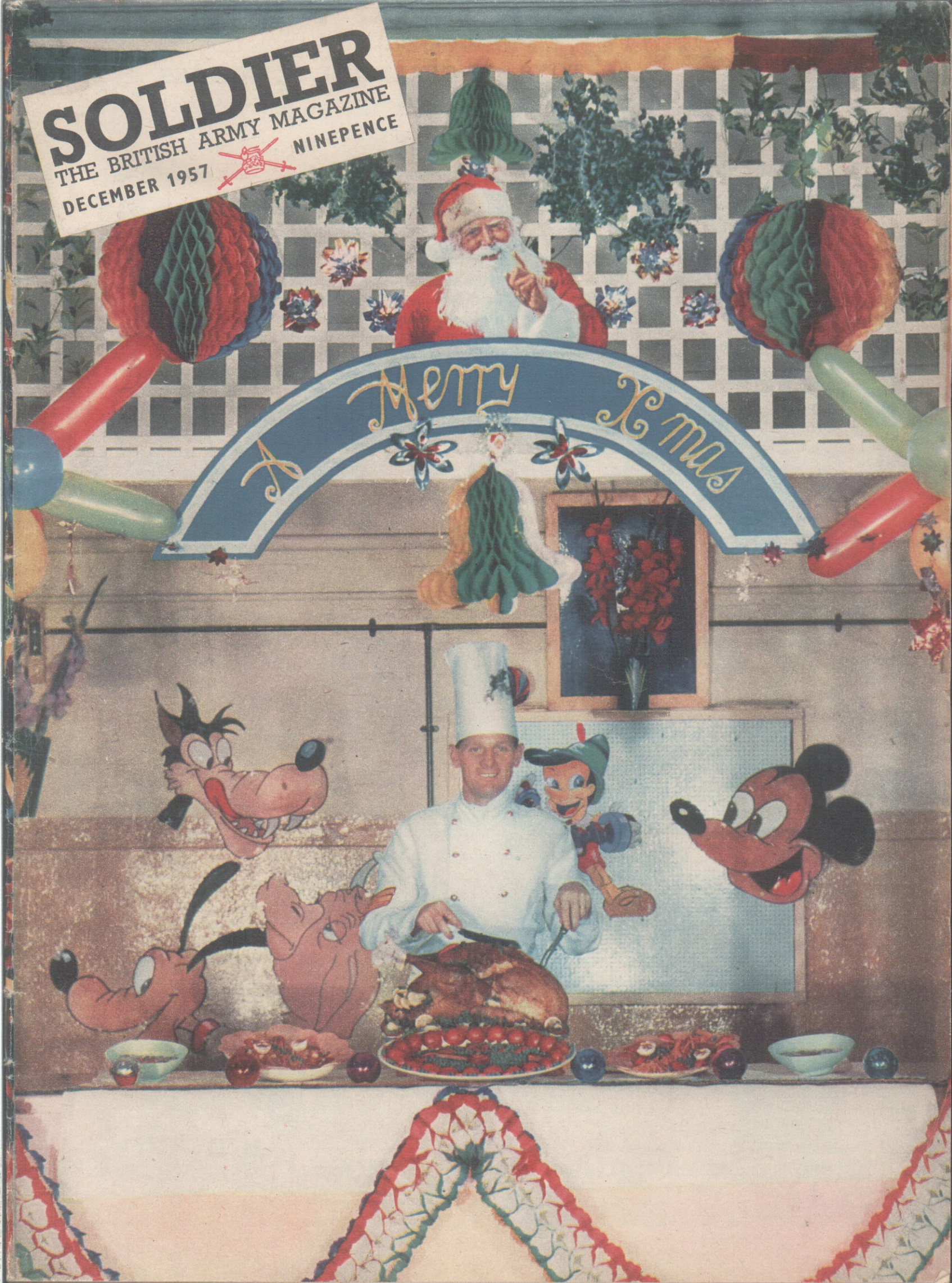


SOLDIER

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE
DECEMBER 1957

NINEPENCE



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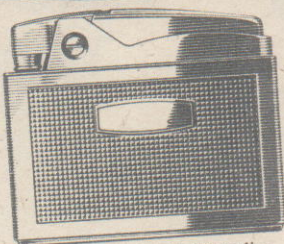


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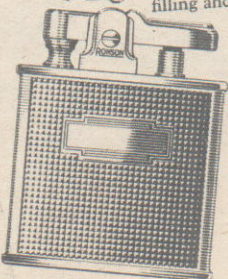
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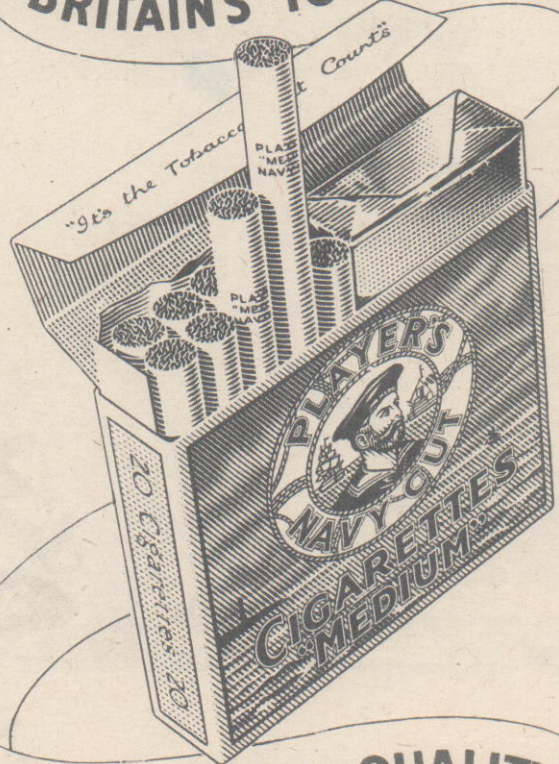


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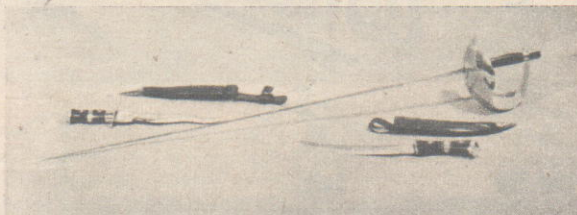
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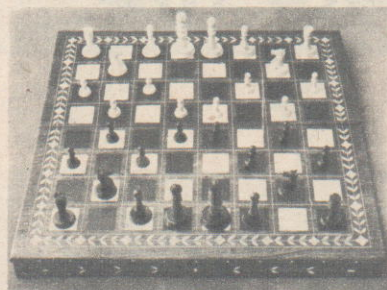
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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Let's have you, now! Three ranks outside!
That man there, get those laces tied!
Right! What we're going on with now
Is Christmas greetings. Stop that row!

A GREETING, then, to every man
From Uist to York, from Homs to Gan,*
To soldiers on the deep, deep blue
With Asian brides or Asian flu,
To NATO, SEATO, NORTHAG, SHAPE,
To every blue-behind-ed ape
That fidgets on Gibraltar Rock,
To Mick and Geordie, Taffy, Jock,
To all whose leave has been denied,
Whose knees are brown, whose flesh has dried,
Good will and peace this Christmas-tide!

TO all the axed, to all the merged,
To all the posted and the purged,
To those who now must grow new roots,
To all who wait for dead men's boots,
To RSF and HLI
(And may they yet see eye to eye!)
To all battalion skiffle groups,
To all who ride at blazing hoops,
To Customs men who shut their eyes,
To NAAFI girls of every size,
To boys who practise bugle calls,
To browned-off squaddies punting balls
On dusty deserts, six-a-side,
Or dreaming . . . dreaming misty-eyed—
Of Old Kent Road and eggs-and-fried—
Good will and peace this Christmas-tide!

TO those who serve with Beasts and Bats
And Thunderbirds, to cookhouse cats,
To watchmen in abandoned camps,
To regimental boxing champs,
To riot squads restoring order,
To watchers on the Chinese border,

* You're wrong, by several thousand miles,
You'll find it in the Maldive Isles.

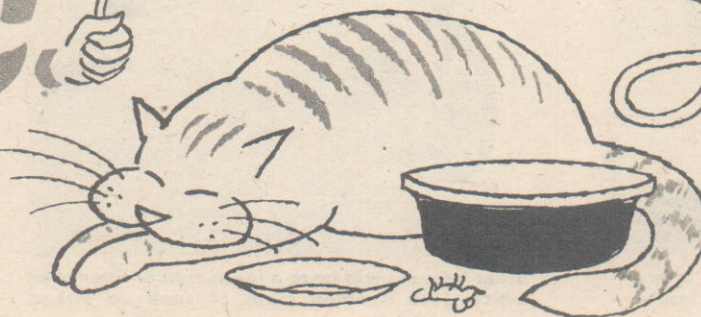
To all in DEW†-Line radar posts,
To sweating men on Trucial coasts,
To Gunners on Malayan ridges,
And Coldstream Guardsmen testing bridges,
To privates sniffing handsome blooms
In smart new barrack sitting-rooms,
To sergeants round their TV sets,
To sleeping WRACs with hair in nets,
To those who do impressive tricks
With swords and maces, staves and sticks,
To all who swagger as they stride,
Or polish floors till generals slide,
Or wash the coal with guilty pride—
Good will and peace this Christmas-tide!

TO all who hunt for buried mines
Or pay out men in long, long lines,
To all who pen official prose,
To Housey-Housey schools, to those
Who sit upon Top Secret files,
Or introduce new bloomer styles,
To all the brave who face exams,
To RSMs caught pushing prams,
To CSE's hard-working funsters,
To shades of Leinsters, Connaughts, Munsters,
To Guards lieutenants sent to slay
Rampaging bulls (Olé! Olé!)
To all whose doors say "Knock and Enter,"
To zealots in the hobbies centre,
To Television's "Army Game"
(It's pretty grisly, all the same),
To delegates from Parliament
Inquiring how the cash is spent,
To all our critics in the Press,
To Mr. Sandys, and even—yes,
That councillor of Eastleigh, Hants,
And all his fellow maiden aunts,
Who thought the tone of SOLDIER low,
To all who find that life is slow,
To all in khaki, far and wide,
Whose tasks remain unspecified,
To all whose valour is untried,
Who feel a shade mixed up inside,
Whose women nag, whose trucks collide,
Whose feet are cold, whose dogs have died—
Good will and peace this Christmas-tide!

And now we've had enough of this.
Cut out the talk! Parade—Dismiss!

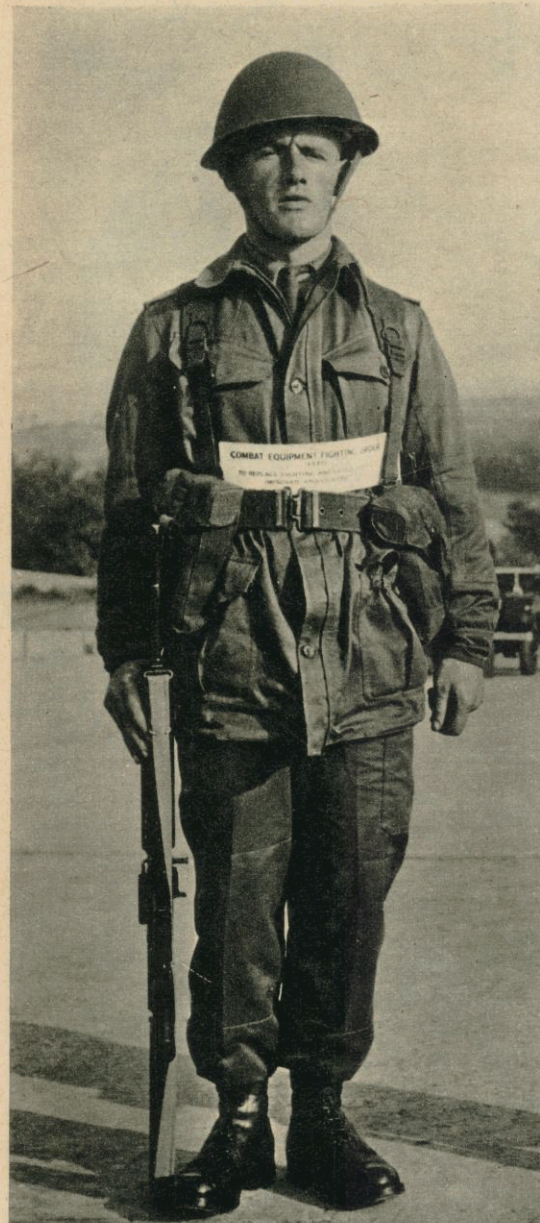
† How very dense we are this morning!
It stands for Distant Early Warning.

E.S.T.



A NEW LOOK FOR

The Infantryman of the future will be more comfortably clothed and equipped. A new battle outfit will include a more efficient web equipment and a cape-cum-bivouac.



Front view of the new Combat Equipment Fighting Order showing the two side pouches which will contain ammunition and grenades.



Back view of the new Combat Equipment Marching Order. Note the larger pack and two pouches for rations, mess tin and water bottle.



The boot that will never be repaired. It has a moulded rubber sole and a plastic insole.



Steel helmets will have a foam rubber liner over which goes a nylon cloth to soak up sweat.

A NEW battle outfit for the Infantryman is on the way. It includes a new web equipment, more comfortable to wear than the present type, an improved Korea-style combat dress, rubber-soled boots with nylon laces, a waterproof cape which will also serve as a bivouac, and a new foam rubber liner for the steel helmet.

When the world-wide troop trials which are now in progress are completed, Infantry battalions will begin to receive the new equipment and clothing, some of which will be modified for issue to men in other Arms, notably to Gunners, paratroopers and tankmen.

SOLDIER recently had a preview of these things to come at a demonstration at the School of Infantry in Warminster, by men of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers dressed and equipped in the future battle kit.

First to catch the eye was the new web equipment made of dark green canvas (which it will be an offence to blanco) and fitted with non-reflective anodised brass buckles (which the soldier will be forbidden to polish). It is designed for comfort by spreading the load more evenly over the soldier's body and keeping the front of his body clear of encumbrances. It can be quickly assembled and adjusted on the march.

The shoulder straps, which are almost twice as wide as the present type, are thickly padded with foam rubber. From them hang the pack and four pouches, one at each side (for ammunition and grenades) and two underneath the pack at the back (for rations, mess tin, water bottle and spare pair of socks). The shoulder straps pass under each arm so that the wearer may loosen or unclasp the belt without the pack or pouches slipping out of position. Quick release straps enable him to adjust or even jettison the pack in a matter of seconds.

The pack, which is much larger than the present one, contains personal clothing, a parka (which replaces the greatcoat on active service) and blankets or a combat sleeping bag. Below the two pouches at the back is carried a waterproof and gasproof cape and, fastened to a yoke between the shoulder blades and a quick release strap below the pouches, is a pick or shovel which will replace the entrenching tool.

It will take the soldier only seconds to change from Marching Order to Fighting Order; all he has to do is jettison his pack. He is then left with all he needs to fight for 24 hours.

The new combat suit is an improved version of that worn in Korea. The wind-proof smock (for temperate climates) is made of sateen and has a water-repellent lining which also allows the

THE INFANTRY

air to circulate freely round the body. It has a detachable hood, a "poacher's" pocket at the back and a pencil pocket in front. Breast pockets slope inwards for easy access. Combat trousers are made of the same material as the smock. The new parka for use in cold climates is now fitted with a "cod-piece" which passes between the legs.

One new item the Infantryman will particularly welcome is the calf-length Cape GS which replaces both the groundsheet and the gas cape. Made of waterproof nylon, it can be worn over full equipment and has a hood which fits over the steel helmet. The lower half unbuttons round the waist and when attached to another cape makes a two-man bivouac; six feet long and four feet wide.

The Infantryman (and soldiers in most other Arms as well) will also wear moulded rubber-soled boots fitted with washable plastic insoles and tied with nylon laces. These boots will never be re-

paired; the uppers will have worn out by the time the soles have worn thin and the boots will be sent for salvage.

The soldiers who posed at Warminster also wore the new-style steel helmet liner made of foam rubber and protected by nylon stockingette to soak up sweat. All steel helmets will be the same size, adjusted to fit the individual by the thickness of the lining. A new plastic water-bottle which fits into the mess tin and has a screw top and drinking cup was also on show.

