

# SOLDIER

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

NINEPENCE

MAY 1958



**"STEADY THE DRUMS AND FIFES"** from the painting by Lady Butler  
(SEE PAGES 10-12)

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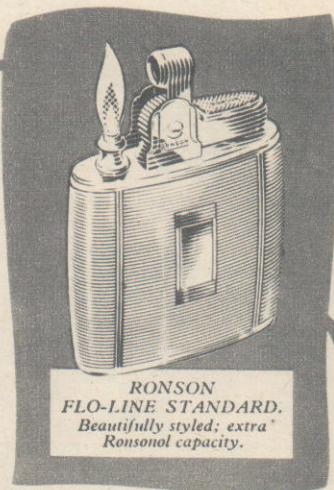


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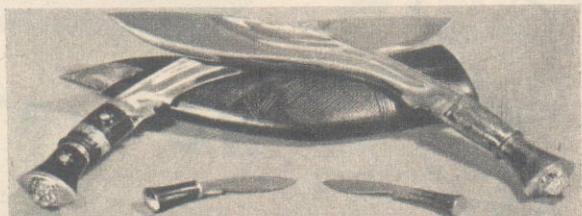
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**said the Major.**

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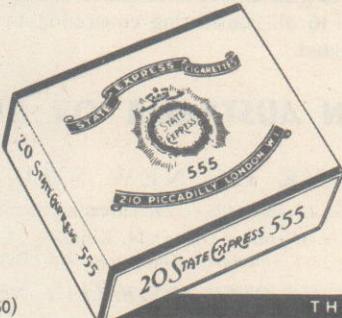
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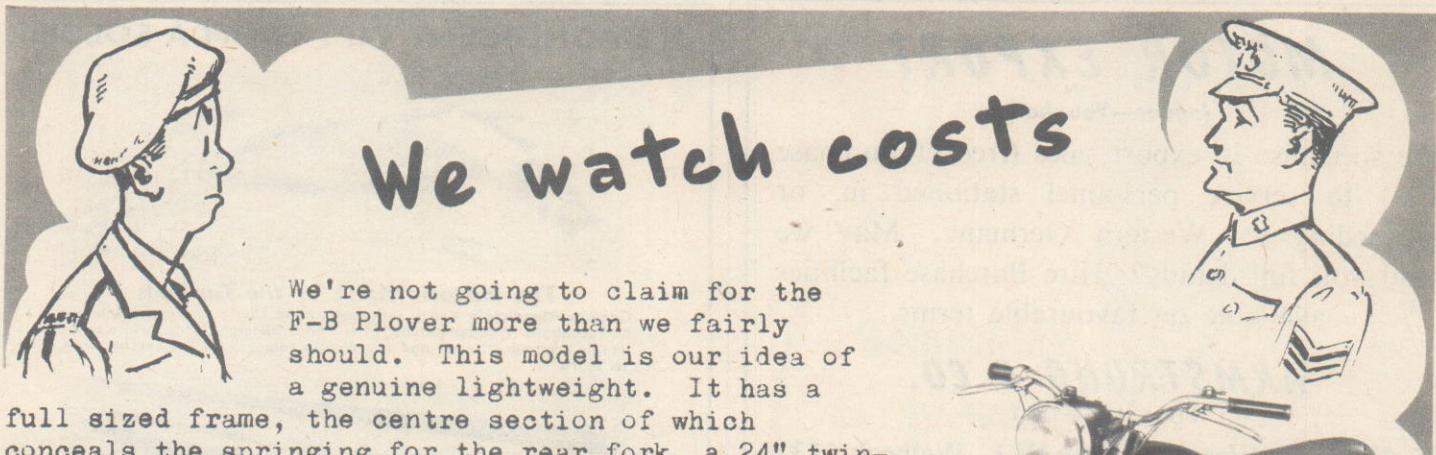
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It was an historic day for the Army's first guided missile regiment when, for the first time, field exercises were carried out with the radio-controlled monster which has the fire-power of a division's guns and a range of up to 50 miles

# THE CORPORAL ON PARADE

**I**T was not unlike one of those films in which monsters from another world waddle through a desolate landscape and, from time to time, rear themselves above the trees.

In the past, very many iron monsters have ranged over the scrubland north of Aldershot and left impressive scars behind them. But this occasion was something new: it was the first time a British guided missile regiment had taken the field.

The Gunners of 47 Guided Weapons Regiment (Field), Royal Artillery had spent the night under canvas and were now going through the complex movements and drills necessary to despatch a Corporal missile.

SOLDIER arrived at a camouflaged missile test tent just as one of the giant missile containers was being unloaded by crane from its transporter. It is doubtless the first time in the annals of the Royal Artillery that a single round of ammunition has been provided with a portable tent merely to shelter it while it is examined and serviced, not to mention a miniature railway which is laid down inside the tent to receive it. The tent, shaped like a small airship hangar, even has its own heating arrangements.

It sounds leisurely and laborious, but in fact the men of the Service Battery handled their task

with remarkable briskness and confidence. The missile was run out of its container as if on jewelled bearings. On the container were stencilled the words "Reusable—Do Not Destroy,"

which made one wonder how anybody would set about destroying such an out-size canister even if he wanted to.

When technicians of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers had carried out all their tests on the missile's built-in equipment, it was loaded on to the 50-feet-long erector vehicle and moved up to the firing battery area some miles away. There it was "boomed over"—that is, moved through 180 degrees until it projected behind the vehicle, ready for taking on its (simulated) propellant.

Fuelling is a two-phase task. As the substances must not be allowed to mix until the moment of firing the two liquid fuels are loaded at different

points by men dressed in protective "space suits."

Then the missile, having been mated with its warhead, was trundled up to the launching point, not far from the guidance equipments, aerials and generators of the missile guidance area. With the exertion of no more physical effort than is necessary to push a switch, the missile was brought to the vertical above its launcher. The erector then withdrew its support and the Corporal, suitably stayed, stood alone and menacing. Last-minute adjustments were made with the aid of the spectacular servicing platform, or "cherrypicker," which can lift two men in a cage to a height of 55 feet.

Under the Launching Troop Commander, the Gunners carried realism to the point of smothering the legs of the launcher with soil in order to save the paintwork from the blast of take-off!

Snaking away from the missile were two long cables which ended in a box of many switches and buttons. One of these was THE button. Beside it, under a camouflage net, crouched a Gunner awaiting the order "Fire." With him was the Launching

OVER . . .

*At the firing battery area the rocket is "boomed over" so that propellant fuels may be loaded into it. The huge weapon is moved by a remote control box operated by the man at bottom right.*

Photographs: SOLDIER Cameraman FRANK TOMPSETT





Above: The "cherrypicker" hoists a technician aloft for last-minute adjustments to the rocket mechanism. Below: The Corporal on its launcher. Note the soil placed over the legs of the launcher—to protect paintwork from the heat of take-off!



## THE CORPORAL ON PARADE continued

Section Commander in touch by line with the command post vehicle where the elaborate counting-down procedure was about to be carried out. On actual operations, it would be a bombardier's privilege to press THE button, however much the Battery Commander or the Regimental Commander would like to do it.

In the command post vehicle the Firing Battery Commander supervised the count-down. This is an exhaustive drill designed to ensure that all stages of preparation are completed to the appointed time. If any stage is not ready within certain time limits, the procedure must be begun again. During the last five minutes the individual minutes are called out, and right at the end, the seconds. Then comes the order "Fire." Even when the missile is live the word "Fire" is followed by an anti-climactic silence. The rocket sizzles away for three or four seconds before, almost reluctantly, it lifts itself from the ground. Then comes the report "Missile Away" (an American touch).

The word "Fire" by no means ends the activity inside the command post vehicle, when the missile is steered by electronic means to its destination up to 50 miles away. The report which concludes the operation is the solemn word "Impact." A simulator enables the guidance procedure to be practised.

The Firing Battery Commander spent two and a half years in America and has seen many

Corporal rockets fired. Almost all the officers and men of 47 Guided Weapons Regiment (Field), Royal Artillery have been taught by British instructors who in turn were taught in the United States. There are no American Servicemen attached to the Regiment, though there were still "Fort Bliss, Texas" stickers attached to the windscreens of two cars to be seen this day in the Aldershot area.

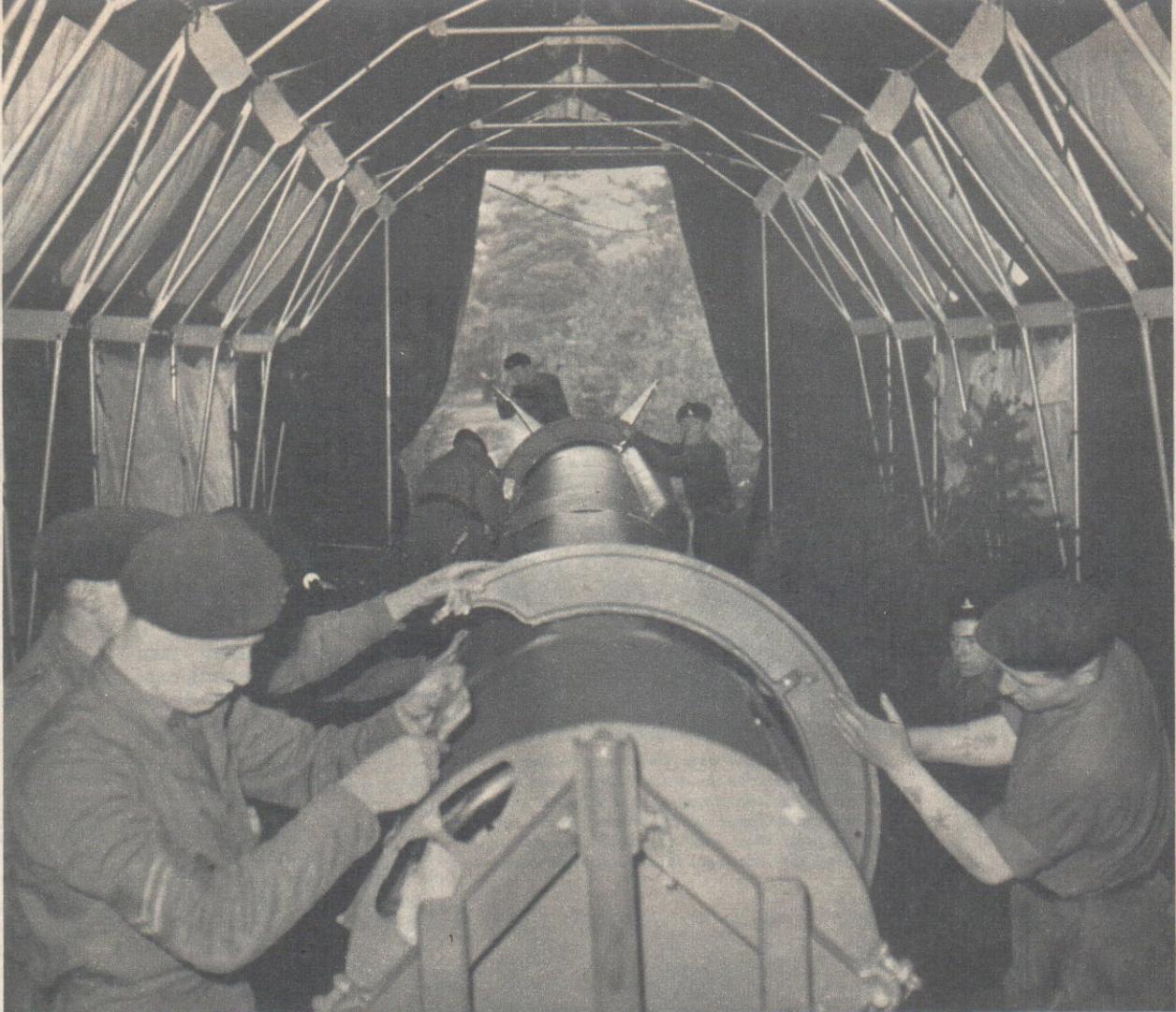
"It is an absolutely fascinating regiment," says Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. Cordingley, Commanding Officer, a former commander of the Chestnut Troop. It was only in December last, he explained, that the various components of the Regiment, including the Royal Corps of Signals troop and workshops of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, with a Royal Army Ordnance Stores section, had come together at Haig Lines, Crookham, after undergoing their various courses of instruction. He is anxious that the Regiment shall not acquire the reputation of being a collection of boffins. "There is nothing freak about us. Any intelligent Gunner can fit easily into a guided missile regiment."

The driver-operators would appear to have a difficult task in manoeuvring the erector through traffic and across country. In fact, this monster is singularly tractable and very difficult to bog. If the driver finds himself in a tight spot, or wishes to position his vehicle to within an inch, his

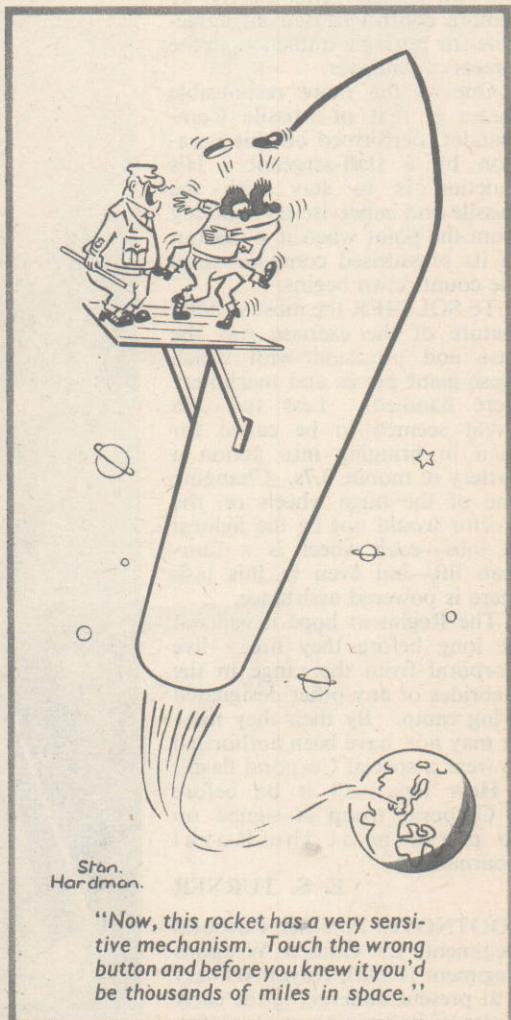
**continued on page 8...**

*Left: Still inside its casing, the Corporal missile is jacked up to enable it to slide out onto the miniature railway seen at bottom right.*

*Right: Inside the missile test tent—which is collapsible and portable—a Corporal is eased out of its container ready to undergo pre-firing tests.*



*Below: Gunners in protective "space suits" measure liquid propellant. Men with hoses stand by in case of fire.*



Stan. Hardman.

*"Now, this rocket has a very sensitive mechanism. Touch the wrong button and before you knew it you'd be thousands of miles in space."*

# "Rockets are Ungentlemanly"

## Said the Duke

THE rocket as an Army weapon is a century-and-a-half old but for 100 years before it came into prominence again in World War Two its tactical employment was almost entirely neglected. Rockets were prematurely written off in the 1850s, although Sir Robert Napier did fire a few at the towering rocks of Magdala in the Abyssinian War of 1868.

Soldier-scientist Sir William Congreve first began a serious study of rockets as weapons in 1804. Two years later he demonstrated their powers from ships in an attack on Boulogne. This success led to their use at Copenhagen in 1807, and in the ill-fated Walcheren expedition of 1809.

For the attack on Flushing in the Walcheren campaign men trained in the use of rockets were ordered to embark with the Army. Batteries opened soon after noon on 13 August and after two days the town surrendered. Rockets had done great damage.

But Congreve had to fight opposition at home. Some pundits warned that if we used rockets in war we might so goad the enemy that they would be driven to use rockets too!

Only grudgingly did Wellington accept them, late in the Peninsular War. He regarded them as new-fangled, undisciplined, and scarcely gentlemanly. Yet they did useful service at the Bidassoa and Adour actions in 1813.

Their most spectacular achievements, however, were in other fields. First at the "Battle of the Nations" around Leipzig in 1813, and then in the war with the United States. At Bladensburg in 1814, rockets demoralised two battalions of Republicans, who broke and fled.

A month later, in a night bombardment of Fort McHenry, Congreve rockets were fired from ships in Baltimore Harbour, but though the British flotilla was forced to withdraw they had helped to make musical, if not military, history. On the eve of the bombardment, the Americans had sent an emissary, Francis Scot Key, to negotiate the release of a civilian prisoner. Darkness hid the ramparts of Fort McHenry and the Stars and Stripes that flew over them, but Key knew from the fiery trails of the rockets that the flag had not been lowered. When he left next day he had in his pocket a draft of the first verse of the United States' National Anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner":

*"And the rocket's red glare, and bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that the flag was still there!  
Oh! say, does the star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?"*

Meanwhile, British rocket troops were being trained for

service in Europe under Major E. C. Whinyates, of the Horse Artillery. But it was only through the most tactful pleading that "Congreves" were permitted to take part at the Battle of Waterloo.

Extracts from Siborne's "Waterloo Letters" showed that they justified their presence. Captain Warde recalls: "At about 12 o'clock the Rocket Troop took possession of the ground . . . on the left of the Genappes Road. . . . The men were told off into 13 sections, each section carrying eight 6-lb. rockets. . . . Receiving orders to check a Brigade of the enemy's cavalry, Major Whinyates moved at a trot within a range of 300 yards, and fired volleys of rockets, and in 10 minutes the French brigade was in total disorder and dispersed."

Lieutenant C. C. Dansey, wrote: "I ordered the men to get rockets and follow me on foot . . . Lieut Wright took a rocket under his arm, and we all went to the front of the *abatis* and stuck the rockets among the bushes."

Whinyates wrote: "The section dismounted to fire ground rockets, that is, not rockets fired at an angle of elevation, but rockets that ricocheted [sic] along the ground. There were crops of high standing grain which screened all objects in front, and the rockets were fired through them."

Each Rocketeer wore a pouch belt, and each mounted man carried "a *fasce* of three or four rocket sticks in a bucket, in a manner similar to the mode lances and Dragoon carbines are carried. Besides these the centre of Threes carried a small trough in his saddle-bag, in which the rocket was laid and fired, and every man in the Rocket Sections carried rockets in his holsters."

Bigger rockets are mentioned by Lieutenant Dansey: "We had with the troop a great, awkward lumbering carriage, with apparatus called a Bombarding Frame for heavy rockets . . . I saw it, with its great long frame cocked up in the air at about 45 degrees, firing away."

Congreve had a pet project which was never to be realised. It was to give to cavalry the fire-power of artillery without affecting mobility, and without the need for wheeled carriages. He wanted each mounted man to carry rockets, so that this "horse-back artillery" could operate on ground impossible for guns.

F. DUBREZ FAWCETT

## CORPORAL

continued

co-driver can jump out of his cabin carrying his magic box, and by pressing the appropriate switch, move not only the front wheels but the rear ones in any desired direction. The sight of the rear wheels being steered by remote control caused an agreeable stir during a traffic jam in the streets of Andover.

