when the main propellant was fully ignited.



As the tail drops, the fore part speeds on to its objective. Experiments were made with the *Rheintochter* on the coast of France and in the Ruhr.





Part of the gun park at the School of Anti-Aircraft Artillery, Manorbier. In the foreground is a "Pile Platform," made of sections of railway line and sleepers, as used for emplacing guns hurriedly against the V 1.

ACK-ACK

MANORBIER SHARPENS

The School of Anti-Aircraft Artillery performed prodigies of training in World War Two. It lives in "a perpetual state of evolution and revolution"

Photographs: SOLDIER Cameraman W. J. STIRLING

IT is not only Aberporth, the Welsh town which recently rocketed on to the front pages of the newspapers, that holds the key to the anti-aircraft defences of tomorrow.

On the rocky coast of Pembrokeshire, at Manorbier, is an Army camp which for more than 12 years has housed the School of Anti-Aircraft Artillery. Here instructors learn the most up-to-date methods of wiping out an unseen speck from the sky at six miles range or more. Their weapons are orthodox guns; but when the anti-aircraft arm goes over to guided missiles, it is a safe assumption that the necessary drills and tactics will be worked out by the School. (It so happens that the School conducted its own rocket experiments during the war.)

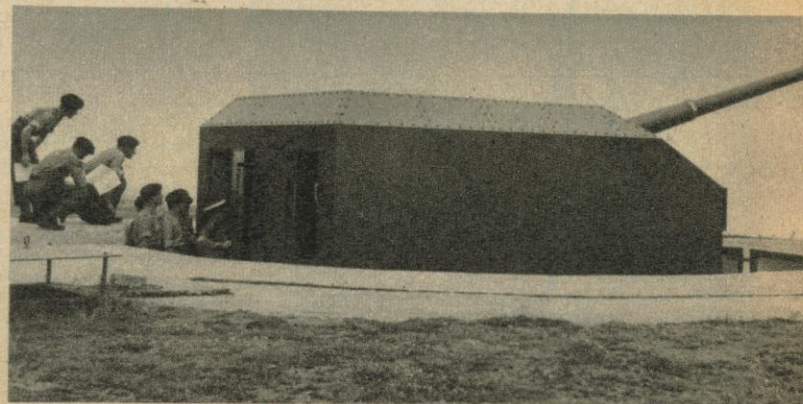
For years back, honeymooners strolling out from near-by Tenby have seen strange goings-on in the night sky over Manorbier; perhaps a jinking, overgrown dragon-fly trying to elude searchlight beams, and red tracer streaking up at it. "What about the pilot?"

they may have thought. Any local farmer could have told them that this was a pilotless aircraft.

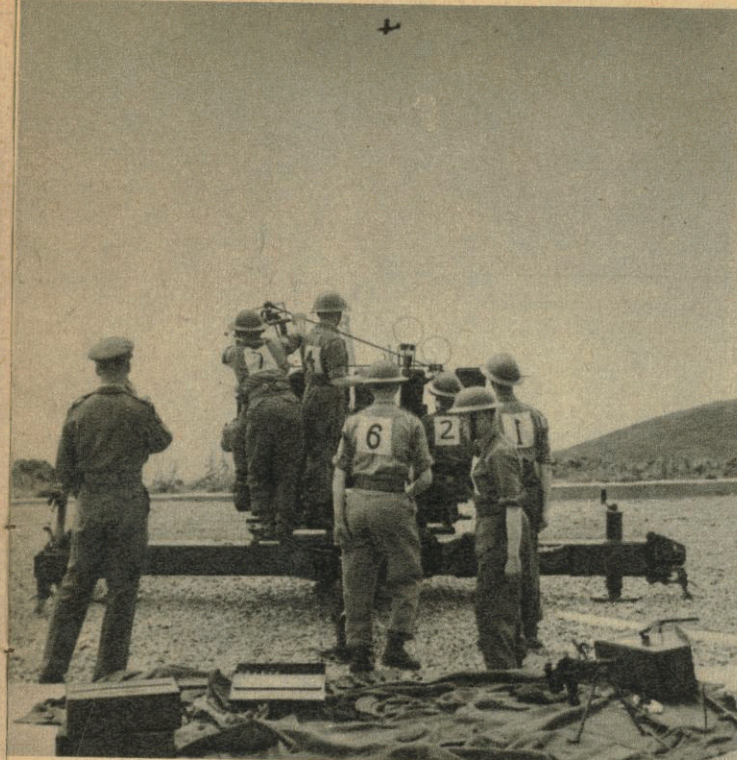
Manorbier is not so inviolably "hush, hush" as the Ministry of Supply Experimental Establishment at Aberporth. In its time it has held "at homes" and flown



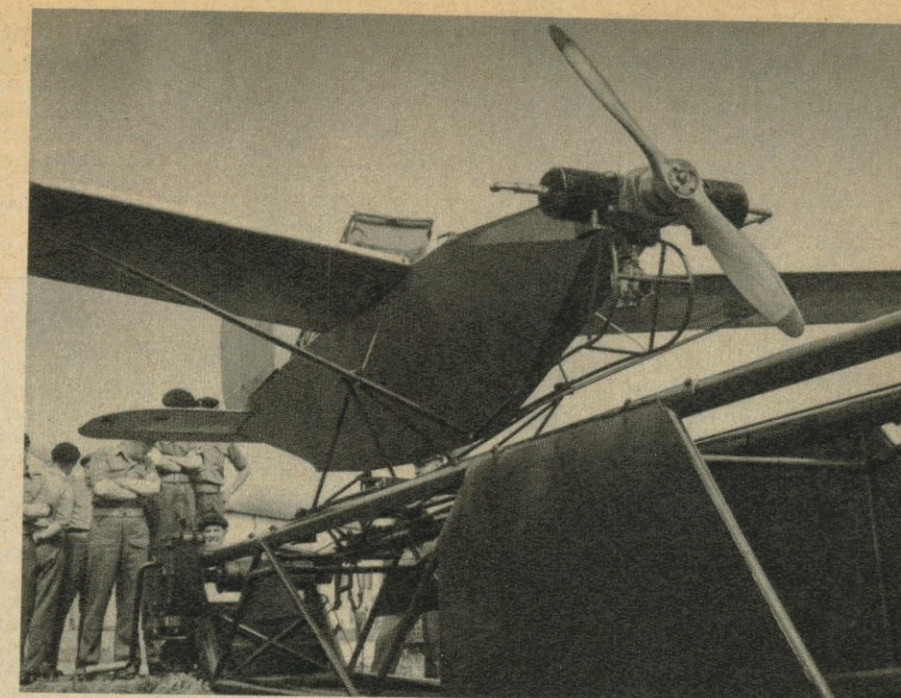
Serjeant-Major Instructor in Gunnery J. A. Hambidge (Manorbier's senior warrant-officer instructor) displays a case showing the fragmentation of a 5.25 round. This one was exploded in sand, and the pieces carefully collected. They range from big lumps (top) to near-powder (bottom). A round which wholly disintegrated into powder would not be destructive enough; nor would one which exploded into only half a dozen big lumps.



Modern 5.25 anti-aircraft guns have gone "all Naval." The detachment are completely enclosed, and the generators are underground.



A Bofors detachment prepares to engage the Pilotless Target Aircraft seen at top of picture.



Radio-controlled aircraft on its launching ramp. On its back is seen the parachute compartment, open. In flight, when 'chute opens, the engine stops. Right: target aircraft floats down after shoot.

THE SHOOTING

the Pilotless Target Aircraft for the benefit of small boys. Nevertheless, it is security-minded; SOLDIER's representatives were challenged near the gun park, soon after arrival, by alert "Z" men.

In war or peace, the School of Anti-Aircraft Artillery has never had a chance to sit back and relax. Other schools may teach techniques which were in use fifty years ago; but at Manorbier they have lived in a perpetual state of evolution and revolution. By the time a new drill book has been published and the first amendments are on their way to Malta and Moascar, a completely new equipment has been introduced and a fresh drill book is being written.

The School was founded in 1916 at Shoburness. Suitably enough, it treasures the brass shell case of the first round fired by the Woolwich defences at a Zeppelin on 7 September 1915. It also has the Iron Cross worn by the commander of the L 15 Zeppelin shot down on 31 March 1916 (see Page five), and a gold medal presented by the Lord Mayor of London to Gunner H. Sykes, one of the detachment on the Purfleet gun which engaged this ample target. If there are any earlier anti-aircraft trophies, the School would no doubt welcome them.

After World War One the Gunnery Wing of the School was at Perham Down; then in 1922 it moved to Biggin Hill. With the 'thirties came the anti-aircraft predictor. By 1936 expansion began, and in 1938 there were five practice camps. Late that year, in high secrecy, picked members of the School staff were sent to form a "Wireless Wing" at Felixstowe. "Wireless" was a

cover for radar, or radiolocation as it was once known.

No firing was possible at Biggin Hill. When war was imminent, the Gunnery Wing moved to Manorbier, then the sketchiest of tented camps. It is on record that the civilian cook, disgusted at the lack of facilities, resigned on the night of arrival. Happily others showed a pioneer spirit. The Wireless Wing meanwhile moved from Felixstowe to Watchet, and did not arrive at Manorbier until 1944. An old radar "hand," Lieutenant-Colonel G. C. Gray, who was a Chief Instructor, Wireless in 1941, is now the Brigadier commanding the School.

Searchlights had been a Sapper commitment at the beginning of the war. They were taken over by the Gunners, and finally the Searchlight Wing arrived to join

the Gunnery Wing. During the war a Trials Wing also came into being at Manorbier.

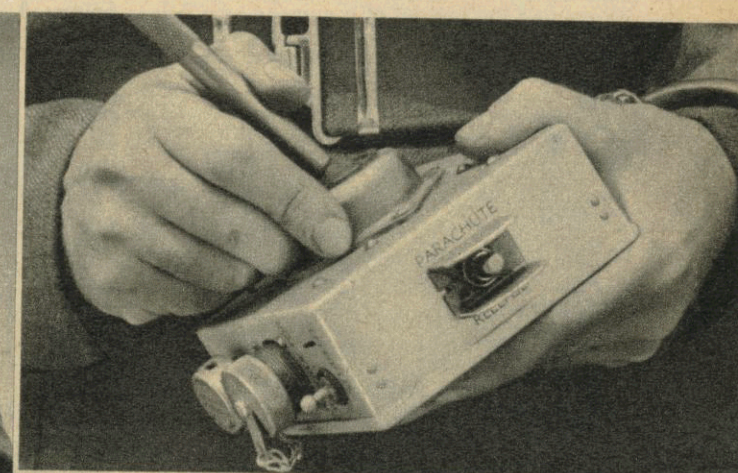
The School's Instructors in Gunnery (officers who wear red cap bands, irrespective of rank, for easy recognition on the firing point) and Assistant Instructors in Gunnery (warrant-officers with white cap tops) staffed 18 firing camps, all in continuous use, during the war. They trained many thousands of regimental instructors; they coached the first ATS on fire control equipment. And they kept the drill books up to date — even if the hundreds of gun sites scattered throughout Britain never quite succeeded in doing so. In all, the School ran 809 gunnery courses during the war.

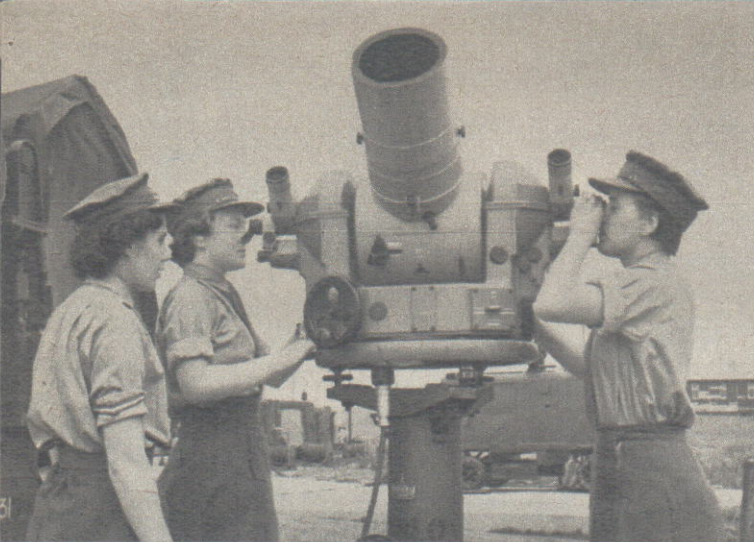
Today the war-time anti-aircraft Gunner revisiting Manorbier finds much that is new to him. For a start, there are nearly 100 married quarters of agreeable design near the entrance to the camp. The 3.7's and the 40 mm guns look much the same, but the 5.25's,

OVER



Captain A. Hampton (left) operates the "joystick" which causes the aircraft to dive, climb or turn. Picture above shows parachute release button.





Left: L/Cpl. W. P. Smith WRAC trains Privates J. P. Webb (left) and C. Doherty, on the kine-theodolite, for observing bursts.

Right: Under the eye of S-M IG H. K. Ogden, Privates D. Whitford (at hand-wheel) and J. Evans practise following on a visual trainer, which registers errors in "fruit machine" style.



ACK-ACK MANORBIER (Cont'd)



Above: In this group of NATO officers, examining the lay-out of a gun-site, are Belgians, Danes, Dutch, Italians and Norwegians. Major L. L. S. Williams RA demonstrates.

half-sunk in their concrete emplacements, now resemble naval or coastal guns. The gun detachments are shut in completely, and the generators are underground. Ranged along the gun park are many radar equipments of unfamiliar aspect.

The old "Queen Bee" has been replaced by a smaller, faster Pilotless Target Aircraft which soars thrillingly from its ramp and climbs, rolls and dives at the whim of the "pilot" on the ground. It can fly at about 120 miles an hour, but this speed can be made to seem much faster by bringing the aircraft close to the guns. The target is engaged by a Bofors carrying a machine-gun, the bullets of which are less likely to destroy it than the 40 mm rounds. Captain A. Hampton, who is in charge of the Pilotless Target Aircraft workshops, has one of the more rarified (and, as many will think, most delightful) jobs in the Army. But flying a pilotless aircraft from the ground is a very tricky task. No pilots are passed out until they have "flown" for six hours.

In the summer, Manorbier loses many of its instructors to the three surviving practice camps in Britain — at Towyn, Bude and Weybourne; others go to Rhine Army's practice camp on the island of Sylt. Courses still continue, however. The Long Gunnery Staff Course — one of the Army's longest — lasts 15 months. It is for officers and NCO's, who must learn heavy and light gun-

nery, radar, searchlights and much incidental science. The goal is the qualification of Instructor in Gunnery (Anti-Aircraft), which carries with it qualification pay according to rank. This year a new form of limited commission — as Technical Instructors in Gunnery — was introduced to give further chances of promotion to Assistant Instructors in Gunnery. Candidates, who are chosen on seniority and on special recommendation, are eligible for promotion, within the Royal Artillery, to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. Twenty-two Technical Instructors in Gunnery have been commissioned.

