SOLDIER

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

MARCH 1954

NINEPENCE

THE QUEEN MOTHER'S PIPER (See Page 30)

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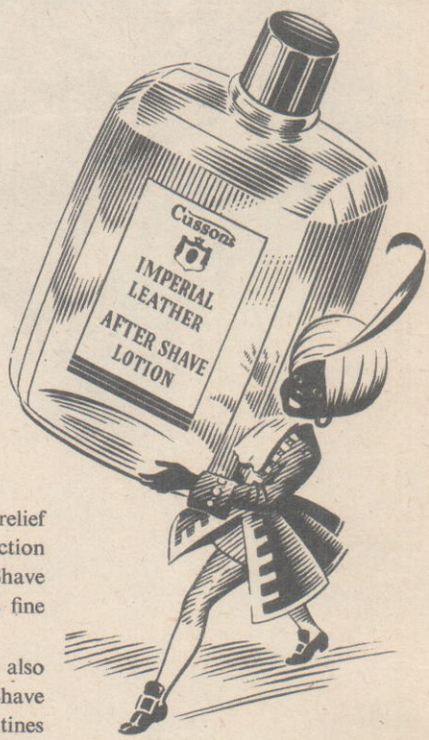

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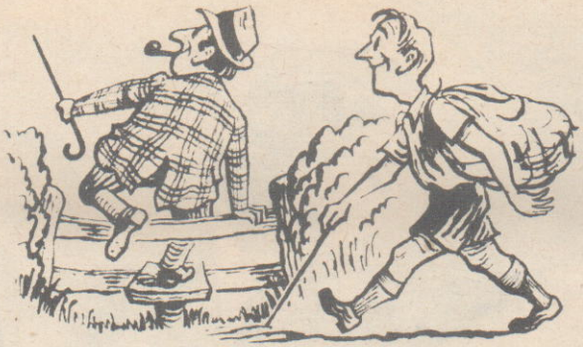


Farmers climb stiles for it

Hikers walk miles for it

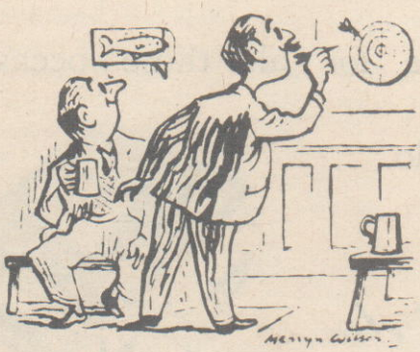
Good wholesome beer

Stevedores stow on it

Night watchmen glow on it

Dart players throw on it

Good wholesome beer



Let's have one at The Local

ISSUED BY THE BREWERS' SOCIETY · 42 PORTMAN SQUARE, LONDON, W.1.

Stanley Matthews, star of Blackpool's forward line, and holder of 38 full International Caps for England.

Stan Matthews says, Seize your chances

Judging by my mail 90% of the boys in Britain aim to make football their job in life! Well you know, that just won't work! But our country offers a wonderful choice to a boy or girl. Hundreds of different trades and thousands of different firms to work for. And once you've chosen your job just the same qualities that would make you a First Division footballer will get you high up in your job. Initiative, enterprise, using your napper. Seeing an opening and going for it. Taking a chance. Always, always working towards your goal. And of course not being afraid of a few hard knocks! Personal enterprise! That's what gets you to the top whether your job is in field, factory or office.

WHAT'S YOUR *LINE?*

Whatever your job is—while there's Free Enterprise there's opportunity. So make the most of it yourself, and encourage the spirit of Free Enterprise in others all you can.

Free Enterprise gives everyone a chance and a choice

The Free Enterprise Campaign, 51, Palace Street, Westminster, S.W.1
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Vol. 10, No. 1 **SOLDIER** MARCH 1954

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

Canal Zone and Libya, 4 piastres; Cyprus, 7 piastres; Malaya, 30 cents; Hong-Kong, 60 cents; East Africa, 75 cents; West Africa, 9d.

It may not lend itself to such a snappy "Present Arms," but the new Belgian F.N. .300 rifle looks a useful weapon for the modern battlefield

AT LAST . . . THE SELF-LOADER

IN the last fifty years almost every weapon of war has been pensioned off and replaced by a better one—except the rifle.

The men who launched the Short-Magazine Lee-Enfield could never have foreseen that it would have such a record-breaking run.

Now, after years of controversy, the Army's new rifle has been chosen: the Belgian F.N. (from Federation Nationale d'Armes de Guerre) of .300-inch calibre. It is the British soldier's first self-loading rifle.

Five thousand of these weapons have already been ordered for troop trials this year. After the necessary modifications the F.N. will begin to replace the bolt-action Short-Magazine Lee-Enfield.

Why was a Belgian rifle chosen? In a series of exhaustive tests in Britain and the United States the F.N. was tried out alongside the British E.M.2 automatic rifle and a similar rifle of American design. Impartial observers found no difference in their performance, but the Belgian rifle was easier and quicker to make, maintain and teach. It seemed also the most likely to be accepted by other North Atlantic Treaty Organisation countries. By adopting it Britain will probably help to speed the re-equipment of the North Atlantic Treaty forces.

In the tests of the F.N., stoppages were so rare that they had to be deliberately produced. The rifle has a very simple mechanism and the minimum of moving parts, so that the soldier will be able to strip and re-assemble it in a few seconds. It "breaks" like a shot-gun, allowing the body cover, breech-block slide and breech-block to be removed.

The weapon has a high rate of automatic fire—between 650 and 700 rounds a minute. A trained soldier using single shots from 20-round magazines can get off 60 aimed rounds a minute. Reloading from five-round clips, he should be able to fire between 35 and 40 aimed rounds a minute—which is more than double the rate of rapid fire expected of the average soldier with the present bolt-action rifle. The soldier will also carry spare 20-round magazines for use in emergency.

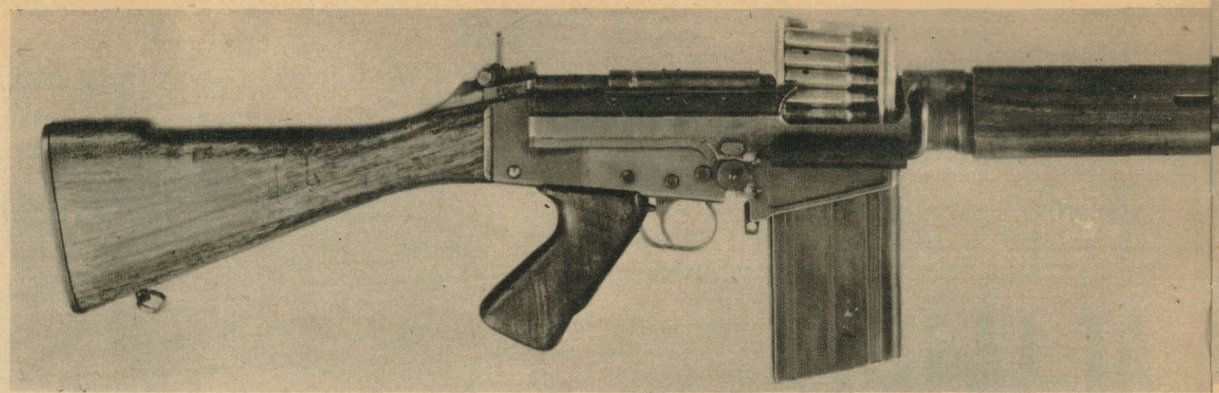
The rifle is fitted with a change lever to allow automatic fire, but when they are generally issued most weapons will be controlled to fire only single-shots. A few will have automatic fire, probably for use in the light machine-gun role.

The F.N. is gas-operated and an adjustable port in front of the centre of the barrel can be regulated to control the quantity of gas allowed to escape. The piston is built above the barrel and has its own return spring. The main spring is housed in the wooden butt which also has a compartment for cleaning material.

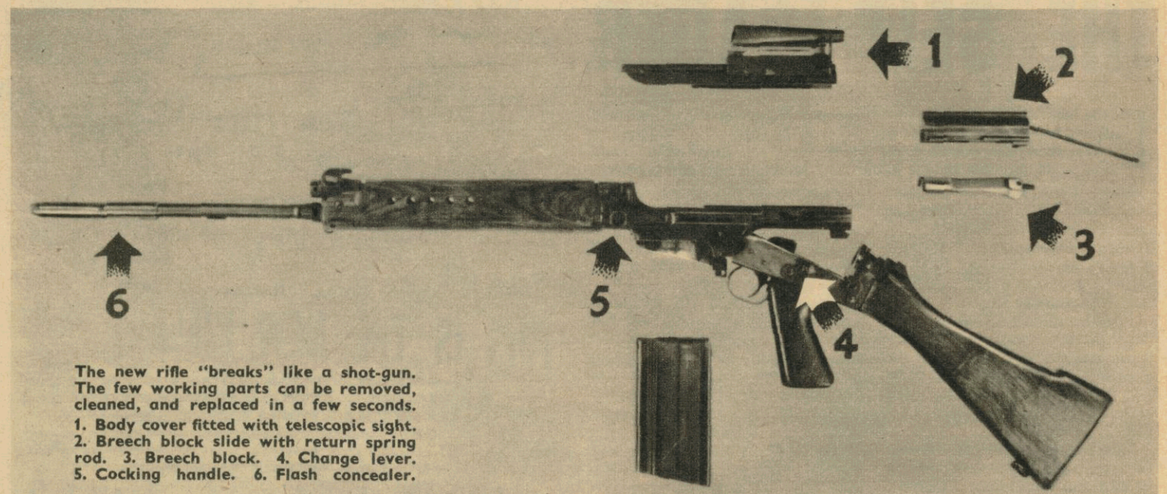
From the safety point of view the gun is almost foolproof. It cannot be fired until the breech block is locked, and the breech-block

OVER

Showing the F.N. fitted with its optical sight. Note that the cocking handle (above the corporal's left fore-finger) is on the left-hand side of the new weapon.



The Army's first repeating rifle: the Belgian F.N. self-loader. It is gas-operated (the piston is housed in the wooden casing above the barrel) and can fire at the rate of 650-700 rounds a minute. Normal loading will be from five-round clips inserted into a 20-round magazine.



The new rifle "breaks" like a shot-gun. The few working parts can be removed, cleaned, and replaced in a few seconds.
1. Body cover fitted with telescopic sight. 2. Breech block slide with return spring rod. 3. Breech block. 4. Change lever. 5. Cocking handle. 6. Flash concealer.

AT LAST . . . THE SELF-LOADER *(continued)*

cannot unlock until after the bullet has left the barrel.

The rifle has two distinctive features not found on ordinary rifles: a pistol grip (like that on the Bren gun) which fits snugly behind the trigger guard, and a cocking handle placed (unlike on the Bren) on the left-hand side. In this position the cocking handle is easy to operate and the rifle can be kept roughly aligned on the target when remedying stoppages. Nor does the cocking handle move backwards and forwards while the rifle is firing, with the risk of distracting the firer. Because it is not permanently fixed to the bolt, it cannot be used to force the mechanism forward against a damaged round or other obstruction and so cause a jam which only an armourer could repair.

In its present form the rifle without the magazine attached weighs nine pounds three ounces (a few ounces heavier than the No. 4 rifle). Its overall length is 41½ inches, three inches shorter than the No. 4; the barrel is 21 inches long as against 25 inches. The weapon is well balanced and easy to handle, which is not surprising since its makers, the Fabrique Nationale d'Armes de Guerre produce some of the best sporting rifles and shot-guns in the world.

The F.N.'s magazine holds 20 rounds and weighs eight-and-a-quarter ounces when empty, and one pound nine-and-a-quarter ounces full. However, it is intended that re-loading shall normally be done from five-round clips which the soldier will carry in bandoliers. For this reason the bolt remains open after the last round has been fired. The bolt is closed either by depressing the catch after re-loading or by drawing the cocking handle back.

Either the British-designed optical sight or the normal aperture sight can be employed. Troop trials will decide which is to be adopted.

By regulating the gas cylinder the rifle can be used to fire the Energa grenade.

In a demonstration of the F.N. on a miniature range at the Tower of London Warrant-Officer Douglas Maber of the Small Arms School Corps engaged figure targets representing men 250 yards away, firing single shots and bursts of automatic fire at the rate of about 650 rounds a minute. All shots were on target.

Major-General F. R. G. Matthews, Director of Infantry, said the new rifle when mass-produced would cost about £30. Probably arrangements would be made for factories in Britain to make it.

The one that got away: the British E.M.2.—a fine weapon, too.

NEW RIFLE WILL ALTER TACTICS—AND DRILL

INTRODUCTION of the self-loading rifle is likely to have far-reaching effects on the future make-up and organisation of the Army.

Because of the increased fire-power which can be brought to bear by the F.N. and the L2 A1 sub-machine-gun (described in last month's SOLDIER), the battle organisation and tactics of every arm—particularly the Infantry—may have to be changed. The Army will probably have fewer rifles and more sub-machine-guns.

All arms will receive both weapons but in varying proportions according to their needs in action. The Infantry will have the largest proportion of rifles.

These new automatic weapons will not, however, oust the Bren gun. This weapon will be modified to fire the new .300 inch ammunition and will have a new magazine which will be interchangeable with that of the F.N. The future of the Vickers medium machine-gun is still undecided. It may be replaced by a new and lighter air-cooled machine-gun firing the new .300-inch round.

The F.N. is shorter and slightly heavier than the Lee-Enfield (*left*).

Because of the shape and mechanical construction of the new rifle drastic changes will have to be made in the present form of arms drill. As the main spring is housed in the butt the rifle must not be banged on the ground as the present bolt-action rifle often is in the interests of smartness and precision. This does not mean that the F.N. is not a sturdy weapon. A War Office expert says, "It will stand up to rough treatment very well, but continual banging on the ground could damage the mechanism."

Guards and Light Infantry regiments and the School of Infantry at Warminster have been instructed to experiment with new drill movements. Until the method of handling is officially approved units will be forbidden to hold arms-drill parades with the new rifle.

The old rifle will probably be retained for ceremonial purposes in London.

The rules governing rifle meetings will also have to be revised but the Army Rifle Association are not perturbed. The necessary alterations can be introduced almost overnight, they say.

Footnote: Can anyone suggest popular names for the F.N. and the L2 A1?

SOLDIER to Soldier

THE British Army is spared a problem now facing the American Army: finding 100,000 picked high school graduates, or the equivalent, to operate the "Nike" surface-to-air missile. (Soon the Royal Air Force will face the same difficulty.)

The possibility that war will become too technical for the troops waging it has already occurred to many. Military scientists must now simplify their inventions so that they can be operated by uneducated Tom, slow-moving Dick and helpless Harry. In World War Two that diabolically complex invention, the anti-aircraft predictor, was operated with considerable success by farmers' boys and office boys, not to mention dairymaids and barmaids. Their collective technical knowledge could have been put on a button, but happily their natural common-sense would have required considerably more space.

Scientists moaned because some of those who operated the early predictors were unimaginative and ham-handed. They soon realised it was no good moaning, and set about making their instruments as automatic as possible, leaving the minimum to human judgment and intelligence. Unfortunately, complex machines need incessant maintenance, and the most-needed technicians of tomorrow may well be the repair men.

A READER sends a cutting from the magazine *Woman*. It consists of a letter by Miss J. W. (London), who was asked by a young soldier to go for a walk with him.

"I was a bit doubtful," she says, "because you know what 'pick-ups' can be. He must have noticed that, because he suddenly . . . produced a letter . . . from the vicar of his home church, addressed to anyone it might concern, declaring that the young man was known personally to the writer, and was of excellent character and behaviour."

And, as it turned out, he was.

The editress of *Woman* says this showed great enterprise on the part of the young soldier. Our reader who sends the cutting says, a trifle sardonically, that no doubt the young soldier "could have produced his General Certificate of Education had it been necessary." The only comment lacking is that of the vicar who wrote the testimonial. When the news of this gets around—who knows?—hundreds of young National Servicemen may be asking their vicars for similar chits. Those already called up can always apply to their padres.

"NEXT time the boys take their partners for a dance it will be in a replica of an old-fashioned barn. The walls will be half-timbered in oak, with hurricane lamps (electrically lit) swinging from the roof, simulated grain bins hiding unsightly bulkheads, and the dance band accommodated on a large-scale model of a milking stool."

Where, you may ask, will this imaginative décor be found? In a new Mayfair night club? On top of a Manhattan skyscraper? The answer is: in the re-designed NAAFI Club at Colchester.

LIEUTENANT - GENERAL Sir Brian Horrocks gained quite a press for himself when he said that the young British soldier was dominated by "Mum."

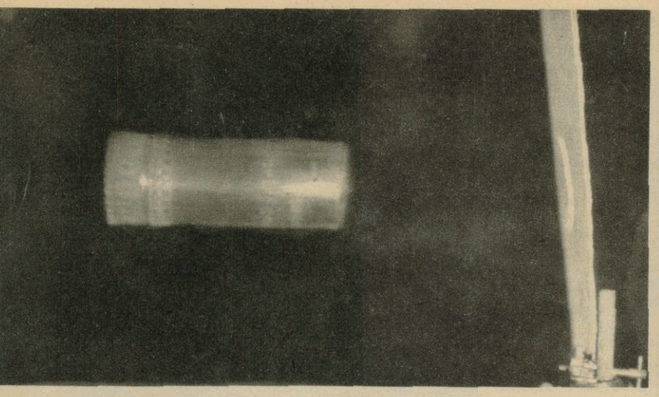
Who is going to be the brave man to take a crack at wives? A letter just received by SOLDIER (not a unique one) begins: "My husband is a Regular and we have decided to buy his discharge. . . ."

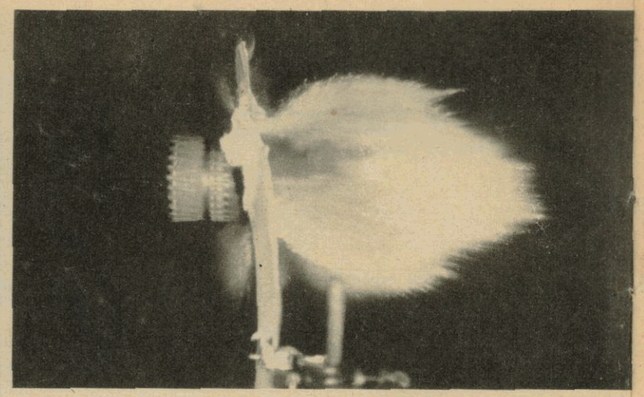
"I ask you—he's waiting to see his new self-loading rifle load itself."

Peter Ender cartoon by courtesy of "The Star," London.

