

# SOLDIER

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

JANUARY 1954



NINEPENCE



THE COLOURS OF THE QUEEN'S

—see page 38



## CHILDREN'S PARTIES

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## A message to Commanding Officers

*from Air Marshal Sir Thomas Williams, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., D.F.C., M.A., Chairman, H.M. Forces Savings Committee*



Today, of all Forces personnel, 30% wisely save through National Savings, and the method chosen by 93% of all Forces savers is deductions from pay into Service Series Post Office Savings Bank Accounts.

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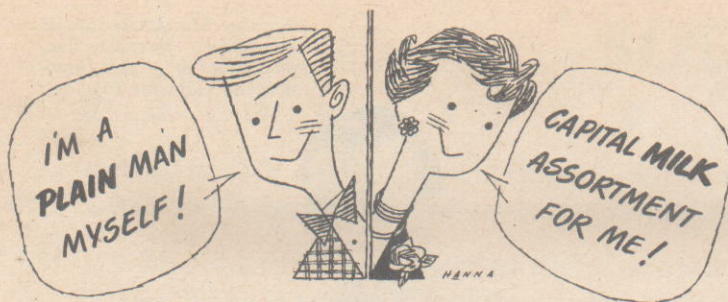
We are indebted to many Units for their co-operation in making a complete distribution of the leaflet to personnel and especially to each new intake of recruits.

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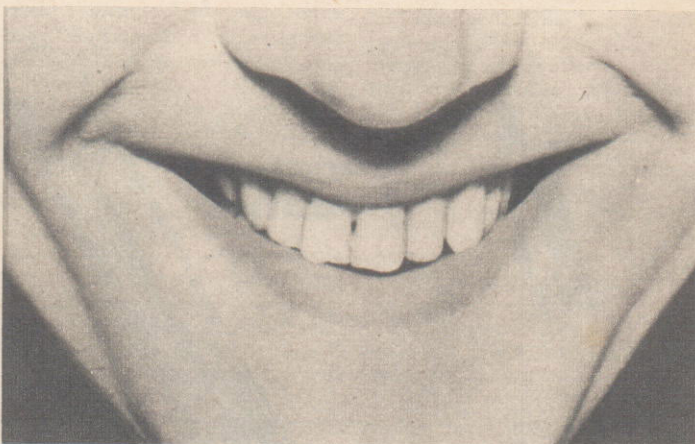
SUBJECT(S) OF INTEREST .....

I.C.18

# MACLEAN-WHITE



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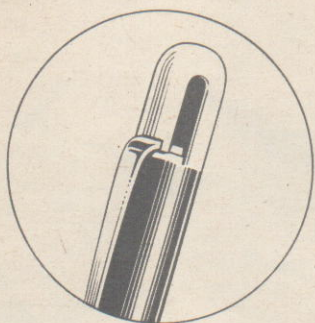
MACLEANS PEROXIDE TOOTH PASTE MAKES TEETH WHITER



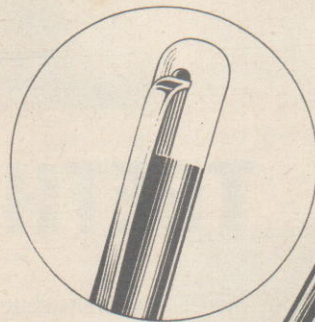
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Judging by my mail 90% of the boys in Britain aim to make football their job in life! Well you know, that just won't work! But our country offers a wonderful choice to a boy or girl. Hundreds of different trades and thousands of different firms to 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.

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*There are many prettier sights than a riot—but there is no finer sight than the way the British Army handles it*

# RIOTS!

THE conduct of British troops during the recent Trieste riots drew a widely quoted tribute from an American newspaper correspondent.

The secret, he thought, was that British soldiers "could not care less" when the people around them professed to dislike Britons as such. "Indeed," he wrote, "they seem to sharpen up, put on extra snap and efficiency and get a gleam in their eye. The number of swagger sticks in the officers' bar doubles overnight."

It is fair to say that if the British soldier had been the man to sulk, or lose his head, when called names, the course of history would have been very different—and probably disastrously different.

Down the centuries, the British Army has had unrivalled experience in handling riots—political riots, race riots, religious riots, bread riots, strike riots, and just riots. It has kept the peace in India and Ireland, in Indonesia and what is now Israel—to mention only lands beginning with "I." In great part it is this experience which has gained the soldier the name of Imperial Policeman.

As a non-political body the Army's attitude is one of aloof impartiality, whatever the provocation. But there is more to it than that. Discipline, training and, above all, the good temper of the British soldier contribute to his steadfastness in face of an angry mob. Except when there is a threat of serious bloodshed or direct menace to innocent lives, his attitude to rioters is much the same as that of a London policeman controlling bobby-soxers at a film première.

