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BEER, BATS AND FRAULEINS

The free Press of Britain is not the least of the blessings (still to be seen amid difficulties, curses and chaos) available to the inhabitants of our islands.

It has been hardly won down the centuries, as indeed have our other liberties.

Nevertheless, occasions arise when liberty comes to be mistaken for license. Such has been the case recently. Some newspapers at home have published stories and photographs which purported to reflect the soldiers' reaction to the modification of non-fraternising orders.

These have done harm, for they presented a wholly false overall picture. Proof of this is contained in the acid letters which many are receiving from irate wives and sweethearts who (with too little and too hasty judgement) assumed that their men in BLA instantly jumped into the arms of the nearest fraulein.

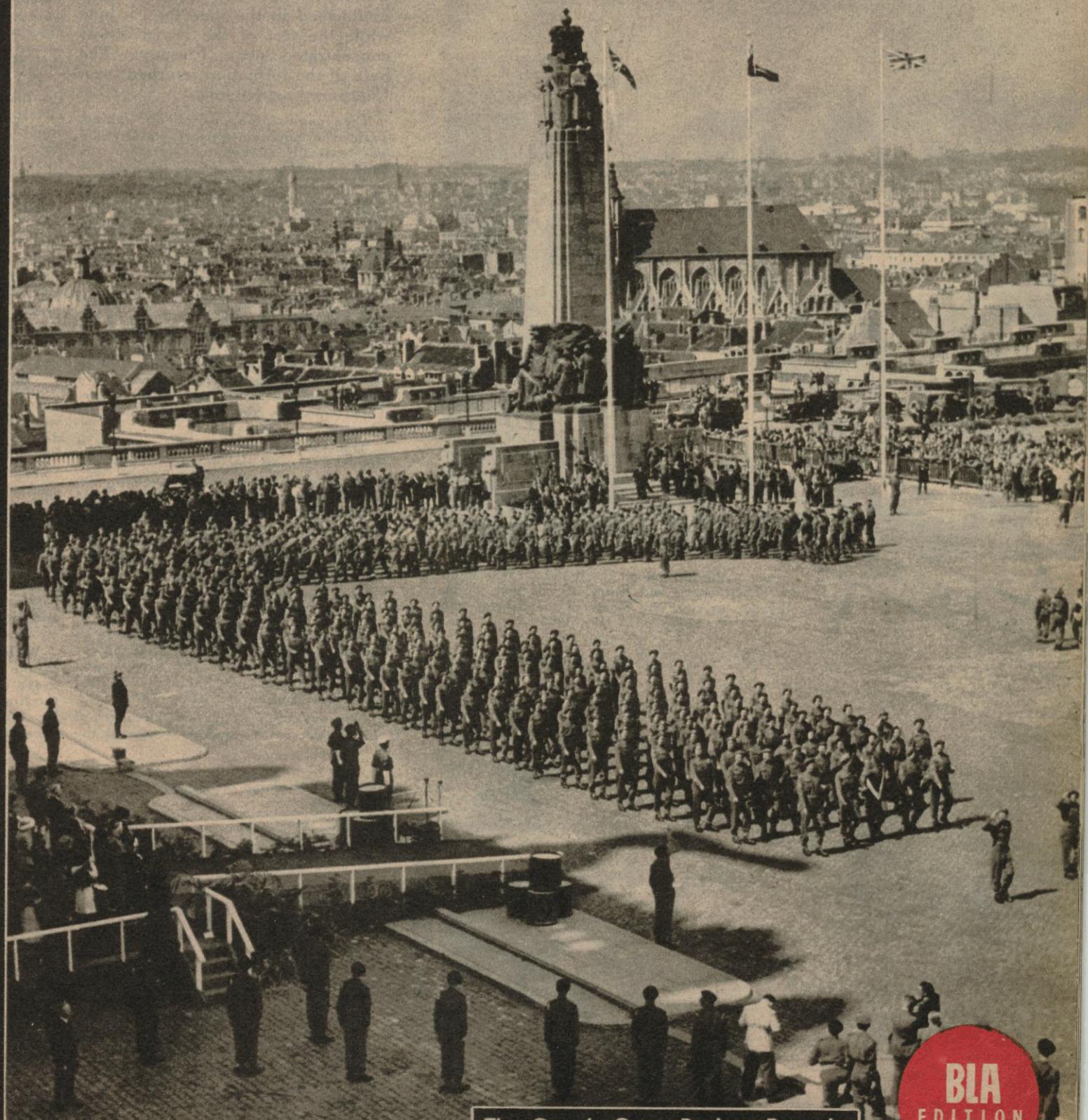
It is an unjust assumption fostered by an irresponsible display of distorted facts.

A very small minority of men here have taken advantage of non-frat relaxation. Their reasons for so doing are not called into question.

The rest — the great majority — are much more interested in bats (for cricket) and beer (for drinking) as and when duties permit. The frauleins are a long, long way down the list.

6 Go Out

Pages 4 and 5.



The Guards Came Back to Brussels
(See Pages 12-13.)

BLA
EDITION



Major-General Sir James S. Drew, KCB, CB, DSO, MC (left) commanded the Lowland Division in France in 1940, when it fought after Dunkirk. During the invasion the Division was led by Major-General E. Hakewill Smith, CBE, MC (right).



Scenes at the landing on the island of Walcheren are shown above and below. It was part of the operation to clear the mouth of the Scheldt, and began on 1 Nov. 1944.



Lowland Division

The road was long: the prize was Bremen



THE 52nd (Lowland) Division has had a strange and romantic history in the present war. Led by Major-General Sir James S. Drew, KBE, CB, DSO, MC, it took part in the brief campaign in France in 1940 after the withdrawal from Dunkirk. The 157 Brigade was established in the line by 13 June while the rest of the Division was concentrated near Fresnoy. The bulk of the formation returned from Cherbourg on 18 June.

Then came a long period of waiting. Trained in mountain warfare, the Division was ironically enough to return to the battle, more than four years later, in the dead level country in South Beveland and Walcheren, which, with Canadian and Special Service troops, it cleared in less than eight days, with a "bag" of 8,000 prisoners. Thence the trail it was to blaze led over the German border to Bremen itself.

The Division, commanded in BLA by Major-General E. Hakewill Smith, CBE, MC, is composed of three Brigades, the 155, 156 and 157. The Lowland troops come from farms and crofts ranging from the northern slopes of the Cheviots to a line running from the Forth to the Clyde. They come, too, from Edinburgh and from Glasgow.

The 155 Brigade consist of the 7/9 Royal Scots and the 4 and 5 battalions of the King's Own Scottish Borderers. The 156 Brigade contains the 4/5 Royal Scots Fusiliers and the 6 and 7 Cameronians. In the 157 Brigade are the 5 and 6 Highland Light Infantry and the 1 Glasgow Highlanders. The 7 Manchesters are the Division's machine-gun battalion.

Vital Operation

Elements of the 157 Brigade were with the BLA earliest, fighting in Holland for some weeks before the 156 Brigade and the 5 Highland Light Infantry assaulted South Beveland on 26 October, 1944.

This operation — to close the mouth of the Scheldt to the enemy — was of the

highest strategic importance. From first to last it was carried out with superb success.

On the first day, soon after the assault went in, the Cameronians swiftly took Baarland. Almost immediately the 156 Brigade were called on to hold their bridgehead against fierce counter-attacks near Hoedenskerke. German efforts to sweep the Lowlanders back into the sea were resisted determinedly and within a day the position had been stabilised. The assault troops had already collected more than 500 prisoners.

The operation was handicapped from the first by the fact that the weather almost immediately began to deteriorate, which meant that it was impossible to keep up the flow of maintenance, and further attacks to widen the beach-head had to be postponed. Nevertheless, the attacking forces both consolidated and swiftly improved their position.

Drive to Flushing

The 5 Highland Light Infantry met stubborn resistance on 28 October, but they fought their way forward towards Molenburg and took 40 prisoners-of-war from the fanatically determined defenders. On this day, too, the 7 Cameronians captured the important coastal town of Ellewoutsdijk. In all, the Brigade took over 100 prisoners. Meanwhile, the build-up was going ahead. The 1 Glasgow Highlanders of the 157 Brigade began to cross to Beveland.

The Lowland Infantry continued to smash its way westward towards Walcheren, and it was the turn of the 7/9 Royal Scots and the King's Own Scottish Borderers to capture towns and villages during the day, the former occupying Oostende and the latter Litt and St. Georges. By 30 October the 156 Brigade had firm contact with the 2 Canadian Division, and now the time was ripe for the assault on Flushing itself.

With the 4 Commando, both battalions of the King's Own Scottish Borderers drove for this strategically vital port on the first day of November. They were met by formidable opposition, but took a great part of the town, though strong-

The first of a series of articles by officer-observers recalling the achievements of the fighting Divisions of the BLA.

points and pill-boxes held out in isolated pockets west of the port. Supporting aircraft did great work in pulverising these last nests of resistance, but the 155 Brigade had to fight from house to house and capture street by street before Flushing fell.

With Flushing cleared, the King's Own Scottish Borderers drove northward against the central town of Middelburg, masked by mortar batteries and bristling with machine-gun posts. The 156 and 157 Brigades, as part of Burnfor, had shared in the capture of over 2,000 prisoners-of-war by 5 November.

From now on, it was a case of exploiting the hard-won success. Middelburg was cleared by the King's Own Scottish Borderers on 7 November, and by the next day all Walcheren had been taken, and the strategically vital task entrusted to the Division had been admirably carried out.

In The Siegfried Line

The New Year brought it plenty of action. On New Year's Day the Division was visited at Brunsum, where Field-Marshal Montgomery presented decorations. Shortly afterwards the formation was switched to the southern flank of the British line, where it fought its way east of the Maas, through the thickly built-up area, towards the Siegfried Line west of Cologne. Many prisoners fell to the Division in this great push, which occupied the second half of January.

A night attack by the 6 Cameronians overthrew Breichoven and Buscherheide, while on the morning of 20 January the Division had cleared the centre of the town and were mopping up in the dock area. Behind one of the greatest barrages of the war the advance swept through long miles of wrecked and rubble-strewn outskirts, past terrific Spandau and bazooka fire, to the heart of that three square miles of flattened rubbish-heap which once had thundered with locomotive and torpedo works; one of the greatest industrial plants of the modern world.

It was then the turn of the 7/9 Royal Scots and the 4 King's Own Scottish Borderers. On 24 January they overran the important town of Heinsberg, west of the Roer, collecting 150 prisoners on the way. In this great attacking phase the 52nd Division penetrated farther east than any other formation on the British sector.

The Division's next important role came in March, when it again distinguished itself in the fighting on the Second Army's right flank. After this came the leap across the Rhine and the wheel northward towards the great port that was the final objective. Elements of the formations, temporarily under command of the 15th Division, won fresh laurels among the early troops to cross the Rhine.

The Pace Quickened

The King's Own Scottish Borderers quickly captured Ringenberg, while the Cameronians cleared the road from the village to the River Ijssel. Further elements were over the Rhine within a few days, and Drievwalde having been cleared against heavy opposition, the Royal Scots Fusiliers advanced four miles in a single day and captured Hopsten after a bitter battle.

There was much hard fighting as the Division hammered its way north of the canals, over which the Cameronians won a bridgehead on 4 April. Then the pace of the advance quickened and town after town fell to the Lowland Infantry sweeping up to the great roads running from Sulingen and Bremen.

1940 Avenged

The chase up the line of the Weser continued. The 156 Brigade reached the southern outskirts of Bremen by 25 April, and within two days the Division had cleared the centre of the town and were mopping up in the dock area. Behind one of the greatest barrages of the war the advance swept through long miles of wrecked and rubble-strewn outskirts, past terrific Spandau and bazooka fire, to the heart of that three square miles of flattened rubbish-heap which once had thundered with locomotive and torpedo works; one of the greatest industrial plants of the modern world.

The capture of the largest port to fall to British troops during the campaign in North-West Europe was a fitting climax to the great work of the 52nd Division, which had waited so long and so patiently for the chance to give battle again to the modern world.



After the landing on Walcheren the Division drove straight for Flushing, which they cleared in a few days. The picture shows troops taking cover behind the leg of a crane while dealing with snipers.



Fighting towards the Siegfried Line, the Division captured the town of Hongen on 18 January. Here infantry are seen travelling through the district on a tank.



Right : Troops go forward with tanks to clean-up the city centre.



6 GO HOME



Many trails, trodden by soldiers from many lands, have come to an end at Berlin. From that focal point of victory new roads radiate to the homelands. What will the returning soldier find at the end of them? This article tells you.

SI X men go home — Ivan the Russian, G I Joe, Tommy Atkins, the man from the Canadian wheatfields, the Anzac and the Digger. They are veteran soldiers. They have borne the heat of the day so far, and now with their comrades who are equally old in years and service they are being released from the service of their country.

They are the first trickle of that stream which will flow until all the fighting men are safely home, to Release Camps all over the world.

Each of the Allied countries is now facing the same problem. Each country is more than grateful to its soldiers. Each is anxious to do everything it can to show that gratitude. Each has made plans to help the veterans begin life again. There is only one limit — the practical ability of the different countries to give.

Each Allied Government has marked with the highest degree of priority this task of resettling the men of its fighting forces.

How, then, will these six men fare?

First striking feature of all the different plans so far made is that they are all the same in principle and very similar in their detailed application.

Whatever the political system or method of government of each country it is recognised that every returned soldier's basic needs are the same. He wants a rest, civilian clothes, some money, a job and a home.

Ivan's Prospects

The Soviet release and resettlement scheme is the latest to be announced. The Russian Army is to demobilise the first 13 of its older age-classes and it is proposed that a start shall be made before the end of the year.

General Antonov, Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Army, told the Supreme Council of the USSR that the most important of the political and economic tasks imposed by demobilisation was a "fatherly solicitude for the gallant Soviet soldiers."

This is how they propose to show that solicitude.

All demobilised men will be provided with a complete suit of clothes and footwear and with food all along their routes to their homes. In spite of the enormous expenditure borne by Russia during the war, General Antonov added, the Government had deemed it possible to render substantial cash assistance to all.

Each Russian soldier will receive a



"Each man will have a stake to help him build his new life..."

lump sum in cash of one year's pay for each year's service. All sergeants and rank and file of special units on higher pay will get six months' pay for each year's service and officers will get two months' pay for the first year of service, three months' for the second and four months' for three years.

Must Be Found Job

This plan is similar in principle to the gratuities schemes of all the Allies. Russian other ranks get little cash but a good deal in kind. Their pay scale is very varied, depending on type and place of service and the size of their families and where they live — whether in town or country. Officers are generally looked on as professional soldiers who will make the Army their career.

Ivan has no claim on his previous job as have his comrades in Britain or the Empire or most Americans, but the various national and local authorities who

Big Farming Loans

If a man has been a farmer or is considered suitable he can borrow up to £6,000 to buy an existing farm and stock, or rather less to start a new one. He can be trained to be a farmer and will be paid £5 to £10 a week while he is training and can then borrow capital to start himself on the land.

Up to £500 capital can be borrowed to start in any other business. A man can be trained in any trade or vocation he chooses and will be paid £5-5s. while he is learning. If anyone should find difficulty in getting a job after this he can claim a special allowance of £3-10s. a week if he is single or £6 if he is married, for a period of 13 weeks.

Though these figures are indeed generous, the difference in the cost of living and the value of the £ in New Zealand as against Britain must be remembered.



"And what's your release group?"



From Dunkirk to Berlin.



Shoulder to shoulder on D-Day.



Victor of the Eastern Front.



He was in the Second Army.



Master of jungle fighting.



Small Dominion-great warrior.

The Australian plan differs in detail from the New Zealand. An Australian soldier is given two days a month recreational leave during his Army service. If he has missed any of this he takes it on his release, together with seven and a half days War Service leave on full pay and allowances for each six months' service abroad.