Many other items of clothing and equipment are soon to undergo troop trials. They include a suit for tank and armoured car crews, long pants to be worn with combat trousers in very cold weather, improved denims made of unshrinkable material and terylene socks. New cooking stoves, safer and easier to operate than the present ones, are being designed. Experiments are also being carried out with plastic water-repellent camouflage nets and scrim.



In cold climates the soldier will wear a "fur-lined" parka with a hood and cod-piece.



The new cape which replaces the groundsheet and gas cape can be used as a bivouac.

SOLDIER to Soldier

THE great anxiety to the chief military authority in a free country must be to obtain a supply of recruits. Where a population is fond of independence and domestic life, where the wages of the farm or factory compete with the barrack, the military authorities can have no sinecure. Vain will be the exhortations to support the honour and dignity of the State unless they lead to measures which will make the artisans and ploughmen willing to enlist.

The leader writer of *The Times*, who wrote this 100 years ago, would not have to alter one word today. The Army's recruiting problems in 1957 are virtually the same as in 1857, except perhaps that the lure of civilian life is even stronger.

Only the foolish or habitually hopeful would expect men to flock to the Colours in peacetime if they could do better for themselves as civilians. The Army's task, therefore, is to convince young men, not only civilians but also National Servicemen and those at present on a three-year engagement, that the Army is at least as good an employer as any civilian firm.

In the near future this should not be difficult to prove. As SOLDIER went to press, an announcement on new conditions of service—to include, it was thought, increases in pay and marriage allowances and the issue of a new walking-out dress—was expected. New combat clothing and equipment (details

of which are given in this issue) are also on the way. The War Minister, Mr. John Hare, has said that within the next six to ten years barrack accommodation and married quarters will be brought at least up to civilian standards.

The private soldier of the future who signs on for six years (now the minimum period of Colour service) is likely to receive about £5 a week and "all found." "All found" means free food, accommodation, clothing, heat, light and fuel so that the private soldier in barracks will have about £5 a week to spend as he pleases. How many civilians have that much money in their pockets after they have met all their commitments? It is a thought that all National Servicemen and those at present serving a three-year engagement would be wise to ponder well before deciding to rush back into Civvy Street.

But good pay, security and comfort will not appeal to all men. Ways must also be found to attract the adventurous. As Major-General R. H. Hewitson, who commands 4th Infantry Division in Germany, wrote

recently in his divisional magazine: "We must not become so soft or well-housed that we are unwilling or unable to move at short notice by air, sea and road and FIGHT... A life of adventure and physical fitness will appeal if the job can be made exciting and worthwhile."

PROSPECTS for those officers, warrant officers and sergeants who will be compelled to leave the Army through redundancy in the next four years, look bright.

Sir Frederic Hooper, chairman of the Regular Forces Resettlement Service, has said that an increasing number of vacancies for redundant Servicemen are becoming available. Industry is rapidly expanding and there are not enough suitable men to fill all the posts. About half the officers to be "axed" will be between the ages of 35 and 46 and it should be easier to place them in industry in the future than in the past.

But there should be no room for complacency. The problem will not be easily solved and much will depend on the efforts of the "axed" themselves.

SOLDIER heartily applauds the commanding officer of the 4th Hussars (Sir Winston Churchill's old regiment) who by advertising in a daily newspaper has received sufficient offers from civilian firms to employ all the

officers and men in his regiment who will become redundant.

ONE of the most remarkable cloak-and-dagger exploits of World War Two has been revealed by the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Montagu Chidson DSO, who stole more than a million pounds worth of industrial diamonds from under the very noses of the Germans.

It happened in 1940, when the Germans over-ran Holland and occupied the building where the bulk of the industrial diamonds in Amsterdam were locked in a huge steel safe. Colonel Chidson, then aged 47, offered to bring them back to England. With two Dutchmen, he went to Holland by destroyer and the three made their way to Amsterdam. They entered the vaults (Germans were occupying the top floors), opened the safe, poured the diamonds into a sack and made their way back to the Dutch coast. After a nightmare journey through the minefields in a tug they met up with the destroyer and the Colonel climbed aboard, bearing on his back a sack containing £1,250,000 worth of diamonds. He was awarded the DSO.

Colonel Chidson, who served in World War One as a pilot in the Royal Flying Corps and was the first British pilot to claim the destruction of a German aircraft, never spoke of his exploit in Amsterdam. If friends asked questions he always replied, "I was only doing my job."



The Deputy Lord Mayor takes the salute as the Grenadier Guards swing round the Mansion House on their ceremonial march through the City of London.

THOUSANDS of Londoners thronged the streets to watch a famous regiment exercising an age-old right: the Grenadier Guards were marching through the City of London with Colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed.

The 1st Battalion was on its way from Germany to new quarters at Pirbright Camp and had arrived by train at Liverpool Street Station to claim the ancient privilege.

Led by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Whitworth, mounted on a grey, the Battalion marched to the City boundary at the junction of Liverpool Street and Old Broad Street, where the City Marshal, a colourful figure on horseback, waited in the middle of the road. The Battalion halted and the Colonel rode forward to be challenged with the words: "Who Comes There?"

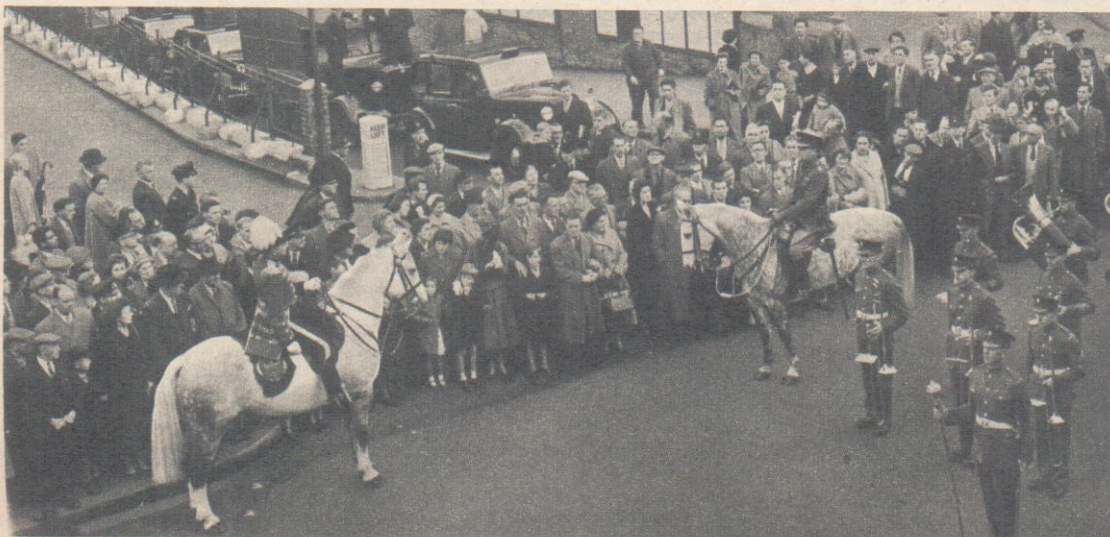
"The 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards," replied the Colonel, "exercising the ancient privilege and right to enter the City of London with Colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed."

Thereupon the City Marshal gave permission for the Battalion to enter the City and placed himself at the head of the column, leading it along Old Broad Street to the Mansion House, where the Deputy Lord Mayor, Sir George Wilkinson, took the salute, into Queen Victoria Street and on to Blackfriars Bridge. At the City boundary on the bridge the Battalion halted again, cased the Colours and unfixed bayonets, before marching to Waterloo Railway Station en route for Pirbright.

The Grenadier Guards have had the right to march through the City of London with bayonets fixed, Colours flying and drums beating since the late 1600s when many regiments (most of them now disbanded) were granted warrants to recruit there. Originally only the 3rd Battalion of the Grenadier Guards, which claimed to be the sole battalion of the Regiment raised in London, was granted the privilege but in 1915 it was extended to all battalions.

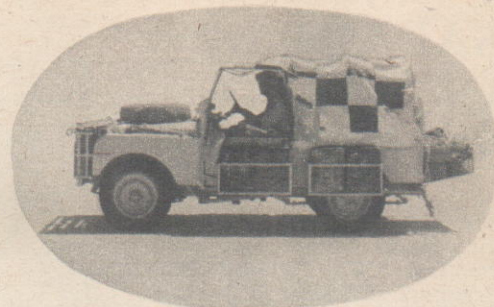
Other regiments which also enjoy the privilege are the Coldstream Guards, The Buffs, The Royal Fusiliers, The Honorable Artillery Company, the 5th Battalion Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and the Royal Marines.

"Colours Flying . . . And Bayonets Fixed"



The City Marshal challenges the Grenadier Guards at the City boundary in Liverpool Street.

A TEAM OF SOLDIERS FROM TRIPOLI ACCOMPANIED A SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION TO THE SAHARA DESERT AND EXPLORED THE TIBESTI MOUNTAINS, AN AREA ALMOST UNKNOWN TO THE WHITE MAN



Above: A Land-rover painted in recognition squares and modified to carry extra supplies.

Major T. E. St. Aubyn, of the King's Royal Rifle Corps, led the military party. He was quite at home on a camel, having served in the Sudan Defence Force.

to the sparsely inhabited Tibesti Mountains, the highest range in the Central Sahara region of French Equatorial Africa, where few white men have set foot. It was the first British expedition of its kind. A German scientist partly explored the region some 80 years ago.

For 82 days the party travelled across the desert and through the mountains, in sweltering heat by day and intense cold in the hills at night, through occasional sand and dust storms and cloud bursts, sleeping out each night under the stars with not even a tent for protection.

They carried their own food, water and petrol supplies, set up their own storage dumps and when the going became too rough for motor vehicles, took to camels and donkeys. They took part in an international football match with the French Army in a soft sandy river bed, shot gazelle and wild sheep for a change of diet and made friends with the shy Tebou tribesmen, many of whom had seen only a few white men before.

The planning of the expedition, which was led by Mr. Roger Akester, a 35-year-old veterinary demonstrator at Cambridge University, whose party included two other scientists, three students, a Sapper lieutenant and a Royal

OVER...

SAFARI IN THE SAHARA

A CONVOY of Army vehicles, canopies painted in black and white desert recognition squares, drove into Azizia Barracks, Tripoli. Two officers and seven men of 10th Armoured Division climbed out and shook hands to celebrate the end of a journey which had taken them 4000 miles into the heart of the Sahara desert and back again in mid-summer.

They had left Tripoli three months before to accompany an expedition of eight Cambridge University scientists and students

Much of the journey was over undulating desert like this stretch between El Gatroun and Zouar.

SAFARI IN THE SAHARA *continued*

Marine Commando officer, began several months ago when the War Office detailed 10th Armoured Division to provide men and vehicles.

Major T. E. St. Aubyn, of the King's Royal Rifle Corps, a headquarters staff officer who has served with the Sudan Defence Force, was chosen to lead the military party and he found no lack of volunteers to fill the other eight vacancies. Each man had to be self-reliant, physically tough, prepared to live rough for a long period and be easy to get along with. Seven of them—to drive the four Land-rovers and three three-ton lorries—also had to be good driver-mechanics for there would be no breakdown services in the middle of the Sahara and all repairs would have to be carried out on the spot. (As it turned out, the only serious breakdown was when one Land-rover suffered a broken differential which was soon put right.)

Finally, after several trial drives in the Libyan Desert (one of up to 500 miles) the following team was chosen to accompany Major St. Aubyn: Second-Lieutenant G. P. Cross-



Lieutenant W. Marks, of the Royal Engineers, was one of the eight-man team from Cambridge University.



Another style in headgear is worn by Lieutenant R. Tuck, Royal Marines, a mountaineer in the University party.



Corporal John Roberts, of the 9th Lancers, was one of the military team which went on an eight-day camel trip.

man, King's Royal Rifle Corps; Staff-Sergeant Lou Batten, Sergeant John Brennan, Sergeant Robert Atkins, all of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers; Sergeant Peter Ward, Intelligence Corps; Sergeant Peter Sharples, 3rd Hussars and Corporal Jack Roberts, 9th Lancers.

Vehicles were modified to carry extra supplies and each Land-rover was equipped with special cages to hold eight jerrycans of petrol and two of water. The longest stretches between known water points was expected to be five days so a ten-day ration was allowed in case of accidents. The canopies of each vehicle were

painted in black and white squares so that they would easily be recognised from the air or ground if they broke down or got lost. All spare parts had to be carried.

Each man had to travel in plain clothes as he would be staying in French territory and was allowed to take only up to 60 lbs of luggage, including his bedroll and rucksack. Most of them started off with boots and long khaki drill trousers and hats but as they went along changed them for roomier Arab camel trousers, sandals and turbans. The turbans were invaluable not only for keeping out swirling sand and sun but for keep-

ing warm at night by using them as cummerbunds. For food the party carried compo rations and dehydrated and tinned items and each man was allowed to take up to 12 bottles of liquid refreshment—ranging from whisky to barley water. Cooking was likely to be a problem so before the party left Major St. Aubyn purchased a supply of volcano kettles which, heated by dried camel's dung or a few twigs boil three pints of water in two minutes.

Two days after the Cambridge University party arrived by sea in Tripoli the expedition set off for the Sahara by way of Misrata and struck southwards for Sebha, the capital of the Fezzan,



Left: A Tebou tribesman marks the route in the Tibesti Mountains with a delicately balanced pile of stones.

Right: A Tebou tribal chief from the Beni Erdi area of the Tibesti Mountains.

Below, left: Tebou girls dance in honour of the expedition. All Tebou women wear rings in their noses.

Tebou children pose for the camera.





On the journey from El Gatroun to Zouar the expedition saw no sign of life—but many fantastically shaped rocks. Left: A “totem pole” rock near Zouar.



Right: A close-up of boiling sands at Sherda.



This hollow rock, its inside blown away by the winds of centuries, was discovered on the journey from El Gatroun to Zouar.

some 600 miles from Tripoli. This first leg over fairly good roads took only three days, most of the driving being done early in the morning and in the evening.

At Sebha, where petrol and food were dumped for the return journey and fresh water was taken aboard, the expedition halted for two days for a guide to take them to El Gatroun, 200 miles away, on a route that lies across a corner of the Great Mourzouk Sand Sea.

It was here that the first casualties occurred. Although the

column started early in the morning when the sand is cold and at its firmest, two vehicles quickly bogged down but were speedily extricated by metal sand channels and much digging. On several other occasions on this stretch some of the heavily laden three-tonners sank to their axles and had to be hauled out.

The next stage from El Gatroun to Zouar, a French village on the south-west corner of the Tibesti Mountains, presented a profusion of swiftly changing scenery, from bare, undulating sand to brightly

coloured rocks of fantastic shapes and sizes. For three days the expedition saw no sign of life—not even flies. Often the going was hard and vehicles were only seldom in top gear—but there was not one breakdown. The men were also standing up to the conditions well. The heat was greater than in Tripoli but the atmosphere was drier. Sand temperatures often reached 140 degrees. One obstacle the column overcame with remarkable ease was the 100-ft. high sand dune towering in front of the Korizo Pass.

Each vehicle was driven up separately along the sand channels belonging to them all.

At Zouar, where the party had their first sight of a French Army fort built in the P.C. Wren style, Sergeant Sharples and Corporal Roberts were left behind to man a petrol and food dump and two civilian geographers went off on camels to explore the mountains north-west of Zouar.

The rest pushed on to Bardai, 170 miles from Zouar, climbing most of the way over steep, craggy rocks. On the way they

OVER...

The 100-ft. high sand-dune guarding the Korizo Pass. The black dots in the foreground are the expedition's vehicles.



SAHARA continued

explored the famous extinct volcano crater *Trou au Natron* (Hole of Salt) which lies 7000-ft. up in the Tibesti Mountains and is believed to have been formed by a tremendous subterranean explosion in prehistoric times.

The hole, which is three miles in diameter, shelves precipitously to the salt floor 2500-ft. below but this did not prevent the expedition climbing down to inspect the four small peaks which had once spouted lava. Second-Lieutenant Crossman walked round the edge of the crater (it took him six hours). Meanwhile Sergeant Ward made friends with some Tebou tribesmen and women with whom he and other members of the party had a meal of bread, hammered on a rock and cooked in fat, in exchange for chocolate and sweets. Extremely shy (almost all refused to pose for photographs) the Tebou scratch a living out of the desert by cultivating date palms and tiny plots of poor earth and keeping goats. The men do all the needlework and never eat in the presence of women.