A riot is not a pretty sight to watch—especially if it is one's first riot. Every big city, from the time of ancient Rome, has been able to produce a howling mob; but today's mobs have brighter opportunities for damage—they have plate-glass windows to shatter and motor-cars to set on fire. The soldier has to stand calm and firm while small boys throw missiles at him, and women old enough to be his grandmother wave their fists in his face, and girls young and pretty enough to be his sweetheart scream and spit at him, and students climb up

lamp posts to incite others to do what they do not care to do themselves. A mob like this can be cooled off by jets of water, or tear gas, but the British soldier knows a better way. To the wild-eyed man declaiming about English pigs he says, "Go home, cock, your old woman wants you to help with the washing up"; to the toothless beldam he says, "Move along, duckie, your feet must be getting tired." Faced with this cheerful imperturbability, boiling fanatics of every colour have given up in despair and gone home.

There is, of course, a drill for

handling riots. Queen's Regulations and the Manual of Military Law both deal at length with the subject and there is a pamphlet entitled "Imperial Policing and Duties in Aid of the Civil Power." Briefly, the principle is that the civil authorities will not call on the military until their own resources have failed, or appear certain to fail. Once the military have been called in, it is up to the commander on the spot, whatever his rank, to decide what action, if any, to take. His sole object is to restore law and order.

"Riot drill" is regularly practised by troops in places where political tempers are chronically or temporarily high. "Internal security" exercises, in co-operation with police and other civil

authorities, prepare the way for action in an emergency.

This system gives good results. After the Singapore riots of 1950, a commission of enquiry decided that "the situation, which constituted a grave threat to the whole of the Colony, was saved by the foresight of Major-General (Dermott) Dunlop (commanding Singapore Base District) in organising two composite internal security battalions when the two battalions of Infantry were no longer available in Singapore, by his action in calling the internal security battalions to a state of readiness . . . and by the prompt deployment of the troops under his command, when military aid was sought."

General Dunlop's two internal security battalions were raised from units and headquarters of Singapore base. They were intensively trained in their duties, had close liaison with the police and knew the geography of the area. Two Infantry battalions and one armoured car squadron were also called in from operations in Malaya, and they and the two internal security battalions fired only 20 shots between them during the riots.

Dispersing angry crowds is not the only

OVER

A picture which reflects determination in every detail: British troops marching to their positions in riot-torn Trieste. With them went the experience of centuries of riots.







All ready to open business: British troops on riot drill in the British Sector of Berlin.

## RIOTS *continued*

duty of troops when there is rioting. General Dunlop afterwards listed these among the others his troops carried out: removing road blocks, rescuing beleaguered victims, providing escorts for senior officials and important goods, carrying key men to and from work, arresting looters and curfew-breakers, taking injured to hospital and recovering dead, and removing 83 derelict vehicles from the streets.

Soldiers were being used to quell riots long before police were thought of. The outstanding precedent in the case of the British Army was that of the Gordon Riots of 1780. Headed by Lord George Gordon, 50,000 Protestants marched to Parliament to present a petition against the Catholic Relief Bill. For five days there was pillaging and burning in London. Nothing effective was done, because those who should have been in authority were bickering about their varying interpretations of the Riot Act. Then King George III issued a proclamation for the employment of troops. The rioters were effectively suppressed—with 500 killed or wounded. "Riot drill" has improved since then.

In Ireland, of old, the British soldier faced many a threatening shillelagh. At election times both Infantry and Cavalry were thrown

in to protect the polling stations. Afterwards, as a Hussar has recorded, the townsmen who had fought the soldiers by day invited them into the public-houses by night "to see if we could drink as well as we could fight."

Many was the riot the British Army quelled in India, where the first thing a battalion did on arriving at a new station was to learn the local alarm scheme. These riots were more savage than those of an election campaign in Ireland; murder, rapine, and arson were common.

On one such occasion, the 1st Battalion, The Royal Berkshire Regiment, were called to the aid of the civil power in Bareilly. It was a typical Indian riot, and this is how the regimental history records its end:

"In the late afternoon the battalion swung into the city, and their appearance had the desired effect almost immediately. The shouting and the tumult died, execrations were cut short in mid-air, the rioters forgot their missiles or conveniently dropped them behind the backs of others who were, themselves, beginning to remember previous engagements. Here and there a fanatic sufficiently rallied his courage to hurl a last defiant slogan: '*Gandhi ki jail*'"

"The good-humoured soldiery quickly got to work. ('Now, come along, grandpa! You've had your fun. It's all over. Time to go home.') The streets were

quickly cleared; municipal buildings and public service centres occupied; police stations reinforced; and a system of patrols introduced to preserve public safety. Even sweepers appeared, and began to clear away the brickends and broken glass that littered the scene. It really was over, except for one or two last surreptitious murders, with which as

usual the storm blew itself out.

"The troops remained at their posts for four or five days, with no more excitement than was provided by an inexperienced officer dispersing a wedding procession at midnight, which to him had every appearance of another riot."

In Cyprus, when rioting broke out in 1931, the sole garrison was one under-strength company of the Royal Welch Fusiliers. They rushed from Troodos to Nicosia, then two platoons had to be sent off to ports. The other two platoons, with the police, faced a Nicosia mob—a mob which used slings to hurl its stones—until the crowd gave way and dispersed. The soldiers had a reserve—of eight men. When they were relieved by reinforcements from Egypt, the men of the Royal Welch Fusiliers had been constantly on duty for 48 hours.