There is a limit of 14 days' minimum and 60 days maximum to the War Service leave.

Gratuity details are not finally settled, but a Bill now nearing its final stage in the Australian Parliament provides for the payment of £3-15s. to all ranks for each month of service overseas and £1 for each month of service in Australia. In addition to this Australian soldiers have deferred pay to draw. Privates get 2s. for each day of service, staff-sergeants 2s. 6d. and higher ranks more.

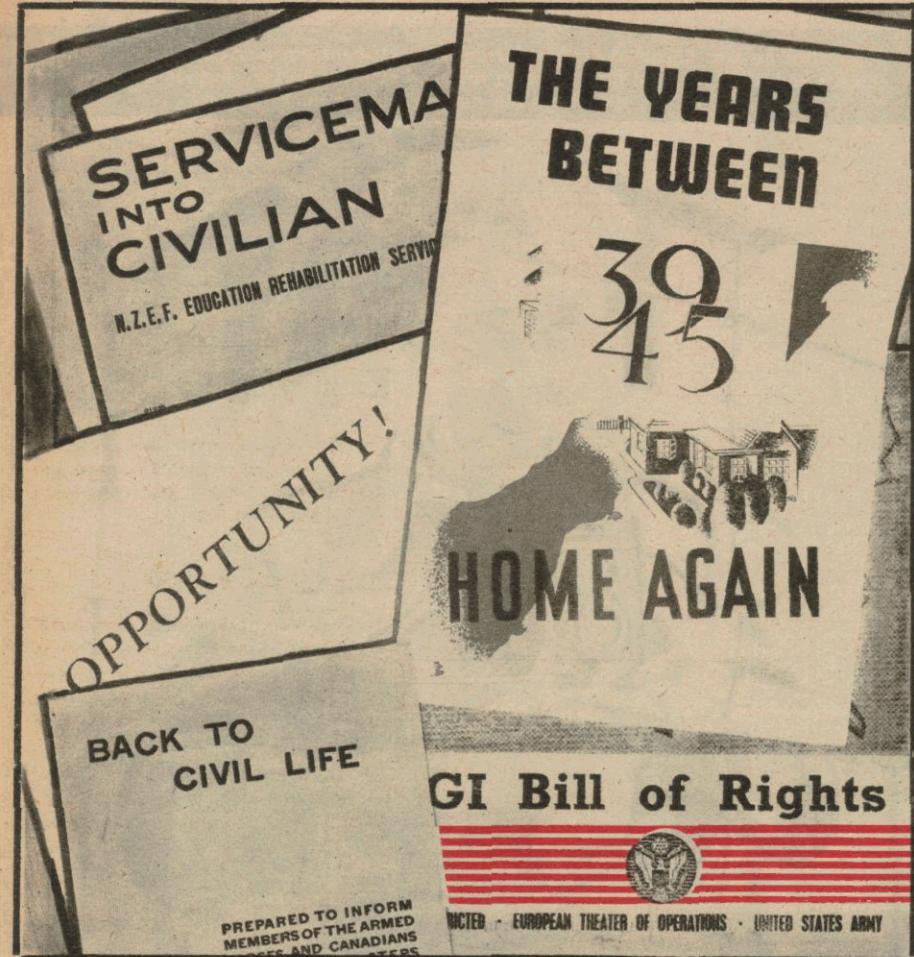
Can Borrow £950

A civilian suit comes to each man with more than three months service, and if these are not available for issue at the time of discharge a voucher and coupons are given so that they can be obtained from a civilian tailor.

The War Service Homes Act enables the Digger to buy himself a house provided he is married, is going to get married or has dependents for whom he must find shelter. Under this act he can borrow up to £950 at 4% a year and can pay it back by monthly instalments over periods up to 40 or 50 years.

As in New Zealand men who have had their training for profession or vocation interrupted by war service can be helped to university or technical training and will be paid living allowances during their training.

The American soldier has his "GI Bill



discharge or the termination of the war, whichever is the later. Additional schooling up to an extra three years is offered to men and women whose education was delayed or interrupted because they joined up.

£10 a month subsistence allowance and a married man with family £12-10s. a month.

Ex-Service men and women are also offered certain advantages in purchasing war priorities and rationed items, and will have privileges including vehicles, engineering and ordnance equipment and real estate.

All British soldiers are entitled to the same choice of civilian suits and get the same leave on release from the Army — 56 days with full pay and allowances and one day for each month of service overseas. In addition they have the 6d. a day which the Government has been saving for them.

Last Rank Counts

Gratuities vary according to rank, beginning with a private's 10s. a month and ending with a Field-Marshall's £3-15s. a month. The highest rank is the one that counts, for if a man with five years' service as a private is promoted corporal and then war substantive sergeant in the last few months, then his gratuity will be paid on five and a half years as a ser-

jeant. And if a sergeant, for example, has previously put in a total of six months service in a higher rank, he will be paid on that basis.

Britain and Canada have tackled the problem of reinstatement more boldly than any other country. The law states unequivocally that a man must be given back his old job and that account must be taken of the progress he would have made in that job had he not been in the Army.

Training for professions and trades is under the care of the Ministry of Labour. In principle they have adopted the same ideas as the Dominions, though the practice is perhaps a little more elastic.

But whether a man intends to be a bricklayer or a University professor the procedure is the same. He has to state his case to a committee and show how

Britain's housing shortage is worse than that of the United States or any country in the Empire, and the many thousands of bombed-out families have equal claim to new houses with the ex-Serviceman. Most local authorities are proposing to let the first temporary and permanent houses built after the war on a points system in which the ex-Serviceman is given a degree of priority because of his service.

Canada calls its Release Leave allowances a Rehabilitation Grant. After a man has drawn £25 for new clothes he will be paid 30 days' pay and allowances to provide him with ready money and enable him to find his feet. His gratuity which he receives next consists of a basic gratuity that is paid to everyone and a supplementary gratuity payable to those who have overseas service.

The basic gratuity is calculated on



"Housing is one of the world's biggest problems..."

his training has been interrupted. Then they will arrange that he goes to a technical school or a university according to which will best serve his needs.

Maintenance allowances will be paid during this training. The scales are rather complicated and vary much on a man's circumstances, but they will do for him all that will be done anywhere — enable him and his family to live while he trains himself for the task of earning his own living.

For the special cases of men who did one job before the war and think they are fitted for a better, either because of war training or experience, there is the same chance. They must state their case and if they are thought suitable for the training they wish — even though it entails four years at a university — they will get the chance.

Britain's Special Problem

Men who have been in business on their own account and gave up because of the war may borrow capital from the Government to start again.

There are no Government loans in Britain as yet for housing. The great building society movement in this country has made it possible for anyone to borrow 75% or 80% of the amount needed for a house.

Credit for Canucks

There is also a Re-establishment credit for those who do not take advantage of educational, vocational or technical training, or benefits under the Veterans' Land Act. This credit is the equivalent of the basic gratuity and may be used at any time during a period of 10 years for many purposes, including: acquisition of a house to an amount not exceeding 2/3 of its value; repair or modernisation of a house; purchase of furniture and household equipment not exceeding 2/3 of the cost; and the purchase of a business not exceeding 2/3 of the value.

Canada's plans for university and vocational training are generous, too. All qualified for university admission at the time of enlistment, or who can qualify within 15 months after discharge are eligible. Grants of £12 a month for single men and women and £16 a month for married men will be paid during training for a job.

J. Hallows (Sjt.)



"There will be a job for all..."



EXCLUSIVE

"KRIEGIE" CAMERAMAN

FOR nearly 18 months a British War Office photographer, Lt. G. Vanderson, took valuable photographs for security and record purposes inside German prisoner of war camps, risking severe punishment had he been discovered. For, of course, "kriegies" (British prisoners of war) were strictly forbidden to have cameras.

Lt. Vanderson was captured in Tobruk in June 1942 and taken to Italy. After the armistice with Italy he was recaptured and transferred to Germany, where he spent most of his time in Oflag 79, Brunswick. In Mooseberg, Bavaria, he "acquired" a

camera. Later he added two more to his collection.

His collection was "hot." Nevertheless he successfully smuggled not only his cameras but films and chemicals as well through numerous searches made by Gestapo and camp searching parties. Shortage of film was his chief problem. The few German contacts who would cooperate found that film was difficult to obtain and risky to bring into the camp. Even when he got the film he had to cut it to fit his camera.

He had neither darkroom nor equipment. So he improvised. When he loaded his camera and developed his negatives he

had to crouch down inside a cupboard and cover himself with blankets. He exposed his prints under the ordinary 40-watt room lamps, using a home-made printing frame. His developing and fixing ashes were eating bowls.

"Click!"

He saved some of his film for a special occasion.

On 10 April, 1945, the guns of advancing troops could be heard in the camp. The next day the town of Brunswick was shelled and it seemed almost certain that on 12 April Oflag 79 would be freed. Early on that morning Lt. Vanderson

posted himself in the attic of a building overlooking the camp gates and waited. His patience was soon rewarded. About 0930 he saw jeeps of the American 9th Army driving up the track leading to the camp, and as the first car came round the corner to the gates of the camp he exposed his film.

When, 12 days later, a fleet of Dakotas landed on the wrecked Luftwaffe aerodrome just north of the camp, Lt. Vanderson returned to England with the rest of the camp, and with him he carried the negatives he had kept hidden so long.

Today he is demobbed, and back in his pre-war job with a Fleet Street press photograph agency.

Soon after he was liberated Lt. Vanderson (below) went out and got himself a good camera and a full stock of film. Then he returned to camp to take further shots — this time from the outside looking in.



Captain G. T. Valentine, a Canadian Army officer of the Calgary Regiment, photographed wearing shackles while eating a meal in a POW camp in Germany. Capt. Valentine was captured at Dieppe in 1942 and taken to Oflag VII B in Bavaria. On the morning of 8 October 1942 all Canadian officers were taken to an old Schloss on the other side of the town, put into cells and searched. A copy of an operation order captured by the Germans at Dieppe was read to them. This stated that all Germans were to be bound at the wrist while waiting to be transported to England (the reason for this order was because the raid on Dieppe was only to be of a few hours duration, and time could not be spent searching German prisoners immediately on capture).

As a reprisal the Germans tied the wrists of the Canadians together with rope for two days and nights. The ropes were then removed and handcuffs put on the prisoners for a period of six months. At the end of this period the handcuffs were replaced by shackles, which consisted of handcuffs joined together by chains about 18 inches long. They were kept on for nine hours a day and were not removed at mealtimes. The shackles were eventually removed on 21 November 1943 after a total of 410 days.



Above: The winter of 1945 was grim for the POW's. Allied interference with German communications often interrupted Red Cross supplies, and rations and heating were drastically cut. To keep warm POW's put on all their clothes and went to bed. Below: Lt. Vanderson having his portrait painted by Lt. R. Barnsdale, Essex Regt., who was trained at the Slade School of Art, London.

Lt. Vanderson's darkroom was his bed. He printed his pictures under a 40-watt lamp with a printing frame made from a biscuit tin. He hid his films and prints in the bindings of books, his chemicals in wine bottles, his camera under the floorboards of a room in the camp.



Space was cramped in the camp at Mooseberg, Bavaria, as can be seen in the picture below, where a British tank officer, hemmed in by tiers of beds, is using his suitcase as a dining table and writing desk.



Above, left: "The Bear Pit" at Brunswick Brewery, where the Germans wanted to quarter British POW's after they had marched for two months from Silesia. Right: Brew mugs made from Service jam tins. — Below: The queer cooking machines were called "Stutus." The left-hand picture shows Capt. Freddie Brown, the Surrey cricketer (left), and Capt. "Pip" Gardiner, VC, MC (right), brewing up.



British paratroops captured at Arnhem arrive at the camp. Old "Kriegies" cluster around the wire, eager to hear the news. A German officer talks to the parachutists, unaware of Vanderson at the window above.



A great moment is photographed (above). At 0930 hours on 12 April the first jeep of the liberating Army arrives at the camp gates. Twelve days later liberated POW's of Oflag 79 boarded Dakotas for their long-awaited journey home, as seen below.





Trench warfare in 1916. Soldiers of the 2nd Australian Division in a front-line trench near Armentieres. Note the Lewis gun and camouflaged periscope.



Members of an Australian Transport Column buying chocolate from a French woman at a halt near Amiens, 1916.



In the last war Australian troops fought in France, Gallipoli and in the Middle East. Here soldiers of the Australian Mounted Division, with their horses, are seen bivouacked outside Damascus. (These three pictures reproduced by courtesy of the Imperial War Museum.)

ON a March day 60 years ago a small skirmish took place in the fighting which followed Gordon's death in the Sudan. The action passed almost unnoticed, but the date was a significant one in the history of modern warfare.

For the first time, in that skirmish, an Australian armed force went into action overseas. The first hint was given of the tradition that was to be built up by Australia's volunteer soldiers in three major wars.

It was not a very spectacular beginning. The entire Australian force in the Sudan in 1885 consisted of a six-gun battery of 16-pounders with 212 men, 522 infantry and 200 horses raised by the New South Wales Government. It was brigaded with the Guards, but the only action the force saw was that one skirmish, in which three of its members were slightly wounded.

Most of the contingent spent its time in the Sudan on railway fatigue work, though 50 were detached to form part of a camel corps. When it got back to Australia, three months after sailing, it had lost six men — from fever.

Bush Cavalry

The next time Australia features in military history is on the outbreak of the South African War. There was enthusiastic volunteering all over the Australian Colonies, then still un federated, and the Colonial governments got together and offered the War Office 2,500 men, mostly mounted.

London dubiously accepted and suspended its judgment of Colonial cavalry. But the men from Australia's bush knew far more about the type of country in which they had to fight the Boers than did the regular troops from Britain. The War Office was relieved when Lord Roberts reported, "They were very

intelligent; and they had what I want our men to have, more individuality. They could find their way about the country far better than the British cavalryman could do."

Altogether more than 16,000 Australians fought in the South African War and more than 16,000 horses were sent overseas with them.

It was during the South African War that the first representative Australian unit, the Australian Regiment, was formed in Capetown in 1899, from companies from four of the Colonies. It was later absorbed into the 1st Mounted Cavalry Brigade. During the South African War, too, the Australian colonies were federated into the Commonwealth and by the end of the war units with representative squadrons from each State and bearing the prefix "Commonwealth" to their names were being sent overseas.

It was not until the 1914-18 war that Australians fought together in an Australian Imperial Force. That first AIF numbered 330,000, out of a volunteer army of 461,809. It fought in France, at Gallipoli and in the Middle East, suffered a higher percentage of casualties than any other part of the British Empire, including the United Kingdom, with

59,342 killed and 166,818 wounded or gassed. It gained 16,979 decorations and awards, including 65 VCs.

In this war, it has been stated, more than a million Australians — two men in every three between the ages of 18 and 40 years — have served in full-time armed forces, the majority of them in the Army. The Army has won 11 VCs and nearly 4,800 other decorations.

Today's Australian army comprises the Militia, into which men may be conscripted, and the AIF which consists of volunteers for service outside Australian territory.

Heroism at Tobruk

Recruiting offices were crowded when war broke out and by 1941 the 6th, 7th and 9th Divisions of the AIF were in the Middle East and the 8th in Malaya.

Australians played a glorious part in the destruction of the Italian armies in Libya in 1940-41, in the long defence of Tobruk, in the gallant tragedies of Greece and Crete, in beating the Germans to Syria and at the triumph of Alamein.

Malaya cost the AIF nearly the whole of its 8th Division; in Java, Timor, New Britain and a number of smaller islands

Australians were forced to withdraw by superior numbers.

But in New Guinea the Australians won a great triumph of the war. There, in 1942, they scored the first two victories against the Japanese — one defensive and one offensive.

Reinforcements arrived, there was a short pause for rest and refitting, partly with equipment that hard experience had adapted to local conditions. Then the Australians struck their jaws out and went over to the offensive.