In Bardai, a French Army garrison village in the western central massive, the party arrived on Bastille Day—14 July—in time to take part in festivities which included camel and donkey races and an international football match between the French and British. After a few minutes the Tebou tribesmen joined in

and the game quickly developed into a 30-a-side rough and tumble mixture of soccer and rugby. The result was inconclusive. In the evening members of the expedition, with tribal chiefs, were guests at a French Army dinner, sitting down to whole roast goat eaten with the fingers.

Leaving Sergeant Flynn and Craftsman Atkins in charge of a fuel and food dump, the rest of the party then made their way to Emi Koussi, the highest peak in the Tibesti Mountains, on top of which lies another extinct volcano crater. After three days the route became impassable to motor vehicles so Major St. Aubyn hired 18 camels to carry the party (less Sergeant Ward left behind to look after the trucks) to the top of the peak. Four and a half days later they reached the summit and spent two days exploring the crater bed.

The expedition remained in the heart of the Tibesti Mountains for nearly nine weeks studying rock formations, climbing, photographing and collecting specimens of animal and plant life. Major St. Aubyn with Second-Lieutenant Crossman, Sergeant Flynn and Craftsman Atkins also visited Soborom, a mass of mysterious hot sulphur springs 7000-ft. up in the mountains.

Sergeant Brennan and Sergeant Ward accompanied two civilian zoologists on a two-weeks' study of the customs of the Tebou



It isn't always hot in the Sahara. Staff-Sergeant Lou Batten (right) and Mr. C. Silver, a scientist, brew up at the top of Emi Koussi, highest peak in the Tibesti Mountains.

tribe. They learned that the tribal cure for all pains is to place a heated pebble on the affected part which seemed to remove the pain but left the patient scarred for life. They also saw a demonstration of "letting the evil spirits out of a man" by cutting a hole in his head with a rough-hewn chisel.

Accompanied by a Tebou camelier, Second-Lieutenant Crossman also climbed the Ehi Mousgou, one of the highest peaks in the Tibesti range, a feat which was later repeated by Sergeant Brennan and Staff-Sergeant Batten.

Before the return journey which thanks to planning of food and fuel dumps and good vehicle maintenance went without a hitch, Major St. Aubyn with

Second-Lieutenant Crossman, Sergeant Sharples and Corporal Roberts went off on an eight-day camel trip to Sherda and came across some deep rock pools alive with small fish, up to four inches long and similar to whitebait. It was in this area, too, that the expedition saw troops of baboons, sometimes as many as 50 to a troop, gazelle, wild sheep, hares and many types of birds. There were also scorpions, spiders, hornets, rats, bats, marine shrimps and snakes, specimens of which were caught and taken home to Britain.

Most of the soldiers also brought back souvenirs to Tripoli, among them a baby vulture which Craftsman Atkins presented to his commanding officer.



The Trou au Natron, showing the four extinct volcano peaks on the floor of salt. The crater is three miles across and is believed to have been formed in prehistoric times.



THE GOVERNOR DROPS IN

Sir John Harding talks to the village mukhtar (headman) at Pendants. Informality was the keynote of his tour. Below: Under the Coca-Cola signs in a coffee-house at Timi, Sir John listens to a plea for the release of detainees.

IN Cyprus the terrorists had called a temporary truce and for the first time in many months British soldiers walked about without fear of being shot in the back.

The lull in lawlessness gave the Governor, Field-Marshal Sir John Harding, his first real chance of meeting the people of Cyprus face to face and talking over their problems in the intimacy of their homes, in the coffee houses and in the monasteries.

Travelling by helicopter and staff car, with an escort of three armoured cars, Sir John made four extensive tours in the Larnaca, Lefka and Paphos areas. In a score of villages he met Greek and Turkish officials and answered any question they cared to ask. To one—"Will you release the political detainees?" the reply was always the same: "It is EOKA and not I that keeps people in detention. I cannot consider releasing them until I am convinced that terrorism has ended for good."





OLD-FASHIONED WAR ON

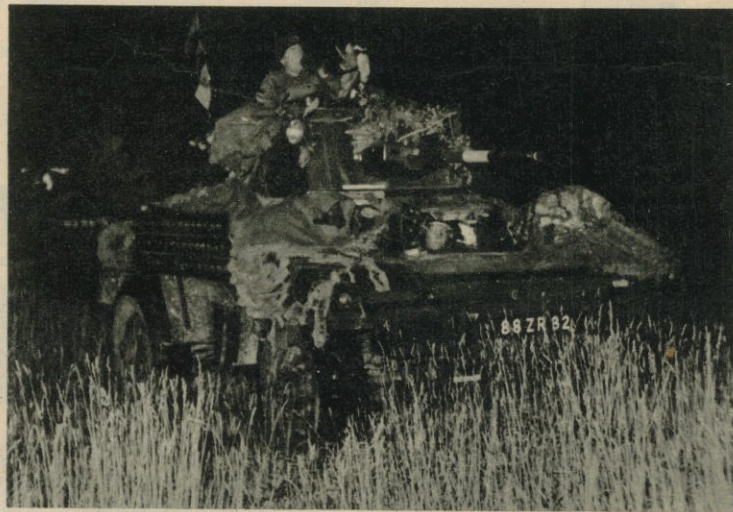
THERE were no nuclear complications in "Autumn Flight," the Army's biggest exercise in Britain this year. Instead, it was an old-fashioned "war" designed to teach the men of 3rd Infantry Division that it is not enough to dig and die in static positions. Mobility was the keynote.

Salisbury Plain was the battlefield over which the old enemies Britannica and Fantasia fought for the possession of an oil well at Tidworth. Britannica's forces were soon in action when about 1200 men of the Scots Guards, Irish Guards and Royal Scots Fusiliers flew in Beverley and Hastings aircraft of Royal Air Force Transport Command from Odiham to Colerne. They then marched at high speed for 22

miles to take up positions overlooking Imber.

Hostilities opened with a two-pronged attack on Imber after which the Guards, supported by Centurion tanks of 8th Royal Tank Regiment and 7th and 10th Royal Hussars and armoured cars of the Life Guards (which fought for both sides) met stiff opposition on the River Avon. The only bridge had been blown

In a daring night drop on Salisbury Plain, paratroopers played havoc with the "enemy" in the biggest Army manoeuvres in Britain this year. The accent was on mobility



Left: A Scots Guards piper plays the Irish Guards aboard a Beverley at Odiham airport. Above: Armoured cars of D Squadron, The Life Guards, roar into action at night against the paratroopers.

by 25 Field Engineer Regiment and the Irish Guards were forced to wade thigh-deep across the river in face of heavy machine-gun fire from 1st Battalion, The West Yorkshire Regiment.

Highlight of the exercise was a night drop with the aid of flares by 150 men of 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. Major General G. C. Gordon Lennox DSO (who commanded 5th Battalion Grenadier Guards at Anzio in World War Two from a stretcher in a regimental aid post) described it as the most impressive exploit of its kind he had ever seen.

The Paratroopers took the enemy completely by surprise. Before the landing they dropped dummies which set off flares and

simulated automatic small arms fire miles away from the real landing zone. After an approach march of four miles they spent the night on a series of impudent raids on enemy positions. They virtually neutralised a complete regiment of artillery, cut telephone wires and issued false orders and all but captured an enemy brigade headquarters.

It was further proof, if proof is still needed, that a small force of determined men dropped deep into enemy territory can achieve success out of all proportion to their numbers.

Mobility was also the keynote of "Long Hop," Northern Command's largest exercise for many years. No. 24 Independent Infantry Brigade, which is held in con-



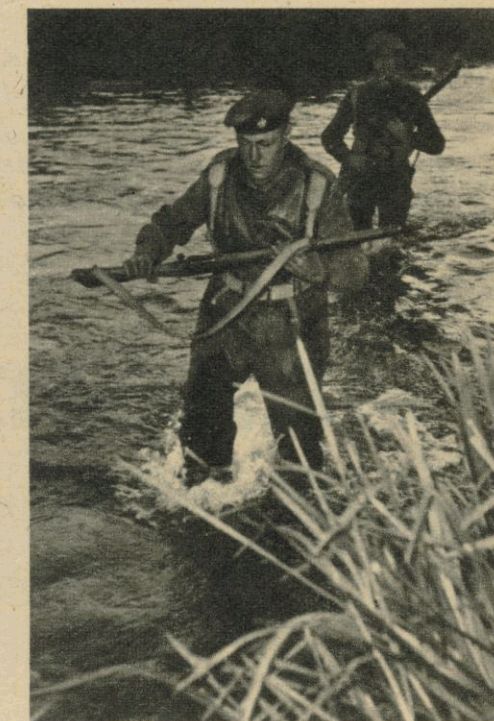
Left: The Irish Guards advance in open order across Salisbury Plain. Above: Cpl. G. Waddell, West Yorkshire Regiment, draws a bead on the men from Britannica.

THE PLAIN

Pictures; SOLDIER Cameraman PETER O'BRIEN



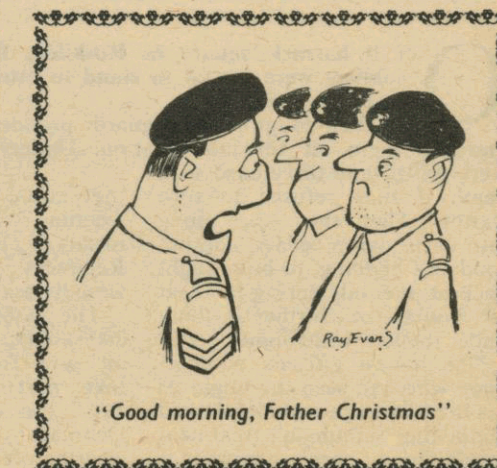
With an electric lamp a paratrooper guides stragglers to the rendezvous. Below: In the early hours of the morning the Irish Guards waded thigh-deep across the River Avon.




Above: A Centurion tank of 8th Royal Tank Regiment takes a long range shot at enemy armour. Below: In the bag. A paratrooper shepherds his captives to a prison cage.

stant readiness at Barnard Castle to fly anywhere in the world to put down riots, travelled by train to Swindon and then flew back to Northern England in Beverleys and Hastings to quell disorders there.

At present 24 Independent Infantry Brigade Group consists of the 1st Battalions of The King's Own, The York and Lancaster Regiment and the Durham Light Infantry with a squadron of Life Guards in armoured cars and detachments of Sappers, Signallers, Royal Army Service Corps, Royal Army Medical Corps and men of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Also under command is 215 Squadron Royal Air Force equipped with six Pioneer aircraft.





From the air and from the sea British soldiers "invaded" Denmark in NATO's "Brown Jug" exercise. The air drop was the largest in Europe since the war

"MAKE IT TOUGH" SAID THE S.A.S.

From their Flying Boxcars United States paratroopers leap on to Danish soil.

ON a barrack square in Roskilde, Denmark, 30 British soldiers were forced to stand to attention, almost naked, in the icy rain.

Their tough-looking guards prodded them into line and marched them off for interrogation. Under piercing lights they were grilled and threatened with death if they refused to turn traitor. Then they were flung into dark, damp cellars, without food and bedding, to be brought back at intervals during the next 30 hours for further grilling under the hot, white lights.

The honest citizens of Roskilde who had seen the plight of the British troops and complained about this "inhuman" treatment would have been surprised if

they could have spoken to the "victims." The soldiers—Territorials of 21st Special Air Service Regiment (Artists Rifles)—had actually asked to be ill-treated.

The prisoners were some of the 200 saboteurs who had landed by air and from small boats to take part in exercise "Brown Jug," the largest ever held in Denmark. They had made it clear before they started that they

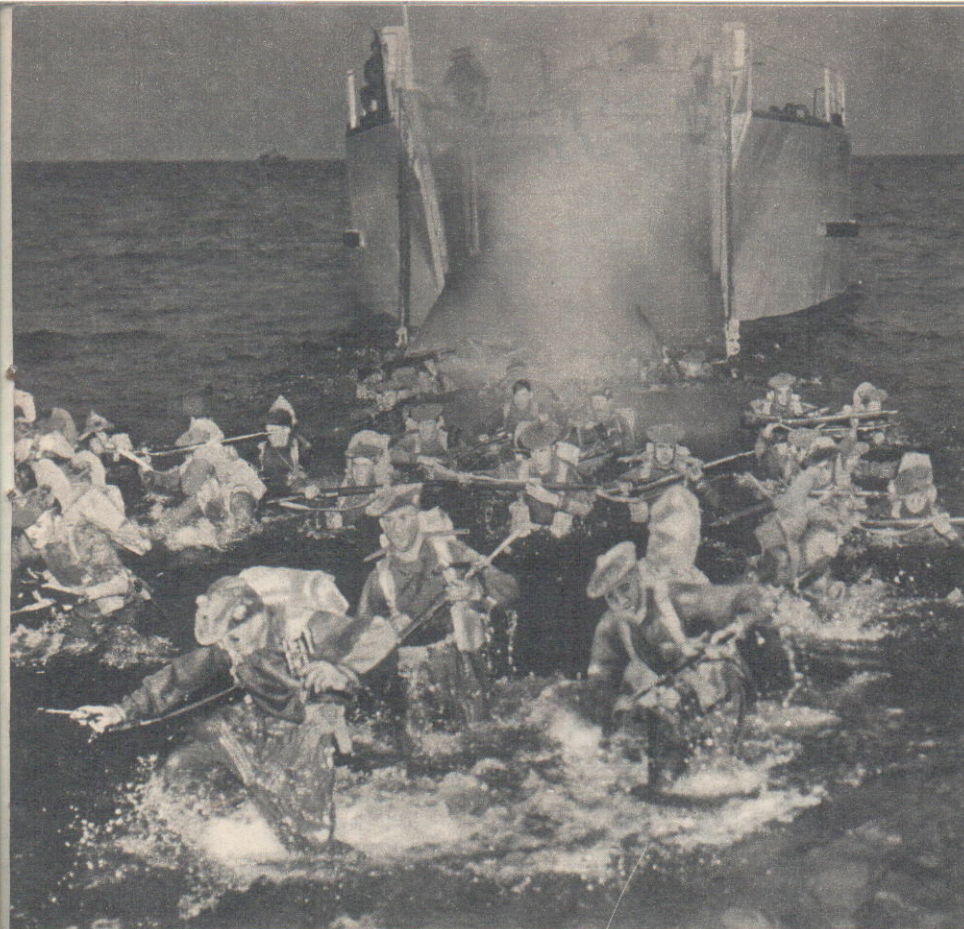
not only expected to be treated roughly but wanted it that way. As a spokesman of the Regiment said: "Rough handling is right up our street. The men must expect it because they will be carrying vital information and they must develop a special brand of endurance, mental and physical, if they are caught."

Exercise "Brown Jug" was a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation manoeuvre in which the sea, land and air forces of seven countries—Britain, the United States, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and Western Germany—took part. It involved the

"invasion" of the Stevns Peninsula, south of Copenhagen, by 4000 men and included the biggest airborne drop in Europe since World War Two.

First into action were more than 100 saboteurs of 21st Special Air Service Regiment who were flown from Britain to drop in small parties on targets far inland while Royal Marine Commandos and other SAS men raided harbours and coastal installations from the sea.

At first light on the day of the main assault men of the 1st Battalion, The Highland Light Infantry, stormed ashore from



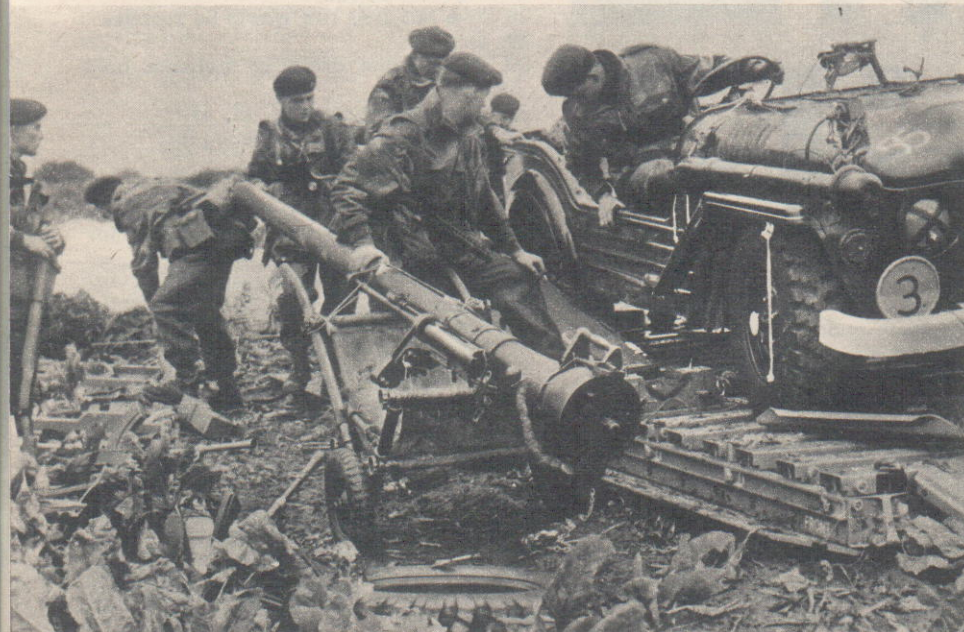
The Highland Light Infantry assault the Danish coast to the strains of "Scotland the Brave" played by a piper on the landing craft.