"For a soldier there is no more distasteful duty than that of aiding the civil power," wrote Field-Marshal Lord Ironside in his book on Archangel (he had in mind the use of troops in industrial strikes). But the frustration of hotheads is a military duty which does not look like diminishing in this restless world. For the man in the steel helmet, the only reward—apart from a valuable lesson in self-control—is the knowledge that but for his presence there would have been a great deal more work for the undertaker.



Another form of riot drill, with staff and buckler: a flashback to the days of the Palestine Police.



# SOLDIER to Soldier

**H**AVE you ever seen a recruiting poster bearing the question:

**WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE—A PENSION AFTER 22 YEARS SERVICE OR A GOLD WATCH AFTER 60?**

No, you haven't, and it is doubtful whether you ever will. But any Regular who complains that Army pensions are meagre (and nobody pretends they are excessive) should take time off occasionally to contemplate the rewards of civilian life, even in the Welfare State.

This train of thought was inspired by a soldier-reader who sent in a cutting from the letters column of a national newspaper. It is entitled "£1 a Week for Life" and reads:

"My father, after over 60 years service with one firm, and a daily journey to London throughout two wars, without a day's break, is retiring on Saturday, his 79th birthday. The firm are making father a presentation, and a gift of £1 a week until he dies. This from an old-established firm who have had their struggles to keep going. I consider the gift worthy of recording."

Our reader comments that the 79-year-old worker mentioned above was lucky, compared with others who, after equally long service, have been dismissed with a canteen of cutlery.

It is worth remembering that the world owes nobody a living. Those civilians who are in pensioned employment, or who are protected by superannuation funds are fortunate; millions have no such protection, and must work till they die.

Soldiers are paid pensions in recognition of the fact that they devote the early, vigorous part of their lives to the Queen's service, are liable to be sent anywhere in the world, and are (or used to be) more liable than civilians to have their heads blown off by the Queen's enemies. In theory a civilian is free from the time he leaves school to make money, and thereby cushion his old age. In fact, millions of civilians after doing valuable and conscientious work for forty or fifty years reach an old age which is very far from cushioned.

This is not intended as a piece of recruiting propaganda, or as an attempt at soft-soaping grumblers. But it is important that the question of pensions should be seen in the right perspective.

**T**HE drift of country workers to the towns is an old, sad story in Britain. It came as a surprise to find, in the recent Commons debate on National Service, that the Army was being blamed for its share in rural depopulation.

Said Mr. Clement Davies (Montgomery): "We find that once young men have been attracted

away from the countryside, when they have finished their Army careers, they do not go back to work on the countryside, but instead go into the towns where there are so many more attractions. We are losing young men in that way, so that there is an additional reason for anxiety."

A pretty problem, this! Can the Army be blamed if it widens the horizons of young men who otherwise might never have strayed more than a few miles from their native fields? As against this, are the glimpses of town life a soldier sees on his Army service such as to fill him with a passion for things urban? Half an hour spent in some parts of London is enough (one would have thought) to convince a lad from the broad shires that he was far better off where he was born.

Is it not probable that the men who have drifted to the towns, after their Army service, would have drifted there anyway?

Other Members of Parliament made the point that young men found difficulty in settling down to a job before their National Service, and again in settling down after their service. Well, their fathers and older brothers seem to have settled down pretty well after five or six years of Army service, taking up the threads again with-

out difficulty; but that may have been because the pattern of their lives was already established. The astonishing thing is how the young man who has lived in a "hoochie" does settle down at the lathe, and the student who has killed a bandit does succeed in burying his nose in his books.

The good and the bad in conscription have been endlessly debated, and very little fresh emerged from the two-day debate on the subject in the House of Commons. Probably the major benefit to be derived from National Service is the spirit of "mucking in." In the words of the War Minister: "The philosophy which is described as 'every man for himself'—as the elephant said, as it stampeded among the chickens—is not encouraged in the Army."

**T**ALKING of comradeship, how many men should there be in a barrack-room? On another page of this issue, the Canadian Chief of General Staff is quoted as saying that, in its new camps in Germany, the Canadian Army has gone back to the 15-man barrack-room. There was more comradeship that way, he said, and after all men had to learn to live together in the field.