As part of their drive against Port Moresby, whence they could menace the Australian mainland, the Japanese planned to seize Milne Bay with a force landed from the sea. There were only two Brigades to oppose them, local defences were negligible, the only airstrip was scarcely usable and roads sank into the mud almost as soon as they were made.

The Japs Reeled

Against the defenders, still ill-equipped at that stage, the Japs brought tanks backed up by warships' guns. But after 13 days' fighting they had been driven back into the sea with the loss of more than a thousand marines, their best fighting men.

For the first time the Japanese were forced to recall a local campaign and admit defeat.

Meanwhile further north Australians were still being beaten back by vastly superior Jap forces driving across the

Owen Stanley range. For two months they retreated, then on 11 September, 1942, they stopped. Withdrawals by Australian troops in this war had ended.

Reinforcements arrived, there was a short pause for rest and refitting, partly with equipment that hard experience had adapted to local conditions. Then the Australians struck their jaws out and went over to the offensive.

The Japs had been stopped only 35 miles from Port Moresby. Their numbers were still superior. But the Australians, fighting in defence of their homeland, were determined. The Japs began to give ground.

That offensive turned the tide of the Japanese war. It drove the enemy's New Guinea forces back to eventual destruction in the stinking foxholes of Buna, Gona and Sananda and paved the way for the Lae and Salamaua campaigns.

Since those days the Australian role has been one of continued aggression. The word "capture" features in nearly every entry in the AIF's war diary from September 1942 to the present operations in Borneo, at Tarakan and Brunei.

What is he like, the Australian soldier?

More often than not he is long and stringy, with a sun-tanned skin and bony

behaviour; in most Australian messes etiquette is as strict as in historic British regiments.

He has a soft heart where animals, especially horses, are concerned and many Egyptian gharry-drivers and Palestinian donkey-boys have gone home with sore backsides after being found ill-treating their animals by Australian standards.

Fortune for Somebody

The Australian is a keen gambler. One of the first things he looks for in papers from home is the racing results. On the ship that brought me back from Greece in 1941 Australians whiled away the time between air raids by playing "two-up" for high denomination drachmae notes. At the time they thought the notes would be worth nothing, but the losers didn't turn a hair when they found the notes were fully honoured at Alexandria.

He is a man of strong loyalties and believes that "Aussie" is the best place in the world.

He has a great admiration and liking for the British fighting man he has seen in action. Any member of, say, the Northumberland Fusiliers, a machine-gun battalion of whom fought with the Australians in the siege of Tobruk, is sure of a warm welcome wherever there are Australians.

Richard Elley (Capt.)

BRITAIN'S OTHER ARMIES

The Armies of the Empire have fought as one during the war. In these articles the history of our brothers in battle will be recalled, and their feats described.

jaw. He loves his own weapons and enjoys collecting and experimenting with captured enemy material. In the siege of Tobruk, when the garrison was ill-equipped, men of the 9th Division put scores of Italian machine-guns to far better use than their original owners had done. Cooks, clerks and batmen turned out to man captured Italian artillery.

His independence of spirit and reliance on his own initiative come naturally in a country where men are used to travelling long distances through the wilds and to living on lovely farms.

On parade the Australian is as smart as anybody and within his unit he is a stickler for smartness and military be-

During a pause in the New Guinea fighting Pte. "Killer" Webb, and Pte. J. R. Rowsell, both of New South Wales, examine captured Japanese swords.

Tobruk 1940 : A photograph taken during a fighting patrol by members of an Australian Infantry unit.

Australian troops advancing towards the port of Bardia during the Western Desert campaign. They took 38,000 prisoners there.

One of the greatest Australian feats of the war was the containing of the Jap garrisons in the Southern Pacific Islands. Here jeeps are negotiating a flooded road in Bougainville Island.



COMMANDOS Began



ON a warm, sunny day early in June 1940 the butler opened the door of a large London house to admit a stockily-built gentleman dressed in a well-cut blue suit and carrying an attaché case.

"The Charity Committee meeting is being held here, I believe?" asked the caller. "That's right, sir, please come in," replied the butler, and led the way to the spacious drawing room where already half a dozen other men and a tall, dark-haired girl had gathered to attend the first meeting of the Charity Committee.

The door closed behind the butler, who went on his way, wondering perhaps why so many healthy-looking men should be more interested in a charity meeting than digging anti-tank ditches round London or helping to man the front line to guard against the impending German invasion.

Had he been able to look inside that drawing room he would have found the answer. He would have seen the girl, daughter of a British Ambassador, in whose home the meeting was being held, produce a note-book and pencil and prepare to take down notes of all that was said. He would have seen the man in the blue suit open his attaché case, take out some sheets of paper, and begin propounding his views not on charity but on the formation of a new amphibious guerrilla band and his plans for the first Commando raids on occupied Europe.

Strand of Steel

The man in the blue suit was, in fact, Lieut-Col. Dudley W. Clarke, who was entrusted with the formation of the Commandos immediately after the retreat from Dunkirk, and the Charity Committee meeting was the first of a series of meetings to plan the Commando raids which kept the Germans in a state of high nervous tension, and gave heart to every man, woman, and child in our beleaguered little island at a time when the fate of Britain hung by a thread — a thread in which they formed a strand of steel.

Countless stories have been told of the gallantry and brilliant exploits of the Commandos at the Lofoten Islands, Vaagso, Bruneval, Dieppe, North Africa, and in Normandy, but little has been said about the original formation of that body of men who formed the thin screen of offence while the British Army was licking its wounds, re-equipping, and training for the eventual all-out assault which nearly five years later took us to the heart of Hitler's Third Reich.

Most big things have small, apparently insignificant beginnings, and so it was that a few notes pencilled on a sheet of paper in a London flat gave rise to the birth of the Commandos, who within a fortnight of their conception carried out a small raid on the enemy-occupied coast of France.

Immediately after the evacuation from Dunkirk on 4 June, General Sir John Dill, then Chief of the Imperial General Staff, discussed with Lieut-Col. Clarke, his GSO 1, how the British Army, which had been forced out of France and deprived of the majority of its weapons and equipment, could recapture the offensive spirit which was vital to the building up of a new Army.

The Guerrilla Idea

Such thoughts had been simmering in Lieut-Col. Clarke's mind for some time. He had seen for himself how guerrilla bands on the North-West Frontier and in Palestine had carried out stabbing "mosquito" tactics against much larger forces at small cost to the attacker. He went back to his London flat after that talk with General Dill, and, basing his ideas partly on his own experience and partly on past history (particularly the Boer War, when mounted South African guerrillas fought a war of attrition against much larger British forces for two years), wrote on a sheet of notepaper his suggestions for an amphibious force which would strike again and again at the harassed Germans, uncertain where the next blow would fall.

He made an analysis of the chief features of guerrilla organisations with a view to adapting them as closely as possible to the peculiarities of the British soldier. The aim was to combine all the essentials of the irregular bands with the superior training, equipment, and intelligence of modern troops.

The new Commando had to be able to scale cliffs like a Pathan, to live like a Boer with no transport columns and no cookhouses, and to disperse and break away like an Arab before he

in Mayfair

The inside story of the Army's "Irregulars" told by SOLDIER Staff Writer E. J. Grove (Lt).

could be pinned to the ground. He had to be a trained soldier and a volunteer in a basic unit of 50 with one leader and two assistant officers who had the right to choose and dismiss their men without question, while the man had the privilege of returning to his own unit at reasonable notice without having to give an explanation. Each Commando unit was to be based on a seaside town, and to possess an irregular naval element. The men would not use any weapons or equipment that they could not carry by hand. Special training in night operations and sea-going experience would be given to them. They would feed and house themselves on a daily allowance. They were to start free of all the conventions of a traditional corps, and team spirit was to go by the board. Every man would have to go on by himself when in action, regardless of the fate of his friend and neighbour — "Always attack — never defend; run to fight another day" was the new motto.

These were the ideas which went to make up the blue-print for the formation of the Commandos. Lieut-Col. Clarke showed his notes to General Dill, who sent them to the Prime Minister. Two days later Lieut-Col. Clarke was ordered to organise his "Special Service" troops, as the War Cabinet then referred to them, to set up a section at the War Office, and to plan and carry out a raid on enemy-occupied Europe as soon as possible.

Quick Action

Lieut-Col. Clarke, an experienced Staff Officer, who never believed in letting the grass grow under his feet, immediately organised MO 9 Branch of the War Office, and explained his plans to enthusiastic Admiralty officials who appointed Captain Garnons-Williams, DSC, RN, to assist him in planning the raids.

While Captain Garnons-Williams began to gather together a number of small craft and the officers and men to man them, Lieut-Col. Clarke went off to Scotland to visit the remaining six Independent Companies which had been formed by the Army Council to take part in the Norwegian campaign, but which were never used for that purpose. From the six Companies, he selected two officers — Captain R.J.F. Todd, now a Brigadier commanding a Commando Brigade, of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and Capt. W.A. Rice, of the Suffolk Regt., with whom Lieut-Col. Clarke had served in the Trans-Jordan Frontier Force before the war. He asked them each to select 100 men from the Independent Companies to go to the south coast and train for the first raid, and within a few days the two officers arrived at Southampton with 200 hand-picked men.

Meanwhile Captain Garnons-Williams had assembled a small fleet of vessels — motor-boats, yachts and small pleasure

boats, of all sizes and capable of various speeds. It was the best that could possibly be done in the circumstances and at such short notice. An assault landing craft, the prototype of which had been laid down as early as 1936, was still not then available.

Raiding Starts

Headquarters were set up at the local yacht club at the little riverside village of Hamble, where the Commandos were trained in guerrilla tactics. Twice they carried out exercise night attacks in the Solent, their faces blackened with theatrical make-up.

The first raid was due to take place within little more than a week, and during that time the men were trained to the highest possible limit of skill in night fighting and endurance. The desperate shortage of weapons at that time caused a great deal of anxiety, but to the relief of Lieut-Col. Clarke he was able to borrow 40 Tommy Guns for a few days, the only Tommy Guns then in Britain, on condition that he returned them after the raid.

On 22 June the Commandos, dressed in plain clothes, and travelling in small parties so as to cause no comment, moved to three embarkation ports on the south coast, and waited for their orders to go into action. At the last moment Captain Garnons-Williams secured eight RAF "crash-boats" which were placed under the control of Lieut-Commander J.W.F. Milner-Gibson, RN, who had been ashore on the coast of France nine times in the previous three weeks to spy out the land.

On the night of 23 June — just 14 days after Lieut-Col. Clarke had been ordered to form the Commandos, the first raid was carried out on the French coast between Cap d'Alprech, near Boulogne, and the Pointe du Hautbanc, near Berck. That first assault was a success. Information of military value was brought back, and what was more important, the foundation of Combined Operations, which were destined to be of vital importance later on, had been laid.

Girls Helped

Seated in his office in Whitehall, Brigadier Dudley W. Clarke, who left the Commandos in December 1940, told me this story of the inception of Britain's Commandos.

He revealed that the importance of strict secrecy before each raid was so great that the organisers were invited to the "Charity Committee Meetings" at the Ambassador's house by word of mouth. All the orders issued were typed by the Ambassador's daughter. Another girl, niece of a General, was used as a "cover" when the raids took place. One of her tasks was to collect all the personal identifications of the raiders before they boarded their assault craft, and to distri-

bute them again when they returned from their sorties.

These first raids provided some very valuable experience for subsequent assaults, but the essential features of the first plan and of the organisation of the Commandos remained unchanged throughout the war. In the early days of the Commando's history, when the imagination of the public was caught and held by the tales of violent actions launched by small bands of raiders on the ponderous bulk of the German Army, many suggestions were written to the War Office and carefully examined.

Gangsters Barred

One opinion, which was fairly common among the correspondents, was that the employment of real, dyed-in-the-wool gangsters, either imported from the United States, or picked up in the back-streets of Britain's cities, would be even more successful than the fully-trained honest-to-goodness soldiers. Lieut-Col. Clarke's department investigated this possibility, and obtained the opinions of a number of experts who were unanimous that "gangsters are too unreliable; they fight only when cornered, or when the odds are heavily in their favour and they can get away with it."

Another man, a convict in one of England's famous prisons, who had been sentenced to a long term of hard labour, proposed a scheme in which he offered to form a Commando of Convicts and Warders. He sent to the War Office, through Scotland Yard, a detailed plan for a raid on the Continent. It contained a good many of the ideas which had already been adopted by the Commandos themselves. It was an ingenious suggestion, but the War Office did not avail itself of his assistance.

The experience which Britain gained with her Commando raids was passed on to the United States and was used in the formation of the US Rangers — America's own Commandos.

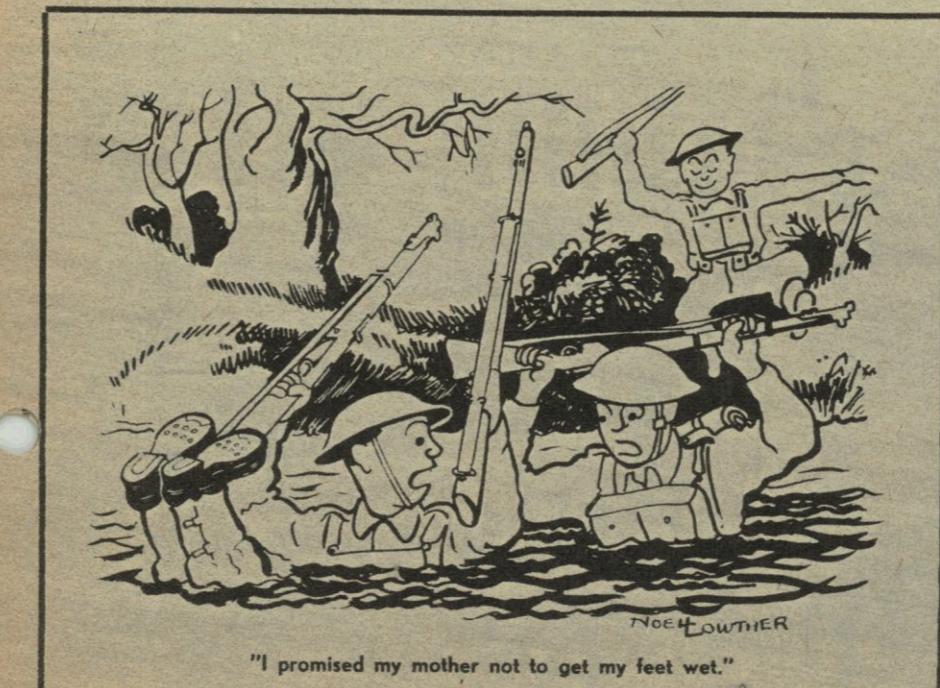
The men who carried out the Commando raids came from a variety of formations. They grew from a handful of brave, determined men to a considerable, hard-striking force. Without the experience they so gallantly won, a greater price would have been paid in the large-scale attacks on the Continent which were to follow, and in the invasion of Europe.

To those men who sallied forth at night with blackened faces "to win honour from the pale-faced moon," Britain and the world owe a great debt that can never be fully repaid.

PRACTICE: Commandos did ordinary infantry training as well as studying specialist subjects. One soldier throws himself on the barbed wire, which the others cross by running over his body.



PERFORMANCE: Commandos landing on a Norwegian Island in December 1941. They destroyed munition dumps, oil tanks and a radio station, and the entire German garrison was either killed or taken prisoner.



Brussels Honours the GUARDS

In the square before Brussels' magnificent Palais de Justice officers and men of the Guards Armoured Division paraded for a ceremony to mark for history the part they played in liberating the city in September last. The huge building, its ruined dome a witness to the damage inflicted by the Germans when they withdrew from the city, has looked down on many parades, but it cannot have seen a finer.