One of the more responsible duties is that of Missile Commander, performed on this occasion by a staff-sergeant. His function is to stay with the missile and supervise its handling from the point when it slides out of its pressurised container until the count-down begins.

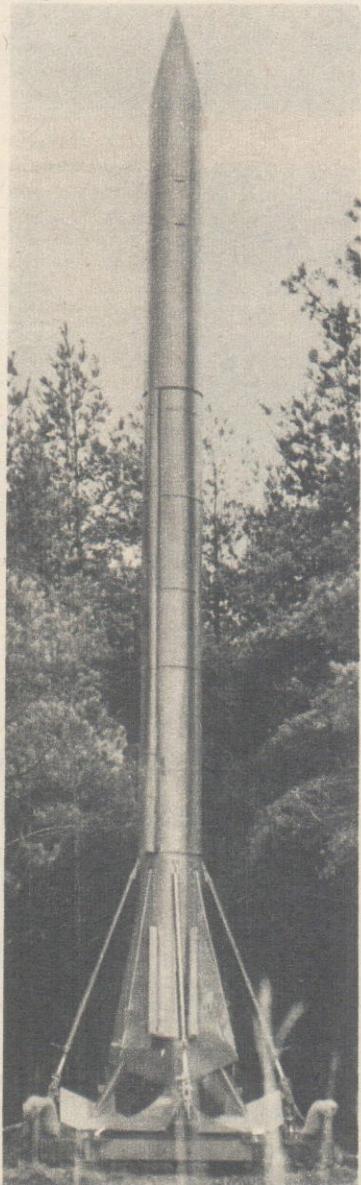
To SOLDIER the most striking feature of the exercise was the ease and precision with which these giant pieces and machinery were handled. Less toil and sweat seemed to be called for than in bringing into action a battery of mobile 3.7s. Changing one of the huge wheels on the erector would not be the lightest of jobs—each wheel is a four-man lift—but even in this task there is powered assistance.

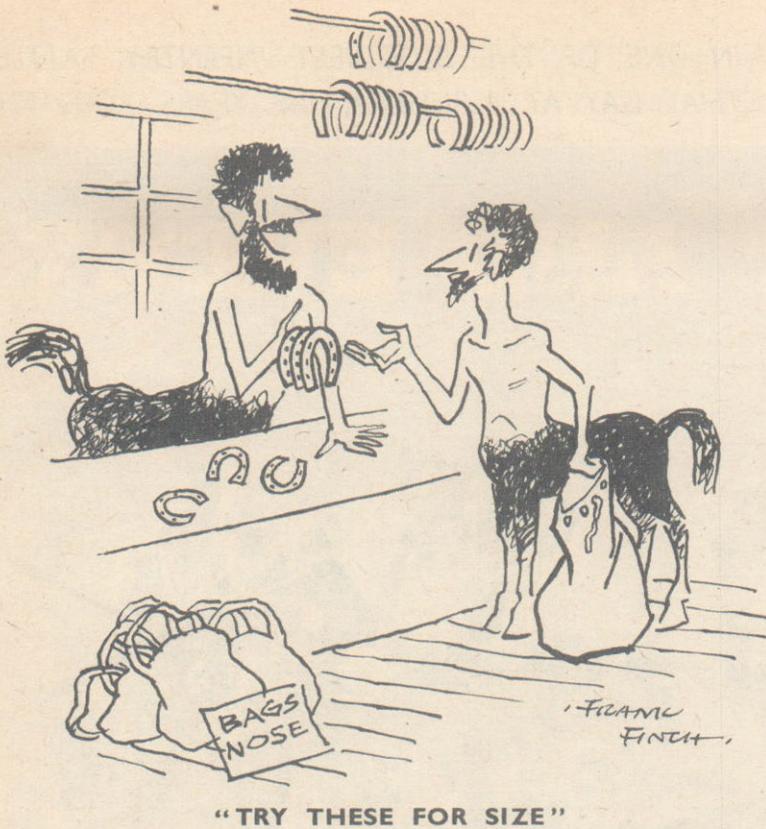
The Regiment hope it will not be long before they fire a live Corporal from the range in the Hebrides or any other designated firing camp. By then they may, or may not, have been authorised to wear a special Corporal flash.

How long will it be before a Corporal troop is signed up to perform at the Royal Tournament?

E. S. TURNER

FOOTNOTE: Another Corporal Regiment, 27 Guided Weapons Regiment (Field), Royal Artillery is at present undergoing the early stages of its training at Oswestry.





"TRY THESE FOR SIZE"

## SLIGHTLY OFF CENTAUR

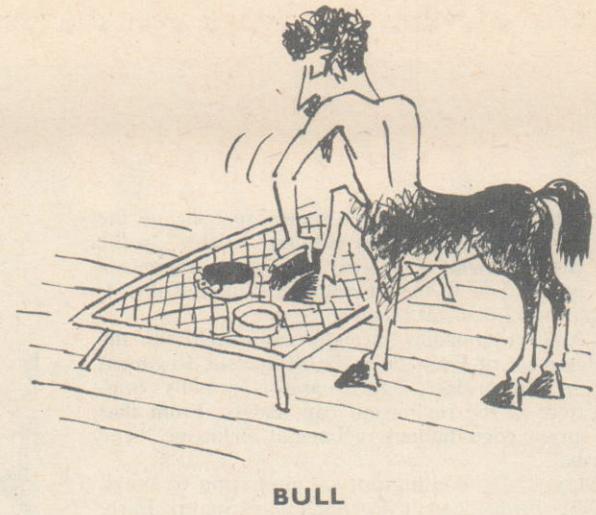
Brooding

on the cold impersonality of satellites and  
hurtling missiles,

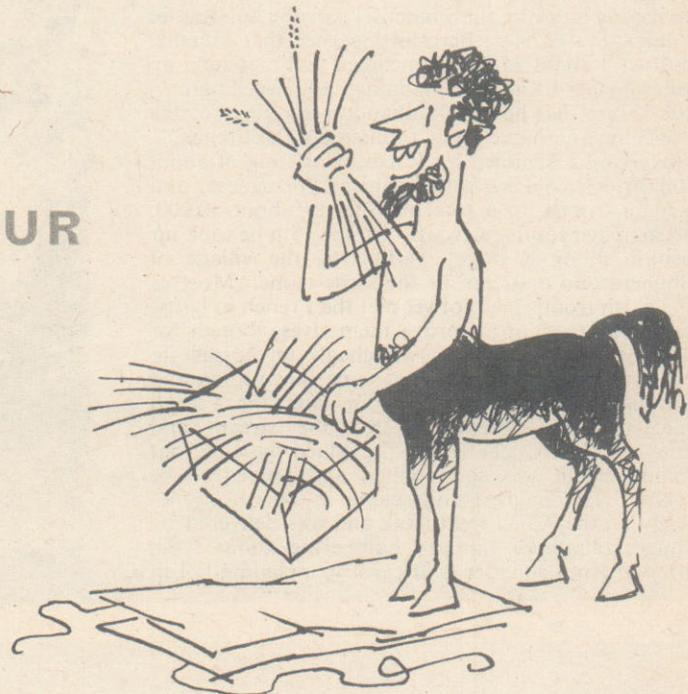
SOLDIER Staff artist Frank Finch felt that  
the fantastic world of

the mythological centaur  
provided a

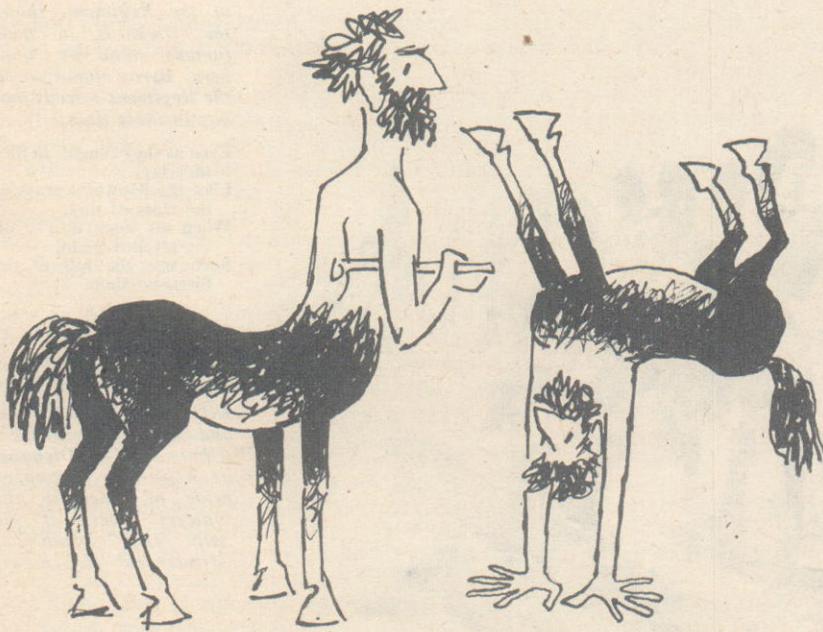
much happier sketching ground.  
This page is the result.



BULL



PARCEL FROM HOME



FOOT INSPECTION



C.B.

IN ONE OF THE BLOODIEST INFANTRY BATTLES THAT DAY AT ALBUHERA, 147 YEARS AGO, THE

OF ALL TIME, THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT WON THEIR FAMOUS NICKNAME: THE DIEHARDS. ON REGIMENT, OUTNUMBERED BY TWO TO ONE, STOOD FIRM AGAINST A MASSIVE FRENCH ASSAULT

THE name of Albuhera stands for one of the hardest and bloodiest "soldiers' battles" in the British Army's history. Several regiments engaged in it fought mightily, suffered dreadfully and won immortal renown.

Yet Albuhera remains specially associated with the 57th Regiment of Foot—now the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own)—and is proudly commemorated on the regimental cap badge. From that battle sprang their famous regimental nickname "The Diehards."

In May, 1811, Wellington was preparing to break out of his bridgehead in Portugal into Spain. Early in the month the fortress of Almeida, in the north, had fallen as a result of his victory at Fuentes de Oñoro, leaving the way open to his advance on Ciudad Rodrigo. In the south General Sir William Beresford was laying siege to the immensely strong fortress of Badajoz. On 12 May, Beresford learned that Marshal Soult with about 25,000 Frenchmen was marching up from Seville to relieve Badajoz, and Wellington's orders were that he should abandon the siege for the time being and move down to intercept the French.

Beresford assembled his forces, consisting of about 7000 British soldiers with Spanish, Portuguese, and German troops, to a total number of about 30,000, and marched south-eastward. On the 15th he took up position along a ridge overlooking the village of Albuhera and a stream of the same name. Most of his British troops had not yet met the French in battle and were keyed up to prove themselves, though for days they had been living wretchedly on horseflesh.

On 16 May at about 8 a.m. some skirmishing and cannonading began and an hour later the French attacked. One column crossed the stream and advanced towards the left of the Allied position, but the movement was soon halted and proved to be a feint. The main assault came in almost immediately on the Allied right flank and was delivered by a huge column of Infantry numbering about 8000, with numerous squadrons of cavalry, including Polish

## "...AND EVERY



## WOUND WAS IN FRONT"



Above: This graphic picture, believed to have been drawn by an officer of the Regiment, shows the Diehards in their famous stand at Albuhera. Byron immortalised the Regiment's deeds that day in these lines:

Even as they fought, in files they lay,  
Like the Mower's grass at the close of day,  
When his work is o'er on the levelled plain,  
Such was the fall of the foremost slain.

Left: "Steady the Drums and Fifes," Lady Butler's tribute to The Diehards at Albuhera, occupies pride of place in the Officers' Mess at the Mill Hill Depot of Middlesex Regiment.



lancers (whose deadly efficiency in the battle led later to the introduction of lancer regiments into the British cavalry).

The first shock of that massive onslaught was taken by the Spanish battalions forming the front line on the right flank of the Allied position. They managed to wheel and fought fiercely to hold their ground, but they were overborne and gradually forced back and downward from the crest of the ridge. To support them the British 2nd Division moved over from the no longer threatened left flank, and the leading brigade (Colborne's) with the Spaniards, at once became involved in frightful, confused battle against the masses of French Infantry and the lancers and hussars who had got round the flank to the rear. All this while a violent storm of rain and hail was drenching the battlefield!

Colborne's brigade, which included The Buffs, whose losses that day were appalling, was almost destroyed in a matter of minutes, for the French had brought up their artillery to bear on them. The enemy horsemen were everywhere among and around them; some even cut their way to where Beresford sat his horse, and compelled him and his staff to fight for their lives. But Houghton's centre brigade now was coming up, with Abercromby's, on its left, to reinforce the shattered right flank. The 57th were in Houghton's brigade.

The two brigades, cheering and shouting, swept up

the hill to form a new line of six battalions along the crest of the ridge. When they had gained it they stood firm to fight out with the French at a range of about 60 yards, one of the most determined and sanguinary duels of musketry in the annals of war.

The British were outnumbered by two to one. Their long two-deep line at first overlapped both flanks of the French column, which formed a more or less solid square covering about 500 yards, and the effect of their regular volleys was devastating. But the French had the advantage as their column tailed downhill, so that those at the lower levels were able to fire over the heads of their comrades. And Soult had some heavy guns on a height in his rear, which pounded the British unceasingly.

Early in the action General Houghton was struck by more than one musket ball but sat unflinchingly in his saddle to encourage his brigade until he was killed. His command then devolved on Colonel William Inglis of the 57th of Foot. Out in front of his battalion, Inglis had his horse shot under him but he continued calmly giving orders. His men now were falling fast and their line shrank pitifully as those still on their feet closed up to fill the gaps. Grimly they went on loading and firing, and yielded not an inch; they even advanced a little. Then the Colonel was struck in the breast by a grapeshot. Refusing to allow himself to be carried to the rear, he remained lying in front of



The cap badge of the Middlesex Regiment commemorates the Battle of Albuhera. The Regiment was raised in 1755 in Gloucestershire and Somerset.

OVER...

**Major-General Sir William Inglis** who commanded the 57th at Albuhera and, badly-wounded, exhorted his men to "Die hard." He was described by Napier as "one of those veterans who purchase every step of promotion by their blood." He is buried in Canterbury Cathedral.



## "EVERY WOUND WAS IN FRONT" *continued*

his battalion line, exhorting his men to "Die hard, 57th! Die hard!"

He was not the only officer of the 57th to act thus. Captain Ralph Fawcett, 23 years old, was severely wounded but directed his bearers to place him on some high ground near his company so that he could carry on giving orders. He repeatedly called on his men to fire low and conserve their ammunition.

The King's Colour pike of the

57th was broken and the Colour pierced by 17 shots; the Regimental Colour was shot through in 21 places. Ensign Jackson was hit three times while carrying the King's Colour and was relieved by Lieutenant Veitch. Jackson, finding his wounds not severe, returned to his Colour, but Veitch would not hand it over, though himself twice wounded.

In time, all the field officers, most of the company officers, and four-fifths of the men of Hough-

ton's brigade had fallen, but still the three battalions were unbroken. They even approached to within 25 yards of the French whose valour and sacrifice in the murderous exchanges were no less than those of the Redcoats.

The amazing stubbornness of the outnumbered British in this phase of the battle, fought out in a downpour of rain, at last caused the French to waver, but Beresford by that time had lost his nerve and was on the point of ordering a general retreat from the crest of the ridge.

One of his staff, however, Colonel Hardinge (afterwards Lord Hardinge) urged General Cole to bring up the last Allied reserve, the Fusilier Brigade, comprising 2000 men, and some 3000 Portuguese. Cole ordered the Portuguese to hold off the French cavalry and the Fusiliers to attack the left of the French column. The final victorious advance of the Fusiliers is the subject of a notable tribute in Napier's *History of the Peninsular War*: "... 1500 unwounded men, the remnant of 6000 unconquerable British soldiers, stood triumphant on the fatal hill."

The survivors of Houghton's brigade were brought out of action by a captain; what was left of the 57th by a lieutenant. On both sides the slaughter was terrible. At least 7000 dead men strewed the ground within an area of a few hundred feet. In the 57th the Colonel and 22 other officers, and more than 400 men out of 570 who went into action were casualties. It was said that one com-

pany's rations were drawn next day by a drummer, who put the lot in his hat.

On 19 May, General Stewart, the 2nd Divisional commander said: "The situation on which the 57th fought was the key of the position, and their gallant conduct was the chief means of maintaining that key and ensuring the victory of Albuhera."

General Beresford's Order after the battle said that "every individual most nobly did his duty.... And it was observed that our dead, particularly the 57th Regiment, were lying as they fought, in ranks, and every wound was in front."

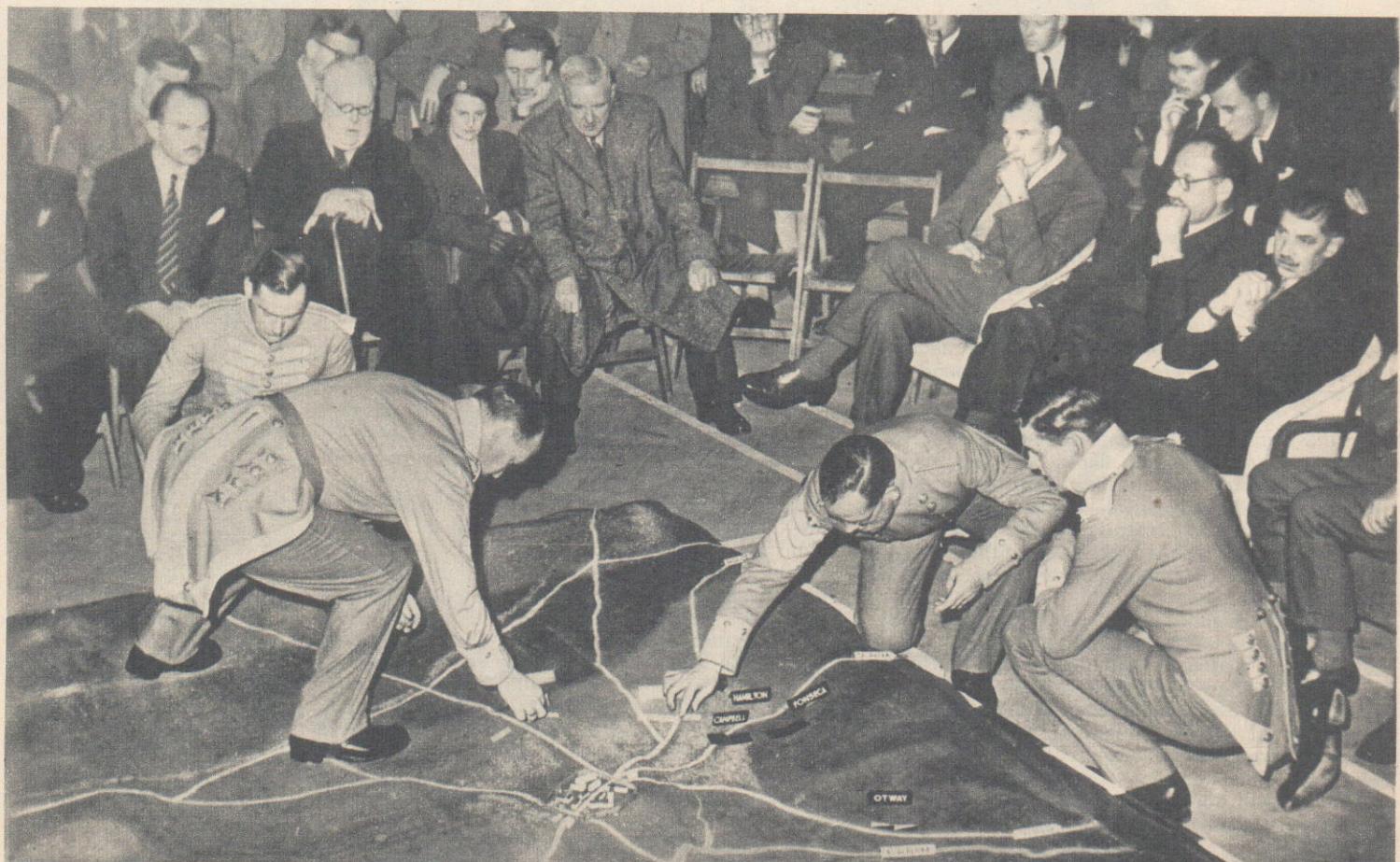
Thus did The Middlesex Regiment win their battle honour which the historian Oman described as "the most noble of all Peninsular blazons on a regimental flag."