"It's a washout for smart arms drill, Barlowe—but the optical backsight will aid good shooting by completely closing the left eye."

"Gus" cartoon by courtesy of the "Evening News," London.





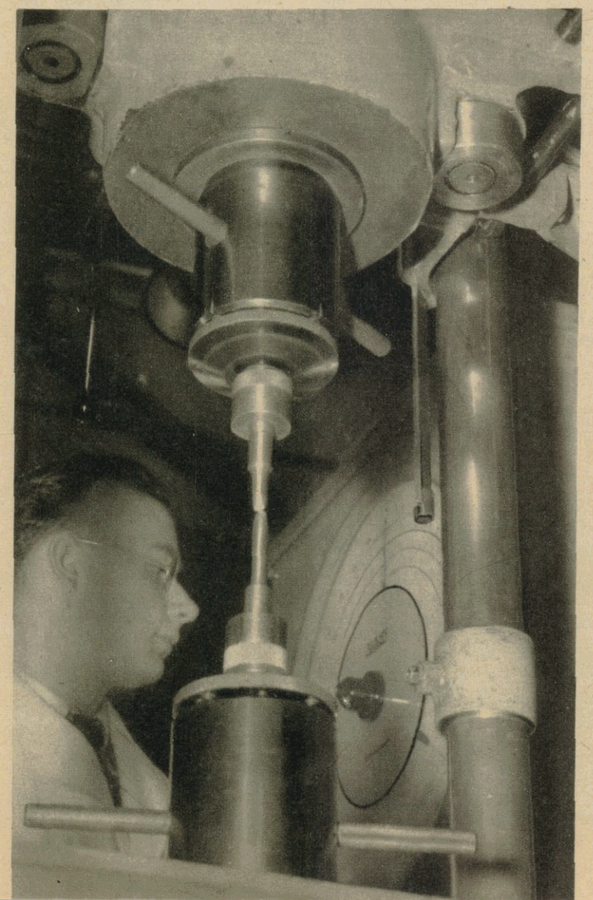
These pictures of a 25-pounder test shot travelling at 2000 feet a second were taken by high-speed cameras at Woolwich. Such photographs enable scientists to observe the behaviour of shots in flight from the time they leave the barrel until they hit the target.

THEY PHOTOGRAPH SHELLS

IN the good old days you could study ballistics by watching—with the naked eye—the flight of the cannon-ball as it left the cannon. Even the enemy could see it coming.

Today there are cameras which can photograph in flight a shell travelling at 2000 feet a second. There are chronometers which can measure time to within one-millionth of a second.

With the aid of such devices, scientists can tell what happens to a projectile from the time it leaves the barrel until it strikes the target. They can even ascertain what goes on within the barrel as soon as the shot is fired. This information is used in the improvement of weapons and explosives, and in the development of new ones.



Metals used for making weapons are all tested to breaking point. A gauge registers the maximum stress they can stand. The test rod shown has been pulled apart.

No army can survive with old-fashioned munitions. Britain's fighting services are kept in the forefront, in war and peace, by the scientists of the Ministry of Supply's Armament Research Establishment at Woolwich Arsenal and at Fort Halstead in Kent. These experts have been at the task for 50 years—ever since the public outcry against the use of faulty ammunition in the Boer War led to the setting up of the Chemical Research Department at Woolwich in 1903.

In those days the research team consisted of only six scientists working in a small laboratory. This laboratory is still in use today, but it is only a very tiny part of the buildings occupied by the Armament Research Establishment which now numbers several hundreds of scientists on its staff.

Much of their work is secret, and the public rarely hears of their activities behind the closely guarded walls which surround Woolwich Arsenal, and the wire fences which hem in the establishment at Fort Halstead.

The Fort was built by the War Office in 1891 as a rallying point for the Militia in case of invasion. It was sold to a retired colonel and later bought back by the Ministry of Supply.

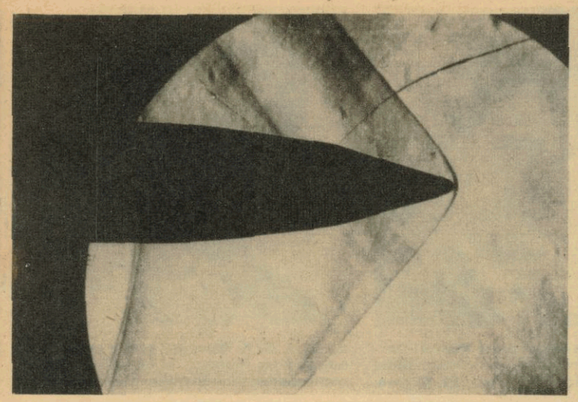
Here, models of shells and bullets used by all three Services are tested in a wind tunnel, in which air passes over them at four times the speed of sound. Minute holes drilled into the models enable the air pressure to be measured on any part of the missile and from these tests the scientists can tell how shells and bullets will behave in flight and which shapes are best employed with certain weapons.

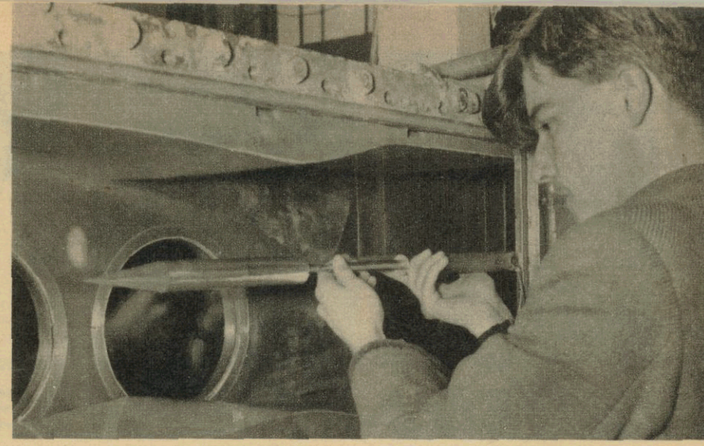
In the metallurgical laboratories machines test the strengths of metals to breaking point, so that the maximum amount of pressure and wear can be assessed. Every metal undergoes every known test to discover its properties, and if a flaw exists the scientists will find it. It is a measure of the Establishment's success in this field that only very rarely are weapons or ammunition sent back from the Services because they have developed faults. It is often found that the cause of the trouble is bad handling in the field.

Soon the Establishment at Fort Halstead hopes to have in use a water tank into which a gun is fired so that the behaviour of the shell under water can be observed. It will be the most advanced apparatus of its kind in the world, and will assist in improving the performance of torpedoes and anti-submarine bombs dropped by aircraft.

In the last fifty years the Armament Research Establishment has built up a world-wide reputation. When World War One broke out, there was only enough cordite for the Royal Navy's needs and supplies of lyddite were grievously short; TNT had hardly emerged from the laboratory stage. The Establishment's scientists found a new and cheaper method of making cordite and built their own pilot plant out of scrap metal to manufacture TNT. Within a short time factories all over the country were making TNT by the same process.

Later in World War One, when TNT again became scarce, the Establishment's scientists invented a new, and at that time the most powerful, explosive in the world—amatol. At the same time they devised a special fuze for use against barbed-wire entanglements, star shells, smoke bombs and signal flares, which improved the efficiency of the Services.



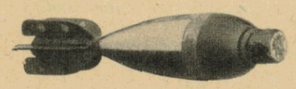


Models of shells are tested in a wind tunnel where air is forced over them at four times the speed of sound. The dark line sweeping back from the nose of the model (left) is a pressure wave. Right: A model shell, drilled with minute holes to record pressures, is placed in the tunnel.

IN FLIGHT

Scientists of the Armament Research Establishment keep the Army ahead of the rest of the world in the most up-to-date weapons, ammunition and explosives. Their search for new information and ideas is never ending

Between the two world wars every Service munition was overhauled and in the process many startling advances in design and performance of weapons were made. The Establishment invented a new type of cordite which did not decay and a new explosive which, when used with a special delay fuze, enabled a shell to penetrate armour and explode inside the target. Two years later they developed chromium plating, the secret of which was handed over to commercial firms. Later, when asked to produce an even more powerful explosive than any then known, the Establishment made exhaustive tests on nearly 200 different compounds and found the answer in RDX. This was used in World War Two in torpedoes and aircraft bombs, and formed the basis of the new plastic explosive used for demolitions.



Mortar bombs are specially treated so that they can be photographed in flight by day.

Research on metals produced new aluminium bronzes stronger than steel, and a lead alloy which does not crack or flake. These discoveries helped to improve the performance of many weapons and the secret of their making was given to industry.

At Woolwich the science of X-raying metals to seek out internal flaws was developed between the wars. It is now the standard procedure for the inspection of armaments and machine parts in industry. In the 'thirties the Establishment pioneered research on anti-aircraft rockets, which led to the formation in 1939 of a new research centre, the Projectile Development Establishment at Fort Halstead. This organisation's work was translated into many new and powerful weapons in World War Two.

It was largely due to the Establishment's work between the wars that Britain possessed the latest information on most weapons and ammunition when World War Two came. Shortages were the main problem, and in the early years of the second war the Establishment concentrated on bringing scientific knowledge to bear on production.

As the strategy of war changed the Establishment was called upon to produce new types of weapons and ammunition. One important development was the hollow-charge projectile which revolutionised anti-tank warfare. It was found that greater penetration was achieved by the driving power of explosive hollowed out to a cone shape. The principle was first successfully used in the No. 68 grenade and later the PIAT.

Another important wartime development was the invention of the Sabot projectile in which a light metal carrier holds a small, very hard and very dense metal core. When the shot leaves the gun the carrier falls away so that the energy of the gun is concentrated into the core and enables it to pierce a greater thickness of armour than if it had been fired from a gun its own size. This type of shell was first used in Normandy, and was found to give the six-pounder anti-tank gun the striking power of much larger calibre guns. Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery said the invention had placed Britain well ahead of the Germans in ammunition design.

The scientists also produced the incendiary filling for fighter-aircraft bullets which played a large part in the victory of the Battle of Britain. They made the special "high-blast" explosive for the 22,000-lb. "earthquake" bombs and the large bombs which shattered the Ruhr and Eder Dams.

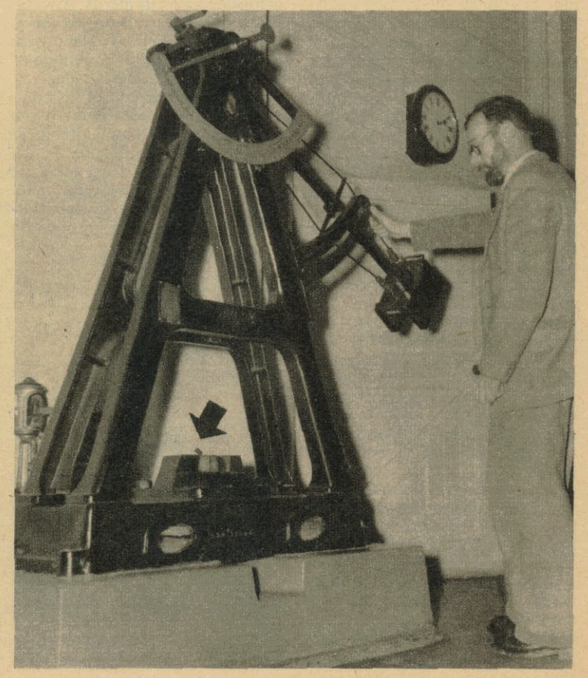
Again, they were also given the job of negativing the magnetic mine, which they did in remarkably quick time. Almost every type of enemy bomb and mine passed through their hands, so that they could discover the safest and quickest means of rendering them harmless.

After the war the Establishment was entrusted with the largest and most important task in its history—research into, and development of, the atomic bomb. Under Dr. (now Sir) William Penney more than half the staff at Fort Halstead were switched to the project and they formed the nucleus of the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston.

Today the Armaments Research Establishment confines its activities to less spectacular weapons than the atomic bomb. But from the soldier's point of view its work is still of the first importance.

E. J. GROVE

One of the machines which record the severest blow a metal can take before it breaks. The weight on the end of the pendulum strikes the metal which is held in a clamp. Arrow points to fractured specimen.



Lt.-Gen. Sir Adrian Carton de Wiart, VC: he lost an eye in Somaliland, a hand in France.

The late Field-Marshal Earl Wavell: he lost his eye in World War One on the Western Front.

The late Major Earl Wavell (former Viscount Keren): lost a hand in World War Two, in Burma.

Lt.-Gen. G. K. Bourne, newly appointed to Malaya, is an active commander though minus an arm.

WHY THE GENERAL FLEW FROM CHINA

He had a personal message for a field-marshal's son who lost his hand in battle. The message was: "You can still serve."

A HUMAN story of the war slipped out recently in a letter to "The Times". The writer disclosed that when Lt.-Gen. Sir Adrian Carton de Wiart, VC, heard that the son of his old friend, Field-Marshal Lord Wavell, had lost a hand in Burma, he flew from Chungking to Delhi to assure the young man that it was possible to carry on a military career with one hand.

General Carton de Wiart's view, supported by the evidence of his own career (he lost an eye fighting the Mad Mullah and his left hand in World War One), is officially shared by the Army. Roughly, the Army's attitude is that if a disabled man is capable of doing his job as a soldier, then it is happy for him to carry on.

Each arm or corps of the Army decides the minimum physical standard required of its members. Now and again, however, it may find some man who is admirably suited for a particular job but who does not measure up to the regulation medical standard. So, from the man's unit, through the "proper channels," a plea goes to the War Office, or in some cases the Command, for the man to be considered as a special case. If the medical authorities consider that his disability is not likely to become worse, then he is in. This system works for everyone from field-marshal downwards.

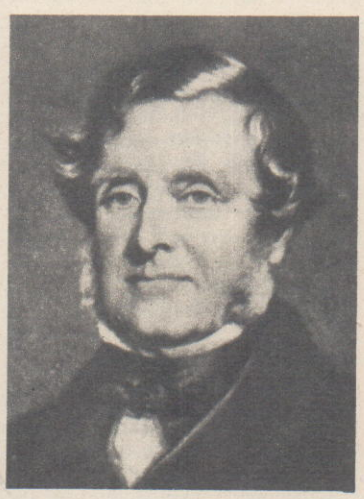
It is much harder for a disabled man to enter the Army than to stay in if the disablement occurs during service. A man with monocular vision (with one defective eye) may be accepted for certain jobs, but if an eye is missing he cannot normally enter the Army unless he has served previously. His service will usually be restricted to temperate zones as well as to the lines of communication or to the base areas. This disability also bars an officer from a regular commission, but if the eye has been lost in the course of military duty, it will not bar him if his arm or corps needs his services.

In similar circumstances, a lost leg is a bar to a permanent commission in most combatant arms and corps, but not all. A lost arm is a bar to a permanent commission as captain or below in the Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Artillery or Infantry, but not in the higher ranks of these arms or in any ranks in other arms. SOLDIER met a one-armed lieutenant-colonel commanding a battalion on an operation in Malaya.

Every individual case, however, is considered on its merits. Always, the man's ability to do his job is considered. There is a tale of a lieutenant-colonel in command of a battalion who lost a leg. It seemed to be the end of his command, because according to the rules a battalion commander must be able to march 15 miles, which is more than can reasonably be expected of a one-legged man. This lieutenant-colonel was determined, however. He strapped on his artificial leg, paraded his battalion, marched 15 miles at its head, obtained certificates that he had done so from his medical officer and second-in-command, forwarded them to higher authority—and kept his job.

General Carton de Wiart tells in his autobiography that after the loss of his eye he was ordered to wear a glass eye. This he threw out of a taxi window at the first opportunity and put up his black patch. When he left hospital after the loss of his hand he discovered that, by using his teeth, he was able to tie a fly to a fishing line. Fishing, however, was not an accomplishment likely to impress his medical board, so he informed them that since leaving hospital he had been hunting and shooting, and if he was able to do that successfully, surely he could be of some use in France. His one eye, he says, must have been wearing an honest look. He was passed for service in France.

The Marquess of Anglesey: he buried his leg with an epitaph.



Lord Raglan: "Don't take that arm away—there's a ring on it."

Field-Marshal Lord Wavell, like his son, had a disability in common with General Carton de Wiart. He lost an eye in World War One. Among present-day commanders, Lieutenant-General G. K. Bourne, who is leaving Eastern Command for Malaya has only one arm.

Wellington's tough officers made light of disabilities, as did those of the one-eyed Lord Nelson. The Earl of Uxbridge was riding with the Iron Duke towards the end of the day at Waterloo when his knee was shattered by a bullet. "By God, I am hit," he exclaimed. "Are you, by God?" answered Wellington. Uxbridge's leg was amputated and five days later he became the Marquess of Anglesey. On a tree under which his leg was buried, he had a board erected with the words:

Here lies the Marquess of Anglesey's leg,
Pray for the rest of his body, I beg.

Lord Anglesey soldiered on to become Master-General of Ordnance.

A young officer disabled at Waterloo was Lord Fitzroy Somerset, whose right arm was amputated on the field without anaesthetic. When the operation was over, he called out: "Here, don't take that arm away until I have taken the ring off the finger!" As Lord Raglan, he was Britain's Commander-in-Chief in the Crimea 40 years later.

Marshal Beresford, an adventurous Briton who commanded the Portuguese army fighting with Wellington in the Peninsula, had lost the use of an eye in a shooting incident while a young man. General Sir Charles Napier had his jaw shattered as a young man in the Peninsular War. He was troubled with this handicap and with other wounds for the rest of his life, despite which he served on to conquer Sind and become Commander-in-Chief in India.

THE GUNS WHICH POINT TO SEA

Alert to stop, sink or salute, the guns that guard Britain's moat have the deadliest aim of all

IF war seemed imminent, which soldiers would be mobilised first?