There, in the Place Poelaert, standards were presented to the regiments concerned by the Burgomaster of Brussels, and in the afternoon sunshine the citizens of Brussels gathered once again to cheer their liberators. Not that the cheering was so overwhelming this time; the mad jubilation of that evening in September will never be recaptured. Equally, it will never be forgotten and those scenes lived again in the minds of the soldiers this afternoon. Every available inch was crowded; on the shoulder of every Belgian girl was the flash or the chevron for which she kissed a British soldier back in September.

At one end of the great open space stands the Infantry Monument of the 1914-1918 war, and by its side this day stood the combined bands of the Coldstream Guards and the Scots Guards with the trumpeters of the Household Cavalry Regiment. Above the Palais de Justice the flags of Britain and of Belgium stood forth, and between them fluttered the flag of the Guards Armoured Division. The men who entered Brussels almost eleven months ago looked back to their record-making advance from Douai. An advance of 97 miles in 14 hours, the most rapid advance of a Division in history, pushed them to the outskirts of Brussels where they rested at four o'clock that afternoon, after dealing with fairly strong enemy resistance. Then, towards evening, they pushed forward into the city itself, reaching this same Place Poelaert to find the dome of the Palais de Justice burning furiously.

Before the British Ambassador and the Belgian Queen-Mother, plaques were presented to Maj. Gen. Allan Adair, CB, DSO, MC, GOC Guards Division, to the Commander 5 Guards Brigade, to "X" Coy 2nd Bn Scots Guards, to the 55th and 153rd Field Regiments and the 21st Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery. Then came the presentation of the standards to the 2nd Household Cavalry Regiment, The Grenadier Guards, The Coldstream Guards, the Irish Guards and the Welsh Guards. There was a hush in the square as the troops of the Guards Division, nearly four thousand strong, stood squarely there as the escorts marched proudly back with the fluttering standards. The Massed Bands led the way and in quick time the Guards Division and the Detachment of the 1st Belgian Brigade which supported it in the great advance marched proudly past.



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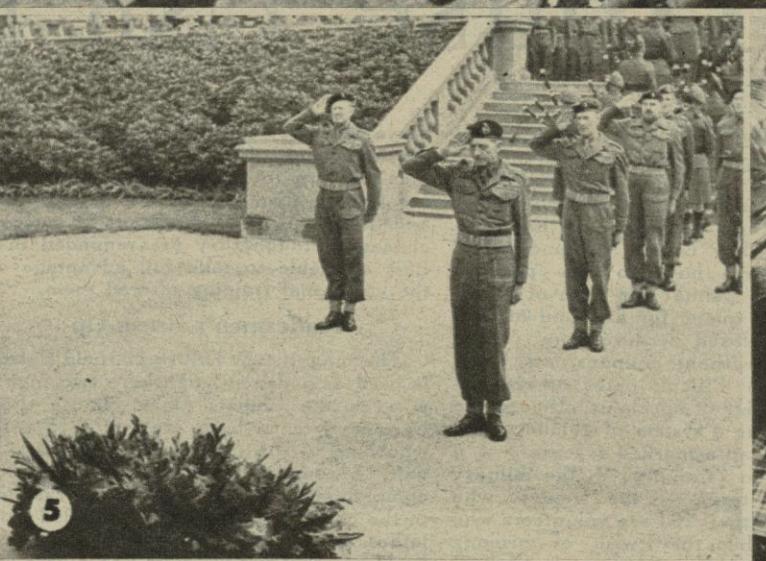
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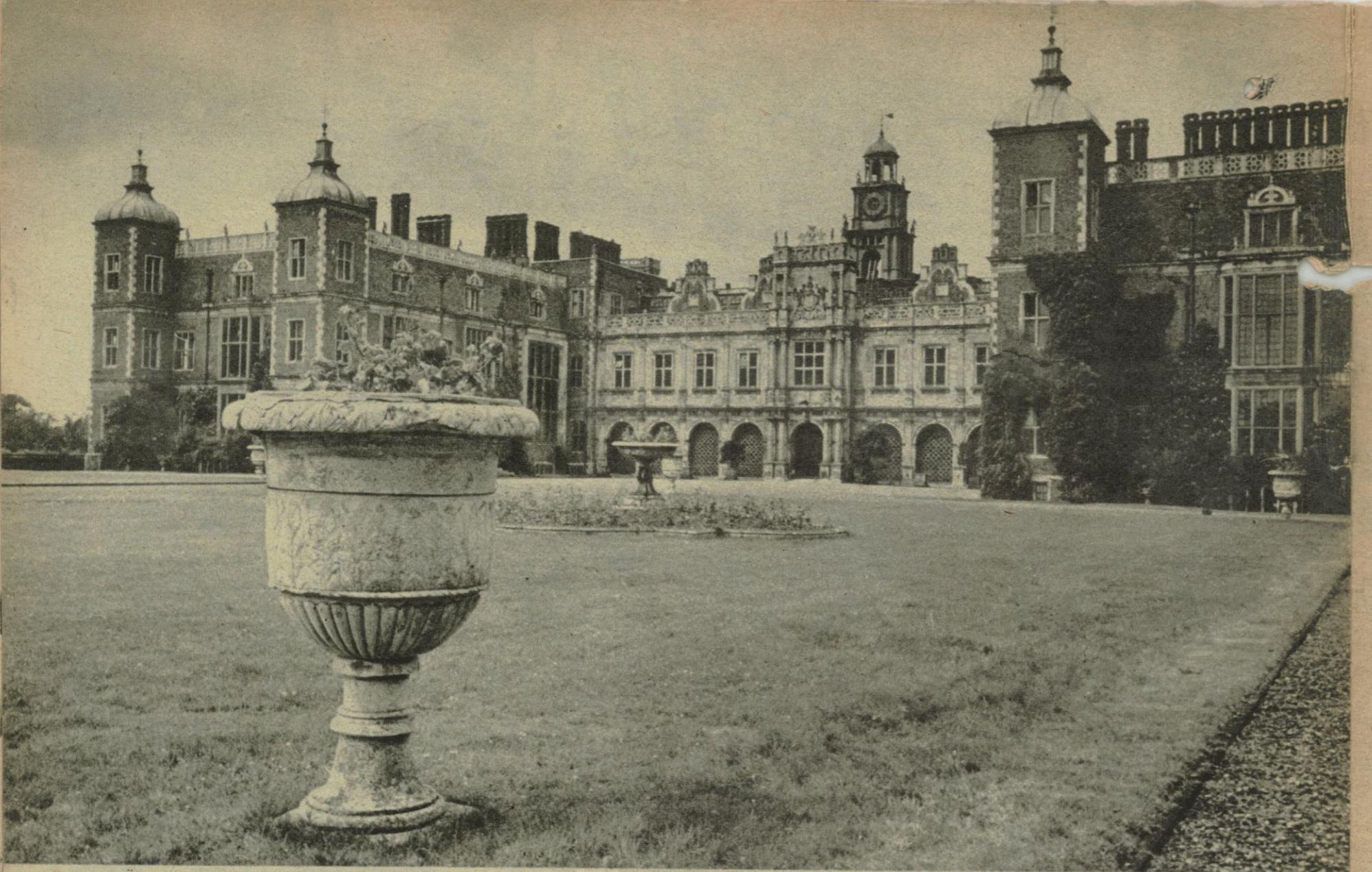


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(1) The Grenadier Guards marching to the Palais de Justice for the presentation of standards. (2) At the saluting base: HRH Prince Jean of Luxembourg; HM Queen Elizabeth of Belgium; the Burgomaster of Brussels (M. Van de Meulebroeck); the British Ambassador, Sir Hughe Knatchbull-Hugessen; Lt. Gen. Sir Charles Loyd, KCB, DSO, MC, Commanding Brigade of Guards and London Dist. (3) The massed parade in the Place Poelaert, with the bands in the foreground. (4) The Burgomaster presents the standards. (5) Major-General Allan Adair, CB, DSO, MC, Commander Guards Division, salutes the wreath at the base of the Belgian War Memorial. (6) A balcony view of the drums and pipes. (7) A study in expressions on the railings "grandstand." (8) Revelry by night: the Guards give a ball in the 21 Club.



Hatfield House (No. 1 C. R. U.)

AT Hatfield House, the fine old Jacobean home of the Marquess of Salisbury, and the nearby Hatfield Palace, where Queen Elizabeth was imprisoned by her sister Queen Mary, 250 repatriated prisoners of war are learning how to become civilians again after years of captivity in prison camps under hostile authority.

Here, at No. 1 Civil Resettlement Unit, the first of a score of CRUs to be set up all over the country to ease the way back to Civvy Street, repatriated prisoners are picking up the threads of civilian life which they dropped abruptly in 1939 and 1940, are learning to readjust their outlook to meet post-war conditions, and are gaining the confidence necessary to set them up in civil employment — a com-

plete reversal of the process which turned them from civilians into soldiers.

At this half-way house to Civvy Street, men who have been so completely out of touch with their home country and conditions that they cannot yet understand why their wives have to give peculiar things called "points" for a tin of sausages meat, and quee for a pound of fish, and are perplexed because they cannot buy clothes without coupons, are being led along the difficult paths of resettlement by a staff of specialist officers and men employing a system of guidance that already has had a marked success.

There is no "training" in the military sense of the term. All the "repats" who pass through the CRU are volunteers who may leave when they wish or prolong their stay up to a maximum period of three months if they feel they require further assistance.

There are no guards or fatigues, no

bugle calls even for reveille, and no parades except on Friday afternoons when the men line up to receive their pay. They are free to come and go when they like, and there is no compulsion to attend classes, although they are reminded that it is advisable to take full advantage of the vocational training offered them.

Tradesmen's Brush-Up

The magnificent hall in Hatfield Palace is used as a dance hall where two nights a week the "repats" may choose their partners from a large staff of ATS girls who help to run the centre, and so gradually become reaccustomed to feminine companionship. A number of workshops in the converted stables are provided with lathes, carpenters' benches, a forge, a building construction room and a drawing department, where some men who have been out of touch with their civilian employment for years learn once more how

to lay "headers" and "stretchers", to fashion tools, make chairs and wooden ornaments, plan buildings, and fit up a house with electric light. Others, who on arrival at the unit are not certain of the job they want to do after discharge or demobilisation, try their hand at one or several of the shops, where they receive expert guidance.

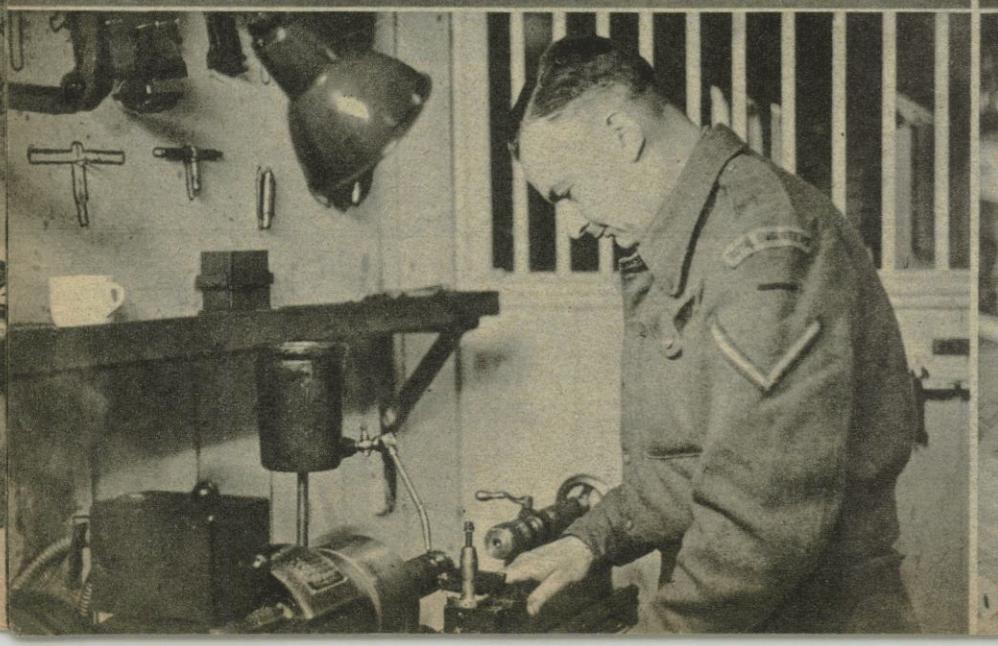
They eat their meals, officers and men together, sitting side by side with staff ATS girls, in the huge armoury where

dozens of 16th century suits of armour, relics of past wars, line the beautifully carved walls.

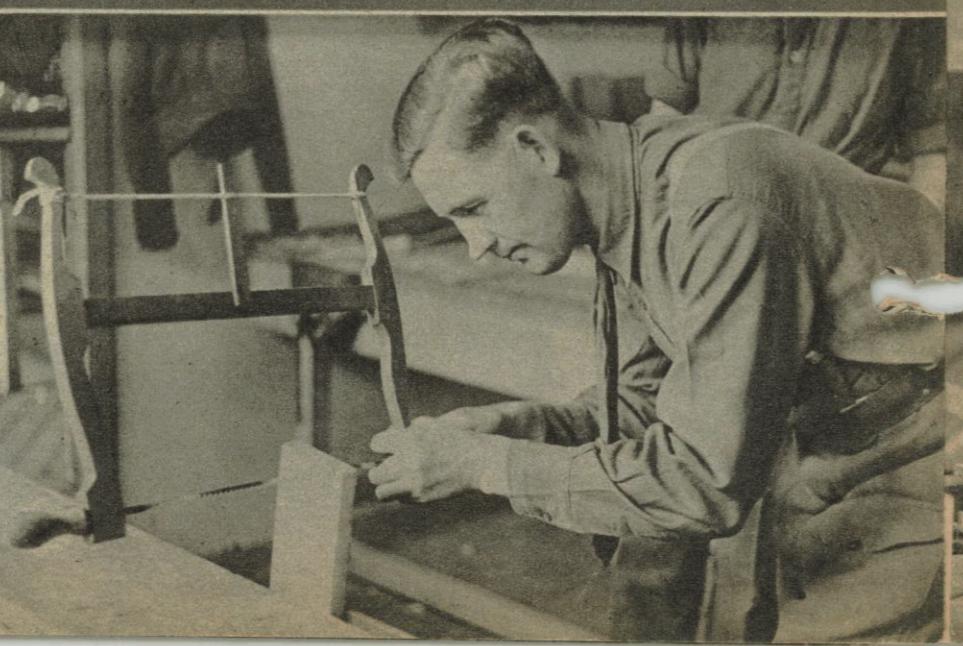
They sleep between white sheets in elaborately panelled rooms with carved and painted ceilings.

During a man's period of residence he passes through four phases. The first is the reception period when he is taken to Olympia and fitted out with a new civilian suit, shoes, shirt, coat and hat, which

L/Cpl. Richard Anderson, back after five years of imprisonment, finds that his skill with a lathe has not deserted him.



A Welsh Guards "rep" who is learning to be a carpenter discovers that with a bow saw you can go in at the top and come out at the side.



he may wear in the evenings and at weekends to get him accustomed to looking and feeling like a civilian again. He goes home for the first week-end and discusses the future with his wife and friends and returns to the unit for the second or "settling-in" stage during which he listens to Brains Trusts, debates important post-war problems, and is encouraged to air his views on the "Brave New World" of which he will form a part.

In the third phase the "rep" visits factories, shops, offices, Government Training Centres, Employment Exchanges, and finally he is encouraged to perform practical jobs of work to allow him to grasp the reality of Britain today and the conditions and rules which govern civilian life.

Sixty a Week

At the end of the course a Ministry of Labour resettlement officer, who works in close liaison with the unit, either places a man in industry near his home, or, as happens more frequently, arranges his entry to one of the Government Training Centres where the "rep" is trained to fill a responsible job.

The CRU deals with 250 "repats" at one time, and approximately 60 new men arrive every week to take the course.