Since that famous day, The Diehards have added further glory to their history. In World War One 46 battalions were raised to fight on every front. In World War Two they fought at Dunkirk, in Hong Kong, the Western Desert, Tunisia, Italy and North-West Europe. In 1950 the 1st Battalion, with the 1st Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, formed the 27th Infantry Brigade which went to Korea as the first British Infantry contribution to the United Nations force.

ERIC PHILLIPS

**NEXT MONTH:** The Grenadier Guards at the Battle of Waterloo.

*Re-enacting a famous battle: Men of the Middlesex Regiment, in Peninsula uniform, fight Albuhera again—on a cloth model in a Hornsey drill hall.*



# THE GENERALS WERE ON TARGET

*Austers piloted by men of 6 Independent Liaison Flight of the Army Air Corps demonstrate one of the many tasks light aircraft can perform: dropping supplies by parachute.*

FROM a hedge-hopping helicopter, two generals watched shells bursting short of a target on the artillery ranges at Larkhill on Salisbury Plain.

"Up One Hundred," yelled one general into his radio microphone to the battery of camouflaged 25-pounder guns below. A few seconds later the guns barked again and their shells fell squarely on the target.

The two generals smiled congratulations at each other, for this was the first time they had conducted an artillery shoot from the air. It was also probably the first time any British general had done so.

Appropriately, one of the airborne artillery spotters was General Sir Hugh Stockwell, the first Colonel Commandant of the new Army Air Corps which, in a future war, will number artillery shooting from helicopters and light aircraft among its duties. The other was General Sir George Erskine, GOC-in-C, Southern Command. Equally appropriately, the event occurred during the first general inspection of the Corps since its formation last September.

The occasion was also notable for other reasons. Both generals arrived by air and moved from area to area by helicopter to carry out their inspection. Also on view, for the first time—and worn only by General Stockwell—was

*General Sir Hugh Stockwell, Colonel Commandant of the Army Air Corps, wearing the Corps' new arm badge.*

the Army Air Corps' new arm badge: a light blue eagle hovering with upstretched wings and talons extended, on a dark blue background.

After inspecting the men of the Army Air Corps Centre, General Erskine presented "wings" to four officers and two sergeants who are among the first students to be trained in light aircraft duties for the new Corps.

Later, the generals watched a demonstration by Army pilots and students of the Army Air Corps Centre of some of the roles which the Army Air Corps will be called upon to carry out in war. They included troop and load carrying by helicopter and Auster aircraft, landing and taking off on tiny airstrips, supply dropping, casualty evacuation and a daring display of aerobatics by the pilot of a Chipmunk, the aircraft on which all students learn to fly.

As they arrived, so the generals departed—by helicopter. General Erskine was landed at his home; but for General Stockwell the return journey was something of an anticlimax: he was flown to Middle Wallop to catch the 5.17 p.m. train to London.

*Like monkeys on a stick, troops clamber down a rope lowered from a Sycamore helicopter, ready to go into action immediately. This technique has already been tried out successfully in Malaya and Cyprus when speed is essential or when ground is unsuitable for helicopters to land.*



## ... And Now a Sky-blue Beret

TO the already wide range of colourful Army berets another with a distinctive touch will soon be added—the sky-blue beret of the new Army Air Corps.

It will be worn by all officers and men serving with the Corps, including those who are attached for specialist duties.

The new Corps will also have its own cap badge: a silver eagle surrounded by a laurel wreath, surmounted by a crown and mounted on a navy blue patch on the beret. A Corps badge, in the form of a hovering eagle on a dark blue patch, will also be worn on the right arm—but only permanent members of the Corps will wear the "Army Air Corps" shoulder titles.



*The Army Air Corps' new cap badge. It will be worn on a dark blue patch on a sky-blue beret.*

# IT'S MIGHTY TOUGH ON THE TUNDRA

IN A "SURVIVAL" COURSE IN THE CANADIAN ARCTIC, BRITISH SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN LEARNING HOW TO LIVE AND FIGHT AT 35 DEGREES BELOW ZERO



**A** TEAM of soldiers from North Atlantic Treaty Organisation countries, including eight British officers and men, has just won a relentless battle on the rim of the Canadian Arctic, 600 miles north of Winnipeg. The enemy was the cold.

On the white, desolate tundra, where temperatures go down to 35 or more degrees below zero and exposed flesh freezes within seconds, the weather is a formidable enemy and lack of respect for it can mean death.

It can be beaten, but only by courage, considerable willpower and high morale.

The Canadian Army has been training troops in Arctic warfare since 1946, when Fort Churchill camp was established as a joint experimental and training station, but the recent four-and-a-half weeks "survival" course was the first to be held there for NATO troops.

The camp was developed as a northern testing station because the locality is the only one available with all-the-year-round rail communications, a modern harbour, open for three months of the year, and an airfield.

Because many attending the course, which trains "even greenhorns" in all phases of living and fighting in the Arctic, were new to the conditions, training in the first week was confined to lectures and drills on survival, but there was also an hour's snowshoe march every day.

In the second week the troops, using Canadian Army Arctic clothing and equipment, spent their first night out on the tundra—in tents and sleeping bags. They also learned how to build igloos, snow caves and defensive positions.

Things became really tough in the third week when the students spent four consecutive days and nights on the tundra, moving, living and "fighting" on foot, without shelter of any kind. The training included a series of tactical exercises during which they moved 70 miles on foot.

One exercise took the troops out into the white wilderness by "snowmobile" and dropped them one at a time in carefully selected areas lacking any landmarks and two miles apart. Not knowing where they were, the students had to figure out their position with the aid of only a compass and regroup without being captured.

The final week's training in the "fight for survival" took place in the "tree line" among the sparse, blizzard-swept spruce trees which offered only a small degree of protection, and the last few days were spent in examinations at Fort Churchill.

All the students were fitted out with Canadian Army clothing and equipment, including a nylon parka, nylon wind-proof trousers, warm Arctic mulluks for the feet, mitts trimmed with wolverine fur, a sleeping bag filled with down, and camping equipment. They were also issued with ration packs which provided between 4500 and 5000 calories daily, almost double that of the average man's daily intake.

Not the invisible man but Corporal J. Bedard of the Canadian Army, leaning into a 35-mile-an-hour wind as he pushes a 250lb toboggan.



Major Erich Hett, of the Federal German Army and Captain L. Verdozzi from Italy chop down a tree to build a lean-to shelter.



How to build an igloo is one of the important lessons NATO soldiers learn on the wastes near Fort Churchill.



Out on the trail they got two hot meals a day—breakfast and supper—but lunch was usually cold. It was heated at breakfast-time, carefully wrapped and carried in a plastic bag inside the parka. Coffee, made in the morning and evening, was carried during the day in thermos flasks.

All clothing and equipment, including camp stoves, cooking utensils and personal weapons, were carried by the men or on sleds drawn by hand. No vehicles were used on the long marches on the tundra or on the "tree line."

Among the British members of the NATO group were Major A. L. Smith of the United Kingdom's Liaison Staff in Ottawa, four Royal Marine Commandos, Captain M. Crowe of the Seaforth Highlanders, and Captain T. F. Hammond of the 1st Battalion, The York and Lancaster Regiment. Some had previously undergone winter training in Norway and Austria. The most experienced was Major Erich Hett, Chief Instructor of the German Army's Mountain and Winter Training School at Mittenwald, Bavaria, and a veteran of the winter campaigns in Russia and Finland during the war. Both he and Captain Lucio P. Verdozzi, Chief Instructor in skiing, mountain climbing and mountain warfare in an Italian Alpine regiment, praised the high standard of the Canadian training and equipment.

There are about 3000 Canadian and United States troops and families at Fort Churchill, who come under the overall command of a Canadian, Colonel D. G. Ketcheson. Many of the American troops stationed there are employed at the U.S. Army's International Geophysical Year project site about 12 miles from Fort Churchill.

K. J. HANFORD

# SOLDIER to Soldier

FOR most soldiers, one of the more interesting revelations in the recent House of Commons debate on the Army Estimates, was the welcome decision to introduce a new walking-out dress for all Regulars.

The War Office, it seems, has many soldiers have been saying for a long time: that battledress, while probably the ideal uniform for fighting in, is not, to say the least, the smartest of uniforms for wearing off duty. Nor is the ceremonial No. 1 dress of blue patrols particularly popular for walking out (one Member of Parliament not long ago described it as "the uniform of a superannuated postman").

What, then, is the answer?

The War Office is approaching the problem cannily. In the next few weeks men from a number of units will be given several types of khaki Service dress to try out and the most suitable will be chosen for general issue. SOLDIER understands that the prototype uniforms will all closely resemble the Service dress worn by the Canadian Army but they will vary in cut, type of material and the number and position of pockets.

It will be some time, however, before Regulars begin to receive the new walking-out dress—probably not before 1959 or even 1960. The troop trials will last for a year to ensure that the soldier gets the uniform he wants and one in which he will be proud to be seen.

While welcoming the promise of a new walking-out dress, many

finally become convinced of what

soldiers will regret that a similar decision has not been taken to issue a raincoat to go with it.

☆ ☆ ☆

ONE important piece of news arising from the Army Estimates debate which most newspapers missed was the announcement by the War Minister, Mr. Christopher Soames, that the Army's rebuilding programme will be completed by 1968.

In the next five years some £45,000,000—more than half as much again as in the previous five years—will be spent on building and modernising barracks and married quarters at home and overseas. By 1962, at least half the Army in Britain will be in permanent barracks, most of them erected since World War Two, and all the wartime camps will have been evacuated. The building of married quarters will be considerably increased.

It is popular, but unjust, to blame the Army for having failed in the past to provide soldiers and their families with better living conditions. A series of tight-fisted Treasuries and a widely held belief among politicians until fairly recent times that anything was good enough for the soldier,

left a formidable legacy at the end of World War Two of out-of-date, broken-down barracks and married quarters.

Nor has it been possible since the end of World War Two for the Army to do as much as it would have liked in the way of rebuilding. Between 1947 and 1957, most of the money allowed for works services had to be spent on maintenance of existing buildings and on providing temporary accommodation.

Less than £6,000,000 a year was available for the construction and improvement of permanent buildings.

☆ ☆ ☆

THE scheme to accommodate the Army in more modern buildings will be helped by the setting up of Infantry Brigade depots to replace the present regimental depots. As a result many regimental depots will no longer be required, which means that money need not be spent on maintaining them.

The locations of ten of the 15 new Brigade depots have already been decided: Home Counties Brigade in Howe Barracks, Canterbury; Lancastrian: Fulwood Barracks, Preston; Midland: Glen Parva Barracks, Leicester; Wessex: Topsham Barracks, Exeter; Light Infantry: Cophthorne Barracks, Shrewsbury; Green Jackets: Upper Barracks, Winchester; East Anglian: Bury St.

Edmunds; Mercian: Whittington Barracks, Lichfield; Highland: Gordon Barracks, Aberdeen; and the Fusilier Brigade in a Royal Air Force station at Sutton Coldfield which is being handed over to the Army. The locations of the other five Brigade depots will be announced shortly.

What will happen to the old regimental depots? Some will be demolished, sold to civilian contractors or taken over by other units including, probably, the Territorial Army. Others may become civilian prisons! Some barracks SOLDIER knows are admirably suitable for this purpose.

☆ ☆ ☆

THERE is an unaccustomed sadness in reading a new volume of regimental history.

On page 31 SOLDIER reviews the latest of such books—the history of the East Surrey Regiment, one of the 30 Infantry regiments due for amalgamation.

As anyone who ever read a schoolboy magazine knows, the appearance of the last instalment of a well-liked serial is a melancholy occasion. The story of the East Surrey Regiment spans more than two and a half centuries of valour and it is a mournful thought that their heroes have almost finished adventuring.

However, like editors of boys' magazines, regimental historians can cheer their readers with the promise of an exciting sequel. Look out for the adventures of the Queens-East Surreys—and of all other regiments soon to merge.

☆ ☆ ☆

IN recent years British soldiers striving to keep the peace in lands overseas have become accustomed to the cry "Tommy Go Home."

It is all the more gratifying, therefore, to hear that the Bahamian Legislature has rejected by 14 votes to six a resolution demanding the return of a company of the Worcestershire Regiment to Jamaica from whence they flew in January to prevent riots expected during a general strike. In the event no riots occurred and not a drop of blood was spilled. The mere presence of the Worcesters deterred the trouble-makers.

☆ ☆ ☆

IN these days of H-bombs and guided missiles there is a piquant touch about the news from Washington that an eminent American physicist's research in World War Two into the use of bows and arrows for jungle warfare is still classified as top secret.

Could it be that someone fears the information may imperil the safety of the nation if the world is turned into a gigantic jungle by the H-bomb and guided missiles?

## THE QUEEN INSPECTS HER BODYGUARD

In the garden of Buckingham Palace the Queen reviews her Bodyguard of the Yeoman of the Guard, the oldest permanent bodyguard of the sovereigns of England. She was accompanied by the Earl of Onslow (Captain of the Guard, immediately behind her) and Major-General Sir Allan Adair (Lieutenant of the Guard, on the extreme right).

The Yeomen of the Guard (commonly called "Beefeaters"—a corruption of the word "Buffeters") were formed in 1485 for the protection of the sovereign. They still wear the uniform of the Tudor period.

As well as appearing in full dress on all ceremonial State occasions, the Yeomen of the Guard do duty as attendants at the Tower of London.



# FLY-ANYWHERE TROOPS IN A DESERT DUST-UP



Photographs: SOLDIER Cameraman FRANK TOMPSETT

*Under a broiling sun, men of the York and Lancaster Regiment make a bayonet charge on an "enemy" stronghold on the edge of the Libyan Desert. The day before this picture was taken these soldiers were shivering in greatcoats on a windy airfield in Wiltshire.*

EARLY on a frosty morning a Comet jet with staff officers from 24 Independent Infantry Brigade and a posse of pressmen (including a SOLDIER photographer) aboard, took off from Lyneham in Wiltshire.

Three-and-a-half hours later, the Comet landed in brilliant sunshine at Tripoli, 1400 miles away. On the way it had overtaken several Hastings and Beverley aircraft, also bound for North Africa, with soldiers, vehicles and equipment, to deal with a make-believe crisis in Libya.

In 36 hours, more than 500 troops—of the 1st Battalion, The York and Lancaster Regiment, the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Regiment and the headquarters staff of 24 Independent Infantry Brigade, which is part of the Army's Strategic Reserve—had been flown to North Africa. Within a few hours of landing at Idris airfield they went into action.

There had never been an exercise quite like this before—but it will be the first of many which the Army and the Royal Air Force plan to hold in future.

The operation, appropriately called "Quickstep," was held to practise units of the Strategic Reserve and the Royal Air Force Transport Command in carrying out long-distance air moves at short notice

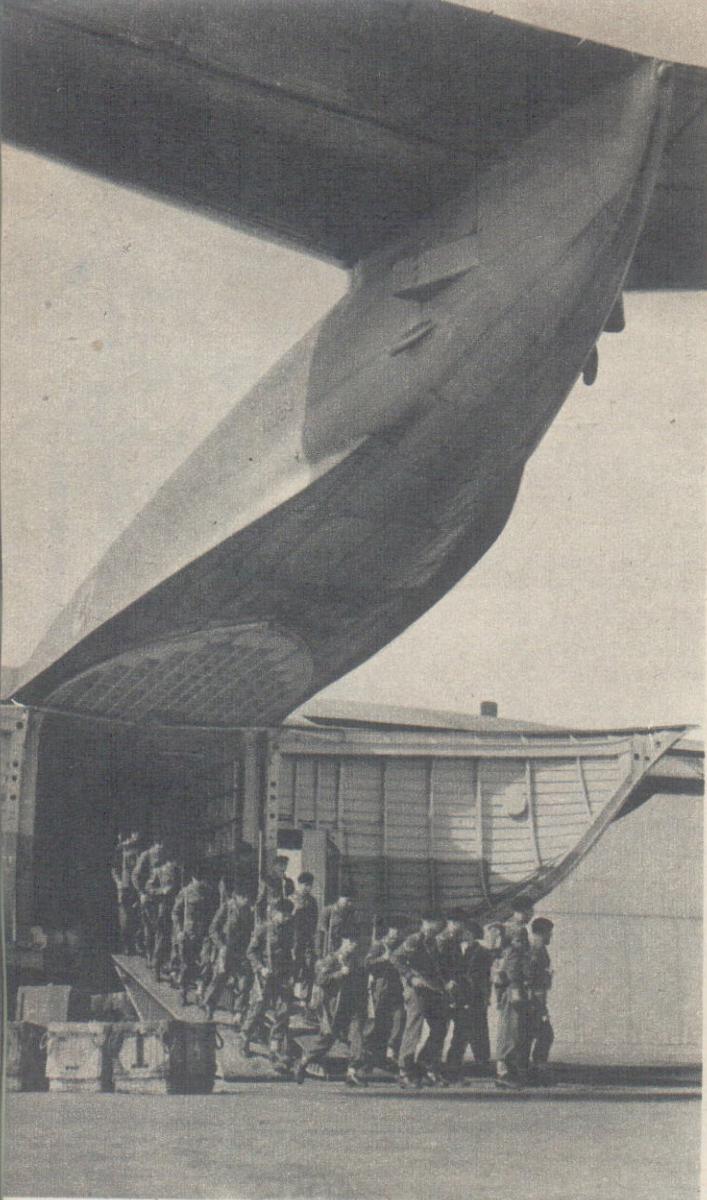
and the deployment of advanced elements of the Brigade in the first stages of a "fire-brigade" action. It is the type of exercise which is becoming increasingly important in view of the greater reliance which is being placed on air mobility of troops trained to deal with sudden crises in any part of the world. (It was recently announced by the Defence Minister that two battalions of the Strategic Reserve are to be stationed in Kenya, ready to fly to Aden and Singapore, where heavy transport, weapons and equipment will be stored, to cope with emergencies in the Middle East and the Far East.)