In some of Britain's newer camps there are four-man barrack-rooms. Given four men who get on well together, this could be an

## ARMY AND PRESS

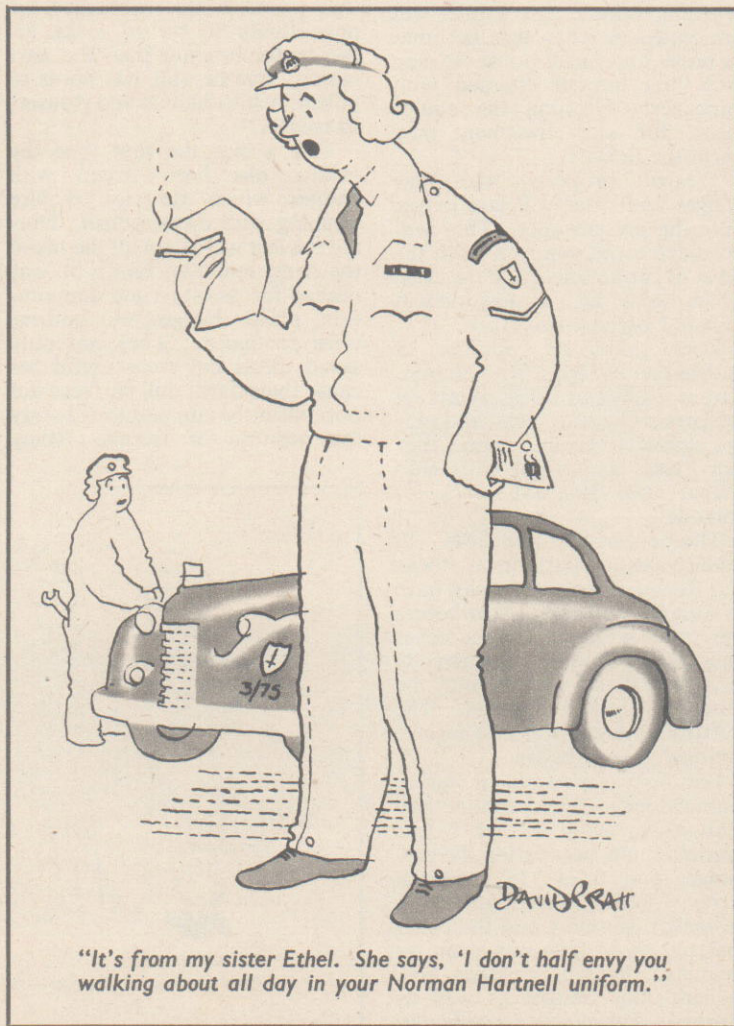
"Of late years the Press has become much friendlier to all the Services, and this revulsion seems to affect the Army most of all. The reason is, first, because the nation has such good reason to be proud of them, and, secondly, because . . . they are to so large an extent the nation. Yet still the discreditable story takes an astonishingly prominent place in the news, and there again the Army appears to be the worst sufferer, even taking into account its higher numerical strength. Sometimes the story really is discreditable; it cannot be otherwise. Sometimes, however, it proves not to be, yet the refutation, even if made in Parliament, comes only after the whole business is dead as an item of news and people have passed on to discuss something else."—Captain Cyril Falls, former Chichele Professor of the History of War at Oxford, writing in *The Illustrated London News*.

ideal arrangement; it is also conceivable that the occupants might get on each other's nerves, and that there might be more fun in a big barrack-room. Not enough evidence seems to have been accumulated as yet to show whether the four-man barrack-room will be widely acclaimed in the British Army.

The United States Army some while ago introduced the experiment of "forming fours" among recruits. Young soldiers were made up (presumably by their own choice) into "buddy teams." Primarily this was a training idea, said an officer, "so that the young recruit will never find himself sent off to a new unit where he does not know anyone." The "buddies" slept in four-man huts, ate at four-man tables, did cookhouse duties in fours, went on guard in fours, were even promoted and sent on leave in fours. They were also due to be posted overseas in fours, though whether the "buddy" teams could be kept intact after that was a matter depending on "the exigencies of the service." If the films are any indication, the American soldier is more "buddyminded" than ours; it will be interesting to see whether this idea becomes a permanent feature of the American Army.

**A**S SOLDIER goes to press, comes the announcement of a posthumous Victoria Cross for Lieutenant Philip Kenneth Edward Curtis, of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, who died fighting with the Glosters in the Imjin Battle.

The medal will go to Lieutenant Curtis's six-year-old daughter Susan, who lacks both father and mother. Let us hope the Army will find a way—officially or unofficially—of helping Susan.



"It's from my sister Ethel. She says, 'I don't half envy you walking about all day in your Norman Hartnell uniform.'"





The morning ritual which is doomed. Right: even field-marshal's badges will not need shining (incidentally, this does not seem the most convenient way of doing it).



## NO MORE BADGES TO SHINE

*The button-stick is on its way to the military museum*

**I**F you are wondering what to do with your gratuity, don't put it in a button-stick factory.

The future for button-sticks is bleak—not only in the Army but in the Royal Air Force, too.

The button-stick had to go. In 1951 the writing was on the wall, for in that year the button with the permanent shine was introduced. Now the Army is going a step further, and bringing out new cap badges and metal rank and regimental titles made of a special anodised aluminium which gives them an everlasting shine. The soldier will be instructed to clean them, on the rare occasions when that becomes necessary, with a soft rag. If he uses a brush and metal polish he may even find himself charged with improperly cleaning his equipment, for such treatment may harm the finish.

Treated properly, the new badges and titles will last longer than the present ones. They will not have to be removed from the beret or cap so often, and the clasp which holds them in position will thus not become weakened.

