

# SOLDIER

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

JUNE 1955



NINEPENCE





from Tea

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To see that Servicemen and women enjoy to the full their tea and tobacco is but one of the many and varied duties of . . .

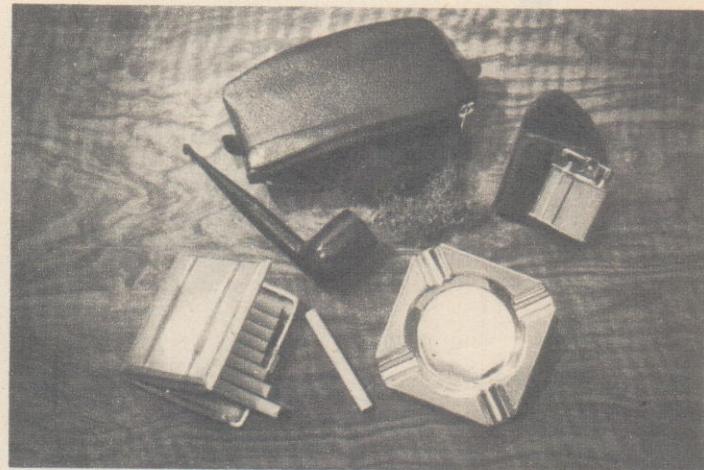
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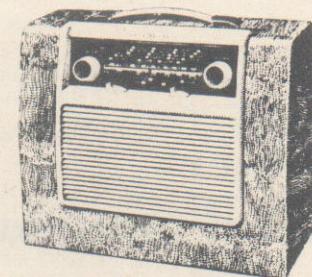
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**AFTER**

THE British soldier has never taken first-aid over seriously. Attack is his job; somebody else will pick up the casualties.

But nuclear warfare changes the picture, and the rules.

As the "mushroom" of a nuclear explosion drifts away, there will be a clear duty for every soldier in the area who is free of other tasks to seek out and give first-aid to the injured.

The resources of the Royal Army Medical Corps, which until now has provided nearly all the Army's first-aid, will be swamped by the mass casualties of an atomic or hydrogen bomb. Every other available soldier must be prepared to tend any minor injuries he may receive himself and then to help others.

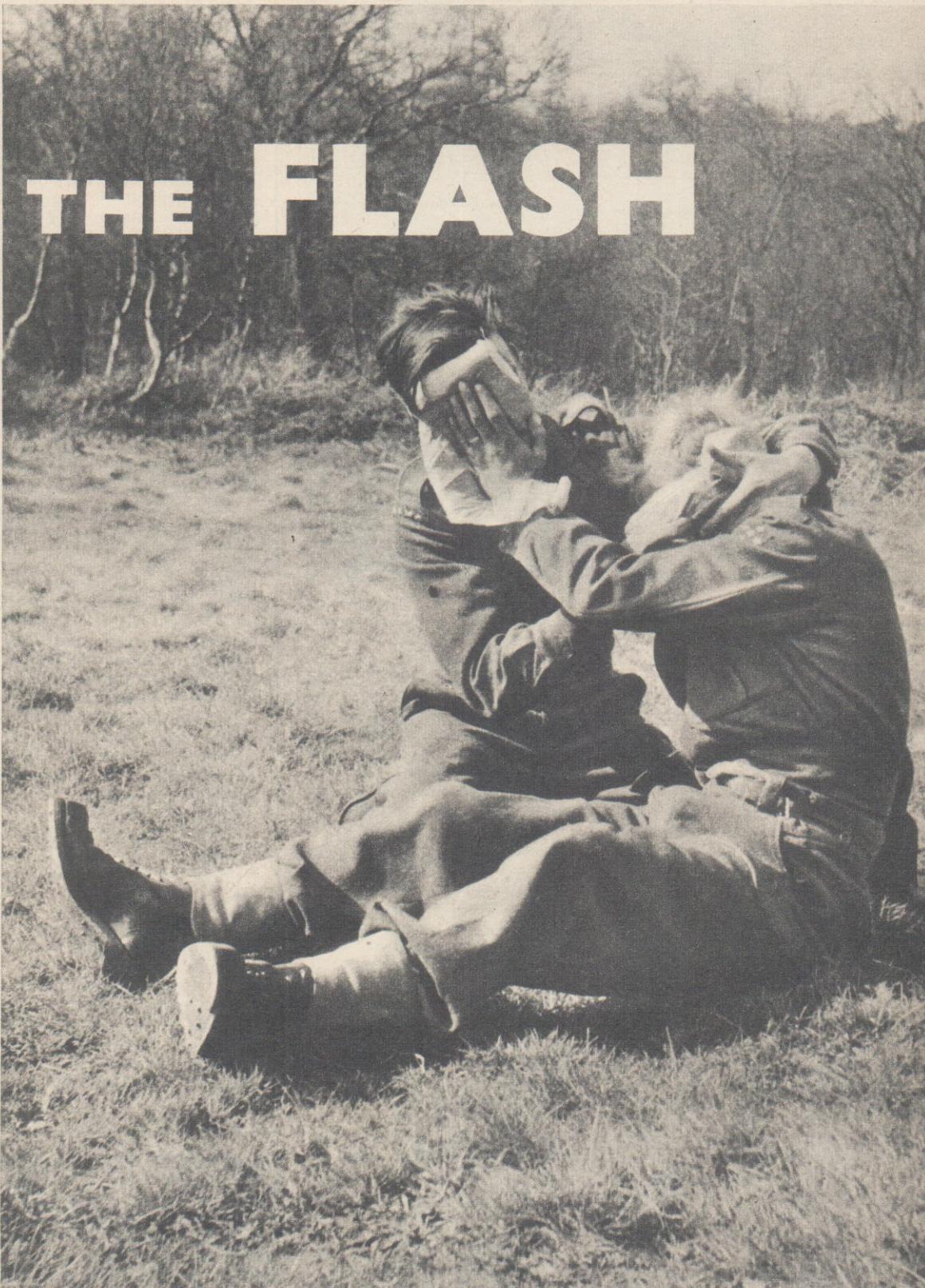
As a result, first-aid training for officers and men has come to be regarded as of comparable importance to weapon-training and fieldcraft.

Training every soldier in first-aid is also a bigger job than the Royal Army Medical Corps can tackle, along with its other duties. So at the Corps field training centre, at Ewshot, near Aldershot, courses for unit instructors have been started. In charge is Colonel A. N. T. Meneces, CBE, DSO, who visited Nagasaki and Hiroshima to study the medical effects of nuclear explosions.

The students learn to give first-aid treatment for ordinary injuries and for the burns which are inflicted by a nuclear explosion. Quick attention is essential. Ill-effects from radiation do not show themselves until later, and in any case need the skilled attention of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

A mock atom-bomb was exploded at Ewshot as the start of a demonstration which was the

OVER →



It looks like horseplay, but it is a grim incident from a nuclear battlefield: two soldiers, burned by flash, render first-aid to each other.

***In nuclear war, first-aid is as important as weapon-training***



Realism on an atom-bomb exercise: badly burned, the driver's mate hangs from the aircraft observation hatch of an overturned truck.

## AFTER THE FLASH

*continued*

high-light of one such course. Seven groups of gruesomely made-up "casualties" lay about the centre. To six of them, first-aid was rendered by Royal Army Medical Corps parties; the seventh group received help from 28 young officers wearing the badges of a variety of regiments and corps. They were students training as unit instructors.

The demonstration (staged by Army Emergency Reservists of the Royal Army Medical Corps) gave some indication of the size of the first-aid problem following a nuclear explosion. At a theoretical 1200 yards from ground zero (the centre of the explosion) was a burning, overturned truck with bloody casualties strewn around. The men who had been in the back of the truck had been saved from burns (but not from radiation) by the tarpaulin covering the vehicle. Not so the driver's mate, who had been sitting with his window open and whose arm and shoulder showed revoltingly roasted as he hung unconscious from the aircraft observation hatch.

At 2000 yards, a wall had collapsed on some men building it, who had also been burned. At the same distance, a cookhouse had been set on fire by scattered coals from its range, which

burned the cooks. Also at 2000 yards, a medical centre had been struck by blast wave and the medical officer was among the casualties. Another 500 yards farther on, a tree had collapsed on a tent full of men. At 3000 yards an officer and men on pay parade had been burned, and some were making out a convincing case for the administration of sedatives.

Most fortunate were all but one of a small group who had been building a trench only 800 yards from ground zero. They were in the trench and escaped. The odd man was caught in the open and killed. This item was included to illustrate the protective value of improvised air raid shelters.

Even on the modest scale of the supposed nuclear explosion at Ewshot, with the most distant casualties 3000 yards from ground zero, injured would be dotted over about seven square miles of country—a substantial area over which to seek out casualties and bring quick aid.

A hydrogen-bomb explosion would cover a far wider area. After the 1952 explosion at Eniwetok, it was said officially in America that, on land, damage would have extended to ten miles from the centre of the explosion. Thus there would have been more than 300 square miles—twice the area of Rutland, England's smallest county—to be searched for casualties in urgent need of help.

## SOLDIER to Soldier

**S**INCE there is no Imperial General Staff, anyone appointed to be Chief of it at £8 10s a day, plus a Responsibility Allowance of £1000 a year, ought to be on a good thing.

The title is a misnomer, certainly. But the post which General Sir Gerald Templer will take over later this year from Field-Marshal Sir John Harding would be an onerous one at any salary.

The Chief of the Imperial General Staff is the senior military adviser to the Government. He is, in effect, the Army's senior Staff officer. But whereas his subordinate Staff officers have their duties strictly defined—"Investigation of Complaints by Press," "Control of Warlike Stores," "Compulsory Stoppages" and so on—those of the Chief of the Imperial General Staff are not set out.

The workaday administration, obviously, he must leave to his subordinates. His biggest responsibility is defence strategy. That means frequently consulting commanders in the field, the generals of the Commonwealth and also of the North Atlantic Treaty countries. And not only the generals, but the admirals and air marshals, plus the politicians.

"Harding Off to Korea," "Harding Leaves Pakistan," say the headlines, and the public who read no further marvel at the way Gilbert gets around. What do they know, or care, of the problems of the man with the Responsibility Allowance, shuttling from continent to continent in a pressurised cabin or merely flitting in a helicopter over the English shires?

Periodically, of course, it is the turn of the commanders overseas to visit the Chief of the Imperial General Staff. This year, once more, they will be travelling to Camberley for a secret briefing on defence.

More than almost anybody else, the Chief of the Imperial General Staff must be aware of the implications of nuclear weapons, of supersonic and stratospheric attack. The view over the lawns of Camberley

is green and peaceful, but the problems to be considered there are linked with the long-distance rockets hissing over the Australian bush, and those monstrous fireballs in the Nevada desert.

The Chief of the Imperial General Staff must prepare his forces not only for major wars but for minor ones. He will not expect to serve three years without a summons or two to Downing Street, to discuss how to meet some new blockade in Europe or a threat of trouble in a colony. It's a restless world. Just now, however, there is an unusually good chance of building up that strategic reserve in Britain. Battalions which have been abroad for 20 years and more are coming home. It will, no doubt, be the aim of the Chief of the Imperial General Staff to bring home still more of the battalions tied down in untraditional places like British Guiana, not to mention Kenya, leaving local forces and police to do the job.

In the rest of his time, the Chief of the Imperial General Staff will, of course, take salutes, watch manoeuvres, inspect garrisons, give away prizes, make speeches and hold press conferences. If he has a preoccupied look in his eye, who will wonder?

That Responsibility Allowance is really one of the Treasury's little jokes. In Queen Anne's day, when money was really money, Marlborough had £10,000 a year as general, £7000 as plenipotentiary, £3000 as Master of the Ordnance, £2000 as Colonel of the Guards, £10,000 from the Dutch Parliament, £1825 for travel and £1000 for entertainment. And, of course, Blenheim Palace instead of an official flat in London.

## DURING THE FLASH

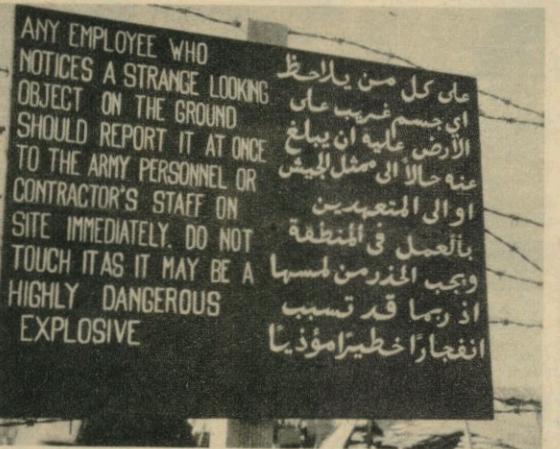
The world's most powerful "flash bulb"—an atomic bomb—was used to illuminate this scene on the Nevada test site. As the burst 30 miles away lit the night sky, the camera clicked.





## RUSHMOOR CAVALCADE

Aldershot's Rushmoor Arena, scene of many a spectacular military display, staged a polished parade on wheels when the Duke of Edinburgh visited 16th Independent Parachute Brigade Group. The New Forest pony Pegasus, mascot of the 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment, paraded with the pony mascots of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions. One of them has turned its back on the parade. The "cemetery" on the left is formed by concrete seat supports.



The signs of all the corps and divisions that freed Libya are painted on the walls of the Royal Army Service Corps depot in Tobruk.

Cyrenaica is still littered with uncharted mines. Warnings in English and Arabic are not uncommon.

Nearly 3000 British and Allied soldiers are buried in the Military Cemetery at Tobruk.

## A BETTER

THE men of Eighth Army who slogged along the road to Tripoli twelve years ago can hardly have foreseen a day when the hard-won towns they left in their wake—Tobruk, Derna, Barce, Benghazi, Homs—would become British Army family stations in an independent Kingdom of Libya.

The heirs of Eighth Army have guarded Libya's 1000-mile Mediterranean coastline since 1943. Now, by agreement with the Libyan Government and as part of the re-deployment plan for Britain's Middle East Forces, they will remain, side by side with the new Libyan Army which they helped to train, to keep watch in the sandy wastes of Cyrenaica and Tripolitania.

In the summer of next year, when the British Army has left the Canal Zone of Egypt, they will be the only British soldiers left in North Africa. By that time their physical lot will have undergone considerable improvement.

Work has already begun on a three-year plan to provide new barracks and more amenities, the lack of which is keenly felt by those garrisons separated from their neighbours by vast distances of desert. More married quarters will be erected. Arab and Italian workmen have already moved in to rebuild, extend and smarten up the Italian barracks in which most soldiers live at present.

OVER

*In the land of old ruins and new ruins, where mines still go crump in the night, the Army is embarked on a three-year plan. It will make for—*



Rommel had his headquarters in this Tobruk building which was destroyed when the Allies recaptured the port. It may soon be rebuilt.



Miss Mary Warren has been serving tea to soldiers since 1919. Now she is known as the

## MOTHER OF TOBRUK

THE men of the first British Army of the Rhine knew Miss Mary Warren. In 1919 she was a Salvation Army lass serving tea in canteens in Cologne and Wiesbaden. The anti-aircraft Gunners in Malta, during World War Two, knew Miss Warren. She was there with her canteen right through the war. Twice on her way to gunsites she was buried by near misses, and was dug out unhurt.

In 1949 Miss Warren came to Tobruk as canteen manageress and began working an 18-hour day (Sundays included) to help cheer the soldiers of that lonely garrison. Now they call her the "Mother of Tobruk."