Men of the 42nd Royal Marine Commando who raided Rödvig by night, wait for the order to move on.



Under the friendly cover of a hedge men of the Highland Light Infantry push forward to the next objective.



British paratroopers manhandle their "Champ" after it has landed in a Danish turnip field. Note the hand-drawn trolley.



The Women's Royal Air Force helped to man a telephone exchange. Left to right: Senior Aircraftwomen Jean Wiltish, Pamela Davies and Cecilia Shaw.

Dutch landing craft to the skirl of the pipes playing "Scotland The Brave." Three spectacular air drops followed, the men of 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment leaping from Royal Air Force Beverley and Hastings aircraft in the south and United States paratroopers of 1st Airborne Battle Group from Flying Boxcars in two drops in the north.

Headed by the paratroopers, the British Battle Group, which also included the 8th Royal Irish Hussars with Centurion tanks and 27 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, and was commanded by Brigadier R. C. MacDonald

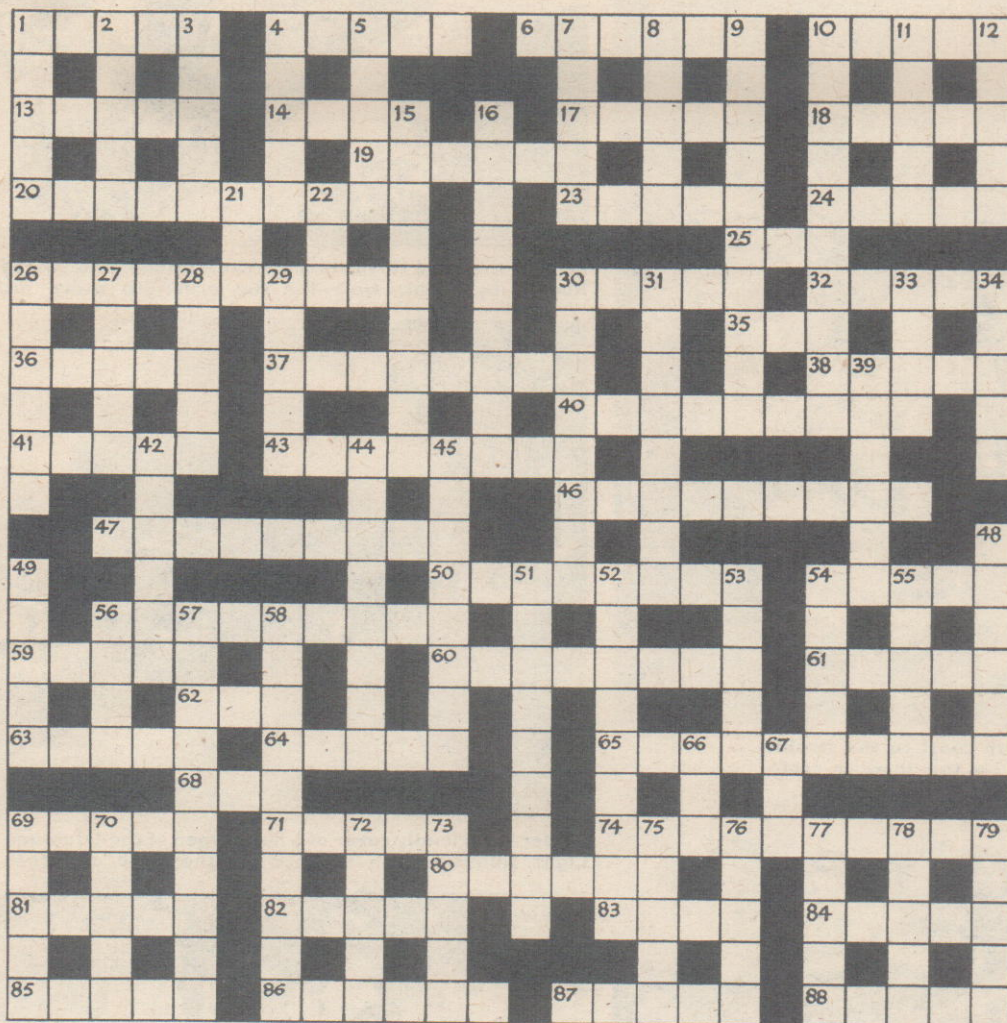
DSO, fought their way to the town of Faxe. They then withdrew in face of superior forces until driven into the sea after three days furious fighting.

FOOTNOTE: "Brown Jug" was a sentimental journey for RQMS F. Tuffs, of the Coldstream Guards, who attended the exercise with headquarters of the British Battle Group, was one of the first British soldiers to set foot in Denmark on Liberation Day in May, 1945. After the exercise he visited some of the members of the Danish Resistance Movement whom he had first met over 12 years ago.

Tanks of the 8th Royal Irish Hussars, also took part in "Brown Jug." This one speeds across a field to engage an "enemy" strongpoint.



CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



80. Invitation from above. (4, 2)
81. The rubber to rub out mistakes.
82. Martial colour.
83. This bird might be late.
84. One hundred old.
85. There's doctrine in a bitten Etruscan.
86. It's believing, some say.
87. Off with it to keep something away.
88. There's nothing more up-to-date than this.

DOWN

1. Fruity-sounding sound.
2. Exhibition to restrict growth.
3. Seamen do this intentionally to boarders; landlords don't.
4. Relieved.
5. The animal to pilot the ship.
7. Town in Kent.
8. Lock that has no key.
9. There's no place this doesn't include.
10. A good place in which to eat.
11. Musical eight.
12. Footwork awheel.
15. Liked better.
16. Symbol of a joint-monarch?
21. Justifies the means, some say.
22. Sphere.
26. Creature which apparently belongs to a religious group.
27. He's in the cat.
28. Five hundred this would be scarcity.
29. Drive.
30. Repose and drops of moisture hold back.
31. Completely solitary. (3, 5)
33. It makes garry into headgear.
34. Scrumptious!
39. Just the style.
42. Plenty of good pull-ups for him.
44. These trees deliver the goods for London.
45. Dances which sound very brief.
48. Extensive feast.
49. The sheriff's men.
51. "Aces, merci" (anag.). They're cold!
52. Half a round-house in a military camp? (6, 3)
53. Wiser, or more seasoned?
54. Frightened—like a full byre, perhaps.
55. Watchful.
56. A little opening to study.
57. "Rat eats urn" (anag.). And pays for it here.
58. Touches of the ague which may accompany 74 across.
66. Pull.
67. Fuss.
69. Mix a pint for colour.
70. Famous English forest.
72. I could make this a flat-fish.
73. Young man of family.
75. Grand, comic, horse or soap entertainment.
76. "... that crazy tune," says the old-fashioned rock-an'-roller.
77. No craft for commerce.
78. Exhorted.
79. Curiously and unevenly.

ACROSS

1. A difficult question.
4. Follow—there's a girl at the end.
6. In fine this one doesn't
10. languish.
13. The wrong way to take a throne.
14. Trickle.
17. A girl in the wire netting.
18. Edward is absent, but celebrated.
19. Roaming, command to an insect to sin.
20. Not the entrance to the fray but part of a game.
23. Is this sort of pudding made in a hurry?
24. Part of Africa discovered on Christmas Day.
25. Funny man.
26. "Bred in lice" (Anag.)—can't believe it!
30. Stretch—of river, perhaps.
32. Always the correct angle.
35. I, said the Roman.
36. Unqualified perpendicular.
37. Irishman disturbs the peace.
38. Portents.
40. The back door for him and his kind.
41. Snag to discomfit a batsman.
43. Could he be described as an English capitalist?
46. "I gas on gin" (Anag.). It's painful!
47. Honorary treatment for a boil?
50. Tops, or tale-tellers perhaps.
54. It can certainly affect a swimmer's style.
56. Curve and a thousand contained in contained.
59. Famous stone served at tea-time.
60. Smooth music for church service?
61. A question of location.
62. Naughty part of 46 across.
63. The chosen.
64. Mixed studs.
65. "Taxed tired" (ang.). And so, perhaps not sorry to be pushed out of the country.
68. A carrot-eater.
69. Malay sailing craft.
71. The optimist lives in them.
74. A nice greeting may be a bit of bother. (3, 2, 3, 2)



Crossword Solution

and Answers to Quiz

on page 38



CHRISTMAS QUIZ

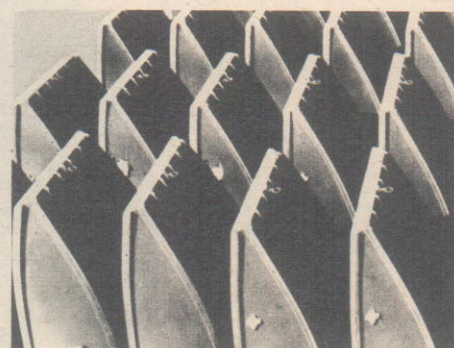
1. Supply the missing words in Kipling's famous poem "Tommy":
"I went into a . . . as sober as could be,
They gave a . . . civilian room, but 'adn't none for me;
They sent me to the . . . or round the . . .
But when it comes to . . ., Lord!
they'll shove me in the . . ."

2. If a man called you venal, he would mean you were: (a) full of pride; (b) open to bribery; (c) idle; (d) deceitful. Which?
3. Which is the intruder here? Paris, New York, Stockholm, London, Tokio, Copenhagen.
4. When Noah entered the Ark he was (a) 150 years old; (b) 75; (c) 350; (d) 600. Which?
5. What is the name of the Sudanese tribe that stands on one leg when resting?
6. The world's population is approximately (a) 5,436 million; (b) 2,560 million; (c) 7,654 million; or (d) 1,750 million?



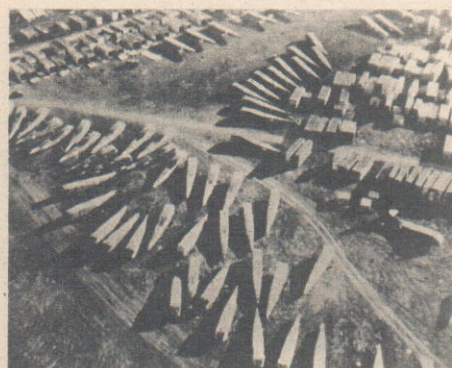
14. This film actress appeared in a Western desert comedy about two years ago. What is her name—and the name of the film?
15. The longest living trees in Britain are (a) oak; (b) ash; (c) yew; (d) sycamore; (e) apple. Which?
16. The population of Luxembourg is less than that of the London borough of Wandsworth. Right or wrong?
17. A pot-walloper is (a) a heavy drinker; (b) a Hyde Park orator; (c) a 19th-century householder entitled to a vote; (d) a dishwasher in a restaurant; (e) a loud-mouthed fellow. Which?
18. What are Martello Towers and how did they get their name?
19. Which is the fastest moving (a) fish; (b) snake; (c) bird; and (d) land animal?

20. In a cricket match the ball struck the batsman's wrist and was immediately caught by the wicket-keeper. The umpire gave the batsman out. Was he right or wrong?
21. In heraldry what do the terms (a) dexter and (b) sinister mean?
22. A dingo is (a) small sailing craft; (b) a game played with dice and board; (c) an Australian wild dog; (d) an old-fashioned dance. Which?
23. The total casualties in World War One were greater than in World War Two. True or false?
24. Can you guess what these are? There

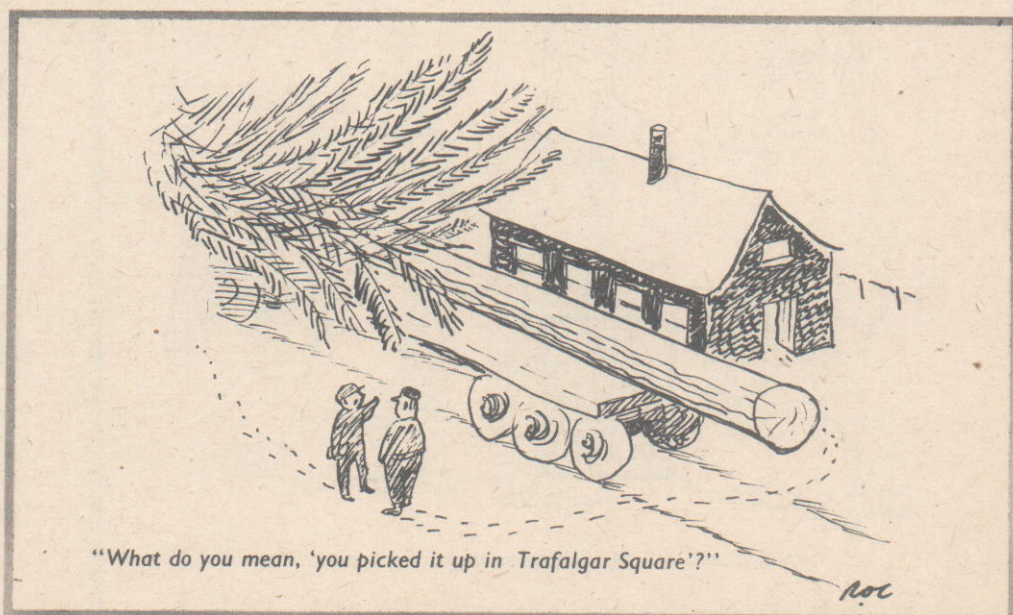


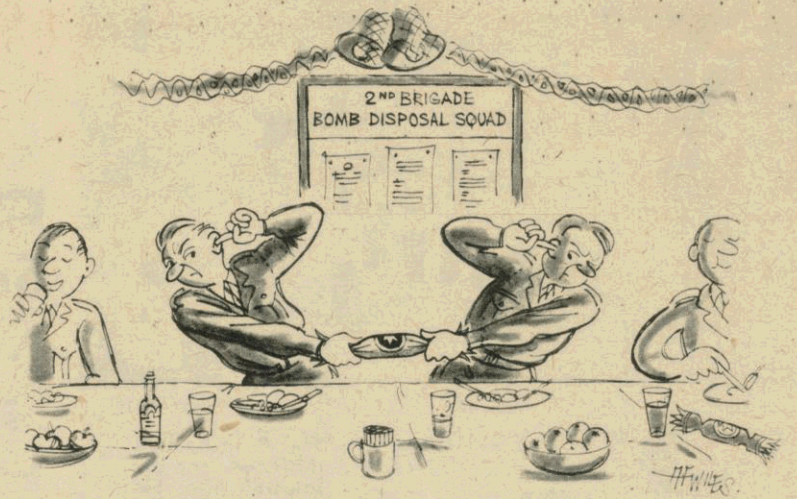
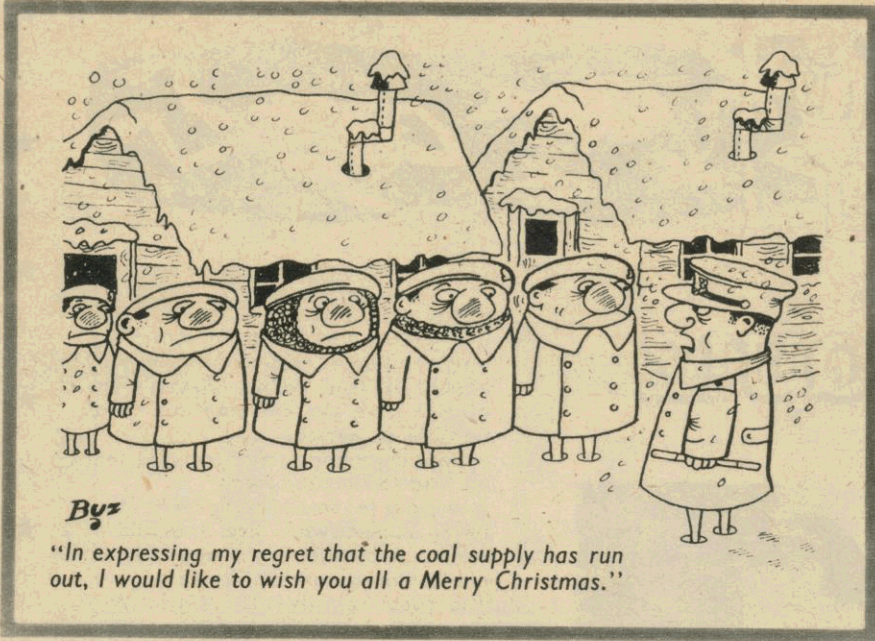
were plenty of them about in World War Two.