Four times the number of badges can be made from aluminium as from the same weight of the present heavier metal and they are almost as strong. If bent they can easily be pressed back into shape; they do not crack or corrode.

The new badges and titles will replace existing patterns as stocks run down. Some units may have to wait for well over a year before they receive them. On the other hand, some soldiers may already have been issued with them by the time this article appears. The Territorial Army will also receive the new type of badge.

But for one problem which stumped the makers for more than two years, every soldier would probably now be wearing the new badges and titles. In 1950 the Army Council, prompted by a desire for economy and the belief that too much time was spent on cleaning, decided to issue permanent-shine badges as well as buttons. There was no difficulty

in manufacturing the button, but mass-soldering of aluminium shanks and clips to the badges was found to be difficult. Recently this obstacle was overcome and production is in full swing.

Most soldiers will like the new badges, though some will contend that a man is now robbed of the opportunity to try to make his cap badge brighter than the next man's. But he still has boots to polish, belt to blanco and trousers to crease.

This is not the first time the soldier has been issued with badges which do not require cleaning with metal polish. During the last war when all the metal the Army could lay hands on was needed for weapons and ammunition, plastic badges and buttons were produced. They not only saved metal but were useful because their dark, dull surfaces did not reflect the sun and thus betray the position of troops. Many

troops disliked them, however, for the very reason that they could not be polished to look smart.

Plastic badges ceased to be issued by the Royal Army Ordnance Corps two years ago, but some units are still using up stocks of them.



The new permanent-shine buttons will introduce the St. Edward's Crown (above) which the Queen chose shortly after her Accession. It will be worn for the first time in the Army since King Edward VII adopted the Imperial Crown (below) in 1901. Watch for it on your serjeant major's sleeve . . .



"Now, gentlemen, we must invent a coal bucket which does not have to be polished."





# "Mind The Mines," Said Madame

**A** HEAVY snowfall and one of the hardest frosts in the Belgian Ardennes for years had transformed the tree-studded slopes of the Meuse Valley into a fairyland. The grim old fortresses at Namur and Dinant looked like storybook castles.

It was the morning of Christmas Eve, 1944. The Germans had been driven back across the Meuse and an unreal, almost nerve-wracking silence had settled down after the tumult of the battle.

Suddenly, the little village of Celles was shaken by a symphony of gunfire; in desperation the Germans were throwing in all their available armour against this sector of the Ardennes in an attempt to force a way to the Channel ports. The Allies were caught on one foot and if they were to succeed in throwing the Germans back they needed time.

It was a Frenchwoman, Madame Martha Mourique, proprietress of the *Pavillon d'Ardennes* café at Celles who helped to secure some of that time. A strong column of German tanks had broken through the gap and the leading tank had had its tracks blown off by a stray mine. The German commander, fearing this was the first of many mines, approached Madame Mourique for information. Madame Mourique obliged by painting such a realistic picture of the countryside being strewn with mines by the Allies that the German commander halted his forces. To search the whole of the area, now deep in snow, would take too long; yet if he pushed forward he might lose all or most of his tanks. So he decided to halt and at nightfall

the armoured column was still tied down.

This failure to push on was fatal to the German attack. The delay provided valuable time for the Allies to mount their counter-attack and subsequently the Germans were forced to retreat through the gap they had made.

In Celles they call this story



Madame Mourique, who fooled a German tank force and held up Von Rundstedt's attack in the Ardennes, stands beside a knocked-out German tank.

"The Lie of Madame" for, as Madame Mourique well knew, there were no mines at all in the area. Her courageous and deliberately false story had completely misled the Germans and held them up for valuable hours.

Outside Madame Mourique's café today the knocked-out German tank stands on a concrete base which bears the notice:

"Here the Von Rundstedt offensive was halted on 24 December 1944." Inside, hung on the wall, are framed letters of gratitude from Headquarters 21st Army Group and the Belgian Government and a stack of picture postcards showing Madame posed beside the tank. Madame is a good business woman as well as a courageous one.



The latest thing in landing fields. This single-seater "Djinn" helicopter, fitted with skids, can land on and take off from a lorry, the smallest and most portable landing field yet invented. The demonstration was given recently in Paris.





The headquarters gymnasium, Aldershot, as Queen Victoria saw it in 1866. Note pole-squatter at top, left

# IT ALL BEGAN WITH DUMB-BELLS



*The Army's first physical training course developed muscles to burst tunics. But ideas have come a long way since then*

**O**NE thing that Major Hammersley and his twelve good men and true never thought of teaching soldiers, back in 1860, was how to cross a river by floating on their trousers.

Physical training instructors have invented a good many tricks since those pioneer days when the Army first decided to teach physical fitness.

Major Hammersley and his NCOs were dead keen—there is no denying that. They marched into Mr. Archibald McLaren's gymnasium at Oxford proudly displaying the gorgeous uniforms of the period, and got down to some furious training.

Four or five months later they were no longer such a proud company. The muscles on the upper parts of their bodies had expanded to such an extent that they could not get into their tunics, and they had to walk about in overcoats until new uniforms came along. Unfortunately, too, the training had failed to develop their legs in proportion, and it has long been recognised that a strong under-

carriage is essential to a soldier.