The Commanding Officer of No 1 CRU is Lt. Col. J. Ellison-Macartney, of the Queen Victoria Rifles, himself a prisoner of war in Germany for almost five years.

He was captured at Calais in May 1940 when commanding the 1st Battalion of the QVR, and knows by first-hand experience the problems that beset the mind of the POW when he is released from the prison cage and allowed to live a life of freedom once more. "A lot of us find it extraordinarily difficult even after a few months freedom to understand civilian regulations," he told SOLDIER. "It is as if we were shut up in a dark room for a very long time and then suddenly a blinding light was switched on. It is our job to help the prisoner along some dimly-lit passages before he reaches the full glare of freedom and civilian life so that he becomes accustomed to his new life gradually, and is able to make his way surely."

Those Civvy Puzzles

The CO. said that a number of men had great difficulty in mixing with or even speaking to women. In some cases they were almost frightened, but in nearly all instances, this nervousness had been conquered at the CRU by allowing the large staff of ATS girls to dine with the men, partner them at dances, and go to the cinema with them.

Typical of the men going through this transitory stage is Pte. David Dempster, aged 38, of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who lives at Hythe, Kent. He was captured at Rouen in June 1940 and spent four-and-a-half years in German prison camps in Poland and Germany before being liberated by the Americans.

Apart from the extreme shortage of food — bread and soup was the staple meal — conditions at the camps where he was interned, were fairly reasonable. A labourer before he joined up in 1939, Pte. Dempster has not yet decided what he wants to do after he is discharged, but thinks he might like to be a bricklayer.

A tin kettle takes shape under the hands of an ex-PW who was a labourer before the war.



He still cannot understand the intricacies of rationing, and is applying for an extension to remain at the unit for a further period.

CSM John Lewis, aged 39, of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, who lives at Enfield, and was taken prisoner at Dieppe in June 1940, spent most of his prison life at Lamsdorf in Silesia and was marched 800 miles across Europe away from the advancing Russians in the bitter winter of 1944. He is not keen to talk of that experience. His party began the march 1500 strong. Only 400 arrived in Germany at the end of the "Death March". Scores died on the journey and hundreds fell out, dangerously ill and exhausted.

His greatest bewilderment on arrival in England was caused by traffic. "I was afraid to cross the road for weeks" he said. "You see, we hadn't seen any motor-cars or buses for so long, and it seemed so strange to see England's roads thick with vehicles." A regular soldier before the war, CSM Lewis, who has three children, is going to a Government Training Centre to learn a trade after his course is over.

L/Cpl. Richard Anderson, of the Royal Engineers, is returning to his pre-war firm as a demonstrator and salesman. After five years in prison camps following his capture at Abbeville in May 1940, he frankly admits that when greeted by a party of women welfare workers and WAAFs at a British airfield he was so shy and frightened that he burst into tears.

Dodged His Friends

While a prisoner of war L/Cpl. Anderson lost 2st 4 lbs, but in four weeks on double ration regained all but the odd 4 lbs. "Everything seemed so strange at first," he said. "I was almost afraid to meet my old friends, and often dodged down a side turning if I saw one of them coming. It wasn't that I didn't want to meet them, but I felt I couldn't face it. Somehow I felt like a fish out of water, and it has taken me a long time to settle down. We all found it very difficult to get used to the old ways of Civvy Street."

L/Cpl. Anderson puffed his brow, sighed and reflected, "Why can't I buy a pair of pants without having to give coupons for them?"

These, then, are some of the men who are learning to become civilians again, and whose problems and difficulties are gradually being broken down by a system of treatment designed to begin their resettlement and reabsorption as citizens.

Other CRU's will be opened very shortly in suitable mansions, others in hospitals and camps at Wolverhampton, Newcastle, Cirencester, Knutsford, Oundle, Ballymena, Tonbridge, Edinburgh, Richmond Park, Twickenham, and Caerphilly.



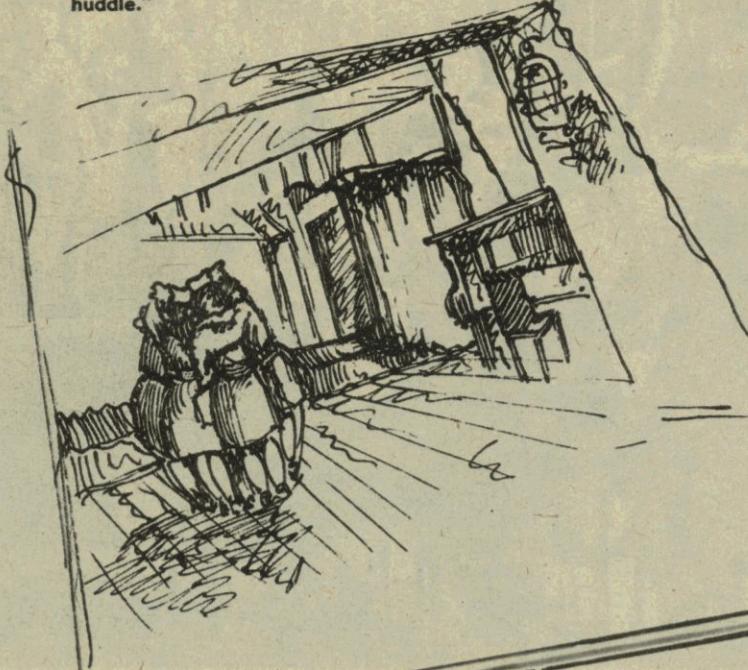
Above : A meal in the armoury, with light filtering through latticed windows and ancient trophies lining the walls. Below : Relaxing in the NAAFI. Everything is done to break down the shyness which often develops after years of prison camp life.



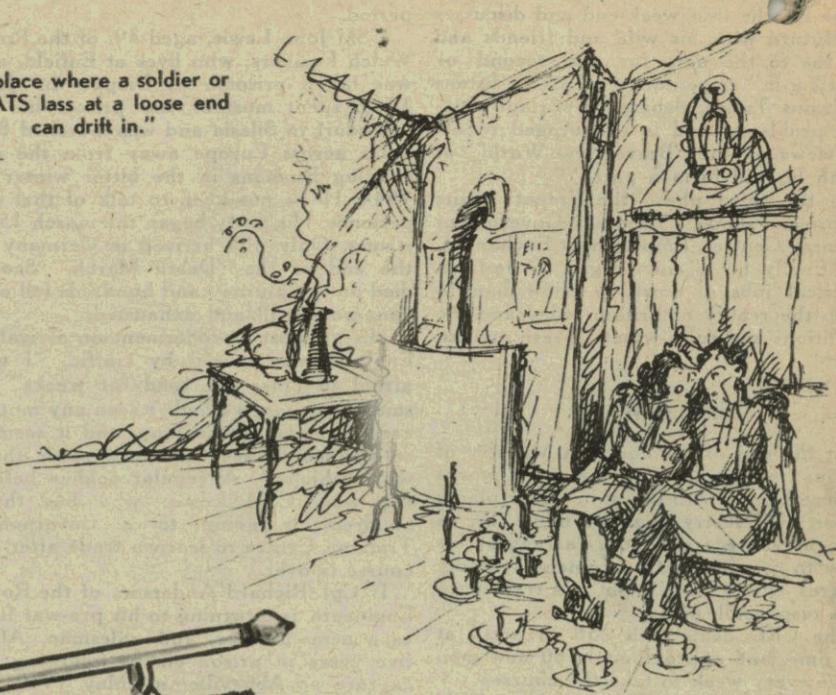
The King and Queen visiting the Centre. They were deeply impressed with the arrangements made to ensure that no repatriates shall return to civilian life feeling at a disadvantage.



"Informal scene... ATS girls in a huddle."



"A place where a soldier or an ATS lass at a loose end can drift in."



Illustrations by
ROBERT KOHLER

"DO IT YOUR WAY" CLUB

DO what you want the way you want...

If the prospect thus conjured up makes you curious, then you ought to visit Dorothy Innes' place, four storeys up in the Red Triangle building in Rue Neuve in the heart of Brussels.

Some months ago dainty Dorothy Innes, former London actress and wife of a soldier-journalist at present helping to bring out UNION JACK in Italy, was commissioned by YMCA headquarters to "take charge of drama" in BLA.

Dorothy wasn't sure just what taking charge of drama meant, and since headquarters hadn't given the matter a thought — on the assumption that an actress was bound to know — she concluded she was free to choose her own set-up when she arrived. And so to Brussels to dig herself in on the fourth floor... and do some heavy thinking.

Just Drift In

"One of the first things I decided," she said, "was that it ought to be a place where men and women of the Services could come and go as they pleased; a place where they might contact people with common interests; a place where a soldier or an ATS lass could draw or paint, sing, dance or act just as they pleased; a place where a fellow at a loose end might drift in and sit down in a reasonably comfortable chair and read a book, or drink a mug of tea, or sit and look

— or just sit; a place where two or three kindred spirits could form a dance band or work up a variety act or do a little play reading. And, above all, a place where I wouldn't interfere unless I was asked."

I asked her how her ideas have worked out in practice.

"You'll see," she said, and showed me into a room that is stacked with the produce of the restless mind of the artist. In here we draw and paint. We draw and paint what we like, how we like. If you don't like our ideas or the way

we treat them, well, you don't have to. We get a lot of fun.

"Of course, it does happen sometimes that the budding painter thinks he might benefit by some expert advice. In such a case I enlist the services of Robert Kohler, the well-known Brussels artist, and a leading figure in the underground movement during the German occupation. Robert has been marvellous to us. He is just about the most unostentatious person I know — always eager to advise and put right, but unless he is given a direct invitation to criticise he remains discreetly silent."

Aircraftsman Painter

And then I was introduced to one of the regulars — LAC Jim Hattie, of 111 Wing RAF. "I spend all my spare time here," he told me. "I found the place quite by accident one night and it's the luckiest accident I've had since I put on the uniform." Jim, who hails from Kirkintilloch, Scotland, and specialises in still life, has never had an art lesson outside of day school. For four years running he painted the scenery for the annual pantomime production in his home town, and nowadays when a canvas is wanted for a production in The Little Theatre, which is just along the passage from the art room, Jim is always at the ready.

The Little Theatre, Dorothy Innes will tell you, was quite a shambles when she first moved in. It took a lot of hard work and a great deal of barefaced scrounging before she got it to her liking, with all those little accessories that give the room its cosy, matey atmosphere and that converted barn effect. She had the centre ceiling light hauled out and decorative little table lamps installed. She "won" some comfy chairs. She found a piano, a cabinet gramophone — and then she set her stage.

Dress Rehearsal

It was a delightfully informal scene, when I looked in. ATS girls were in a huddle over in the corner beside the gramophone; a serious-looking young man with RA shoulder titles was playing Chopin; another was immersed in "The Melody Maker"; a group of about half a dozen fellows were in the hands of a make-up expert, because a dress rehearsal of Michael Redgrave's "The Seventh Man" was just about to go on.

Dorothy Innes was producing the show. "We've already done 'Night Must Fall' and 'The Good Young Man,'" she told me. "We also put on a bit of variety. There's some excellent talent among the boys and girls who come here and we've put on a few really good shows. But the main thing, of course, is that we amuse ourselves."

Cpl Howard Wainwright, who played The Gaffer in "The Seventh Man," is both actor and producer. Before the war he ran a theatre club in Portsmouth and during the London blitzes he organised shows in the shelters.

Dorothy Innes aims to establish more "Do it your way" centres. I think she'll be made very welcome wherever she goes.

"Two or three kindred spirits can form a dance band."





THE NEXT TIME A SIX-TONNER DRAWS UP NEAR YOU, HAVE ANOTHER LOOK. YOU MAY BE ABLE TO GO SHOPPING INSIDE IT.



Perfumes, toys, books — no wonder the customer looks as if he finds it hard to make up his mind

Gifts on Wheels

THE famous Brussels Gift Shop, sponsored by the Belgian Voluntary Welfare Services, will be calling on you one of these days..... because the Brussels Gift Shop is no longer a static unit. It is, in fact, highly mobile — thanks to the ingenuity of a few REME lads who took a slightly used, singularly unattractive six-tonner and converted it into a luxury store.

Now on its maiden trip in the 5 L of C area, carrying the full range of articles available in the Brussels establishment, it is solving the gift problem for men who, until now, have had either to pay through the nose in privately-owned shops or wait for a "72" in Brussels.

It has a staff of five : Bdr. Dallimore, who combines the duties of NCO i/c and cashier; Gnr. Curd, the driver, and three charming young women of the Welfare Services, who book the orders — and preliminary reports suggest that they are booking plenty.

Ten customers can be dealt with at a time. The whole of one side is racked and, somewhere around, tastefully displayed and backed by concealed lighting, you will find

just the gift you are looking for. A step takes you from the perfume to the lingerie. Another step to the toys.

The other side is given over to the booking of orders. When the folding doors open out at the back of the vehicle you will read that samples only are carried; that orders are despatched to the central depot in Brussels and from there your gifts are sent to their destination in the UK.

If you are thinking of purchasing you mustn't forget to bring along a Duty Free label. Most important this. And another thing you must remember is that the maximum weight of your parcel should not exceed four lbs.

When business is over for the day the shop can be quickly converted into a living room or a bedroom.

Water is always on tap from a 25-gallon container. There are pots and pans for cooking and a basin for washing up. There is a built-in safe where monies can be deposited. There are three camp beds for the girls — just in case there should be a breakdown and they cannot get back to headquarters the same day. And there is a tent which can be rigged up outside in a few minutes for the use of Bdr. Dallimore and Gnr. Curd — both of whom, by the way, are of 613 Garrison Regiment, RA.

It took 1500 man hours to complete the job of turning the six-tonner into a mobile gift shop, and it was done by men of No. 4 General Troops Workshops, REME.



Sales girls take advantage of a quiet spell to have a brew-up.

Below : Plenty of time to pick and choose, while the staff deal with orders behind you. Right : Major-General G. Surtees, Commander L of C, inspects the new shop.

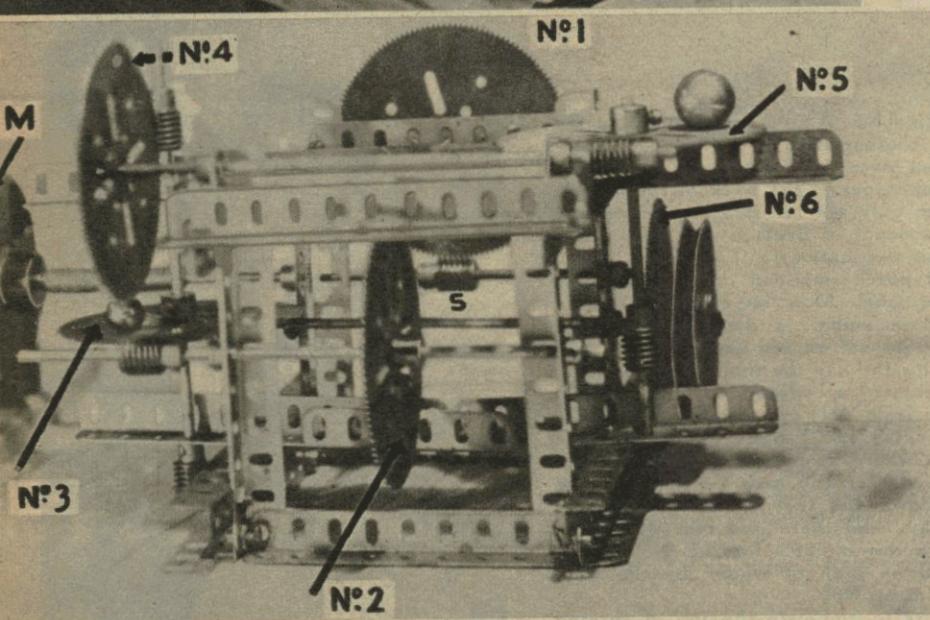


Slowest Clock in the World -you can make it

Evolution 4

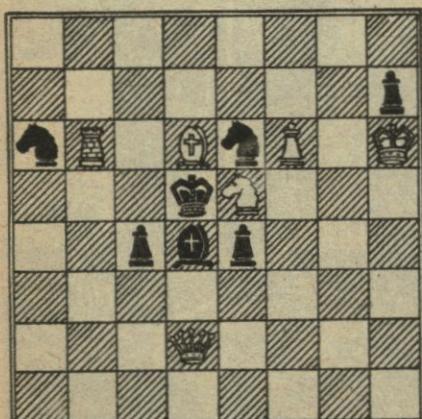


Mr. Lowndes with the clock, which is shown in detail below. The numbers are explained in the article.