25. Find the intruder: garlic, chives, horse-radish, parsley, mint, sage.
26. A shama is (a) a Tibetan animal; (b) a member of a Far Eastern religious sect; (c) an Indian bird; (d) a rank in the Russian army. Which?
27. The pulse rate of the average fit man is (a) 50-60 per minute; (b) 65-70; (c) 70-75; (d) 80-90; (e) 95-100. Which?
28. When was the Derby first run: (a) 1817; (b) 1902; (c) 1780; or (d) 1874?



7. What are the objects in this aerial photograph?
8. If John is 2 years older than Robert, who is 10 years younger than Frank, who is 7 years older than Bill (who is 31), how old is Ted if their combined ages (including Ted's) total 150 years?
9. What is the longest river in the world?
10. Aluminium is the most common of all metals. Right or wrong?
11. A filibuster is (a) a high wind; (b) an obstructionist; (c) ornamental work of fine silver; (d) a printing measure. Which?
12. How's your spelling? Then try these: (a) appellation; (b) antirrinum; (c) fluorescence; (d) guerila; (e) perigrination; (f) accomodation; (g) streptococcus.
13. What are the official abbreviations for (a) cost, insurance and freight; (b) compare; (c) out of print; (d) for the time being?

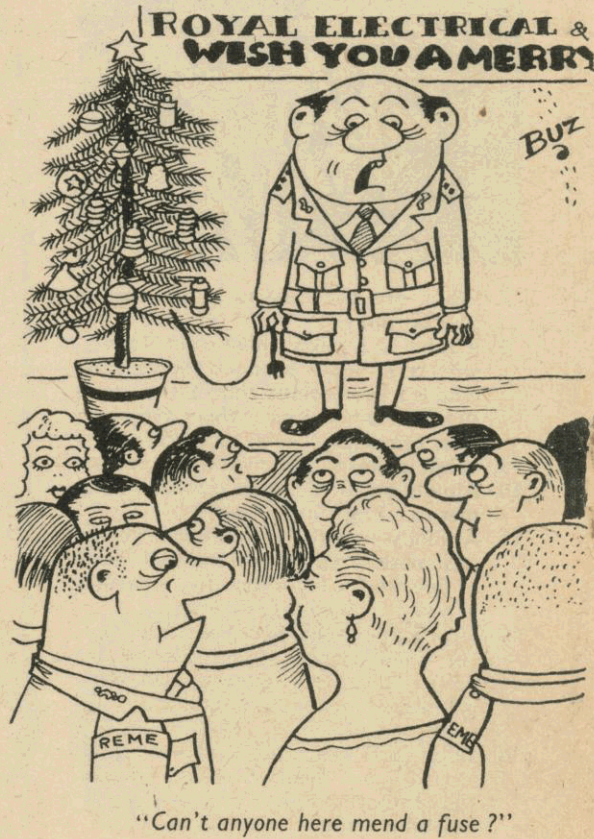
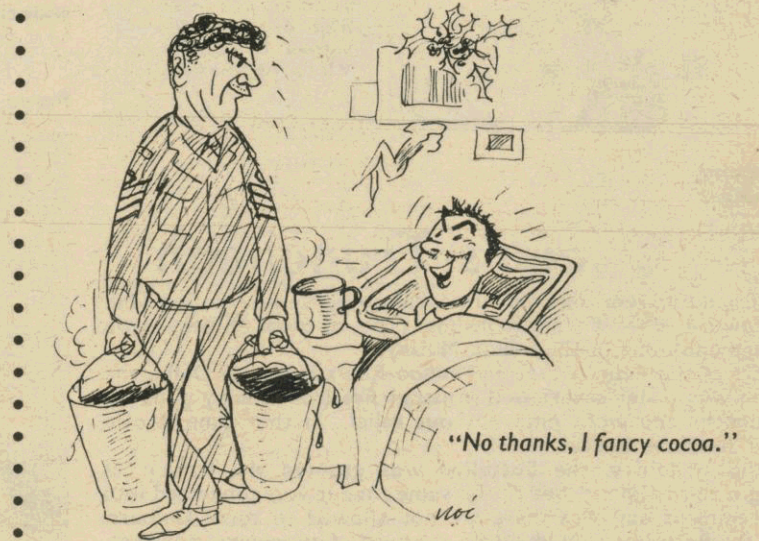
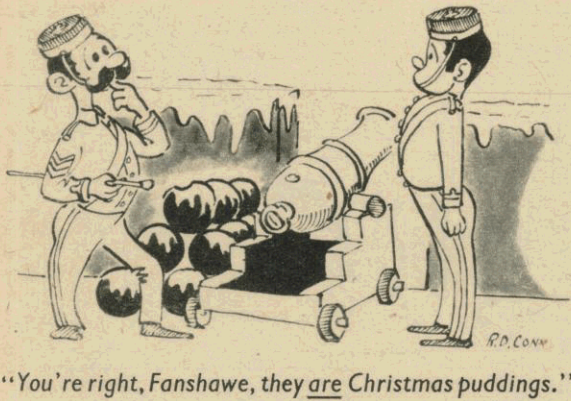


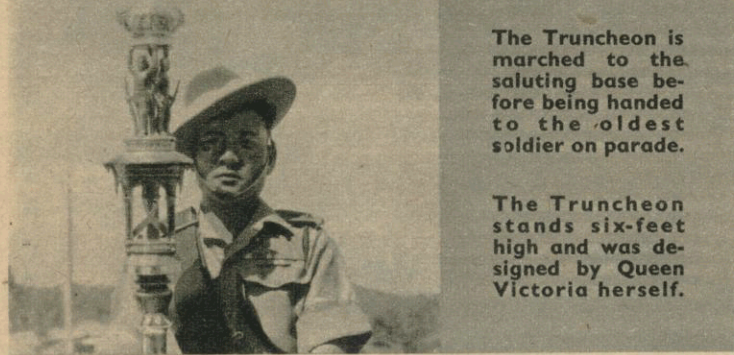
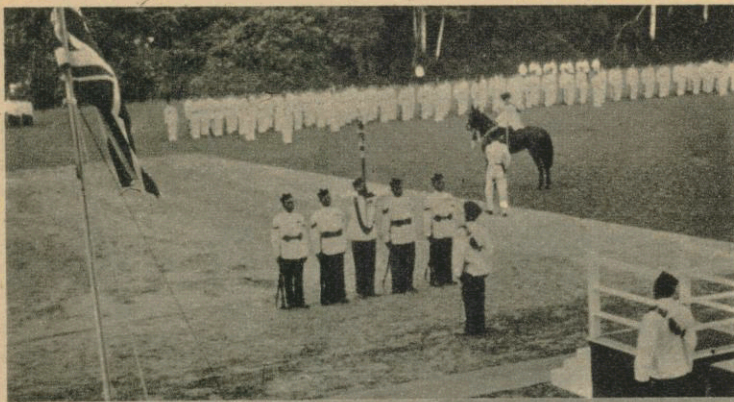


Christmas



Humour





The Truncheon is marched to the saluting base before being handed to the oldest soldier on parade.

The Truncheon stands six-feet high and was designed by Queen Victoria herself.

MALAYA

The Queen's Truncheon

ONE hundred years ago the Sirmoor Battalion—now the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Goorkhas (The Sirmoor Rifles)—won undying fame in the Indian Mutiny.

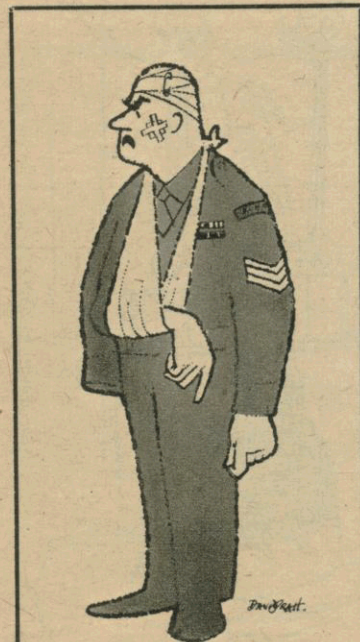
As part of the main piquet at Hindoo Rao's House in Delhi, the Battalion was under severe and constant fire from enemy guns for three months and eight days without relief. In that time it also repulsed 26 fierce attacks.

For this gallantry, the Battalion was granted the honour of carrying a third Colour, but at the same time it was converted into a rifle regiment and was therefore not allowed to carry Colours. So that the Battalion should not be deprived of its reward, however, Queen Victoria presented the new regiment with the Queen's Truncheon, decreeing that it should be accorded the same honours as a Queen's Colour.

This truncheon, unique in the British Army, was on parade recently in Singapore when the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Regiment celebrated Delhi Day. After the parade had been drawn up by the Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General L. H. O. Pugh DSO, the Queen's Truncheon was marched on by a Colour Party consisting of a jemadar with an escort of two havildars and two naicks. The Governor, Sir Robert Black, inspected the Regiment and presented new silver bugles to both battalions. The Truncheon was then marched to the saluting base and handed over to the oldest soldier on parade, Captain Kalusing Chettri MC. The Regiment then marched past in close column at the salute.

The Queen's Truncheon is made of bronze, surmounted by a crown in silver supported by three Gurkha soldiers. Below these figures is a silver band bearing the words "Main Piquet, Hindoo Rao's House, Delhi, 1857," and below that a bronze representation of the Delhi Gate of the Palace of the Moguls.

The Queen's Truncheon is carried on all ceremonial parades and all recruits touch and salute it on enlistment.



"Now which of you men had the wishbone?"

IN THE

★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆

SCOTLAND

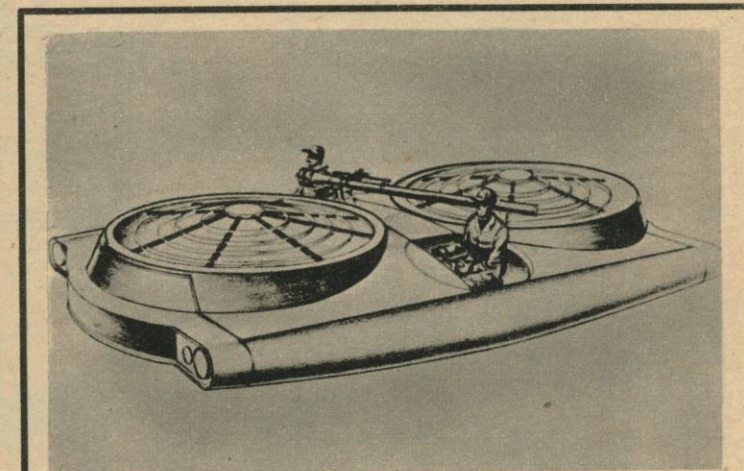
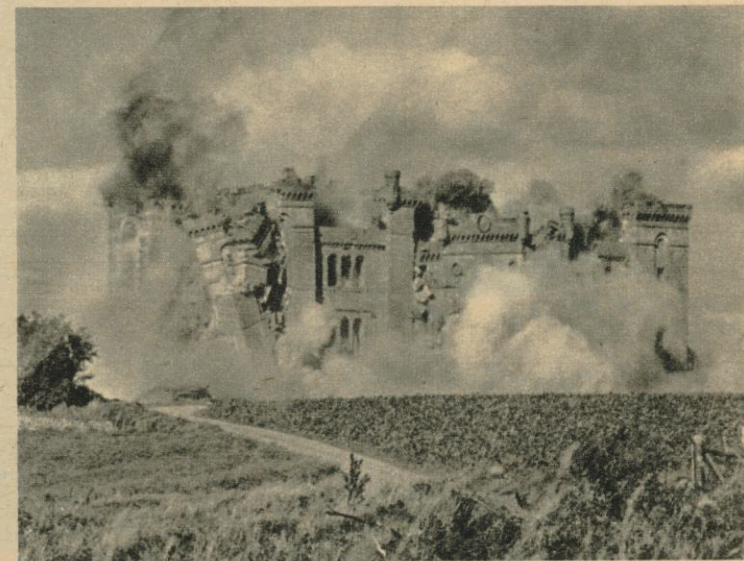
Sappers Blow Up a Castle

SAPPERS of 117 Field Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, were given an unusual task recently: they were told to go and blow up a castle.

Rossie Castle, near Montrose, built 150 years ago and sold to a professional footballer in the 1930s for £1, had long been unsuitable as a residence or for any other purpose. But it had been stoutly built and would have cost many hundreds of pounds to demolish in the normal way. So the Army was called in.

The Sappers tackled the job scientifically, boring holes at selected spots in the 3-ft. 6-in. thick walls to hold 500 lbs. of plastic explosive. When the charges were set off simultaneously the castle collapsed like a pack of cards. All that was left of a once stately home was 20,000 tons of rubble which the local council propose to use for road widening.

Rossie Castle goes up in smoke. Its rubble will make new roads.



UNITED STATES

ABOVE is an artist's conception of the prototype of an aerial jeep which the United States Army hopes to have in service in the not-too-distant future. The machine, designed to carry a powerful gun with an all-round traverse, has two ducted propellers which will enable it to fly at fast speeds and hover above the ground like a helicopter.

NEWS

★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆



MALAYA

General Fires The Millionth Round

THE millionth round to be fired by Commonwealth artillery in Malaya was sent hurtling into a suspected terrorist camp in Southern Malaya recently.

It was fired by a former Infantryman, Major-General R. N. Anderson DSO, General Officer Commanding 17 Gurkha Division, Overseas Land Forces in Malaya.

The 83-ll. shell, bearing the painted legend "From one comrade to another" was signed by the General before being loaded into a 5.5-inch medium gun belonging to "F" Troop, 100 Battery, 48 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. A few seconds later, the General pulled the lanyard and the millionth round was on its way.

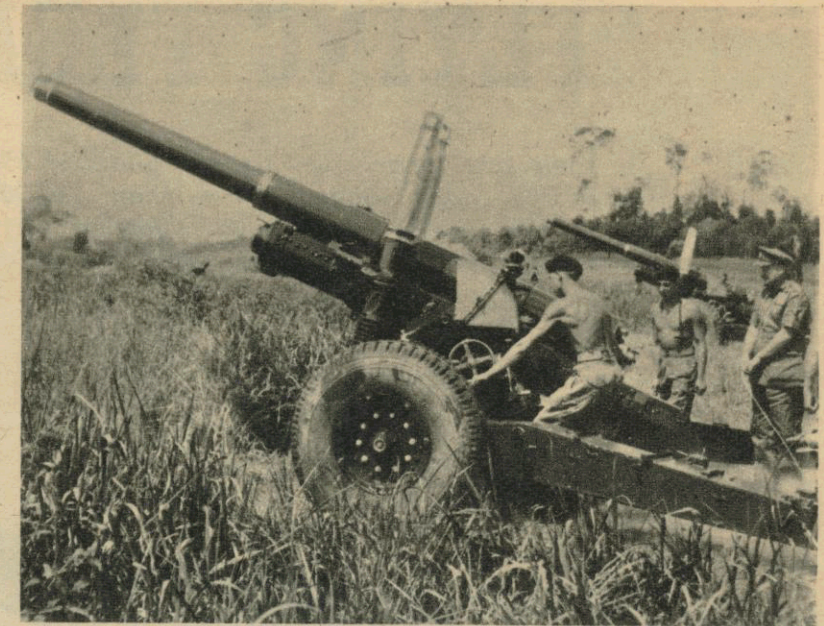
The Gunners' million rounds have been fired from the 25-pounders, medium guns and 3.7 anti-aircraft guns (used in a ground role) of many batteries and regiments since 1951 when artillery operations began.

When the emergency opened in 1948 the men of 26 Field Regiment were in Malaya. They and 54 Field Battery which joined them from Hong Kong, were used as Infantry until February, 1951 when 26 Field Regiment went home. Soon afterwards 54 Battery was re-equipped with 25-pounders and was in action on many occasions until relieved by 93 (Le Cateaux) Field Battery in September, 1951.