From September to April the School trains regimental instructors for Anti-Aircraft Command, for the British Army of the Rhine and for more distant commands, also for Colonial and Commonwealth forces. There are courses for senior officers (whose experience may be of field guns only), for young officers direct from Sandhurst, for Ministry of Supply "boffins," and for Royal Air Force Controllers (so that they may fully appreciate the gunnery problem).

When SOLDIER called, Manorbier was welcoming its first course from the North Atlantic Treaty countries. Officers from Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Italy and Norway were studying early warning radar. There were also a number of war-time instructors who had been called up as "Z" reservists, and who were delighted to be back at "the old School."

Below, left: "Z" officers on a new predictor. Below: A student who enters the Aircraft Recognition Room treads on panel which lights up a "plane of the day" for identification.

Two of the newly commissioned Technical Instructors in Gunnery: Lieut. J. E. Wright (left) and Capt. H. G. Mitchell. Like other Instructors in Gunnery, they wear red hat bands in camp.



ONCE upon a time it was Britain's small, compact Regular Army which was called on to withstand the first shock of aggression.

If the shores of Britain are again attacked, it is likely that the first troops to fire "in anger" will be those of Anti-Aircraft Command — a command which relies for three-quarters of its strength on Territorials and Reservists.

Plans exist for a "crash" mobilisation; it would be strange if they did not. The men are there to be rushed from their homes. The guns are there to be rushed from store.

There is nothing new in this situation. Many readers of *SOLDIER* will recall how an anti-aircraft army was called up overnight at the time of the Munich crisis. It was not the most efficient of mobilisations, but much has been learned since then. In 1939 Territorial anti-aircraft Gunners were again summoned from their homes before war began. It was the "courage, skill and enterprise" of these volunteers, General Sir Frederick Pile has said, which sustained Anti-Aircraft Command throughout the war. Today the country still owes a debt to the volunteers who man its anti-aircraft guns.

Anti-Aircraft Command was formed in April, 1939, with the immediate task of expanding five anti-aircraft divisions into seven. It was a command spreadeagled across all the regional commands in Britain. Its headquarters were set up in a mansion at Stanmore, Middlesex, in the grounds of Bentley Priory, headquarters of Fighter Command, Royal Air Force. The Air Officer Commanding Fighter Command was then — and still is — in absolute operational control of Great Britain's defences against hostile aircraft. On him rests the decision whether

THEY WILL BE FIRST IN ACTION

Anti-Aircraft Command can raise an Army overnight



Commander-in-Chief of Anti-Aircraft Command: Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Loewen, a Gunner since 1918.

U.S. Gunners in Britain

A number of American anti-aircraft batteries are deployed on British soil. Their function is to defend the immense airfields of the United States Air Force.

The 32nd Anti-Aircraft Brigade, which arrived in Britain at the beginning of 1951, was the first American Army unit to serve on the soil of a major friendly power in time of peace.

American anti-aircraft Gunners have taken part in such exercises as "Pinnacle," the biggest air defence try-out in Britain since the war. It was designed primarily to practise reporting and control systems.

During the V1 raids on Southern England American anti-aircraft Gunners put up some fine shooting. They later played a major part in the most successful anti-aircraft operation of World War Two — the Battle of Antwerp.

a target shall be engaged by fighters or by guns.

In scientific achievement, says General Pile, no army ever travelled so far and so fast as Anti-Aircraft Command. The score of 822 enemy aircraft destroyed, 237 "probables" and 422 damaged by no means represents the total of its usefulness. It had frustrated and rattled many hundreds of raiders and driven them from their bombing targets.

The great rundown at the end of the war shrank the well-fleshed body of Anti-Aircraft Command to a skeleton. Guns were pulled out, like teeth, from the gun sites in public parks and trundled into store by the thousand, along with truck loads of predictors and long lines of radar sets. Then in 1947 came the re-birth of the Territorial Army, and — in effect — the re-birth of Anti-Aircraft Command.

Not all the gunsites had been planted with flowers. Some were actively maintained; other potential sites were kept in a state of "sterilisation" — that is, they

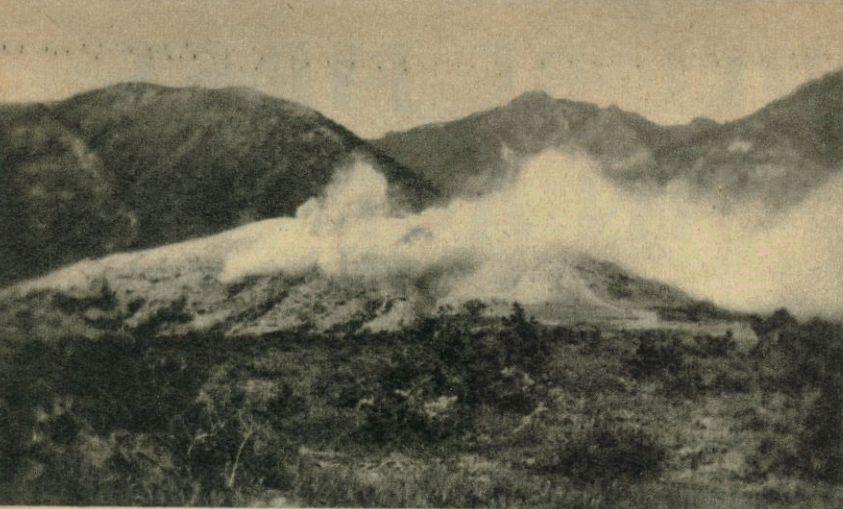
were earmarked for emergency use, but could be used meanwhile for farming or non-building purposes. A number of new sites have been built, for as the speed and height of aircraft have increased it has been necessary to work out new tactical locations for the defences. Moreover, new industrial and scientific establishments must be given anti-aircraft protection.

The Command's gunnery problem is now two-fold: to achieve the highest possible muzzle velocity on its guns and so cut down the time the projectile must take to reach its target; and to achieve full "automaticity" — which means that an anti-aircraft shoot must be made as nearly automatic as possible. Thus, the radar must automatically follow the target it has picked up; the predictor must automatically respond to the information it receives from the radar, and automatically pass on the "future position" it has worked out to the guns; and the guns, power-operated, must be automatically traversed and elevated

to fire at that future position. Once the round has been placed in the loading tray, ramming and firing are automatic. In days gone by there were 12 men in a 3.7 gun detachment; now there are only 5. The gun itself has been vastly improved from the time when it was first coming into production — in Munich year.

Like the 3.7, the 40 mm Bofors has been undergoing constant development. Searchlights, which were something of an obsession in the public mind at the start of the last war, have now only a small role — in the engagement of low-level targets. Radar is almost the only "eye" that is necessary.

Anti-Aircraft Command has five Groups, each commanded by a major-general. The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief is Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Loewen. He has commanded both Infantry and Armoured Divisions. His last appointment was as the Commander of Northumbrian District and 50th (Infantry) Division, Territorial Army.



Smoke of mock war covers the much-attacked ridge.

AMONG the hills of Southern Honshu (Japan) lies a small area called Hara Mura, or the "Village on the Plain." It is known to most of the men serving with the Commonwealth Division in Korea, because here the Division has its battle school, and reinforcements are given their pre-battle inoculation and final training before they join their units.

The Hara Mura area is accustomed to such activity, as it was one of the main training areas used by the Japanese Army. It is said that the Japanese troops which took Hong-Kong were trained here. The former Japanese military commander at Hong-Kong now farms his land only a few miles from the school.

The Battle School was first conceived in October 1950, when as No. 1 Battle Training Team it was established in Taegu in South Korea. It was commanded then, as it is now, by Lt-Col. M.

R. Lonsdale, DSO, of the North Staffordshire Regiment.

The School is divided into four wings — Australian, Canadian, United Kingdom and Specialist. Each is an entity, but they combine in exercises and schemes. Each contains Infantrymen, Gunners, Sappers and men of the Royal Armoured Corps who work together and get to know each other's jobs.

When the troops arrive at the School some of them are by no means fit, thanks to a long sea voyage of four to six weeks. The three-weeks stay at Hara Mura

is designed to bring these young soldiers, of all arms, to the pitch of fitness and efficiency demanded by the war in Korea.

The men are taught how to prevent both frost-bite in the bitter Korean winter and heat exhaustion during the fierce summer. They also revise and practise the main essentials of first aid.

Important as these aspects of soldiering are, however, the main emphasis of the course is training for battle. The men are first given the opportunity to re-acustom themselves to their weapons and also to learn the use of unfamiliar weapons.

In their second week of training, they receive battle inoculation in Exercise Commonwealth, which they carry out under the critical eyes both of the men who will do it next week and of those who did it last week.

The exercise takes place over Korean-type country and consists of an attack on a barren ridge, defended both from the hill and from surrounding positions.

The Infantry receive close support from tanks, 25-pounders, mortars and medium machine-guns. The exercise shows the value of these types of supporting fire, a lesson which is further illustrated when the Gunners and mortarmen give a demonstration shoot. At the same time, the exercise practises the platoon in attack, and tests the stamina and determination of the Infantry and the effectiveness of the supporting troops.

In their last week of training, the men at Hara Mura live and work in front-line conditions, sleeping in the open and cooking in mess-tins. — *From a report by Captain G. H. Edwards, RAEC.*

Here is a real hill-top battle in Korea — seen at night. The contested ridge, known as "Old Baldy," has several times changed hands. Tracer is seen at left; other flashes are from guns, rockets or mortars.



-for This ↓

FAR EAST

After long weeks at sea, soldiers posted to Korea are made fighting fit again — in Japan

← This is the Rehearsal-

ROUND-UP



Brilliant red, the god-gate of Miyajima's main shrine fascinates soldiers on leave from Korea. Right: The picturesquely situated rest centre.



No One is Born, No One Dies — on Miyajima, the isle of shrines where British soldiers convalesce

THE Japanese Archipelago runs to more than 4000 islands. Of these, few are better known throughout Japan than Miyajima, the sacred shrine island on the Inland Sea. It is close to Hiroshima, whose atomic bomb scars are now built over.

Miyajima was untouched by the atom bomb, but the island had its links with World War Two. Suicide pilots of Japan's Kamikaze missions used to have a final fling in the island's holiday resorts before taking off on their one-way flights.

Now the sacred island has its links with the Korean war. Here British Commonwealth troops have one of the most picturesque leave centres in the world. It will house about 100 convalescents or men on leave, many of them in a quaintly-styled hotel which belonged to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha shipping interests.

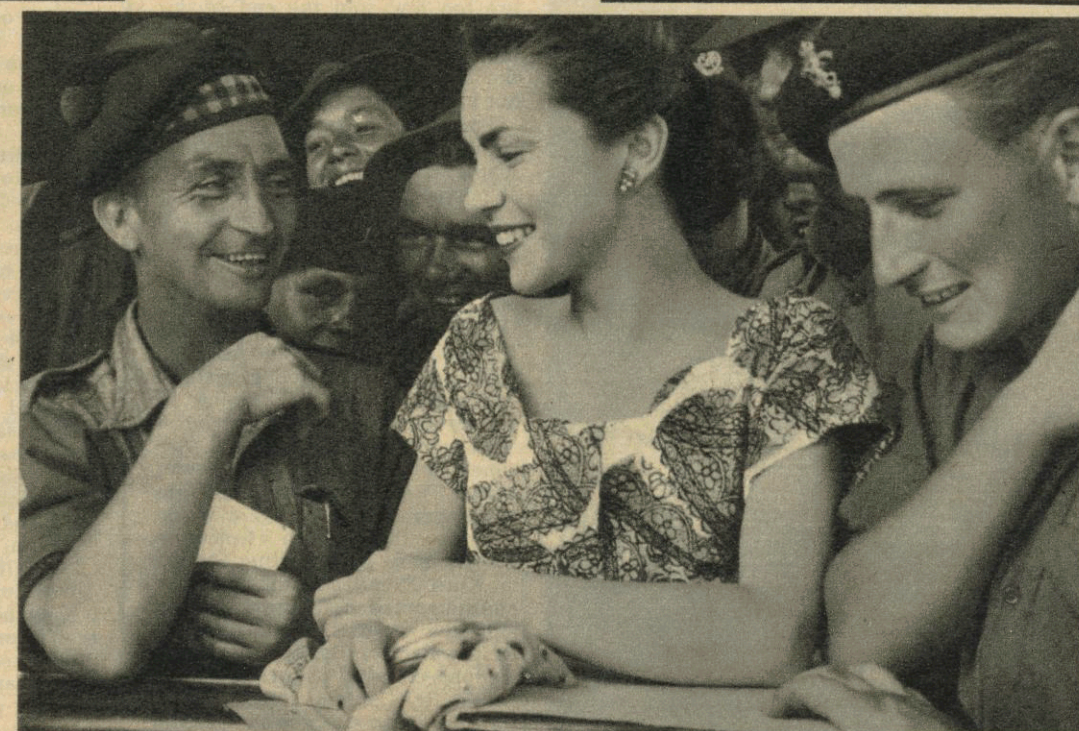
Miyajima's main shrine is built over a bay, and the base of the great god-gate, or torii, is several feet under water when the tide comes in. The reason is that the island was once regarded as a goddess, and nobody dared land there for fear of awful penalties for sacrilege; but a small community of priests got around the tabu by building a shrine over the water, and placing the sacred gateway on nearby tidal flats.

Long ago, a group of defeated troops in desperation fled to Miyajima for sanctuary. Their victorious enemy pursued them, and cut them to pieces on the island. As an act of contrition for the shedding of blood on such a holy place, the victor built the Senjokaku, the Shrine of a Thousand Mats.

This wooden building has stood for centuries, the timbers of its structure weathered to a deep grey by age, rain and wind. The Japanese carpenter is traditionally a skilled artisan, **OVER**



The "Bill Johnson Show" (that's Bill above) paid a welcome visit to Korea. Right: "Blimey, a white woman!" Pat Turner is even more popular than the postman.





This demon on a Buddhist shrine is covered with spit balls. The faithful wrote their prayers on rice paper, chewed it — and threw it. A prayer which sticks is more likely to be answered.

Left: Convalescents at Miyajima: In rear — Private M. Freeman, of Felixstowe, and Craftsman W. W. Miller, of Falkirk; in front — Private R. H. Craig, of Belmont, West Australia, and Private E. M. Carrington, of London.

Some of the three-inch steps which take the starch out of the mountaineers.



No One is Born (Cont'd)

and the ancient shrine still holds solidly together. It has dry-rot here and there, but funds have been subscribed to repair it. The timbers are being coated vermillion.

Old rites are still observed on the island. Nobody, they say, is born on Miyajima, and nobody ever dies there. Pregnant women must have their offspring on the mainland, and the dying must draw their last breaths elsewhere.

Miyajima has a fire-free tradition of which she is very proud. Every year, blue-and-white clad priests of the Shinto faith hold a festival in which great torches are carried around the narrow winding streets of the town, but sparks never seem to start any fires.