She is up most mornings at half-past four. At six she begins making cakes and, with the help of two assistants, prepares the canteen for the mid-morning break. She is said to make the best doughnuts in North Africa. Units from as far away as Derna and Benghazi place regular orders for them.

The canteen, in the patched-up local theatre, contains a bookshop and gift counter. On the pleasure beaches Miss Warren also serves refreshments.

Nearby is a leave centre—the only one in North Africa—which Miss Warren opened soon after arriving in Tobruk. Recent guests have included soldiers from Tripoli and Benghazi, but it is used mainly by men stationed in Tobruk.

Miss Warren conducts the services and reads the lessons at the two Sunday services in the small Salvation Army chapel in the canteen building. She is organiser and leader of the community hymn-singing group. She conducts Bible-reading classes and a Sunshine Corner for the younger children. Recently she formed a group of Boy Scouts for younger soldiers and the garrison's older children, and a pack of Wolf Cubs.

Most evenings when "her boys" have gone back to barracks she stays up until midnight mending their shirts and socks.

## LIFE FOR LIBYA



Sailing is a popular pastime in Benghazi. The all-ranks club has races every week-end.



Components for the Army's first aluminium hospital in Benghazi come in wooden crates from Britain.

Above (right): Military Police in Tripoli patrol the palm-lined streets with Libyan and American Air Police.

Below: Comparing notes outside their combined headquarters are a Tripolitanian policeman, Corporal S. Dodds, of 25 Armoured Brigade Provost Company, and Master-Sergeant B. L. Brooks, of the US Air Police.



## LIBYA

continued

Axis minefields on the perimeter.

A start has already been made on clearing up Tobruk. The barracks are being repaired and planted with 500 trees and shrubs. The sports fields, scratched out of bare sand and rock, are being improved and a new beach lido with canteens has been built. A new school for the garrison's 30 children and the first of 22 married quarters have also been completed. A network of hard-surfaced roads will replace the pot-holed tracks. Plans for rebuilding the ruined Italian water purification plant, so that Tobruk can have its own fresh water, are also being considered.

One man with an especial interest in rebuilding Tobruk is the Garrison Engineer, Lieutenant Edwin Goddard, Royal Engineers. As one of the beleaguered garrison in 1942 he saw it destroyed by the Germans and Italians. When the town was recaptured by the Afrika Korps he escaped with five minutes to spare. Now he is back again directing the efforts to make the town more habitable.

Troops in Derna, called the "Pearl of North Africa" because of its equable sunny climate and its picture postcard setting among the palms, are well off compared with those in Tobruk. The town was only slightly damaged during the war and soldiers occupy intact Italian barracks. They are



able to go shopping in the local markets and hire cars for weekend trips into the nearby Jebel which, in the short winter months, produces a surprisingly rich profusion of flowers.

Barce, where the Royal Scots Greys recently rescued scores of Libyans from drowning in the great floods which swept the Libyan Plain, lies in the centre of the most fertile part of the country. In winter and spring, when the fields are covered in grass and green crops, it is difficult to realise that only a few miles away is desert. Each year the tank regiment stationed there holds a race meeting—the Barce Vale Hunt—when soldiers and their families, some from as far away as Derna and Benghazi, mingle with Bedouin and Arab spectators. On this day the nearby Tocra Pass, over which Eighth Army fought on its way to Tunis, becomes a favourite picnic spot.

On the outskirts of Benghazi work has begun on a new headquarters for Cyrenaica District, which will soon be able to claim the first sewage disposal works in Cyrenaica. Purified water from the plant will be used to irrigate the sports fields. To keep out the *ghibli*, the oven-hot wind that blows off the desert, wind-breaks of trees are to be planted.

The Army's first pre-fabricated aluminium hospital is nearing completion at Benghazi. Its components are made in Britain and shipped in wooden crates direct to Benghazi, where unskilled Libyan labourers fit them together in a third of the time it would take to build by more conventional means.

The Army will also move into a new home in the suburbs of Tripoli where 130 new married quarters are being built.

At present there are no leave centres in Libya, apart from the Salvation Army Hostel in Tobruk, where only 14 persons can be accommodated. The leave centre at Cyrene is closed and the hostel at Battisti is empty pending a Libyan decision to turn it into a boarding school. Hence only those stationed near Sabratha and Leptis Magna have the opportunity to visit the famous ruined cities there.

Nor is there any free leave travel to Britain. A Forces' air passage to Britain from Tripoli costs £45. There is free leave travel to Malta, but the soldier has to find his own accommodation and food, which are so expensive that only a few can afford the trip.

All these matters are now under consideration and it may not be long before satisfactory answers are found. Meanwhile, the British soldier in Libya is making the best of things. Every unit has access to a cinema and playing fields. Under-water swimming clubs and sailing clubs are beginning to flourish and bathing from the sandy beaches is still the most popular pastime.

The soldier trains hard, too, in one of the best tank training grounds in the world—the rocky, scrub-covered Jebel and the vast areas of desert to the south. Most men spend several days each month away from barracks on unit exercises and combine in brigade and divisional manoeuvres.

They welcome the change of scene these manoeuvres bring, especially when they have to be staged in Garian, some 80 miles south of Tripoli. Here is The Lady of Garian, a 25-foot long, heavily autographed, nude painted on a garage wall in the former Italian barracks. In a



In the Roman city of Sabratha men of the 14/20th King's Hussars admire the marble-columned theatre.

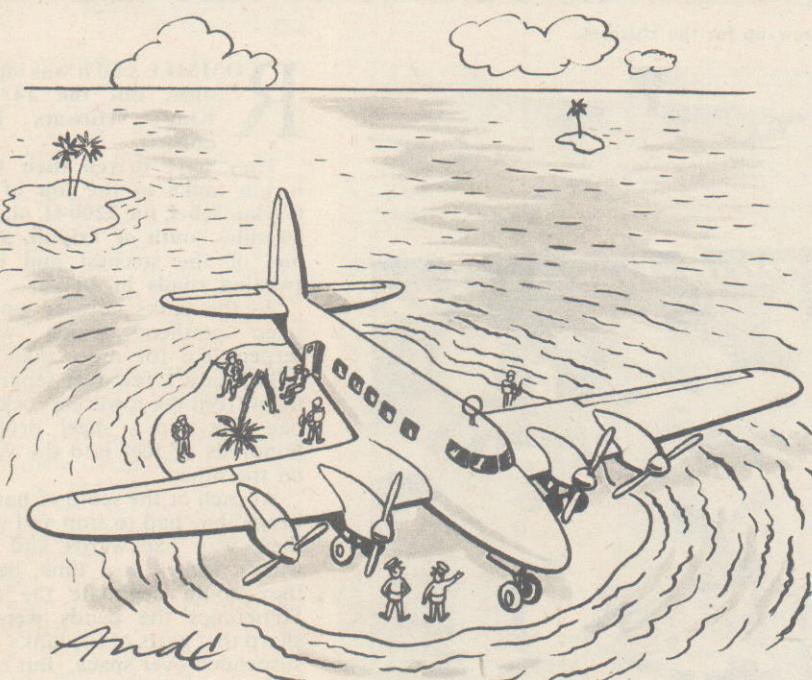
rather crude fashion she tells the story of Eighth Army's victorious advance from El Alamein to Tripoli. Along the top of her body, which resembles the coastline of North Africa, a fleet of tanks, guns and lorries speeds westwards. Bombers fly over her legs on their way to Tunisia and on more intimate parts of her anatomy British and German tanks give battle, soldiers brew tea and wash their feet in wadis called by names Eighth Army never knew, such as Wadi You Know and Wadi You Have. This giant mural, which was painted by one Gifford Saber of the American Field Service early in 1943, when he was a prisoner-of-war in Garian, may soon disappear. The Tripolitanian Police Force are taking over the barracks in the near future and are not expected to preserve her.

Many soldiers in Libya complain that nothing new or ex-

citing ever happens. Not so Warrant Officer Charles Flavell, a Royal Army Educational Corps instructor in Derna. He goes hiking at week-ends in the desert looking for adventure. Recently on a four-day, 60-mile journey he made friends with a Bedouin who produced a piece of paper reading "This man served with Popski's Private Army in North Africa in 1943 and should be treated with the utmost courtesy." The warrant officer was detained by Arabs on suspicion of being a Russian spy (because of his red shirt). He also fell down a wadi and woke up one night to find a snake crawling across his legs.

Other members of the sergeants' mess in Derna are now thinking of hiring a donkey to carry their kit and going off into the desert at week-ends.

He goes for lone desert hikes: Warrant-Officer Charles Flavell.



"Not bad for an emergency landing, eh?"

In a desert exercise with the new Libyan Army the 14/20th Hussars performed a feat which a famous German tankman said was impossible

# “TANKS CAN’T CLIMB THAT,” ROMMEL SAID



Above: Part of the Garian Road to the Jebel. Below: A desert brew-up for the Hussars.



ROMMEL said it was impossible, but the 14/20th King's Hussars have done it.

They have driven their Centurion tanks to the top of the Garian Jebel, the 2200-ft. plateau 80 miles south of Tripoli, along one of the steepest and most twisting roads in Libya.

As the tanks crawled up the steep gradient which winds serpent-like for more than two miles, only a few feet separated them from the towering rocks on one side and a sheer drop of hundreds of feet into the valley on the other.

At each of the score of hairpin bends they had to stop and work their way backwards and forwards, inches at a time, before they could negotiate the turn. Sometimes the bends were so sharp that parts of the tanks were suspended over space. But every tank reached the top without mishap and under its own power.

In the leading tank—enjoying the adventure—rode the United



Lieut.-Colonel R. P. D. F. Allan, commanding officer of the 14/20th Hussars. Below: Lieutenant P. Boxhall, RASC, whose men transported the tanks to the Jebel.



States Ambassador, Mr. John L. Tappin.

The Centurions had been brought to the foot of the Garian Jebel by tank transporters of 44 Company, Royal Army Service Corps, at Barce, 650 miles away in Cyrenaica. It took 16 days for the transporters under Lieutenant Peter Boxhall to reach Sabratha, where the Hussars are stationed.

After climbing the Jebel the Hussars set off into the desert to take part with 22 Field Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, and the lorry-borne 1st Idris el Awal Regiment of the Libyan Army in a combined exercise. Its object was to practise the Libyan Infantry in an attacking role, supported by tanks and artillery. The Sappers, using simulated charges, played the part of Gunners; the Hussars provided both friendly and enemy tanks.

For the Libyan Army, raised, trained and equipped by the British (and possessing a 25-pounder battery presented by the Turkish Government), this was a big occasion. It was the first time



Libyan Infantrymen advance to attack under cover of a Centurion.

they had taken part in a large-scale exercise with British troops. To see how their new army was shaping the Libyan Prime Minister, the Minister of Defence and members of the Government were in attendance. So, too, were representatives of the British, United States and French military missions in Libya, including Colonel P. G. Wreford Brown, of the East Surrey Regiment, who is head of the British Military Mission which helped to form the army just over a year ago.

As an artillery barrage opened up the spectators saw the

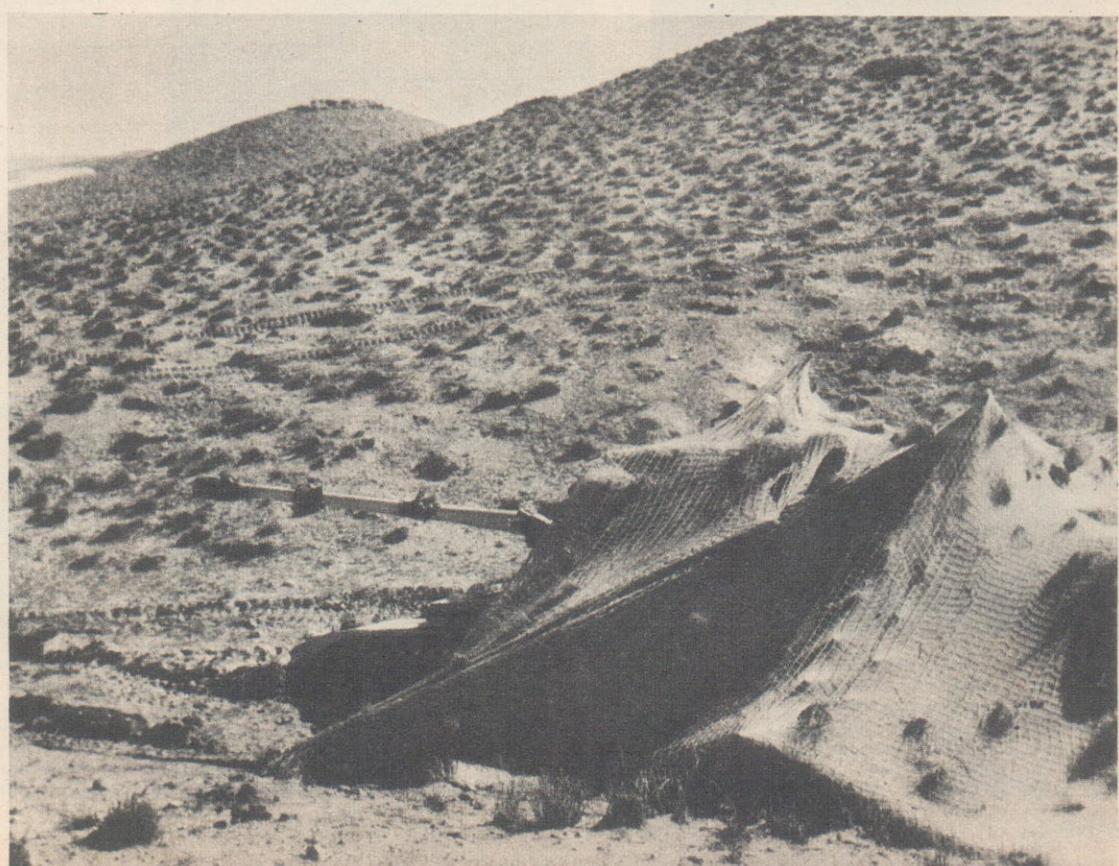
Infantrymen, bayonets fixed and in extended line, advance in the swirling clouds of sand thrown up by the Centurions. After over-running enemy outposts, which had been guarded by dummy minefields, they swarmed into the main defences. Resistance was soon overcome and through a dense smoke screen the attackers swept over the sand-dunes to the plains beyond, mopping up under cover of mortar fire before taking up positions to repel the expected counter-attack.

After the exercise, which he

OVER



Right: Brigadier Daud S. el Janaby Kaid, C.-in-C. of the Libyan Army, was one of the spectators. Below: A camouflaged Centurion lies in wait.





Left: Libya's Prime Minister inspects the 14/20th King's Hussars.

Above: Colonel Senussi Latawish and Major Idris Abdallah of the new Libyan Army both served with Eighth Army in World War Two.

Concluding

## MIDDLE EAST REPORT No. 4

described as "a first-class example of Allied co-operation," the Libyan Defence Minister inspected the British and Libyan troops.

But it was not the end of the manoeuvres for the Hussars. They stayed out in the desert

with "J" (Sidi Rezegh) Battery of 3rd Royal Horse Artillery, who had joined them from Homs, and the Sappers. They fought each other and the *ghibli*, the hot desert wind that covers everything in fine sand and leaves tempers frayed.