Two years ago 93 Battery was

Left: Major-General R. N. Anderson DSO, pulled the lanyard that fired the millionth round in Malaya.

Right: In a field in Southern Malaya Major-General Anderson prepared to fire the round into a suspected terrorist camp. The gun belongs to 48 Field Regiment, RA.

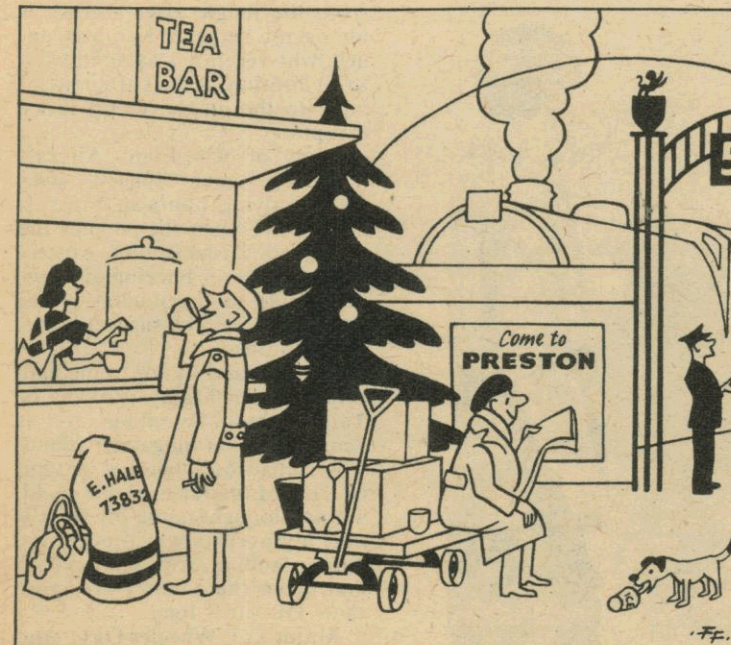


Below: The General signs his name to the message on the round: "From one comrade to another."



HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

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



"FLYING FLEAS" OVER THE

In their tiny Auster aircraft, the pilots of 656 Light Aircraft Squadron have logged more than 110,000 hours flying over the jungles of Malaya, spotting terrorist hide-outs, directing guns, rescuing lost patrols and dropping leaflets



Left: Major L. J. Wheeler DFC commands No. 656 Squadron. He is now on his second tour of duty in Malaya. Below: Captain R. Staveley, a flight commander, spends many hours in the air above the jungle. All pilots are volunteers.

From Kuala Lumpur, Sergeant D. Walton at the controls of his Auster, heads for the jungle on routine patrol in search of terrorist camps. Below: Captain H. G. Crutchley and two fellow pilots pinpoint on the map one of the many jungle areas to be searched.



"It can be very lonely flying over the jungle..." Captain H. G. Crutchley, of the Royal Artillery, looked reflectively at a map of Malaya on the wall of his office. Four-fifths of it was coloured the dark green that denotes jungle.

Captain Crutchley is Squadron Captain of 656 Light Aircraft Squadron, Army Air Corps, which has its headquarters in palm-thatched huts on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur, capital of the Federation of Malaya.

The Squadron has 31 single-engined Auster aircraft, the flying fleas of modern aerial warfare. Since the start of the Emergency in Malaya eight years ago they have played a vital role in the fight against Communist terrorists. Flying at little more than 80 mph, often no more than 500 feet above the treetops, Army pilots jockey their little Austers on a criss-cross search for terrorist camps and cultivation plots.

Usually they fly alone. Frequently they find nothing. The Communists have become air-minded, and now spend hours camouflaging their camps to make them invisible from the air.

The greatest hazard facing the two- and three-seater Austers as they fly their daily patrols over scarred rock mountain-tops and down misty valleys is the risk of being forced down. Malaya's tropical climate and mountainous terrain combine to produce treacherous air currents and sudden storms that toss a light aircraft about the sky like an empty matchbox.

In the crew-room at Kuala Lumpur a sergeant pilot just returned from a flight to the 7000 feet Cameron Highlands said, "I had full power on and the Auster's nose up, but we sank like a stone."

None know better than these pilots that the chance of escaping from the jungle after a crash is almost nil. Sergeant Ken McConnell, who recently staggered back to civilisation 22 days after crashing into the jungle, was a lucky exception.

Pilots of 656 Light Aircraft Squadron have logged over 110,000 flying hours in Malaya. Even now, when the pace of the emergency is slackening, Austers are busy as ever buzzing out over the jungle to drop in at police forts or to "recce" suspected terrorist camps.

Flights stand by for immediate action at the Malayan towns of Taiping, Ipoh, Seremban, and at Sembawang on Singapore island. The Squadron's landing ground at Kuala Lumpur is Noble Field, a grandiloquent name for what is only a gravel runway. Few of the Auster landing strips scattered up and down the country are more than 350 yards long.

Major L. J. Wheeler DFC, who

JUNGLE

commands the Squadron, says his pilots have developed many techniques pioneered in Burma, and have invented new ones.

Aerial reconnaissance is the Squadron's most important role, but its pilots are often called upon to support ground troops in other ways. They drop saws, axes, explosives, wireless sets and other small, urgently-needed items of equipment to troops in the jungle, and carry out tricky supply drops on mountainous slopes where larger aircraft cannot go.

Auster pilots also act as observers for Royal Artillery and Royal Navy Gunners. Guiding lost patrols back to base is another of their tasks, but the most spectacular is leaflet dropping. Millions of leaflets have showered from Austers since 1948.

It was an Auster pilot who discovered a terrorist camp in the Cameron Highlands and marked it for bombing. Several months later a surrendering terrorist confirmed that Malayan Communist Party boss Chin Peng and his wife were in the camp at the time of the raid. Three of Chin Peng's bodyguard were killed.



At one of the police forts deep in the jungle where landing strips for the Austers have been built, Captain Staveley admires a blow-pipe belonging to an aborigine boy. Note father with his umbrella.

COLDSTREAM WERE THE FIRST ACROSS

"NULLI SECUNDUS" (Second to None), the motto of the Coldstream Guards, took on a new and novel meaning when 300 men of the 2nd Battalion were the first to cross the newly completed bridge in St. James's Park, London, before it was opened to the public.

The object of the exercise was to make what the Ministry of Works engineers called a "live load test" to try the strength of the new bridge. It could have been loaded with weights but the Ministry considered that 300 Guardsmen, each weighing about 12-stone, would provide a more

realistic and certainly less expensive test.

For nearly an hour the Coldstreamers marched, counter-marched, double-marched and executed traditionally crashing halts on the pre-stressed concrete. Three engineers from the Ministry of Works crouched in

a small rowing boat under the central span of the bridge and busied themselves with charts and instruments to gauge reactions on their stress-testing instruments.

The impact of some 22 tons of Coldstreamers on the bridge caused anxiety to onlookers but none to the men from the Ministry of Works who expressed themselves entirely satisfied.

The new bridge will have heavy demands made on it. As well as

providing a much needed shortcut across the lake, it will attract lunch-time loiterers and on occasions serve as a grandstand for adjacent events.

This was not the first time that Guardsmen had been used for an experiment of this nature. Some years ago a battalion of Guards was marched to the House of Commons to test the efficiency of the machinery which controls temperature and humidity.

As the Coldstreamers march over the bridge engineers in a row boat measure the stresses.





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The Japanese commandant declares the bridge open. It was a short-lived monument to British efficiency—the Commandos blew it up.

THE BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI

THE infamous Burma-Siam railway took 13 months to build and caused the deaths of 13,000 of the 54,000 Allied prisoners-of-war who worked on it. Ex-prisoners who slaved on this murderous project will re-live those terrible days when they see the Columbia film "The Bridge On The River Kwai."

Two years in the making and shot in Ceylon, "The Bridge On The River Kwai" is hailed as the greatest British film of all time. The story opens with the arrival of a new batch of British prisoners in a notorious camp in Siam. At their head is Colonel Nicholson (Alec Guinness), a ramrod of a man who lives by King's Regulations. He defies the tyrannical Japanese commandant when the latter orders British officers to work alongside their men on the bridge across the River Kwai and is thrown into the "oven"—a diabolical torture device for recalcitrant prisoners.

When he emerges, more dead than alive, Nicholson is unshaken in his resolve. His courageous stand places the Japanese commandant in a quandary. The building of the bridge is going badly: it has been wrongly sited in a soft part of the river bed and will not take the weight of a train.

Nicholson takes over the project. The prisoners will build a bridge, he declares, that will be a lasting monument to British efficiency.

The Colonel's stiff-lipped heroics have been watched with cynical amusement by Shears, an American prisoner (William Holden). Shears escapes and reaches Ceylon. His dalliance with a glamorous nurse (Ann Sears) is rudely interrupted by a Commando major (Jack Hawkins) who plans to blow up the bridge.

The climax deals terrifyingly with the destruction of the bridge the building of which is the crowning achievement of Nicholson's 28 years of service.

"The Bridge On The River Kwai" is *not* a war picture in the normal sense; rather is it an indictment of the monstrous idiocy of war and what war can do to men.

Colonel Nicholson defies the Japanese and watches impassively as Japanese guards drag away a British officer who has collapsed.



THE HERO OF ABU KLEA

Gallant soldier, intrepid explorer, expert swordsman, a balloonist of international repute, author and war correspondent—Colonel Frederick Gustavus Burnaby, of the Royal Horse Guards, was all these.

He died fighting the Dervishes at Abu Klea during the abortive attempt to rescue General Gordon in Khartoum.

FREDRICK GUSTAVUS BURNABY was born 115 years ago at a rectory which was demolished to make room for Bedford Grammar School, an establishment which has many notable soldiers, including a number of Victoria Cross winners, on its roll of honour.

He was educated at this school and at Harrow and afterwards privately in Germany where he became an expert linguist in French, German and Italian. He also acquired an excellent knowledge of Spanish and Russian and a traveller's acquaintance with Arabic and Turkish.

Colonel Burnaby was only 16 when he passed the Army entrance examination and was gazetted a cornet in the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues) the following year. He earned rapid promotion and became Colonel of the Regiment at 38.

Six feet four inches tall and with a 46-inch chest, Colonel Burnaby was reputed to be one of Europe's strongest men. He could lift a dumb-bell weighing one and half hundredweight—a feat only one other man in Britain was then able to perform—and at arm's length would hold a billiard cue parallel to the ground between first and second fingers.

Once when The Blues were stationed at Windsor some brother officers, for a joke, drove

two small ponies into his bedroom on the first floor of the mess. Burnaby picked them up, one under each arm, and carried them downstairs again.

Travel and adventure were his two overwhelming interests and early in his military career he visited Central and South America and in 1868 journeyed to Spain and Tangier.

When the Russians invaded Khiva in 1873, Colonel Burnaby decided to make his way there but fell ill with typhoid fever in Naples and went to Spain to convalesce. So he abandoned his trip to Khiva and made his way home, passing through the Carlist rebel lines into France.

In 1874 he went to Spain again, as *The Times* correspondent with Don Carlos' forces and very soon struck up a close friendship with the rebel leader. Then *The Times* sent him to join General Gordon in the Sudan.

These adventurous journeyings prepared Colonel Burnaby for the greatest exploit in his life—his ride across the steppes of

Tartary by three-horse sleigh and camel in the middle of the bitter winter of 1875. While in the Sudan, Colonel Burnaby learned that Russia had refused to allow Europeans to enter Central Asia so he determined to defy the ban. A few weeks later he was back in England, obtained permission to travel to India by way of Khiva and Kabul and set out for St. Petersburg. Here, he was told that he might as well try to get to the moon as to Khiva, but, undaunted, the Colonel set off by train to Sizeran. He hired a *troika* (a three-horse sleigh) and with only 85 lb. of luggage set out across the frozen steppes, fearing every day that he would be recalled by the British or Russian Governments. At times the temperature dropped to 40 degrees below zero and once Colonel Burnaby nearly lost both hands through severe frost bite.

At last, avoiding the Russian fort at Petro-Alexandrovsh, the Colonel reached Khiva and interviewed the Khan but the next day received a telegram from the Duke of Cambridge, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, to return.

On his return to England, Colonel Burnaby wrote a lively account of his adventures in "Ride to Khiva" which became a best-seller.

On his winter leave of 1876-77 the Colonel packed his bags once more and set off for Asia Minor to discover the truth about the treatment of the Armenians by the Turks. This time the Russians, forewarned, kept a strict watch on his movements, but Colonel Burnaby gave them the slip at Constans. The Russians distributed photographs of him to all frontier posts and guards were ordered to turn him back.



Colonel Fred Burnaby.

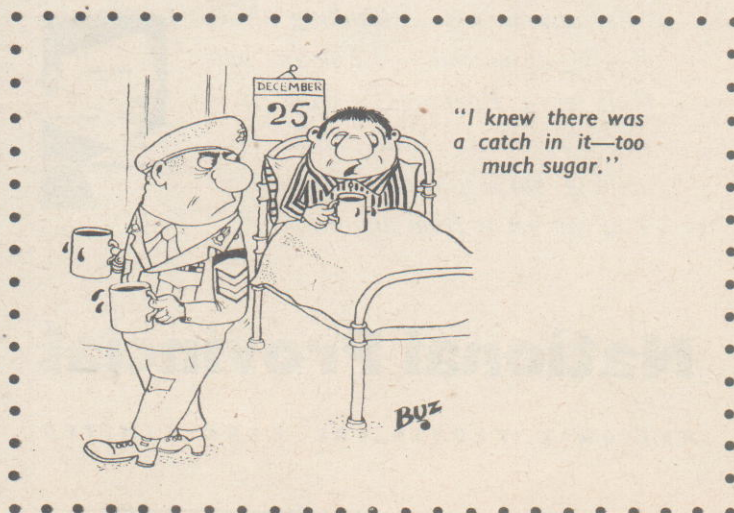
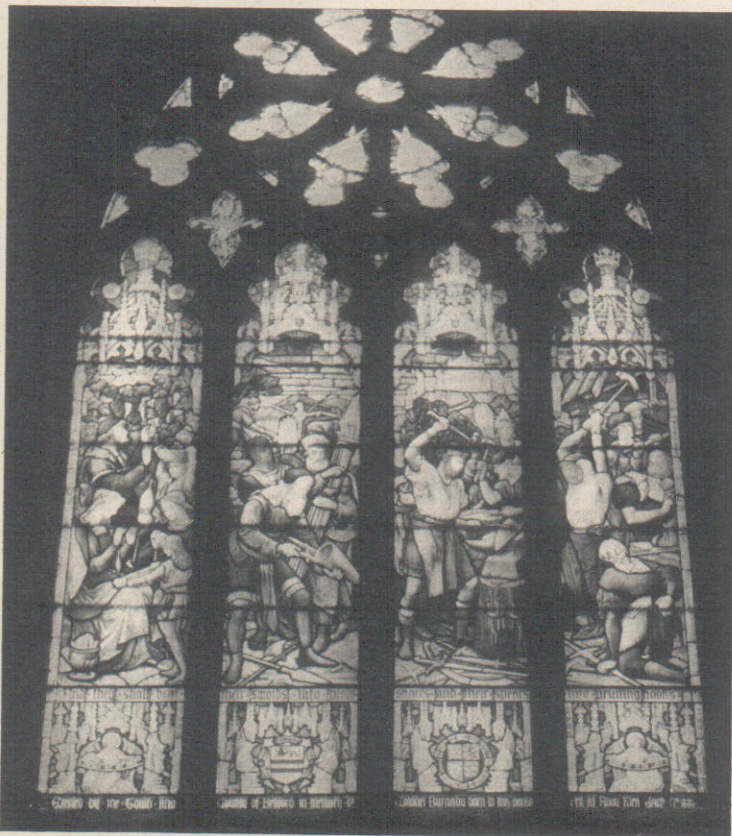
When affairs in the Sudan became critical, Burnaby went as a volunteer to join General Baker at Suakim, and took part in two battles at El Teb, where he was wounded. He was reproved for his action. However, when the Khartoum expedition for the relief of Gordon was dispatched, the fearless Burnaby, although 42 years old and suffering from heart and lung disease, decided to join it. In secrecy he made his way to Egypt where he was appointed staff officer to Field-Marshal Lord Wolseley's relieving force.