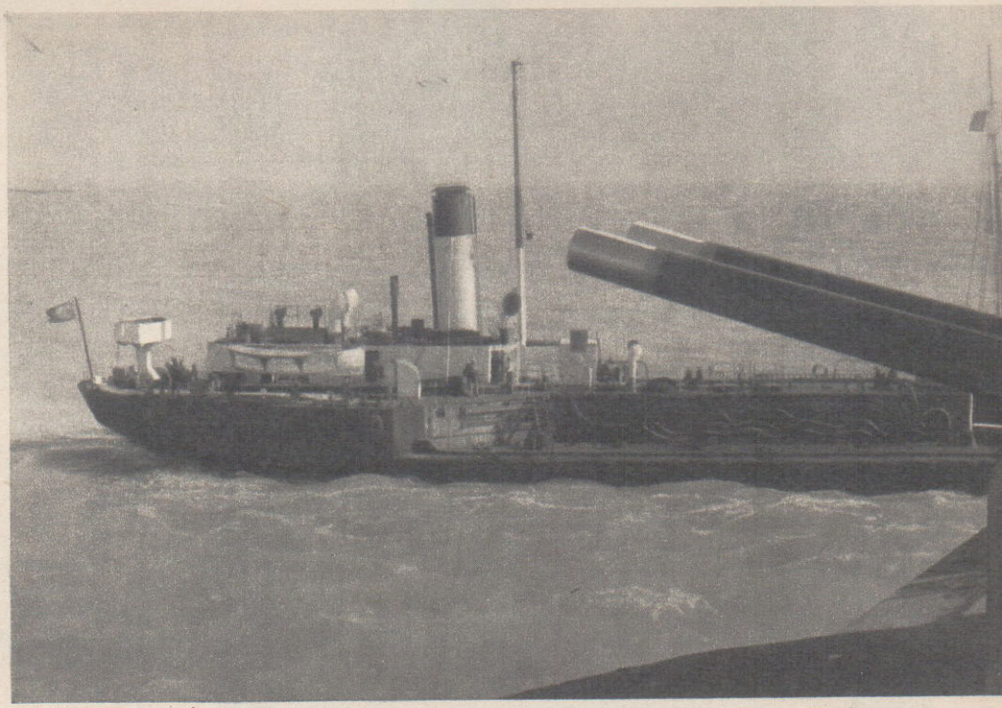
Anti-aircraft Gunners? Perhaps. But on previous showing, the Gunners of the Coast Regiments, Royal Artillery would be well in the running.

Weeks before Munich they were at their guns round the shores of Britain. In 1939 they were on their gunsites eleven days before war broke out.

They have a vital job to perform before the first shot is fired. A ship scuttled in a narrow, busy channel could do enormous damage within minutes of the start of a war. According to the newspaper prophets, another war may begin with the explosion of atom-bombs in innocent-looking merchantmen cosily anchored in British ports.

It is the job of Coast Artillery to prevent an enemy stealing a march on Britain. In times of tension, like August 1939, Coast Gunners halt foreign ships for examination before they enter British ports. At the same time, they defend the ports and the Royal Navy's "mothball" fleets from any other sudden attack—jobs they continue to carry out during war.

No sudden change in the international situation must take Coast Artillery by surprise. And so, at all times, it is ready to go into action within a few hours. Regular Coast Gunners can drop what they are doing to hasten to their war stations. Territorial regiments, with a handful of Regulars to handle the more technical jobs, are always on the spot, since the units are raised in the areas of the guns they man.



Under the protection of the guns, a coasting vessel puts into Dover Harbour.

The guns themselves are always ready, clean, bright and slightly oiled, with not even preservatives to be cleaned off. For the constant readiness of their weapons, the Coast Gunners must thank the men of the Maintenance Batteries, Royal Artillery, which look after Coast Artillery equipment all the year round.

Of these, the battery covering the traditionally "hot" area is 223 Independent Maintenance Battery. Its "parish" extends from Newhaven eastward along the South Coast and up the East Coast to Scarborough. Its guns defend all the principal ports.

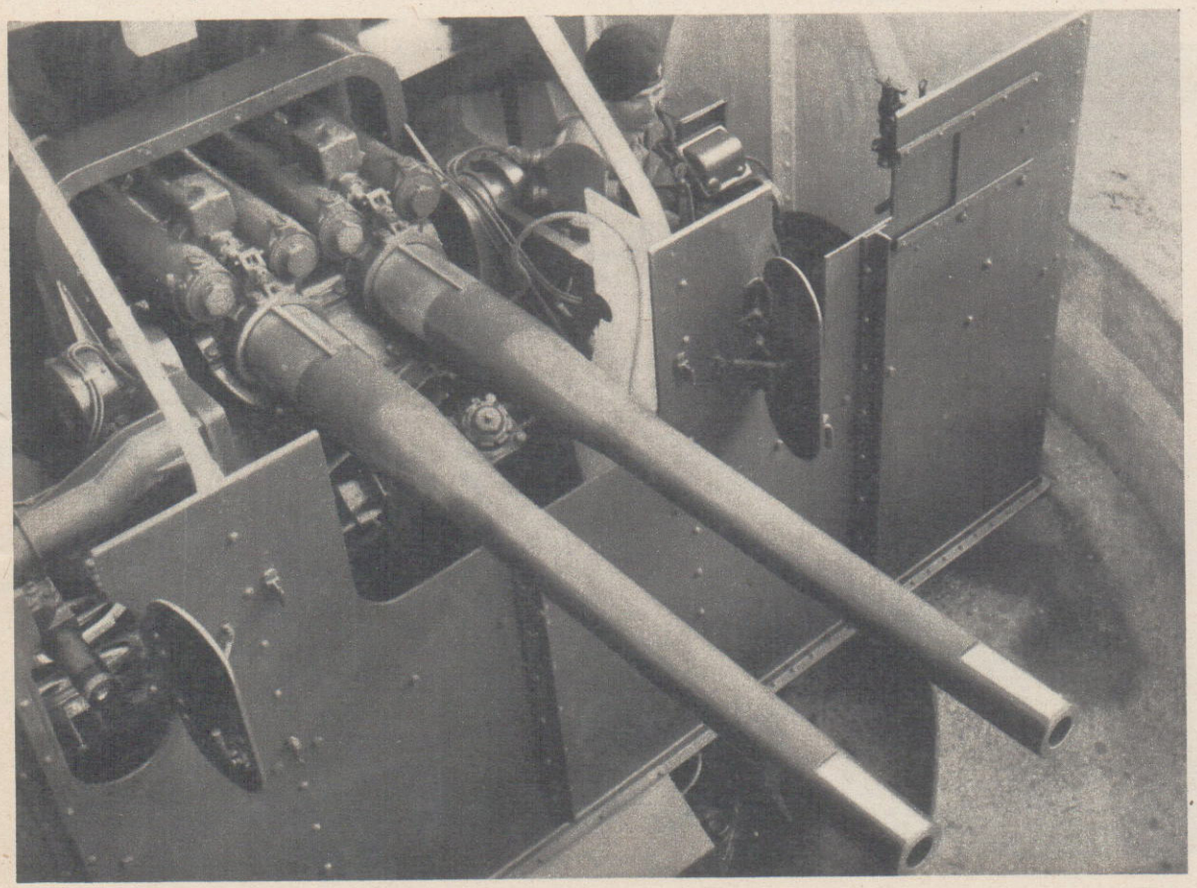
The Battery's most famous charges are the Dover guns. In his office, Major G. Hall, the Battery Commander, will display long scrolls recording the wartime actions of the Dover batteries, the shoots against E-boats and German merchant vessels. There is an impressive number of entries which end "ship disappeared" or "believed sunk." Here, too, is the record of the exciting 17 minutes, in 1942, during which Dover's guns shelled the *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*, an action which nearly did not take place because an important valve in a radar set miles away burned out at a critical moment.

Later, the cliffs of Dover had heavier armament, which could have inflicted greater punishment on the German warships. There were two 15-inch guns, the Army's biggest, each of which fired 1234 rounds at various enemy targets. At the time of D-Day one scored a direct hit, at 40,000 yards, on a German battery on the French coast. Since those days there have been changes in the coast batteries, but guns of various calibres have always stood ready, on cliffs and harbour moles, on the ramparts of ancient forts and behind sandy beaches.

With them goes a complex array of the gadgets which, combined with a stable platform, a permanent site and unhurried survey, make coastal gunnery the most efficient and accurate form of shooting. There are radar sets and searchlights, plotting-rooms and wireless sets, diesel-engines and generators, ammunition-hoists, range-finders and countless stores to keep guns and equipment in action.

To look after them, 223 Battery

OVER



Long, sleek and slender as a pair of silk-stockinged legs, complete with suspenders (but no knees)—the barrels of a twin six-pounder

"Those eyes! They stare at me!" They were once gun-ports, are now windows of casemate barrack rooms at Landguard Fort in Suffolk.

GUNS WHICH POINT TO SEA *Continued*

has district officers, specially commissioned after long service in the ranks, master-gunners (warrant officers), district gunners (retired Regulars who have signed on as civilians) and highly skilled tradesmen, both Gunners and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. A list of their educational attainments is impressive by the standards of any unit. More than half the uniformed members of the Battery are Regulars.

The work goes on unceasingly. In winter, the oil-film on the unpainted parts of a gun must be renewed every day, to combat the sea-air; even in summer it must be replaced every two or three days. Radar sets must be run for eight hours every week, to keep them in trim. Engines must be run every week. Once a month gun barrels are drawn back to exercise the buffer and recuperator systems. All equipment is painted yearly (and sometimes more often). Every two years, guns are fired at full charge to test the mountings and emplacements. In addition, guns, radar and searchlights must be prepared for training the local Territorials, usually twice a week and at weekends.

As a side-line, the soldiers of 223 Battery also man the saluting batteries at Dover Castle and Sheerness. The Sheerness battery, in the Centre Bastion, is one of the few in the Army to fire salutes for the Royal Navy. Ships returning from foreign service greet the Commander-in-Chief, The Nore, as they pass Sheerness, and the Army's 25-pounders return the salute on his behalf.

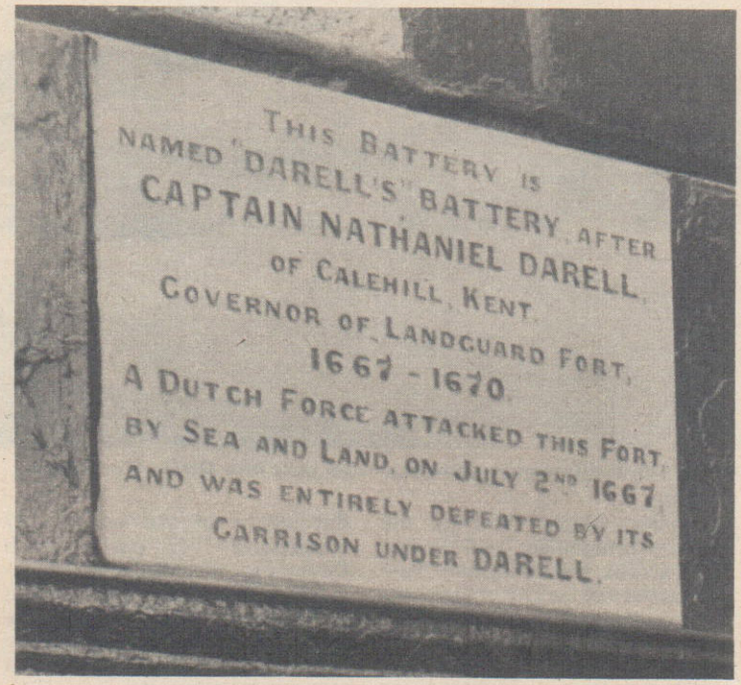
Below ground, the ammunition in the magazines requires the Battery's constant care. A close watch is kept on the temperatures of the magazines. Twice a day, the humidity of the air is checked, and the ventilation adjusted to prevent condensation.

Living close to Dover's batteries provides its own problems. When the guns fire, notice-boards in the battery office clatter to the floor and desks are swept clean. At the same time, scores of windows are shattered, which may provide a let-out for soldiers who have kicked a football inaccurately and too close to a barrack-room.

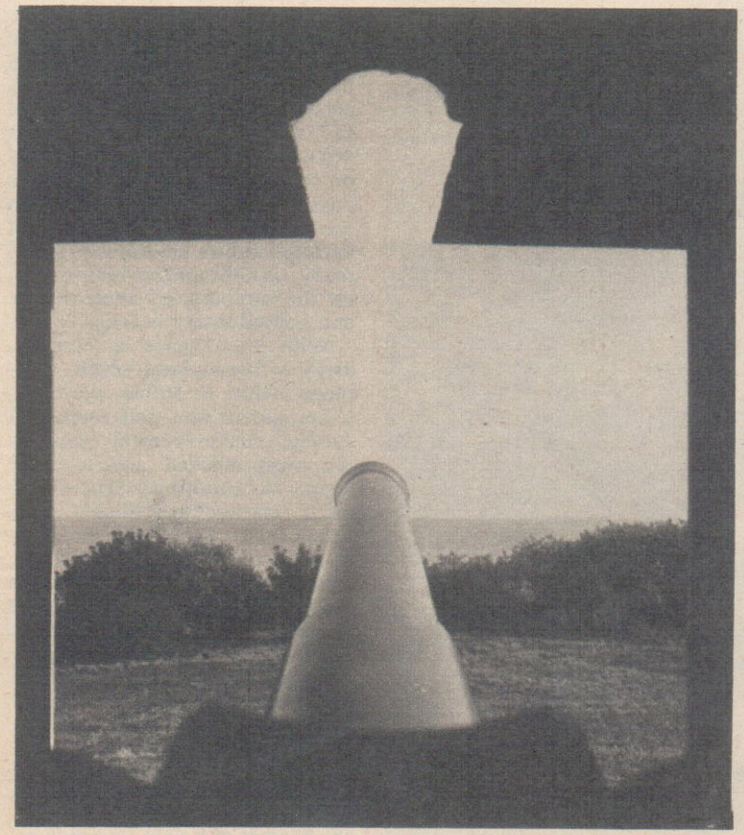
One of 223 Battery's responsibilities is Landguard Fort, which in 1667 was attacked by the Dutch under Admiral de Ruyter. The fort's garrison, under the Governor, Captain Nathaniel Darell, beat back overwhelming numbers. Each year, on 2 July, 223 Battery commemorates Darell's Day by flying a Union Jack, a ceremony for which provision is made in Queen's Regulations.

From the last war, Landguard has memories of an action which was exciting at the time but ended in anti-climax. One night naval acoustic devices reported the sound of motors where there should have been none. Searchlights on both sides of the estuary flashed on, and objects were seen moving seaward. "Human torpedoes!" said the watchers. The guns opened fire, rapidly and accurately. The targets were destroyed.

A day or so later came a letter from the Admiral commanding the area. He complimented the Gunners on their rapid action and



In memory of Landguard's finest hour, this plaque was erected. Below: Guarding the sea that guards the shores: a gun on Britain's ramparts.



Centre Bastion, Sheerness, where the Army fires Naval salutes.

accurate shooting. He added that the Royal Navy had made a search and found no trace of the targets. They had concluded that the mysterious objects had been barrels floating down the river.

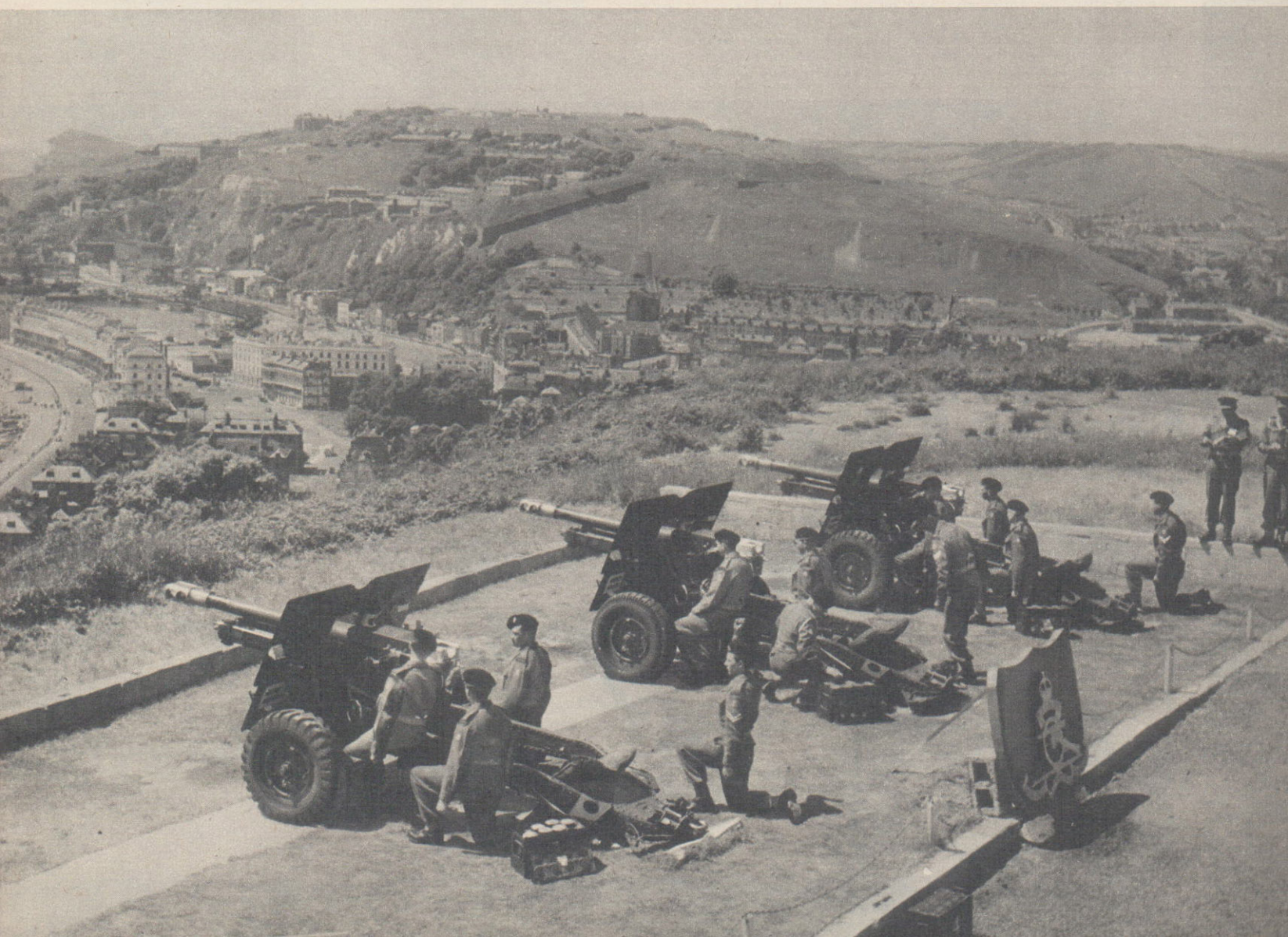
Landguard Fort has not yet fully recovered from the East Coast floods of last winter, when two members of 223 Battery stationed there gained British Empire Medals for rescue work and much of the fort was under water.

The members of the Battery, and especially the district gunners, take a great pride in the appearance of their buildings and gun-sites. At Felixstowe, Mr. L. A. Symonds has a garden behind his guns. There are lavender beds, archways, fruit-bushes and neatly trimmed shrubs. Mr. Symonds, retired as a bombardier in 1925.