The men of 24 Independent Infantry Brigade, who are normally stationed at Barnard Castle, in Durham, flew to North Africa from Lyneham and from Abingdon in Oxfordshire. They took with them eleven Landrovers and trailers and ten tons of equipment.

Their role was typical of the "fire-brigade" action which they might be called upon to carry out in real earnest. The Republic of Oleander, where uranium had recently been discovered, was being menaced by its neighbour, "The Kingdom of Grab." Grab's offer of a treaty of union had been rejected and her agents had been sent to stir up trouble among the Oleanders. Suddenly realising its danger Oleander had appealed to Britain for speedy help.

OVER . . .

PAGE 17



*Left: Two by two, like the animals in the Ark, fully-equipped troops of the "Fly Anywhere" Brigade alight from a "Beverley" at Idris Airport in Tripoli.*



*Right: From the belly of a "Beverley," one of the Forces' eleven Land-rovers is driven down ramps on to Libyan soil. Each "Beverley" took only 20 minutes to unload.*



*Right: In a ruined house in the desert south of Tripoli, a gang of thugs is rounded up by men of 24 Independent Infantry Brigade. The "enemy" were British soldiers stationed in Libya.*

*Below: Twelve hours after leaving Britain these men were patrolling the main highway to Tripoli. The "Welcome" sign adds a piquant touch.*



TRIPOLI  
E. 20

## DESERT DUST-UP *continued*

Within hours of the appeal being received in London the men of 24 Independent Infantry Brigade were on their way. First to take off, from Lyneham in a Hastings, were Brigadier R. G. F. Frisby DSO, the Commander of 24 Independent Infantry Brigade, and some of his staff who touched down in Tripoli soon after dawn. By the time the first fighting troops arrived, several hours later, plans had been made with Brigadier G. Laing, the Commander of Tripolitania District, and his Staff to deal with the "rising."

The troops' first task on arrival—as it would be in real operations—was to unload their aircraft of arms, vehicles and equipment, which on the average took 20 minutes. Almost immediately they set off for the trouble spots to get to grips with the "enemy" (played by men of the 1st Battalion, The King's Royal Rifle Corps and 6th Royal Tank Regiment who are stationed in Libya).

On the way they were ambushed, held up by road blocks which they had to clear, sniped from sand dunes and harried by saboteurs. Some encounters took place in the desert south of Tripoli where not many years ago British soldiers fought bloody battles with the retreating Afrika Korps.

Speedily, the men of the "Fly Anywhere" Brigade took command of the situation and within 36 hours had completely restored order. Four hours later they were on their way back to England—in the same aircraft that took them to North Africa—confident that if called upon to do a similar job in real earnest they would give just as good an account of themselves.

# DUNKIRK



1940. THIS WAS THE REAL THING: Infantrymen on the Dunkirk beaches engaging dive bombers with rifles.



1958. IN THE FILM: One of the heroes is Corporal Binns (right) played by John Mills, who leads a party of soldiers across France to Dunkirk. Below: Nearly 4000 troops from 3rd Infantry Division took part in the beach scenes which were filmed in Sussex.

## —ON CAMBER SANDS

EIGHTEEN years ago this month the British Expeditionary Force stood at bay on the beaches of Dunkirk. Only a miracle, it seemed, could save it from annihilation.

But the miracle happened. From under the noses of the Germans more than 200,000 British soldiers were snatched to safety.

Dunkirk was an heroic episode in the history of the British Army. Admittedly, it was a colossal military defeat and very nearly a disaster; but it was, too, a brilliantly executed retreat which owed its success largely to the gallantry and unbreakable spirit of soldiers who, ill-equipped and poorly trained in modern warfare, withstood the worst the Germans could do.

This "miracle of deliverance," as Sir Winston Churchill called it, is now told for the first time on the screen in Ealing Films' "Dunkirk," the biggest and most expensive film ever made in Britain. More

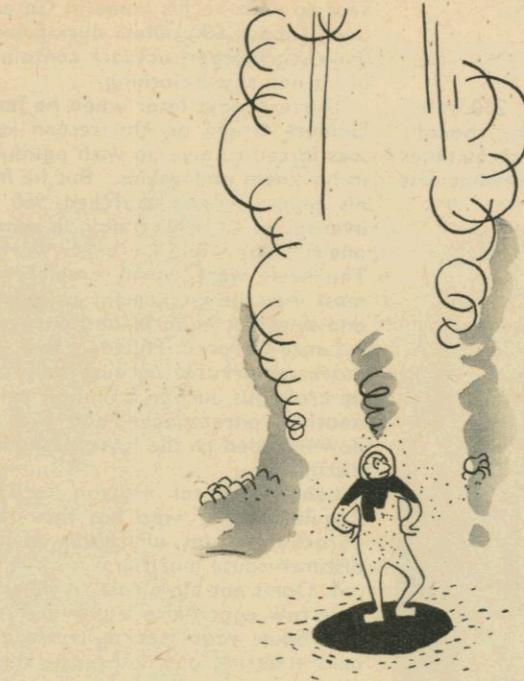
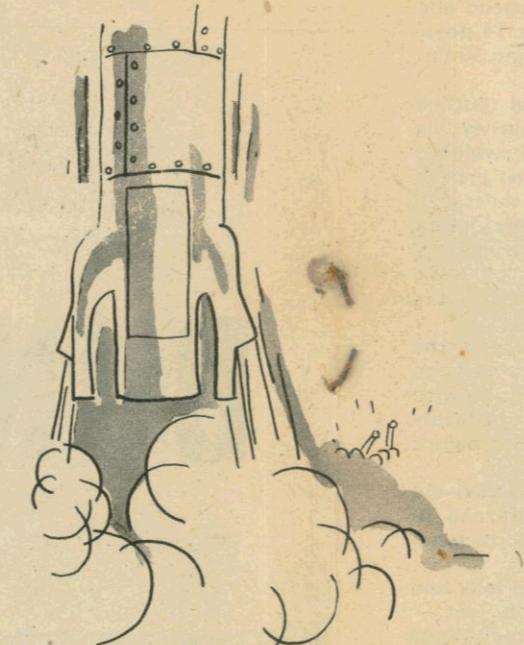
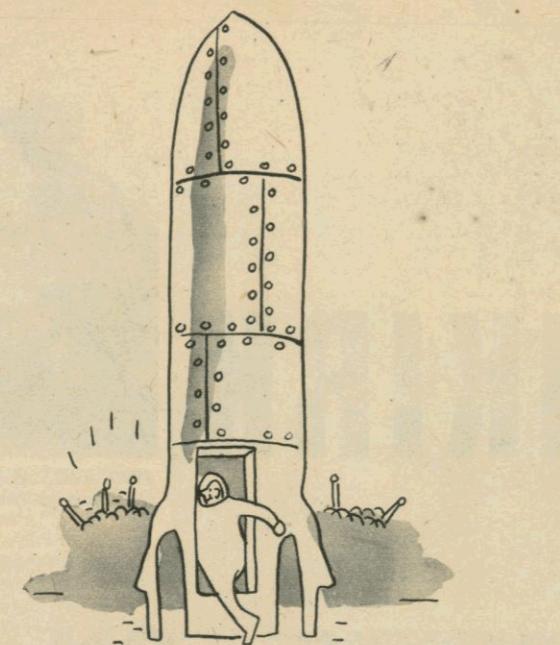
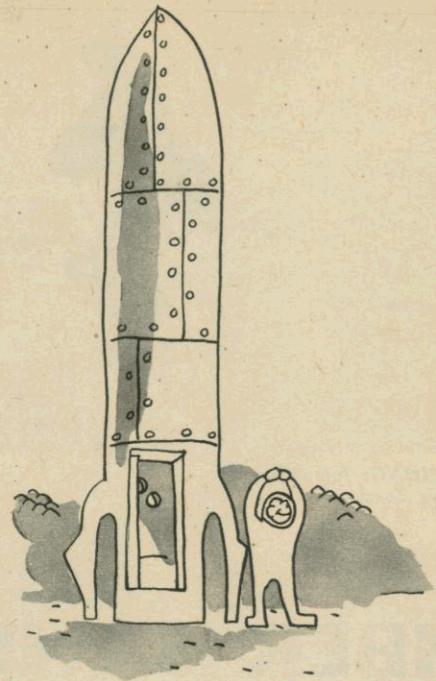
than two years' research and preparation went into its making, it has a cast of over 4000 and cost nearly £500,000 to produce.

Appropriately, the majority of the cast are serving soldiers from 3rd Infantry Division, many of them sons of men who went through the hell of Dunkirk. They helped to re-enact the beach scenes at Camber Sands in Sussex. Also in the cast are men of the French 41st Infantry Regiment and of the Royal Corps of Signals.

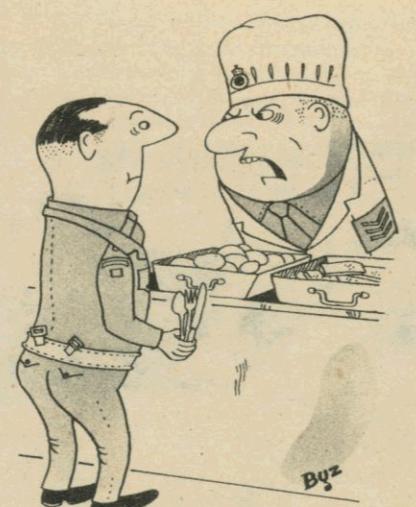
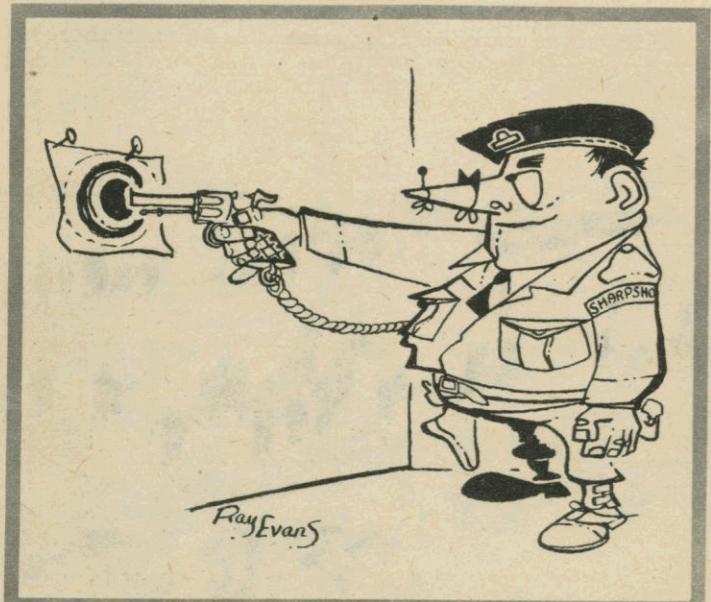
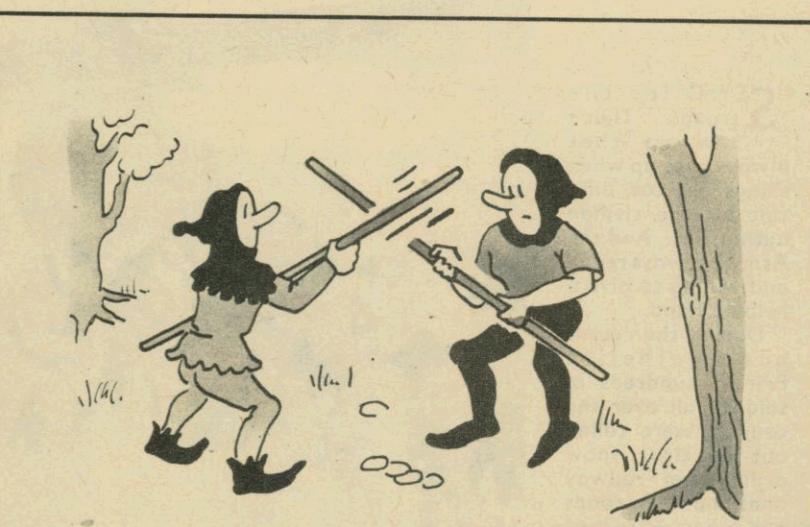
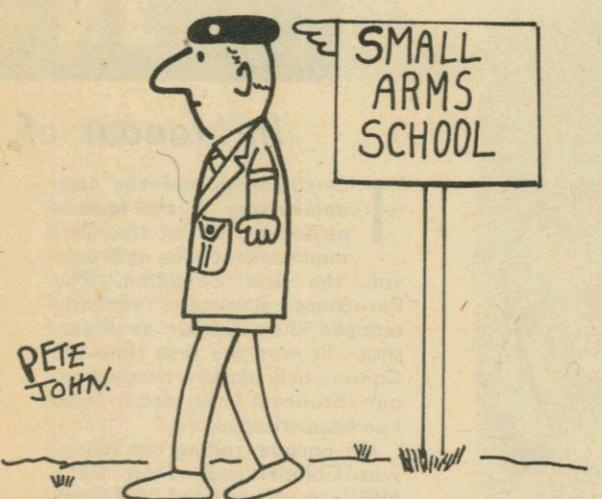
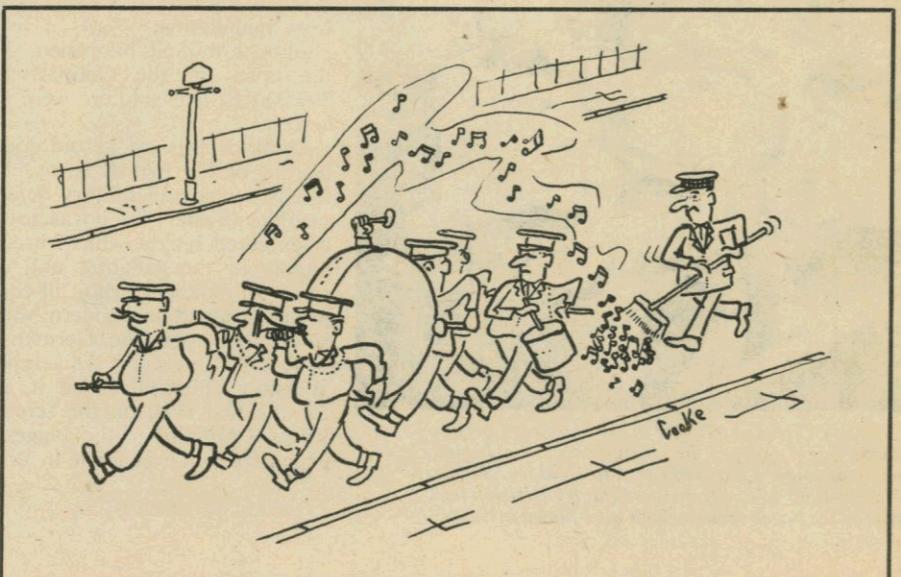
"Dunkirk" singles out no individual unit or formation; its heroes are a small party of soldiers and airmen who fought their way to the beaches and the Royal Navy and civilians who manned the ships that took them to safety.

The story it tells is a tribute to an almost-forgotten Army and an accurate portrayal of a famous defeat which laid the foundations of final victory.

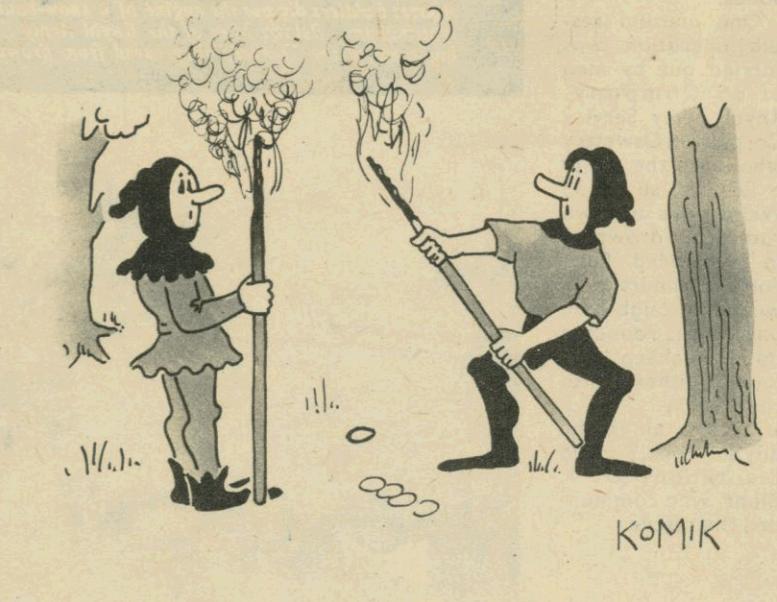
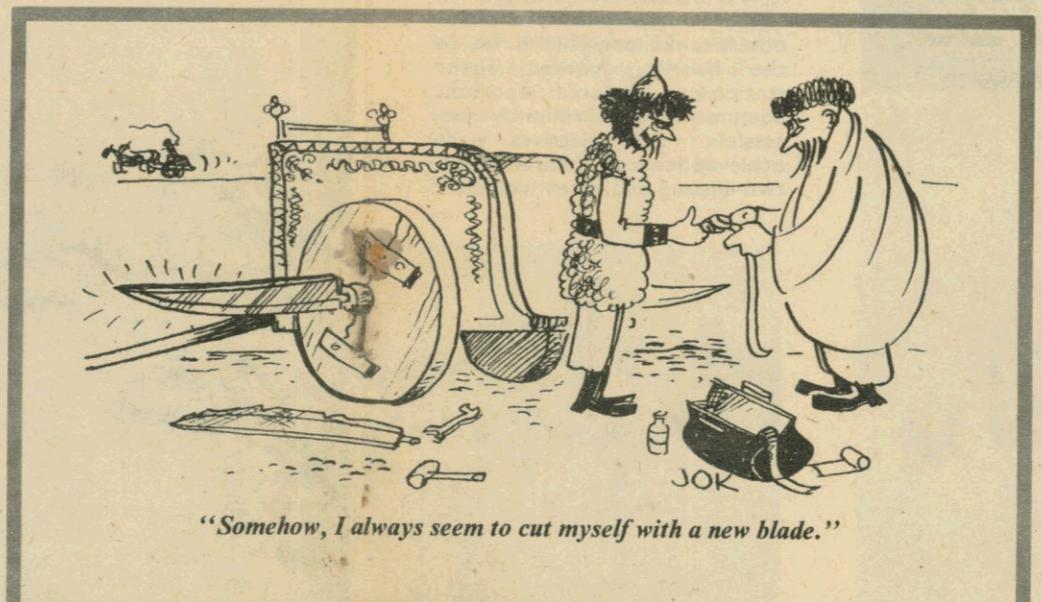




# SOLDIER HUMOUR



"Of course you get a choice.  
Take it or leave it."