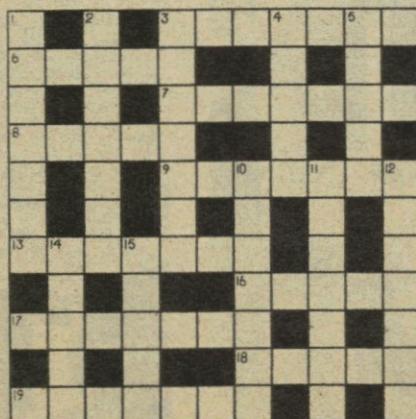
CHESS AND CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS : 3. Doesn't like to change his mind. 6. May be taken from a general on escort duty. 7. Whether Field or Air, he sounds warlike. 8. Some soldiers! 9. Junior officers start to exist. 13. Bomb action, sometimes. 16. A medico, we admit, may go under. 17. We begin with an excursion in N. Africa. 18. It used to be worth a bob to do this. 19. Not quite heartless description of surrealist work?



White to move and mate in two.

CLUES DOWN : 1. When father embraces a star, he's yellow. 2. A bogey? 3. Famous British Army Commander. 4. Midianite armies? 5. Spare turn! 10. The GI's chums. 11. How troops do not march nowadays (two words). 12. Potential Stalag escape routes. 14. It's a mistake to take it out of Herr Orbach. 15. Astound.



(Solution on Page 23.)

We, and everything else on earth, are evolving, but at such a slow rate that the results during one lifetime are to all intents and purposes imperceptible.

The most perfect clock by which to measure these vast lapses of time is provided by Nature, in the disintegration of uranium. However we cannot all examine radiation, nor have we all the necessary skill or apparatus to weigh light.

But there stands on the bench in my laboratory another kind of clock which anyone can make and observe. It is, I believe, the slowest clock in the world which is worked by wheels, and it is made from simple meccano. Apart from the cost of the electric motor by which it is driven the whole apparatus can be made for less than £1.

Simple Mechanism

I made it up myself a few years ago, primarily to convince some friends of mine that there are occasions on which commonsense dictates that we should accept certain things which are incapable of actual proof. The actual clock is shown in the accompanying photograph.

On the left there is the motor by which the clock is driven. This is of a very simple type and is worked off the mains supply at a rate of 3000 r.p.m., or 50 revolutions per second, and since the load is almost nil the clock keeps very accurate time. The principle of the clock is readily grasped by reference to the photograph. Here we see a typical spiral or worm which rotates on a spindle, and as it rotates it turns a large toothed wheel. The toothed wheel has 133 teeth, and when the worm revolves once the toothed wheel rotates one tooth and one tooth only — in other words there is a reduction of 133 to 1.

Boring Job For No. 6.

The spindle carrying the first toothed wheel carries also another worm, which drives a toothed wheel of similar size to the first. Thus this second reduction means 1 in (133×133) which is 17,689.

Altogether there are six worms and six toothed wheels, all coupled up in the same way. The reduction is therefore 1 in

(133×133) six times. This means an actual reduction of 1 in 5,535,000,000,000, or about one in five-and-a-half billions.

The times of rotation are as follows:

Motor	0.02 secs.
No. 1 toothed wheel	2.66 secs.
No. 2	5.9 mins.
No. 3	13.7 hrs.
No. 4	72.5 days.
No. 5	26.37 years.
No. 6	3508 years.

If another toothed wheel were attached its rate of rotation would be once in half a million years.

Now the point about the clock is this. Since all the wheels are interlocking and can only turn in one direction they must all be revolving so long as the motor is running, and there cannot be the slightest doubt whether the motor is running or not when it is switched on.

A Challenge

You can easily see No. 1 toothed wheel going round since it takes about $2\frac{1}{2}$ seconds, and it is $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches across. No. 2 is also easily followed since it goes round once in nearly six minutes. You can definitely see that it is moving. In No. 3, however, you can detect no movement at all, since it goes round rather more slowly than the hour hand of a small clock. If you note where it is and leave it for an hour and then come back, you can see that it has moved.

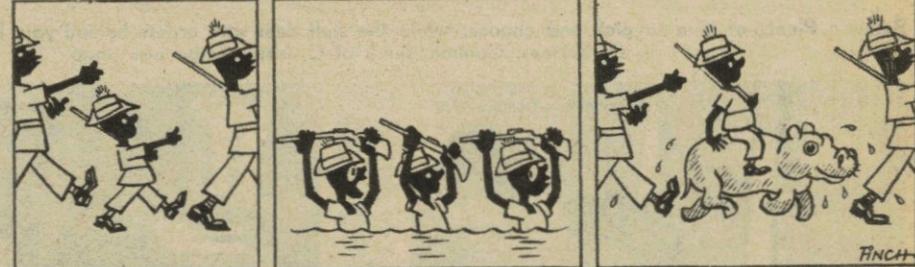
No. 4 wheel goes round at the rate of once in just over ten weeks, and it would require some rather special apparatus to detect any movement after an hour's running. I can think of no satisfactory method by which movement could be detected after an hour in No. 5 wheel, while I defy anyone to detect movement by any means in No. 6 wheel. Commonsense dictates that so long as the motor is running No. 6 wheel is rotating, but I challenge anyone to prove it.

Similarly commonsense or reason dictates that evolution must be taking place but in very few cases can there be any direct proof.

A. G. Lowndes, MA, FZS.

KID OGO...

by FINCH

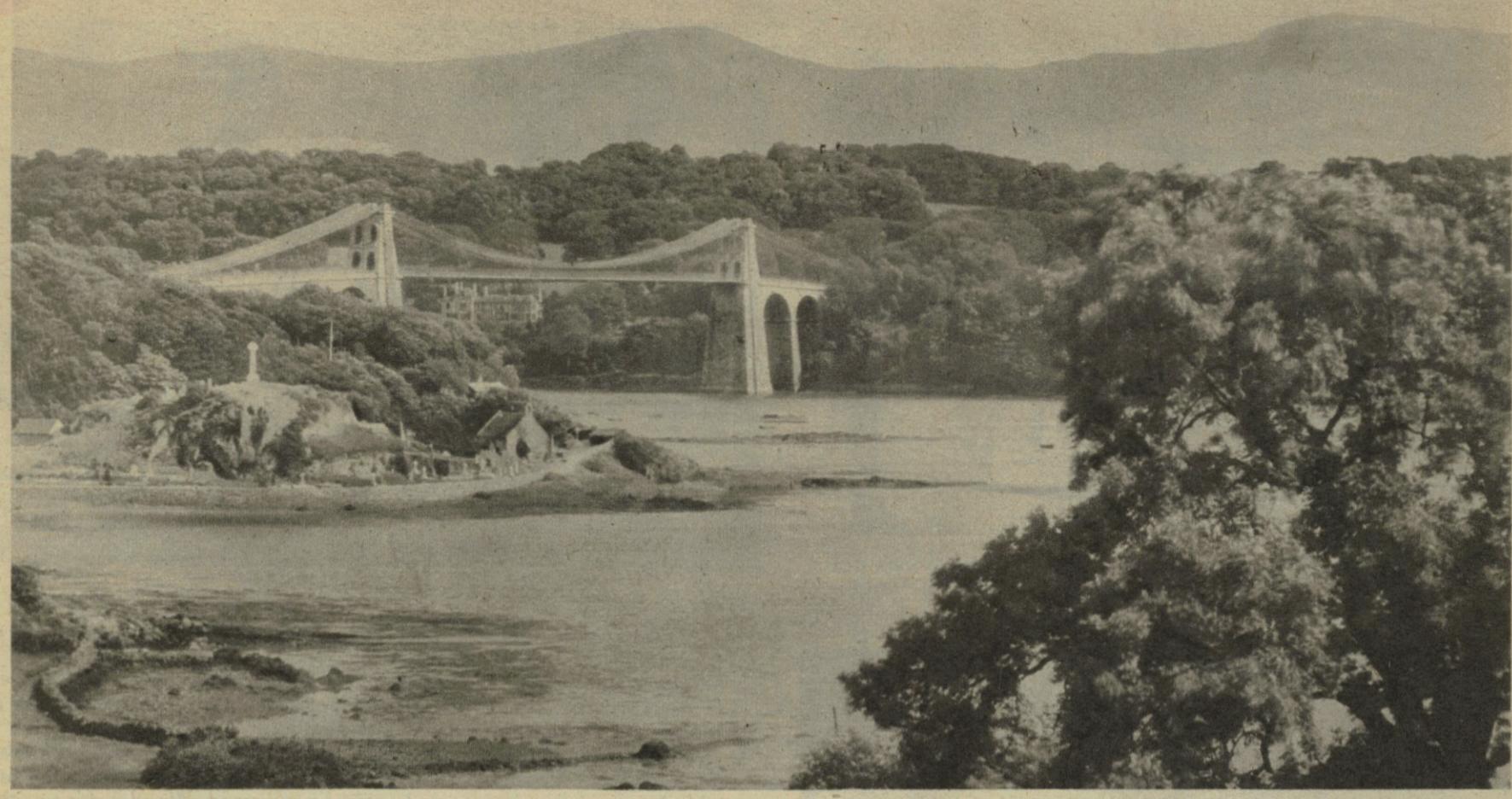


DO YOU KNOW?

- What do you understand by "crocodile tears"?
- First woman member of a British Cabinet was : Lady Astor; Margaret Bondfield; Mavis Tate. Which?
- If you have the mulligrubs, then which are you : Excited; Anxious; Depressed?
- Which is the only all-Jewish city in the world?
- Who wrote (a) Farewell to Arms, (b) Death in the Afternoon, (c) For Whom the Bell Tolls?
- Saint Crispin is the patron saint of : Boiler riveters; Shoemakers; Bakers. Which?
- How many squares on a draught board each touch only two other squares of the same colour?
- Quadragesima is, as you know, a

Sunday in Lent. Is it the 1st, 4th or 6th?

- One of these men once fought in Cuba : Tom Wintringham; Winston Churchill; Herbert Hoover; General Dempsey; A. P. Herbert. Which?
- If an Australian said you were "on the wallaby" he'd mean you were : (a) Teetotal; (b) Unemployed; (c) Looking for trouble. Which?
- Only two of the following words appear in the dictionary. Which is the invented word : Relegate; Regelate; Roundil?
- A plagiarist is a man who : (a) Searches for the secret of perpetual motion; (b) Performs on a one-wheel cycle; (c) Shrinks human heads; (d) Pirates other people's writings. Well, make up your mind.
- Have you any questions to ask us? If not the answers to the above are on page 23.



"LAND OF MY FATHERS"

In response to impassioned appeals from Welsh readers, SOLDIER has pleasure in publishing one of the most famous views in the Principality — the Menai Straits and Suspension Bridge. The delicate web of steel reflects the shape of the mountainous background, constituting one of the few examples of a perfect marriage between man's handiwork and natural scenery.

SHARPEST EARS?

JOHN JARVIS, 29-years-old language expert, has been blind from birth. But his hearing is so acute that he can identify sounds which to an ordinary man would be inaudible.

He is one of the members of the Special Listening Section of the BBC's Monitoring Service, where 600 "eavesdroppers" of 24 different nationalities have picked up enemy secrets and advanced information which often helped the War Cabinet to formulate its plans.

A pair of earphones clamped to his head, John Jarvis listens intently on a short-wave receiving set. Suddenly he hears very faintly a jumble of noises, and, far away in the background, an almost inaudible voice speaking from a low-powered radio station thousands of miles away. His nimble fingers move over a Braille writing pad as he records that another radio station has changed its wavelength, or that a new station has opened up.

Memorised 600 Stations

His knowledge and experience of wireless receiving is so great that simply by memorising the position of any particular radio station on the dial he can pick out more than 400 stations on the short wave, about 175 on the medium wave, and all those that broadcast on the long wave.

Born in the pretty little Sussex village of Cross-in-Hand, John Jarvis learned French by the Braille method and by listening to French radio programmes. He listened to Germans, Poles, Czechs, Russians, Bulgarians, Norwegians and a dozen other tongues over the air, and learned to distinguish them one from the other.

He left the Blind School where he had learned Braille and went to St. Catherine's College, Oxford, where in 1937 he graduated after taking his degree in French.

A few weeks before the war he joined the BBC as a monitor, and was one of the first of a small number of overworked

men and women who struggled to keep a record of what the enemy was saying.

Today the Monitoring Service is a highly organised professional news and intelligence service which listens to every word spoken over every audible radio station in the world.

It is the "ear" which from an imposing building on the Caversham heights eavesdropped on Dr. Goebbels' secret instructions to German news and propaganda services, and kept the War Cabinet and Service Departments informed on up-to-the-minute world events.

Million Words Daily

It is the high-speed radio news agency which flashed the news of the fall of Keren to the Prime Minister 10 minutes before the official telegram reached Whitehall; which told the Air Ministry that Nazi paratroopers were descending on Holland before they had actually touched down.

Daily the monitors hear more than 1,000,000 words, which by a process of combing and selection are reduced to 25,000 words for the urgent teleprinter services.

Secret and confidential Morse messages are sent out at a speed too fast to transcribe immediately, so they are recorded on a dictaphone and slowed down. One of the Morse Monitors is Douglas Struthers Fairley, formerly a Merchant Navy wireless operator who was awarded the Stanhope Gold Medal for Bravery and the Royal Humane Society's Silver Medal for gallantry when his ship was bombed in the Atlantic. He was severely burned, and lost a leg.

Dictaphone for Morse

The war with Germany is over, but the work of the Monitoring Service goes on.

There is still a war in the Far East, and blind John Jarvis still travels unaided from his flat in Paddington to the Berkshire village of Caversham where he will continue to track down new radio stations and record enemy secrets and propaganda.

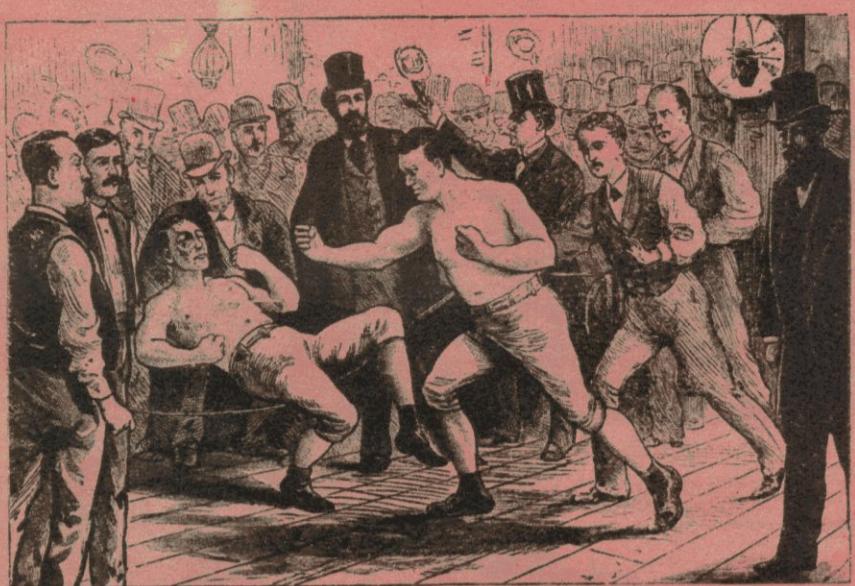


John Jarvis searches round the dial for new stations and unguarded words.