Six of the Hussars were lost for four days in their Land-rover and one-ton truck. Finally, they were discovered by the pilot of an Auster aircraft belonging to the Air Observation Flight attached to the Regiment. The aircraft

burst a tyre landing on the rough ground.

In one of the many ruined Roman mausoleums, which are dotted about the desert, the men of "A" Squadron found three mummified bodies. They were sent to the Libyan Department of Antiquities whose experts say the bodies are about 2000 years old and almost certainly Roman.

(This report includes information supplied by Lieutenant "Mike" Type, Military Observer in Libya.)

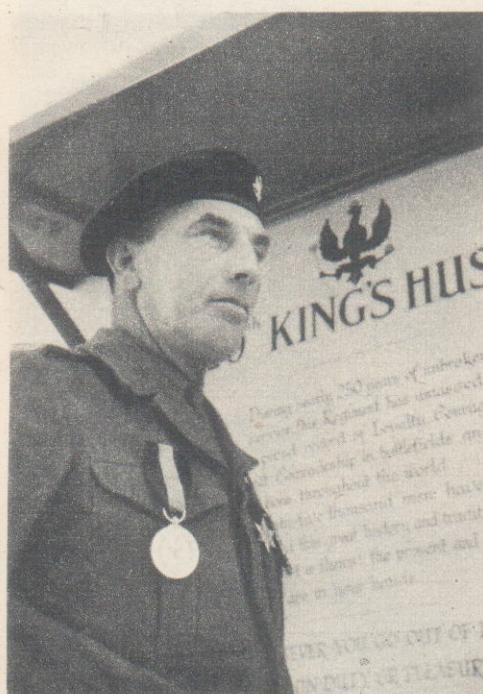


"I came down here, originally, to congratulate you men on the pontoon bridge you built."

## IN THE DESERT THEY KEEP ALIVE TRADITION

At the entrance to the camp of the 14/20th King's Hussars, at Sabratha, stands a sign bearing a long list of battle honours won over a period of nearly 250 years. "Twenty-five thousand men have compiled this history

and tradition," reads the notice. "The past is theirs; the present and the future are in your hands. Whenever you go out of this camp, on duty or pleasure, in uniform or plain clothes, remember you are always a 14/20th King's Hussar."



The 14/20th King's Hussars have their own regimental medal which is awarded "for soldierly merit contributing to the honour of the Regiment." Sergeant V. Coles, 31 years in the Regiment, won his for outstanding successes in sport. The medal is worn on the right breast and only on special regimental occasions.



This silver receptacle was captured by the 14/20th Hussars from the baggage of the King of Spain after the Battle of Vittoria in 1813. On officers' mess nights it is filled with champagne and passed round the table. Hence the Regiment's nickname of "The Emperor's Chambermaids."



A silver model of a Sexton carrying a miniature 25-pounder gun is the latest addition to the officers' mess of "J" (Sidi Rezegh) Battery, 3rd Royal Horse Artillery, at Homs in Tripolitania. The Battery earned its honour title for gallantry at the battle of Sidi Rezegh in 1941 when 2nd Lieutenant G. Gunn won the Victoria Cross.

# COMBAT SUITS IN RHINE ARMY NOW

***The Army's combat suit, hitherto seen only in Korea, is now being tested in Rhine Army. If trials are successful, most soldiers may soon be wearing it***

**W**ITHIN the next two or three years most British soldiers, except those serving in tropical climates, may be wearing the combat suit. Until now it has been worn only in Korea.

If troop trials which have just begun in Rhine Army are successful, the combat suit will replace the battledress for peacetime training. In wartime it is likely to become the only operational uniform for all ranks in cold and temperate climates.

But the battledress will not entirely disappear; in peacetime one suit would be retained for walking-out, leave and ceremonial purposes. The combat suit would be worn only on training and possibly for camp duties. In wartime every field force soldier would probably have two combat suits, both battledresses being withdrawn. It is expected that lines-of-communication troops would continue to wear battle-dress in peace and war.

Three units in Rhine Army—the 1st Battalion The East Lancashire Regiment, 3rd Royal Tank Regiment and 29th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery—were issued with combat suits last month. They will wear them for a year, testing them in all conditions likely to be met in temperate climates. (British soldiers in 1st Commonwealth Division in Korea have already discovered the virtues of this fighting dress in cold climates.) If the results are satisfactory the combat suit, with possible modifications, will be issued first to field force units in North-West Europe and Britain.

The combat suit made its first appearance in 1949, but has since undergone many modifications, some of them based on first-hand experience in Korea. It was produced to replace battledress, which is not entirely satisfactory as a fighting attire because it gives little protection against rain and wind and does not allow complete freedom of movement.

The combat suit is made of water-repelling, windproof sateen. Its loose-fitting, airborne-style jacket and trousers can be worn over vest and short underpants in hot weather or over a shirt and jersey or pullover in temperate winters. In extremely cold weather they can be worn over special combat underclothing and under wool-lined parkas. The jacket and trousers have draw-cords and zip-fasteners which can be adjusted to assist ventilation or retain body heat as required. These garments are also a few ounces lighter than the battledress.

With the combat suit goes a waterproof combat cap made of a double layer of gaberdine. This has a rubberised peak and ear-flaps lined with flannel. It

**The Dorsets on parade in Korea in the combat suit. Note how rank badges are mounted on brassards which slip over the arm of the jacket.**



**The combat cap has a rubber peak and flannelled ear-flaps.**

resembles the American Army fatigue cap and weighs only five-and-three-quarter ounces.

Troop trials are also soon to be carried out on a new general service boot fitted with rubber composition soles. It is a modified version of the cold-wet rubber-soled boot worn in Korea, has leather uppers and weighs slightly less than the present leather-soled ammunition boot.

The designers claim that the new rubber-soled boots are more comfortable, harder-wearing and more water-resisting than the present boots. Another great advantage, they say, is that men on patrol will be able to move more silently.

If troop trials are satisfactory the new boots are expected to

become a general issue, although it may be a considerable time before soldiers begin to receive them. Stocks of present leather-soled ammunition boots will have to be used up first.

Many will find it hard to accustom themselves to the idea of a British Army with "whispering" feet. The tramp of hard-shod men has a peculiarly satisfying sound.

The Army's clothing designers have been busy on a new cape to replace both the groundsheets and the gas cape. And they have also produced a new type of webbing equipment which is now undergoing trials.

## THE KOREA TOUCH



**United States officers in Korea wear their names on their combat suits. Here (beside Field Marshal Sir John Harding) is Lieut.-General C. B. Ferenbaugh, of the US 8th Army.**



**For speedy recognition Canadian officers in Korea wear their rank badges just above the solar plexus. The experiment was tried out on Arctic exercises in Alaska in 1952.**

*"God Save the Queen" we living sing,  
From height to height 'tis heard;  
And with the rest your voices ring,  
Lads of the Fifty-Third.*

*Oh, God will save her, fear you not:  
Be you the men you've been,  
Get you the sons your fathers got,  
And God will save the Queen.*

A. E. HOUSMAN

These lines were written on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Jubilee.

# Milestone for The Shropshire Lads



For once the "Keep Left" sign does not apply. The Shropshire Lads march through Bridgnorth to receive the town's freedom.

On the cushion is the Freedom Cas- ket presented by Shrewsbury town.

**T**WO hundred years ago a big war "flap" was on . . . It resulted in the raising of eleven new Line regiments, numbering from 52 to 62 (but later renumbered).

The "flap" sprang from the usual cause: Britain had run down her Army too low. Cleverly, as it seemed, the Government had encouraged soldiers disbanded from the most recent war to emigrate to Nova Scotia, passage-free, tax-free for 10 years. Alarmed by this invasion, the French began offensive action. The Seven Years War had begun.

Five of the regiments raised at that time still survive and are planning celebrations. They are the King's Royal Rifle Corps (raised in America) and the first battalions of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (which will celebrate next year), the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and the Middlesex Regiment.

The other six endured as separate units until after World War Two, having become the second battalions of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, the Dorset, Border, Essex, Northamptonshire and East Lancashire Regiments. Some of these regiments also propose to celebrate, this year or next.

First to celebrate this year was the 1st Battalion The King's Shropshire Light Infantry. This regiment, the 53rd, did not cultivate a connection with Shropshire until 1782, on its return from Canada. (Its first rendezvous was York and its recruits were Southerners.)

The 53rd's first battle honour, "Nieuport," is held by no other regiment. It was gained in 1793, when the Regiment defended Nieuport (between Ostend and Calais) against a surprise attack.

When Napoleon was sent to St. Helena the 53rd provided one of the first units to guard him. The Emperor called it a model of all a regiment should be.

In India, during the second Sikh War the 53rd literally added a jewel to the British Crown. Seizing the citadel at Lahore, they obtained the Koh-i-Noor diamond, once the property of the Mogul Emperors. It was sent to Queen Victoria and became the centre stone of the Crown. Nine years later, at the relief of Lucknow, the 53rd won four Victoria Crosses in a day.

In World War One, the 1st Battalion took the shock of the final German offensive in March 1918 and by the evening of the second day the only survivors were 77 men—no officers. Yet the Battalion was back in the line again ten days later. In that war the Battalion lost 53 officers and 986 men killed. In World War Two the Battalion was one of the last to embark at Dunkirk and served in North Africa and Italy.





The Commanding Officer of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry hands over to the Vicar of St Chad's, Shrewsbury, the 1st Battalion's old Colours, "formerly carried in the service of the Queen and the Empire." The new Colours stand on right of the altar.

## THESE, TOO, ARE CELEBRATING THEIR 200 YEARS

### 50th: "THE DIRTY HALF-HUNDRED"

BEFORE it was a quarter of a century old, the 50th, now the 1ST BATTALION THE QUEEN'S OWN ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT, served as marines in an attack on the French Fleet off Ushant. In memory, the men are still piped to dinner with drum and fife.

At Corunna, when the regiment had beaten off a French attack and captured a French post by a brilliant bayonet charge, Sir John Moore, who was watching, called out, "Well done, the 50th! Well done, my Majors." One of these was Major Charles Napier (later conqueror of Scinde). On the anniversary of the battle, it is still the custom to toast "The Corunna Majors."

In the Peninsula the Regiment was dubbed "The Dirty Half-Hundred." Historians agree that the cause was the Regiment's dirty faces, but some say the effect was caused by wiping off sweat on black cuffs, and others that it was due to blackening by powder.

In World War One the 1st Battalion achieved glory at Neuve Chapelle where, surrounded on three sides, it drove off repeated and heavy German attacks.

### 51st: "DYAS AND HIS STORMERS"

FOUR years after being raised, the regiment which is now the 1ST BATTALION THE KING'S OWN YORKSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY was one of those which charged the enemy cavalry on foot at Minden and defeated them. Because of its county connection, its men wear a white rose on Minden Day.

The Regiment still honours two officers who fought in its ranks in the Napoleonic wars. The first is Sir John Moore, creator of the Light Infantry, who joined as an ensign in Minorca in 1771 and commanded the Regiment during operations in Corsica. Under Moore, now a general, the Regiment served in the retreat to Corunna.

The other officer was Ensign Joseph Dyas, the hero of the storming of Badajos, who continued his attempts to scale the breach after he was severely wounded. The Duke of Wellington offered Dyas immediate promotion to any regiment in the Peninsula, but Dyas refused to leave the 51st. For long it was the custom throughout the Peninsula army to toast "Ensign Dyas and the stormers." Now the custom is continued in his Regiment.

The Regiment served under Wellington again at Waterloo, where it fired the first shots.

In World War One, the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

expanded to 26 fighting battalions, won eight Victoria Crosses and 59 battle honours.

### 57th: "DIE HARD, MY MEN!"

WHEN territorial titles were given to regiments in 1872, the colonel of the 57th and most of his officers were Scots. That did not stop the authorities calling it the West Middlesex Regiment which, again, did not stop the officers recruiting most of the Regiment in Scotland. Later the name became THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT.

It was in 1811 that the Regiment earned its proudest battle honour, "Albuhera." By this Spanish village, under murderous fire, the 57th stood on a hill-crest against the French, urged by their wounded colonel, William Inglis, "Die hard, my men, die hard," until the tide of battle turned. Then they counted the cost: of 600 officers and men, only about 160 were left fit for duty. From this action came the Regiment's nickname, "The Die-Hards."

In the Crimea, 43 years later, an officer led the 57th in a charge at Inkerman, shouting, "Remember Albuhera." When he was struck down, the charge was carried on by a son of Colonel William Inglis. Inglis's words were revived again in the Regiment's history at Ypres in World War One. Second-Lieutenant R. P. Hallowes, who won the Victoria Cross with the 4th Battalion, said as he was dying, "Men, we can only die once. If we have to die, let us die like men, like Die-Hards."

The 57th suffered its worst set-back in World War Two when, as part of the hopelessly-outnumbered garrison of Hong-Kong, it was overrun and forced to surrender to the Japanese. The Battalion was re-formed, to fight again.

### 60th: "SWIFT AND BOLD"

THE KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS was raised on the other side of the Atlantic as the Royal American Regiment, and was both a colonial corps and a foreign legion.

It dropped the red coat for the less conspicuous green; it abandoned, too, formal British drill, adopted simpler tactics and equipment, and copied the Indian style of forest warfare. General Wolfe is believed to have given the Regiment the motto *Celer et Audax* (Swift and Bold).

*This Regiment, which has topped recruiting figures of late, was the subject of a long article in SOLDIER in January, 1955.*

# 92 MEN - WITH 359

*The 12th County of London Home Guard Battalion is one of the most be-medalled units in Britain*

**I**T was training night for the 12th County of London Home Guard Battalion, at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea.

Through the cramped orderly room, khaki figures passed to the armoury to draw weapons. Most received the same greeting, irrespective of the rank indicated on their uniforms: "Good evening, Mr. So-and-So." Some were hailed by ranks which did not coincide with the insignia on their battledress. One who wore a major's crowns was called "Colonel." The reason: in the Home Guard, everyone is simply a "member" until he goes on parade. Only then does his Home Guard rank matter. In the course of half an hour a general may become a private and then a general again.

In the next room, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel N. L. St. P. Bunbury, DSO (in private life, Brigadier, late Frontier Force Rifles) was studying the training programme with the second-in-command, Major B. Read Taylor, MC (formerly a Regular lieutenant-colonel in the South Staffordshire Regiment).

A pile of greatcoats stood on a table. On the wall was a map of Chelsea and Kensington which is used for instructing the men on the topography of the Battalion area. Greatcoats and maps were there because there was nowhere else to put them. The two rooms and a small combined store and armoury are all the administrative space the Battalion has. With few stores, no transport, no rations, and only two paid soldiers in each battalion, the Home Guard is Britain's most economical fighting force.

The Battalion's permanent staff consists of the adjutant / quartermaster, Captain W. E. Neill-Hall (who joined the Queen's Bays as a trooper and left as a major) and his civilian clerk, Mr. L. T. R. Shergold. On training nights, Mr. Shergold becomes Warrant Officer Class Two Shergold, and on his breast are, among others, the

ribbons of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and the Territorial Efficiency Medal to which he hopes to add (if and when one is issued) a Home Guard long service medal. Mr. Shergold, "born into the Coldstream Guards," became a regimental sergeant-major and later was commissioned in the Royal Pioneer Corps.

For evening training, the Battalion borrows the rooms of the London Irish. In the drill-hall, an officer who served with the Royal West African Frontier Force in Burma in World War Two was practising bayonet-fighting with a corporal who jumped from a prisoner-of-war train in Italy and made his way to Switzerland and home.