Today the Army is not out to build a race of supermen. It just wants to see every man fit, and fighting fit. It does not aim to give "jerks" or to make physical training a torture. "When I see a class, I want to see smiling faces," says the Inspector of Physical Training, Brigadier R. H. L. Oulton. "Otherwise it's no good."

So "Keep faces smiling" is a theme which underlies all the lessons given to physical training instructors at the Army School of Physical Training at Aldershot. Exercises for recruits are designed to give them mobility, strength, endurance, agility, poise, and to teach them how to run and walk with the least effort. The tables of exercises are elastic; instructors may vary them to keep the class

**Future instructors of the Army Physical Training Corps march to a fencing lesson at Aldershot.**





"Tough tactics," as taught in the Middle East in World War Two, included this method of crossing barbed wire. The first men lay on it...



... then the rest passed through them. The operation, skilfully carried out, is not as uncomfortable for the prone men as it looks.

from getting bored. The instructors are also qualified games and athletics coaches, who seek to turn games-watchers into games-players by similar means.

Once past the basic exercises—50 to 80 periods—a soldier is ready for others designed especially to fit him for his job. Now he finds himself parading for physical training in his boots, denims and steel helmet, wearing his pack and carrying his rifle.

He has graduated to "Battle PT." If he belongs to a field force unit, he will use improvised apparatus, as little can be carried around in the field. He will jump ditches, swing over them on ropes or cross them by apparently precarious bridges at seemingly perilous heights.

He will climb things and crawl through things. He will practise aiming his rifle while swimming, resting it on a floating bundle containing his clothes, and he will learn to make water-wings of his trousers. He will practise carrying weapons, ammunition boxes, oil-drums, lorry-wheels, logs and his comrades. He will exercise with sticks, rifles, picks, shovels or shells. He will push lorries out of ditches and lift jeeps.

The training is not designed only to fit men for battle. It will also help those whose job involves leaning over a bench for long hours, standing at a stores bin or sitting at the wheel of a vehicle. Unit instructors fit their exercises to their students.

All this stems directly from the course, so different in method and result, which the pioneers took at Mr. McLaren's. The officer, Major F. Hammersley of the 14th Foot (The West Yorkshire Regiment) and the non-commissioned officers, who became known as his 12 apostles, did more than acquire muscle-bound superstructures. They went back to Aldershot and there set up a school from which was to grow the Army Physical Training Corps, the only corps of its kind in any army. (Major Hammersley was also one of the founders of the Amateur Athletic Association.)

In 1861 Queen's Regulations published the first system of physical training for the Army. Four years later it was decided



"Confidence training": future assistant instructors play "cops and robbers" on this scaffolding.

OVER

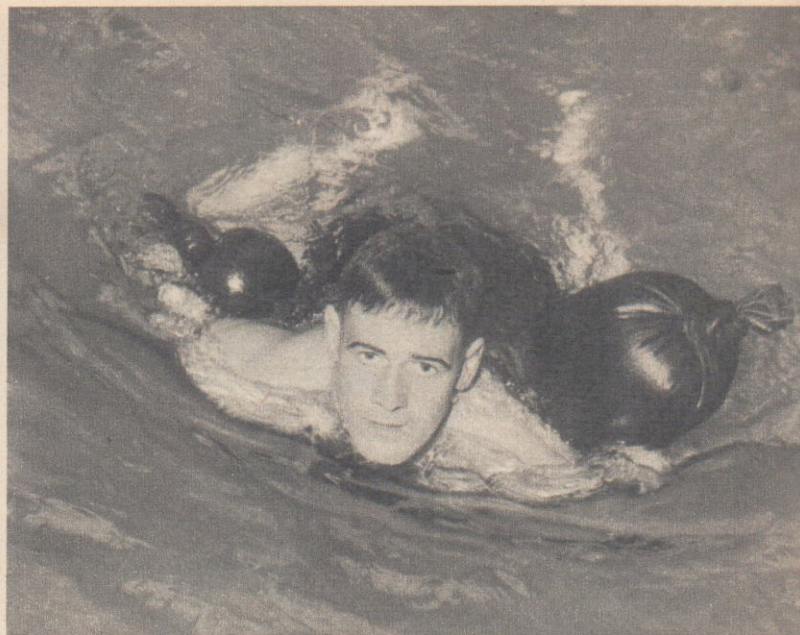




Hand-stand on a horizontal bar. This kind of gymnastics is taught only to instructors.



"Battle PT" includes learning how to carry a wounded comrade—and his rifle.



How to swim on your trousers: first tie up the legs (see right) then slap the garment, waist-first, into the water and—hey, presto!—water-wings. This technique has been used by soldiers in Malaya.

## IT ALL BEGAN WITH DUMB-BELLS *(continued)*

that a soldier over 30 was too old for the gymnasium. Even then, the principle of "purposeful PT" was beginning to evolve, and the object laid down was "the strengthening of the soldier so that he can cover 1000 yards or more at a rapid pace and at the end be capable of using his bayonet efficiently."