The district gunners also take great pride in their store-rooms. At Landguard, Mr. C. Buckley (he was Gunner Buckley for 29 years, until 1948) looks after the searchlight stores. He maintains a display of painted and polished tools and spare parts which would do credit to a stand at an engineering exhibition. It seems a pity that they should ever be disturbed. But nobody can doubt that they are fit and ready for use, and that goes for everything else 223 Battery has in its charge.

RICHARD ELLEY

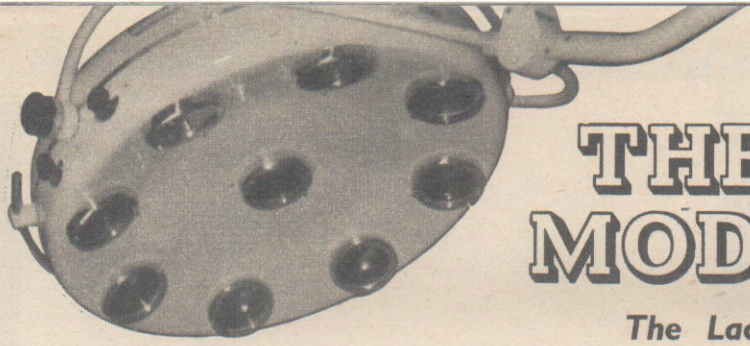
Polished brass cannon guard the drawbridge to Landguard Fort, painted cannon support the handrail. Below: The guns that greet important visitors to Britain's shores: the saluting battery at Dover Castle.



KOREA
ROUND-UP

(Above) Major-General H. Murray, commanding 1st Commonwealth Division, tours the new defence line in Korea. Like his predecessor, he carries a big stick. (Right) The General drives over a defence road scoured out of the mountain slopes. (Below) These thatched, nine-man huts are occupied by South Korean soldiers. There are fires under the floor—and the chimneys are at the side.

(Above) The Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion The Royal Scots record a programme for Korea's field radio station. (Right) Only 11,325 miles home: a nostalgic signpost. (Below) Two swordsmen of international class cross swords at the headquarters of 28th Brigade. On left is Serjeant George Gelder, Army Physical Training Corps (who fenced for the Army in Holland in 1951); his opponent is Lieut. R. A. King, Royal Signals, of Britain's Olympic team.

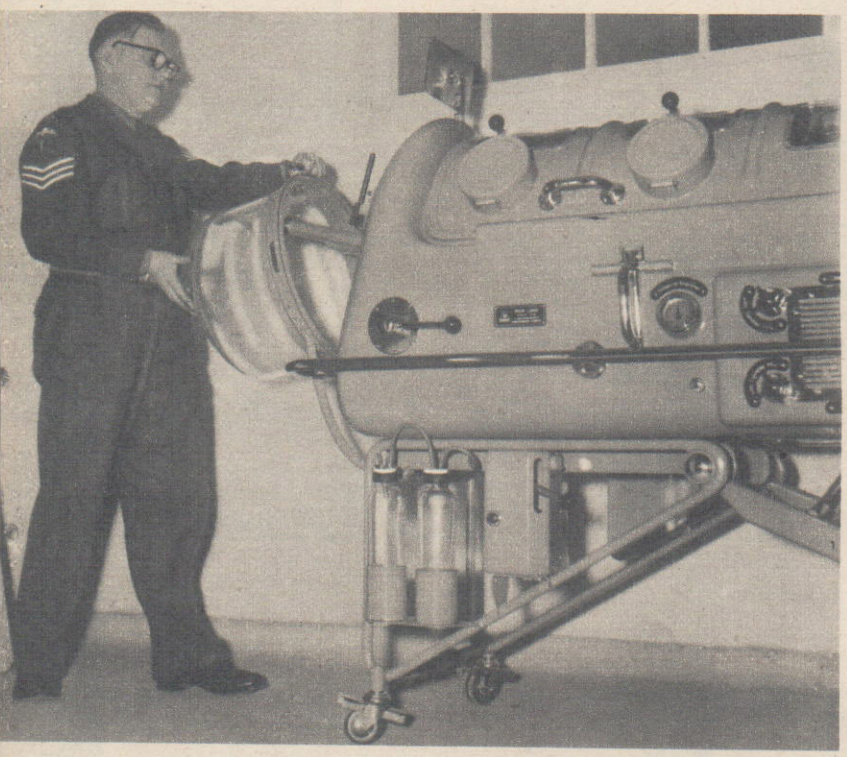


The nine-in-one operating lamp: it concentrates light, but not heat.

THE ARMY'S MOST MODERN HOSPITAL

The Lady of the Lamp—who began gingering up military hospitals one hundred years ago—would not believe her eyes if she toured the wards at Hostert

Photographs : SOLDIER Cameraman W. J. STIRLING



The iron lung has a dome breather to maintain the patient's respiration while the rest of the lung is opened. Below: the panorama type of window gives a patient an uninterrupted view of the scenery.

THEY ought—in all humility—to put up a statue of Florence Nightingale at Hostert, Germany.

The newly opened British military hospital near the village bears about as much resemblance to the notorious military hospital at Scutari (cunningly sited over an open sewer, remember?) as the Ritz bears to a wattle hut.

This is the Royal Army Medical Corps's newest hospital, a model of what the Corps would like all its hospitals of the future to be. Formerly a German Catholic hospital, it has been extended to serve British troops west of the Rhine—an elastic description which includes some who are east of the river and also those in the new base at Antwerp. Already "open for business," it expects to be handling its full normal flow of patients when the Headquarters of Northern Army Group crosses the Rhine to Mœnchen-Gladbach.

Surrounded on three sides by the hospital is the church which was formerly part of the German institution. The barbed wire which cuts it off from the hospital does not prevent friendly relations between the villagers of Hostert, who make up the church's congregation, and the hospital patients and staff.

To the lay visitor the most striking thing about the hospital is the number of gadgets. The patient benefits from them all.

If he is a soldier below commissioned rank, he will probably have his first experience of gadgets in the locker-room. Here he will store his kit in a kind of safe-deposit, designed to hold battle-dress on hangers. He will take the key with him.

He may go to a ward of six to twelve beds, tall and spacious, or to a small ward of one or two beds. In the small ward he will find his wash-basin built into a kind of wall-cupboard. Some wards have panorama windows, horizontal panes about ten feet long placed at just the right height for a patient lying in bed to obtain an unbroken view. All patients have earphones for listening to the entertainment offered by the hospital's rediffusion service.

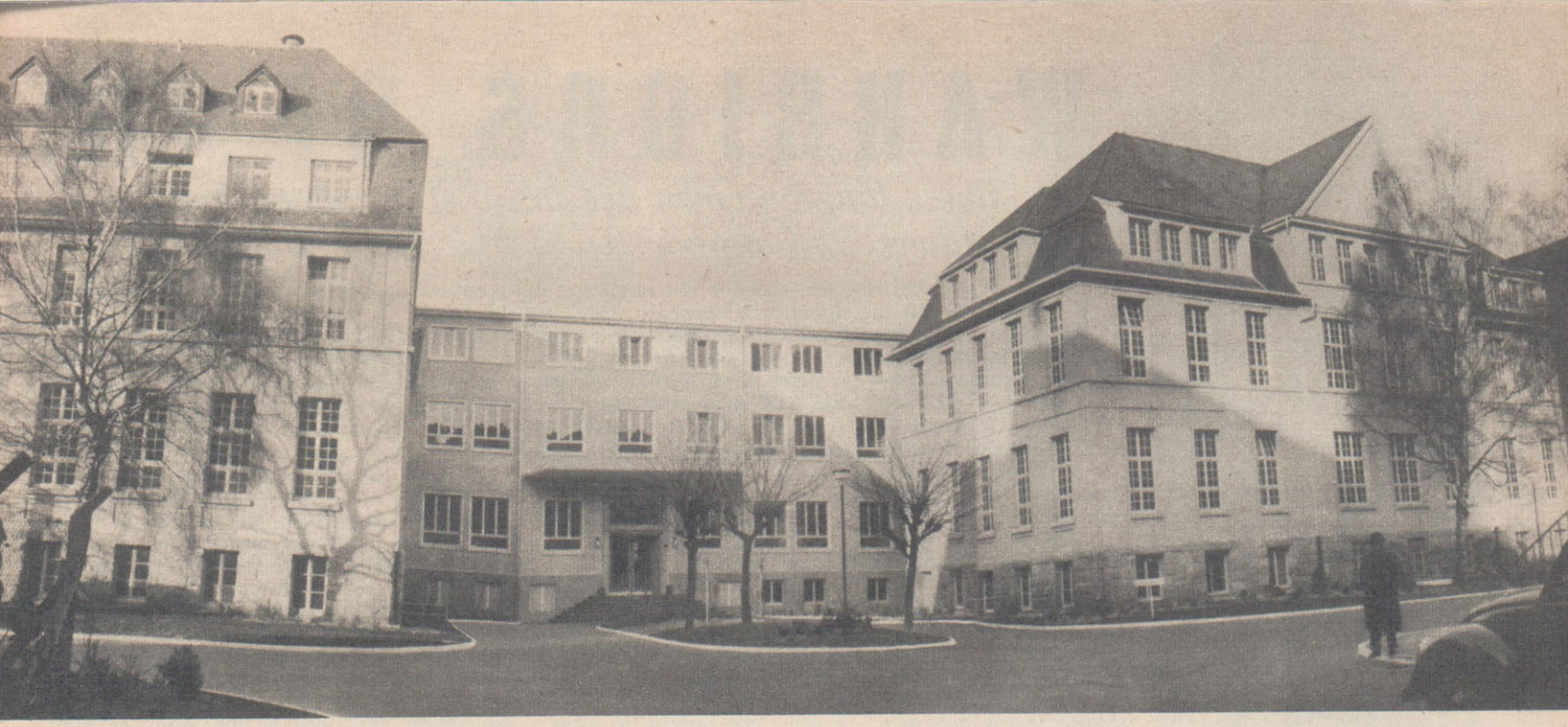
Each department of the hospital has its own self-contained "suite" in which no patient is ever far from a button or pull-switch which will ring a bell in the duty room and put on a light to show the duty staff of the department exactly where they are needed.

Among the glories of the building are the bathrooms, spacious and tiled and heated. Each bath has chromium-plated handles on which the patient can support himself. Under each bath are recesses into which the orderlies can tuck their toes while bathing patients. This apparently trifling refinement has rarely been thought of by hospital-planners in the past and evokes much grateful comment from the hospital staff.

The operating theatre boasts a nine-in-one lamp, that is, nine lamps mounted in a circular frame in such a way that they can be concentrated to give a single spot-light of whatever size is necessary. The advantage of using nine lamps instead of one is that the spot-light can be produced without the heat which one large lamp would emit. On the wall of the theatre is a lighted glass panel on which the surgeon can examine X-ray photographs without handling them.

The theatre has an "anti-static" floor to conduct electricity to earth. During an operation

Pressure on a foot pedal drips spirit on to the surgeon's gloves.



The rebuilt and extended British military hospital.

there is much rubbing-together of fabrics, which may generate enough electricity to set off sparks—undesirable with an inflammable anaesthetic like ether.

The amenities of the theatre also include a glass contraption, reminiscent of a coffee-boiler, with the aid of which, by touching a pedal, the surgeon can rinse his gloves with spirit. Besides providing the surgeon with a normal shower-bath, the planners have added a special one which operates only to shoulder-level for the theatre sister, so that she may take a shower and yet preserve her hair-do.

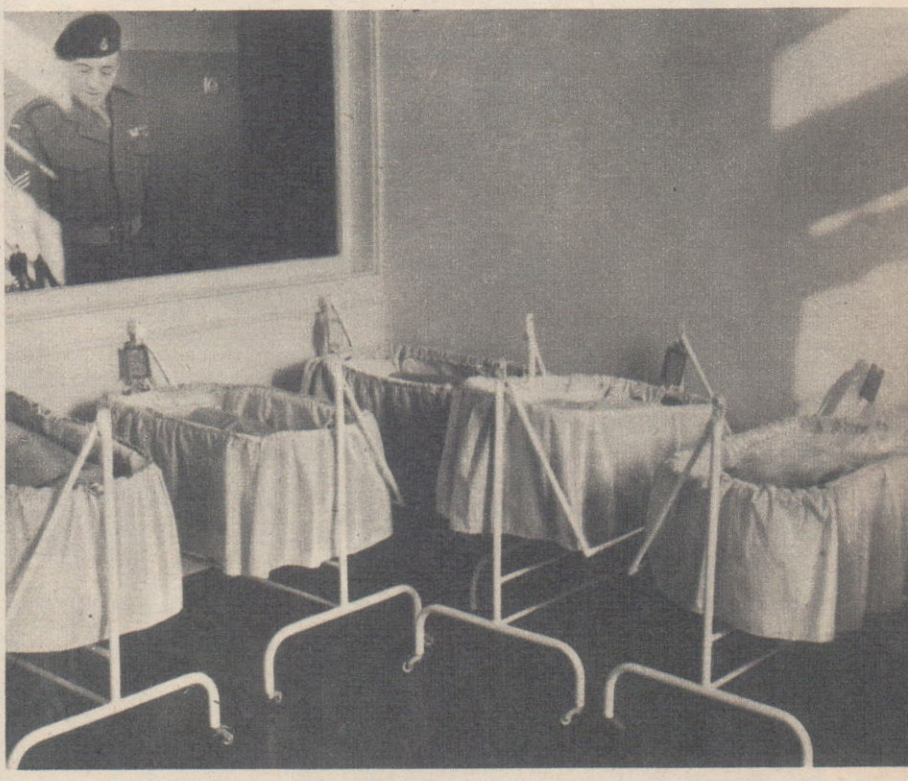
The hospital is proud of its maternity suite, an important part of any Army hospital in an overseas family station, since a large proportion of Regulars are young married men. The suite has pleasant one- and two-bed wards but the show-piece is the suite of two labour-wards, one preparation room and one sterilisation room. They are all sealed off from each other but linked by windows in such a way that the sister on duty, in her office or working in one of them, can watch patients in all of them at once, though each patient otherwise has complete privacy.

The hospital also has a prenatal hostel at Dulken, five miles away, where expectant mothers from distant stations may await their time within easy reach of the hospital. It will also provide beds for relatives visiting dangerously ill patients under the DILFOR scheme.

Food wagons are plugged into the electric mains in the kitchens — and again in the wards. As a result food is always hot.

The foot recess makes bath-time easier for nurses.

A busy department of any military hospital: the maternity ward.



WARRIORS OF THE QUEEN

These long-bowmen are natural acrobats, keen soldiers and supporters of the British Legion

A Wakamba chief—an old soldier himself—watches a memorial parade. Below: The Wakamba dance near Machakos: drums in the background, chorus of women from the tribe in the foreground.

THE Wakamba tribe have been a warrior people since (legend says) they left the slopes of Kilimanjaro some 300 years ago. As far as it is possible to check the traditions of a people with no written language, this legend is correct.

From Kilimanjaro they wandered down to the coast and then turned west until they came to Machakos 40 miles south-east of Nairobi. From Machakos they gradually spread to within 20 miles of the Tana River in the north and north-west to the borders of the Kikuyu country.

The Wakamba weapon is a large bow and arrow. They are able to outrange their opponents as did Henry V's archers at Agincourt. They also poison their arrows so that a scratch is fatal.

They were almost continually at war with the Galla people in the north and the Masai in the south. Gradually they were driving the Galla out, but the fight with the Masai was a stalemate. On the plains the Masai had the advantage with their taller physique and long broad spears, but where the land was hilly or the bush was thick the Wakamba won.

The Wakamba are not a tall race, but they are very well built and amazingly agile; their acrobatic dancing would put to shame many a first-class turn on the civilised stage—or anywhere else for that matter.

As a fighting race the Wakamba took to professional soldiering like ducks to water. From the formation of the King's African Rifles there have always been members of the tribe serving with the Kenya battalions. In 1952, when the 3rd (Kenya) Battalion left for Malaya, there was a big parade and march-past through Nairobi. Following it were a number of old comrades, one bearing in his arms a very small boy. He was the father of one of the company serjeant-majors and the child was the son, perhaps a future serjeant-major as his father and grandfather were.

The Wakamba do not serve in the Infantry alone—they have a mechanical bent, and provide many recruits for the East African Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and the East African Army Service Corps.

A Wakamba driver showed notable initiative during the Ethiopian campaign. A convoy were using a bush track through very difficult country, and the commander had given instructions that all trucks were to follow his lead and not try to break their own trail. One driver, however, thought he knew better and tried to take a short cut. He landed with both front wheels in a very large hole and the bump broke both front springs. Not unnaturally, the convoy commander was angry. He told the driver that he could stay there for the night for they were nearly at the end of the day's run, and he would come and fetch him in the morning. There were no enemy near, but he hoped the lions would get him!

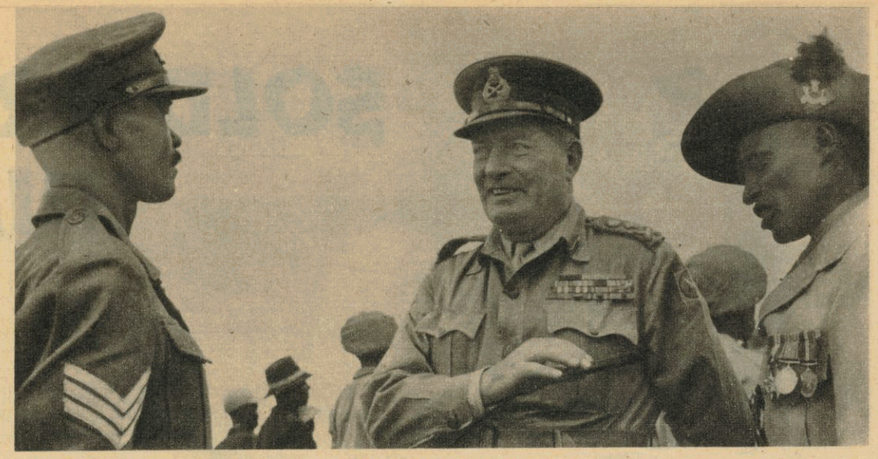
Late that night the commander was woken by the sound of a truck arriving into camp in low gear. It was the delinquent driver. To patch up his lorry, he had cut down two thorn trees, and reinforced the broken springs with their trunks. The officer said the operation was most ingeniously done with baling wire and an adjustment of the U-bolts. The lorry could have travelled considerably farther without difficulty.