Two young privates were setting up a Vickers machine-gun; both had been turned down for National Service because they did not reach the medical standard. Elsewhere, there was a private wearing the Royal Fleet Reserve Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Giving Sten-gun tuition was Second Lieutenant A. V. Bunbury who wore the ribbon of the Military Cross won in World War One, the "wings" of the Royal Flying Corps and the "wings" of the Special Air Service, acquired in 1948-50. Near by was a lieutenant with the ribbon of a Military Medal won in World War One.



To find unusual combinations of medal ribbons and Service insignia, visit any Home Guard battalion. Second Lieutenant A. V. Bunbury, who was awarded the Military Cross in World War One, wears not only wings won in the Royal Flying Corps but—on his shoulder—those of the Special Air Service gained with the Artists' Rifles in 1948-50.



## THE HURRINGS SHOW THE WAY

Six members of the Hurring family and the fiance of one of the daughters serve in B Company of 7 Middlesex Home Guard Battalion. In the picture on the left are Mother, Pte. E. Hurring (seated), with Pte. Sheila Bignell, (a married daughter) and Pte. Doreen Hurring, another daughter. Below: Father, Cpl. W. N. Hurring, gives a Sten-gun lesson to his son-in-law, Pte. P. Bignell and his son Pte. Robert Hurring. Doreen's fiance, Sgt. J. Lewis, looks on.



# RIBBONS UP

Right: The Commanding Officer, Lieut-Colonel N. L. St. P. Bunbury DSO, ex-Frontier Force Rifles.



**The faces of experience:** Left to right: Major A. H. Mitchell, DCM; 2/Lieut. H. C. V. Jolleff, former squadron leader, RAF; and the Medical Officer, Major T. Skene Keith, an Infantry officer in World War One.

On the miniature range, Company Sergeant-Major M. V. Barton was giving Sten-gun instruction with an aid of his own devising. It consists of a cylinder which throws a thin, powerful beam of light parallel with the barrel when the trigger is pressed.

When training had been going on for an hour or so, Regimental Sergeant-Major A. E. Butler DCM began rounding up the Battalion for a lecture. RSM Butler won his decoration in World War One, with the 6th County of London Rifles, a Territorial unit in which he was a bombing sergeant. He was in the Home Guard in World War Two, and at one time with a unit known as the London Taxi Column. This was a flying squad in which a company consisted of 24 taxis, each manned by a corporal (its driver) and six armed men.

The lecturer was the Battalion's medical officer, Major T. Skene Keith, a distinguished pathologist who was an Infantry officer in the Queen's Royal Regiment in World War One, before transferring to the Royal Army Medical Corps. He was a Home Guard medical officer in World War Two.

The nominal rolls of the Battalion list, among others, a company quartermaster - sergeant who was a wing-commander in the Royal Air Force, a second-lieutenant who was a squadron-leader and a company quartermaster-sergeant who was a Sapper major. On the Reserve roll is a private after whose name appear the letters CBE, DSO, MC and another with CMG (a diplomat by profession). That does not mean that all members of the Home Guard are men with distinguished careers. There are plenty who have earned campaign ribbons as privates or non-commissioned officers; there are a few who have had no previous military service.

"The Home Guard attracts keen and patriotic men," says Lieutenant-Colonel Bunbury. "Many have found the way to the Territorial Army barred by age or physical disabilities, so they have turned to the Home Guard. Many do far more than the statutory 15 hours of training every three months.

"Those on the reserve roll are equally keen, but cannot spare the time to train regularly. However, we know what they can do and where they can be fitted into the unit. They are good men who will not be snapped up by some other organisation if war comes. They would be among the first considered for promotion in war, when the Battalion would fill with them and with new recruits."

In summer, the Battalion does some open-air training in

**CSM M. V. Barton demonstrates his own Sten-gun training aid.** The cylinder projects a beam of light parallel with the barrel when the trigger is pressed.



grounds belonging to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and at weekends parties go to Pirbright or Wormwood Scrubs for shooting. The Battalion is now negotiating for permission to use a row of derelict buildings for street fighting.

Off-duty, the Battalion runs an all-ranks social club, and produces its own magazine. In this you may read that a company sergeant-major (lieutenant-colonel) has reverted to private at his own request because business takes him out of London and that a private has been lost for the next four years because he will be in Liberia as president of the development corporation.

The Battalion is a cadre unit of the Home Guard, which means that its establishment of enrolled members is 100, in addition to its reservists. It has, in

fact, 92 enrolled members. Between them they have 359 medals and decorations, which makes the Battalion one of the most bemedalled British units.

**SOLDIER** visited 12th County of London Battalion to see a "sample" Home Guard Battalion at work.

In other Home Guard battalions, the picture is much the same: ex-regulars serving alongside men who have left their ploughs, desks or porters' barrels only in

war-time. One battalion has a retired lieutenant-general serving as a private.

The Home Guard age-groups are in almost inverse proportion to those of the Regular Army. In a census of 20 London District battalions, it was found that 40.5 per cent were over 50, 25.3 per cent between 40 and 50, 20.2 per cent between 30 and 40, and only 14 per cent under 30. More than 57 out of every hundred men had previously served in the Army; 26 were veterans of World War One and 40 of World War Two. About one in ten had served in both World Wars. More than 40 in every 100 served in the 1940-45 Home Guard.

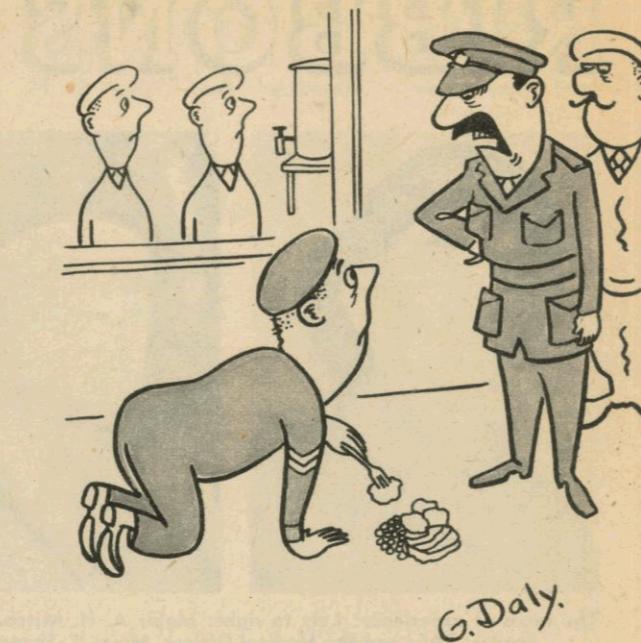
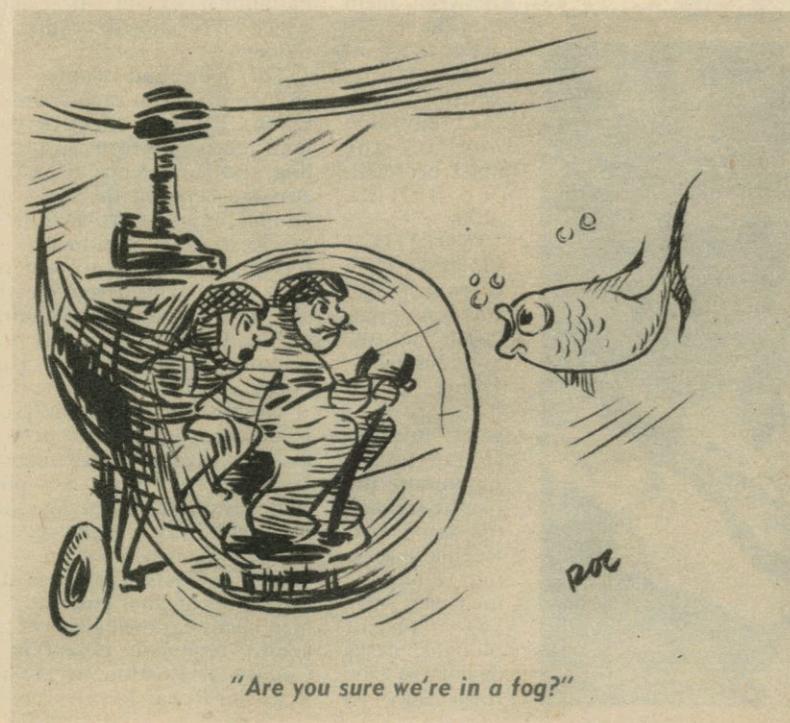
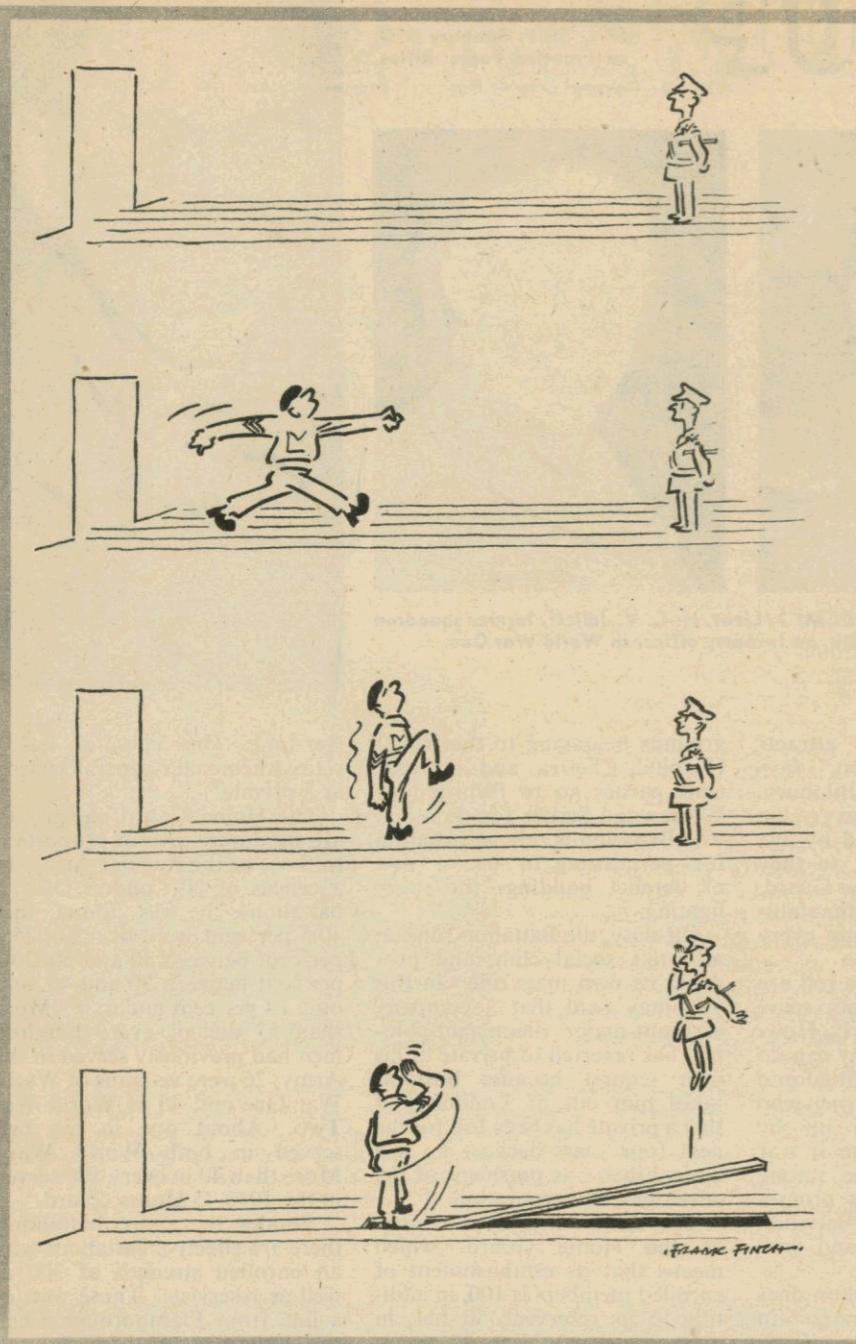
Besides the cadre battalions, there are effective battalions with an enrolled strength of 300 as well as reservists. Those west of a line from Flamborough Head to Selsey Bill are cadre battalions, and those east of the line effective battalions, except in London, which has mostly cadre battalions.

The men and women (four women may join each cadre battalion, 12 each effective battalion) receive uniform and travelling and subsistence allowances. Anyone between the ages of 18 and 65 may join provided he has no Reserve commitment. Reservists who apply to join have their cases considered individually by the War Office. Officers of the Cadet Force may serve simultaneously in the Home Guard, as officers or in the ranks.

The task of the Home Guard is defence against airborne attack and against small seaborne raids; protecting key-points against raids and sabotage; helping with civil defence; and defence against invasion.

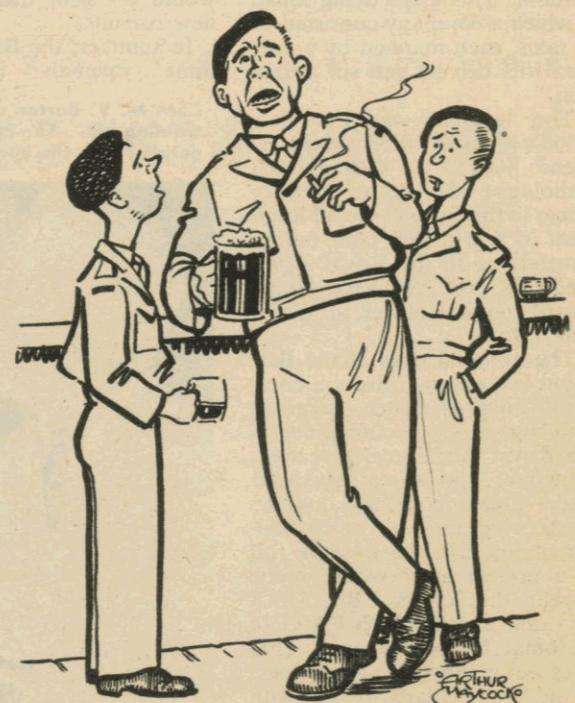
Home Guard battalions take the names of their counties. The members wear the badges of their county regiments except in the County of London, where they wear the Royal Fusiliers' badge.





\*\*\*\*\*  
SOLDIER  
HUMOUR  
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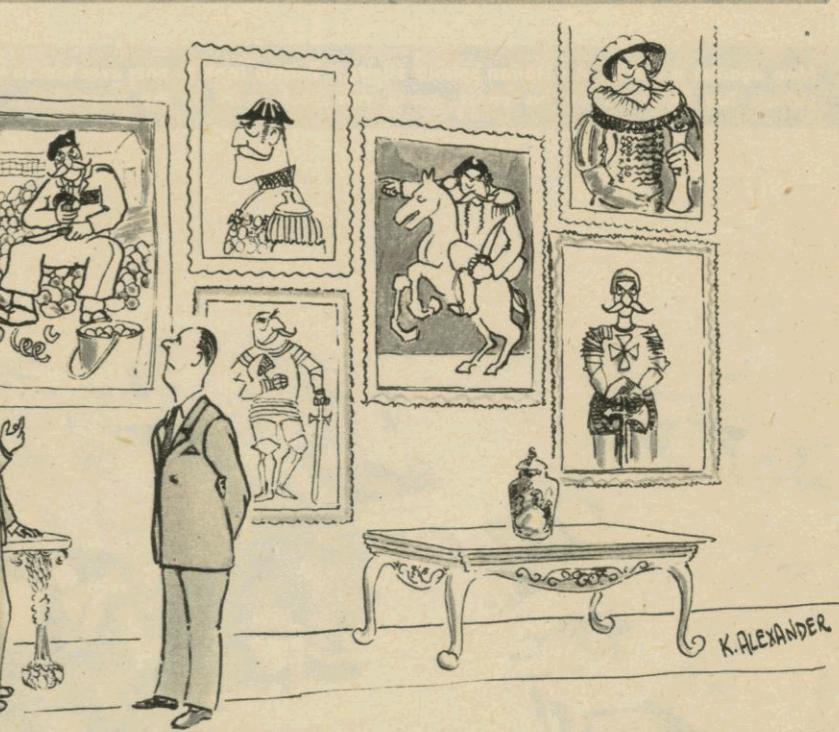
"And I say without fear  
of contradiction . . ."