On 17th January, 1885, at Abu Klea, Burnaby, acting as a brigadier general, was in command of the left rear of the solid square of 1500 men facing 500 Dervishes. While courageously rallying his tired men he was slain by a spear which penetrated his throat.

Colonel Burnaby was a notable balloonist. He made ascents with the French balloonist, M. Godard, in the latter's hot-air balloon and with Henry Coxwell in his gas balloon. One novel type of balloon containing Burnaby burst in mid air on one occasion, but the bag collapsed slowly and acted as a parachute, floating gently with its occupants to the ground. On 3rd May, 1882, Burnaby succeeded in crossing the English Channel alone in the balloon Eclipse.

GERALDINE MELLOR

The stained glass window in St. Peter's Church, Bedford, which perpetuates memory of the remarkable Colonel Burnaby



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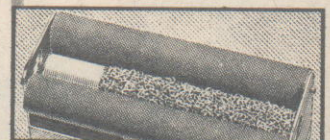
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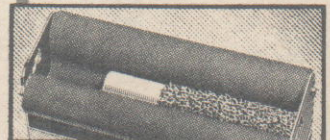
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SCRAPBOOK OF WORLD WAR TWO

* * * * *

Machine gunners of the
Middlesex Regiment in
action at El Alamein.



Infantrymen on horseback patrol in
Tunisia. Can anyone identify the
Regiment in this unusual rôle?



BOOKS



A 25-pounder of the Arab Legion artillery in action. "We set ourselves the same standards of technical efficiency as the British Army," says Glubb Pasha.



"THESE WERE MY PEOPLE"

JOHAN BAGOT GLUBB, a very junior officer of the British Army, first went to Iraq in 1920 in a spirit of youthful adventure. Five years later he resigned his commission to devote the rest of his life to the Arabs. "My decision," says Glubb, "was largely emotional. I loved them."

In "A Soldier With The Arabs" (Hodder and Stoughton, 25s.) Lieutenant-General Sir John Bagot Glubb tells the story of his life in the Arab Legion from 1939, when he first assumed command, until his peremptory dismissal last year. It is an informative, enormously stimulating and profoundly moving story.

Glubb Pasha saw the Legion grow from a handful of policemen to an army of 23,000 and a National Guard of 30,000. It was, in fact, a fully mechanized army, although nearly all recruits were agricultural workers and herds-

men and barely a third were literate. In discipline, drill, tactics and weapon training the Arab Legion aimed at the same standard as the Brigade of Guards and in the author's opinion they attained it.

The British officers were as proud of the Legion as the Jordanians themselves and found it intensely gratifying to serve in an army where every man's ambition was to be a fine soldier. "It was all joy to serve in the Arab Legion," says Glubb, "because both officers and men were so keen, so enthusiastic and so desirous to learn." No racial,

religious or class distinctions were tolerated. The British officers were not a class apart and saluted Arab officers senior to them in rank.

"I would have died as readily for the Arabs in Palestine," declares the author, "as I would for England in Europe." This statement stems from his passionate devotion and almost fanatical loyalty to King Abdulla. "A true aristocrat in every sense of the word: a gentle and thoughtful man with a deep rooted hatred for war and politics." King Abdulla was always anxious to meet his subjects and had an intense dislike for being guarded—a dislike that caused Glubb considerable anxiety. But he also had a forceful courage peculiarly his own. When the Jews were at the very gates of Jerusalem in 1948 the King told Glubb: "I want you to promise me that if you ever think the Jews will take Jerusalem, you will tell me. I will not live to see them in the Holy

places. I will go there myself and die on the walls of the city." At Abdulla's funeral Glubb confesses that he broke down and cried like a child.

Glubb has some hard things to say about the handling of the Palestine problem by the United Nations Organisation—"this impotent and vascillating band," as he calls them. But he maintained an unstinting admiration for Count Bernadotte whose wanton and brutal murder was one more act in the blood-soaked tragedy of Palestine.

In a matter of hours, 36 years of loyal and unstinting work among the Arabs was thrown into the political ashcan when Glubb Pasha was dismissed. But there is a total absence of hatred or bitterness in this immensely compulsive book. Glubb sums up thus: "The people dwelling east of the Jordan were my people. I had grown old among them, and my home was in their midst."



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"Exterminate These Men" said Hitler

WAR books continue to pour from the publishers like bullets from a Sten gun. Some are superb, some frankly a bore, many are too late.

"These Men Are Dangerous" by D. I. Harrison (Cassell, 16s.) is late but undeniably superb. Why Mr. Harrison has delayed writing the story of the Special Air Service at war for more than a decade is a mystery, but it is a thrilling story that grips because of its powerful authenticity.

A unit that adopted as its reveille the opening bars of "Bugle Call Rag" was clearly one to be reckoned with. Just how formidable the Special Air Service became can be gathered from a personal directive issued by Adolf Hitler: "These men are very dangerous. The presence of S.A.S. troops... must be immediately reported... they must be ruthlessly exterminated."

The story opens early in World War Two with Lieutenant Harrison, a bored and frustrated Infantry subaltern, sweating out time on the shores of Egypt's Bitter lakes. He volunteers for the Special Air Service out of sheer boredom.

A wartime picture of the author. He joined the SAS from boredom.



The training is suitably arduous. "Too much hooch last night, eh?" says the PT sergeant instructor with benevolent menace. "You can't say 'carry on sergeant' on this parade, y'know. What about another arms bend—just for the sake of the unit..."

Mr. Harrison tells of the terror that struck at the hearts of German soldiers whenever the men of the Special Air Service landed: whether it was to attack shore batteries in Sicily or to shoot up "chairborne" units in France. The story crackles with anecdotes of almost unbelievable gallantry and impudence.

Adolf Hitler's military appreciations were frequently at fault, but he was right about the Special Air Service. These men were dangerous.

Cromwell's Men Were Model Soldiers

THREE centuries ago next August, Oliver Cromwell died. Ever since, historians and others have been arguing about his merits. Not the least forceful opinion was that expressed by Charles II when he had Cromwell's body removed from Westminster Abbey and hanged from the gallows at Tyburn.

Charles, of course, was prejudiced, but even he might have admitted that Cromwell was an outstandingly fine soldier. Mr. Maurice Ashley, in "The Greatness of Oliver Cromwell" (*Hodder and Stoughton, 25s.*), leaves the facts of Cromwell's military career to speak for themselves.

There is no record of Cromwell's military training, though he probably turned out now and again with some volunteer Cavalry unit of militia, like most country gentlemen of his time. When the Civil Wars broke out, Captain Cromwell was merely a Member of Parliament who had raised a troop of horse and performed useful preliminary work by preventing a valuable consign-

ment of plate from Cambridge swelling the King's coffers. Nine years later, when the wars were over, he was a commander-in-chief who had never lost a battle or a campaign.

His famous regiment of Ironsides, who "would as one man stand firmly and charge desperately," was a carefully recruited unit of soldiers who were, as Cromwell put it, "honest men who fear God," and officers selected for their character and ability rather than their social status.

The Ironsides' discipline was strict. Reported a Parliamentary newspaper: "No man swears but he pays his twelve-

pence; if he be drunk, he is set in the stocks or worse; if one calls the other Roundhead he is cashiered; in so much that the counties where they come leap for joy of them and come in and join with them. How happy it were if all the forces were thus disciplined."

The ill-tempered Puritan who commanded this un-licentious soldiery was a good officer who cared for the welfare of his men and fought the age-long battle for their pay. Later he was to stand up for his army's rights against the Parliament of which he was a leading member.

Though in private and political life he was slow at making decisions, on the battlefield he made them as quickly as the next man. At Marston Moor he commanded the Cavalry on the left wing of the Parliamentary forces and

overthrew the Royalist Cavalry under Prince Rupert in front of him. Meanwhile, at the other end of the line, another group of Royalist Cavalry had routed the Parliamentarians. Cromwell promptly galloped his forces right across the battlefield, to score a second victory.

One of Cromwell's most controversial deeds was at Drogheda, where the garrison of Royalists and Irish refused to surrender. He ordered them to be put to the sword. "I believe this bitterness will save much effusion of blood," wrote Cromwell, but the bitterness endured in Ireland long after Cromwell's day. Mr. Ashley likens Cromwell's action at Drogheda to the dropping of atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as an act of terror calculated to save bloodshed in the long run.

It was this same determined man who led a file of musketeers into the House of Commons, waved at the Mace and other symbols of authority, said, "Take away these baubles" and dissolved the Parliament of which he had been a member.

The author, who has studied Cromwell for 25 years, cannot make Cromwell a lovable character, but he does compel admiration for Cromwell's motives and the deeds that stemmed from them.



Oliver Cromwell in 1657.

Breakout from a Fortress

WHEN all the escape stories of World War Two can be viewed in perspective, it may be that one of the first half-dozen will be "Escape from Montluc" (*Dobson, 16s.*). It is by André Devigny, a French officer of the Underground who had been condemned to death for his part in liquidating an Italian police chief in Nice.

Devigny was not a tunneller. He had no accomplices save a rather dubious youngster who was thrust into his cell just as he was completing his plans for a getaway. Yet he escaped from the heart of the Montluc fortress at Lyons. It was all done with "home-made" ropes and grapnels (the precise manner of it would have been easier to understand if the publishers had included a sketch map).

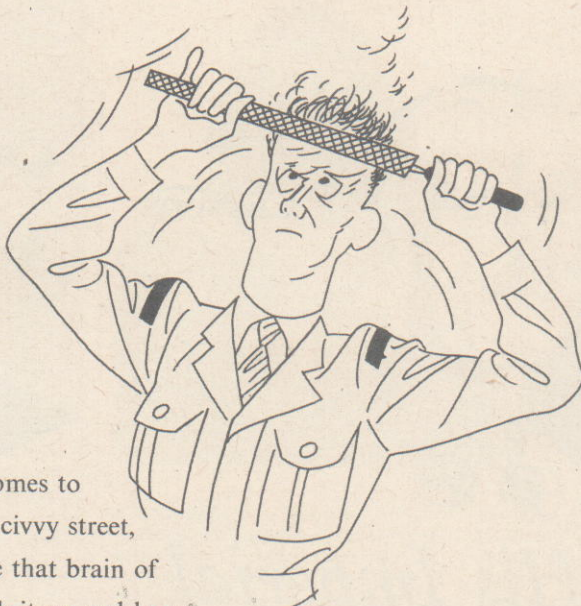
Devigny's first success was to dismantle his wooden cell door with a sharpened spoon. He did it in such a way that the pieces could be put back again, leaving no sign of interference. At nights he used to leave his cell and wander about the corridor conversing with his fellow prisoners through their doors.

Though a sanguine type, not given to self-pity, Devigny kept postponing the day of his breakout; the risks were tremendous and he was not sure that his strength was adequate for life or death acrobatics. Then he learned that the day of his execution was imminent and speeded up his efforts. This part of the book is immensely exciting.

Devigny's escape was not achieved without grim incidents. Weakened though he was, he was strong enough to strangle a German sentry. The young prisoner who escaped with him was recaptured and the Gestapo pounced on a French doctor who had sheltered both fugitives; we are not told what happened to either of these unfortunate individuals.

For Devigny, the war was not over. He became a parachutist and took part in landings in France and Germany. Today he is a lieutenant-colonel commanding an operational zone in Algeria.

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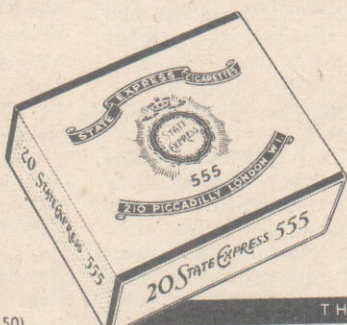
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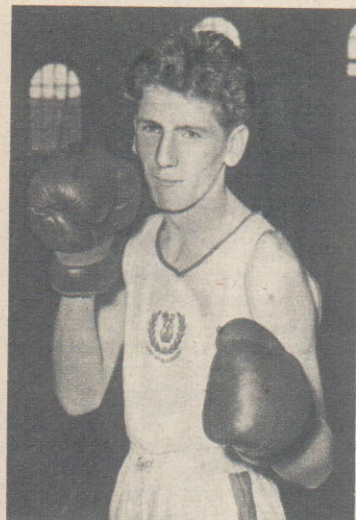
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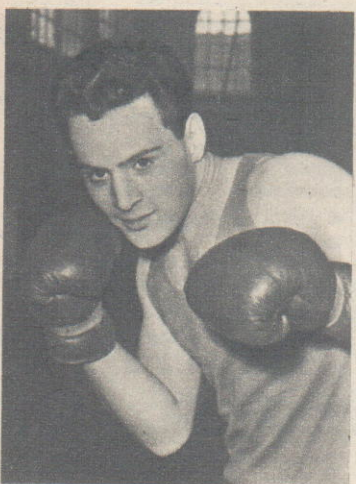
NEWCOMERS FILL THE GAPS

ALTHOUGH only two members of last season's Army boxing team are available this season there is little doubt that newcomers will adequately fill the gaps and keep the Army where it has always been—well to the forefront in amateur boxing circles.

The two old hands are Craftsman D. Stone, of 10 Command Workshops, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, who is the Army, Imperial Services and Amateur Boxing Association welterweight champion, and Rifleman E. Maynard, of 2nd Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps, a bantamweight of great promise. Craftsman Stone has also boxed for Britain.



Rifleman Brian Whelan is the brother of ex-Private G. Whelan who also boxed for the Army.



Private Tony Adinolfi, a middleweight, only started boxing last season but already has a victory over Terry Downes to his credit.



Rifleman Grayley reached the final of the Army light-middleweight championship last season.

Among the newcomers who are almost certain of winning their Army colours are three more members of the 2nd Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps—Riflemen B. Whelan (lightweight), A. Grayley (light-middleweight) and Bruce Penn (welterweight). Lance-Corporal R. English (flyweight) of 8th Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Private Tony Adinolfi (middleweight), Army Catering Corps, and Lance-Corporal N. Nancurvis (welterweight), of 4th Training Battalion, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, are also well in the running.

Before the final trials took place at Tidworth in a match between the Army and the Rest, 60 boxers had already been graded by the Army Boxing Association. Some of them will already have appeared for the Army against the Dutch Combined Services, the Territorial Army and the London Amateur Boxing Association and those who took part in all three will have been awarded their Army colours. Others will have the opportunity of winning them later on, when the Army meets the Welsh international team twice—at Cardiff and Aldershot—and does battle against Ulster at Belfast.

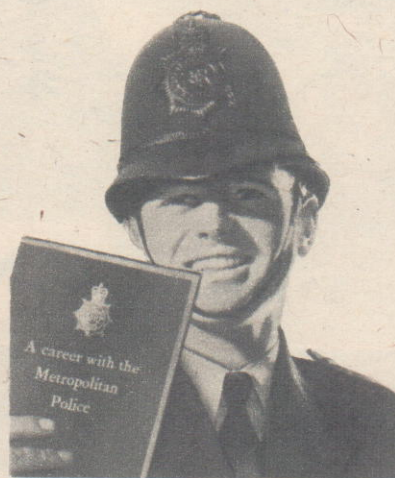
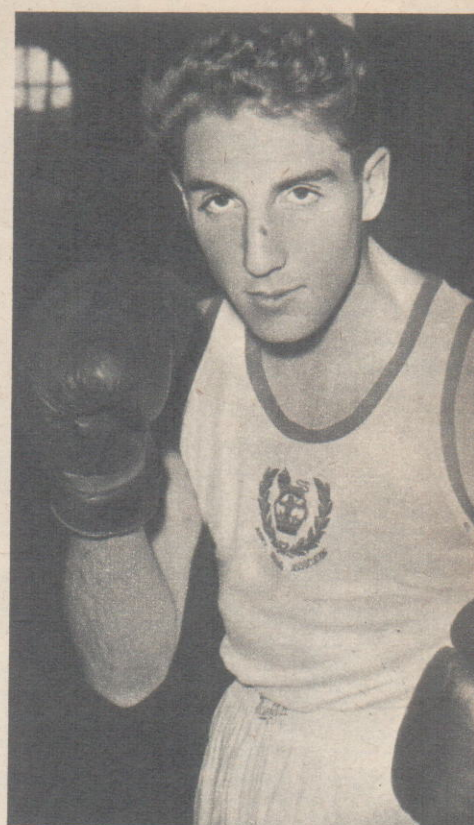
A new fixture for the Army this season is one against the Royal Air Force which takes place at Stanmore in February. Until now Army boxers have come up against airmen only in the Imperial Services annual championships. The new match will form a useful guide to the selection of Army boxers for the latter event.