The Wakamba ex-soldiers have very strong old comrades associations and are keen supporters of the British Legion. Every year at the two great centres of their territory, Kitui and Machakos, they hold parades on Armistice Day—without European help. The old men turn out as smartly dressed as though they were still serving and assume, for that one day in the year, their old rank. At Kitui last year an ex-regimental serjeant-major of the last war took the parade, on which were men old enough to be his father, all veterans of the first world war. One old man covered in medals and confusion was requested to put his chest out and pull his stomach in. Unfortunately his chest had slipped many years ago and the old gentleman could no longer tell where his chest ended and his stomach began. The old men thoroughly enjoyed the parade and the standard of their marching would not have disgraced an Aldershot square.

The Wakamba are good athletes and very keen footballers. There are always one or two of them in the regimental sides and in athletic events they are always there or thereabouts. If their side scores a point or wins an event, they throw back-somersaults and walk round on their hands waving their feet in the air in a manner to make even the physical training instructors envious.

The Wakamba yield to none in their loyalty to the Queen. When the Mau Mau trouble broke out the men of Kitui volunteered to raise a battalion among themselves. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, this was not possible. Recently, however, a recruiting party of the East African Artillery went through the Wakamba reserve—and had 20 volunteers for every vacancy. If a battalion of the King's African Rifles wants a dozen recruits, it has only to make known its needs and hundreds turn up to join.

This enthusiasm of the Wakamba for the Army is also, in its way, a tribute to the officers and British non-commissioned officers who command the Regiment and to the officials of the Colonial Service. The Wakamba join the police and Government Service almost as enthusiastically as they do the army.—*Report by Major J. R. Galwey, Army Public Relations, Kenya.*



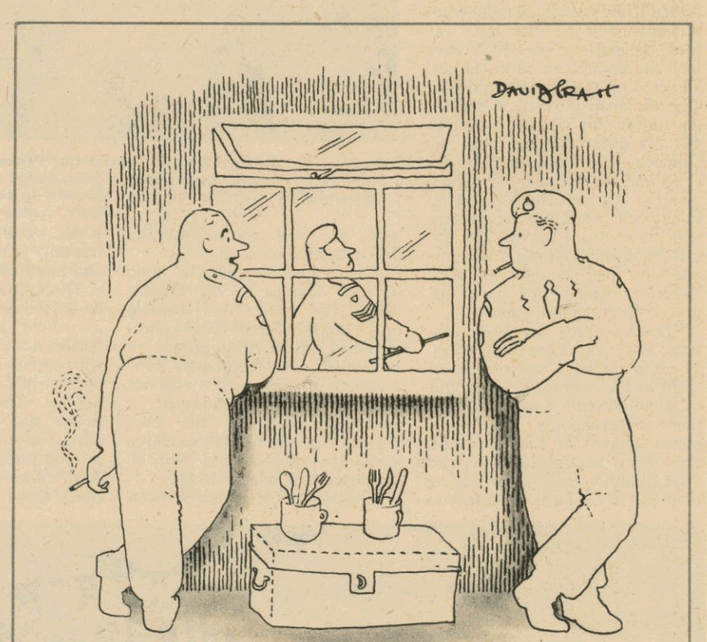
General Sir George Erskine visited the Wakamba Reserve. He found this ex-Serviceman wearing a cap badge of the 17/21 Lancers, given him by a soldier of that regiment in the Western Desert. Right: a cheerful young warrior.

Flying back somersaults are a Wakamba speciality in moments of jubilation. Here four warriors are simultaneously airborne.

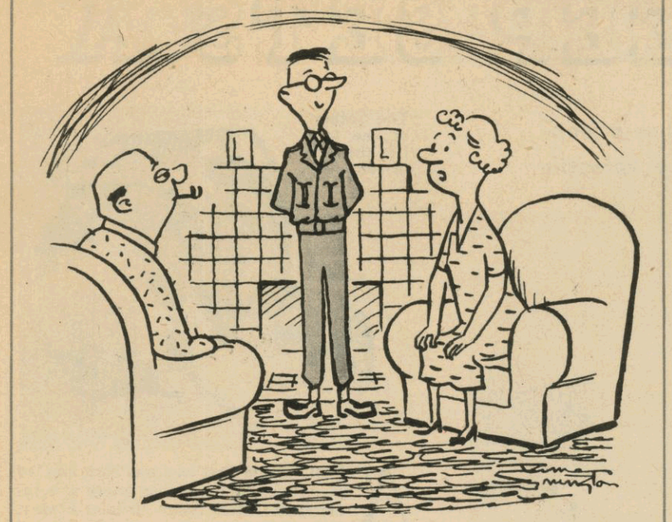
Photographs: Serjeant W. Hawes and African Information Services.

SOLDIER HUMOUR

"Isn't it time this man was relieved?"

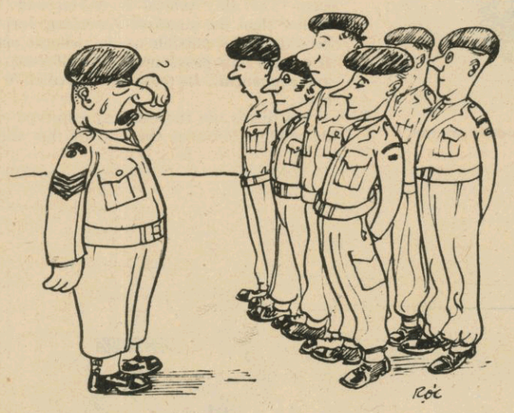


"Let's hope he'll be seconded to the next Everest expedition!"



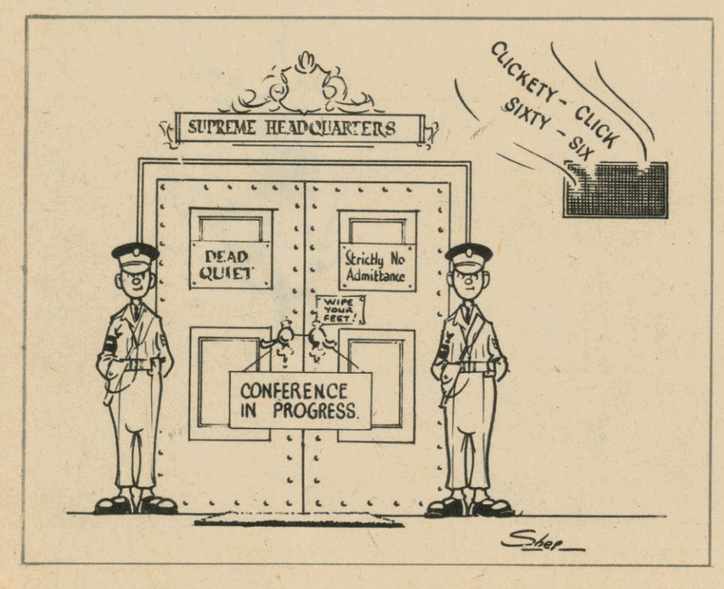
"I don't care what Sir Winston Churchill says about atomic warfare—Willie ought to know better than a civilian."

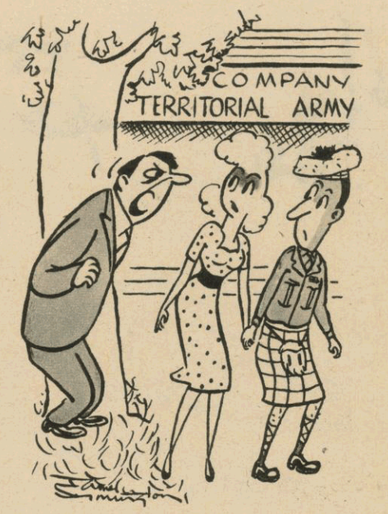
"How would you like your hair? Not that it makes the slightest difference."



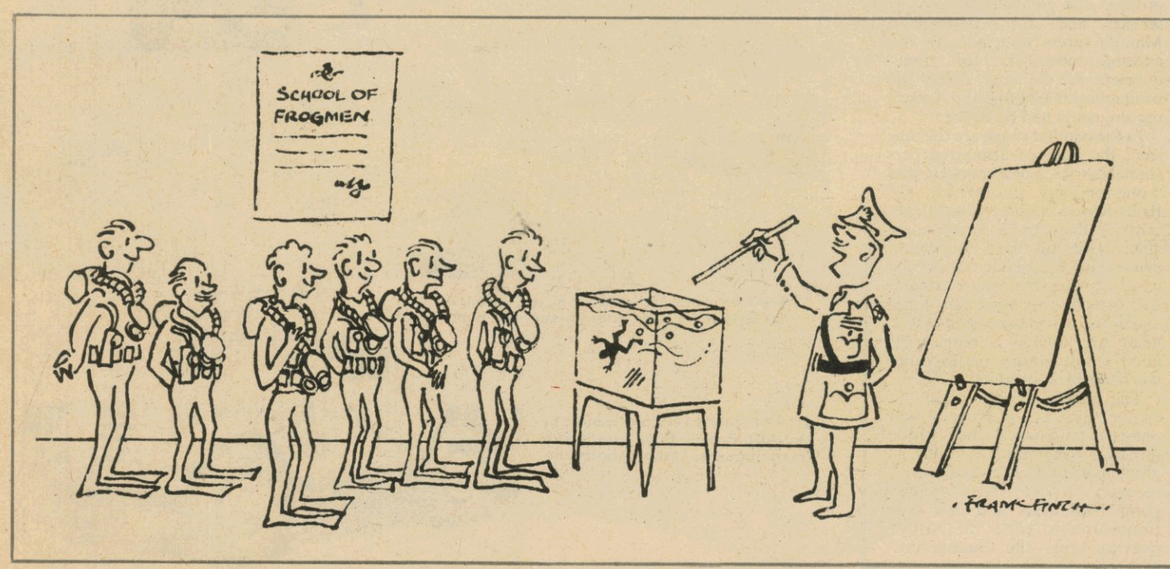
"I'll write to my MP about you lot, I will."

"Two bulls, two inners and a magpie."



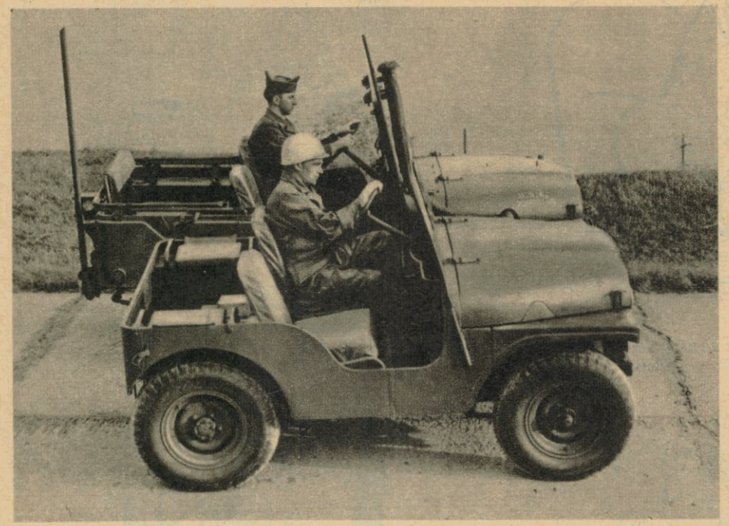


"So this is the Scotch Terrier you go walking with in the park!"



THE JEEP SETS A WORLD FASHION

Every self-respecting Army today has a jeep-style vehicle — light, compact, and versatile



Developed for airborne use: the new shorter jeep seen against the standard model.

The "father" of the family: the American jeep.

ALTHOUGH the first jeep was born only 14 years ago, the family has grown at a remarkable rate. Today Britain, France, Italy, Holland, Russia and Czechoslovakia all have their own versions.

The latest addition to the family—in the direct line—is the American Army's "Mighty Mite," a shortened variant of the original Willys-Overland jeep. This tiny vehicle is shorter and 1200 lbs. lighter than the standard American Jeep and has been tested for possible use in airborne operations. It carries four passengers and half-a-ton of stores and equipment. Its maximum speed is 70 miles an hour.

Yet this is not the smallest jeep-type vehicle to be made. Towards the end of the war Britain produced the four-man jungle jeep which weighed not quite seven hundredweight and had a road speed of 30 m.p.h. Fitted to it was a trailer which could be used as a boat to ferry the car and its crew across rivers. The end of the war came before it could be used operationally in the Burma jungles.

The latest British version, officially known as the "Truck quarter-ton, combat, 4 by 4," has made its appearance in all parts of the world where British soldiers are serving—even in Korea where five of them underwent troop trials. It has proved to be more comfortable across country because of its improved suspension, and also more powerful. It is built to stand up to very rough treatment and is powered by a Rolls-Royce engine, 90 per cent of the parts being interchangeable with those of other engines in the new combat vehicle range.

The engine and all the electrical parts are dust-proof and unaffected by tropical climates and growths. All electrical components are fitted with suppressors and screened to prevent wireless interference. A "snort" can be fitted as an air-intake for the engine and the vehicle is designed to be more quickly and easily waterproofed than its predecessor.

An unusual feature not possessed by any other jeep-type vehicle is that the reverse gear is built into the rear axle casing. Separate levers control the forward and reverse gears and the vehicle can be driven in both directions through the full range of five gears.

This new British vehicle is the final development of the chassis-less prototypes produced shortly after the end of the war. It will be several years before the Army is completely equipped with the new vehicle. The present standard jeeps must be worn out before the new ones are issued.

The French Army has the Delahaye jeep in two sizes—one developing 50 brake horse power and the other 70. The Italian Army has the Alfa-Romeo and the Fiat jeeps, the latter fitted with its famous "1400 cc" engine modified to give a longer stroke and thus increase its capacity.

A Dutch company has produced a vehicle similar in appearance and performance to the American original, except that it has a central gearbox and differential with independent drive to each wheel. Normally the vehicle runs on a front-wheel drive, the rear wheels being engaged when the going gets tough.

The Russian GAZ 67 B appears to have been inspired by the original American vehicle. Nearly 50,000 jeeps were supplied by the United States to the Soviet Union under Lend-Lease during the war. The Russians quickly learned their value over the rough roads of that country.

Czechoslovakia has also produced two jeep-style vehicles—the Skoda and the Tatra. The Skoda, which resembles a mixture of the American jeep and the German military *volkswagen*, has a two-wheel rear drive and all-round suspension, and is reputed to have a good cross-country performance. Little is known about the Tatra except that it is probably a military version of the civilian car.

The jeep was probably the only military vehicle of World War Two to catch the popular imagination. Kings, presidents, generals and private soldiers have ridden in it. It has been dropped from aircraft and driven ashore through rough seas. It has traversed the Libyan Sand Sea.

For treacherous surfaces, it has even been equipped with its own "roadway"—that is, it has been encased in a continuous track which it propels in the manner of a donkey operating a treadmill.

In a civilian role, the jeep has proved a boon to farmers and hauliers and has been adapted as a fast touring car.

E. J. GROVE

THE NEW LOOK

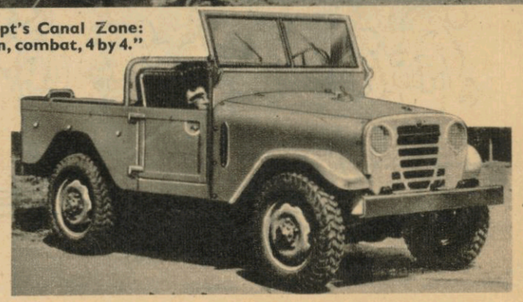
THE Army is being completely re-equipped with vehicles. Many have already made their appearance; others have completed their trials.

After the late war the War Office planned to have special vehicles for almost all roles, but too much re-tooling would have been required. It was decided to confine all vehicles to three main groups—the combat, the general service and the commercial. Manufacturers were able to use existing machinery for three-quarters of the way down the production line before the Army's requirements had to be met.

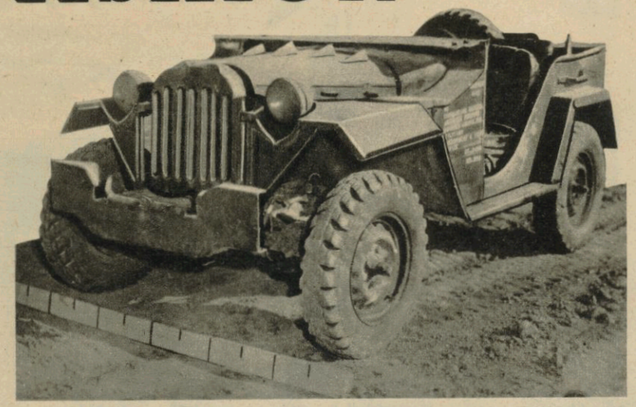
In the combat range are the new jeep, the Saracen armoured personnel carrier, a new scout car and a one-ton lorry, all of which have Rolls-Royce engines with 90 per cent of their parts interchangeable. They all have four-wheel drives and independently sprung wheels. A new medium artillery tractor with a six-wheel drive and a new type of suspension which gives the vehicle a remarkable good cross-country performance will soon be in production.

The general service group includes the Land Rover, new one-ton, three-ton and 10-ton lorries, petrol and water trucks, an ambulance and a six-wheel-drive recovery truck. Now undergoing final trials is a new tank transporter to carry the Army's heaviest tank—the Caernarvon.

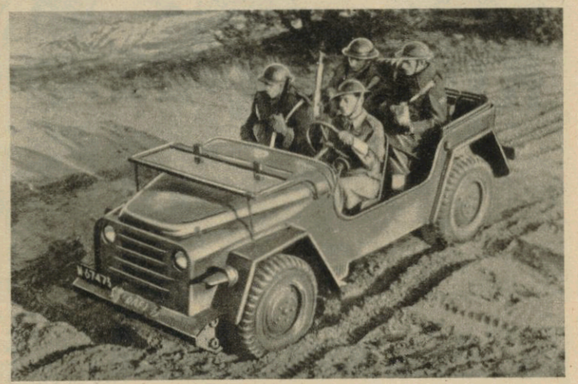
Seen on a desert road in Egypt's Canal Zone: the British "Truck, quarter-ton, combat, 4 by 4."



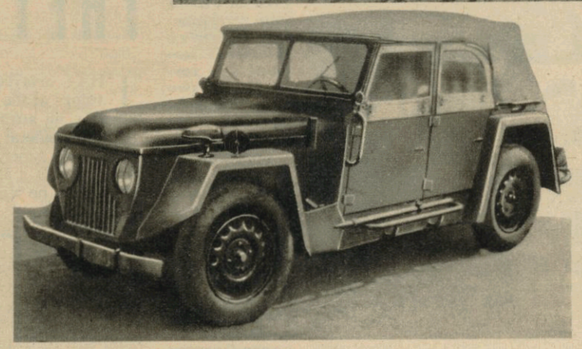
One of Italy's versions is built by the Alfa-Romeo firm, famous for its racing cars. Fiat also build one.