## 560 Miles in 13 Days—on Foot

**H**OW far can a soldier carrying 50 lbs. of kit march in 12 days?

That was the argument in the billets at the Depot of the Parachute Regiment in Aldershot. The old hands said



Lance-Corporal Tom Hutton strides along the Great North Road between Wetherby and Boroughbridge on his way to Gateshead, about 230 miles of his 600-mile walk behind him.

**S**END for the troops." That's the cry that always goes up when things get too difficult for the civilian authorities. And the Army is always ready and willing to give a helping hand.

During the recent bad weather in Britain hundreds of soldiers all over the country were called out to clear snow drifts from railway lines and main roads and others were hurriedly brought into action to combat floods.

One unusual rescue operation was carried out by men of 85 Company, Royal Army Service Corps from Oswestry who, with the aid of a DUKW, saved 35 Welsh ewes and two rams from drowning in a flooded field. For two hours they waded through mud and water, rounding up the sheep and loading them into the DUKW.

"It was all in the day's work," said Lieutenant D. J. Blunt, who commanded the rescue.



Above: Soldiers dig out the engine of a snow-bound goods train near Nottingham. Below: Men of the Royal Army Service Corps rescuing some of the 37 sheep they saved from drowning near Oswestry.



With his commanding officer's permission, Lance-Corporal Hutton set out from Aldershot to walk to his home in Gateshead and back (about 600 miles) during his 14 days' leave, carrying a rucksack containing 50 lbs. of kit and spare clothing.

Thirteen days later when he had reached Golders Green on the return journey, he was forced to give up with painful swellings in his knees and ankles. But he had proved his point, having marched 560 miles, an average of 43 miles a day, in spite of losing one full day while his boots were repaired. The heels were worn completely off. On most days he walked for at least 16 hours and slept out in barns and ditches.

Lance-Corporal Hutton's feat was all the more remarkable because only a year ago he broke his back in a mid-air collision with another paratrooper and was medically down-graded to the lowest standard before discharge.

Lance-Corporal Hutton, a 23-year-old Regular soldier who has now returned to parachute duties, offers this advice to long-distance route marchers:

1. Don't eat big meals. A pint of milk and four raw eggs twice a day are sufficient.

2. Soak your feet in methylated spirits before setting out and bathe them in olive oil during the march.

3. Wear a thin pair of socks underneath your Army socks.

4. Don't worry about getting wet; keep marching until you dry out.

## The Gallant Major and his Corporal

**A**N officer and a corporal serving in the same company of the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment have been granted immediate awards for gallantry in the Malayan jungle.

They are Major Geoffrey Cole, "B" Company Commander, who receives the Military Cross and Corporal Frank Shafroe who has been awarded the Military Medal.

The citation announcing the award to Major Cole attributes the success of his Company's operations against terrorists to "his vigorous leadership, unsurpassed knowledge of the jungle gained by long and meticulous study and his outstanding facility for thoroughness."

After mounting a number of successful ambushes in the Tanjong Rambutan area, Major Cole's Company was ordered at short notice to penetrate deep into the jungle west of Ipoh to wipe out a strong group of terrorists. In spite of a long and arduous march through dense jungle almost devoid of tracks, "B" Company arrived at their



"A vigorous leader with unsurpassed knowledge of the jungle": Major Geoffrey Cole who has been awarded the Military Cross.



Cpl. Frank Shafroe who receives the Military Medal showed "tremendous vitality and coolness under fire."

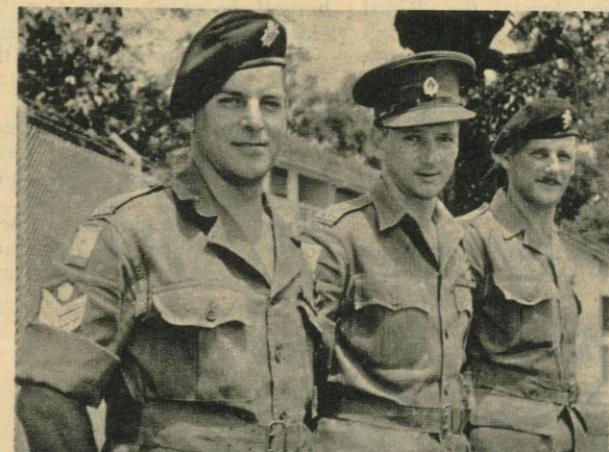
ambush positions on time and began to search for the terrorists. Contact was made almost immediately and in the running fight that followed seven terrorists were routed and one captured. The following day three more terrorists were ambushed. Although their food supplies were running short the patrol remained in ambush for the next five days.

Corporal Shafroe was a section commander of "B" Company. Last November he killed a terrorist who wandered into an ambush and put two more to flight. During the Ipoh operation he led his men in an assault on seven terrorists and then personally engaged three more with a Bren gun, badly wounding one

**T**HREE brothers—the sons of a lieutenant-colonel—who have over 50 years' Army service between them, are now serving together for the first time.

They are the Cooley brothers—Reginald (in the centre of the picture), a warrant officer in the Royal Army Service Corps; Dennis (right) a staff-sergeant in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers; and Michael (left), a staff-sergeant in the Royal Army Service Corps. All are members of the clerical staff of General Headquarters, Far East Land Forces, Singapore.

Warrant-Officer Reginald Cooley has just completed 22 years' service. Staff-Sergeant Dennis Cooley recently received the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal after 18 years' service and Staff-Sergeant Michael Cooley, the youngest, has been in the Army for eleven years. In World War Two Michael was an anti-aircraft Gunner with the British Pacific Fleet.



## IN THE NEWS

### In Honour of

**T**o commemorate the 16th anniversary of the famous airborne raid on the German radar station at Bruneval, the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment recently trooped their Colour at Aldershot. It was the first time the Colour, bearing the battle honour "Bruneval" awarded in 1956, had been trooped.

On parade, taking the salute, was Colonel J. D. Frost DSO, MC, who commanded "C" Company of the 2nd Battalion which carried out the raid.

The assault on Bruneval in 1942 when six officers and 113 other ranks parachuted on to the heavily guarded radar station and captured important equipment, was brilliantly successful. All objectives were achieved for loss of three killed, two missing and seven wounded,

### a Famous Raid

some of whom made their way back to Britain. The raid played a large part in the subsequent expansion of airborne forces.

Apart from Colonel Frost, the only other survivors now serving are Colour-Sergeant F. Welsh MM, of the Airborne Forces Depot and Company Sergeant-Major R. A. Orton, of 9 Independent Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers.

Next year, men of "C" Company hope to re-enact the 1942 raid, parachuting on to the now destroyed radar station. They would have done so this year, but bad weather made parachuting impossible and the men landed at Evereux and set off for Bruneval by coach. At Rouen the roads became impassable so they returned to Evereux and flew back to Britain.



The 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, troop their Colour for the first time at Barossa Barracks, Aldershot.



### GERMANY

**B**RITISH troops in Germany will soon be seeing a new type of jeep—the four-seater Goliath Hunter (here shown being put through its paces) which is being introduced into the Federal German Army.

The Goliath Hunter, which has been built to standards laid down by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, is powered by a four-cylinder engine, has a four-wheel drive and eight gears. It cruises at 50 and has a top speed on roads of 80 miles an hour.

This year a famous college set up to educate Army officers in the intricate arts of staff duties celebrates its centenary.

Before the Staff College at Camberley was formed, largely as a result of the disastrous inefficiency of untrained staff in the Crimean War, generals chose their own staff officers from among their wealthy and influential (but, more often than not, militarily ignorant) friends. Not until World War One, however, did the Staff College—once unkindly described as “a forcing house for unpleasant people”—begin to achieve the high reputation it enjoys today.

In the article below ERIC PHILLIPS tells how the Staff College grew from modest beginnings in a Buckinghamshire public house into . . .

## THE SCHOOL WHERE GENERALS

THE Staff College was not entirely new in 1858. It had existed in a minor form since 1799 when Colonel John Le Marchant, a cavalryman from the Channel Isles, became Commandant of a college set up in the Antelope Inn at High Wycombe “for the improvement of officers of over four years’ service, to fit them for staff employment.”

There was only one instructor—General Francis Jarry, a French Royalist emigré—for the 26 officer students, who paid their own expenses.

Twelve years later, on 24 June, 1801, the college became fully established as the Royal Military College, largely through the interest of King George III and his son, The Duke of York, Commander-in-Chief of the Army. When a Junior Department (the forerunner of the Royal Military Academy) was formed in 1802, the school at High Wycombe became the Senior Department.

By 1810 the Senior Department was turning out officers better trained in staff duties than ever before and the Junior Department was supplying regiments with well-educated ensigns. Indeed, the Commissioners of Military Inquiry were so satisfied that they recommended new buildings should be provided at Sandhurst for the Senior Department. In 1812 the officer cadets moved to Sandhurst, but there was not

room for the Seniors as well. The latter also moved, however, to temporary quarters at Farnham, where they spent seven years.

In the Peninsular War 88 ex-students of the Senior Department served on the Quarter-master-General’s staff and many others held staff posts elsewhere. It was a good beginning. If the flow could have been maintained the Army’s professional efficiency would have steadily improved and some of our nineteenth-century military disasters might not have happened. As it was, during the long spell of peace after Waterloo, and inattention to the needs of the British Army, the Royal interest in the school for officers waned. The Duke of Wellington became indifferent, even hostile, to all ideas about education for soldiers, including the training of staff officers, and the Treasury enforced economies through reductions of both students and teachers.

The Senior Department gradually lost its prestige and became

largely a refuge for married officers who wished to avoid foreign service and unmarried officers whose aim was to shirk regimental duty.

Yet during this inglorious era one man at least, and he a civilian, did his best to uphold the proper standards of the department. He was John Narrien, who in 1820 became Mathematical Professor. To his personal exertions alone was due such success as was achieved while the College was in the doldrums. Before Narrien joined, the syllabus contained few military subjects. He soon realised that the highly scientific and unpractical tuition (it included astronomy, the higher branches of mathematics and languages) was not calculated to fit an officer for staff work, and set himself to study, and then to teach tactics, gunnery, fortification and castration (the choice, construction and protection of camps).

After the Crimean War Queen Victoria and the Duke of Cambridge, the Commander-in-Chief, played an important part in reforming the Senior Department and a new system of instruction was devised. The name was

changed to the Staff College and on 1 April, 1858, the first Staff College course began. No fees were to be payable by students for the two-year course. Proper entrance and final examinations were instituted and the syllabus included military subjects, though mathematics continued to dominate it.

The Duke of Cambridge also laid down the qualifications for all grades of staff officers. The first requirement for aides-de-camp—that they should write “a distinct and legible hand”—was suggested by Lord Palmerston, the Prime Minister, who was “sorry to say that the officers of the Army are apt, as a rule, to write like kitchen maids.”

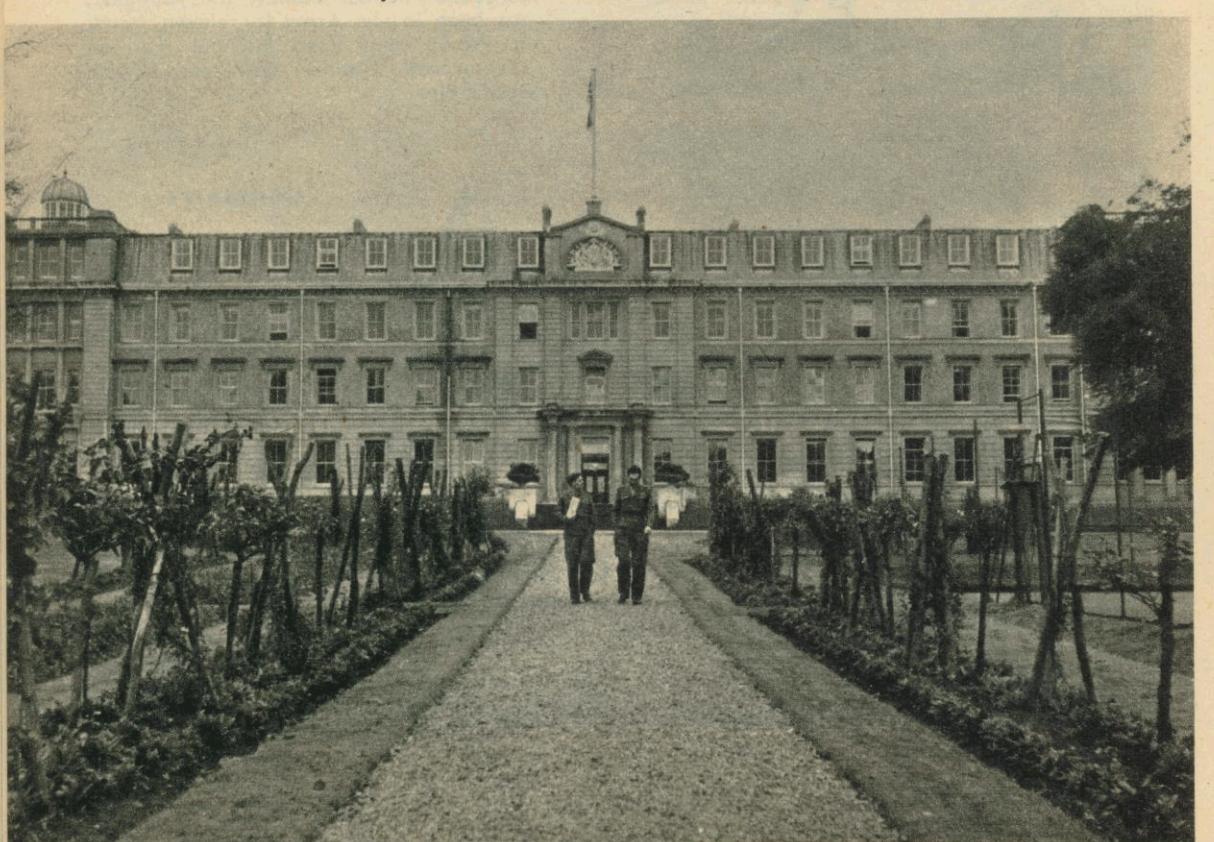
In 1858 James Pennethorne, a pupil of Nash, was asked to submit plans for a new Staff College building and the Duke of Cambridge laid the foundation stone of the present building (originally designed without a bathroom or an adequate hot water system) in December, 1859. The following year Queen Victoria planted the famous beech tree on the front lawn.

During the building operations “Cambridge Town” sprang up along the London road, but this name soon led to postal confusion with Cambridge and was corrupted into Camberley. The new building was occupied in 1862. In 1868 appeared the celebrated college badge of the owl (symbol of wisdom) surmounted by a crown and perched on crossed swords (signifying war).

Yet the course somehow remained imperfectly designed to impart war-wisdom; it was still too unpractical and scientific. Nor did its certificate open up a certain prospect of staff employment, for there was still much favouritism.

In 1868 a Royal Commission began to inquire again into military education, especially at the Staff College, and in 1870 new orders and regulations came out based on the principles that the College existed to obtain the best regimental officers; train them practically; give them a reasonable assurance of staff employment for which they were trained, and place them in the appointments for which they appeared best fitted. Colonel E. B. Hamley, an extremely forceful personality, was made

Students take a stroll in the grounds of the Staff College at Camberley. The one year course costs £2000 for each entrant. Few fail to pass.



The famous Owl badge of the Staff College represents wisdom and war.

## ARE MADE

divisions (two at Camberley and one each at Minley and Aldershot) each of 60 officer-students. The Blenheim Wing was closed in 1951.

Today the Staff College Commandant is Major-General R. H. Hewetson, until recently commanding 4th Infantry Division in Germany. Its charter is to train officers for war, and in so doing to fit them for second-grade

staff employment and, with further experience, for command. Usually, 140 British Army officers aged between 28 and 32, attend the one-year course, with three officers each from the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines and the Royal Air Force. The balance of 180 students is made up of officers of the British Commonwealth, the United States and other foreign Armies.

During World War One the Staff College was closed until 1921 when the first post-war examination was held. For the first time all obligatory subjects were purely military. From then until 1939 the course was for two years and the maximum age for entry was reduced from 35 to 33 years. Just before the last war the authorities decided that the annual output of staff officers must be largely increased, by running a one-year course at Camberley for the younger officers and starting a new Senior Wing at Minley Manor, near Camberley, for those about 35 years of age.

In World War Two special courses of 17 weeks’ duration were held. Afterwards the course was lengthened again, first to six months, then to one year. Numbers were increased and a third wing was opened at Blenheim Barracks, Aldershot, so that for the 1947 course there were four



The man who began it all: Colonel John Le Marchant, of the 1st Royals, founded the Staff College in an inn at High Wycombe. He was killed at Salamanca.



Students at work in one of the Staff College classrooms. One hundred and forty British Army officers are trained at Camberley every year.