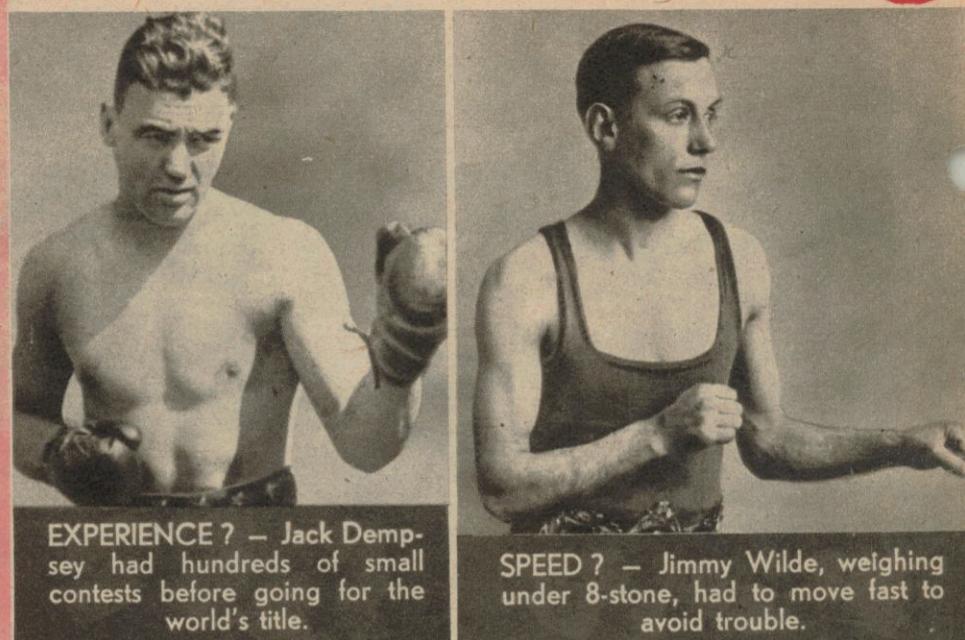


Part of the BBC Monitoring Section which sifts a million words a day.

What Makes a Boxing Champion?

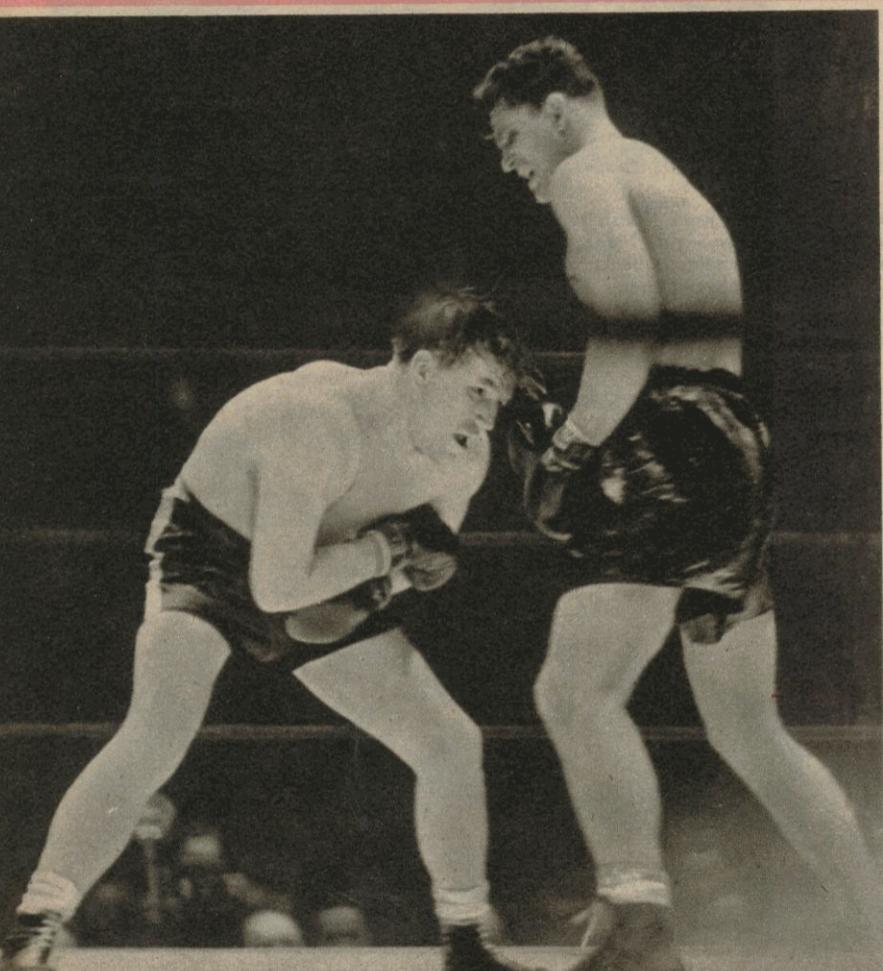


PUNCH? — James L. Sullivan relied on his punch to knock out John Flood in their 1881 fight on a barge moored in the Hudson River.



EXPERIENCE? — Jack Dempsey had hundreds of small contests before going for the world's title.

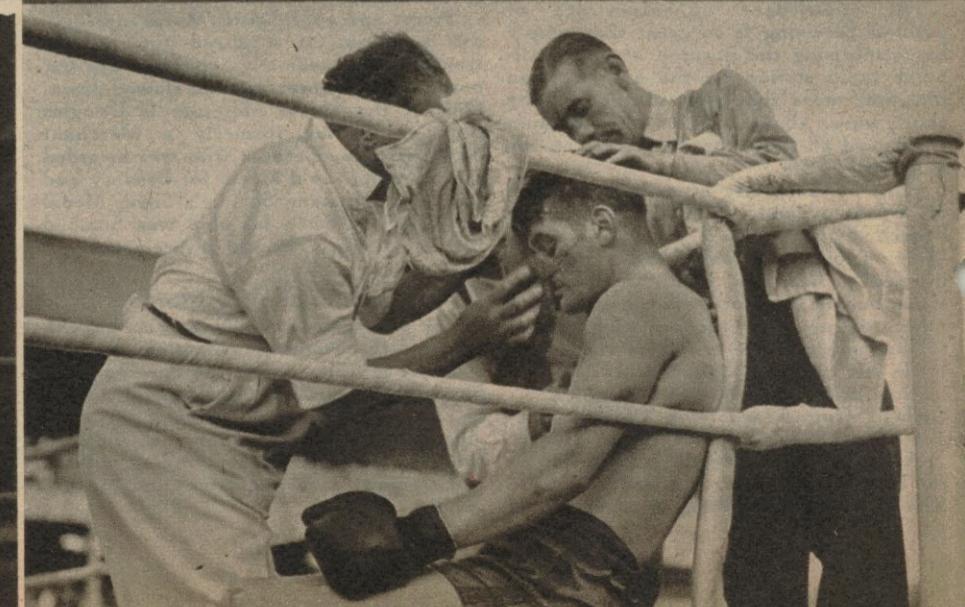
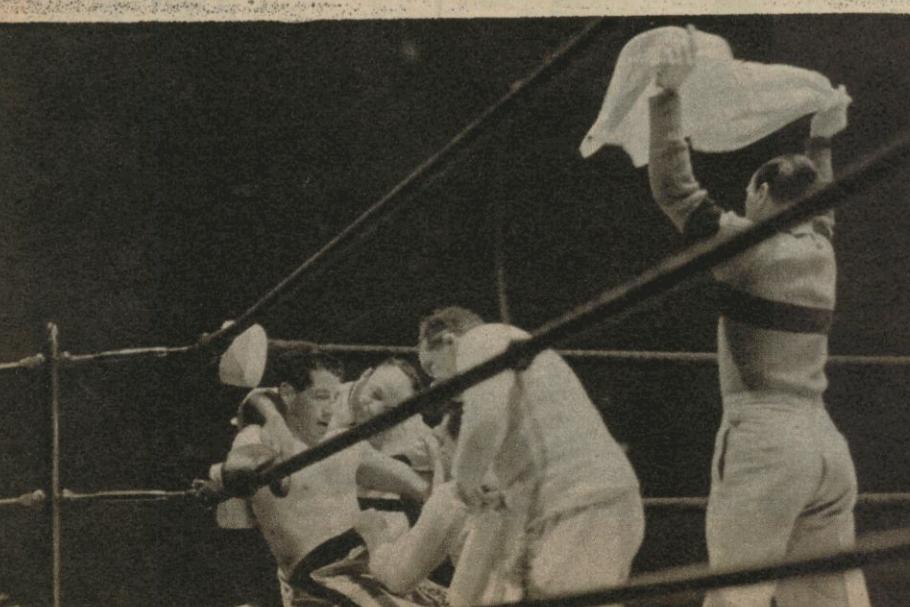
SPEED? — Jimmy Wilde, weighing under 8-stone, had to move fast to avoid trouble.



Tommy Farr, product of boxing booths, knew all the tricks. Here he is seen crouching low as Lou Nova rushes to the attack.

Perfectly relaxed, Len Harvey shows how an experienced boxer takes a minute's rest, during his title contest with Larry Gains.

Woodcock needs air, but his seconds crowd around him just before he goes out for the sixth round to beat London.



WHAT makes a boxing champion? Is it brains, speed, experience and a punch? Or is it just a punch?

Answer the question correctly and you will know how much nonsense has been written about Bruce Woodcock since he won the British and Empire heavy-weight titles from Jack London.

More people than the portly Mr. London had their senses temporarily scrambled by Woodcock's right hand hitting at Tottenham the other night. The boxing writers were knocked bowlegged. Woodcock's punching upset their judgment and brought a rush of adjectives to the head.

It is on record that Woodcock is the next best bet to Joe Louis — good enough to go against Billy Conn, anyway. He has been described as a £50,000 proposition, our greatest champion in years, and a possible world-beater.

So much for the nonsense. Now for the facts. First, Bruce Woodcock is good, but not so good as the fight writers make him. He has the punch, all right — a crisp, short blow which travels straight — but he lacks speed and experience.

What of his brains? Here's the answer: they have yet to be sharpened in the ring before he can be rated as a champion among champions. Boxing brains mean ringcraft, and the Tottenham evidence says that Woodcock hasn't yet learned his job completely.

Lucky Win

Woodcock weighs 13st. dripping wet; London is 15st. 5lb. The obvious policy, then, was to keep the old champion stepping around the ring, make him move forward, and steal the points (and the fight) on fast left hand hitting.

It was the obvious policy, but Woodcock didn't adopt it. On the contrary, he took the fight to his opponent — and at London's pace. Normally, it would have been sheer suicide against a slow, heavy body puncher, but Woodcock had a lucky night.

The story is almost as old as British boxing. It is a story linked with geography.

Return Match?

Perhaps London was dazed. Perhaps he didn't hear the count in the terrific hubbub from the ringside betting boys. I wouldn't know. All I do know is that he seemed in no great distress as he walked to his corner when Referee Jack Dare raised the right arm of the new champion to show the 38,000 crowd that the scrap was over.

It certainly wasn't one of Jack London's finest hours. Perhaps he'll do better in a return match, for all the arguments are beating up to repeat performance by these men of muscle.

Meanwhile, as I say, the boxing writers are giving Bruce Woodcock a heavy-weight rating that is much too high. They are building him up for some big fellow to knock down.

What happened? By the time shrewd "Doc" Kearns came into Dempsey's life, the Manassa Mauler only needed the rough edges knocked off him to be made into one of the greatest fighting machines ever in circulation.

It is the same with all the good 'uns — the authentic champions, I mean. Henry Armstrong held three world's titles at one and the same time before he quit the ring, but he began in the business by touring the States and Mexico and tackling all comers for the price of a bed and a meal. Before that, he had over 50 amateur fights, only turning professional, as he once told me, "because there wasn't enough dough in this amachoor racket!"

Joe Louis had 54 amateur bouts, winning 47 via the knock-out route, and fought as a professional 34 times before he got his world's championship chance against Jimmy Braddock.

So it goes. Even in Britain all the best scappers came up the hard way. Chunky Tom Sayers, last of the great bare-fist champions, waited five years for his first title chance. Little Jimmy Wilde made hundreds of appearances in Jack Scarratt's fairground booth, often tackling and beating a dozen men in an evening, before he got anywhere near the doors of the National Sporting Club.

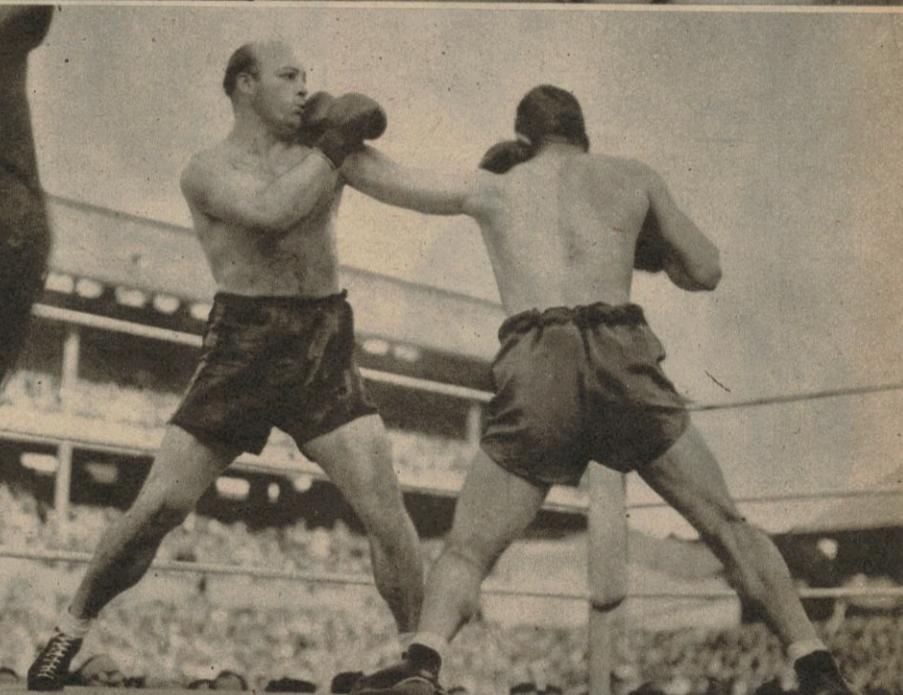
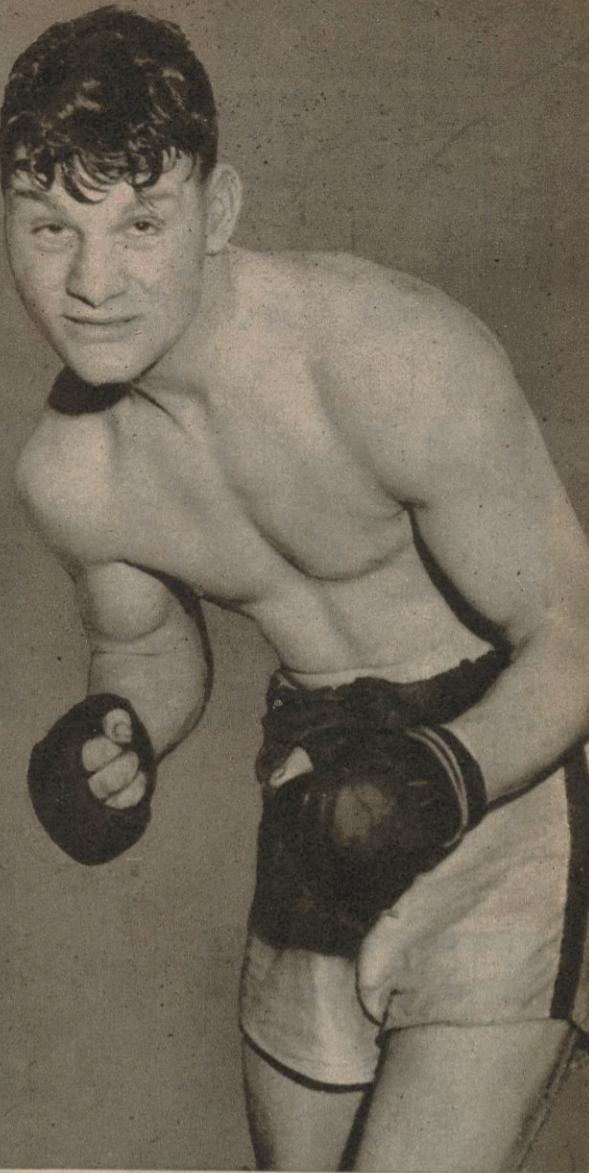
And, more recently, we've had the cases



RINGCRAFT? — Henry Armstrong, pictured after beating Lou Ambers for the lightweight title, learned ringcraft in small amateur and professional boxing clubs.