Another striking festival is Kangensai, in which the portable altar of the main shrine is carried out on gaily-lit barges with priests dressed in the armour of old-time warriors. Thousands of tiny candle-lanterns burn in little straw boats which dot the bay.

The island is regarded as a Shinto stronghold, but the Buddhists have moved in over the years, and have some very imposing shrines. It is not unusual to see the two attendant demons of Buddhist lore making their stand outside one little shrine, while cheek by jowl with it is a Shinto altar with its mirror, representing the reflection of the worshipper's soul.

There are shrines on the peak of Misen-Yama, the 1000-foot feature which dominates the island. There are also little refreshment booths for the benefit of pilgrims. These provide chilled beer, cordials and foodstuffs. Thousand-foot climbs here are nothing to lads who have returned from Korea and regained their strength. The only difficulty is the means of climbing. The footpath up Misen-Yama is of broad steps little more than three inches deep. The breadth means nothing to the average long-legged British soldier — but three-inch steps are too low, and the end of the climb frequently leaves British pilgrims with painful cramps in the backs of the legs which only hot baths and massage will dispel.

For those who are weary of sightseeing, the hostel offers ample entertainment, and there is no risk of anybody starving to death there. Running the establishment is WO I George Gamel, formerly of the Royal Australian Army Service Corps, and considered, like Damon Runyon's theatrical boarding house-keeper, an excellent judge of eaters.

In the long fine spells, visitors can play tennis, go boating or swim. Indoors are billiards, a library of several thousand volumes, a hobbies room, a quiet room. There is a change of film programme three times a week.

From the British Commonwealth Base Broadcasting Station at Kure, 30 miles away, comes an uninterrupted daily transmission, and the Japanese national radio is popular for its frequently excellent classical programmes. — Report by Captain J. E. Harnetty, British Commonwealth Public Relations, Japan.

SOLDIER to Soldier

DID SOLDIER's front cover this month take you by surprise? Were you expecting a more conventional picture, like that of the Duke of Wellington the month before?

Anyone who objects that the latest cover is the sort of thing better suited to a magazine of science fiction should reflect that we are already irretrievably in the world of science fiction.

And anyone who protests that the artist is overdoing it by laying on three expensive rockets against one aircraft should ask himself how many rockets he would order to be fired at an aircraft suspected of carrying an atom bomb.

It is not only anti-aircraft warfare which stands to be revolutionised by the guided missile. The surface-to-surface guided missile will probably have a tremendous effect on the conduct of land warfare. It can be fired at targets well beyond the range of heavy guns, targets which may be too heavily defended to justify aerial attack, targets which may be temporarily inaccessible through bad flying weather. It could — until an antidote is found — make mincemeat of a big invasion fleet long before it came within range of shore batteries. It will make concentration of forces a gambler's risk.

A writer who has been theorising along these lines in the *Military Review* (USA) says:

"It has been said that in Caesar's time it cost about 75 cents to kill a soldier in battle. In Napoleon's time it cost 3000 dollars. In World War One it cost 21,000 dollars, and in World War Two 200,000 dollars. If these figures have any semblance of verity, what will it cost in a war involving the consumption of thousands of guided missiles?"

For firing a guided missile is equivalent to throwing the gun at the target. As SOLDIER said once before, if war ever ceases, it will be because it has become financially impossible!

ANY efficient Army has plans for all eventualities — Plan A, Plan B, Plan C and so on. The British Army is no exception. What looks like a spontaneous operation may have been worked out months or years before by Staff officers no longer serving.

There exist plans which would make news editors' hair stand on end — for the evacuation of this place, or the recapture of that. They are, of course, routine precautions; probably they will never emerge from their pigeon holes. Officers have reached high rank working out plans which have never been needed. Was their work a waste of time? Assuredly not. The Army must not be caught napping, and the only way is to have Plans A, B and C. Field-Marshal Lord Wavell had to calculate what he would do if Rommel seized Cairo. "Overlord" was not the only plan drawn up for the invasion of Europe. Officers acquired grey hairs planning the unneeded Operation Zipper against Japan. Hitler had his Plans A, B and C, too. One was called "Sealion," for the invasion of Britain.

Not all plans were so ambitious. Spare a moment's thought for the retired officer who, when asked, "What did you do in the second world war, Daddy?" replies, "I worked out a wonderful plan, son, for the recapture of the Isle of Wight from German parachutists."

"THE Army has done long and meritorious service in the consumption of plum-and-apple jam," said the War Minister, Brigadier Antony Head, in the House of Commons recently.

The veterans of World War One agreed whole-heartedly with Brigadier Head. They, at any rate, felt they had done their share. For the sake of their successors, they were probably relieved when Brigadier Head, who had been asked what the Army was doing to eat up this year's bumper crop of plums, added: "I do not wish variety to be sacrificed in the cause of plum consumption, but as things are, the Army, in co-operation with the Royal Air Force, will consume in the next year some 2425 tons of plum jam and 400 tons of tinned plums."

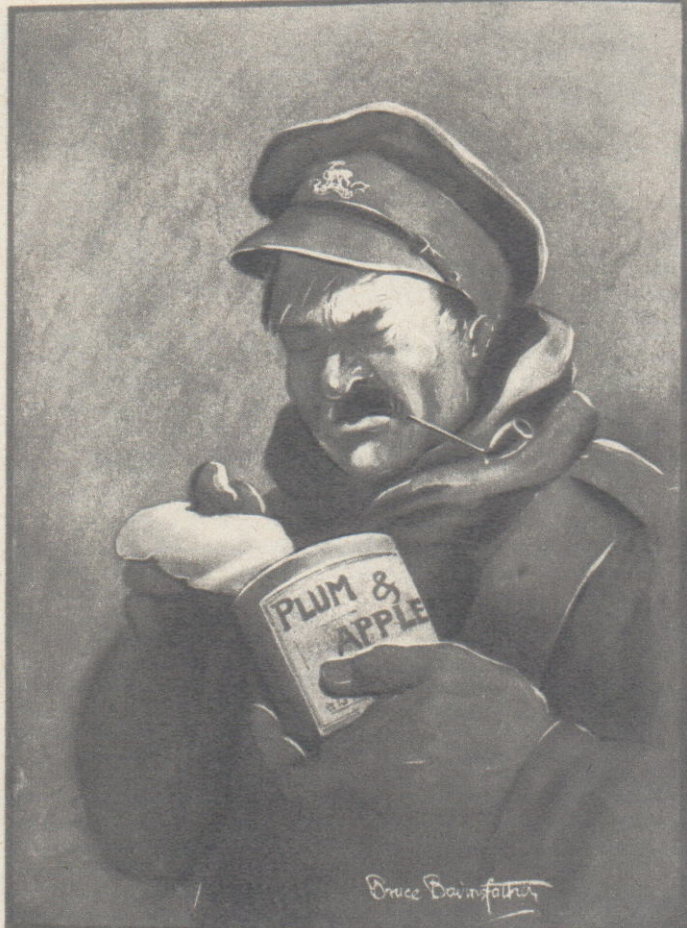
Variety, the veterans thought, had certainly been sacrificed in the early days of their war. According to a dictionary of soldier and sailor words and phrases, published in the 1920's "plum-and-apple" came to mean any jam, because "actually only the common sort, almost invariably 'plum-and-apple,' reached the rank and file, the better kinds, according to popular opinion, being intercepted for the benefit of the NCO's."

The Times History of the War thought it worth a mention, too. Discussing rations, it said: "All complaints, at least from the Army overseas, finally simmered down to those relating to a plethora of plum-and-apple jam, and the British soldier, with his usual sense of humour, when surfeited with this luxury was wont to 'hang out banners on the outward walls' of his trenches, these crudely conceived emblems being embellished with forcibly worded protests against a further supply of this particular delicacy."

Plum-and-apple became the sort of wry joke that "V" cigarettes and soya links became in World War Two — but on account of its quantity, not its quality. One World War One veteran whom SOLDIER approached on the subject said: "We groused about it, but I'd like some of that plum-and-apple jam now. You can't buy good jam like that today."

Tommy Tickler's Jam

There were sentimental sighs among the veterans of World War One when plum-and-apple jam was mentioned in Parliament recently



THE ETERNAL QUESTION

"When the 'ell is it goin' to be strawberry?"

— from *The Bystander*

With plum-and-apple, in the minds of the troops, was associated the name of Tommy Tickler — "jam-maker to the Army." Thomas George Tickler was an engineer who changed his trade and became a grocer and corn-chandler in Grimsby. Then there was a glut of fruit in Lincolnshire, so he tried his hand at fruit preserving. Most of the plum-and-apple jam eaten by the troops in

World War One was produced by him, and he soon had two factories (one at Grimsby and one at Southall, in Middlesex) employing 1500 hands. He also became a Member of Parliament, Mayor of Grimsby and father of eight sons and a daughter.

The soldier's attitude to plum-and-apple jam found expression in the cartoons of Captain Bruce Bairnsfather. Old Bill summed it up in the cartoon reproduced on this page. He was also depicted as a "Flanders sea-lion" surrounded by empty plum-and-apple tins, and described as "an almost extinct amphibian, first discovered in Flanders during the winter of 1914-15. Feeds almost exclusively

on plum-and-apple jam and rum."

Captain Bairnsfather did not confine his jokes on plum-and-apple to Old Bill. A plum and an apple were shown talking to each other from their respective boughs in an orchard, one saying to the other, "Well, anyway, old man, they can never ask us what we did in the Great War."

In a strip caricaturing a war-film, a villain removed the secret explosive from a new type of bomb and substituted the famous jam, which was found to be just as explosive. A red-tabbed Staff officer was seen gaining a DSO by counting tins of plum-and-apple, and the Sphinx was portrayed looking at the desert over a plum-and-apple tin and the caption — "This..... after 6000 years."

In the later stages of the war, plum-and-apple almost disappeared from the menu, and Old Bill was shown speaking to his chum:

"Funny, 'ow we don't seem to get no more plum-and-apple these days."

"They're using it for munitions now, I expect."

But at the end of the war, plum-and-apple lingered in Old Bill's memory. He was shown, dressed in a towel and fez, proposing by means of a Turkish bath to "boil the effects of plum-and-apple, Bolshevism and demobilisation completely out of his system."

Demobbed, Old Bill was seen in 1919 presiding over an International Preserves Commission in Paris, "endeavouring to ascertain what plum-and-apple really was made of. They expect to arrive at a decision about September 1930."

The famous trench newspaper, the *Wipers Times*, seems to have kept off the subject until its fourth issue, when Gilbert Frankau wrote some verses describing a dream in which the "Army Safety Corps" attacked the Germans and —

No human force could hope to dam
Those waves of plum-and-apple jam.

Inevitably, there were songs on the subject. One alleged —

The ASC get strawberry jam
And lashings of rum,
But we poor blokes,
We only get
Apple-and-plum.

Tommy Tickler got into the songs, too:

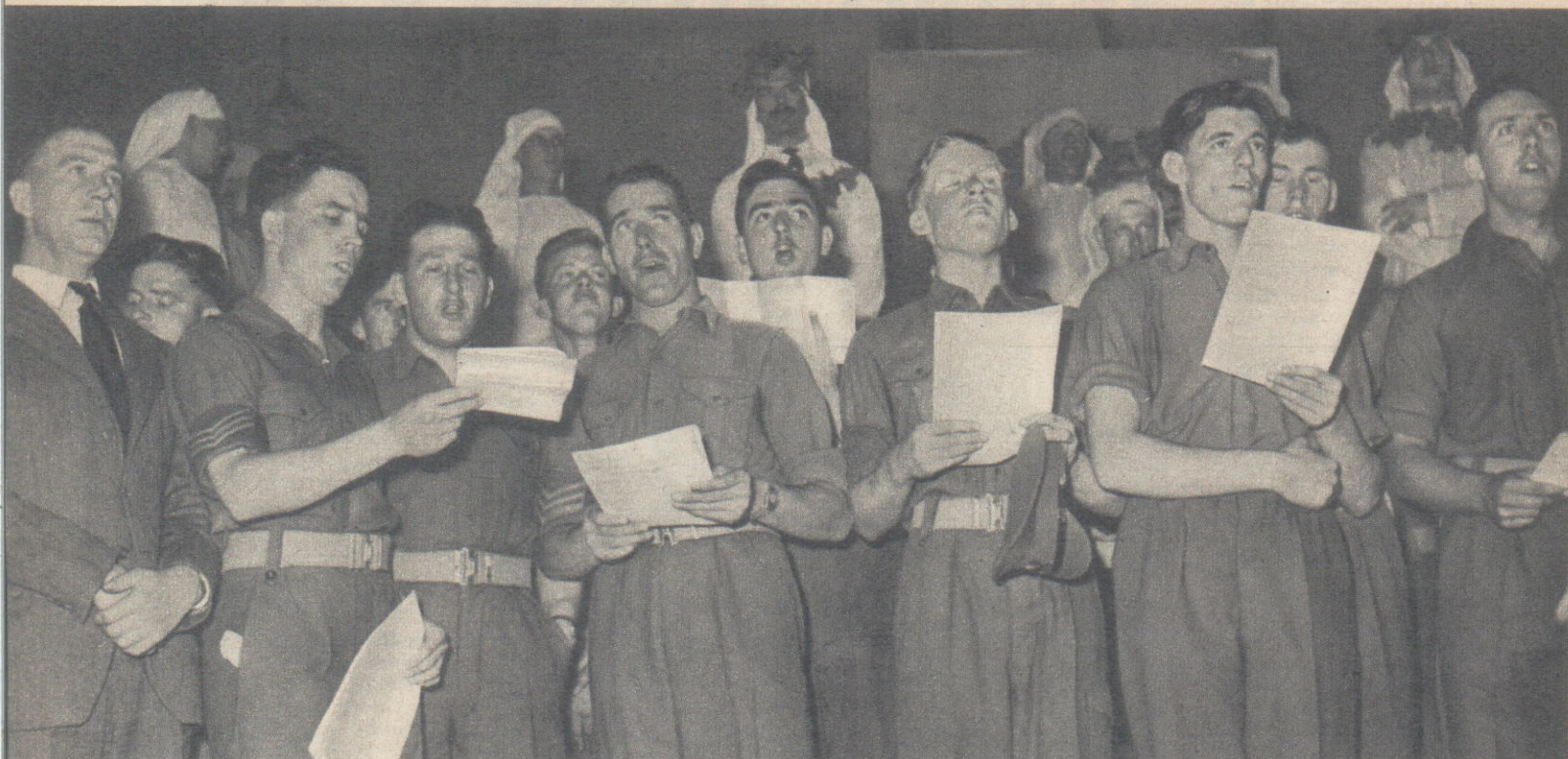
Giving the poor old Kaiser hell
with Tommy Tickler's jam.
Stuffing the Huns with hot cross
buns and Tommy Tickler's jam.
Rubbing me poor old frozen feet
with Tommy Tickler's jam.
Sent up the line with the best of
luck and Tommy Tickler's jam.