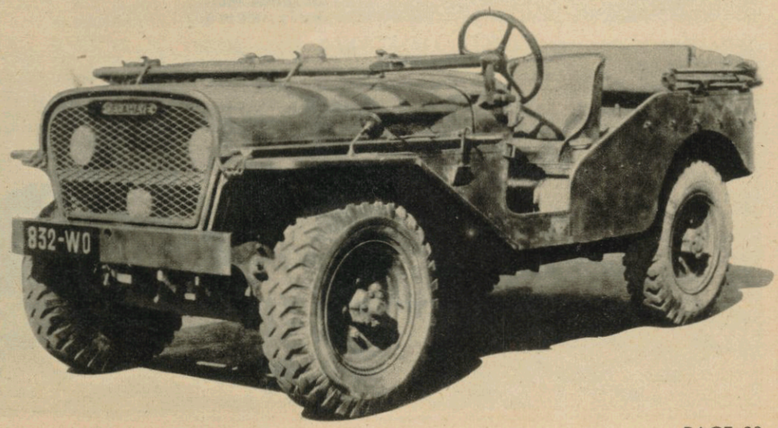
No beauty, but powerful-looking: the Russian model.



Right: More conventional: the Dutch version.



Left: Czechoslovakia has two jeep-type vehicles: this is the Skoda.



Below: The French Army has its Delahaye—in two sizes.

Down the sunlit main street of an Italian town come four National Servicemen skiers—a serjeant, a corporal and two privates RASC.

Left: The newly-built Excelsior at Sappada, where ski-ing British soldiers stay.

Below: You can do this all weekend for only 17s 10d. Learner is Lance-Corporal James Malsbury, REME.

THEY SKI IN ITALY

THAT delayed evacuation of Trieste has had one compensation: troops of the garrison have had the chance of a ski-ing week-end at Sappada, an attractive resort in North Italy.

Major-General Sir John Winterton, commanding the 10,000 force of British and Americans in Trieste, has always urged his men to take up ski-ing. "It's a sport that requires spirit and that's what we want in the Army," he said. Army Welfare had £10,000 worth of ski equipment ready for use.

With the announcement that Trieste was to be evacuated, it looked as if skiers were to be disappointed. But the winter sports season has been more popular than ever. Every Saturday morning all-ranks parties of 30 have left for Sappada for two days' ski-ing. For junior ranks the charge was only 17s. 10d.

Trieste troops also qualified for a week's ski-ing course in Austria—at no cost to themselves.

DELETE, SUBSTITUTE, INSERT . . . It's the Price of Progress

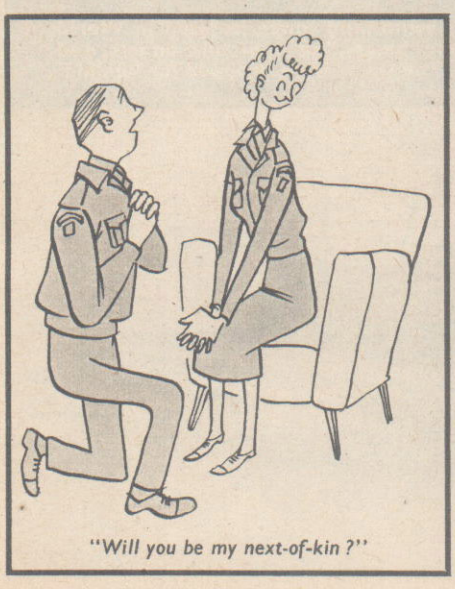
FOR years chief clerks (and lesser clerks) have sighed at the mention of the word "amendments." Into their "in" trays trickles a never-ending stream of printed corrections and insertions which must be cut out and stuck in training manuals and books of regulations.

Recently someone wrote an indignant (perhaps over-indignant) letter to *The Times* about this business of amendments. The pleasure with which he had received an Army publication was marred, he said, by the fact that it was accompanied by amendments which took him about eight hours to complete. On this basis, the correspondent calculated that it would take about 24,000 Army man-hours to amend all the copies published.

This letter inspired a warrant-officer in Warrington to unburden himself on the same theme to SOLDIER. The amendments to the manual in question, he says, would constitute a mere drop in "the torrent of deletions, substitutions and cancellations issued every month, flooding the offices of despairing chief clerks who long to keep their publications up to date." He continues:

"No sooner does the amendments clerk, if there is one, complete one set of amendments than along comes another set which very often cancels some of the first lot. It is the most disheartening and demoralising part of any office organisation, and as the correspondent in *The Times* pointed out, much of it is a sheer waste of time and paper.

"Amendments continue to be made long after the publications themselves have become unreadable or even unmanageable, despite the most meticulous care on the part of the amender. Here is a chance for the 'time and motion' experts to calculate whether or not it would be cheaper to reprint the whole publication after about half a dozen amendments, or for amendments clerks to waste



"Will you be my next-of-kin ?"

countless man-hours amending publications which have become out of date."

Well, there is the indictment. What is the answer to it? SOLDIER's enquiries show that there is not much hope of a reduction in the number of amendments, but precautions *are* taken to keep them to a minimum.

The Army is an increasingly complex organisation. It trains men in an astonishing number of trades and jobs and has the additional responsibility of sending them back to civilian life better equipped than when they came in. It pays, feeds, clothes, houses, doctors and transports them, and often their families, too. It has to instruct a hospital orderly how to make a bed, and how his wife, when abroad, can claim maternity allowance. All this means issuing thousands of books, pamphlets and instructions. All the time tactics and methods of administration are being revised, weapons modified, regulations altered, rates of pay and allowances increased, so that constant amendments are required to keep the soldier up to date. Amendments are the price of progress and necessary change.

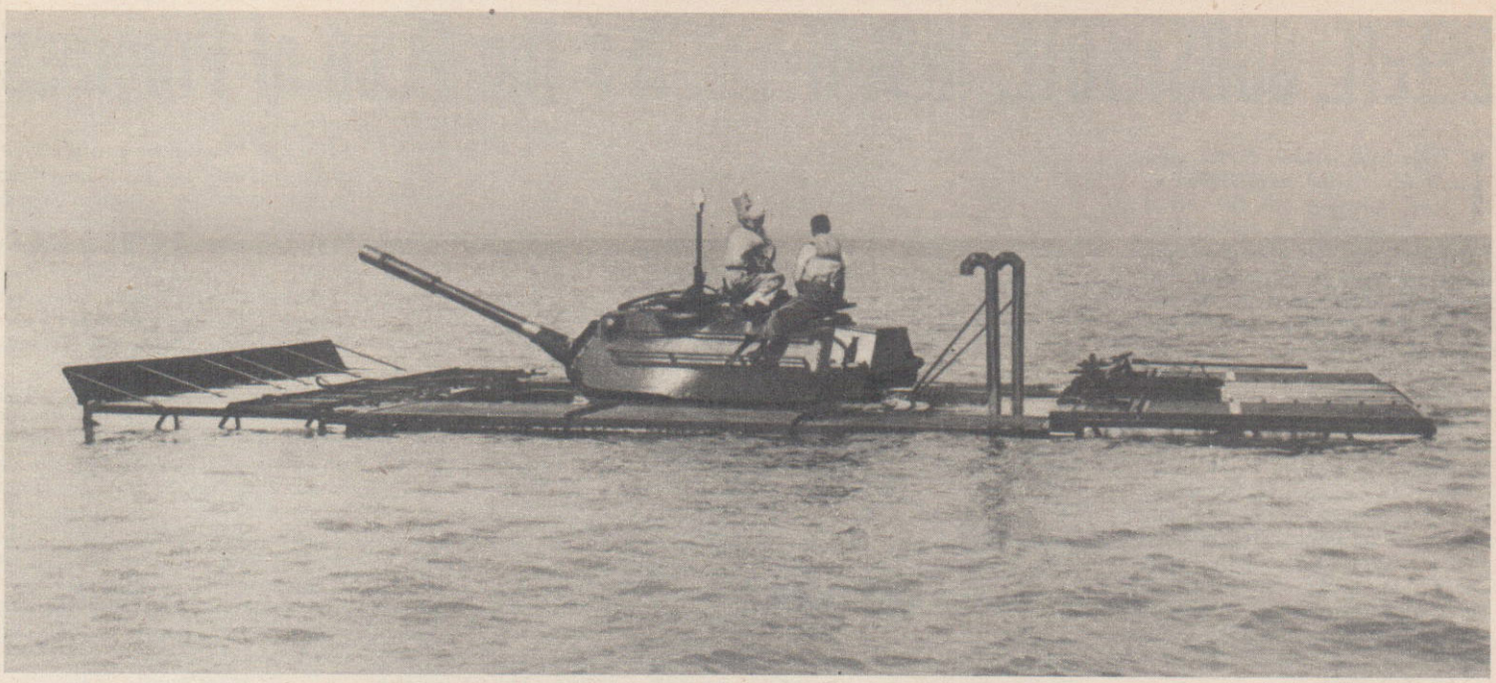
How are amendments kept to a minimum? First, by limiting the number of new publications. Every proposed new publication is carefully scrutinised to make sure it does not overlap one already existing, and to judge whether the subject matter can be dealt with in some other way. If publication is essential, it is the responsibility of the sponsoring branch to correct the printer's proofs and make any necessary alterations.

Sometimes, when important developments occur immediately after publication, amendments must be issued in a hurry. Occasionally they may even accompany the original book or pamphlet, because some change has occurred while the book was being printed or bound. This may make the chief clerk see red but it is better than sending out stale information.

More often, amendments are held up until there are enough to print a whole sheet of them. To issue them one by one would be costly and would probably annoy chief clerks even more. Where possible, cut-out amendments are issued to save the clerk laboriously making corrections in his own handwriting, and often a whole page is reprinted. Pages of every publication are kept in type for up to 18 months and the type is destroyed only on War Office instructions. To reprint a whole page or even a paragraph where only one word has to be altered would obviously be wasteful.

Periodically, much-amended publications are examined to assess whether they are so difficult to read that a reprint is necessary. If there was more money to spend it would be possible to reprint heavily-amended books and pamphlets more often. As it is, a large number of books are not only reprinted, but completely rewritten every year, particularly those which have become out of date through changes in pay and allowances, new developments in weapons and fighting, and revised terms of service.

It all makes work for the company office—but how many clerks (it was suggested to SOLDIER) really have to work overtime to keep pace with them? The suggestion that it takes eight hours to incorporate a single issue of amendments is repudiated by the branch which ought to know. In SOLDIER's experience, there is only one course to take with amendments: to carry them out as soon as they arrive. It is when amendments accumulate that the anguish accumulates with them.



THE SWIMMING TANK: A NEW VERSION

Like an iceberg, this raft-borne tank has the bulk of its weight below the water. Its armament can be used while it is at sea. The tank is an American M-47 medium. (Below) The tank after sliding into the sea from ramps.

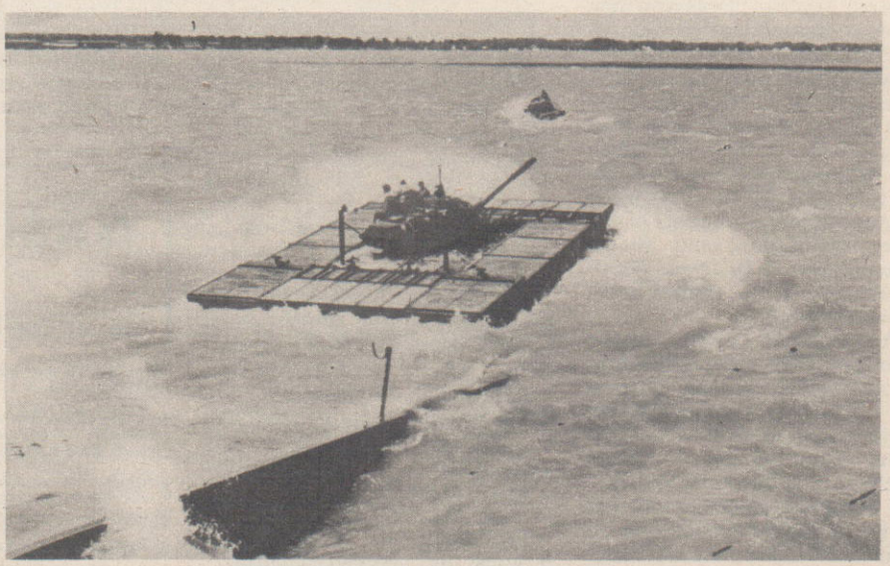
THE United States Army has found a new way of transporting tanks under their own power across wide stretches of deep water.

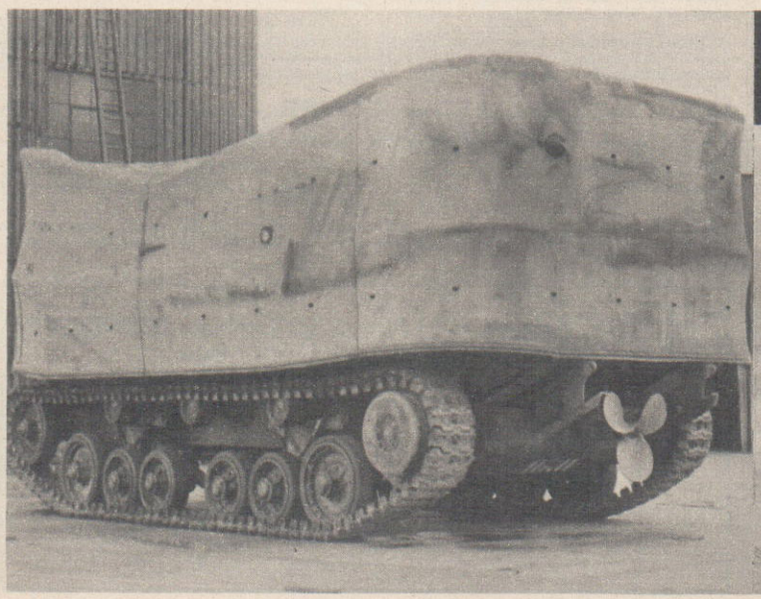
A raft is built round the tank up to turret level and the tank rides comfortably inside the body of the raft, allowing the vehicle to settle well down in the water and thus lessening the danger of overturning in rough seas. The main armament is left free for immediate action.

No details are given about the method of propulsion; it is possible that the raft is driven by the tank engine.

In World War Two the British Army fitted Sherman and Valentine tanks with a rubber "skirt" to give buoyancy. They were first used in the Normandy landings and later in Italy. This type of floating tank had three disadvantages: the rubber skirt was so high that the gun could not be accurately laid, the tank could not float indefinitely, and it was hard to steer.

In World War Two the Japanese had the idea of carrying amphibious tanks on the decks of submarines. After surfacing and waiting for the water to drain out of the tank, the crew would drive off the submarine or the submarine would submerge, leaving the tank floating. One hundred tank-submarines were built but never used.





The old way: Britain's swimming tanks, as used in World War Two, elevated their "skirts," as in picture on left, and thus became floatable. The skirts were dropped for landing.

Digforce, Macforce, Vicforce and All That

HERE it is in full—the story of Arkforce, Beauforce, Digforce, Frankforce, Macforce, Normanforce, Petreforce, Polforce, Usherforce, Vicforce, Woodforce, Davie's Battalion, Don Details, Cook's Light Tanks and half a dozen others.

These curiously titled formations—as every soldier who served in the British Expeditionary Force knows—were the hurriedly grouped forces which undertook emergency assignments in the fighting retreat to Dunkirk. Each was named after its commander.

The British Expeditionary Force was staffed by officers who knew each other personally. "They were, therefore, not greatly put out when, in the course of the withdrawal, normal procedure was interrupted by events and reliance on individuals took the place of orthodox administration. Amid confusion they were not confounded. A cement of mutual confidence strengthened the whole Expeditionary Force and helped it to withstand the appalling shocks it had to suffer."

The quotation is from "The War in France and Flanders 1939-1940", the second volume of the official History of the Second World War (*Her Majesty's Stationery Office* 37*s* 6*d*). The author, Major L. F. Ellis, CVO, CBE, DSO, MC, says that "the amount of contemporary material available to a military historian is, to-day, truly appalling." Almost every order went down on paper, at every level.

Lord Gort, VC: "he had a Guardsman's respect for precision . . . by temperament a fighting soldier."

Major Ellis's story—based on documents, not on opinions—is clearly and cogently told. There is a great deal to be proud of in it. This is what the German IV Corps thought of their opponents:

"The English soldier was in excellent physical condition. He bore his own wounds with stoical calm. The losses of his own troops he discussed with complete equanimity. He did not complain of hardships. In battle he was tough and dogged. His conviction that England would conquer in the end was unshakable.

"The English soldier has always shown himself to be a fighter of high value. Certainly the Territorial divisions are inferior to the Regular troops in training, but where morale is concerned they are their equal."

The author is in no doubt where the responsibility lies for the German failure to annihilate the British Expeditionary Force. "Neither the orders of Hitler nor those of anyone else 'allowed' the British Expeditionary Force and much of the French First Army to escape. The plain truth is that the German Army and Air Force did their utmost to prevent it but failed. It was a failure of the professional soldiers and the Army High Command, but it was as much a failure of the fighting troops as it was of the generals."

Remember that this book is based on documents, not on opinions.

Major Ellis gives a lucid assessment of the part played by Lord Gort, VC, who had to double the appointments of commander-in-chief and army commander—and at the same time obey the French High Command. When the collapse came, says the author, Lord Gort quickly grasped the probable outcome; "he chose the course which alone offered any practical way to avoid disaster and allowed nothing to deflect him from it. All his major decisions were both wise and well timed."

Soldiers Shut Ale-Houses

IF you had been a soldier under Cromwell you might have found yourself detailed one morning to screw the necks of fighting cocks, or to slaughter a garden-full of bears, or to close down an ale-house.

Cromwell's major-generals interpreted their orders variously. The more puritanical shut down as many ale-houses as they could (the ale-house was the "womb of wickedness," said Charles Worsley); others banned horse races, imposed heavy penalties on people who said "Damn." In market towns, complained one general, vice abounded and magistrates slept.

The careers of these strict-minded commanders who held England under military rule are told by Maurice Ashley in "Cromwell's Generals" (*Cape* 21*s*). There are famous names among them: Thomas Harrison, who gave up his command when he found that Cromwell was not a second John the Baptist, and was hanged, drawn and quartered after the Restoration; Henry Ireton, "designer of a blue print for a perfect republic"; John Lambert, "a natural genius among soldiers"; Charles Fleetwood, the weeping general; George Monk, the professional who changed his allegiance, and died guarded by his faithful Coldstream; Edward Popham, Robert Blake and Richard Deane, the generals-at-sea.