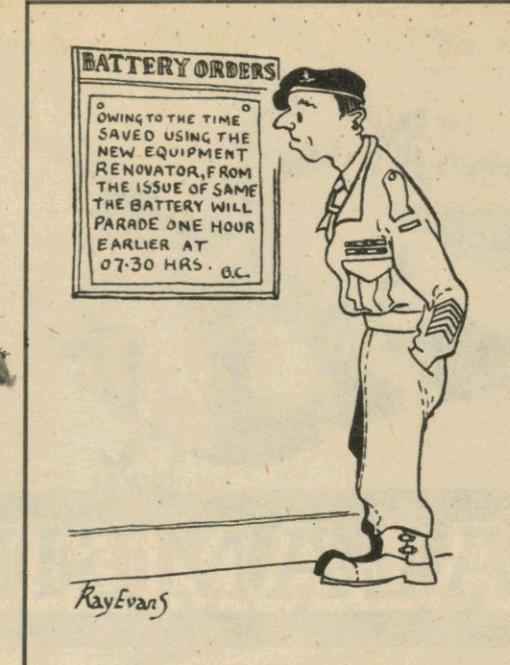
"Are you sure we're in a fog?"

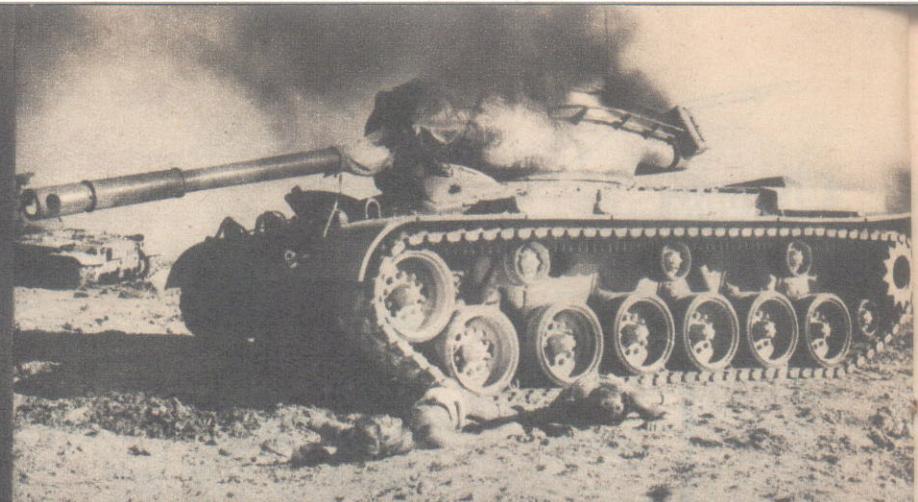


"Is this the right way to get  
to the detention barracks?"



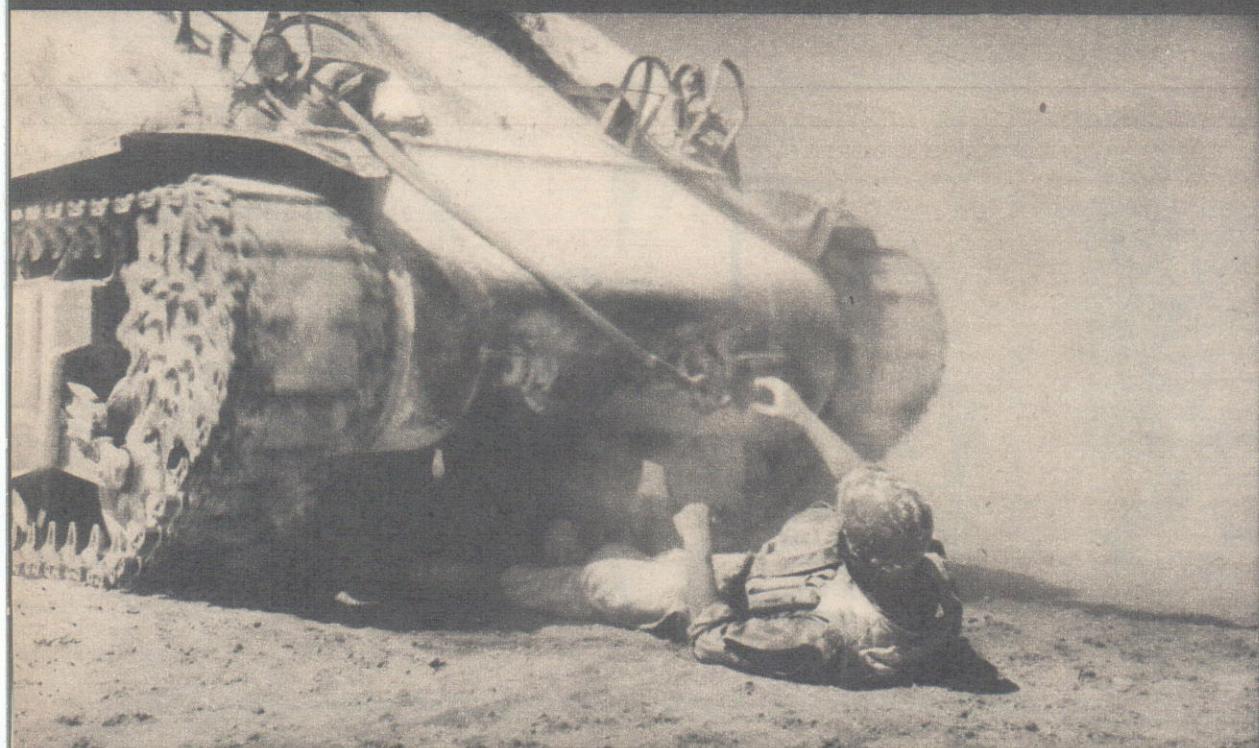
"That's father—he preferred to remain in the ranks."





Left: Two men of the "Lightning Division" defy a British fighter from their fox-hole.  
Above: Wounded British soldiers collapse in the sand beside their burning tank.

## ALAMEIN: AN ITALIAN VERSION



Man against monster: An Italian soldier allows a British tank to pass over him so that he can place his sticky-bomb (which lies balanced on his chest) on a vulnerable part of the under-belly. Below: "Attenzione! Spitfire!"

**A**N Italian film company has screened the Battle of El Alamein. Desert Rats, however, are unlikely to see this creation by their NATO Ally.

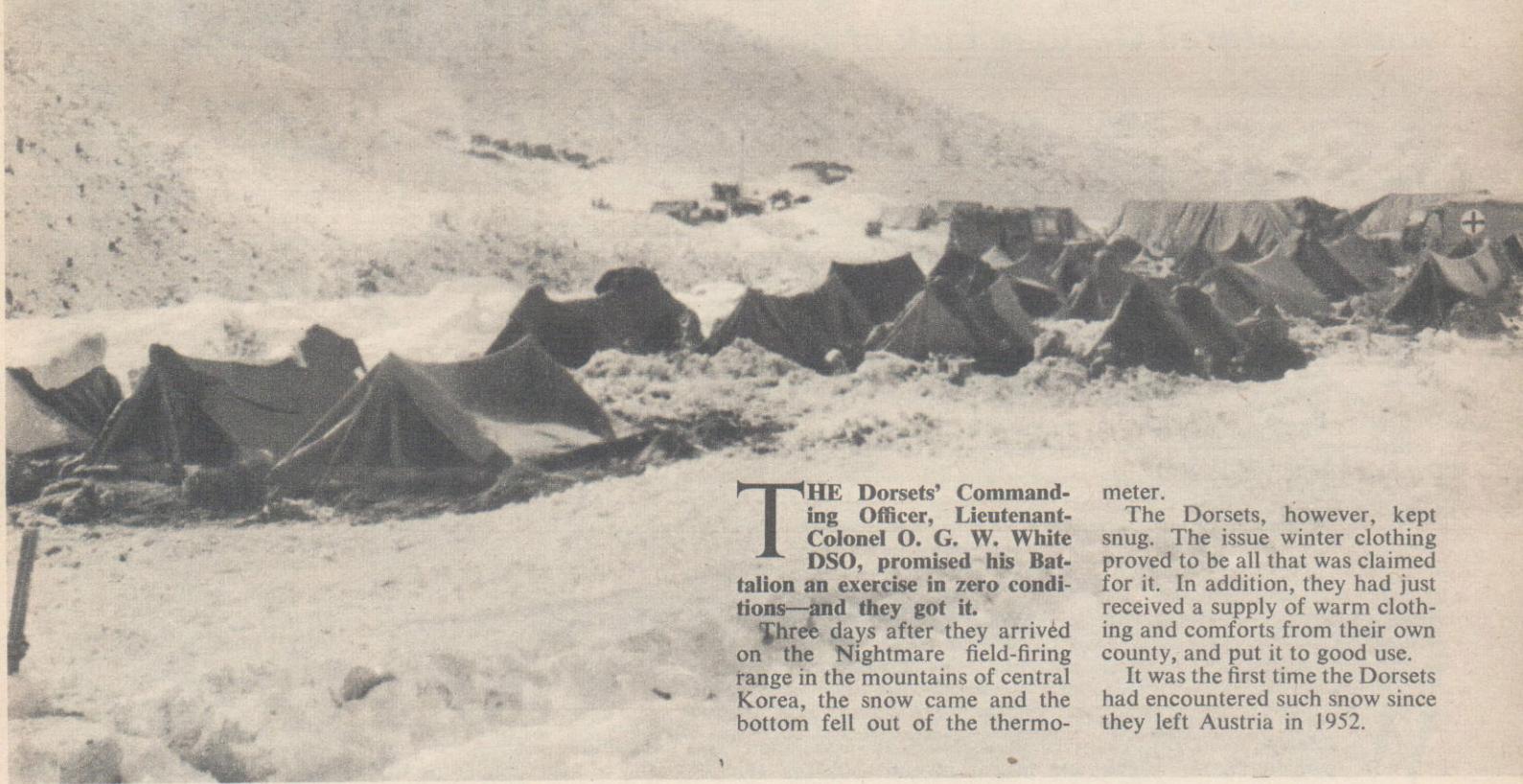
The film shows paratroopers of the Italian Folgore Division battling against terrific odds, withstanding strafings from the air, then leaping forward to break through mine-fields and attack tanks with sticky bombs.

Shermans, Grants and self-propelled guns were used for the film.

A Rome report says the part played by the Germans seems to be ignored. The audiences cheered.



# ZERO HOUR FOR THE DORSETS



A bivouac in the Korea mountains. It was more snug there than you might suppose.

THE Dorsets' Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel O. G. W. White DSO, promised his Battalion an exercise in zero conditions—and they got it.

Three days after they arrived on the Nightmare field-firing range in the mountains of central Korea, the snow came and the bottom fell out of the thermo-

meter.

The Dorsets, however, kept snug. The issue winter clothing proved to be all that was claimed for it. In addition, they had just received a supply of warm clothing and comforts from their own county, and put it to good use.

It was the first time the Dorsets had encountered such snow since they left Austria in 1952.



Like a scene from the Yukon (but there's no gold here): breakfast time in a snow-storm.



Right: Men of "D" Company begin their advance over an icy road to a mountain pass.



# SIX SOLDIERS WON GEORGE MEDALS

*The ship caught fire at Suez—and on board  
was a captured German tank of new design* —ON THE "GEORGIC"



Bombed by German aircraft, the burned-out Cunarder lies half-sunk on a coral reef at Suez. Below: Refloated, she is towed away. Illustrations from "Epics of Salvage," by David Masters, Cassell and Co.



WHEN the "Georgic" docked at Liverpool to disembark soldiers from the Far East, she ended an association with the Army which had lasted, on and off, for 15 years.

The *Georgic*, a motor vessel of 27,465 tons, 711 feet long, is one of the 20 biggest merchant ships afloat. Before World War Two she was a Cunarder operating in the North Atlantic.

On 7 July, 1941, packed with troops and cargo, she arrived at Suez after the long trip round the Cape of Good Hope. A week later, she was taking on mails and passengers when German bombers flew over Suez. The *Georgic*, at her moorings, had no chance to evade them. One bomb glanced off her side and exploded under water, damaging the hull. Another penetrated the deck and burst in a hold, setting her on fire. A dozen gunners were killed and others injured.

The passengers were put into lifeboats, then the *Georgic*'s captain hauled up the anchor in an attempt to save his ship. He steamed her slowly towards shallows, but her steering was damaged and she went aground on a reef. Less than an hour after the bombing the *Georgic*'s crew were forced to abandon her, a blazing wreck.

One man who watched the scene with particular dismay was Captain David Evans, Royal Tank Regiment. He knew that on board was a captured German tank, bound for England, and that the War Office set great store on submitting it to expert examination. Well aware of the danger, he went on board the ship, now blazing from stem to stern and listing heavily, found the tank and tried unsuccessfully to remove the telescopic sights.

Back on shore, the port autho-

rities said the fire and the list made salvage of the tank impossible. Undeterred, Captain Evans found 12 officers and men of the Royal Engineers who, when they were told how important the tank was, volunteered to go aboard with him.

Next morning they went out to the *Georgic* on a floating crane. Though the deck scorched their feet, and their hair and eyebrows were singed, the party who went aboard were able to put two slings under the tank, and it was lifted away to safety.

Because the fate of the *Georgic* had to be concealed from the enemy, this gallantry went unpublicised at the time. The only announcement was that the George Medal had been awarded to Captain Evans, and also to Major G. Rigby, Major C. R. Clark, Company Sergeant-Major John Bradshaw, Sergeant J. E. Scrivener and Corporal C. F. Williams, all Sappers.

Eight days after the bombing the *Georgic* was still burning, but a salvage officer decided that she could be saved. In the following months, 5000 tons of wreckage were cut away, her holes were patched up and 50,000 tons of water pumped out. Then the vessel was towed via Port Sudan to Karachi, where temporary repairs were made. Her engines were still fundamentally sound, and she sailed on to Bombay under her own power. From here, the burned-out hulk, carrying 5000 tons of cargo, sailed home unescorted at an average speed of 16 knots.

It took only a fortnight to

decide she was to be rebuilt for trooping and at the beginning of 1945 the Ministry of Transport proudly announced her as the "newest and most perfectly equipped troopship." She was

very different in appearance from the pre-war Cunarder. Her twin, stocky funnels and two masts had disappeared. Now she had only a single funnel and one short foremast.

In the following years the *Georgic* carried thousands of troops home to release centres. Then in 1948 her standees were ripped out and replaced with cabins. She became a migrant ship, plying to Canada and Australia. In the summers she was sometimes used as a tourist-class ship on the North Atlantic run and in 1951 operated between New York and Southampton carrying visitors to the Festival of Britain. In the winters, she became a trooper again, travelling mostly to the Far East.