The Army Gymnastic Staff threw. In 1878 it presented an assault-at-arms at the Albert Hall, which turned out to be the foundation on which the present Royal Tournament was built.

Physical training could be tough last century, and a brutal instructor could give his squad severe punishment. A soldier of 1884 has told how a squad of which he was a member went over a bridge ladder "hand over hand backward, arms bent, toes pointed, feet together," no fewer than 54 times "till our arms were incapable of becoming straight."

In those days, on the principles laid down by Mr. McLaren, there was "muscle-resistance" to every exercise and a class ordered "arms upward stretch" would perform with dumb-bells in their hands. Then in 1906 came a Swedish system which recognised that there was something to physical training besides muscle-building. Quick reaction and mental alertness became aims of instruction. Dumb-bells and other "muscle-resisters" disappeared and were replaced by such apparatus as balancing beams. Physical training became more popular.

By 1914, the Army was in good fettle, thanks to the Army Gymnastic Staff, but the outbreak of war brought physical training enthusiasts a shock. Every instructor on the Staff, except for 15 men at officer-cadet schools, rejoined his regiment, and there was nobody left to give physical training instruction to the new armies

which were being built up.

A new team was quickly formed, however, and included such notable figures from civilian life as Bombardier Billy Wells and Jimmy Wilde, the boxers. During that war, a decision in France that there should be no money prizes for boxing ended professionalism in Army sport.

One new commitment the Army Gymnastic Staff took on during World War One (but handed over before the end of the war) was teaching bayonet-fighting. One of its instructors in France was a man who had won the Distinguished Service Medal for killing 18 Germans with the bayonet in the first Battle of Ypres. At its peak, the Army Gymnastic Staff was responsible for one quarter of Infantry training.

The Staff also sent instructors across the Atlantic, to help train newly-raised divisions of the American Army. The Americans were so impressed with these men that they retained them when training was over, and took them to France.

Between wars, the Army Gymnastic Staff became the Army Physical Training Staff. It produced Olympic fencers and pentathlon competitors and other noted athletes. (Similarly, in 1953, the Corps has produced the British pentathlon champion in Staff-Serjeant Instructor G. R. Norman.)

The Staff began a new and intimate co-operation with the Royal Army Medical Corps, which brought Major J. E. Lovelock, the Olympic 1500 metres champion runner, on to the staff of the Army Physical Training School. For a while, the Staff ran development depots, to build the physique of young men who volunteered for the Army but could not pass the medical examination.





New systems of physical training were studied, and adapted for the Army. Testing one violent method, instructors of the Corps gave themselves intermittent lumbago for years afterwards. Another system called for exercising with bare feet, a feature the boot-conscious War Office would not tolerate. From these new systems, however, the Army physical training instructors brought more rhythm, and more pleasure, into their exercises, and the old Swedish drill, known as "physical jerks," went into history along with Mr. McLaren's technique.

World War Two saw the Army Physical Training Staff expand rapidly. A new generation of sportsmen, including Jack Petersen, Len Hutton and Tommy Lawton, came to swell the ranks of soldier-instructors. In 1940, the Army Physical Training Corps was formed as a combatant corps.

More aggressive physical training, designed to suit total war, became the fashion, and instructors began to teach in steel helmets, uniform and equipment. In Egypt the Pyramids were con-



This two-manpower, jerrican-and-rope raft keeps a rifle firing.

scripted as training aids for rock-climbers, and in West Africa assault courses were built over swamps infested by man-eating crocodiles. The man-handling of guns was taught, and the Army Physical Training Corps discovered several new uses for steel helmets—as wheel-chocks, as fulcrums for levers and to make railway "level crossings." At a demonstration, a team of Royal Artillery officers was unable to right a capsized Bofors, but a team of Army Physical Training Corps instructors, who had been practising, had it ready to move in two minutes. The Royal Artillery, like other arms, took up this new kind of physical training with enthusiasm.

In London, the Corps helped set up a street-fighting school in the blitz ruins of Battersea and trained Americans as well as British.

The Corps also undertook the training of parachutists. Instructors went into action with the men who had been their pupils. There were 26 members of the Corps at Arnhem; four of them were killed.

The war in the Far East had its repercussions at Aldershot, where a jungle obstacle course was built, and instructors produced tree-climbing irons by tying bayonets to their boots with pull-throughs.

Field-Marshal Montgomery (now Colonel-Commandant of the Corps), when commanding South-Eastern Command, sent for

the Inspector of Physical Training and said he had three divisions which were about to sail for the Middle East and which must arrive there in fighting trim. Officers went to Liverpool to measure the ships in which the divisions were to travel. The deck-space available for physical training was duplicated at Aldershot, and the divisions' instructors went there for two weeks' training. During this, they worked in a gymnasium with the heat full on, to simulate tropical conditions. When there was a gale they worked out of doors. Nearly all the conditions of ship-board, except a rocking floor, were provided. The divisions duly arrived in the Middle East fit and ready for their new commander—General Montgomery.