Those generals who signed the death warrant of King Charles I knew that their lives would be forfeit if a sovereign returned to the throne. On the Restoration, the Royalists were unable to execute all the regicides—some fled, and others were dead already. That did not prevent the King's men resurrecting the bodies of Oliver Cromwell, Henry Ireton, John Bradshaw and Colonel Thomas Pride from Westminster Abbey and stringing up the corpses at Tyburn. Cromwell's carcase was "in a green cere-cloth very fresh embalmed"; Ireton looked like "a dried rat." Wrote John Evelyn, the diarist: "Look back at October 22, 1658 [the day of Cromwell's funeral] and be astonished! Fear God and honour the King; but meddle not with themwho are given to change!"

They Lashed Officer to Road Block Under Fire

NO thriller-writer could have devised it better. The hero was an officer of the 7th Queen's Own Hussars. The villains were Japanese.

The officer, Lieutenant M. J. E. Patteson, MC, had been captured after his tank had been hit and overturned. The Japanese tried with kicks and blows on the face to make him talk. As he remained silent, they took him to a road-block against which he had been operating, and tied him to it.

There he spent several uncomfortable hours, knowing that he was bound to be shelled by British 25-pounders. If he survived the shelling, he stood a good chance of being rammed by a tank of his own regiment, which was experienced in ramming Japanese road-blocks. His captors had thought of all that, too, and their delight was unconcealed.

Brigadier G. M. O. Davy, who tells the story in "The Seventh and Three Enemies" (*W. Heffer and Sons*, 35*s*), the war history of the 7th Hussars, does not leave his readers long in suspense. Just a paragraph later, the bombardment begins. A splinter loosened one of the ropes by which the officer was tied; the Japanese took cover and forgot to watch him, and some cattle stampeded. Still with his hands tied, he escaped among the cattle, took to the paddy-fields and made his way to his regimental headquarters, where he was able to give a clear report on the road block and its surroundings.

The 7th Hussars had a varied war. In Egypt, in their elderly between-the-wars tanks, they took part in the early battles against the Italians. By the time the battle of Sidi Resegh came to be fought, they had been partly re-equipped with Crusaders. Though these fought very well, it was the aged cruisers which lasted best. The Regiment ended the Sidi Resegh battle with one tank.

Their next engagement was in Burma, where they fought in Stuarts from Rangoon to the Chindwin. One tank got away over the Chindwin before it was decided that ferrying tanks was too lengthy a process for that retreat, and the Hussars marched out on foot. The surviving tank lived to see the end of the war in 1945. In Burma, the 7th Hussars padre earned the Distinguished Service Order.

Two more years, spent largely in Iraq, elapsed before the 7th Hussars were in action again, this time in Italy—with Shermans and DD (amphibious) tanks.

Tale of Blood and Rain

IN action, the men never called Captain Radcliffe by his first name. "Out of action, on leave, or in the privacy of a camp tent, he was their friend; but as soon as they were back in the serious business of war, they automatically looked upon him as their commander. It was a relationship that might not have worked in a good many armies, but it seemed to work in the AIF."

It seems to work, tolerably well, in "The Climate of Courage," by Jon Cleary (*Collins* 12*s* 6*d*), a vividly written novel about Australian soldiers in World War Two. However, on the evidence of this story the British soldier may think that relations between officers and men are subject to more strain under this relaxed form of discipline than under the traditional discipline of the British Army.

The story opens in Sydney, where soldiers from the Syrian campaign return to their homes and women, before setting off for the Far East. Sydney in war does not sound any more alluring than London was. If its military police were like the hoodlums in this novel it was a bad place to get drunk in. They give the Gestapo treatment to a soldier who turns out to be a VC winner.

The battalion leaves for New Guinea, but not before a hand grenade is tossed into the tent of the unpopular, hard-driving company commander, who is out at the time. On a lost patrol in the rain - lashed, Japanese - infested jungle the tyrant catches scrub typhus (in those days frequently fatal). He is a drag on his men. He has only a few hours to live (probably). What should his second - in - command, Captain Radcliffe, do? He does it with a revolver, which shakes the patrol (and the reader).

The rest of the novel, describing the ordeal of the patrol heading for safety, is uncommonly gripping. White chips spurt in the forest as machine-guns rake the trees. Japanese are cut down with knives, blood spouts in red parasols, heads burst open like crimson cabbages. The VC, whose courage is not the long-sustained kind, has to be taunted into keeping up. (The notion of taunting him is a film-like device; would it have worked in real life?) Every soldier who has been on a jungle patrol will be impressed by this part of the book.

Incidentally, there is not even a hint of a court-martial for Captain Radcliffe.

Pipe-Serjeant Leslie de Laspée, London Scottish, Personal Piper to Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. Note royal initials on pipe banner.

HE IS THE QUEEN MOTHER'S PIPER

WHERE in London can you hear the skirl of the bagpipes at nine o'clock in the morning?

The answer is: outside Clarence House, London residence of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

The sound comes from the lawn underneath the Queen Mother's bedroom window. She stands there listening intently as her Personal Piper plays marches, strathspeys and reels—until the clock strikes nine-fifteen.

The Personal Piper, a former pipe-major of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, is Pipe-Serjeant Leslie de Laspée. On three days a week he leaves his Chelsea flat and catches a bus to the headquarters of the London Scottish Regiment (Territorial Army) at Buckingham Gate, whence he emerges resplendent in the full Highland Dress of the London Scottish, carrying a set of bagpipes adorned with a military banner. Crowds hurrying to work stare at him as he marches briskly in the direction of Clarence House.

After his fifteen minutes piping Pipe-Serjeant de Laspée marches out through the gates of Clarence House back to regimental headquarters, and 20 minutes later is sitting at his desk in the Royal United Service Institution, where he works as assistant librarian.

No one was more surprised than Pipe-Serjeant de Laspée when he was selected as the Queen Mother's Personal Piper. He did not even know that he had been considered for the appointment until the Colonel of the London Scottish told him he had been chosen. It was not surprising, however, that the Queen Mother should select a piper from the London Scottish, a regiment of which she is Colonel-in-Chief and in which she takes a great personal interest. The banner Pipe-Serjeant de Laspée carries as he plays the pipes beneath her bedroom window is one she presented to the Regiment.

Pipe-Serjeant de Laspée's appointment is an honorary one. He carries out his duties only when the Queen Mother is resident in London or when she requires him at some special function. But he has played the pipes to the Queen Mother and other members of the Royal Family before—at Balmoral when he was a member of the King's Guard there in 1948.

Pipe-Serjeant de Laspée began piping 26 years ago when he joined the King's Own Scottish Borderers as a boy. In 1929 he was posted to India with the 2nd Battalion where he remained for 10 years. On the outbreak of World War Two he hung up his pipes and became Intelligence serjeant. After Dunkirk he was badly hurt in a motor-cycle accident and spent the rest of the war as a weapon training instructor and later as a battle school instructor. He went back to the pipes again in 1947 when he joined the 1st Battalion in Palestine as Pipe-Major, but shortly afterwards went to Hong-Kong as battalion intelligence serjeant, leaving his pipes in store again.

When he left the Army, Pipe-Serjeant de Laspée immediately joined the pipe band of the London Scottish (Territorial Army) as a piper and was quickly promoted Pipe-Serjeant, a position he continues to hold.

"You either love the pipes or you hate them—there is nothing in between," Pipe-Serjeant de Laspée told SOLDIER. "To play them properly you must practise every spare moment; you lose touch very quickly if you let up." Pipe-Serjeant de Laspée spends about six hours a week practising on his pipes. In his Chelsea home, so as not to annoy unappreciative Sassenachs, he takes the precaution of using only the practice chanter. Two evenings a week he reports to the London Scottish Territorial headquarters for pipe practice and plays at all regimental functions.

Pipe-Serjeant de Laspée is a well-known Highland dancer. He learned the art in the Army and taught it to children of many soldiers' families when he was in India and Hong-Kong. He has danced before the Royal Family at Balmoral.

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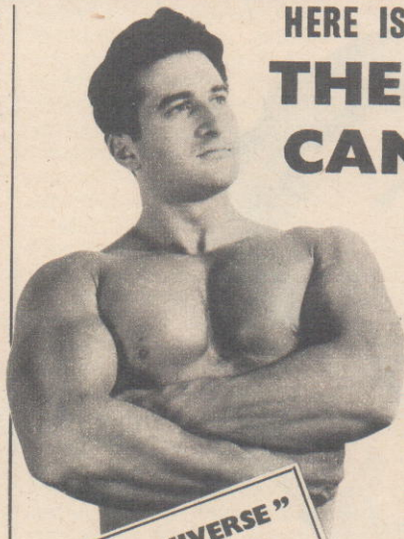

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MAN OF MANY SPORTS

The Army's new squash champion is a Gunner officer who excels at any kind of ball game—and throws the discus for good measure

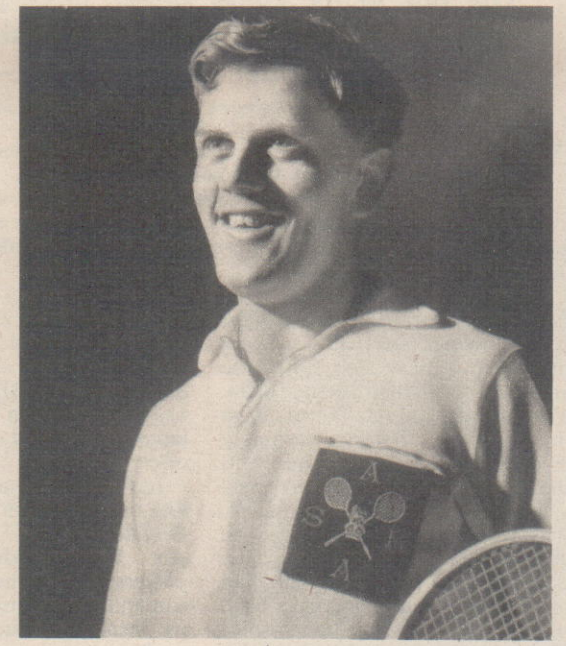
Pictures: SOLDIER Cameraman F. TOMPSETT

THE Army's new squash racquets champion, Lieutenant Michael John Perkins of 4 Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, is a young man with what the experts call a "ball eye."

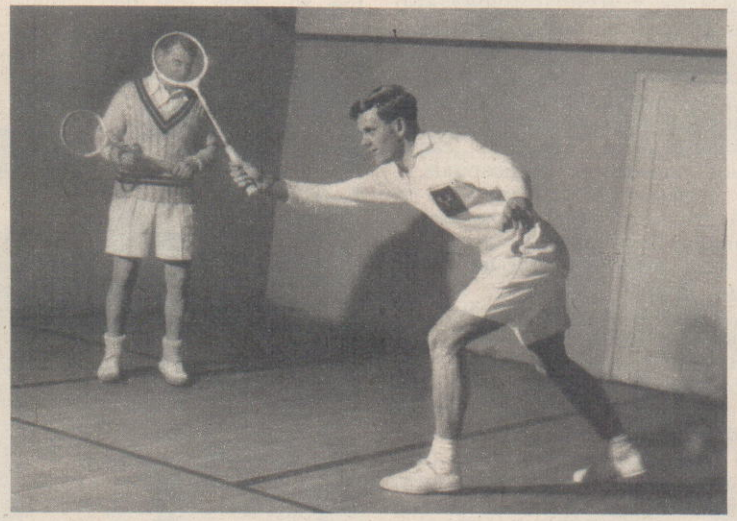
Tennis, cricket, rugby, soccer, hockey, badminton, golf, fives, and, of course, squash—there is hardly a sport which he does not play rather better than the average man. At several of them he is outstanding.

At 22 he recently won the Army's Squash Racquets championship by beating Second-Lieutenant C. M. Wilmot, Royal Sussex Regiment, in three straight games. He lost only one game in the tournament, when he dropped points to Major N. W. Nicholson, of 34 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, runner-up in the Army championship in 1951. The 1952 champion, Lieutenant I. C. Salles de la Terriere, of 11th Hussars, is now serving with his regiment in Malaya and was unable to defend his title.

Lieutenant Perkins began to play squash at school at the age of 10. His instructor was the mathematics master, Mr. H. E. Hayman, a fine player himself and today secretary-president of the Squash Racquets Association of Great Britain. By the time young Perkins went to Charterhouse he was already an accomplished performer and in 1947 reached the semi-finals of the Public Schools championships.



Winner's smile: Lieutenant Michael Perkins, the Army's squash champion, now serving with the Royal Horse Artillery in Rhine Army.



Right: If the photographer had *tried* to take an action shot with the other man's head framed in the racket he couldn't have done it.

Squash can be one of the most strenuous of indoor games. Here Lieutenant Perkins jumps for it.

Called up for National Service in 1949, he found little time for squash while serving as a Gunner with 64 and 67 Regiments, Royal Artillery, but after passing through the Mons Officer Cadet School in 1950 he was invited to join the Royal Artillery squash team. That was the year he was narrowly beaten in the final of the British Junior Squash championships and reached the last 16 in the senior event.

He first entered for the Army championships in 1951 when he reached the quarter-finals. The following year he was knocked out in the same round by the then champion, Lieutenant de la Terriere. He was also beaten by the same opponent in the final of the Rhine Army squash championship in 1952.

Lieutenant Perkins is Rhine Army's hockey centre-forward. He led his regiment to victory in last year's Rhine Army hockey tournament. Last year he reached the semi-final of the doubles in Rhine Army's tennis championship. He is regimental discus-throwing champion and in 1953 was third in 7th Armoured Division's individual athletics championships with a throw of 108 feet. He plays cricket, soccer and rugby for his regiment. But he prefers squash to any other game. It exercises every muscle in the body, improves stamina and is mentally refreshing, too, he says.

ROLLING OUT THE RICE IN HONG KONG

FLOODS, earthquakes, hurricanes, fires . . . in the wake of them you usually find the British soldier making himself useful.

In Hong Kong the Army has been giving unstinted help in a big relief operation rendered necessary by the great fire which swept one of the most densely populated squatter areas on Christmas Day, leaving 60,000 Chinese homeless.

Squatters — mostly refugees from behind the Bamboo Curtain—are one of the Colony's most worrying problems. They live in such extreme congestion that effective fire-fighting is heavily hampered.

Within 48 hours of the fire, Hong Kong and Kowloon Garrison (under Brigadier R. D. Bolton) had its emergency plan in full operation. It undertook to issue 30,000 pounds of cooked rice to the victims daily—for an indefinite period.

Four main cooking centres were set up. Each day two officers and 60 men from two Gunner regiments—25 Field and 72 Light Anti-Aircraft—were detailed to control food queues and distribute the rice. From ration surpluses the Army also provided a considerable quantity of herring and biscuit, which in Chinese eyes rate as a delicacy.

The Royal Engineers had a big contribution to make. They set to work with their bulldozers amid the scorched ruins of two villages, shifting mounds of wreckage and levelling stumps of wall so that a flat area could be prepared for rebuilding.

Other Army bulldozers began to scour away two hills in order to provide filling material where it was needed.

The major responsibility for relief lay with the Colonial Government, but the big part played by the Army was fully recognised and there was smooth liaison on both sides.

It was Hong Kong's worst squatter area fire to date, and the problem of resettlement is a very difficult one. Even if the entire ruined area, once levelled, is used for rehousing, little more than half those displaced by the fire will be accommodated.

ONCE AGAIN... AN AMATEUR SOCCER ELEVEN

The old Army could never have fielded a professional team. The new Army is almost always represented by professionals. Now the amateur footballer gets a break—and Army football will benefit

Pictures: SOLDIER Cameraman FRANK TOMPSETT

Doctor Ben Brown, England's amateur international goalkeeper, foils an attempt by Private Everitt, who plays centre-forward for Dulwich Hamlet, to head a goal. But Everitt scored three of the Army's four goals.

YOU don't have to be a professional footballer to get into a representative Army team now.

In future all-amateur teams will be chosen to represent the Army in a number of matches, including some of the important games which since the end of the war have been played almost exclusively by the Army's professionals.

This decision by the Army Football Association will delight Army soccer fans. For a long time many have felt that the amateur footballer in the Army was not receiving his fair share of the limelight. Because so many professionals were coming into the Army through National Service it was almost impossible, they said, for an amateur to be chosen for a representative side. In fact, only three amateurs (all of International standard) have played for top Army teams since 1945.

Before the war all the Army's representative teams were made up of amateurs; it was not possible for a Regular soldier also to be a professional footballer. They played against Football League teams—Aston Villa and Everton among them—and against well-known amateur teams and representative amateur league sides, universities and hospitals.

Professionals first appeared in Army teams during the war—among them famous players like Frank Swift (Manchester City), Joe Mercer (Arsenal), Stanley Cullis (who now manages Wolverhampton Wanderers) and Cliff Brittain (now manager of Everton).

Thanks to National Service after the war the Army still had a large number of young professionals to choose from—men like Ivor Allchurch (Swansea and Welsh International), Tommy Harmer (Tottenham Hotspur) and latterly Albert Quixall (Sheffield Wednesday), Phil Gunter (Portsmouth) and Frank Blunstone (Chelsea). With so much professional talent available it was inevitable that the Army Football Association should select teams composed almost entirely of professionals.

In the more important matches, like those against the French and Belgian Armies, and the Royal Air Force (whose first-team players are almost all professionals), the Army *must* turn out its strongest team; and if the professionals are the better players, they are chosen. The performances they give are good for Army football prestige and few will deny that they inspire other (amateur) players in their unit sides and arouse great interest in football among Army spectators. A number of good amateur players who have played alongside professionals in Army teams have become professionals after leaving the Army.

This does not mean that the Army Football Association considers the professional footballer to the exclusion of the amateur. For instance, Army Cup teams may have in their sides only five professionals. Equal encouragement is given to both amateurs and professionals when they join the Army on National Service. If an amateur is considered to be the better footballer he will be chosen in preference to a professional.

The Army Football Association should have little difficulty in finding strong all-amateur teams. The first team, which got

The team chat with Lieut.-Col. G. J. Mitchell, secretary of the Army Football Association, before their match with United Hospitals.

The all-amateur Army team. Left to right: S/Sjt. C. Nock, L/Cpl. D. Snaith (both REME and Hendon), Pte. J. Everitt (ACC and Dulwich Hamlet), Pte. S. Moore (ACC), Bdr. W. Corlett (RA and Bromley), Sjt. D. Conley (RAEC and Wellington, captain), Pte. K. Frost (RAMC and Leytonstone), Pte.A.Brook (RAMC), Cpl.J.Stanyer (RAOC and Oxford City), Pte.R.Nicholls (RAMC) and Pte.F.Teece (RAOC and Tottenham Hotspur).