"Rogerson! Take that silly grin off your face."

SOLDIER BARDS IN BERLIN

A lieutenant-colonel became an arch-druid for a day when the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards held their first eisteddfod



Study in concentration — a section of the massed choirs in full voice.



THERE are known to have been Welsh bards for more than 2800 years. There are records to show that for more than 1400 years they have been gathering together at eisteddfods.

This year, however, was probably the first in which Welsh bards have held an eisteddfod in Berlin — to the bewilderment, no doubt, of any Berliners who got to hear about it. It was also the first eisteddfod to have been held by the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards.

The main object of an eisteddfod is to foster poetry, music and art, and also to keep alive the love of the Welsh for their language, customs and country. One of its mottoes is "Y gwir yn erbyn y byd," which means, "The truth against the world." Before the competitions, the bards assemble in a Gorsedd, a circle of unhewn stones set upright in the ground, something like those of Stonehenge, and hold an opening ceremony the themes of which are truth and purity.

The Welsh Guards also began their eisteddfod with a Gorsedd ceremony in which the bards, dressed in the traditional druidical robes, advanced towards the circle singing the hymn, "O Jesu Mawr." Then Guardsman J. T. Morris recited an ancient prayer in Welsh and the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Davies-Scourfield, acting as arch-druid and accompanied by two young attendants, sprinkled water on a large stone in the centre. This water took the place of the blood of sacrifices used by the Druid in pagan times. After an-

other prayer, the arch-druid led the procession of bards slowly to the hall in which the competitions were to be held.

The headquarters company won the inter-company choral competition with its rendering of "Men of Harlech." They were directed by Company Quartermaster-Sergeant D. Bartlett, who with his wife later won another competition. In the individual competitions, the songs ranged from "The Spirit of Christmas" to an unaccompanied rendering of a long Welsh air, sung with great relish by Lance-Sergeant T. Evans.

Guardsman J. Davies, a rich baritone, sang "The Tempest" and was selected as the winning bard, and his victory was proclaimed in the ancient ceremony of chairing the bard. The choirs sang "Land of my Fathers" and the eisteddfod came to an end.

The day's activities, however, continued on a more conventionally military note. There were sideshows, an inter-rank bicycle polo match and a dance. — *From a report by Major E. A. Billett, Public Relations.*

The rock may look theatrical, but the ceremony is genuine enough.



The arch-druid, Lieutenant-Colonel D. G. Davies-Scourfield, marches with his attendants from the Gorsedd to the hall for the start of the competitions.



Right: Guardsman J. Davies, whose rich Welsh baritone made him the winning bard.

Left: The traditional ceremony of chairing the bard. The arch-druid and assistants hold a sword over Guardsman Davies.

Below: CQMS D. Bartlett receives the winning choir's trophy from Mrs. Davies-Scourfield.





Top: at Golden Sands, near Famagusta, canoes and floats are on hire to bathers. Until recently this camp held an Infantry battalion.

Left: The Golden Sands camp "Buttens" show new arrivals to their accommodation.

Below: Back to Golden Sands for refreshment and lunch comes a party of soldiers who hired the camp motor-cycles for sightseeing. Right: Cypriots, in traditional baggy breeches, organise donkey rides for soldiers' children at Troodos.



PALM

It is not often that palm and pine grow so near to each other as on Cyprus. Thus the island offers two distinct types of holiday

LIKE English seaside hotel-keepers, the staff of NAAFI's holiday camps in Cyprus have to cram most of a year's work into a relatively short "season."

This year the start of the season, in May, coincided with the lifting of the ban on leave from the Canal Zone. Then the season was interrupted by another short leave-ban when King Farouk abdicated.

The Cyprus camps — Golden Sands at Famagusta, and the families' Pine Tree camp at Troodos — are two of the largest holiday centres in the Middle East. This year they were prepared to accommodate 20,000 military guests and members of their families.

The holiday-makers leave Port Said on the 8000-ton troopship *Charlton Star*. The journey is free except for a few shillings to cover meals on board.

At Golden Sands, when the *Charlton Star* docks, NAAFI girl receptionists welcome new arrivals at the rate of 300 an hour.

For eleven shillings a day (of which 6s 7d is ration money) a soldier is accommodated, fed (in a proper dining room with 30 waiters) and entertained. A team of Women's Voluntary Services members led by Mrs. Lilian Mac-

and PINE



Dougall, formerly of the Sea View Holiday Camp at Port Fouad, looks after the amusements.

There are trips to the island beauty spots, indoor games, dances, tombola and talent-spotting. There are welfare bus services into Famagusta. Prices there, particularly in the cabarets and restaurants, are high, so NAAFI provides everything the holiday-maker needs in the camp, from a cocktail bar to an ice-cream parlour, a library and an open-air cinema operated by the Army Kinema Corporation. The camp has a bicycle-hire office and even motor-cycles at 15s a day. Cars, at 30s to £2 a day, can be hired in Famagusta.

Holidays in the camp last ten days. As the *Charlton Star* steams back to Port Said, returning holiday-makers can be heard trying to work out how much such a Mediterranean holiday would have cost them if they had set out in the ordinary civilian way from Britain. They mostly come to the conclusion that they would have had to be very rich to afford it, and leave it at that.

Pine Tree holiday camp is 5700 feet above sea-level, amid the Cyprus pine forests, and is a cool change from the torrid Canal Zone in summer.

The camp has special amenities for children, and makes a point of relieving mothers and fathers of their parental responsibilities.

Twice a week a children's picnic (no parents allowed) is held in a picturesque mountain glade at Kanoura Springs. The Women's Voluntary Services take charge on these occasions. If one of the children has a birthday during the holiday, he or she has a special tea-party with selected child guests (complete with candle-topped birthday cake).

Like Golden Sands, Pine Tree has a reasonable scale of charges. Accommodation is in brick or wooden chalets or tents on concrete bases. Dining-rooms, lounges and bars are in permanent buildings.

ALL THE YEAR ROUND

AT Port Fouad, garden suburb of Port Said, the Sea View Holiday Camp is hoping for a less troubled winter season than last year.

When the Egyptian disorders broke out, Sea View became a reception centre for Service families. It achieved headlines when soldiers' brides who had sailed out from Britain were allowed ashore to marry, in the Camp chapel. They spent one night there with their husbands, and then sailed home again.

The camp, which was once a Royal Air Force radar station, appeals equally to those who want a quiet life and those who relish the sights to be found at an international crossroads.

Sea View, run by NAAFI with valuable help by the WVS, is the kind of camp to which soldiers (and even soldiers' mothers) send thank-you letters.



A book under the palm at Port Fouad. Below: if a soldier leaves Sea View unable to dance, it will not be the fault of the WVS.



Left: the air is cool and fresh among the pines of Troodos, a fine centre for rambles. Above: Mrs. Lilian MacDougall, who organised entertainment at Port Fouad, now operates in Cyprus.

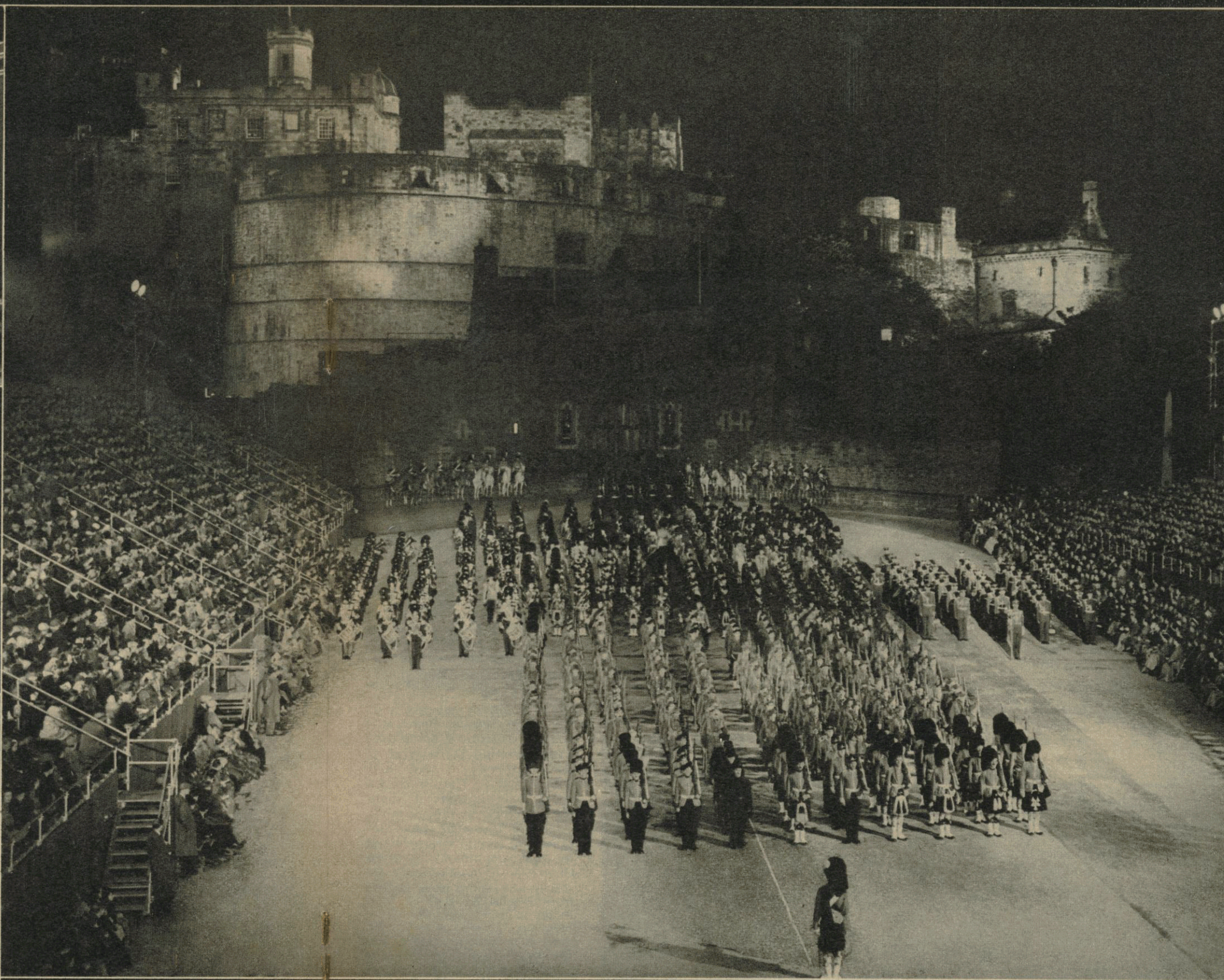


Their horses stabled, men of the Garde Républicaine travel unromantically back to billets by bus.

Left: In the Tattoo control room, L/Cpl. A. Macdonald (at telephone) and SQMS T. Robertshaw ring up such varied extensions as Rocket Battery, Coal Yard Marshal, Drawbridge Marshal and Towers Numbers One to Eight.

Left, below: Last-minute polishing session by men of the Royal Netherlands Grenadiers Band.

Below: Adjutant Lordey of the Garde Républicaine composes a new fanfare for his trumpeters. He calls it "Marie France."



More impressive than any painted backcloth, floodlit Edinburgh Castle dominates the Esplanade where Scotland's troops lead a proud pageant. On chestnut horses backing the wall are members of the Garde Républicaine. The Royal Netherlands Grenadiers are on left of picture.

CASTLE SPLENDID

TRUMPETS of France, drums of Holland, pipes of Canada sounded nightly from the esplanade of floodlit Edinburgh Castle during this year's International Festival.

Primarily the military tattoo for which the Festival is now famous is Scottish in spirit, but this year two European nations chosen for their centuries-old links with Scotland were invited to send military bands.

The 40-horse Mounted Fanfare of the Garde Républicaine from Paris had never appeared in Scotland before; it was last in London during the reign of King Edward VII. The sound of its trumpets precedes all Cavalry parades in Paris.

The 80-strong Royal Netherlands Grenadiers Band was raised in 1829. Just before the late war this band and that of the Scots Guards played together at the Hague and in Amsterdam.

The Canadian Highlanders and Seaforth Pipes and Drums came over from Germany

(all military travel expenses were paid for out of Tattoo funds). It was the Canadians' first appearance in Britain.

In all, ten bands and 700 performers took part in the Tattoo. Representatives of all 12 Scots regiments appeared in a pageant "Scotland in Arms."

It was expected that 200,000 people would see the display. The Director was Lieut-Colonel A. G. L. Maclean CBE, The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

— Photographs by SOLDIER Cameraman W. J. STIRLING.



Bulldozers by night, building up Lynmouth's river wall in the glare of searchlights. This was "Operation Canute."
(Pictures: *SOLDIER* Cameraman ARTHUR BLUNDELL)

FLOODS – SEND TROOPS

Territorials and "Z" Reservists joined Regulars and National Servicemen in rescue and repair work after the North Devon floods

WHEN flood-waters brought death and destruction to farms and villages on Exmoor and to the little seaside town of Lynmouth, the Army came quickly to the rescue.

At Braunton, advance parties of 264 Scottish Beach Brigade, a Territorial formation, were awaiting the arrival of the main body to start their annual camp. They received an appeal for help at about three o'clock in the morning. At about the same time, another call for aid was received by the Amphibious Warfare Centre at Fremington.

Help was sent at once. Sappers from Fremington built a foot-bridge to help people cut off by the river. Lorries brought 1200 blankets to equip rest centres, and then helped to evacuate residents and holidaymakers from homes and hotels. Water trucks from Westdown practice camp replaced the broken and tainted supplies in the Lynmouth area. Signals units helped to restore communications. Military Police shared in traffic control.

As the full extent of the damage was revealed, more and more calls were made on the Army. Major-General C. L. Firbank, commander of South-Western District, was in charge of the Army's contribution, and his staff worked late into the night planning "Operation Flood Lynton."

The District had to rely, at first, on its own resources, which did not include a single field force



Bulldozer by day, reshaping the course of the East Lyn where it smashed through buildings.



unit, and Territorial units (with a high proportion of "Z" Reservists) which happened to be in camp in the area. Later, Regular units from farther afield were brought in.

The Army's effort reached its peak about ten days after the disaster. By then, some of the Territorials and "Z" Reservists who had helped from the start had gone back to their normal training, but others had taken their place. Units which carried on normal training during the week were supplying week-end working parties.

There was unstinting co-operation between soldiers and civilians. Colonel W. L. Johnson, Chief Engineer of South-Western District, controlled the Army's help to the civilian authorities from Lynton, where he set up an austere headquarters in the billiard room of an hotel.

The Army's share was intended to help the civilian authorities to the point where they could carry on with their own resources. Meanwhile, it was a varied one.

An urgent need was for bridges. Territorials and "Z" Reservists of 121 Field Engineer Regiment, from London, left their camp 100 miles away in Cornwall to put up a Bailey bridge at Barbrook Mill. Men of 102 Corps Engineer Regiment, Territorial Army, from Paisley, who were camped at Braunton, built bridges at Winsford, Dulverton and Simonsbath.