MADE	DIRECTING STAFF 2 <sup>nd</sup> GRADE	DIRECTING STAFF 2 <sup>nd</sup> GRADE	DIRECTING STAFF 2 <sup>nd</sup> GRADE
Lt. Col. A. E. F. Percival	D.S.Q. B.E. M.C. Chesh. R.	Lt. Col. H. G. Eady	R.E.
18. 1. 30 to 31. 7. 32.	10. 10. 33 to 10. 11. 37.	10. 11. 37	10. 11. 37
Lt. Col. F. V. B. W. Pitts	C.R.E. D.S.Q. M.C. R.E.	Lt. Col. B. C. Denning	M.C. R.E.
18. 2. 1. 30 to 31. 7. 32.	21. 1. 35 to 21. 1. 37.	10. 1. 35 to 10. 1. 37.	21. 1. 35 to 21. 1. 37.
Lt. Col. J. G. W. Clark	M.C. 16/5 <sup>th</sup> Lancers	Lt. Col. W. J. Slim	M.C. 6 <sup>th</sup> Gurkha R.
18. 1. 10. 29 to 10. 10. 32.	10. 10. 29 to 10. 10. 32.	16. 1. 34 to 16. 1. 37.	12. 1. 37
Lt. Col. E. C. A. Schreiber	D.S.Q. R.A.	Lt. Col. A. W. Lee	M.C. S. Staff R.
18. 2. 1. 30 to 10. 1. 33.	21. 1. 30 to 10. 1. 33.	16. 1. 34 to 16. 1. 37.	16. 1. 37
Lt. Col. J. A. H. Gammill	D.S.Q. M.C. Camerons	Lt. Col. J. L. Hawkesworth	R.E. Eyer R.
18. 2. 1. 30 to 20. 1. 33.	21. 1. 30 to 20. 1. 33.	22. 10. 34 to 22. 11. 37.	22. 1. 37 to 22. 1. 39
Lt. Col. H. B. D. Willcox	D.S.Q. M.C. Lan. R.	Lt. Col. A. F. P. Christison	M.C. Camerons.
18. 2. 1. 30 to 17. 1. 33.	21. 1. 30 to 17. 1. 33.	10. 1. 34 to 10. 1. 37.	10. 1. 37 to 10. 1. 39.
Lt. Col. E. C. Althorp	M.C. R.E.	Lt. Col. E. E. Dorman-Smith	M.C. R. North Hants
18. 2. 1. 30 to 10. 1. 33.	21. 1. 30 to 10. 1. 33.	1. 1. 36 to 1. 1. 37.	25. 4. 37
Lt. Col. J. G. Smyth	V.C. M.C. 11 <sup>th</sup> Sth R.	Lt. Col. H. M. Gale	M.C. R.A.S.C.
18. 1. 31 to 15. 1. 34.	16. 1. 31 to 15. 1. 34.	21. 1. 35 to 5. 7. 37.	21. 1. 38 to 21. 1. 40.
Lt. Col. O. M. Lund	D.S.Q. R.A.	Lt. Col. C. Nicholson	M.C. 16 <sup>th</sup> L.
18. 4. 31 to 15. 1. 34.	24. 9. 31 to 15. 1. 34.	21. 1. 34 to 20. 12. 37.	25. 7. 38 to 4. 10. 39.
Lt. Col. C. Greenhous	O.B.E. Y.M.C. R.	Lt. Col. F. H. N. Davidson	D.S.Q. M.C. R.A.
18. 1. 31 to 30. 9. 34.	31. 1. 31 to 30. 9. 34.	11. 1. 37 to 11. 1. 38.	10. 1. 38 to 10. 1. 40.
Lt. Col. J. N. Kennedy	M.C. R.A.	Lt. Col. A. Galloway	M.C. Camerons.
18. 1. 31 to 21. 1. 34.	31. 1. 31 to 21. 1. 34.	11. 2. 37 to 11. 2. 38.	12. 9. 38 to 12. 9. 40.
Wing Comdr. J. C. Slessor	M.C. R.A.F.	Lt. Col. H. Lumsden	M.C. 12 <sup>th</sup> Lancers.
18. 1. 32 to 20. 1. 34.	29. 7. 36 to 29. 7. 38.	21. 1. 37 to 29. 7. 38.	11. 1. 38 to 21. 4. 40.
Lt. Col. L. S. Lloyd	M.C. 3 <sup>rd</sup> D.C.	Lt. Col. A. G. Barry	D.S.Q. M.C. R. Tank Corps.
18. 1. 32 to 21. 1. 34.	10. 1. 32 to 21. 1. 34.	1. 8. 35 to 10. 1. 38.	1. 11. 38 to 24. 4. 40.
Lt. Col. F. E. Hoback	D.S.Q. M.C. R. Tank Corps.	Lt. Col. S. Collingwood	M.C. R.A.
18. 1. 32 to 20. 1. 35.	21. 1. 32 to 20. 1. 35.	3. 4. 37 to 28. 9. 38.	10. 1. 38 to 10. 1. 40.
Lt. Col. J. G. Halsted	M.C. Loyal R.	Lt. Col. D. F. McConnel	D.S.Q. M.C. R.A.
18. 1. 32 to 21. 1. 35.	21. 1. 32 to 21. 1. 35.	21. 1. 36 to 21. 10. 38.	13. F. R. Rif. 20. 8. 39.
Lt. Col. C. C. Malden	R. Sussex R.	Wing Comdr. H. P. Lloyd	M.C. D.F.C.R.A.F.
18. 1. 32 to 31. 7. 35.	18. 1. 32 to 31. 7. 35.	29. 7. 36 to 1. 1. 39.	1. 1. 38 to 15. 5. 40.
Col. A. E. Ny	M.C. R. War R.	Lt. Col. E. A. B. Miller	M.C. K.R.R.C.
18. 1. 32 to 31. 12. 35.	18. 1. 32 to 31. 12. 35.	17. 1. 36 to 21. 1. 39.	16. 1. 38 to 16. 6. 40.
Col. G. G. Balfour-Davies	M.C. Gordons	Lt. Col. C. W. A. F. Frey	D.S.Q. M.C. R.A.
17. 1. 33 to 16. 1. 36.	17. 1. 33 to 16. 1. 36.	21. 1. 36 to 21. 1. 39.	21. 1. 38 to 30. 8. 39.
Col. L. Browning	O.B.E. M.C. R.A.	Lt. Col. H. F. Lucas	O.B.E. R.E.
17. 1. 33 to 20. 1. 36.	17. 1. 33 to 20. 1. 36.	12. 1. 37 to 21. 2. 39.	12. 1. 37 to 17. 6. 40.
Lt. Col. E. E. Mockler-Ferryman	M.C. R.A.	Lt. Col. H. R. Swinburn	M.C. 17 <sup>th</sup> Dogra R.
17. 1. 33 to 20. 1. 36.	21. 1. 33 to 20. 1. 36.	12. 1. 37 to 20. 1. 39.	12. 1. 37 to 23. 8. 39.
Wing Comdr. A. J. Capel	D.S.Q. D.F.C. R.A.F.	Lt. Col. A. A. B. Dowler	E. Surrey R.
17. 1. 34 to 28. 7. 36.	21. 1. 34 to 28. 7. 36.	6. 7. 37 to 20. 1. 39.	1. 9. 39 to 23. 8. 39.
Lt. Col. F. W. Festing			R. Rif. Bde. 23. 2. 39 to 1. 9. 39.

How many officers destined to become generals can you spot in this list of the College’s past directing staff? They appear on the oak panelling in the College entrance hall.

squash, golf, sailing, shooting, and even softball clubs.

The Staff College is proud of its many devoted household servants, some with astonishing records of service. The oldest is Mr. C. Read, who has been there for 58 years and is now 83. Two batmen, Mr. J. H. Fensom (73) and Mr. D. E. Moth (76) have 52 and 53 years’ service respectively, while Mr. C. T. Munt (63), the mess steward and Mr. T. J. Green (62), mess waiter, both have 48 years at Camberley to their credit.

# "BABIES' HEADS" AND "DUFF IN COSSACKS"

**W**AY back in 1893 when I joined up in the Gunners, a man's ration was one pound of bread and three-quarters of a pound of meat—and bone—a day. Everything else he ate and drank had to come out of that 4½d. a day messing contribution.

We had no dining-rooms and meals were eaten at six-foot tables in barrack-rooms. Each man had a pint basin and one dinner plate which was used for all courses. The cookhouse was at the back of the barrack block and food was brought to the room by an orderly. It was served under the supervision of the senior NCO who helped with the cutting up, especially if roast beef was on the menu, and saw to it that the food was fairly apportioned to each man.

Our bombardier would select the choicest piece of meat and stick it to the underside of the table with his fork, to be produced on his own plate when everyone had been served. When the meat had been distributed the bombardier would ask if everyone was satisfied. Complaints were rectified on the spot and when everyone was happy the bombardier, grasping the plate containing the choicest cut, would yell "Charge." Each man would then grab a plateful.

There was plenty of grousing but the food was always eaten with relish.

Dinners usually consisted of roast beef, with baked potatoes, stew, sea-pie (meat cut up and baked in pastry), or curry and tomatoes and bully-beef. Very popular dishes were "babies' heads" or "babies' legs"—meat

*WITH a choice of 12 different meat dishes, eight or nine different vegetables and a dozen puddings, Gunners at the Royal Artillery Depot Mess in Woolwich are not likely to have any complaints about their food. But complaints were rare in the British Army even 65 years ago when soldiers had little or no choice.*

*In this article, 84-year-old J. E. Stratford, who enlisted in 80th Field Battery, Royal Artillery, at Hulsea in 1893, tells what Army messing was like when a Gunner's basic pay was 1s. 8½d. a day, and 6d. was deducted for rations and 4½d. for messing.*

puddings boiled in cloths and shared one between two men—and "duff in cossacks" which were meat pies cooked in basins. For vegetables we had potatoes, cabbage occasionally, turnips and carrots. A "red-white-and-blue" dinner was meat, boiled potatoes, cabbage, turnips and carrots.

Each man peeled his potatoes before going on parade and the rich among us paid the orderly a penny a week to peel our quota. But as a penny could buy half a pint of beer in those days, to spend it on paying someone else to peel potatoes was considered reckless folly.

Very seldom were complaints made when the orderly officer, heralded by the orderly sergeant who banged his riding-whip on the door, came round. No one ever reported the bombardier for purloining that extra tit-bit; it was all part of the game. Any man who complained about the food—and often there were good grounds for doing so—was considered to be a bit of a "sissy."

There were no tablecloths and unwanted or uneatable food was dumped on to the bare table. When the main meal was stew the table would be cluttered with bones, gristle and horrible-looking lumps of fat.

The second course was either plum duff, prunes and custard, rice pudding, sago, jam tart, or suet pudding and treacle. If the sweet was "solid" we merely turned our plates over; if it was "liquid" then we wiped our plates clean with slices of bread.

For breakfast and tea we usually had a kipper or bloater, an egg, or, very seldom, a rasher of bacon, with bread and a pat of butter. The butter was very often rank and almost uneatable—but we never had margarine.

In the middle of the afternoon, tea was brewed in six two-gallon cans. The tea was placed in the cans, covered with hot water and left to brew until "Tea Up." Then the containers were filled with boiling water, sugar and milk were added and one can was taken to each barrack-room where it was served by the orderly into our basins. The tea was hot and strong and very sweet. We always groused about it—but never to the orderly officer!

In 1905, when I returned home after a 12-year spell in India, I was stationed in a Gunner battery at Bordon where we had dining halls with radiators placed at intervals around the walls. But I cannot remember that they ever gave off any heat. The doors

were always open and the place was so cold that we often turned up to meals in our greatcoats. Sometimes tea spilled on to the table froze.

☆ ☆ ☆

**A**ND what was messing like 25 years ago? Mr. Stratford's son, Warrant Officer E. R. Stratford, serving with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in Hong Kong writes:

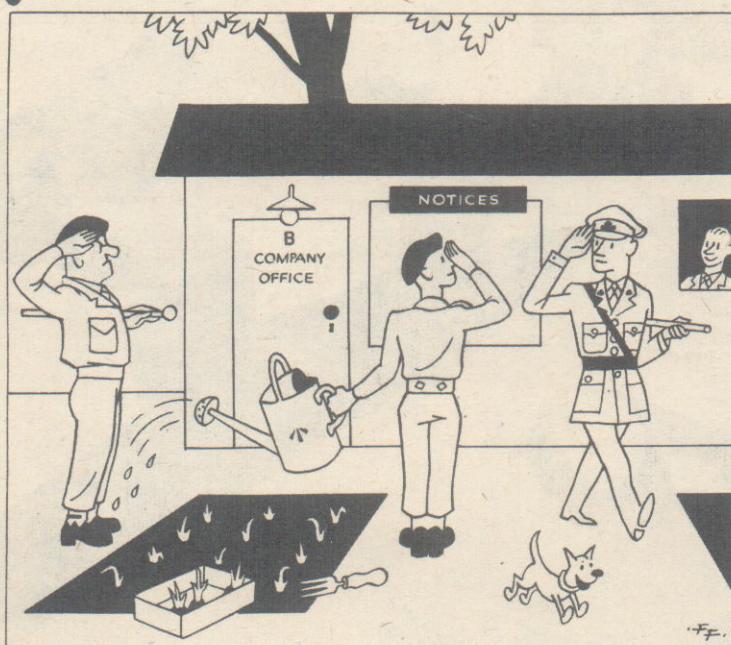
"The soldier today has less to complain of than we had when I joined as a boy of 14 and drew two shillings pocket money.

"The menu was monotonously regular and we knew what we should get on any day. A choice was almost unheard of. One I vividly recall was 'curry or brown?'—which was the addition or omission of curry to brown stew!

"Dinners were prepared without skill or inspiration by disinterested cooks and although the meals provided sufficient calories, the swill bins received more than their fair share of 'shepherd's pie,' 'cottage pie' and 'curry or brown.' Tea was seldom a cooked meal, except perhaps occasionally when a kipper or boiled fish was issued. Generally it was two slices of bread, a smear of butter or margarine and a portion of cheese, meat paste or jam.

"Some of the most enjoyable teas I had in those days were a couple of slices of bread smuggled into the barrack-room, toasted over a fire and swilled down with tea kept hot on the hearth. Probably the enjoyment came from having outwitted the orderly sergeant."

These two pictures look alike, but they vary in ten minor details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot detect the differences, turn to page 38.



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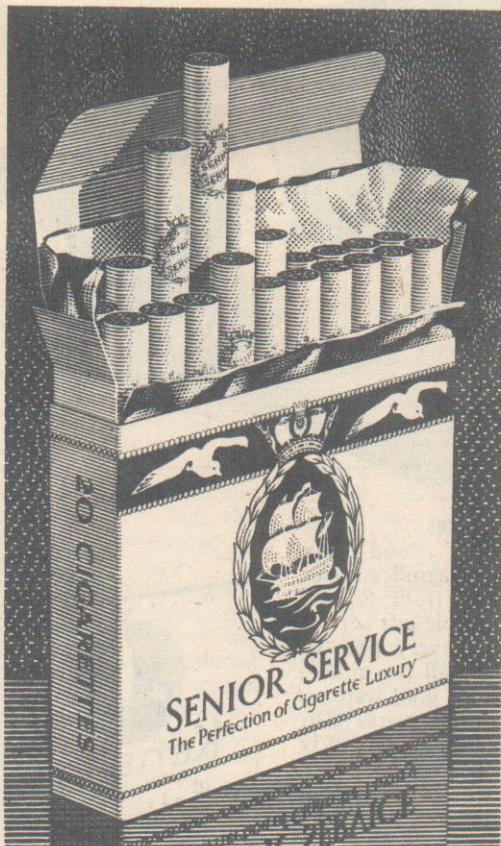
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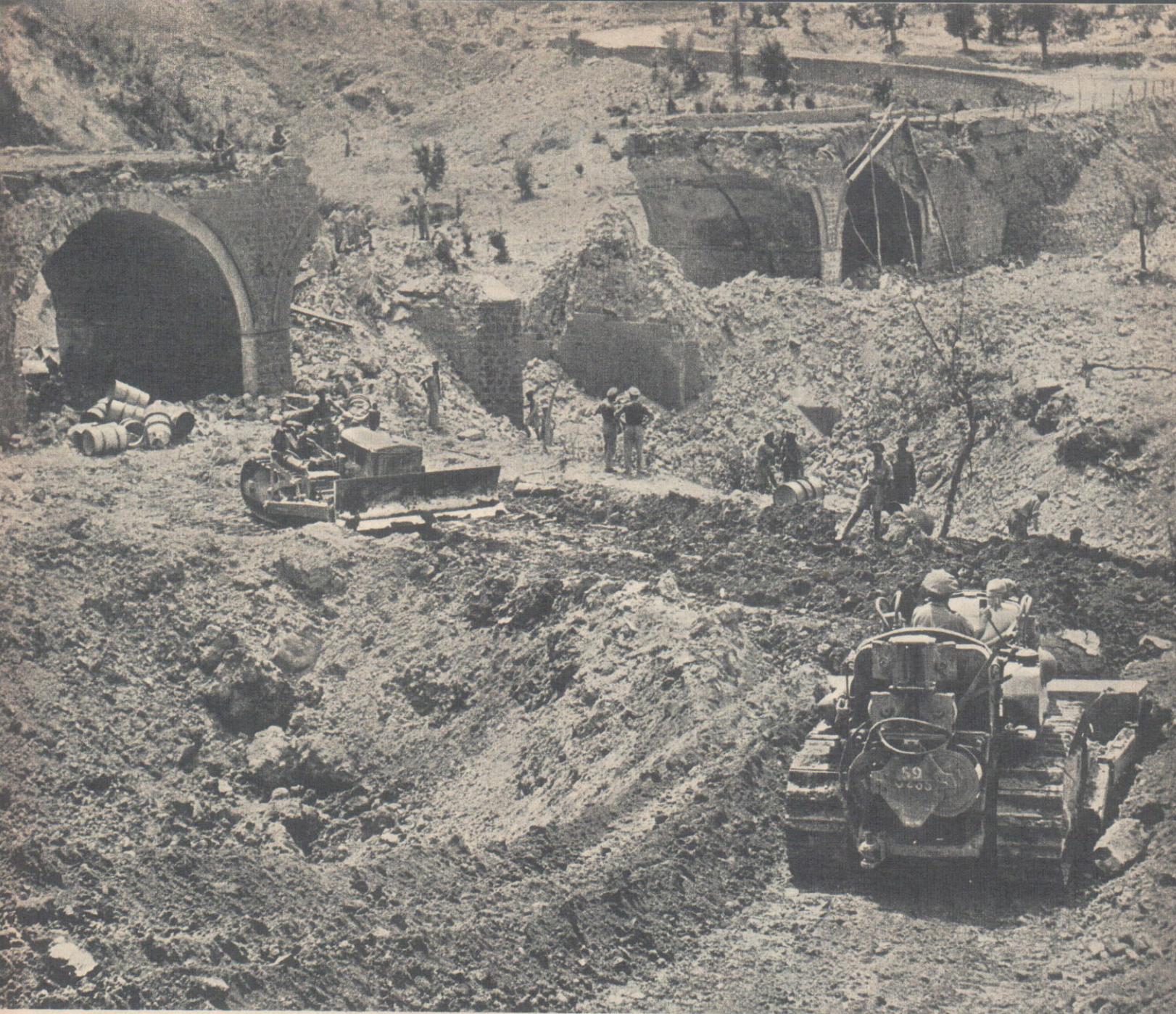
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ITALY, 1944: Eighth Army Sappers clear a pathway for tanks through the rubble of a bridge blown by the retreating Germans.

## SCRAPBOOK OF WORLD WAR TWO

ON THE ROAD TO MANDALAY, 1944: Allied troops pause during their advance through Burma to water their mules in a stream.



## LIFE WITH FRED WAS NEVER DULL

**A** NEW variation of that old story "I want three volunteers—you, you and you!" is told by Colonel Fred Cripps in his "Life's a Gamble" (Odhams, 25s). Cripps had the unusual experience of being an Army officer in the first world war and a naval officer in the second.

One of his first duties in World War One, as a lieutenant in the Royal Bucks Hussars, was to call for volunteers for active service abroad. "With this in mind," he writes, "I lined up the squadron on their horses, with their backs to the wall, in Lord Lincolnshire's park. I addressed them, emphasising the gravity of the situation. Then I asked all those not wishing to volunteer for active service abroad to rein back two horses' lengths. Obviously, no one was able to do this even if they had been so inclined. I was, therefore, able to inform my commanding officer that 100 per cent of the men under my command had volunteered for service abroad. There were subsequently, I think, two withdrawals!"

Now 72, Cripps looks back over a life packed with adventure and experience as a soldier, stock-broker, banker, gambler and man-about-town. His book is full of humour and fascinating stories about his exploits and those of his friends (including Sir Winston Churchill) and other famous people he has known, among them Rasputin, the Rothschilds and King George V. He also devotes a chapter to his famous brother, the late Sir Stafford Cripps.

Typical of the author's brand of humour is his story of an evening he spent in the Adlon Hotel in Berlin two days before the 1914 war began. During dinner a party of German officers told the band to play *Deutschland Über Alles*, and all rose to their feet. Cripps and a friend remained seated, so the Germans sent the *maître d'hôtel* to ask them to stand up. Cripps sent back a message that he was "The Mpre of Albania" while his friend, Jack Scott, was his "Prime Minister," and he asked the band to play the Albanian National Anthem.