On her civilian trips, when all passengers were in the same class, she could accommodate 2000; as a trooper, owing to the segregation of ranks and families, she carried 150 fewer.

At 23 years of age, the *Georgic* is still in the prime of life. Her owners, the Ministry of Transport, have put her up for sale.

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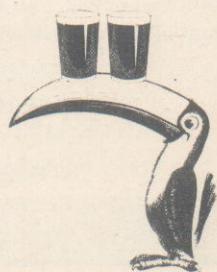
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K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., D.F.C., M.A., J.P.

*Chairman, H.M. Forces Savings Committee*

**To: All Serving in Her Majesty's Forces**

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I recently retired after many years in the Royal Air Force. I know how valuable a service Forces Savings is giving to both Regulars and National Service personnel, and no matter where you may be stationed you can save a bit from your pay if you want to do so.

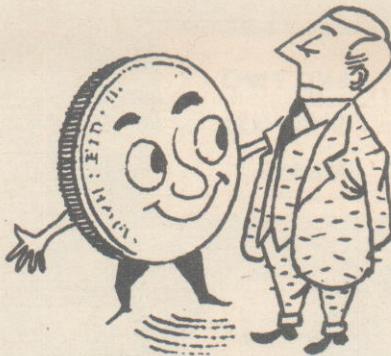
I also commend Forces Savings for mention by parents and friends to young men who are going into the Services (and to young women too, as in the Women's Services there are some of our best savers !)

We have an excellent series of leaflets (shown above) which tell, in simple language, all about Forces Savings. Why not write for a copy of the one which applies. Address your letter to me:—

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FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 20 YEARS OF ARMY FOOTBALL—

# THE INFANTRY SEIZE THE CUP

FOR the first time in 20 years an Infantry regimental team has won the Army Football Cup.

In this year's final at Aldershot the 2nd Battalion The Durham Light Infantry beat the Royal Army Pay Corps Training Centre (Devizes) by one goal to nil. They thus put an end to a long sequence of wins by corps and training battalions. The last Infantry regimental team to win the cup was that of the 2nd Battalion The King's Own Royal Regiment in 1934.

The Durhams, who are Rhine Army's champions, had a competition goal average of 23 for and only six against. In the semi-final they beat the Royal Army Ordnance Corps Depot (Chilwell). Outstanding in the final was the Durhams' captain and centre-half, 6 ft. 3 ins. Corporal John Allison. The goal was scored by Private Frank Boyd, the inside-right.

The 2nd Battalion The Durham Light Infantry were finalists in 1939. They hope to capture the Cup again some day—even though they are due to be disbanded.

*Footnote:* In Egypt the Durhams' 1st Battalion won the Canal Zone Cup Final, defeating 2nd Base Workshops REME 6-3.



Many lads of the Durhams travelled from Rhine Army to Aldershot to support their team in traditional manner—with a home-made banner.

## A SPORT THE ARMY STARTED

THE British Army has fathered at least three games. Two of them are not usually mentioned in the same breath: polo and snooker. The third is badminton.

Now there are signs that the Army is beginning to revive its interest in badminton. In Malaya, where the game is the national sport, many British officers and men have taken it up. There will be badminton facilities in the new cantonment of Dhekelia, in Cyprus. In Britain the game is played by the Women's Royal Army Corps. So far there is no sign of an Army Badminton Association.

Badminton had its origin about 1870 when a number of Army officers on leave from India were the guests of the Duke of Beaufort at Badminton Park, in Gloucestershire. The weather was very bad.

To amuse his guests, the Duke—a keen patron of all kinds of sports—introduced them to a new game, an improved version of shuttlecock and battledore. A net was stretched across the centre of a curiously shaped room. The baselines occupied the full width of the room, but the court was narrowed considerably at the net to allow the easy entrance of spectators from two doors situated at either end of the net. Thus the court was the shape of an hour-glass.

The Army officers liked the game. They took it with them overseas and, in its primitive form, it was played in Western India in 1873. Soon Service

badminton clubs were formed in other parts of the world—there was one in Folkestone in 1875. At least one famous soldier heartily disliked the game, however. General Sir Ian Hamilton called it "a game played by hideous women and unfortunate men."

In those early days there were never fewer than three and more often four players on each side of the net. Doubles and singles were rarely, if ever, played. Members of a team served in turn until they were put out, the next member of the team taking his predecessor's part.

The first official rules of badminton were drawn up by Colonel H. O. Selby, Royal Engineers, in 1877 and published in book form. In 1890 there was a revision, and the rules became basically those of the Badminton Association (1893). The hour-glass shape of the court was abandoned.

For many years Britain enjoyed supremacy at badminton. In the 1930s, however, Malaya took the ascendancy. As played by such champions as Eddy Choong, badminton is a sport calling for great stamina and agility—and lightning reflexes.



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# John Russell: His Page

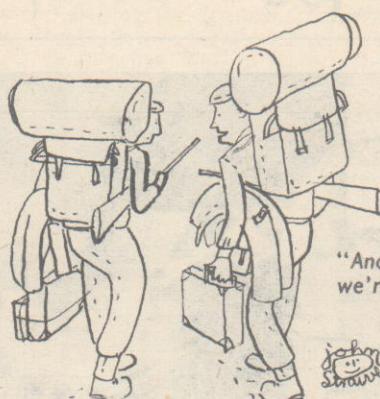
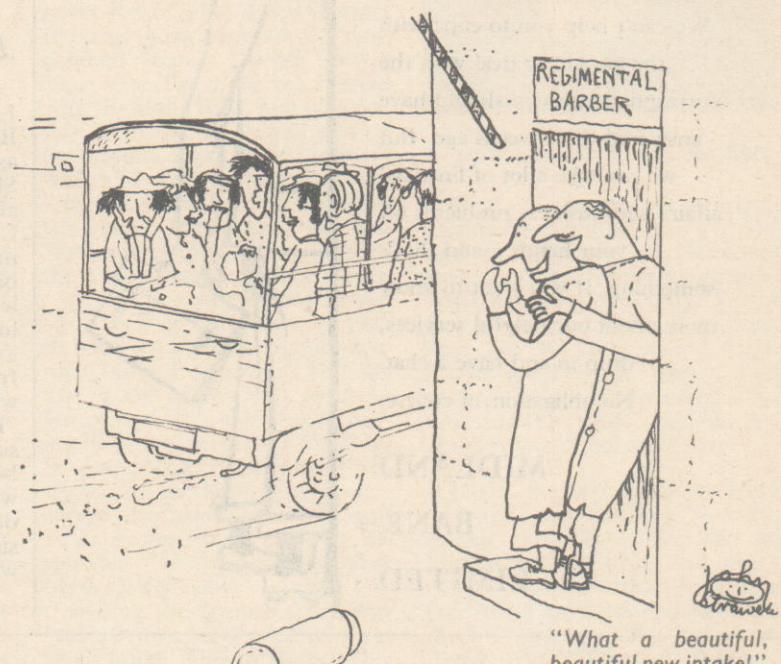
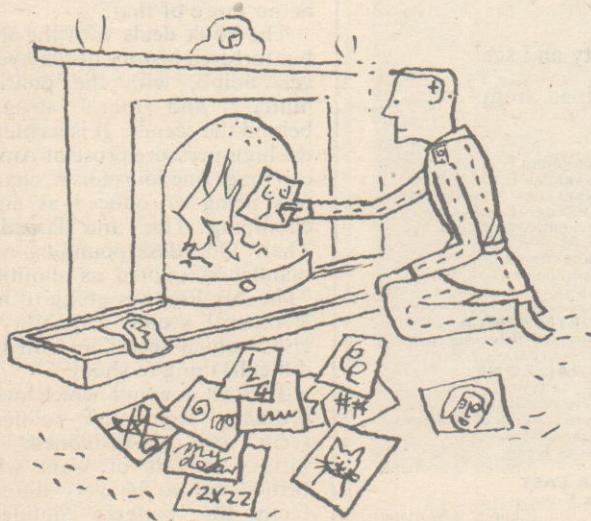
**A**N artist with a whimsical touch all his own is 23-year-old John Russell (alias John Straiven), a National Serviceman now serving as a clerk in the Royal Army Service Corps at the Horse Guards, Whitehall.

Before call-up he taught art. Earlier, to pay college fees and lodgings, he worked as purser, waiter, sorter and on a farm. Once he left his native Glasgow for London with a return ticket and the

price of a stamp; proudly he went home two weeks later in a new pair of shoes.

His first illustrated articles were published at the age of 16. A notion for drawing cartoons sprang from a habit of embellishing dull student notes in order to memorise them.

After release Lance-Corporal Russell intends to go into advertising in Canada. He will sell tinned fruit first if need be.



"What a beautiful, beautiful new intake!"



"Is Kit here? They sent me here to draw her."

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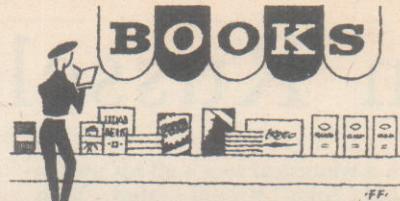
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## It Makes Soldiering Seem So Old-Fashioned, But—

**A**LMOST all thinking military men agree that the slow mobilisations of past wars are a thing of the past. The attacking forces—or defending forces—will never be stronger than they are on A-day, H-hour."

So write the American authors of "The Hydrogen Bomb" (Jarrold, 12s 6d), James Shepley and Clay Blair Jr. They see the "next" war as a race between SAC and SUSAC—SAC being America's alarmingly efficient Strategic Air Command, with its stockpile of nuclear weapons, and SUSAC being the Soviet Union's equivalent command, which is doubtless highly organised, too. Russian aviation has come a long way from the days of World War Two when (according to the authors): "Russian pilots flew like Cossacks . . . they liked to toss off bottles of vodka, then, without warming up their engines, hurtle down runways and take off simply by hauling up their wheels."

In America's Strategic Air

Command there is no room, it appears, for "hot-shot pilots." It was found that the mere act of getting a B-47 airborne, in normal circumstances, required "several hours of desk briefing, an hour's briefing and inspection outside the plane and inside the plane, half an hour of checking the controls from one man to another over the inter-com. The aircraft commander took along a bulging briefcase, stuffed as an executive's on a week-end, and constantly plunged into it to make computations on weather, altitude, speed, weight, fuel and flight plans." But on A-day, H-hour, one gathers, the aircraft will be off the runways as fast as if the pilots were inspired by vodka. They will penetrate enemy territory from every point on its vast perimeter with 1000 nuclear bombs or more, to "rain down complete urban annihilation."

The picked pilots who operate America's nuclear weapon fleet fly many a gruelling practice mission "equivalent in length from the United States to Russia." They wear sidearms at desks, at meals and in the air. Even ground staff must carry weapons at all times. On a flying field General Curtis LeMay once found a master-sergeant who had laid aside his weapon to dive into his lunch-bag. The General called all maintenance men on the base and "snarled": "This afternoon, I found a man guarding a hangar with a ham sandwich. There will be no more of that."

The book deals with the short but tortured history of the hydrogen bomb, with the political, military and moral struggles behind the scenes. It is written in the high-pressure prose of American magazine journalism, characters being introduced as cigar-chomping This and lameduck That. One desk-pounding commander is quoted as shouting: "The Air Force is going to have a tactical atomic capability or else," which seems an odd (and difficult) thing to shout.

It is an account which makes ordinary regimental soldiering seem very old-fashioned. But history is full of wars which turned out to be very different from the pattern confidently forecast.



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## A WARNING TO YOUNG OFFICERS

Cautioning young officers against marrying too young, Sir William Bellairs writes in his book "The Military Career":

"Married to a healthy young woman, you cannot reasonably expect to have fewer babies to provide for than one in every second year, six children after 12 years of married life, and very possibly more to follow later on."

The book was published in 1889.

# "THE BEST MAN ON THE ROCK"

**I**N December 1951 two Englishwomen called at the shop of a monumental mason in Gibraltar. They were having difficulty with the Spanish-speaking workman in charge when a man outside offered to interpret. "For whom is the tombstone?" they were asked. "For Padre Brown," was the reply. At this the workmen took off their caps and the English-speaking one said simply: "Father Brown! The best man who ever lived on the Rock."

The story is told by Ernest R. Taylor in an unpretentious little book, "Padre Brown of Gibraltar" (*Epworth Press*, 5s), a memoir of a well-loved Methodist chaplain, who served 34 years in the colony, and who is remembered by scores of long-service soldiers.

The Rev. F. E. Brown was the oldest serving chaplain during World War Two. Early this century he was ministering to troops in India, and was chaplain in attendance at one of the last public executions in that country. "He never forgot what it was to enter into the agony of mind of a condemned man." During World War One Padre Brown served with the 49th (West Riding) Division in the Ypres Salient and on the Somme. Against his Colonel's wishes he went up into the front line, feeling that it was his rightful place. He became the first Wesleyan chaplain to be awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

Before that war he had served for a spell on Gibraltar. In 1922 he returned to the Rock and identified himself completely with the life of the colony and garrison. He carried on a task begun during the Great Siege of 1779-82 by Sergeant-Major Ince, who is better known as the man who conceived the idea of hewing galleries in the Rock than as the founder of Gibraltar's first Methodist Society.

During the Spanish Civil War Padre Brown befriended refugees of all faiths. One of them rashly expressed his thanks from a radio station and Padre Brown was banned from visiting Franco Spain—a sad blow.



Padre Brown, the first Wesleyan chaplain to win the DSO.

Once, in the Padre's hearing, a soldier was indulging in a tirade against Gibraltar, its restricted space and its meagre amenities. After listening for a while, Padre Brown said: "Well, I've been here for 30 years and I have found great scope here." The soldier pondered this novel attitude and then said: "Ah, but sir, perhaps you're not ambitious."

**S**INCE the war Geoffrey Cottrell has become a best-selling novelist ("Randle in Springtime," "Strait and Narrow," "Westward the Sun"). His publishers have now reissued his most diverting earlier novel of Army life, "Then a Soldier" (*Eyre and Spottiswoode*, 7s 6d). It is a near-classic comedy of recruit life, scrimshanking, ABCA sessions and officer training.

## Then The Major Rebelled

**O**N a morning in 1945, the new Governor of Pontremoli, in Northern Italy, awoke in his palatial official home, and after a ceremonious breakfast went to his office, where he was greeted by a soignée blonde secretary.

Soon he was enduring a series of interviews with important people. The next day, however, the Governor rebelled. The blonde secretary was sacked; the appointments were cancelled. The "little people," who had sat about hopelessly in the Governor's waiting room, in case he could spare the time to see them, were ushered in.

For the Governor, who was the representative of Allied Military Government in the area, knew a thing or two. He was Major Gordon Lett DSO, of the East Surrey Regiment, who had escaped from a prisoner-of-war camp when Italy signed her armistice with the Allies, and had spent the intervening years with the partisans in the area.

"Rossano" (*Hodder and Stoughton*, 12s 6d) is his story of the Italian Resistance movement in its fight against the Germans and the fanatics and crooks who continued to serve the dethroned Mussolini. Major Lett made his own contribution to the partisan forces in the shape of the International Battalion, which included British, Italians, Yugoslavs, Russians, Poles, Belgians, Frenchmen, a Peruvian and a Somali. They operated in and around the Rossano Valley, near Pontremoli.