The only Regular unit available for bridging was a composite squadron of 32 Assault Engineer Regiment, which built a Bailey at Hillsford, in the Watersmeet beauty spot. Some of the men on this task — drivers, wireless operators and others — had no previous bridging experience.

Men of 110 Field Engineer Regiment, a Territorial unit with its headquarters at Bath, offered to rebuild the 2000-year-old Tarr Steps, a bridge near Dulverton made of stone slabs weighing up to five tons each. They would work at week-ends. Meanwhile, in one week-end they built a temporary suspension footbridge there.

On Exmoor, the Army's main task was to help the farmers resume normal food production,

Above: "Operation Canute" by daylight. The task was completed before the spring tides.

Right: In a shattered Lynmouth street, troops helped unload a Devon County Council lorry.

Below: At Simonsbath, on Exmoor, soldiers dug storey-high silt from the back of an hotel.



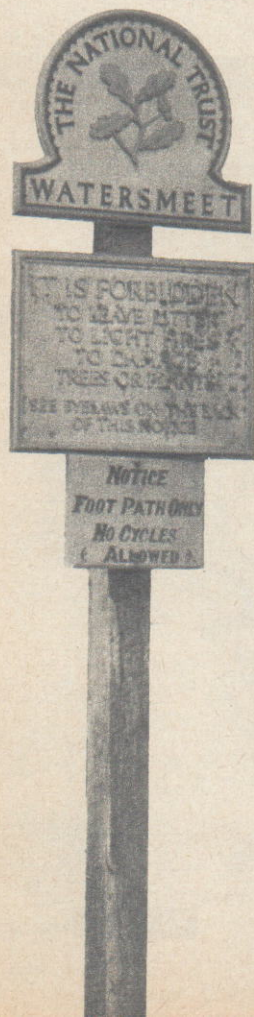
OVER



A retaining wall of sandbags replaces the bank washed away by the river Exe at Dulverton.

Right: A stream which divided turned this farm-track into a trench from five to 15 feet deep.

Below: Where the sign indicated a beauty-spot, Royal Engineers prepare to build a Bailey.



FLOODS—SEND TROOPS (Continued)

and with flood tasks for which harvesting and looking after their cattle left farmers no time.

Much of this work was done by National Servicemen. They were Devons and Dorsets, from the Wessex Brigade training centre and men from 6 Training Battalion, Royal Army Service Corps, and 8 Training Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, both at Yeovil.

It was hard work. They cleared debris from bridges, river-beds, culverts, weirs, fields, farmhouses and cottages. Plant was seldom available, owing to the demands of Lynmouth, and the troops had to depend on their own muscle-power. They improvised cattle bridges, repaired broken fences and cleared flooded sewage works.

At Swincombe, SOLDIER found a party at work on a track in

which a stream had torn a gully from five to 15 feet deep down more than a hundred yards of hill.

The most spectacular task was in Lynmouth, where the Army moved more than 100,000 tons of mud, debris and boulders. Excavated rubble was used to reform land washed away by the flood.

To restore the West Lyn to its course, Army bulldozers helped to move about 30,000 tons from the old bed of the river to the one the river cut itself on the night of the flood, and they also cut a new channel along the river's old course. Boulders weighing several tons had to be blasted or pushed aside. A "face" was cut, so that the heaviest mechanical shovels could get at the work, and tipper lorries worked day and night to carry the spoil away.

Another 30,000 tons was removed by mechanical shovels from where a chapel had stood, and carted off to replace the car-park which had been swept away by the East Lyn. More debris was bulldozed across the river to the car park and the two operations edged the East Lyn back to its old course.

Farther down was "Operation Canute," the urgent task of rebuilding the river wall before the 40-foot spring tides. Earth and rubble were bulldozed across the river, to make a solid revetment. There was no time for concreting. When the high tides came, they washed away some of the new defences, and bulldozers returned to the attack between tides.

This work was carried out by Royal Engineers of the Southern and Western Commands plant troops and of 264 Scottish Beach Brigade and the Amphibious Warfare Experimental Establishment. Wear and tear on the machines was serious, owing to the heavy nature of the work, and to cope with it 29 Command Workshops, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers set up a mobile workshop in Lynton, with an advanced detachment on the spot in Lynmouth.

Drivers of Scammell recovery lorries rescued wrecked vehicles from Lynmouth and moved the heavy plant up and down the precipitous road to Lynton. It took three Scammels to ease a bulldozer down the hill. Soldiers from the Amphibious Warfare Experimental Establishment in assault landing craft searched the floating debris offshore for bodies and Royal Marine Commandos searched the cliffs. Royal Marine frogmen examined the sea-bed for missing motor-cars.

Searchlights of 43 Light Anti-Aircraft Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery — a Regular unit from Tidworth — enabled work in Lynmouth to go on by night.

Housewives showed their appreciation of the Army's work with boiling water for tea and packets of cigarettes. NAAFI rushed a tented canteen to a camp near Blackmore Gate, and four mobile canteens which toured the working parties in the country. In Lynmouth, a Salvation Army mobile canteen operated all through working hours and local Salvation Army members found billets for soldiers who arrived late at night.

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BRIGHT AND EARLY

"Bonjour, M'sieu. This morning you are the early worm."

"Bird, Henri. And I propose to catch myself a delicious drink."

"Entendu. And after the banquet M'sieu is well?"

"Gay as a finch, as you so

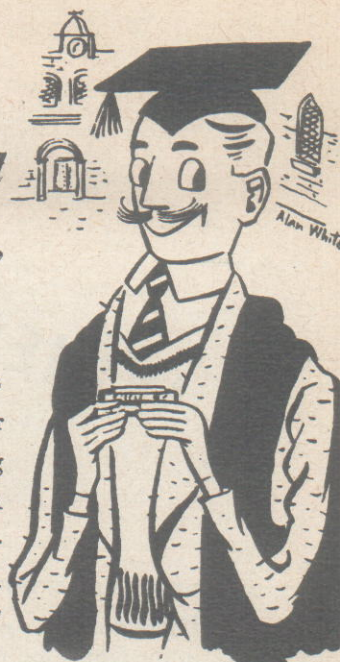
picturesquely put it. Complete recovery from a night of old-world junketing."

"And with the gin you took the Rose's Lime Juice?"

"Henri—you begin to comprehend the British train of life. Beaucoup de gin, beaucoup de Rose's. Here goes! First today..."

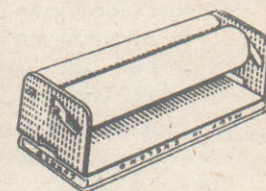
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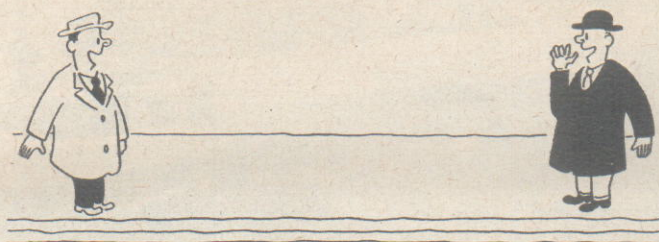
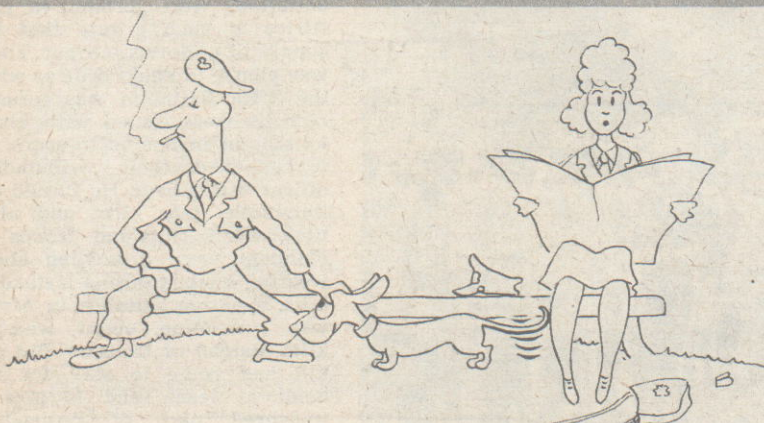


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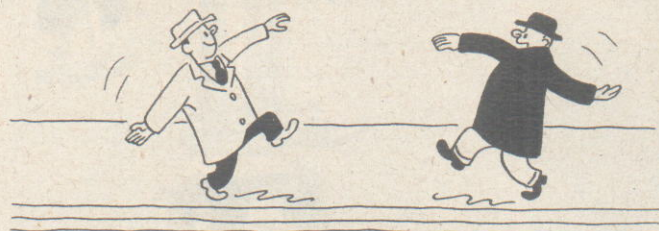
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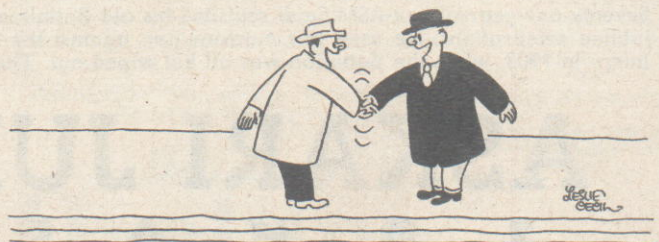
SOLDIER HUMOUR



"Well, I haven't seen you since ———"



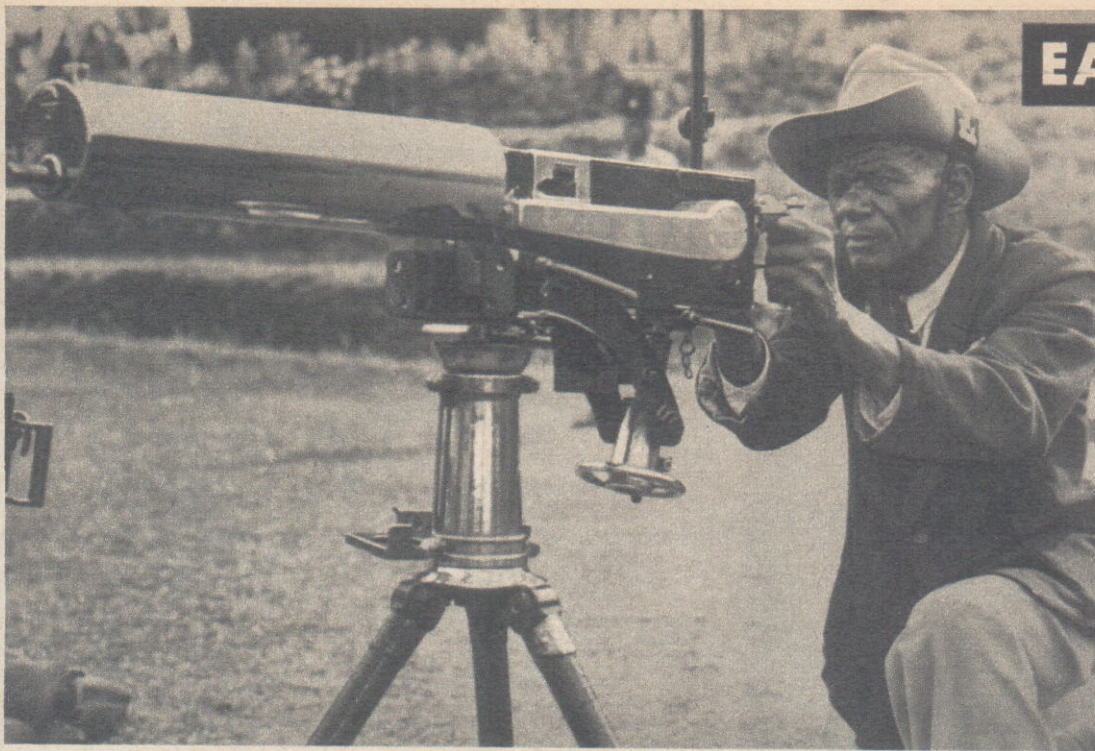
——— that grenade-throwing course ———



——— back in '43."



"I can't give you a transfer from the band, but I can let you march behind the trombone player."



Seventy-one-year-old ex-RSM Saidi revisited his old Battalion, the 2nd (Nyasaland), for the jubilee celebrations. He used this machine-gun against the Mad Mullah's hordes at Gumburru in 1903, when the Battalion was all but wiped out. The gun was lost, but recaptured.

ASKARI JUBILEE

1 2 ٣ ٥ ٤ ٧ ٦

These numerals — from one to seven in English and Arabic — are worn by the battalions of the King's African Rifles. The Regiment is 50 years old this year

JUST half a century ago, scattered armed forces in British East Africa were welded together into a single force, the King's African Rifles.

They brought into the new regiment a variety of histories and traditions.

The 1st and 2nd (Nyasaland) Battalions had grown from parties of armed natives employed by the African Lakes Corporation to protect its stations. These bands had been turned into the Central African Rifles, which included Sikhs imported from India. In this way the battle honour "Ashanti" was brought to the new Regiment.

The 3rd (Kenya) Battalion owed its origin to the Imperial British East Africa Company, and later became the East African Rifles. Today there is a 2/3rd Battalion in existence. The third Kenya battalion, the 5th, was born in Uganda and became the 1st Uganda Rifles, with a large complement of Sikhs and Punjabis as well as Africans. It has twice been disbanded.

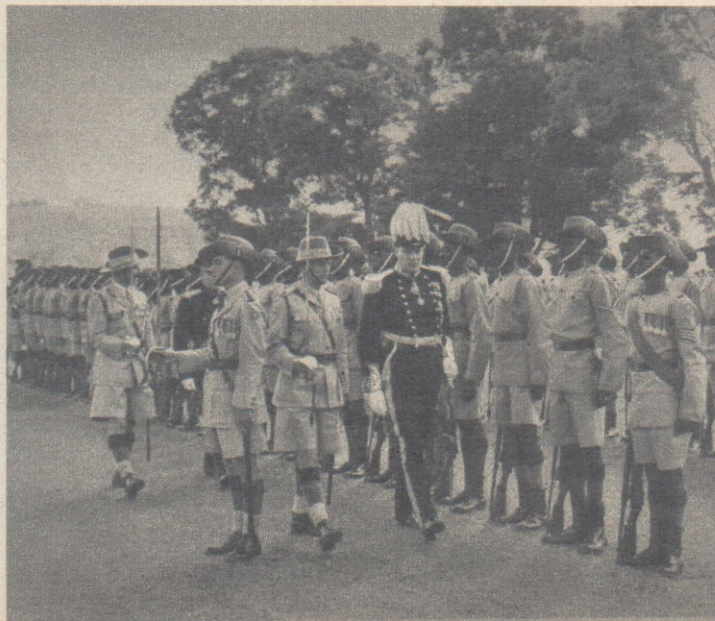
The 4th (Uganda) Battalion traces its history to a period before the first European set foot in the country. In 1884, while Gordon was making his last stand at Khartoum, a force of Nubians under Emin Pasha, a German whom Gordon had made Governor of the Equatorial Province, held on to Northern Uganda in the name of the Egyptian crown. For three years they were cut off from the rest of the world, until Stanley, the explorer, forced his way through to them from the West Coast.