"They confessed their ignorance of it, so I asked them to play a tune that sounded like it. They then played something rather wild, and Jack and I got up and toasted each other, sending the *maître d'hôtel* back to the officers with the request that they should all stand up at once, as the band was playing the Albanian National Anthem. I must say that some of them laughed heartily and asked us to have a drink with them. We did so, finding among them some congenial spirits with whom we spent the remainder of the evening."

"Life's a Gamble" also has its tragedy and Cripps' account of three weeks in a hospital ship,

"packed in like sardines," on his way to England, one of the thousands of casualties in Gallipoli, is grimly realistic.

"My knee," he writes, "had become badly septic, and I was operated on twice; I was given a piece of rope to bite on instead of an anaesthetic . . . The private on the other side of me had his arm amputated without any anaesthetic . . . others were in the same unfortunate position. Undaunted, he just sat up, put his arm behind his back, and said to me:

"Lord, it do make I sweat!"

Always game for a wager, Fred Cripps once spent a night alone in a haunted house in Wiltshire and won £100. He admits he was terrified.

Lord Burnham, who also served in the Royal Bucks Hussars, in a foreword to the book describes Cripps "as a soldier whose enterprise, quickness of mind and absolute fearlessness made him a brilliant cavalry commander. In the war the battle was more tolerable and in peace the day more enjoyable when Fred was with us."

No one who reads "Life's a Gamble" is likely to disagree with him.



Colonel Fred Cripps, soldier, banker, gambler and man-about-town, in the full dress uniform of the Royal Bucks Hussars.

## "The Few" of World War One

**Q**UENTIN REYNOLDS, an American journalist, who during and after World War Two wrote six books extolling British gallantry, now comes up with another: "They Fought for the Sky" (Cassell, 21s).

It is the heroic story of a handful of incredibly brave men who

*Albert Ball VC to whom the book is dedicated, was Britain's first air ace.*



fought the Germans in the air over 40 years ago—the men of the Royal Flying Corps which was formed by the Army and from which sprang the Royal Air Force and the Fleet Air Arm.

The formation of the Royal Flying Corps in 1912 was greeted with little enthusiasm by the Government. When the House of Commons were informed that this new fighting service possessed only 25 machines they greeted the statement with a collective yawn and did nothing about it. This inertia, still, alas, prevalent a quarter of a century later, condemned a generation of dedicated young flyers to death.

On 14 August, 1914, the Royal Flying Corps' 37 machines set off for France—"frail tinder boxes that a wayward spark might ignite." The pilots had no parachutes or safety devices of any kind. It is hardly surprising that the average life of a pilot on the Western Front was three weeks but men came forward to fill the gaps in ever increasing numbers.

Volunteers were mainly from

the Infantry who clearly thought that death in the air was preferable to death in the mud.

One sergeant-major had a set oration which he delivered to these adventuresome young men: "If any of you wants to go to 'eaven quick, now's your chance. They're askin' for volunteers to learn to fly and become orficers in the bloody R.F.C. So if any of you feels like committing suicide, step two paces forward out of the ranks and I'll take 'is name. But remember it's an 'ell of a long way to fall and you only falls once."

These men, says the author were "a race apart, knights of the air." He produces pen pictures—searching, humorous, bizarre and tragic—of such men as Mick Mannock VC, Albert Ball VC, Billy Bishop VC, and the American air ace Billy Mitchell; of dining members in the mess reduced by half in a single day's fighting.

In a foreword, the author says this book has been 25 years in the making. But it has been worth waiting for.

## Churchill Calls This "The Noblest of

**T**HE last volume of Sir Winston Churchill's History of the English-Speaking Peoples—"The Great Democracies" (Cassell, 30s)—ends with the South African War.

As an historian, Sir Winston shuns the temptation to draw on his own personal experiences chapter, dealing with the Battle of Omdurman, he says: "This, as described at the time by a young Hussar who took part in the battle, was 'the most signal triumph ever gained by the arms of science over barbarians.'"

Now, who could that young Hussar have been?

The book has a chapter on the Crimean War, but the military set-piece this time is the account of the American Civil War which occupies five chapters. Sir Winston

has obviously found a congenial theme in describing the changing fortunes of "what must on the whole be considered the noblest and least avoidable of all the great mass conflicts of which till then there was record."

Most of us have forgotten, if we ever knew, that in this fratricidal strife three-quarters of a million men fell on the battle-field. "The number of battles that were fought and their des-

perate, bloody character far surpassed any events in which Napoleon ever moved," writes Sir Winston.

There are sharp pen-pictures of the leaders. "Stonewall" Jackson, Calvinistic and austere, "might have stepped into American history from the command of one of Cromwell's regiments. Black-bearded, pale-faced . . . he slouched in his weather-stained uniform a professor-warrior; yet greatly beloved by the few who knew him best, and gifted with that strange power of commanding measureless devotion from the thousands whom he ruled with an iron hand."

# Battalion With The Commando Spirit

**M**EN who served with the 1st Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment in World War Two had no need to leave their unit if they wanted the sort of life that Commandos and other private armies led. They joined the Battalion's battle patrol.

This was formed in 1940, of game-keepers, ghillies, poachers and others of adventurous spirit, all of whom were volunteers. They stalked and outwitted the enemy in a long series of daring raids.

In the fourth volume of the "History of the East Surrey Regiment" (Ernest Benn, 30s), which covers the period 1920 to 1952, Captain David Scott Daniell gives several examples of the patrol's work in Italy.

Once, with a platoon in support, the battle patrol crept through the German positions to a railway station where tanks had been seen. They went into the station and laid explosive charges against an armoured car and two buildings. They threw grenades into a house, opened fire on Germans who ran out, and got away safely with a bag of prisoners.

Another time, supported by a second patrol, the battle patrol spent three days among German positions, raided one of them, visited two villages and returned unscathed with a prisoner and valuable information.

The East Surreys did not keep their adventurous spirit for wartime use only. In 1937, when the 1st Battalion was stationed in India, a corporal, four lance-corporals and a private set out to climb Mount Kamet, a Himalayan giant of 25,447 feet. The mountain had been conquered only once before—by a famous climber with a well-found expedition.

The six soldiers had little money and experience. They kept their ambition to themselves, secretly acquired a few additions to their Army equipment and obtained two months' leave to go "camping in the hills." Their intention leaked out only after they had left and, because of the danger, attempts were made to stop them—but they were already beyond the reach of telegrams.

At 20,000 feet the men were

held up for three days by a blizzard. Then, short of food and too weak to carry loads, three set out to make the final attempt. They reached 23,500 feet—within one stage of the top—before darkness made it essential for them to retreat. It was a gallant attempt from which, says the author, the Regiment and the British Army in India generally gained prestige.

Two battalions of the Regiment fought in the Dunkirk campaign and on the Escaut made history by fighting side by side. During a conference between the two commanding officers, some Germans appeared on the scene. One of the colonels picked up a Bren gun and, with the other acting as Number Two, drove them off. A third battalion, only partly trained and equipped, also saw hard fighting in France and was among the units forced to surrender at St. Valery when the last hope of evacuation had gone.

In the Far East, the 2nd Battalion met a tragic fate. In Malaya it was badly battered by the Japanese and the survivors joined those of the 1st Leicesters to form the "British Battalion,"

OVER . . .



Two members of the East Surreys' battle patrol in Southern Italy in 1943. Lieutenant J. M. Woodhouse, the patrol leader, is writing a message to be carried back by pigeon.



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## Battalion With The Commando Spirit

continued

which was part of an Indian brigade. The composite unit was soon giving a good account of itself. It was cut off, but escaped by gun-boat to Singapore where it fought again until, reduced to two companies, it went into captivity with the rest of the garrison. In the prison camps and on the Burma railway, the comradeship built up in the British Battalion endured, and it is now commemorated in an annual toast in the officers' messes of the East Surreys and the Leicesters.

After showing its worth in France, Tunisia and Italy, the 1/6th Battalion went to Greece in 1944 to help put down the Communist ELAS forces. When this was done, food centres were started and the battle-hardened warriors served 30,000 people in the first day. Soldiers not wielding lances had a busy time removing cushions from underneath women's skirts and sending the queue-jumpers to the end of the line.

Throughout the war, the East Surreys were unique among Infantry regiments in having as Colonel an officer of the Royal Marines. He was General Sir Richard Foster, Adjutant-General of his Corps, the highest appointment in the Royal Marines. It was a fitting appointment as the East Surreys have an ancient Marine tradition.

## Two Military Thrillers

In the last few years, the Army has been catching up, in a modest way, the Secret Service, Scotland Yard and the Wild West sheriffs as a subject for thrillers. Perhaps it is because more thriller-writers have served in the Army, or perhaps because more readers have. At all events the Army thrillers seem to be here to stay.

Now come two more of them, with little pretension to being more than good yarns but with plenty of action and the bullets flying thick and fast.

Richard Pape MM, author of a notable escape book, picks Germany and Austria as his setting for "Fortune is my Enemy" (Elek, 13s 6d) and his heroes are officers of the Royal Military Police. It all starts when Hitler sends a convoy on a hush-hush trip to hide a secret weapon deep in the Austrian Alps.

A year or two later, a newly-arrived Assistant Provost Marshal, trying to sort out the deserters and rackets of occupied Austria, stumbles on the trail. There he joins a Secret Service man, some left-over Nazis and, vaguely, the Russians. Mr. Pape writes well of an Army of occupation, except when his APM goes to a transit camp bar and takes off his cap and belt after his first drink. The author should brush up his knowledge of the customs of the Service.

James Dillon White, in "Night on the Bare Mountain" (Heinemann, 15s) makes an even more unfortunate gaffe. His hero is a major in something called the Field Security Police. The author gravely offends the thousands of

men who have served in Field Security since 1940 and have been trying to shake off the word "police" which was attached to the name of their service for a few months.

Apart from that, Mr. Dillon's Army is true to life. His Field Security officer is serving in an island which is Cyprus at the present day in the thinnest of disguises.

A subaltern has been murdered by terrorists and his father, a New Zealand Infantryman of World War Two, arrives, seeking revenge. Stealing a Bren gun and ammunition, he disappears and the shooting starts. What with the New Zealander, the dead subaltern's girl-friend, a disloyal second-in-command, a choleric brigadier and an assortment of terrorists, the major has a tough time.

These adventures are all very exciting for the Royal Military Police and Field Security, but there are other parts of the Army awaiting their turn. Where is the author to write a thriller about the activities of the Royal Army Educational Corps, or the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, or even the Royal Army Pay Corps?

## The Story of a Front Line Nurse

There were women as well as men on troop transports disembarking American soldiers on the Normandy beaches, in June, 1944.

But, in their olive-green uniforms and steel helmets, they were only identifiable as women by their slighter build and the incongruous gashes of lipstick beneath the shadow of their helmets. These were the nurses of the Field Hospital Squadron who followed behind the combat units.

In "Road Inland" (Hutchinson, 15s) Frieda K. Franklin tells of the impact of war and human suffering on Lee Caine, one of the nurses. At first sight she seems ill-equipped for war: "She was lovely with the perfection of youth, with the air of eagerness and expectancy with which she seemed to wait upon the world."

It is a harsh and moving story that the author (a front line nurse herself) tells, writing, it seems, from a raw and bruised memory. Few pages are unenlivened with references to the pain and anguish of the wounded: men with gaping wounds in the stomach and chest; amputations; fingers missing, legs shattered; men who died when the medical orderlies were not looking, men who would assuredly die before the dawn and

the men who wished they could die but could not.

There are few concessions to femininity in this professionally-written novel, probably because of the set oration of the over-worked, cynical and hard-drinking major in charge of the unit who counsels the nurses: "Don't look at the boys closely, don't really see them, for if you do you're lost. Be blind, be deaf, be dumb...."

Occasionally, and it seems

almost apologetically, a hint of feminine softness struggles through. Somehow Lee remains a woman: in her compassion, her rare excursions into private weeping and her fleeting and emotionally unsatisfying affair with a young officer who is certain that he is about to die. Dominating the near masculinity of the narrative is a lovely young woman—desperately frightened, hideously alone, but imbued with an extraordinary courage.

## The Peacetime Soldiers' Wars

NEVER in peacetime has the British Army shed so much blood as in the period following World War Two.

During these precarious years the British soldier has fought a full-scale war in Korea and for nine years has campaigned in the jungles of Malaya. He has fought the *shifta* in Eritrea, Mau-Mau in Kenya, terrorists in Palestine, Egypt and Cyprus. He has put down riots in Hong Kong, Singapore and Trieste and kept a watching brief on the activities of the IRA in Northern Ireland.

In "The Unquiet Peace" (Alan Wingate, 16s) Major Maurice Tugwell has assembled a collection of nineteen stories about some of the more arduous activities of the British Army since VJ Day. They are written by soldiers about soldiers and make exciting and compulsive reading, although not all of them are rich in literary finesse.

Of particular interest are "The Last Of The Many" (which describes the British withdrawal from India), "On Fire At Sea" (the story of the Empire Windrush), "Taking A Chance" (a terrifying personal experience of a young officer in Malaya) and "Musketeer" (a splendid description of the 1956 operations at Port Said).

Major Tugwell is to be congratulated on presenting a selection of stories which portray the sterling qualities of the British soldier so effectively.

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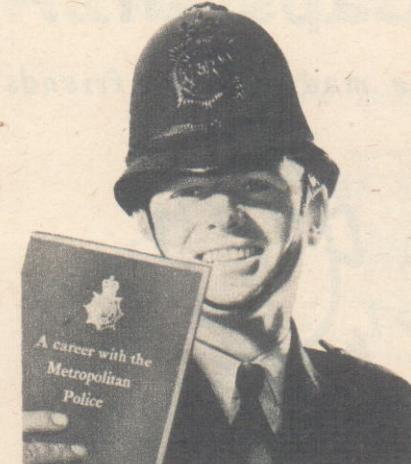
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*They're off! The runners get away to a flying start in the first Army Boys' cross-country championships ever held. More than 260 boys competed.*



*Lance-Corporal R. Williams, Royal Signals, won the individual championship. His time for the six miles was just over 34 minutes.*

## ARBORFIELD BEAT THE FIELD

**A**PPRENTICE-SERGEANT David Precious, captain of the Army Apprentices' School, Arborfield team competing in the first-ever Army Boys' cross-country championships, had a telegram prepared before the race to send to his father, Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant R. Precious of the Royal Armoured Corps at Bovington. It said "We won."

His confidence was not misplaced. His team romped home a clear 57 points ahead of the nearest challengers—the Army Apprentices' School, Harrogate. Third, only one point behind, were the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Unhappily, Apprentice-Sergeant Precious did not lead his team to victory: the individual winner was his team-mate, Apprentice-Tradesman John Bilcliff

who beat Precious by seven seconds over the gruelling three-mile course at Crookham in the fast time of 18 minutes 48 seconds. This was the second time this season that Bilcliff had beaten his captain. On another occasion they dead-heated. Another member of the Arborfield team finished fourth. He was Apprentice-Tradesman Jim Fox, who is only 16.

The Army Boys' championships attracted 265 entries from more than a score of teams representing major and minor units. The minor unit champions were the Royal Army Medical Corps School at Crookham which had only 57 boys from which to select a team. But they finished 54 points ahead of the Highland Brigade Junior Training Unit, with the Junior Leader Company of the Royal Army Service Corps third.

Of the 143 competitors in the Army championship which was run over six miles, 24 were indi-

vidual entries and two of these filled first and second places. The winner was the Northern Command champion, Lance-Corporal Ronnie Williams, of 2 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, a 22-year-old member of the Liverpool Pembroke Athletic Club who recently finished a close second in the West Lancashire cross-country championships. He completed the course in 34 minutes 31 seconds, 13 seconds ahead of the runner-up, Lance-Corporal Ken Flockton, of 3 Training Regiment, Royal Engineers, the Southern Command champion.

There was only one team runner in the first five to finish—Lance-Corporal Charles Camden, of the Royal Army Pay Corps Training Centre, who was third. His team retained the team title with 100 points. Second were 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment with 147 points, and third the 1st Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers with 200.

**FOOTNOTE:** *In the inter-Services championships the Royal Air Force registered their seventh successive team win. They had the first four men home and finished 41 points ahead of the Army with the Royal Navy a long way behind, third.*

*Nearing the end of the Army race. A member of the Royal Irish Fusiliers team from Rhine Army leads a group of mud-spattered runners to the finishing line.*

## Have a Capstan...

*they're made to make friends*



# The "Dukes" Are Rugby Champions

ONLY three teams in the Army Rugby Cup competition scored any points against this year's winners: The 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

In the final, which was played in Rhine Army, 1 Corps Troops Column, Royal Army Service Corps, put up a gallant fight but were well beaten by 23 points to five. Only one other team—1st Battalion, The Royal Warwickshire Regiment—scored more against the "Dukes," and they were beaten 36-6 in the second round.

In their eight cup matches the "Dukes" scored 133 points and conceded only 16. The RASC team, although having a total of 47 points scored against them, chalked up no fewer than 275 points in their eight matches!

This season's champions included two English international players in Captain D. M. Shuttleworth, the scrum half and captain, and Captain E. M. P. Hardy, the fly half. One of the forwards, Lieutenant D. S. Gilbert-Smith MC, is a Scottish international and several members of the team have played for well-known clubs—including Halifax, Rosslyn Park, Blackheath and London Scottish. Corporal B. Saville, right centre, Private D. Davies, left centre, and Private R. Haywood, left wing, have played for Rugby League clubs Hull, Bradford and Huddersfield respectively.

The ground at Bad Lippspringe in Germany was in superb condition for the final and a light breeze blew diagonally across the field as the teams lined up.

Captain Hardy kicked off for the "Dukes" and although the RASC were the first to attack the "Dukes" opened the scoring. After three minutes Corporal B. Saville neatly placed the ball past full back Corporal J. Wakefield to score a few yards from the posts. Captain Hardy converted. The RASC fought back and with Corporal Wakefield kicking well

*Will the "Dukes" convert this try? Their supporters need not have worried. The "Dukes" did not miss one.*

they stayed for some time around the "Dukes" 25.

Then the game opened out and Private R. Haywood on the left wing side-stepped his opposite number, eluded a bunch of covering forwards and ran hard for an excellent try, well converted by Corporal Saville.

There was no further score until just before the interval. A penalty awarded a few yards from the RASC line was quickly taken by Captain Shuttleworth, and Captain E. J. H. Dasent ran in for an opportunist try. Corporal Saville again converted to bring the score to 15-0.

In the second half the RASC attacked without making much headway. Lance-Corporal H. Johnson, at fly half, was handicapped by a slow service and the close attention of Lieutenant Gilbert-Smith and Second Lieutenant I. A. Addison, but he showed touches of a high class. The "Dukes," who were now getting to the ball more quickly, completed their scoring with a long penalty and a try by Corporal Saville.

The Royal Army Service Corps fought back and got their consolation try when Private D. Oxley touched down between the posts for Corporal J. Wakefield to convert.

The trophy was presented to the winners by General Sir Hugh Stockwell.