This Is The New Title Holder

AGE	25
WEIGHT	13st.
HEIGHT	6ft 1/2 in
REACH	72 in
NECK	16 1/4 in
CHEST (Normal)	42 in
CHEST (Expanded)	46 in
BICEPS	14 1/2 in
WRIST	8 1/4 in
WAIST	32 in
THIGH	23 in
CALF	16 1/2 in



No trouble here for Jack London as he half blocks a straight left from Bruce Woodcock in their title fight at Tottenham, but (below) it was the start of his knock-out when he went sprawling through the bottom rope after stopping a right to the chin.



The Champion

Thus we come back again to the new British heavy-weight champion. He has had only 20 fights as a professional, none of them lasting more than six rounds. He is good, but he can be better.

How much better? The answer rests with his advisers. If they rush him at his fences, going bald-headed for the rich, juicy prizes now seemingly within reach, then Woodcock can go the way of a lot more promising youngsters.

If they are prepared to wait — and they say they are — letting him learn his business thoroughly, then he could become our best boxing bet. But it will take time... a very long time.

Paul Irwin (Sjt).

MEXICO



HOLLYWOOD



RUSSIA



GREECE



Globe-Trotter's Guide to Women

Girls in Greece (my spies insist)
Shut both eyes when they are kissed.
Mexique girls (all grace and gristle)
Mostly turn when soldiers whistle.
Russian girls are full of fun,
But they wobble when they run.
Chinese maids with artless airs
Always walk likethis impairs.
Yankee girls, how'er you breed them,
Can't find pennies when they need them.
Chinese, Russian, Greek or Yankee —
Not one cries in her own hanky.

E. S. T.

CHINA



To SOLDIER

★ What's on your mind? Write to SOLDIER about it — but keep it short and to the point.
THIS IS YOUR PAGE



GO BACK TO WOAD?

I read in SOLDIER No. 11 that Britain has just exported her first motor car to America. If our economic system is such that we must export the things we most want to the country which can most easily manufacture them, then I say let's give it all up and go back to woad. — L/Bdr. W. Thomson, RA.

Honour to Ordnance

One unit was not mentioned by the author of "The Sign of the Fouled Anchor" (SOLDIER No. 10) — the Ordnance Beach Detachments whose job in the beach group was to support the assault divisions in the initial stages. They landed in the early hours of D-Day and some of them died in action. — Pte. A. Allen, ex-OBD, RAOC.

Who Got The Ammo?

We have read with interest "The Sign of the Fouled Anchor." What would have been the measure of success had the Signals thrown telephones, the RASC thrown Compo packs, the RAMC thrown surgical instru-



"...if Signals had thrown telephones at the enemy..."

ments, and REME thrown spanners at the enemy instead of ammunition? — SQMS S. J. Knight, 17 BAD.

Tired of "Tommy"

How do British OR's like being called "Tommy"? The name always strikes me as being as out of date as "Tipperary." It smacks of "Civvies" trying to be kind to us. "Tommy" reminds me of the awful poems

Kipling used to write about the Regulars and their "Boots." But ours is the second citizen army in 30 years. Need we still have a nickname that suggests we are a race apart — a peculiar people? — L/Cpl M. W. Dewar, SHAEF (Int. Div.)

Send "C" Men Here

Now that the European war is over could not the Category "C" men who have been employed in Britain be sent to BLA for Base and L. of C. duties, so that men who have served for long periods overseas could replace them and enjoy a little home for a change? — "Python," 53 R.H.U.

Things That Matter

The only recognition I ask for is better housing, an equal chance for my child in the Britain of tomorrow, a chance to share tomorrow the freedom won by six years of unparalleled sacrifice and devotion to duty. Let us not, in seeking "D's" for D-Day and "R's" for Rockets forget the things that really

matter, those things that can guarantee that the meaning of "D-Day" and the will to defy the Rockets shall not have been in vain. What do the medals of the last war mean to the present generation? What will the medals of this war mean to tomorrow's citizens? — Pte. Frank Bayliss, RAOC, 4 Coy, 54 RHU.

Antwerp : Rest City

"Taffy RAOC" (SOLDIER No. 10) says he worked in Antwerp through the V-bombs, and asks, "Wasn't this combat, too?" Doesn't it rate distinction? During last winter we jumped at the opportunity of spending two days rest, out of the line, in Antwerp, V-bombs and all. Surely this rates a higher distinction? — "Two 'Sardine' Soldiers," 4th R. Tks.

Restraint

Did we ask for a "W" on the Africa Star to show that we belonged to General Waller's 30,000? No, Sir, we were damn glad it was all over.

Incidentally I am pleased to see "The Two Types" by Jon in your magazine. Someone said, "Who are they?" My reply: "Definitely not Desert Rats, old boy." — "D-Day Dodger," 51 Coy, RASC.

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Signed

Rank Unit

Don't Cut Ours!

I read Capt. J. E. H. Wolff's letter advocating a cut in rations for BLA. Our company works just as strenuously as it did during



"...we are given a high percentage of dehydrated food."

the war, as do lots of other working units. With such as these no ration cut is justified.

We know that the civilian points ration is small in England, but civilians are able to buy garden produce and so on in the shops, and if rations will not eke out, many eat in restaurants. Also, we are issued a big percentage of dehydrated foods, whereas civilians now buy little beyond dried fruit and egg. — "Two Sappers," 603 Rly. Const. Coy. RE.

Eligible, But —

We, the undersigned, along with 170 men of the same company, had served four years and three months with the MEF and CMF, when we were sent to BLA.

We have just had seven days leave under BLA regulations. Shall we still be repatriated

Lucky People

I read with interest the letter "Lucky Over-30's" (SOLDIER No. 10). Most of these men were in their twenties when war broke out and missed Army service by having the right kind of job with good money. They are now lucky to be over 30 and miss the call-up. Yet a man with five years service and nearly 30 years old is still eligible for further overseas service. — "One Of The Many," 20th Advanced Workshop, REME.

More Lucky People

We have in our unit men of "demob" groups 56 to 60, and they call me lucky because I am in 29 group. Why? I have nearly

Smudger

by Friell



"Corporal, Mr Smudger 'ere would like to order a top 'at white tie an' tails to be ready for next June."

six years service to my name. They will probably not have half that time to do. Lucky? I would hate to see someone who is unlucky!

— "First In, Last Out," 613 Regt., RA.

Unlucky People

The "Daily Mail" (17 July) writes: "Redundant factory workers cannot get their release. They are kept idle — on pay — although they have other jobs to go to." Would it not even be the burden if workers of 30-35 were released and put in the Services and ex-Servicemen put in the "other jobs to go to"? — Sjt H. Dibben, 6th (Guards) Brigade OPP.

Chance of Class B

Is there a chance of builders' labourers being released under Class B, and if so will they get vocational training like those released under Class A? — Pte. R. Giles, 250 Coy, Pioneers, BLA.

★ Broadly speaking, there will be a chance of release under Class B for builders' labourers classified as such on entering the Army. There is no question of application for release on these grounds — a certain number of men are requested by the Ministry concerned, and that number are released. The War Office says: "If you are a mechanic, for instance, and are released under Class B, it is assumed that you will be able to start work as a mechanic immediately, in which case vocational training does not apply." — Ed., SOLDIER.

after completing 4 1/2 years abroad? — Dvr. A. Wood, R. Saunders, RASC, BLA.

★ War Office answer: "From the facts you give us, and from these facts alone, you are eligible now for repatriation under Python. Troops in BLA or MEF or CMF are eligible for repatriation after four years unbroken service overseas. 'Eligible' means that you 'qualify' — but it does NOT mean, and has never been represented to mean, that you WILL be repatriated immediately, or at any particular time. ACI 668/45 states: 'The qualifying periods are used as a basis for planning the return of personnel eligible, and do not operate as a rigid measure of a soldier's eligibility to return to the U.K.'" In other words, you're on the waiting list. — Ed., SOLDIER.

Next, Please

Playing nap on the train with a French pack of cards, we had an argument about what the letters "R," "D" and "V" stood for on the King, Queen and Jack. "R" means "Roi" and "D" presumably means "Dame," but what's "V"? — Spr. J. C. Foster, RE.

★ Valet. — Ed., SOLDIER.

Answers

(from Page 18.)

DO YOU KNOW?

- Hypocritical tears.
- Margaret Bondfield.
- Depressed.
- Tel Aviv.
- Ernest Hemingway.
- Shoemakers.
- 24.
- 1st.
- Winston Churchill.
- Unemployed.
- Roundil.
- (d.)

CROSSWORD

ACROSS: — 3. Diehard. 6. Alone. 7. Marshal. 8. Troop. 9. Subs-ist. 13. Delayed. 16. Dr-own. 17. Trip-oli. 18. Enrol. 19. Artless.

DOWN: — 1. Da-star-d. 2. Co-lonel. 3. Dempsey. 4. Hosts. 5. Reaps. 10. Buddies. 11. In fours. 12. Tunnels. 14. Error. 15. Appal.

CHESS

Key-move: Kt-Q 3.

THE TEXT

Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

Be anxious for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 4: verses 4-7).

Soldier

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

LATEST AND NEAREST
B-29 BASE WILL BECOME
GREATEST THREAT TO
JAPAN'S INNER ZONE

OKINAWA

TOKIO

LUZON

LEYTE

PALAU

MOROTAI

ASIA Is.

MAPIA

BIAK

SARMI

AITAPE

MADANG

BY-PASSED JAPANESE HELD CARLLINE IS.

MARIANA BASED B-29'S PICK UP
LONG-RANGE FIGHTER COVER
FROM IWOJIMA WHICH ALSO
ACTS AS EMERGENCY LANDING STRIP
FOR CRIPPLED RETURNING B-29'S



The advance towards Japan has gone steadily on, under cover of aircraft based on successive recaptured islands. The threat has grown enormously with the seizing of Okinawa.

SOLDIER Map by Longman.

JAPAN: Our Forces Mass

IF — uninterrupted by an earlier surrender — the war against Japan is to be fought to a finish, future operations are likely to pass through four main phases : the phases, that is, of bombardment and blockade, of the Anglo-Australian link-up in the South-West Pacific, of the Allied invasion of Japan — possibly by way of China — and finally of the mopping up.

Let us begin by examining the present phase, that of bombardment and blockade. Bombardment at least is no new departure. The Allied air forces, picking up in the Pacific the threads that they had dropped in Western Europe, are now applying the lessons they have already learnt. Their first job — now in hand — is to knock out the Japanese air force, still reckoned to number some 9,000 aircraft, of which perhaps 4,500 are combatant; this job they will do not only by destroying the actual aircraft on the ground or in the air but also by completing the destruction of the enemy's industrial economy and especially his aircraft industry.

Their second job, as yet scarcely begun, is to disrupt Japan's communications immediately prior to invasion. The Marianas Islands and Okinawa, converted by prodigies of bulldozer construction into immense airfields, now provide the necessary airstrips for both jobs.

The array of air power which the Allies are mustering in the Pacific is formidable indeed. In order to understand its working we must understand broadly the rather complicated US system of command.

Over all is the Chiefs of Staffs Committee in Washington. Below the Chiefs of Staff the channels of command in the Pacific bifurcate. Thus there are two parallel command-channels : that of the army command under General MacArthur, and that of the naval command under Admiral Nimitz.

MacArthur himself holds two official positions : he is at one and the same time C-in-C of the US Army Forces

by
Lt. General H.G. Martin, CB, DSO
(SOLDIER Magazine Military Commentator)

in the Pacific (CINCAFPAC) and Allied C-in-C of the South-West Pacific Area (CINCSOWESPAC), in which latter capacity he has as his deputy the Australian General Blamey. Incidentally, it seems likely that, resulting from the recent meeting of Mountbatten and MacArthur, there will be a readjustment of the boundaries between SEAC and SOWESPAC which will allow SEAC full liberty of manoeuvre in any future operations to open the Malacca Straits.

Admiral Nimitz likewise holds two official positions : he is C-in-C of the Pacific Ocean Area (CINCPAO), and C-in-C of the Pacific Fleet (CINCPAC). It is into this framework of command that the air forces and fleets have to be fitted.

Crippling The Oil Plants

First, there is General Spaatz's Army Strategic Air Force. Spaatz works directly under General Arnold — that is, under the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The primary role of the ASAFAF is to cripple Japanese air power by attacking oil and aircraft production plants, towns and workers' living-quarters throughout central Japan but particularly in Honshu. The 7th Fighter Command (Mustangs) based on Iwo Jima, half-way between the Marianas and Japan, gives fighter cover to the Super-Forts based on the Marianas.

Next, there is Maj. Gen. Kenney's Far East Air Force, which works directly under MacArthur.

The Far East Air Force consists of the 5th, 7th and 13th Army Air Forces (Thunderbolts, Liberators and Mitchells). The 5th and 7th AAF's are based on Okinawa and the neighbouring islands : their main job is to supplement the Strategic AF's attack by concentrating on targets in southern Japan, particularly in Kyushu.

Kenney's third and last component — the 13th AAF — works with the aircraft of the 7th Fleet. Together they support the US land forces in the Philippines and the Australian forces in the Borneo area.

Thirdly, there are Fleet Air Wings 1 and 18 (Privateers, Liberators and Mariners) and Marine Air Wings 2 and 4 (Corsairs, Avengers and Mitchells), all of which are based on Okinawa and neighbouring isles.

These air wings are under Admiral Nimitz, and their main job is to blockade southern Japan by interrupting the short sea-routes to the mainland.

Fourthly, there is the 11th AAF, based mainly on the Aleutians, where it works with the North Pacific Fleet Air Wing — both under Admiral Nimitz.

Together the 11th AAF and the air wing attack Japan's bases in the Kuriles, her shipping in the Sea of Othotsk and her fishing fleet in northern waters. They thus form the northern pincer of the blockade.

Fifthly, there are the carrier-borne aircraft of the US 3rd Fleet and of the British Pacific Fleet, operating under Admiral Halsey, who in turn is under Nimitz.

Finally, there is the amplified air command in China, which Stratemeyer has just taken over.

This Chinese air command consists of the 14th AAF (B-24's) already in China, reinforced by Stratemeyer's own command, which was formerly in India and Burma, where it included the 10th AAF (mostly medium bombers) and certain additional groups.

Stratemeyer will co-operate not only with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek's "New Model" army, which should soon take the field in China, but also in the bombardment and blockade of Japan and Formosa and in any landing operations which MacArthur may carry out on the China coast.

Such then, very briefly, is the air and naval lay-out in the Pacific in the present "softening-up" stage of direct assault upon Japan. This softening-up process will be far more severe than that applied to Germany. And it will be applied to a far smaller area — an area only 50% larger than that of the United Kingdom.

ROLL IT UP
AND
SEND IT HOME



NAME
ADDRESS

As SOLDIER weighs
more than two ounces,
a penny-stamp must
be affixed here.