The story is mostly of hardship and tragedy and courage, but there is also wry humour. In Major Lett's first partisan operation he made the mistake of planning for an hour when most of the partisans had had their traditional Sunday session among the wine-bottles. There was the occasion when the partisans were standing by for their first, long-awaited supply drop, and the man who was to operate the only available signal torch had come without it. And there was the peasant who thought the English *maggiori* who ruled in Rossano Valley could grant him a divorce and the custody of his wife's cow.

One of the tragedies of the Italian Resistance was the con-

stant manœuvring by political leaders who were less interested in fighting the Germans than in piling up votes for after the war. Broadly, they succeeded in their aim.

Those who once proudly fought as partisans no longer like to be referred to as such. "We have been forgotten," concludes Major Lett sadly, "and our places taken by the rank and file of the Communist party who are making political profit out of our good name. There is not much we can do about it."



Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's Chinese Nationalist Army has no controversy about whether women should bear arms. At a training school in Formosa, girl soldiers march with fixed bayonets.



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# LETTERS



## IMMATURE?

Your correspondent A. O. Freakes (Letters, March), should bear in mind that it does not need even average intelligence to learn how to handle weapons and execute drill movements. But can anyone honestly say that an 18-years-old youth is capable of the serious thought necessary to decide how he should vote in a General Election?

The average youth of 18 is only interested in comics; he knows the name of the Prime Minister, and that is about all he does know. He takes no interest in politics. He does not read the leading articles in the newspapers until he is about 25. Some adults never read them.

No one should be allowed to vote until 25. As for marriage, this calls for an even greater sense of responsibility. The law wisely puts the minimum age at 21, unless parents (or magistrates) give consent. — WO II R. Smith, RAOC, Peninsula Barracks, Warrington.

★ The complaint by A. O. Freakes was that though a man might be called upon to die for his country at 18, he might be 25 or 26 before he could vote in a Parliamentary election.

In 1948 a Forces lecturer, Mr. J. H. Blaksley MC, in a book entitled "Background to Citizenship," said that he asked his Services audiences this question: "If every voter was required to spend an average of one hour a week without pay in qualifying himself for voting, would you or would you not be in favour of adult suffrage?"

To this question, 70 per cent of the men and 80 per cent of the women answered "No."

## CRASH DRILL

I read with interest the letter by "Heel Tap" (SOLDIER, April) in which he criticises the Army 'crash, bang, crash' method of drilling. I entirely agree with him.

The Army should take a leaf from the book of the Royal Marines, whose drill is performed in a much more dignified manner. A point of interest is that the Marines learn their drill from the Army Drill Book.—Ex R.M. (name and address supplied).

## RELATED REGIMENTS

Traditionally the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment and the Worcester-

shire Regiment are reputed to be related. How did the expression "Cousins" originate and what was the date when these two fine regiments were so related? — CSM G. Johnson, 4-6th Bn Royal Lincolnshire Regt (TA), Boston.

★ The close friendship between the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment and the Worcestershire Regiment has lasted more than a century. As the 10th and 28th Foot respectively, they served together in India in the 1840's and both fought at the Battle of Sobraon in 1846, during the first Sikh War. Greetings are still exchanged between the two regiments on the anniversary of this battle.

To emphasise the good feeling between them, they refer to each other as cousins and in official correspondence address each other as "My dear Cousin," instead of using the more formal "Sir." Honorary membership of each other's messes was exchanged about the time of Sobraon and is still maintained. The band of each plays the other's regimental march before its own on ceremonial and certain other occasions, such as Trooping the Colour and band programmes. The march of the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment is "The Lincolnshire Poacher" and that of the Worcestershire Regiment, "The Royal Windsor," composed by Princess Augusta, a daughter of George III, who presented it to the Regiment when it was on duty at Windsor in 1791.

## FUSILIERS

I have just joined a Fusilier regiment and am very interested to know the origin of the word "fusilier." So far my enquiries have met only with

guesses and doubts. One dictionary states "a soldier of a certain regiment armed with a fusil or small musket." If this is so, where does the flaming bomb, or grenade, come in? I think also that Fusilier regiments have the distinction of wearing a plume in their headdress. What is the origin of this distinction? — "F.M.E." (name and address supplied).

★ The earliest fusilier regiment, the 7th of Foot, now the Royal Fusiliers, was formed in 1685. It was known as the Ordnance Regiment, or the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. Its purpose was to act as escort to the guns, and the men wore grenadier caps (hence the grenade badge). They carried an improved type of musket, known as the fusil or fusée, which gave them the name.

The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, then the 5th of Foot, won the right to wear grenadier caps by defeating French grenadiers in 1762, 70 years before becoming a Fusilier regiment. They were the first Fusilier regiment to wear a plume, derived from white plumes which the men took from the hats of defeated French grenadiers on the island of St. Lucia in 1778.

## IMPERMEABLE

Can SOLDIER say which commander issued an order: "No patrol will report any country impermeable until it has penetrated it"? — "Ariel" (name and address supplied).

★ Major-General Orde Wingate, in Burma.

## McCAFFERY

Research into the subject of Private Patrick McCaffery, 32nd Foot, (Letters, March) reveals the following:

On 11 September 1861 McCaffery was on "prowler guard" duty in Fulwood Barracks, Preston. A number of children from the married quarters were playing by the parade ground and McCaffery was told by the Adjutant of the 3rd Lancashire Militia, Capt. John Hannam, to "move them on." McCaffery, who was an idle soldier and always in trouble, made no effort to carry out these orders and was taken in front of the Commanding Officer, a Colonel Hugh Denis Crompton, who promptly awarded him seven days CB.

On the fatal day, McCaffery was in "K" passage, Fulwood Barracks, when he noticed the Commanding Officer and Adjutant walking across the parade-ground. Blaming the Adjutant for his "seven days," he picked up his rifle and took a shot at him. This shot, however, hit and killed the Commanding Officer. McCaffery took aim again and this time succeeded in shooting the adjutant.

McCaffery was tried at Liverpool Assizes on 12 December 1861 and was executed at Kirkdale on 11 January, 1862. — Major P. Rogers, Commanding Depot The Loyal Regiment.

## YOUNGEST SOLDIER?

Major A. A. Barton, RAMC, claims (SOLDIER, December 1954) that he was the youngest soldier in the field during the 1914-18 war. I would like to submit the following particulars concerning one, Charles Mills, who is at present a sergeant of police and who is posted as orderly to the Governor of South Australia.

Sergeant Mills was born on 27 July, 1900, and enlisted in the 2nd Bn., The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, on 15 March, 1915, at the age of 14 years and 8 months. He landed in France on 2 July, 1915, and had his 15th birthday in the front line trenches at Ypres. He was wounded at Loos on 26 September, 1915.



He later served with the Royal Scots and the Highland Light Infantry, and saw service in Salonica, Egypt and Palestine, before being transferred to the Reserve on 14 March, 1922.

Although Mills found it necessary to add four years to his age to enlist in 1915, the Second World War found him just that many years too old to qualify for enlistment. However, he took those four years off his age and enlisted in the 2/27th Australian Infantry Battalion on 28 May, 1940, when recruiting for the AIF commenced.

He saw active service in the North African and Pacific campaigns and was eventually discharged on 13 March, 1946. He was awarded the M.B.E. on 6 March, 1947, for meritorious service and outstanding ability.

I have perused all documents relating to the above and can verify them. — Police Constable R. Harvey, ex-RFA, The Guard Room, Government House, Adelaide, South Australia.

Reference Lieutenant-Col. Naylor's letter (SOLDIER, April), ex-Boy J. D. Hill is still very much alive. He is the Security Officer at the Ministry of Supply's Fighting Vehicles Research and Development Establishment, Chertsey, Surrey. As I work in the same administration building, I see him almost every day. He looks remarkably fit and well. I understand that he, too, retired as a lieutenant-colonel. — WO I (SC) B. Welburn, 7th (Queen's Own) Hussars, Longcross, near Chertsey, Surrey.

★ A SOLDIER reader claimed (Letters, January) that ex-Boy Hill was one of the youngest Old Contemptibles.

## FRENCH MEDAL

While serving in North Africa with the Royal Army Medical Corps during the last war, I was seconded to the French medical services for three months to assist in evacuating English-speaking casualties on ambulance trains. I have since heard that men of a Royal Engineer unit were awarded the Croix de Combattants, an award similar to our war medal, for their services. If this is true would I, or other troops who served with the French Army, be entitled to this award? — Sgt. H. M. Phillips (ex-RAMC), 9th Surrey Home Guard, Caterham.

★ SOLDIER has no knowledge of a French award called Croix de Combattants. The French equivalent of the British war medal is the Médaille Commémorative Française de la Guerre (French Commemorative Medal of the War). The regulations governing the interchange of medals between Allies do not permit any member of the British Army, who has qualified for British war medals, to accept war medals instituted by any other war-time Allied Government for the same period of service. Conversely, members of the other war-time Allied Forces may not be granted a British war medal if they are entitled to a similar award from their own Government.

## HOUSEY-HOUSEY

I want to thank SOLDIER for printing my letter about Housey-Housey. I am pleased to inform you that I have received a large number of replies, which have helped me enormously in tracing the history and what is to be known about the game. Yours is a valuable magazine not only for soldiers but apparently for folklorists, myself, as well.

I am in communication with the readers of your magazine who are helping me. — K. Jagendorf, 260 Riverside Drive, New York.

"Remember me Sir? Pte. Willis 504—late on parade—dirty buttons?"



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## MORE LETTERS

### FILM EXTRAS

If members of the Forces give assistance in making a film, for a civilian company, what is the fee charged by the War Office, and how much does each individual receive? Is there a separate rate for officers and men?—**Pte. B. Yusof, 13 Coy, RPC, Quarry Camp, Cairnryan, Stranraer.**

★When soldiers assist in the production of a film by an independent company, the flat rate usually charged for their services is £2 12s. per day per head. The charge is higher for night work and Sundays, and varies according to the rôle they play. Neither officers nor men receive payment; the money goes to the Treasury.

### AFRICAN TANK

This is a photograph of what is believed to be the only tank in West Africa. Nobody here knows anything about it, but some people say it is an American light tank, one of those Britain received under lend-lease during the war. Although at the moment there is no engine in it, I am assured that if there was the tank would be in perfect working order. Everything

a system of some kind, whereas our AB 64, Part 1, and medical documents, are not usually carried in action.—**Sgt. I. H. Ward, RAMC, Crookham, Hants.**

★**SOLDIER** is informed that mass blood-grouping of troops presents great difficulties and uses enormous amounts of scarce materials. Even when the blood group of a patient is known, it has to be checked for safety. In any event, the Army Blood Transfusion Service supplies blood or blood substitutes which can be given immediately to casualties of any blood group.

Authority exists for certain units, such as commandos, airborne and special air service troops, to have their blood groups stamped on their identity discs, since they operate in conditions where supply of blood and blood substitutes is likely to be difficult.

In World War Two all members of medical units carrying transfusion equipment were group-tested, so that emergency blood donations could be given. It was usually impossible to obtain blood from donors during a heavy battle.

In forward areas the ideal transfusion is rapid and small, pending evacuation to a surgical centre. Transfusion fluids used in advanced areas are human plasma, dextran or bloods of Group "O," all of which can usually be given to casualties irrespective of their own blood groups. In base areas blood groups can then be accurately determined.

It is claimed that the British Army in World War Two was the only Army (Allied or enemy) linked with a transfusion service capable of producing its own blood, fluid blood substitutes or dried blood substitutes, grouping serum and crystalloids suitable for use in any field of operation.

This reader's note of the four blood groups is correct as far as it goes, although it is an over-simplification of the facts. There are now at least 10 separate blood group systems known, five of which have been proved to be the cause of transfusion reactions.

### LANYARDS

Can **SOLDIER** solve the mystery of the corps or regimental lanyard—an issue since the end of 1953? This colourful item was, I think, introduced to replace the former cord lanyard, on which soldiers were supposed to attach the clasp knife, but seldom did. We find that neither the clasp knife nor the Infantry whistle can be attached thereto. What then, does **SOLDIER** suggest we hang on the end to keep it in the pocket?

The present quality of the warrant officer, class two badge of rank is exceptionally poor and unworthy. In these days of whitened "drab" badges, the company sergeant-major's badge soon becomes a blob of white blanco faintly resembling a crown, while the RQMS, SQMS, AQMS, etc. appear to be wearing a fried egg that has been spoilt in the frying. On the other hand, the WOI transcends all others by the glory of his badge, which has improved considerably over the years.—**RQMS E. G. Sargent, 3 Basic Training Bn. RAOC, Portsmouth.**

★The lanyard is no longer a piece of equipment but a "dress embellishment." The end should be tucked into the breast pocket.

### SOLELY SOLDIER

I am led to believe that **SOLDIER** also prints a similar publication for the Royal Navy. Is this correct?—**J. W. Hitchcock, 159 Charville Lane, Hayes, Middlesex.**

★No. But the Royal Navy once honoured **SOLDIER** by asking for a few tips.

## "GIVE US BLANCO!"

For a month I used the new web equipment renovator every day. Then I reverted to the old type Blanco block, khaki green No. 3. In my opinion and that of the permanent staff of this battalion, the new renovator is nowhere as good as the old type. I consider we gave it a fair test under normal working conditions. As the cost of this paste is twice as much as that of the old block Blanco, one would expect a little more permanency with better results.—RSM (name and address supplied).

Goodbye to Blanco, but welcome to what? A 10d tin of a different mixture which is only sufficient to do one small pack! When one works out the cost, roughly, of renovating a full set of equipment it is approximately 4s 4d, i.e., five tins at 10d, against a clothing allowance of 1s 7d per week for some Regulars and 1s 3d for others, and 1s 2d for the National Serviceman in the last six months of his service.—Staff-Sergeant (name and address supplied).

I was surprised to find, on testing the new renovator, that it is inflammable. It appears to have a wax base and a piece the size of a match head gives a flame the size of a candle. While the renovator may have other uses, a tin of it would, I think, boil a quart of water (tea for four?) and I would suggest that the tins be marked in some fashion, as with certain brands of shoe polish, as a warning to keep away from fire. It is harmless-looking material, but where it is likely to be used in tanks, tents and wooden huts, a warning of this sort is particularly necessary, bearing in mind that tins will be bought four or five at a time.—BSM (name and address supplied).

Possibly the greatest disadvantage of the new renovator is the inability to "touch up" marks which appear in the normal course of duty. A major operation is entailed to remove them, more than half the cleaning time being taken in removing marks or normal stains (not oil or grease). Unless applied with the right amount of paste and brushing, the new renovator looks like a mud pack. The fact that it is stored in a tin is a great advantage over Blanco, but in all other respects it compels me from bitter experience to say: "Oh, for those good old Blanco days."—Old Rab Dabs" (name and address supplied).

★SOLDIER is informed that there have been a number of complaints about this renovator and these are being carefully investigated. Representatives of the Ministry of Supply and NAAFI are holding a joint meeting.

## COMMUTING PENSION

Usually the Regular who has continued in the service beyond 22 years is married, has a family, and occupies Government married quarters. One of

the most worrying thoughts at the back of his mind is the question of a home when he leaves the service.

For various reasons, children's education among them, he is not always keen to take his wife and family overseas, and would prefer that they were comfortably settled at home. But in the absence of satisfactory accommodation he frequently has little choice in the matter.

All long-service Regulars are not keen to occupy council accommodation (even if they could get it!). Many would prefer a house of their own, which they could pass on to their children.