Left: Serjeant D. Conley, RAEC, who captained the new all-amateur team in their first match.

Right: Three heads go up for the ball. They belong to Staff-Sjt. C. Nock (left), Private J. Everitt and a United Hospitals' defender.

off to a fine start by beating United Hospitals 4-1, was drawn only from units in the southern part of England; but it included at right-back Serjeant D. Conley (Royal Army Educational Corps and Wellington) who is an Amateur International trialist; Dulwich Hamlet's regular centre-forward Private J. Everitt (Army Catering Corps); Lance-Corporal D. Snaith and Staff-Serjeant C. Nock, both of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and Hendon; Private F. Teece, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, who plays as an amateur for Tottenham Hotspur, and Corporal J. Stanyer, of the same corps, who turns out for Oxford City; Private F. Frost (Royal Army Medical Corps and Leytonstone) and Bombardier W. Corlett (Royal Artillery and Bromley).

First-class amateur players are stationed in other parts of Britain and it is the Army Football Association's intention later to choose representative sides from those areas to play against other leading amateur teams. Eventually, the best all-amateur Army team will be chosen from all these sides to play the more important games. It is possible that amateur players serving in Rhine Army will also be considered for selection.

Among likely opponents, it is hoped, will be the Corinthian-Casuals, Walthamstow Avenue, Pegasus, and the universities. Later, matches against representative amateur league sides may also be arranged.

This new move to give amateur footballers a better opportunity of playing for the Army is largely the idea of Major-General G. A. N. Swiney, Director of Ordnance Services, who is chairman of the Army Football Association, and of Lieutenant-Colonel G. J. Mitchell, the Association's secretary. They feel it will help to promote even greater enthusiasm for Army football and be the complete answer to those who think the amateur is getting a raw deal.

Serjeant T. Pounder, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Army referee since 1934, is the new manager and trainer of the Army Football Association. Here he discusses prospects with his predecessor, Captain George Saunders, R.A., who once played for the Army.

LETTERS

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

Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published.

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

● SOLDIER cannot admit correspondence on matters involving the discipline of an individual unit.

IN BARRACK ROOM

I was interested in your article on how many men there should be in a barrack-room (SOLDIER, January). The important consideration is the distribution which will best aid Army efficiency and foster comradeship, having regard to the National Servicemen in the Army and the shortage of trained non-commissioned officers.

Rooms of 15 to 20 beds, with one bunk inside for the senior corporal, are the answer. Such rooms should be allocated to sub-units, that is, platoons in the case of the Infantry, or to trades in the corps. All junior non-commissioned officers should sleep in the barrack-room to develop their powers of leadership and to keep order, and not hide themselves away in bunks.

In a small room, pals "mucking-in" together tend to keep to themselves. In a large room, the same comradeship will appear, but barriers will disappear and the corporate spirit develop. In large rooms, too, it is easier for a small number of NCOs to maintain order.—**"Army Enthusiast," Torquay (name and address supplied).**

★ *"Army Enthusiast" is a retired warrant officer who has written thoughtfully to* SOLDIER *on a number of controversial topics.*

"RIOTS"

The following incident was recalled to my mind by your excellent article "Riots" (SOLDIER, January) and it bears out your comments on the British soldier's ability to deal, with a sense of humour, with all nationalities.

Arriving in Germany in May 1945, I had to evacuate all Germans from two villages in order to place 10,000-odd Displaced Persons in the houses. We were allotted a serjeant, a corporal and 12 men for a guard—they were Commandos. The Displaced Persons included almost every allied nationality, with Poles and Russians as the two biggest groups of thousands each; all the Western nations were represented there as well as citizens of the Baltic republics, Czechs and Serbs. There were also one Turk and one Chinese.

They all quickly settled down to a peaceful routine, and at the end of a fortnight I suggested to my Polish liaison officer that we should form an international police force. "Please, no, sir," he replied. "Can we carry on with the British guard? Everyone is well behaved now and will be under the guard, but there will be trouble with a mixed police force."

I saw the force of his point, and we carried on until eventually all British troops were withdrawn from such work. My later experiences taught me how right he was about the danger of such a mixed police force.

Every one of the male Displaced Persons had collected a German military revolver, yet we had no trouble inside the villages under the British guard. Surely the instinctive reliance of the Polish officer upon the small British guard and the respect given them by the Displaced Persons was a fine testimonial to the British Tommy. I have often wondered whether any other Army inspires such a natural feeling of safety in the inhabitants with whom it comes into contact. The foreigner knows that we are perhaps a little cold and aloof, but absolutely fair in our dealings—aided always by the soldier's cheery humour.—**Lieutenant-Colonel (retired) Reginald T. Quail, Quaker Cottage, Minworth, Warwickshire.**

TOWARDS PENSION

Many Regulars have been commissioned and are allowed to count their Other Rank service towards pension when they eventually retire as officers. Is this permitted in reverse?

I was called up in 1940 and was granted an emergency commission after two years in the ranks, and later a short-service commission. As I am unable to obtain an extended short-service commission, is it possible for me to transfer as an Other Rank to another branch of the service when my present commission expires?—**Captain, London (name and address supplied).**

★ *The procedure suggested by this reader has been adopted by a number of emergency and short-service commissioned officers. Provided they have received no gratuity for their commissioned service, this may count (with the appropriate rank element) towards their eventual pension.*

NAIROBI, 1914

You say (SOLDIER, November) that the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers are believed to be the first British battalion to be stationed in Nairobi. I was a serjeant in the 2nd Loyal North Lancashire Regiment which fought at Tanga in German East Africa on 3, 4 and 5 November 1914, after which we left for Nairobi. We arrived there on the evening of the 8th, were inspected by Lord Belfield on the 10th and marched through the town. We were in barracks at the rear of the town.—**H. Hall, Neacroft, Near Christchurch, Hants.**

★ *Herewith the evidence.*


Assembly Rooms,
NAIROBI.
Saturday, Nov. 14, 1914.
Smoking Concert
GIVEN IN HONOUR OF
The Loyal North LANCASHIRE Regiment.
Refreshments.
Pass Bearer.

ZULU ROCKETS

You say (SOLDIER, November) that after 1823 there were no more rockets left in the Army, I am not sure about the intervening years, but in 1879 rocket batteries were used with good effect in the Zulu campaign. They were commanded by Major Tremlett, Royal Artillery, and Lieutenant W. N. Lloyd, Royal Artillery. Another rocket battery under Colonel Russell, Royal Artillery, was wiped out at Isandhlwana. The former two batteries were also engaged at the battle of Ulundi, where they struck terror into the Zulus, who called them "living devils." Rockets were also used in the battle of Laings Nek, in the first Boer War of 1881, but this time were operated by the Naval Brigade.—**Roy Leniston, 28, Ash Grove, Cricklewood, London, N.W.2.**

★ *SOLDIER erred. The Congreve rocket was in use as late as* 1860, *when it was superseded by the Hale rocket. This one had no stick; the escaping gases struck a screw-formed tail, which rotated the rocket. It was fired from a trough. Britain was the last European power to give up the rocket as a weapon, in* 1885, 18 *years after the next-to-last, Austria, had broken up her rocket batteries.*

RUM

With reference to your article on rum (SOLDIER, December), I should like to say, as coxswain of a Royal Army Service Corps vessel with a full military crew living and feeding aboard at all times, that we have never received a rum issue since the war. Even then it was only issued in cases of exposure to hard weather. I think this is true of all Royal Engineers and Royal Army Service Corps vessels.—**Corporal J. R. S. Fraser, RASC Vessel Buz-Fuz, c/o 99 Company (Water Transport), Cairnryan Port, Near Stranraer.**

COMPULSORY SAVING

As pay serjeant to a large secondary training unit, I have come to the conclusion that I am cancelling more savings "accounts" than I am starting. My opposite number in the primary training unit is doing a valuable job of promoting National Savings (sixty per cent of the trainees joining this unit have savings accounts). But for a variety of reasons, not least of which is the high cost of living, I find that I am largely undoing his work, despite the wide publicity for the scheme.

If the country's economy is to be helped, and the soldier is to have his nest-egg on leaving the service, something more has to be done. I suggest a Post Service Credits scheme (similar to the Post-War Credits scheme). This would involve a compulsory deduction of sixpence a day from all men (it could be taken out of the next pay rise, if we get one). This sum would be banked yearly in the soldier's name.

The benefit to the country, assuming the strength of the Army to be 500,000, would be a yearly deposit in the savings bank of £4,500,000. The benefit to the soldier would be a nest egg of £18 after two years National Service; £45 after five years; £108 after 12 years; or £198 after 22 years—all these with the addition of compound interest at two-and-a-half per cent.

As the soldier would not see his sixpence a day, he would not miss it. The scheme could not fail to be popular, especially with the long-service soldier. The amount of accounting involved for the regimental paymaster would be negligible since, except for soldiers ending their service, he would deal with the matter only once a year.—**Unit Pay Serjeant, Catterick Camp (name and address supplied).**

THAT HAIRCUT

Looking through some old copies of SOLDIER, I came across an article in the November, 1953 issue on Army hair-cuts, with a photograph of an "awful example." May I submit this

entry from our training centre? I hasten to add that all haircuts are not as bad as this, which is exceptional.—**J.W.C. (name and address supplied).**

★ *SOLDIER, accepting the statement that such haircuts are exceptional, withholds the name of the training centre. But perhaps the barber will blush to recognise his handiwork?*

Haircuts like this should never *happen.*

ARMY JOKES

I was pleased to see you defending Army cooks and even NAAFI tea from the jibes of humorists (SOLDIER, February). But you are fighting a lost cause. Audiences *want* to hear jokes about Army grub and tea, just as they want to hear jokes about mean-minded Scotsmen and absent-minded plumbers, irrespective of whether there is any justification for them. Once the Englishman takes a fancy to a joke he will never let it go. If he does not hear this joke regularly he will know that the comedians are not up to their job, and go somewhere else to hear it. The Englishman (I am one myself) is unhappy with anything new and unfamiliar. Just as he is unable to entertain a thought which cannot be expressed in a *cliché*, so he cannot entertain, or be entertained by, a new joke.

Any comedian who started to crack new jokes would commit professional suicide—and be ostracised for un-English conduct. There are some things that are just not done.—**"Beppo" (name and address supplied).**

ARMY FOOTBALL CUP

Which regiment has won the Army Football Cup most times? Has any regiment won it three times in succession?—**Serjeant Abd Hameed Ishak, 2nd Battalion The Malay Regiment, Perak.**

★ *The Sherwood Foresters hold both records. The* 2nd *Battalion won the Cup twice—in* 1910-11 *and* 1911-12, *and the* 1*st Battalion won it three times in succession—in* 1929-30, 1930-31 *and* 1931-32. *No other team has won the trophy three times running.*

METAL CROWNS

Your article "No More Badges To Shine" in January shows the new metal crown which you say will be worn on serjeant-majors' sleeves. This statement does not conform with Clothing Regulations, which imply that worsted badges of rank will be worn throughout the Army except for the small crown above the chevrons by NCO's of Household Cavalry.

Clothing Regulations also state that "armament artificers will wear the hammer and pincer badge with the rank badge as a badge of appointment," but paragraph 2 (a) of Appendix I to the Regulations says: "Soldiers of the rank of serjeant and above will not be entitled to wear skill-at-arms or tradesman's badges unless specially authorised in Tables 6 and 8 of this appendix." These tables do not mention armament artificers. Am I or am I not allowed to wear the hammer and pincer badge?—**WO II G. A. Gladman, Electronics Wing, MTDE, Malvern, Worcs.**

★ *Metal badges are officially authorised only for use with No.* 3 *dress. The small crown worn above the chevrons by NCO's of the Household Cavalry is an exception.*

The hammer and pincers of an armament artificer form a badge of appointment and not a tradesman's or skill-at-arms badge, so this reader is committing no offence if he wears it.

"THE DEVIL'S OWN"

Can you tell me which regiment, if any, bears the nickname "The Devil's Own"?—**R. D. Campbell (address supplied).**

★ *The Inns of Court Regiment (Territorial Army) was given that name by King George III on the occasion of a parade in Hyde Park.*

FOUR DSO's

In your article "Medals in the News" (SOLDIER, February) you list Brigadier General F. W. Lumsden, VC, as one of the ten *Army* officers who have won the DSO four times. He was, in fact, a Royal Marine and should technically be placed in the Royal Navy list, although he probably won all his DSO's while serving ashore.—**Ex-Marine (name and address supplied).**

LAST SIX MONTHS

Can a soldier coming to the end of a five-year engagement claim to spend the last six months of his service in Britain?—**Private, 28th Infantry Brigade, Korea.**

★ *No. This privilege belongs to Regulars finishing* 21 *or* 22 *year engagements, and may be extended to men completing* 12 *or more years service.*

FILMS *coming your way*

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

ROB ROY: *Walt Disney's Technicolor version of the exploits of this Scottish hero. Five hundred bewhiskered Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders re-enact the rousing battles between Scots and English* 250 *years ago. The son of a field-marshal—Lieutenant John Slim—plays the part of an English general. War-time parachutist Richard Todd plays Rob Roy and James Robertson Justice the Duke of Argyll. With Glynis Johns.*

FRONT PAGE STORY: *The tale of a tough news editor, deceived by his wife and colleague, who never allows his private life to interfere with his job. Even when his wife is reported killed in an air crash it is "just another story." One reporter hounds an innocent woman to her death; another is responsible for the arrest of a traitorous atom scientist. For good measure the newspaper adopts a group of Cockney children made homeless by bureaucratic stupidity. Jack Hawkins as the betrayed news editor takes it all in his stride. Elizabeth Allan is the wife.*

ALL THE BROTHERS WERE VALIANT: *This tale of adventure at sea throws in a mutiny, a whale hunt, fights with savages and, of course, a tropical island romance. Robert Taylor and Stewart Granger are brothers fighting over the same girl, Ann Blyth.*

TROUBLE IN STORE: *Norman Wisdom, ex-trooper in the* 10*th Hussars, in a slap-stick comedy in the Charlie Chaplin vein. Wisdom, a humble stock-clerk in a department store, just cannot keep out of trouble. He has a china-smashing contest with a rival window-dresser, mistakenly helps a shop-lifter, sets himself on fire and tussles with a gang of thieves. With Margaret Rutherford, Moira Lister and Lana Morris.*

THE KIDNAPPERS: *Two Scots orphan boys are sent to Nova Scotia to live with harsh grandparents. Denied their craving for a pet, they steal a baby and find themselves in court charged with kidnapping. All ends happily. Vincent Winter and Jon Whiteley are the child stars.*

MORE LETTERS

RAPID FIRE

That reference to Major W. G. B. Allen's speculation on the relative merits of self-loading and hand-loaded rifles (SOLDIER, January), raises an interesting point.

How is it that troops who are equipped exclusively with self-loading small-arms, the Americans, have been beaten more than once in rapid firing as well as in aggregate shooting by men using the Enfield hand-operated rifle? This has happened to my knowledge.

The explanation is that rapid firing with accuracy depends almost entirely on the soldier's ability to re-lay his aim quickly. Obviously, increased speed of action is useless without increased speed in aiming.

The man trained on the Enfield rifle has his muscles "set" by "loading on the shoulder" drill. He can thus not only hold the rifle steady, but can also suppress the recoil somewhat and manipulate the rifle quickly afterwards. The rifle with the famous Lee bolt, because of the position and angle of the bolt lever, is the only training weapon to ensure this and to provide the instructor with visible proof that the exercise is not shirked. British soldiers have done well in tests with the new rifle, but they were trained on the Enfield.—**R. J. C. Holmes (ex-King's Royal Rifle Corps), "Redcroft," Park Drive, Forest Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne.**

RADIO LINK

During the four months that I have spent here in the Blue Danube Network, Linz, Austria, as an announcer, I have received many requests from British soldiers and also from the French. They have all said that they like our programmes, and many of the Americans I have talked to in Vienna have said they like the programmes put out by the British Forces Network. It appears that our people and yours have both profited in understanding each other through the medium of radio and also through the various magazines that are sold on news-stands. —**Private Ray A. Hahn, Blue Danube Network, Linz, Austria, APO 174, United States Army.**

SERJEANTS' MESS

Is a staff-serjeant, serving as a permanent staff instructor with a Territorial Army unit, a member or an honorary member of the Territorial serjeants' mess?—**Staff-Serjeant C. Willis, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Hull.**

★ *A permanent staff instructor posted to a Territorial unit is in every way a member of that unit, and therefore a member of its serjeants' mess. He may not, however, serve either as president or treasurer of the mess.*

ARMY CREST

I was interested to see that the Army crest, as incorporated in the new Army tie, has evolved from a more complicated crest designed for a stained-glass window. Where is the original crest? — **Amateur Herald, Southsea (name and address supplied).**

★ *When King Albert I of the Belgians died, the British Army (in which he was a field-marshal) and the Royal Air Force decided to present a rose window and tablet to Ypres Cathedral, as a memorial to him. The artist who designed the window wanted to include a crest for each Service, and King George V decided to grant the Army a crest. The design, prepared by Captain H. Oakes-Jones of the War Office, consists of crossed swords, above which is a Crusader's helmet surmounted by the Imperial Crown and Lion. Underneath are the words "The British Army" on a blue scroll, with a Rose, Thistle and Shamrock. At the point where the swords cross is the cypher of King George V. The crest is in gold with a little colour.*

The original Army Crest, from a stained-glass window at Ypres.

Later, the Army Council asked for the crest to be simplified as a badge which could be used for more general purposes. King George VI approved the new design. When displayed on a flag, the crest is gold and the background red. It was first used on the flag of the Services pavilion at an Empire exhibition opened by King George VI.

NAVY WAS THERE

In the report "The Army Tackles an Earthquake" (SOLDIER, December), the impression was given, by an error in editing, that Royal Navy assistance to the people of Paphos, Cyprus, arrived after that by the Army. In fact, a destroyer and an aircraft carrier arrived speedily off Paphos and their working parties performed admirable work in the first shock of the emergency.

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SOLDIER, the British Army Magazine, is published for the War Office by HM Stationery Office, and printed by SUN PRINTERS LTD., London and Watford. Trade distribution inquiries: PO Box 569, London, SE 1. Army inquiries: Circulation Dept., SOLDIER, rear of 437 Holloway Road, London N 7. (ARChway 4381). Editorial inquiries: Editor, SOLDIER, rear of 437 Holloway Road, London N 7.

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