Their meeting was an anticlimax. Emin Pasha refused to see Stanley and the two lay encamped on opposite sides of a lake for days, sending polite message back and forth by canoe. When eventually they did meet Emin refused to be relieved. At last he was persuaded to go with

Stanley, but his Nubians remained. In 1895 Captain Lugard, who was to become Lord Lugard, the famous Colonial administrator, engaged them to serve the Imperial East Africa Company. To this day their descendants — the Nubis — wear distinctive clothes and hair styles and have their own privileges.

The force the Nubis joined became the Uganda Rifles. They were badly handled and in 1897 mutinied. Sikhs and Punjabis were brought in, the number of

His Excellency the Governor of Uganda, Sir Andrew Cohen, inspected the 4th Battalion when they Trooped the Colour at Kampala, to mark the Regiment's jubilee.



Nubis reduced and men of other tribes recruited. Since then, however, the Nubis have regained strength in the Battalion.

The 6th (Tanganyika) Battalion was first raised in World War One, its troops coming from Tanganyika, Uganda and Kenya, and the 7th (Uganda) Battalion, now disbanded, had its origins in the islands of Zanzibar and Mafia during World War One. Two new battalions have recently been formed, the 23rd (Kenya) and 26th (Tanganyika).

The King's African Rifles played a major part in pacifying East Africa during the days of colonisation. They fought the Mad Mullah in Somaliland, and the Germans in East Africa in World War One. In World War Two, the King's African Rifles expanded to more than 50 battalions which fought the Italians in East Africa, the Vichy French in Madagascar and the Japanese in Burma. In the ranks of the regiment serve men from every territory from the Gulf of Aden to the Limpopo, under British officers.

Unlike other Rifle corps, the King's African Rifles carry Colours — presented by King George V in 1923 — and these bear six battle honours.

Two of the battalions, the 1st and 3rd, celebrated their golden jubilee in Malaya, where they are fighting the Communists. At Kampala, in Uganda, a SOLDIER correspondent watched the 4th Battalion celebrate by Trooping the Colour.

Attending the parade (he writes) were a few old gentlemen in outdated military uniforms and red fezzes with dark blue tassels, Sam Browne belts and three stars on each shoulder. They were the African officers, known as Effendis, who were a feature of the 4th King's African Rifles from 1891 to 1930, when the last one retired. They were known by the Turkish names of their ranks: Mulazim Tani (second lieutenant), Mulazim Awal (first lieutenant), Yuzbasha (captain) and Bimbashi (major). The remaining few still parade in their uniforms on ceremonial occasions, carrying themselves as straight as ramrods and acknowledging the respects of the rankers.

Another traditional feature of the 4th Battalion is the khaki kilt worn by the bandsmen. In 1917 battalions were forming in East Africa at such a rate that the supply of uniforms ran out. There was plenty of khaki drill, so when the 3/4th Battalion was formed, recruits were issued with khaki loin-cloths instead of trousers. As it happened, their commanding officer was a Scot. He turned the loin-cloths into kilts, and at a time when Highland troops in Flanders were grumbling about wearing khaki trousers instead of kilts, a native battalion in Africa was grumbling about wearing kilts instead of trousers. But the kilt had come to stay, for the band at least, and is now a treasured part of regimental tradition.

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WEST AFRICA

IF West Africa Command wanted to advertise for volunteers, it might adopt as a slogan, "West Africa for Sport."

For the man who is handy with a gun, there is just about everything to shoot, from birds to big game. He will receive every encouragement from the Army, which considers that shooting, especially big-game shooting, helps to make a better soldier.

For the horseman, there are horse-racing and polo. The Command is particularly proud of its polo, which is reasonably cheap to play, and there is a keen polo rivalry between Nigeria and the Gold Coast. One of the trophies for which teams play in Nigeria is a huge cup presented by Kaiser Wilhelm in 1914, for a military polo competition between Nigeria and the German Cameroons.

Most ball-games are played in the Command, and increasing numbers of Africans join in. Rules for football competitions now require that a proportion of players in each team shall be Africans — who play in bare feet or canvas hockey-boots and kick with the instep. The Africans' standard in games is improving rapidly as African games instructors finish their courses at the Command Training Centre at Teshie, on the Gold Coast.

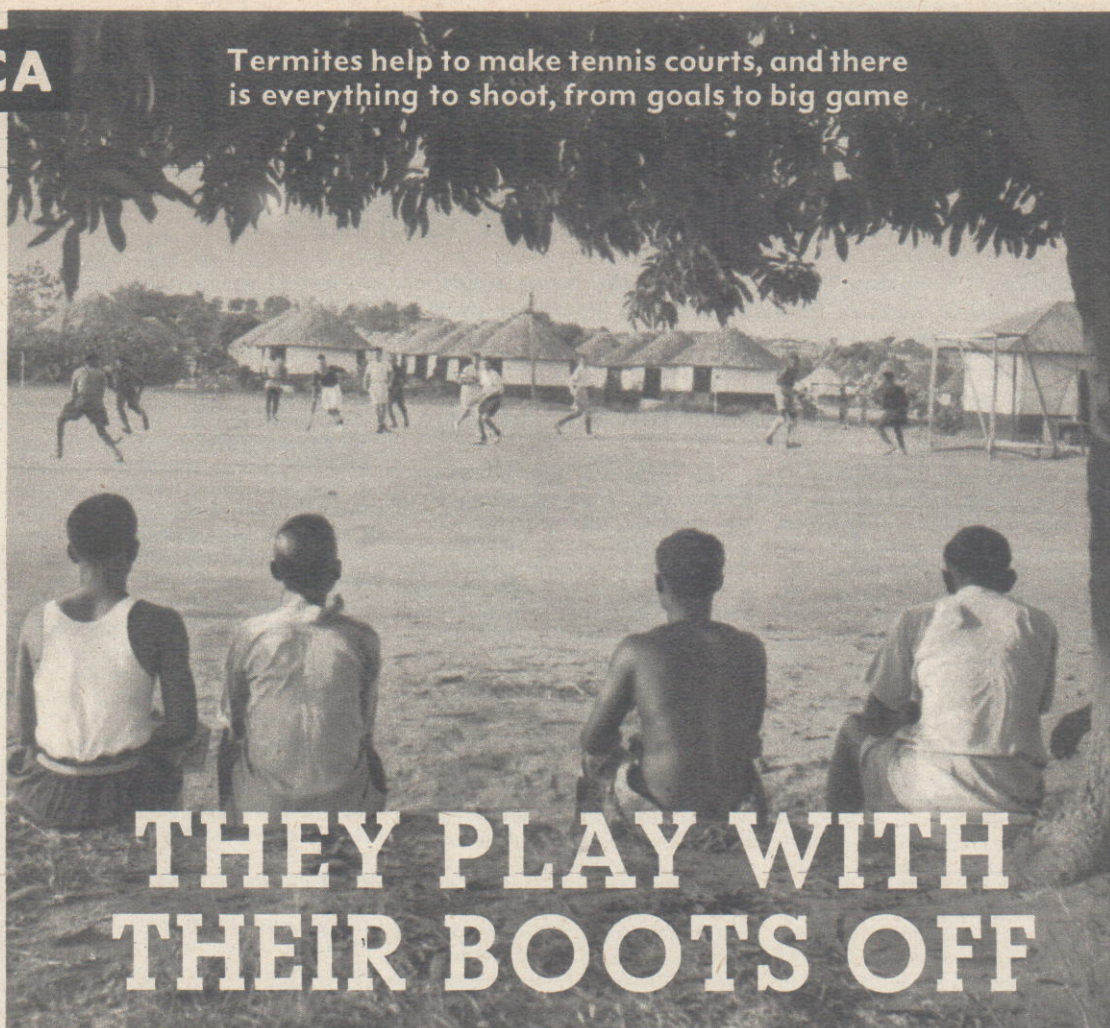
Few pitches are grassed, but this does not worry tennis players, whose courts are surfaced with powdered termite hills — better (but incorrectly, according to the naturalists) known as ant-hills. When they build their hills, the termites cement the particles of earth together with their gastric juices, and the same cement, helped by rain, binds the powder into a firm, smooth surface.

At week-ends, most Europeans in West Africa like to get into the water, and nearly every station has its swimming pools. On the coast, however, West Africa offers the thrill of surfing. At Labadi beach, near Accra, on a Sunday morning, soldiers, from commander-in-chief to corporal, and their families wade out through the heavy Atlantic breakers with their surf-boards, to ride in again on a line of foam.

Surfing is a carefully-organised pastime, because currents are strong and dangerous. African life-guards, strong swimmers, keep vigil at each end of the narrow surfing beach. If a bather goes out too far, or to the side of the beach-limits, a whistle blows to recall him.

Units and messes have their own huts under the palms which line Labadi beach; there are military changing-rooms for men and women, and there is a NAAFI, so it is easy to picnic at Labadi for the day. The strong surf makes swimming impossible, but the Army has a sea-water swimming pool, built by the West African Engineers, at Teshie, two

Termites help to make tennis courts, and there is everything to shoot, from goals to big game



The shade of a mango-tree makes a grandstand for a hockey match at Accra.

or three miles further along the coast.

The Lagos garrison has even better week-end beach facilities than that of Accra. About an hour's run by launch from Lagos is Tarkwa Bay, with a gently-shelving, sandy beach, sheltered from the breakers by a mole. Here bathing is as safe as at Bournemouth in August (except that anyone who ventures too far out may bump into a barracuda) and the children can build sand-castles to their hearts' content. Just the other side of the mole is a surfing beach. As at Labadi, there is a NAAFI; there are officers' and serjeants' messes, where people on leave can spend a few days, and a Nuffield hut where the families can stay.



The European wears soft shoes; the African is barefooted. Below: Surfing at Labadi beach is the Sunday pastime of Accra garrison.



The Soldiers Who Felt They Were Failures

INEVITABLY, during World War Two the Army found an embarrassing number of delinquents in its ranks (a high proportion of them volunteers).

They were a profound nuisance, and harsh treatment did not seem to make them into better soldiers. It cost £7 on an average to recover an absentee. Why, then, did not the Army discharge these men?

One answer was that "as civilians they might have proved an even worse nuisance, with wider opportunities for misconduct, especially in the event of invasion."

That quotation is from Joseph Trenaman's "Out Of Step" (Methuen, 21s), a book which tells how the Army, at a very tough moment in history, tackled the problem of the delinquent soldier. Since the Army could not discharge him, it had to turn him into a useful soldier.

To General Sir Ronald Adam, then Adjutant-General, it seemed the time had come for an experiment in penal reform. Under Major Geoffrey Gilbey MC, a Special Training Unit was set up at Pontefract, Yorkshire "with a view to reclaiming young soldiers from a career of crime and converting them into good soldiers." It was followed by one in Southern Command and one in Eastern

The author of this book lived among delinquent soldiers, helping, studying and analysing them. Some arrived in handcuffs; one was found to have a large mirror newly unscrewed from the train inside his blouse. There were men who boasted they would go absent as soon as they got the chance. Some were congenital wanderers. Asked, "Who is King of Great Britain?" they suggested Edward the Seventh, George the Fourth, Fifth, Seventh and Eighth. It seemed unpromising material.

"The one trait that was common to nearly all these men was a sense of inferiority," says Mr Trenaman. They felt, deep down, that they were failures, that they could not cope with life (which was one reason why some had joined the Army). Some had had early illnesses; many were unduly attached to their homes. On leave they had a tendency to put up

stripes to which they were not entitled. Often a man demanded a change of arm, or said he wanted to go to sea (a spell in a minesweeper could be a sobering experience). Though many of them condemned the Army as a whole and their own platoon in particular, they would yet engage in furious arguments over which was the best regiment and which had the most battle honours. The problem was to guide this spirit into useful channels.

The staffs of the Special Training Units took everything a little more slowly, a little more patiently. Often they had to suffer non-co-operation and insolence which few regimental officers and NCO's could have stomached. They tried to treat each man individually, to find out what was griping him, to win his respect, to make him try; when necessary, they appealed to his parents to use their good influence, if any. Once they had a man's respect, a sudden sharp word would have a profounder effect than an hour's slanging from an unsympathetic NCO. The author mentions two Welfare sergeants who were accessible to the men day and night, and usually had a queue waiting to see them. These were ultra-patient, dedicated men. They kept in touch with the soldiers after posting, and their mail sometimes was enormous. They are still answering letters, though the



General Sir Ronald Adam: "I think we can say that the experiment was a success."

Special Training Units have ceased to exist.

Men served in the special units about six months. "One of the problems was to decide whether to let every man stay as long as possible or whether to post him away while he was on the crest of a wave, if there was one."

What happened to those who passed from the Special Training Units? Some continued to be a nuisance, but many "went overseas to prove their worth as useful and sometimes heroic members of the community." The author makes a special acknowledgment "to D. N., killed in action at Salerno." General Sir Ronald Adams says in a foreword: "I think we can say that the experiment was a success."

Much of Mr. Trenaman's book is statistical, since he is offering, not a piquant personal story, but case records and percentages for future students of delinquency, in the Army or out of it.

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Now It's The Turn of Von Rundstedt

IF the Germans had won World War Two, would a book in praise of Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery, written by his Chief of Staff, Major-General Sir Francis de Guingand, have been marketed in Berlin by a German publisher?

This reflection is prompted by the publication of "Von Rundstedt, The Soldier and The Man" (Odham's, 15s) by General Guenther Blumentritt, who was Field-Marshal von Rundstedt's Chief of Staff.

By many, Rundstedt will be remembered as the disenchanted general in the "Rommel" film, making acid references to Corporal Hitler. By General Blumentritt's appreciation, Rundstedt was another of those German generals whom Hitler prevented from winning the war. He came from a family with monarchic tradition and disliked the Nazis, but he served them (or his country) well.

He took part in the conquests of Poland and France then was told to prepare Operation "Sea-lion," the invasion of Britain. Neither Rundstedt nor his staff took this seriously, says the author; they believed Hitler was about to procure peace with Britain and anyway Rundstedt re-

garded the operation as impossible.

Rundstedt had a spell on the Russian Front, at the end of which he quarrelled with Hitler, resigned and was later reconciled. He returned to France as Commander-in-Chief in the West. During the fighting in North-West Europe, Rundstedt often disagreed with Hitler and when in February 1945 the Allies broadcast that they would accept surrender only from Rundstedt, he knew his days of command were numbered. Hitler sacked him and gave him another decoration.

"Anyone who knew Rundstedt, the soldier, is aware that he would never have broken his oath," says the author.



F-M. von Rundstedt: The Allies said they would accept Germany's surrender only from him.