The "Dukes" have not competed for the cup since 1952 owing to service in Cyprus, Gibraltar and Korea. They last contested an Army Final in 1933.



*The heavier "Dukes" pack (in white shorts) seem to be getting the best of the argument in this scrum.*

## FOOTNOTE:

The Army beat the Territorial Army by 11 points (a goal, a try and a penalty) to eight (a goal and a try) at Aldershot. The Army, who have won this match every year since the war, included three members of the "Dukes" side, Captain Shuttleworth, Lieu-

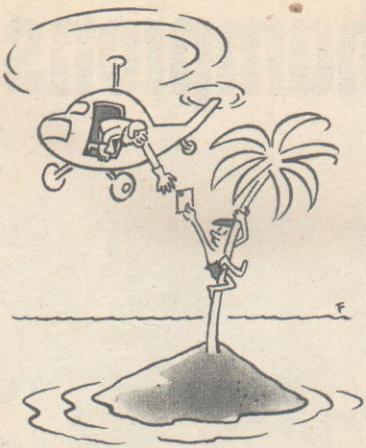
tenant Gilbert-Smith and Corporal Saville.

All three played well and Corporal Saville scored two excellent tries, one after a fine run near the Territorials' 25-yard line, and the other by breaking away after a set scrum.

## Have a Capstan...

*they're made to make friends*





## WALKING-OUT DRESS

Flamboyant uniform belongs to the glorious past when the qualities required of a British soldier were more physical than intellectual. While adventurous men possessing the qualities of endurance, steadfastness, reliability and common sense are still needed, we also require an increasing number capable of understanding and maintaining our more complicated weapons, instruments and electronic devices. I believe that such men are disinterested, if not deterred, by our present adherence to traditional uniform and its many and diverse fripperies.

Those who are deeply concerned with the future quality of our all-Regular Army feel that the sooner the question of uniform is satisfactorily settled the sooner can we expect the desired influx of technical recruits.

Let us see a clean break with tradition. If the soldier is smart as well as comfortable in his uniform he will not readily change into mufti, as he does at present at the first available opportunity. — WOII E. A. Strutt, Royal Signals, Army Information Office, Jersey.

## MOUNTED INFANTRY

Your excellent article "Cheshires Were All Gentlemen" (February) states that "in that column were 350 officers and men of the 22nd Foot mounted on camels, probably the first organised mounted infantry in the history of the British Army."

Surely the first mounted Infantry were the six regiments of Dragoons raised between 1681 and 1689, now the Royal Scots Greys, 3rd, 4th and 7th Hussars, 5th Lancers and 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons. The very name Dragoon came from the word Dragon, the nickname for the muskets with which they were armed. These troops fought on foot, were armed as Infantry with the addition of a sword and used their horses almost solely for the purpose of transportation. They were very popular at the time since the horses were of cheaper quality and the men were paid less, a great point with the Treasury of those days. — G. M. S. Sprake, 10 Marine Parade, Folkestone.

## THE CHESHires

With regard to the extract of the history of the Cheshire Regiment, and General Napier in particular (SOLDIER, February), it may interest your readers to know that in his battles

the General sent in the 22nd as the front assault regiment, with native Indian regiments echeloned in rear, thus using the white soldiers as the spearpoint. He was very proud of the 22nd, and spoke very highly of it. Describing it about the period of the conquest of Scinde he wrote that it was composed of 400 magnificent men of Tipperary. In his youth the General played with the barefooted Irish boys and he went to their school, and so got to know the Irish temperament thoroughly. In his first demand for chaplains he said that his Irishmen died better when they had their priests about them. Very true.

Tipperary is known in Ireland as the VC County, as at one time the men of Tipperary had more Victoria Crosses than any other county in the United Kingdom. This Irish county was a recruiting area for the Cheshire Regiment. They could not have picked better, as the history of this splendid regiment testifies. — Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Lucy, Royal Ulster Rifles (rtd.), Cork.

## NIGHT-RAIDERS

The famous steeplechase of the 7th Hussars (SOLDIER, January) took place in Ipswich, not Norwich.

The late Colonel Granville Baker has told the story of this nocturnal episode. The ride began at the water trough behind Ipswich Barracks and the steeple of the village church at Nacton was the finishing point. The exact route followed can never be known but I have good reason to believe that the riders careered wildly at midnight over the heath on which my house now stands.

Colonel Baker said there was uncertainty over the identity of the night-riders because the artist who painted the pictures of the ride (Alkens) varied the colour of the stripes on their overalls. He suggests they may have been Light Dragoons or Gunners, and not Hussars, because the latter affected a double stripe which is not shown in the pictures. — J. H. Clegg, Foxhall Road, Ipswich.

## YEOMANRY COIN

The coin illustrated in SOLDIER (Letters, January) is a "token," one of a great many such issued by local banks, tradesmen and others and used as small change during the last decade or so of the 18th century. A similar

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Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published.

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

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

one was issued by the Hoxne and Harington Troop of the Suffolk Yeomanry in 1795, the reverse being similar to that of the 1st Troop illustrated, but the obverse showing a yeoman standing by his horse.

I have others of the Queen's Bays (with Norwich barracks on the reverse), of the Norwich Loyal Military Association (Volunteers), with a member of the corps on the obverse and the City arms on the reverse, and of the Penryn Volunteers bearing the arms of their Colonel, Lord Dunstanville. — Ernest J. Martin, Military Historical Society, 834 Kenton Lane, Harrow, Weald, Middlesex.

## RELEASE HAZARDS

I applied for premature release under the redundancy scheme but was told I was not considered redundant and advised to apply again next year. When I requested a free discharge I was told that I did not qualify because my service was broken and I had not completed 16 years continuously on my current engagement. I enlisted in 1928, was released in 1934, recalled in 1939, discharged in 1945 and re-enlisted in 1953. Is my unit correct in refusing me a free discharge? — "Linesman."

★ Yes. A soldier must serve 22 years on a number of engagements or 16 years continuously before he can be granted a free discharge.

I re-enlisted for four years on a type "S" engagement after having previously served for 23½ years. I am told that I cannot purchase my discharge because, although my previous service counts for the purpose of pay adjustment and pension re-assessment, my present four-year term is a new and separate engagement. I think I am entitled to buy myself out for £150. — "Medic."

★ This soldier is entitled to ask for a free discharge.

Although I have two years more to serve I am obtaining a free discharge, having completed a total of 22 pensionable years. My last 12 years have been continuous. Do I qualify for the special resettlement grant of £250? — "QM."

★ No. The resettlement grant is paid only to those discharged or transferred to the Regular Reserve, at or after the end of the period for which they have engaged, having at least 15 years reckonable service of which the last ten have been continuous.

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# Soldiers Won this Naval Medal

AN extremely rare medal with an unusual history has recently come into the possession of a London firm of goldsmiths and silversmiths.

It is the Naval General Service Medal (1793-1840) awarded to Captain (later Major-General) Edward Harvey and is one of only 121 awarded to soldiers for services with the Royal Navy. It was also the first service medal ever awarded to women.

The medal was not issued until 1849, by which time many who were entitled to it had died. Many more who could have claimed it never knew of its existence.

In all, 20,901 medals were issued, one of them to Jane Townsend who was on board HMS *Defiance* at the Battle of Trafalgar. Her



The Naval General Service Medal.



The St. Jean d'Arc Medal.

son, born during the Battle of the Glorious First of June on HMS *Tremendous*, was also awarded the medal and bar but he was not able to claim it until 1848.

Of the 121 soldiers who received it (most of them for service as Marines) there were only two cavalry officers: Captain Harvey, of the 14th Light Dragoons and Lieutenant Delacy Evans, of the 3rd Dragoons.

Captain Harvey also received another rare award—the gold St. Jean d'Arc medal awarded by the Sultan of Turkey to commemorate the capture of Acre and for services with the British fleet along the Syrian coast in 1840. This medal was given to all soldiers and sailors who received the Naval General Service Bar for services in the Syrian campaign.

Last August I purchased my discharge from the Army and re-enlisted three months later in a Corps staff band. The cost of my discharge was £155, of which £100 was bounty refund. I offset the £155 against the £167 gratuity due to me. As I re-enlisted after such a short period away from the Army am I not entitled to refund of part of the purchase price?—“Bandsman.”

★ Yes. If his character was not below “fair” when he was discharged and his former service was declared when he re-enlisted for a period of not less than three years, he can claim two-thirds of the purchase money by applying in writing to his commanding officer.

## ELEVENTH GURKHAS

I have a cap-badge of the 11th Gurkha Rifles. Can SOLDIER say when the Regiment was raised and if it still forms part of the Indian Army?—H. G. Harper, 5 Craigs Avenue, Edinburgh.

★ 389 officers and men serving with the 2nd, 6th, 7th and 10th Gurkha Rifles elected to stay with the Indian Army at the time of partition and from this nucleus 11th Gurkha Rifles was formed. It still exists.

## SOUTH POLE

In “REME at the Pole” (SOLDIER, March) it is stated that “Mr. Homard, a warrant officer in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers has become the second serving soldier to reach the South Pole . . .” I am reasonably certain that Major J. M. Adam, Royal Army Medical Corps, arrived at the South Pole with Dr. L. G. C. Pugh of the Medical Research Council long before Dr. Fuchs’s party. It is admitted that Mr. Homard may be the second serving soldier to reach the Pole overland, since Major Adam flew there, to the best of my knowledge.—Lieutenant L. M. Croton, RAMC (TA), 242a Wickham Road, Shirley, Croydon.

## MSM

“R. J. B.” assesses too highly the award of the MSM for devotion to duty in a theatre of war (Letters, February).

The Army Meritorious Service Medal without annuity or gratuity was widely used in World War Two to reward services in the field which did not qualify for “gallantry” distinctions. Later, it was awarded also for deserving service in the United Kingdom, India, and the Dominions and Colonies, and Dominion and Colonial troops (except those in the Indian Army) became eligible.

Before 1916, the MSM was very sparingly issued. The rank restriction and long period of qualifying service ensured this. Old soldiers described the notification of the award and gratuity as the “preliminary obituary notice” because the recipients were usually very old. A new warrant promulgated recently has simplified the conditions for the award.

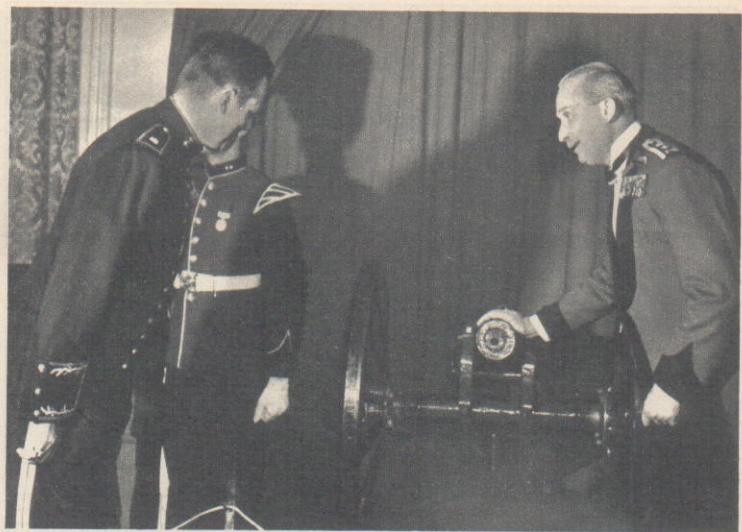
As the British Empire Medal is frequently awarded to serving troops for meritorious service and a distinctive emblem is now worn if the BEM has been awarded for gallantry, a case could be made for lapsing the MSM. I am sure there are many who think so, too.—H. M. G.

I completed 22 years service in January, 1956 and was recommended the following month for the Meritorious Service Medal. I did not receive it.

In December of the same year an Army Order was published extending the qualifying service to 27 years. In December next my Army service will terminate without a hope of my being allowed to re-engage in order to re-qualify for the medal, an award which every soldier hopes to win.—“Disappointed Warrant Officer.”

★ The number of men selected each year for the Meritorious Service Medal is limited. Anyone whose recommendation was passed over when the qualifying period was 22 years has little prospect of getting a second recommendation.

OVER...



General Sir Hugh Stockwell, Colonel of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, presents the cannon to Lieutenant-Colonel John Macgruder.

THE 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers had a welcome guest from the United States Marine Corps at their St. David’s Day celebrations at Lichfield this year.

He was Lieutenant-Colonel John H. Macgruder, who flew from the United States to receive on behalf of his Corps a 4-inch Krupps Chinese cannon captured during the Boxer Rebellion in 1900 when The Royal Welch Fusiliers and the US Marines fought side by side.

In return, the Colonel presented the Regiment with a display case containing a rifle, sword and accoutrements used by the US Marines in 1900.

The Regiment celebrated St. David’s Day in traditional manner. Drummers fixed leeks to officers’ caps (for a fee of not less than half a crown) and at the only parade of the day the rest of the Regiment

received their leeks (gold-painted and tied with the Welsh national colours). Companies then played each other at football and rugby. At lunchtime the Leek Party, consisting of the Goat-Major (with the Regimental Goat) the Drum-Major and a drummer, called at the men’s dining hall where, to the roll of drums, the youngest Fusilier in each company stood on his chair, ate a leek and toasted St. David from a loving cup with the cry “A Dewi Sant.”



## Don't Miss It!

★ If you are a serving soldier, you will be able to buy SOLDIER from your canteen. Presidents of Regimental Institutes should enquire of their Chief Education Officer for re-sale terms.

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## more letters

### IN THE FAMILY

I would like to claim a place for another family which has been awarded several Long Service and Good Conduct Medals (Letters, April). My youngest brother was the fourth member of the family to gain it.

My grandfather was awarded his while serving in the Royal Engineers; my father while in the Royal Artillery and I, like my brother, with 14/20th King's Hussars, although both of us later joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. My father and grandfather between them served for 97 years. I have two sons serving on 22-year engagements. All six, from grandfather down to the youngest grandson, enlisted as boys—Ex-Sub Conductor E. G. Slim, RAOC, Kincardine, Alloa.

My father, 90 years of age, holds the Long Service and Good Conduct medal. His total Army service was 27 years, in the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment and the Army Pay Corps. I hold the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (Army) and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (Military). I was invalided from the Army in 1949 after more than 38 years service in the Green Howards and the Royal Army Pay Corps. My younger son, still serving with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, also has the Long Service and Good Conduct medal.—H. Rigby, c/o 26 Grosvenor Terrace, Bootham, York.

★ The Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (Army) was superseded by the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (Military) in 1930.

### SAS—DOWN UNDER

I have read with great interest your articles on the Special Air Service (Artists) as I am a member of their comparable Australian regiment. Mine is a Citizen Military Force unit, equivalent to the Territorial Army in Britain, and our history can be traced back to the Sudan campaigns.

Our title is "1st Infantry Battalion City of Sydney's Own Regiment (Commando)" and we are the only Citizen Military Force regiment allowed to march through Sydney with bayonets fixed. The cap badge is a silver commando dagger with a boomerang which carries the motto "Strike Swiftly." We wear the green beret, jungle green uniforms with black webbing, and are qualified parachutists. Our activities cover jungle training, canoeing, cliff scaling, and so forth, much the same as the Special Air Service Regiment. Our strength is only about 150 but we manage to shoot off more ammunition than the rest of the Australian Army put together! My age is 19 and some day I hope to get to England.—Private Mick Downey, 11 Village Lower Road, Vaucluse, Sydney, New South Wales.

★ Private Downey is anxious to correspond with a member of the Special Air Service Regiment.

I am surprised that "Flamer" should suggest that the Special Air Service Regiment is not well known in the Army (Letters, February). As an old member of "L" Detachment (its first name) and then of 1st Special Air Service until disbandment, I have come across several instances to the contrary. The present role of the Special Air Service in Malaya is possibly not so well known, but in all parts of the world one bumps into ex-members of the unit and it is pleasant to record that *esprit-de-corps* remains very high.—Captain D. L. Danger MM, RAOC, 6 Composite Ordnance Depot, Hong Kong.

### TA TAR?

I have tried to transfer from the Royal Navy to the Regular Army and have been told that transfers from a senior to a junior service are not permitted. As my seven-year engagement with the Fleet Air Arm ends in October and I will have no Reserve liability will I be allowed to join the Territorial

Army? Incidentally, I enjoy reading SOLDIER and thank you for printing such an excellent magazine.—"Leading-Aircraftsman."

★ This man can join the Territorial Army when he is discharged from the Royal Navy if he has no Reserve liability.

### WRAC MEDAL

I enlisted in the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1940 and served until 1947. I recently joined the Women's Royal Army Corps (Territorial Army) and was given my original number and reinstated in my old rank. Do I qualify for the Efficiency Medal (Territorial Army)? If not how long must I serve in order to qualify?—"WRAC Corporal."

★ As her previous service does not count, this NCO must serve 12 years from the date of her new enlistment in order to qualify for the Efficiency Medal.

### PENSIONS

When I am discharged in the near future the last ten years of my service will have been continuous. I would like to know (a) if I shall receive the £250 resettlement grant; (b) how much pension I will get for 22 years as a private soldier; and (c) what sort of terminal grant?—"Flagstaff."

★ (a) Yes; (b) 33s. per week; (c) £125.

I enlisted in 1928 and was discharged in 1949. I was successively Gunner (six years), Bombardier (five years), Sergeant (two years) and Battery Quartermaster Sergeant (eight years). My pension is 33s. 6d. per week. Is this correct?—"Ex-Regular."

★ Yes.

### REGIMENTAL TIES

As a collector of Army regimental ties, I would like to know which regiment was the first to wear one. I have been given three different answers so far—the Guards, the Cavalry and the Yeomanry. Which is correct?—"H. Blencowe, 19 Hinguar Street, Shoeburyness."

### FOREIGN LEGION

I am a British subject whose home town is Edinburgh. I served for five years in the British Army, obtaining my discharge in 1953. I could not settle down to civilian life so joined the 2nd Parachute Regiment of the French Foreign Legion. A friend of mine, who was emigrating to Canada, recently sent me a bundle of papers and included among them was a copy of SOLDIER. I would like to have it every month but I am not allowed to send money out of the country.

At the moment I am in hospital recovering from wounds in my right arm and shoulder. My arm is in plaster down to the finger tips and I have had to learn to write with my left hand.

French soldiers outside the Legion do not know what a life of luxury they have compared with ours. We work from six a.m. to six p.m. six days a week and until midday on Sundays.—Légionnaire S. Phillip, 2 R.E.P., Hospital Militaire, S.P. 87661, French North Africa, A.F.N.

★ Any reader who wishes to obtain the French Foreign Legion magazine "Képi Blanc" in exchange for his copy of SOLDIER should write to Légionnaire Phillip.

• • • • • • • • •  
HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(See page 26)

The drawings differ in the following details: 1. Leaves on right of tree. 2. Slope of roof at left. 3. "Y" in "COMPANY." 4. Number of drops of water. 5. Top handle of watering can. 6. Height of window. 7. Depth of notice board. 8. Lower opening of officer's jacket. 9. Fork handle. 10. Dog's tail.

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