A boxer wins the coveted badge of the Army Boxing Association after representing the Army three times or by winning an individual championship and competing in the triangular match with the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force.

Each season about 15 new sets of Army boxing colours are awarded, representing nearly half of the total number of boxers who have gained selection out of the 60 or so who were originally graded.



Army bantamweight champion two years ago, Rifleman Ted Maynard was runner-up last season. Right: D. Stone is an Army, ISBA and ABA champion.



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MOTOR CYCLING

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MACHINES

THE new Army motor cycle champion is Driver H. H. Raynor, a National Serviceman from No. 1 Training School, Royal Army Service Corps, Aldershot. He won from a field of 92 riders on the tough and tortuous 40-mile cross-country course at Blackdown, Hampshire.

Driver Raynor kept his seat and his head to such purpose that he lost only 14 points. Sergeant M. G. Edwards, of the Army Mechanical Transport School, was second six points behind. He won the cup for the best Regular Army rider and Craftsman Peter Stirland, of 6 (Vehicle) Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, was third, having dropped 24 points. Private Allerton, of the 4/7th Battalion, Gordon Highlanders, was the best Territorial Army rider. Team champions were 6 (Vehicle) Battalion, REME.

After completing two and a half laps, each of 15 miles, the riders were glad to ease a weary leg off their mud-covered machines. It says a lot for the standard of riding and the fitness of the Army machines that only 12 riders failed to finish.

The biggest hazard was the duckpond. Hazard No. 9 was another tough one calling for nerve and balance. The riders had to drop their machines over a bank into a gully, ride out and negotiate a hump-back, drop back into the gully, turn through trees and over a number of conflicting cambers. Another required skilful riding in, out and round trees and then over tree roots. There was also Hill 60 with some one-in-three gradients and narrow bends.

Footnote: The Army organised the event so successfully that one motor cycling magazine suggested 'civilian organisers would do well to copy.'

PATRICK GARROW

Up to the hubs in mud. The duckpond was the downfall of many. Above: Signalman A. J. Lampkin, 5 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, goes through in a steam cloud.

Left: Lieutenant D. M. McIlveen, Royal Army Service Corps, was not so fortunate. He got bogged down in the pond and had to be pulled out.

Below: Colour-Sergeant S. Gatecliffe, Royal Army Service Corps, was one who failed to get up Hill 60.

Allez Oop! Lieutenant R. J. Forrester, 4 Training Regiment, Royal Engineers, holds on as his machine bucks up Hill 60.

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LETTERS

DUNCES AND DOWN-AND-OUTS

In **SOLDIER** (October) occurs the sentence: "The days when the Army was a bolt-hole for dunces, down-and-outs and the workshy have gone for ever." I always thought the idea that the Army was a refuge for these types was from the vocabulary of a certain kind of agitator who hated the Army because it was a disciplined force taught to obey orders, which was sometimes used to break up riotous mobs, in fact, because the Army was used to prevent anarchy.

It would be interesting to know to what period of history the writer refers. Was it the period when William Cobbett was proud to be a soldier, or when Robert Blatchford served? In his "My Life in the Army" (in 1871) Blatchford says of his barrack-room fellows: "They were strangely friendly to me, these men, and their manner towards me was a blend of respect and protection. I, on my side, felt quite at home with them, for I had already realised that among those dozen of rough, wild, and odd soldiers there was not one with a mean or bad drop of blood in him."

Perhaps it was the army that stemmed the Kaiser's hordes which was half composed of workshys. If so, the other half deserves even more praise than it has hitherto had.

Down-and-out many good men have been in times of depression, even in America, but they were far from being workshy. I would say that it is and generally has been the workshy, hands-in-pocket brigade who avoid the Army like the plague. Their motto in wartime was: "Why should I fight? It's not my country."

I have never been a Regular soldier, having served only on war or post-war engagements, but I have known quite a few pre-1914 soldiers and many between the wars. I doubt if the proportion of workshys and dunces was above the average for the country as a whole, or in fact as high. — P. V. Harris, 118, Norbury Crescent, London.

WHY NO RAINCOAT?

I think it is high time that the Army began to live up to its modern recruiting advertisements which refer to the "new, scientific Army."

There are still the same old complaints about uniform which everyone in authority has known about for years. For example, why has the Other Rank still no raincoat? The Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force are either issued with them or allowed to buy their own. I am sure that most Regular soldiers, and a good number of National Servicemen, too, would buy their own if given the chance, although I think mackintoshes should be issued.

Again, if the Army wants its NCOs to wear whitened chevrons (as most units, with the notable exception of the Foot Guards, do) why are we not issued with them? Thirdly, according to Clothing Regulations we are not supposed to wear metal rank and trade badges on battledress. But many units insist that we do wear them, so we have to purchase our own.

Our personal clothing and equipment is, on the whole, out of date and the cheapest the Government can buy. — "Disgruntled Senior NCO."



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

Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published.

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

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

SOLECISMS

Lieutenant-Colonel George Malcolm of Pottaloch complained (Letters, October) that the Press commit solecisms in using incorrect military terms. May I, as a Western Front veteran of both wars, a journalist for 43 years and an editor for 12, remind him that the Press represents the public, which is committing tens of thousands of solecisms every hour of the day.

Nor is the Army free from this sin, for it calls Devon "Devonshire," Catholics "Roman Catholics," the Union flag the "Union Jack" and the County of Southampton "Hampshire." So what?

My old regiment used to be misnamed the Dorsetshires. An appeal by the proud men of Dorset resulted in King George VI authorising the removal of the superfluous "shire." One hopes that with the union of the Devons and the Dorsets the correct name will be given to the county of the red soil. — Wilfred A. Clarke, 103, Station Road, Wyld Green, Sutton Coldfield.

Lieutenant-Colonel Malcolm raised a problem which must have exercised many of us who have been concerned with organisations such as regimental charities, old comrades' reunions, regimental associations and the like.

For many years I have tried in vain to find an all-embracing term which will include officers, warrant officers, other ranks, serving, retired, ex-service, Regular, Territorial and AER personnel. The expression "All Ranks" would seem to have a limited application to those on the active list, while "All ranks, past and present" is cumbersome and strikes a slightly pompous note.

I plead guilty therefore to the occasional use of the solecism "member." After all membership does not invariably imply the payment of subscrip-

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tions; we are all members of our respective families and it is this family spirit which has played so large a part in building up our regimental and corps traditions.—Major-General R. E. Barnsley (rtd.), R.A.M.C. Historical Museum, Depot and Training Establishment Royal Army Medical Corps, Crookham.

"88th MET 88th"

The lines on the Irish Brigade (Letters, October) refer to the original regiments which served France from 1692 to 1793.

There have been other such brigades or bodies of Irishmen called brigades since such as Brigadier-General F. T. Meagher's Irish Brigade with the Army of the Potomac during the American Civil War; the battalion defending the Papal States in 1871; Lynch's Commando in the second Boer War and the two bodies of Irish volunteers in the Spanish Civil War, one, serving the Republic in Madrid under Commandant Frank Ryan and the other, under General Eoin O'Duffy, serving with General Franco.

The lines of poetry referred to, often taken by authors to suit their own interpretations and so altered in context, are by Thomas Davis, the Irish poet who, in the middle of the last century, wrote many verses on the exploits of the original Irish Brigade, which served France. The last verse of the Davis poem in question goes:

"They fought as they revelled fast,
fiery and true,
And though victors they left on the
field not a few.
And they who were left fought and
drank as of yore,
But the land of their heart's hope
they never saw more.
For in far foreign fields from
Dunkirk to Belgrade,
Lie the soldiers and chiefs of the
Irish Brigade."

Lieutenant-Colonel The O'Donovan,
Gold Mead, Lymington, Hampshire.

TA SERVICE

Before being called up I was in the Territorial Army for three years. I was told that some of this service would be allowed to count as Regular service. If this is correct does it bring my pay increases forward?—"Craftsman."

★No, but voluntary training in the Territorial Army before call-up does count towards subsequent part-time service.

LANYARDS

Other ranks of the Royal Artillery wear white lanyards on the right shoulder because the lanyard was once used to fire the guns. But why white and why the right shoulder? Other regiments also wear lanyards of various colours, often on the left shoulder. Why?—"Irish Terrier."

★The lanyard worn by the Royal Artillery is not symbolic of the gun lanyard. Lanyards were for securing the jack-knife which, before World War One was issued to all mounted troops, signallers and RAOC storemen. It was intended to be worn around the waist but mounted troops found it more convenient to wear the lanyard on the shoulder with the knife in the breast pocket. The original lanyard was of hemp and had to be scrubbed. This led to blanching, hence the white lanyards worn by the Royal Artillery and most Cavalry regiments.

Lanyards worn by other regiments and corps are embellishments without tradition and were introduced to brighten up battledress. They are worn on either shoulder.

ASIAN 'FLU

The diagnosis of the 'flu virus from the Hong Kong outbreak you mentioned in your article (October) was made in the pathology department of the Royal Army Medical College at Millbank, London. All the egg inoculation was also done there.

Only when a culture of the virus was sent to the World Influenza Centre for "typing" was it realised that an entirely new strain was present. Your article suggests that all the diagnostic work was done at the World Influenza Centre. The Royal Army Medical

College laboratories were, in fact, the first in England to isolate the Asian strain—Colonel L. MacFarlane, Royal Army Medical College.

STRIPES

SOLDIER (September) shows a bombardier with two stripes. However, in the days of the pillbox cap a bombardier wore one stripe on the upper arm, one on the forearm of the overcoat and a miniature on the front of the pillbox. Just when, how and why did these changes occur?—J. R. Power, Los Angeles, U.S.A.

★In 1902 the junior NCOs of the Royal Artillery were a corporal, who had two chevrons, and a bombardier with one chevron. The chevrons were worn on the right arm above the elbow. Miniatures were also worn on the pillbox, or forage cap, above the band. The rank of bombardier was later substituted for corporal in the Royal Artillery, the two chevrons being retained. One chevron became the badge of rank of a lance-bombardier.

COVER GUARDSMAN

You might like to know that I am the guardsman challenging the Keys and Escort shown on your front cover for September. I posed for the painter, Mr. Cuneo, standing on one foot as my fiancée had spilled boiling water over the other one. At the time I was a lance-corporal in the 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards.—F. Dooley, Cecilia Road, Dalston, London, E.8.

SURNAMES

There is nothing exceptional in finding all those names (and others) in a regiment or battalion during a period of 16 years (Letters, October). More interesting was seeing many years ago, a barrackroom occupied by men of the 1st Battalion, the East Lancashire Regiment whose names were painted in white on their packs over the beds. Four of these on adjoining shelves read "Field Marshall Lord Roberts."—C. W. Joel, 49, Kelburne Road, Cowley.

SAPPERS IN OMAN

It was unfortunate that in your article on the operations in Oman (October) you do not mention the Sappers who performed all the field engineering tasks, namely a subaltern and half a troop of 37th Field Engineer Regiment, which is based on Cyprus. This party of men carried out all the demolitions in two phases and probably were in the country much longer than most of the other visiting troops since they had to return to the country a second time. During their four weeks' stay in the country they demolished four forts, 15 towers, 11 fortified houses and used 12 tons of explosives.

On page 8 you show a photograph at the top of the page with the caption "In the thorny scrub outside Nizwa a Cameronian prepares his billet for the night." This soldier is not a Cameronian; he is Sapper Read of 40 Field Squadron of 37th Field Engineer Regiment.—Capt. S. C. S. King, Adjutant, 37th Field Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers.

RUSSIAN OATH

What kind of oath is taken by soldiers of (a) Great Britain; (b) Russia; (c) United States of America? I am the editor of our regimental monthly newsletter and several readers have asked me for this information. Can SOLDIER oblige?—L. Goldman, Imperial Light Horse/Kimberley Regimental Association, Natal, South Africa.

★The oath of allegiance taken by soldiers of the countries named is as follows:

(a) "I swear by Almighty God, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, her heirs and successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend

continued overleaf . . .

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more letters

Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, in person, crown and dignity against her enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, and of the generals and officers set over me."

(b) "I, a citizen of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, now entering the ranks of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, take this oath and solemnly swear to be an honest, brave, disciplined and vigilant soldier, strictly to preserve military and state secrets, and unswervingly to obey all military regulations and the orders of commanders and superiors."

"I swear conscientiously to study the art of war, scrupulously to cherish military and public property and to be faithful to my last breath to my people, to my Soviet country, and to the Workers' and Peasants' Government."

"I shall be always ready, at the command of the Workers' and Peasants' Government, to come forth in defence of my country—the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics—and, as a soldier of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, I swear to defend it courageously, ably, worthily and honourably, sparing neither my blood nor my life, for the achievement of complete victory over the enemy."

"If by malice aforethought I violate this, my solemn oath, may I bear stern punishment under the Soviet law and the hatred and contempt of the working people."

(c) "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America; that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all enemies whomsoever; and that I will obey the orders of the officers appointed over me according to the rules and Articles of War."



SOLDIER COVER

The front cover photograph by staff cameramen ARTHUR BLUNDELL and FRANK TOMPSETT, depicts the scene that will greet the Gunners when they sit down to their Christmas dinner at the Royal Artillery Depot other ranks' mess in Woolwich.

This mess claims to be the best-fed in the British Army with a Christmas menu second to none. This year it will include: roast turkey, chicken, pork and sausages with chestnut stuffing, French beans, garden peas in butter, Brussels sprouts, roast potatoes, Christmas pudding with rum sauce, mince pies, fruit, nuts, beer, and coffee.

The cook sergeant in the photograph is Sergeant Charles Banks, Army Catering Corps.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

(See page 19)

1. Theatre; drunk; gallery; music 'alls; fightin'; stalls. 2. (b). 3. New York; it is not a capital city. 4. (d). 5. The Dinka. 6. (b). 7. Unassembled gliders at a depot in Britain in World War Two. 8. Ted is 23. 9. The Nile. 10. Right. 11. (b). 12. (a) appellation; (b) antirrhinum; (c) correct; (d) guerilla or guerrilla; (e) peregrination; (f) accommodation; (g) streptococcus. 13. (a) cij; (b) cf; (c) o/p; (d) pro tem. 14. Yvonne de Carlo in "Hotel Sahara." 15. (c). 16. Right. 17. (c). 18. Forts erected on the English coast against threatened invasion by Napoleon and so-called from the Mortella fort in Corsica which resisted an English fleet in 1794. 19. (a) swordfish (57 m.p.h.); (b) Black Mamba (7 m.p.h.); (c) racing pigeon (93 m.p.h.); (d) cheetah (70 m.p.h.).

20. Wrong. 21. (a) right-hand side; (b) left-hand side. 22. (c). 23. False. In World War Two all casualties, including civilians of all countries, was 22,060,000 killed and 34,300,000 wounded. 24. Bridge pontoons at an Army supply depot in England in World War Two. 25. Parsley is an annual herb; the rest are perennials. 26. (c). 27. (c). 28. (c).

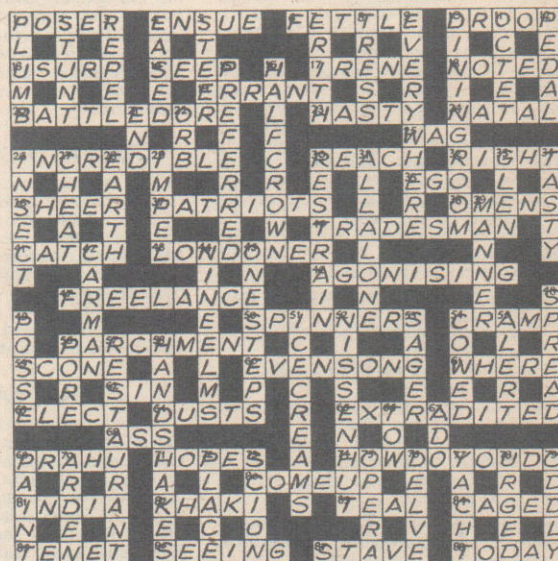
HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(See page 23)

The drawings differ in the following respects: 1. Length of tea bar awning. 2. Width of engine's steam cloud. 3. Shape of engine's dome. 4. Waitress's left shoulder strap. 5. Standing soldier's cigarette. 6. Platform number "5." 7. Position of ticket collector. 8. Seated soldier's cup. 9. Seated soldier's right leg. 10. Window of engine-driver's cab.

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

(see page 18)



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