Waugh's Halberdiers

IN two earlier books, "Put Out More Flags" and "Brideshead Revisited," Mr. Evelyn Waugh had chapters in which he turned his satirical eye on the Army.

Now comes his "Men At Arms" (Chapman and Hall, 15s), the first of three novels (each complete in itself) "recounting the phases of a long love affair, full of vicissitudes, between a civilian and the Army."

Mr. Waugh's publishers explain that he "was unusually, perhaps uniquely, fortunate in evading all the semi-literary, semi-bureaucratic tasks which fell on his colleagues. He spent the war from start to finish as a junior officer engaged chiefly in ordinary regimental soldiering." In *Who's Who* Mr. Waugh summarises his war career as "Temp. commission Royal Marines 1939; transferred Royal Horse Guards 1942." There are piquant references to Waugh at war in Mr. Eric Linklater's "The Art of Adventure."

"Men At Arms" chronicles the misadventures of the Royal Corps of Halberdiers in the first year of World War Two. The reader may find himself trying to "identify" the Halberdiers as the Guards, the Honourable Artillery Company or half a dozen Yeomanry regiments, but he will be wasting his time. The Halberdiers are, of course, an exclusive regiment. Their officers return salutes as smartly as they are offered, not with a lackadaisical wave. They are friendly to newcomers too. "In another regiment a junior officer said 'Good morning' to a senior and was answered: 'Good morning, good morning, good morning, good morning, good morning, good morning, good morning. Let

that last you for a week.'" There is nothing like that about the Halberdiers.

There are two memorable characters in "Men At Arms." One is the fierce, one-eyed Brigadier Ritchie-Hook, an ideal man for shaking up a slack, smug unit. To him, all tactics and strategy are enshrined in one word: *biffing*. His methods are wildly unorthodox; he is never more than half a jump ahead of a court-martial. But he gets things done, even if they are the wrong things.

The other is the "old bush hand," Aphorpe, who travels with a great mass of gear and medicines, and even a private "thunderbox" which is coveted by the Brigadier (some unrefined fun here). Aphorpe is ever-prepared, but never ready. When promoted captain he harries subalterns who do not salute him. His slow journey round the bend is terminated heartlessly.

The central character, Guy Crouchback, is a paler, unhappy mortal who (according to the publishers) "has nothing in common with the author beyond their common Faith and age." Anxious though he is to serve the Halberdiers well, he ends this first book in disgrace. He will reappear, along with (one hopes) more extravagant characters like Ritchie-Hook and Aphorpe.

Young officers in particular will read this book with relish. Fictitious though the Halberdiers are, their misfortunes are painfully authentic.

Lady Smith of Ladysmith

OUT of the wreck of Badajoz, stormed by Wellington's troops, hurried two Spanish sisters, one a young married woman, the other a girl of 14. Blood trickled from their ears, from which looters had ripped ear-rings without waiting to unhook them. The sisters considered themselves lucky to have escaped so lightly.

They made their way to a British Army camp, and sought the protection of the officers, recalling the friendly officers who had been billeted on them earlier in the campaign. They received the shelter they asked.

A fortnight later, the young girl, Juana Maria de Los Dolores de Leon, was married to one of her protectors, the dashing Captain Harry Smith. In ten days he taught her to ride a horse.

Juana's subsequent career is described in "The Gentle Amazon," by Jane-Eliza Hasted (Museum Press, 16s). For four years she followed her husband as he campaigned across the Peninsula. When battles were being fought, she sat her horse behind the guns. She became a favourite of the Peninsular Army; the great Duke himself was among her friends. Once she rode 15 miles across enemy territory to return a bowl which her husband's servant had stolen from a French woman on whom they were billeted.

Juana was in Belgium for Waterloo. She fled from Brussels to Antwerp when it was wrongly reported that Wellington's army

had been beaten, then returned to Brussels to rejoin her husband. There she was told he was dead. At once she galloped out to the battlefield to search for his body, but it was a brigade-major named Smyth who had been killed.

Juana's Brigade-Major Smith soldiered on to greater glory. There were successful campaigns in South Africa. In India, Juana's husband distinguished himself as the victor of Aliwal and other notable engagements. He became Major-General Sir Harry Smith, and the little Spanish girl was her Ladyship. Juana was older and plumper now; she no longer trailed around with the campaigners, though she came under fire at Maharajapore — this time sitting an elephant instead of a horse.

Back in England, her husband received a hero's welcome. Then off they went to South Africa. This time Sir Harry was to be Governor of the Cape — an active Governor who had frontier wars to fight. Her stay in South Africa was commemorated in the naming of the Natal Town of Ladysmith (later famous for its siege in the Boer War).

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Rhine Army: Cost of Living

The Editor of SOLDIER has received the following letter:

RECENTLY there have been increases in the cost of living for British troops in Germany. In July the concessional railway fares for soldiers and their families were increased and charges at leave centres are now much higher.

As an NCO living in married quarters I am naturally anxious to know if there will be further increases in the cost of living or whether present concessions are to be withdrawn, e.g. will the rent for our quarters increase? Will NAAFI prices go up? Will we have to pay more for recreational transport and for servants? Will those who own cars have to pay German road taxation and buy petrol at the very high German prices or will the present concession continue?

Will privilege leave to Britain be affected? Will we have to pay more for our clothing or make it last longer before it can be replaced? Will we now have to pay for dog licences?

Lately there has been much talk about the possibility of soldiers in Rhine Army being given an overseas allowance or a special rate of exchange (of D-Marks 15=£1) being introduced. Is there any foundation for this? — "Serjeant" (name and address supplied).

SOLDIER has received the following authoritative comments: 1. Charges for quarters, fuel and light, recreational transport and

prices of uniform clothing are the same in BAOR as in other Commands. If there are any increases they will affect the whole Army and not only BAOR.

2. Present charges for servants are extremely low and represent only a fraction of their actual wages. It cannot be assumed that the present highly concessional charges will remain in force indefinitely.

3. There is no early prospect of British troops having to pay German car or dog taxes or German prices for petrol.

4. Although leave centre charges have gone up during the last year or two, they are still very much lower than would have to be paid in Britain for comparable facilities, and the leave centres are all being run at a considerable loss.

5. NAAFI enjoy in BAOR considerable concessions (including cheap labour and accommodation) which enable them to sell at prices lower than normal commercial practice would require. If any of these concessions were withdrawn, NAAFI prices would probably rise, but we are not aware of any im-

mediate prospect of this. Apart from this NAAFI prices naturally fluctuate with the prices at which NAAFI buy.

6. The Deutschemark/Sterling rate of exchange is related to international financial conditions and is not designed for the specific purpose of making it expensive to live in BAOR. In any case, by far the greater part of BAOR's essential expenditure (as opposed to luxury and semi-luxury expenditure) is met in Sterling or BAFSV and is not affected by the rate of exchange. If the present rate of exchange is altered it will be as a

result of international conditions. There is no likelihood of a special rate for BAOR.

7. Although it is true that the cost of living in BAOR has been going up, it must be remembered that until recently the standard of living here was very much higher and the cost much lower than in Britain. The gap between Britain and BAOR is now much narrower but it is still true to say that troops in BAOR get more for their money and live on a less austere scale than they would in Britain.

Local overseas allowance is paid only in overseas stations where the cost of living is higher than it is in Britain. This is not yet the case in BAOR. If and when it becomes so, no doubt a local overseas allowance will be introduced.

FILMS COMING YOUR WAY

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

THE SOUND BARRIER

The speed of sound, at which the air refuses to part before a moving object, was a barrier which destroyed a number of lives before it was crossed. In this film Ralph Richardson plays the part of a manufacturer of jet aircraft whose son and son-in-law die as a result of his attempts to surmount the sound barrier. He keeps on with his work, despite the protests of his daughter-in-law (Ann Todd) until at last John Justin succeeds in passing the sound barrier safely — apparently by simply reversing the controls. Nigel Patrick and Dinah Sheridan are also in the cast.

IVANHOE

An exciting Technicolour version of Walter Scott's novel. SOLDIER's review (August) described it as a film every soldier should see. Stars: Robert Taylor, Elizabeth Taylor, John Fontaine, George Sanders and Emyln Williams.

JUST FOR YOU

Bing Crosby admits he is growing up and, still crooning, plays the part of the father of two 'teen-agers. He has not been a very good father — being a successful man in show business has not left him much time — but he is determined to change his parental ways. Jane Wyman and Ethel Barrymore assist.

SON OF PALEFACE

Bob Hope, in the Wild West, playing the son of a character he played in a previous film. He runs into Jane Russell (who has occasion to sing and dance), Roy Rogers and a horse called Trigger. The horse shares the star billing and manages to win a fight with Bob Hope.

THE THING FROM ANOTHER WORLD

The Thing is a sort of vegetable which lands on earth near the American Air Force and proceeds to act in an animal way. Stars: Margaret Sheridan, Kenneth Tobey and Robert Cornthwaite.

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Secrets of Sleep



If you dream of hats....

To dream you have a new hat, say the dream books, denotes that your plans are going to meet with success. But if in your dream someone else wears your hat, it is a sign either of a rival or of one who has some property which should be yours.

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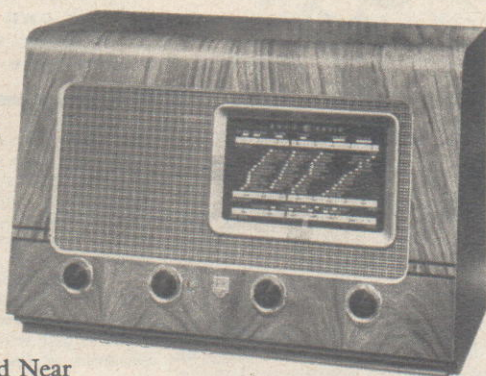
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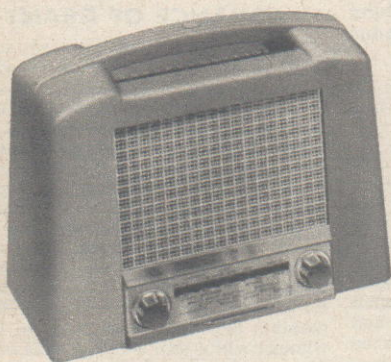
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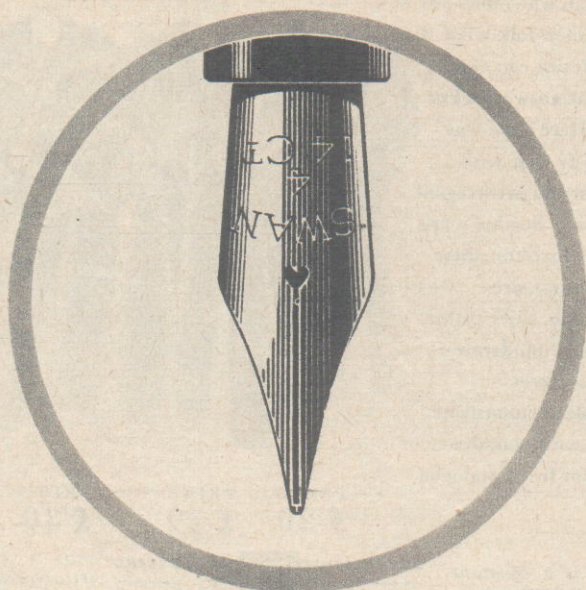
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LETTERS

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

Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published.

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



BOWS AND ARROWS

In your reply to the letter in your August number about the use of bows and arrows by the British Army, you quote Peter Fleming as saying that his training of some Lovat Scouts in the use of the bow in Kent in 1940 was the nearest the British soldier has come to discharging an arrow in anger for several centuries. This is not correct. Major J. M. T. Churchill DSO, MC, of the Seaforth Highlanders, one of Britain's most experienced archers, took a bow with him on patrol behind the Maginot and Siegfried Lines in 1939—40, and on one occasion loosed a shaft at a German working party. As it was at night, he was unable to verify whether he had scored a bull, but the sudden commotion which arose suggested that this was possible. I understand Major Churchill also sometimes carried his bow with the Commandos in the Aegean, though whether he had another opportunity of using it, I do not know. — W. St. John Tayleur, Office of Deputy Judge Advocate General, BAOR.

COLUMN DODGERS

On arrival at camp for my "Z" training I was surprised to see men aged 43 to 45 among those recalled. Some were ex-prisoners of war. In this age of fair shares for all I do feel some of the "column dodgers" who missed the war-time call-up, and countless others who through being factory apprentices were deferred until after the end of hostilities and were then forgotten, should not be allowed to escape the net. — J. Searson, ex-BQMS, The Poplars, Beckingham, near Doncaster, Yorks.

★ "Z" men receive only refresher training. An immensely wider and more expensive scheme would be necessary to train men from scratch.

FOOD PARCELS

I have just returned home from Germany. While out there I paid 8s for a food parcel to be sent to my home by the Forces Help Society Parcel Scheme. I was told the contents were unknown as they were parcelled in England. The one delivered to my home contained a 1lb tin of lamb and peas, one packet of raisins and one tin of condensed milk, which I am sure does not cost 8s even with postage. — W. Coram, Statton Road, Bamber Bridge, near Preston.

★ **SOLDIER** is informed that each parcel contains about 5s worth of food; transport, insurance, packing and postage more than take up the

rest of the 8s. As parcels come from Australia, it is an expensive scheme to operate and the Forces Help Society have suggested that it should be closed. However, the demand is so great that Service Ministries have asked them to continue. Apart from the fact that parcels contain foods not easily available in this country, many Servicemen abroad like to send home a gift which will be appreciated, even if the cost is more than if the goods were bought in a shop.

The organisers would like to include butter but this is now 4s 6d a lb in Australia.

BACK PAY

I have been entitled to three-star pay rates since September 1951, but owing to delays beyond my control I have not been credited with the extra. The boys tell me that I can claim only three months' back pay. Is this true? — "Jake" (name supplied), Ordnance Depot, Korea.

★ A unit commander may award only three months' arrears of pay. For arrears covering a longer period he must make special application (see ACI 361/51 app. 3).

ADVANCE OF GRANT

SSM S. Haley put forward some good points in his letter on terminal grants in August **SOLDIER**. He suggested that men who extend in the Service beyond 22 years should be given an advance of 75 per cent of their grant. I cannot agree with your reply that this would defeat the purpose of the scheme. For example, a soldier with 25 years service has already earned the basic grant applicable to his rank on completion of 22 years service. If he continues for a further period in the Army it is possible he might be anxious to buy a house while still serving, thus making certain of a home when he is finally discharged, or even while serving if he is posted overseas without his family.

If sanction of an advance of a part of the grant already earned could be approved in principle, subject to satisfactory evidence being produced that it is required for a specific reason connected with a soldier's resettlement, then it would seem that the purpose for which the terminal grant was introduced would be served. This system would also encourage more soldiers to serve beyond 22 years. — SSM E. Owen, Command Pay Office, 52 North Bridge, Edinburgh.