Every soldier who has qualified for a pension has held in trust for him in the form of his earned pension a sum of money which would go a long way towards the purchase of a house. For instance, in my own case, at age 46, £1 per week of my pension commuted would produce £745 cash. (This figure is based on published commutation rates.)

I therefore submit that a scheme be put to the Army Council whereby a soldier who has already earned a pension be permitted to commute part of it in order to purchase a house outright, or to discharge a considerable amount of the purchase price, the balance to be paid off on mortgage by an allotment from his pay.—WO I. J. H. Brewster, RAEC, attd. School of Infantry (Tac. Wing), Warminster.

## SASHES

What is the origin of the red sash worn by warrant officers and sergeants in regiments of the line?—CSM R. Freemantle, Recruit Company, Airborne Forces Depot, Aldershot.

★The original purpose of the sash was to carry wounded from the battlefield. The sashes were usually made of silk, were strong as well as light-weight and, full enough to enclose the human form. In the seventeenth century the sash was worn either round the waist or over the shoulder. From its earlier use it has developed into a sign of rank. Nowadays, the sash is worn over the left shoulder by warrant officers and sergeants of Infantry regiments except the Somerset Light Infantry, who wear it over the right shoulder.

## ANY SUGGESTIONS?

I would be grateful for advice from readers of SOLDIER on the best way to polish and care for a Sam Browne belt.—"New Lieutenant" (name and address supplied).

## PARIS? NON

Does the Army have a leave centre in Paris with facilities for Other Ranks and their families, living in the United Kingdom?—Sergeant" (name and address supplied).

★No.

LETTERS CONTINUED OVERLEAF

## films coming your way

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

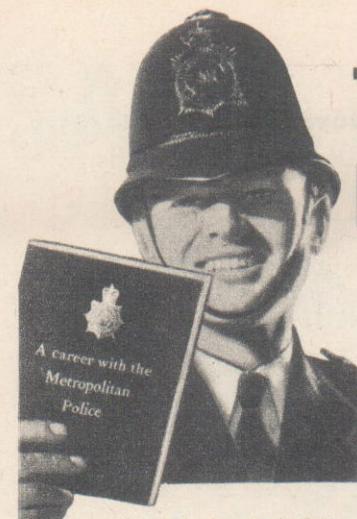
**THE LOVE MATCH:** Engine-driver Arthur Askey and fireman Glenn Melvyn park their train, fight a football referee, embezzle a railwaymen's holiday fund and stake all, first on a dancing contest and then on a football match. Helping to make it come right in the end are Thora Hird, Robb Wilton and Shirley Eaton.

**AS LONG AS THEY'RE HAPPY:** Into a suburban household comes a crying crooner, and then the fun starts. Father Jack Buchanan (playing a part he created on the stage) and Mother Brenda De Banzie have to cope with the crooner's effect on their daughters, Janette Scott, Jean Carson and Susan Stephen. Also about the house are Jerry Wayne and Diana Dors. Much singing. In colour.

**YOUNG AT HEART:** A less light-hearted musical intrusion into a peaceful household, this time by crooner Frank Sinatra (playing a musician). Once again there are three daughters, Doris Day, Dorothy Malone and Elisabeth Fraser. Sentimentality as well as singing. In colour.

**VERA CRUZ:** What Hollywood calls a "rugged" story in Superscope and Technicolor. Two freelance gunmen, Gary Cooper and Burt Lancaster, mix themselves up with that Mexican revolution in which the Emperor Maximilian was involved. Also present are a countess, a marquis, and a female pickpocket and a consignment of gold. Cast includes Denise Darcel, Cesar Romero and Sarita Montel. Much shooting and sudden death.

**ROUGH COMPANY:** Ruthless land baron Edward G. Robinson is opposed by Glen Ford. Barbara Stanwyck, Brian Keith and May Wynn are also there. More shooting. In colour.



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—sweet-singing star of  
“Wedding in Paris”—and you had  
a few minutes interval  
between scenes,

*what would  
you do?*

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*—they're made  
to make friends*

*There's something  
about a soldier...*

EVEN WHEN HE'S OUT OF UNIFORM

There's something about a  
soldier, even when he's out of  
uniform, that makes him stand  
out. Something about the way  
he walks—head up, shoulders  
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pride he takes in his personal  
appearance. On parade or in  
civvies, he's smart right  
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## more LETTERS

### "MONTY'S" CARD

During the last war I was awarded a certificate by the Commander-in-Chief 21st Army Group (Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery) in appreciation of outstanding good service. I was informed by an ex-major who saw the certificate that I was entitled to wear an oak-leaf on my 1939-45 war medal. Is this correct? I do not wish to wear decorations to which I am not entitled.—Ex-BSM, RA (name and address supplied).

★The certificate is a Commander-in-Chief's Card for Good Service. It is not a State award and is not published in the London Gazette, nor does it entitle the recipient to the issue of an oak-leaf emblem. The award of these certificates is entirely a matter for the Command concerned, the War Office being responsible only for the policy governing their issue.

### FATHER'S REGIMENT

I would say that for a regiment to have 19 men whose fathers also served in its ranks (Letters, March) in no way constituted a record in the period to which Sergeant Howson referred. Before 1914 many families had as many as five or six sons in a regiment. A year ago I compiled for *The Snapper*, our regimental journal, a list of officers and men serving with the Battalion whose relatives had served, or were still serving, with the regiment. My researches showed that we had (a) 23 whose fathers are or were in the regiment; (b) 20 others who had a total of 47 relatives other than fathers in the regiment. Of the men shown in (a) seven are officers, four of them sons of former commanding officers: four of those shown in (a) and (b) are sons of former regimental sergeants-majors and six the grandsons of ex-

members of the Regiment. I think this easily surpasses the record to which Sergeant Howson lays claim. Moreover, my figure would appear to disprove the theory that the introduction of National Service has tended to destroy the family tradition in regiments of the British Army.—Major (QM) H. N. Grieve, MBE, 1 East Yorks, Johore, Malaya.

We have serving in our military band 14 sons of the Regiment and six sets of brothers. The Band is 41 members strong.—Bandmaster W. Williams, Gordon Highlanders, Edinburgh.

### RENLEAVE

When, after five years' service, I re-engaged in July 1953 to complete 22 years, I was led to believe that I qualified for 28 days re-engagement leave, which did not necessarily have to be taken the same year. I am now told there is no such thing as re-engagement leave. When this leave was discontinued was any arrangement made for those like myself who had a previous entitlement?—Catterick Corporal" (name and address supplied).

★RENLEAVE has not been discontinued; in fact a new Army Council Instruction on RENLEAVE for the 22-year engagement is being prepared. It will allow RENLEAVE of 28 days once during the first 12 years' service and once during the next 10 years.

### FREE DISCHARGE

Have I read your meaning correctly under the heading "Five in One" (Letters, March)? You stated that a man obtaining a free discharge is entitled to a 28 days pre-release course. What is the authority you are quoting?—Curious" (name and address supplied).

★The authority we quoted was, unfortunately, incorrect. A man requesting his discharge is not entitled to a pre-release course.

## HE SENT THEM NEWS FROM HOME

KEENLY awaited every week by the 1st Battalion The Royal Fusiliers was an airmail letter bearing a Crouch End, London postmark. For three years it reached them, in Korea, Egypt and the Sudan.

It contained, in tiny handwriting, the "copy" for the "Fusilier Tom Bow News Letter," which the Battalion produced weekly to give the men home town news.

The idea was that of Captain Norman Welton, a former Fusilier. He condensed, with editorial permission, the news in the *East London Advertiser*, which covers the Battalion's home area. His first letter was an immediate success, and the Battalion asked for more.

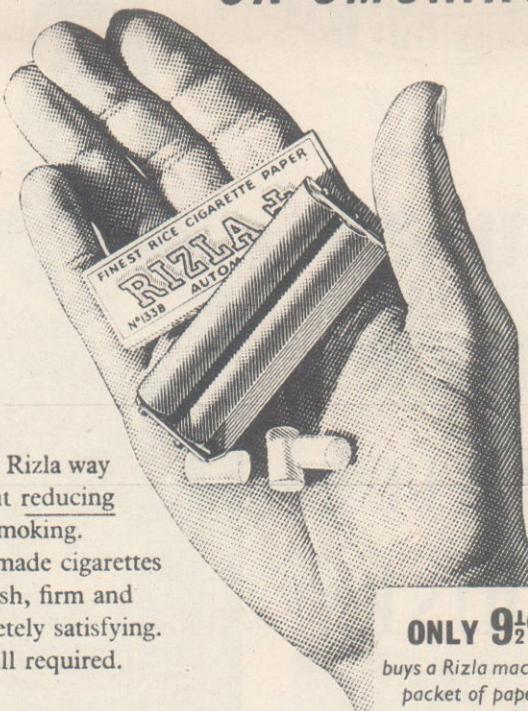
When SOLDIER called on Captain Welton he had just written his 130th and final letter, for the Battalion was due home. "It has been tremendous fun and I enjoyed doing something for the old Regiment," he said.

P.S.: Tom Bow was a regimental cat.



In the Sudan, a Fusilier reads news of familiar places, thanks to Captain Norman Welton, an ex-Fusilier (right).

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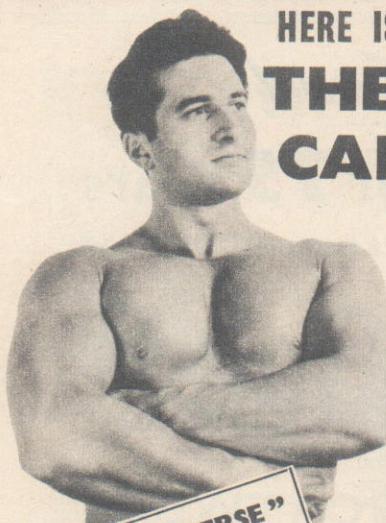


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"Go and burn down Dreghorn Castle" was the order to Territorials of 300 Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers. They obeyed, and felt something of the thrill a submarine crew experience when they destroy a very expensive battleship. The Castle, which is near Edinburgh, is War Department property, and was formerly a well-known school. It was affected by dry rot.

## SCHOOL WENT UP IN FLAMES

Dreghorn is ablaze. The Army's next task: demolition.



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"Shall I buy you  
a ribbon, dear?"



**S**ARGE has such a *nice* sense of humour—especially when he's being funny with someone else! He's got what most sergeants have got, too—an eye for scruffy, untidy hair. It's the one thing that really drives him up the wall!

And Sarge is dead right, you know! It does look bad, on parade and off. Very often, dry, unmanageable hair is a sign of Dry Scalp, and there's one sure way of checking that—'Vaseline' Brand Hair Tonic.

Here's a tactical exercise that's worth carrying out: gently massage a few drops of 'Vaseline' Hair Tonic into the scalp every morning. It takes only 20 seconds and it leaves your hair neat and well-groomed all day.

You'll be the smartest man on parade when you use 'Vaseline' Hair Tonic regularly. And off parade—well, just see how the girls react! Buy a bottle today.



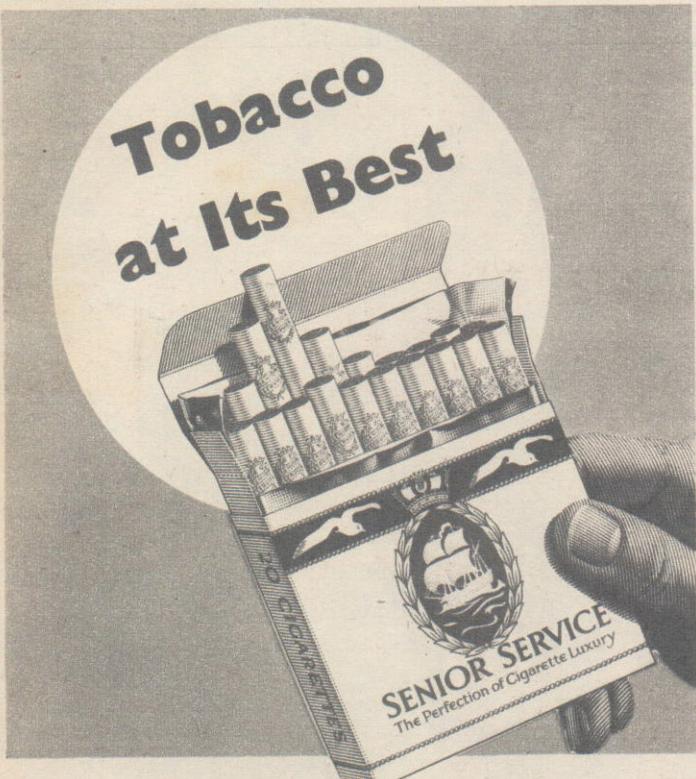
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THE DRESSING THAT CHECKS DRY SCALP

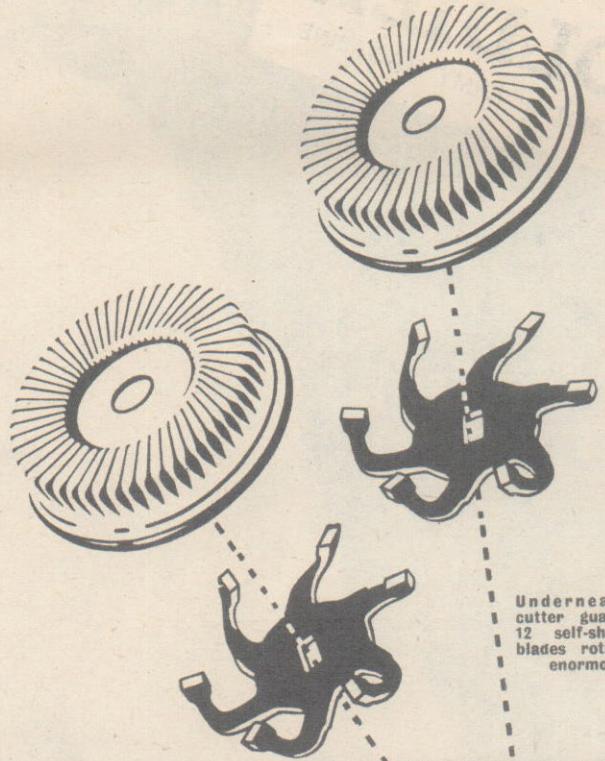


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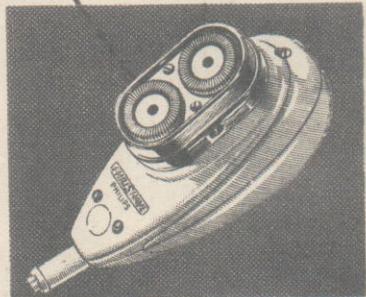
\*'Vaseline' is the registered trade mark of the Chesebrough Mfg. Co. Ltd.



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Underneath the cutter guards are 12 self-sharpening blades rotating at enormous speed



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Because the high-speed blades of the 'Philishave' *rotate*, they shave all the hairs, whatever their length and whichever way they grow. That means a *smoother* shave. And because the shaving head's raised rim gently stretches the skin so that the hairs stand upright, each one is removed at skin-level. That means a *closer* shave. There's no pulling at the hairs, either, no tearing, "nicking" or biting. That means a shave that's *easier on your skin*. In fact, 'Philishave' Rotary Action gives you a *better shave all round*! Prove it today—ask your dealer for a demonstration.



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# SOLDIER

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE



DIANA DORS  
in "A Kid For Two Farthings"