★ When terminal grants were introduced the object was to provide a lump sum at the end of a soldier's service to help him meet the problems of civilian life. Although it is initially earned after 22 years (in the case of soldiers below commissioned rank) the sum increases by further service. Thus a WO1 who is due for £300 on discharge after 22 years would, by

continuing to serve for another 15 years, bring the amount to £600 (rising by £20 a year). It is not War Office policy to issue part of the grant before a man leaves the service, any more than it is policy to issue in advance part of a man's pension.

The considerable number of officers, warrant officers and NCO's who have served for 30 years or more are finding that high taxation and the cost of bringing up their children to the highest possible standard leaves them with no ready cash. The only way of obtaining their terminal grants is by voluntary retirement. This is happening daily, and explains why the Prime Minister announced that 30,000 men would not be called to the Army next year because of the lack of instructors.

Another aspect concerns the soldier who has qualified for the grant but who dies while serving. The unpaid grant dies too; it does not pass to the widow. I suggest the full terminal grant should be paid immediately the qualifying period has been served. — Major T. J. Gordon, MBE, MC, Park Hall Camp, Oswestry.

FATHER-TO-BE

Is there any regulation whereby a soldier can be excused duties in the last three months of his wife's pregnancy? — "Conductor RAOC" (name and address supplied).

★ No.

HIS SUMMING UP

I am leaving the Army after six years. I have found that my most enjoyable moments have been roughing it on manoeuvres; that the loudest grousing about NAAFI tea and Army

BIGGER PENSION

In 1944, when he was due for release, my husband started to draw his pension, but he was not, of course, allowed to leave the Army owing to the war. Later he decided to extend year by year but he has finally decided to leave the Service. In 1947 his pay was brought on to the new scale. Will his pension also increase under the 1950 code and will he receive a terminal grant? — Mrs. H. Banner, Menin Road, Colchester.

★ During the war soldiers who would have been discharged to pension but who had to serve on were given the opportunity of drawing their pension while they remained in uniform. Where, as in this case, they have continued to serve and will leave the Army after the date on which the new code pension scheme started, they will have their old pensions reassessed under the new code to take into consideration their further service. This means they will also earn the terminal grant.

FALSE BIRTHDAY

When I joined-up I added 14 months to my age in order to enlist on man's service. I have since had it corrected under Army Council Instructions. The problem now is my pension. Do my 22 years start from the date of my enlistment or from the date of my real 18th birthday? If the latter, I suppose I shall have to serve an extra 14 months. — "Warrant Officer" (name and address supplied).

★ This reader's service for pension will count from his date of enlistment. Although a soldier's date of birth may be officially amended, the date declared on his enlistment counts for Army purposes, including pension.

DELAYED ACTION

Last year I was absent 14 days. My punishment was 21 days detention. When the release groups were announced I found I had been put back two groups — a total of 35 days. I have heard that one has to serve 28 days detention for one's release to be put back. — "Private" (name and address supplied).

★ The 14 days of absence are added to the 21 days detention, making the total of 35 days non-reckonable service which this soldier had to make good.

SERVICE REDUCED

I have met an ex-Boy who tells me his previous 12 years engagement was changed to eight years and four on the Reserve. This was done under WOM BM/AG10/548/47/AG1(c) of January 1948. I was attested in February 1949 and reached man's service in August of that year. Can I take advantage of this scheme? — Bdsn A. Reid, Seaforth Highlanders, Edinburgh.

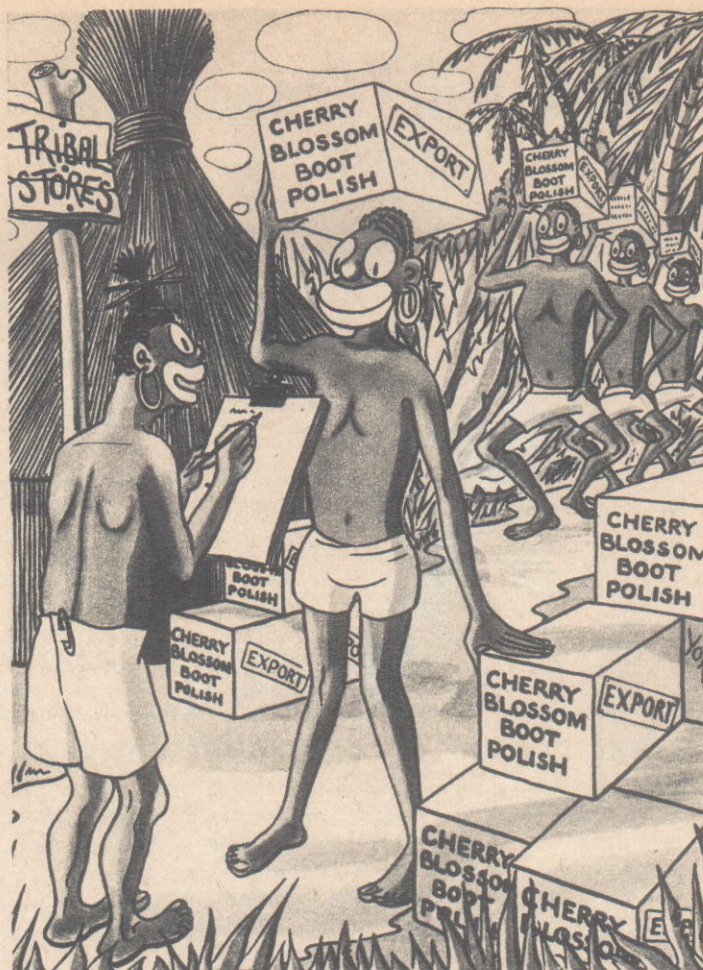
★ This scheme was limited to Boys attested between 1 April 1947 and 20 October 1947. As a result only a very limited number of Boys are able to change their Colour service from 12 to eight years. Apart from this example, soldiers are not permitted to change their terms of service.

RASC LANYARDS

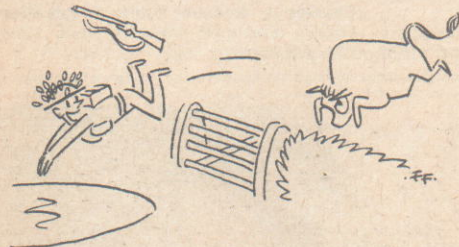
Army Council Instructions state that the RASC is to have a lanyard, but it is not clear if this will be available to men as well as to officers. — Driver M. Kennedy, Depot Battalion RASC, Bordon.

★ The lanyard will be issued to all ranks. Sufficient stocks, however, have not yet been built up for general distribution.

More Letters Overleaf



"First things first — now we'll order the boots."



"...roughing it on manoeuvres..."

food comes from the biggest tea drinkers and biggest eaters; that the "queerest" looking recruits often turn out to be the best soldiers; that the men who ask all the questions invariably already know all the answers. — Trooper N. R. Dewing, Stanford Range Party, West Tofts Camp, near Mundford, Norfolk.

DEMONSTRATION ROLE

Reading your article on the Demonstration Battalion at the School of Infantry, I notice that the 1st Battalion The East Lancashire Regiment is not mentioned. This battalion served as Demonstration Battalion before the equally famous Lancashire Fusiliers. I certainly agree with Peter Lawrence — it is an honour to serve as the "Demo" Battalion; and it is also a very hard and trying job. — Captain John Dought (E. Lancs), 17th Bn Parachute Regiment TA, Burt Terrace, Gateshead 8.

BOMB SHIFTERS

It seems that men engaged in bomb clearance in Germany (unlike those in Britain) may not claim the General Service Medal and clasp for Bomb Disposal. Why is this? — SQMS D. Tildesley, BEM, Ordnance Directorate, Ceylon Army, Colombo, Ceylon.

★ In overseas commands the work of bomb disposal was carried out by foreign nationals under the supervision of British soldiers. In Britain the actual removal was undertaken by troops themselves.



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MORE LETTERS

RED SASHERS

You state that red sashes are worn by Army Physical Training instructors. You are not quite right. If you substitute "Corps" for "instructors" you would have it correct. A senior NCO can be an Army physical training instructor in any regiment, but his particular unit may not be entitled to wear the red worsted sash. On the other hand all NCO's of the Army Physical Training Corps are entitled to wear it. — Staff-Serjeant Instructor N. Wallace, APTC, 2 RHA, BAOR.

LINGUIST

I have been trying unsuccessfully to obtain an interpreter's examination in German. Can you advise me if this is possible? — Pte. E. Carron, Army Catering Corps, BAOR.

★ Examination in the Interpretation standard of foreign languages is restricted to officers of certain regiments and corps. Although soldiers below commissioned rank do not sit for these, facilities exist in most educational centres in Germany for the study of German and students may take the German paper of the examination of the Army Certificate of Education First Class (subjects can now be taken singly). Successful candidates who wish to pass an examination of a higher class and with universal recognition can sit the examination for the (civilian) General Certificate of Education. Local education centres will provide details.

UNPAID LEAVE

Does the Army consider applications for leave, without pay, for the purpose of study? On my return to Britain I would like to attend a shorthand course.

The Army's courses are too short and the chances of a senior clerk

being allowed to attend one are small. The only way to reach the required standard is to study in one's spare time and then take a course at one's own expense. It would be worth while as the money paid out would come back in the form of a better rate of pay. — "Serjeant" (name supplied), HQ British Army of the Rhine.

★ Applications, recommended by a commanding officer, will always be considered.

KOREA TOUR

My son volunteered for Korea and sailed early last March. He understood he would serve for 18 months and then return home. Now he writes to say that after his 18 months are up he will have to serve another 18 months in a Far East station. I read in SOLDIER for March that the tour in Korea was 18 months — and then home. — G. Randerson, 13 St. Martin's Terrace, Canterbury.

★ As from 1 April 1952 all troops embarking for Korea serve for 18 months in that theatre and then are moved to another station to make up the normal three years overseas tour. As this reader's son sailed before that date he should return to Britain after 18 months in Korea.

WATCH ON THE RHINE

I recently traded watches with a German civilian in a beer garden here. The watch bore this inscription: "Presented to 1st AM B. Turner as a mark of appreciation from men of A, B and C Flights 24 RS: RFC 1917." The German spoke no English and my German is so poor I was unable to learn where he obtained the watch. It still keeps good time.

I thought perhaps if this letter was published in SOLDIER the original owner or members of his family might want to have the watch. — Sjt. Charles A. Dodson, Public Information Office, Stuttgart Military Post, APO 154, US Army.

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

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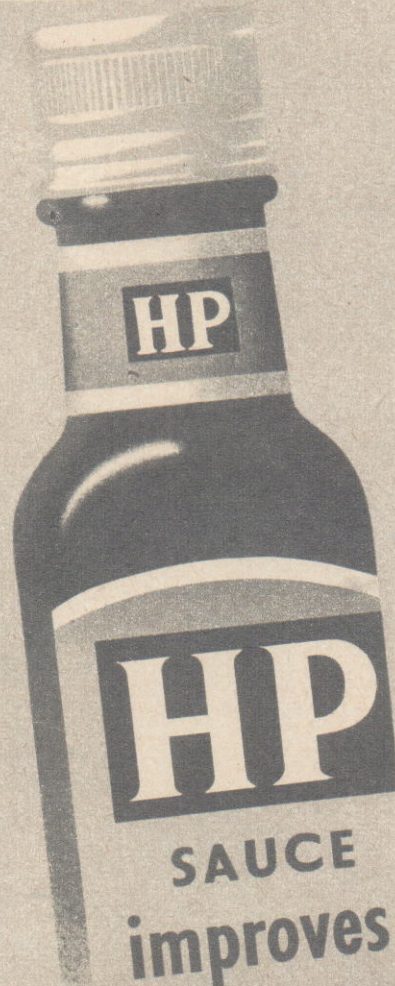


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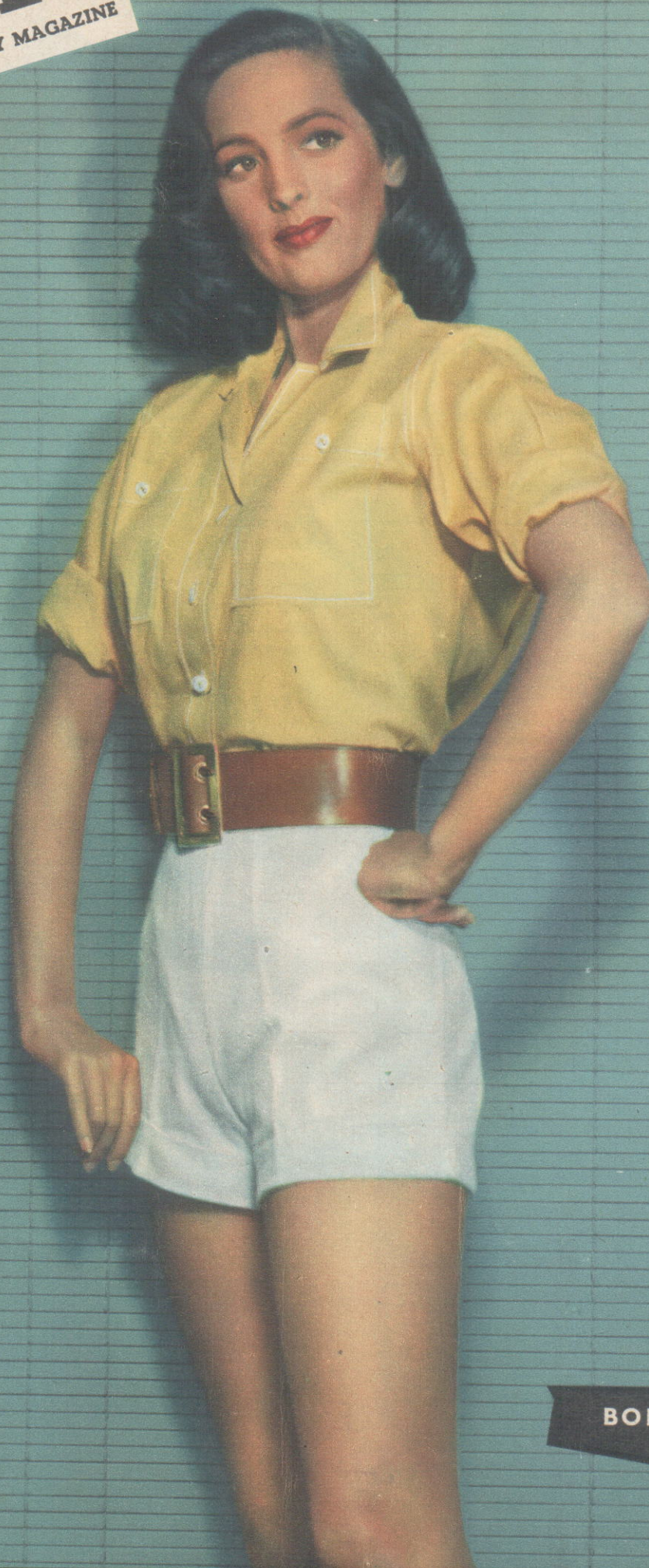
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