The Middle East had meanwhile developed its own more realistic and strenuous physical training and called it "tough tactics." With this came the slogan, "Fighting Fit and Fit to Fight," to sum up the aim of the Corps.

In 1941, the Corps had resumed the task of developing recruits who did not measure up to the Army's physical standards or who had broken down under training. By 1948, when the work ended, 60,000 men had passed through the Corps' three physical development centres, and 85 out of every hundred who had started in low medical categories achieved an "A1" rating. Elsewhere, Army



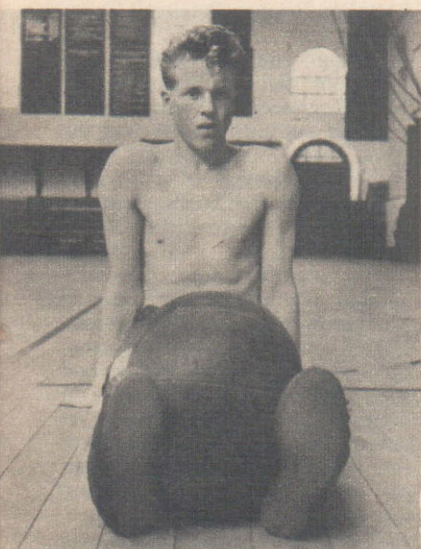
There's nothing so useful as a pole for physical training. you can lift it, throw it, race with it, make a bridge of it, or climb it.

Physical Training Instructors were giving remedial exercises to men recovering from wounds, or who had other physical defects, and this work still goes on, in military hospitals and elsewhere.

The war left the young Army Physical Training Corps a solidly-established, going concern. Its backbone are the warrant-officers and serjeant-instructors (the Corps has no rank below serjeant). They are picked from the men who volunteer for an assistant-instructor's course to fit them to teach physical training in their units.

Post-war conditions have introduced two notable changes to the Army Physical Training School. The first is that National Service is bringing a third generation of front-rank professional sportsmen to Aldershot for courses. The second is the women's wing of the School, which functions independently, but calls on the men for instructors in such subjects as fencing. That was something else never imagined by Major Hammersley and his 12 apostles.

RICHARD ELLEY



Man with a medicine ball is Lance-Corporal Albert Quixall, Sheffield Wednesday footballer, taking a course at Aldershot.



# And Now for an Ice Hockey Rink!

The Canadians' new barracks in Germany are a big change from the "hoochies" of Korea. There are even soda fountains in the canteens



When the British High Commissioner handed over the new camps, the band of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery marched with appropriate swagger. Right: Showing typical single-story camp buildings.



On the rolling German countryside near the Mohne See, where Belgian military signs say "Home de Repos Pour Soldats" and a British sign says "Watermanship Training Centre," still more military notices are beginning to appear: those of the Canadian Army.

The Canadian brigade group which has been stationed in the Hanover-Hohne-Hamelin region since the autumn of 1951 has now moved south to the area of Soest, to occupy the first new camps built for troops in the British Zone of Germany under the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

There are four camps in all, made up of clean-cut single-story buildings with white walls and green roofs, trim models of the new military architecture. At first glance, the camps look more like schools or research centres. German contractors built them under the direction of British and Canadian engineers (and half-way through there were the traditional contractors' parties which are held in Germany as soon as a building has its roof supports in place).

At the moment, the camps have no novelties that British troops do not possess—except for soda fountains, which serve the full range from Banana Split to Knickerbocker Glory. But in due course the Canadians hope to have at least one ice-hockey rink (after all, they had one even in Korea—on the frozen Imjin) and baseball diamonds.

The camp buildings, composed not of bricks and mortar but of pumice and stucco, are put together "like toys" from standardised sections. Barrack-rooms are centrally heated—which does not mean a red-hot stove in the centre of the room. "We have

gone back to 15-man barrack-rooms," says Lieutenant-General G. G. Simonds, Canada's Chief of the General Staff, "because there is a better chance of comradeship that way, and after all men in the field must live together." Individual lamps over each man's bed are not the built-in type as in new British barracks but bracket lights which can be pulled down from the wall. Glistening cookhouses look more and more like the engine-room of the *Queen Mary*. In the supply depot are unusually

awesome deep-freeze chambers (with a warning hooter which a man can sound if he is inadvertently locked in).

Married quarters are about to be built. Then, for the first time in Canadian history, military families will be moved overseas to accompany their menfolk (some men have already brought their wives over at their own expense). When the Canadians first arrived, in 1951, the tour of duty was limited to one year for married men. Now, with families arriving, it will be extended to a minimum of two years.

Soest, the nearest town of any size to the camps, is an ancient Hansa League town with an

apparently crooked church spire, and with its original walls largely intact. But the first object of interest likely to attract sight-seeing soldiers is the great Mohne Dam, which was breached by Wing-Commander Guy Gibson VC. The countryside around the Mohne See, say the Canadians, is very reminiscent of that in Quebec Province—even without the French-language notices erected by the Belgian troops. Soon the Canadians also will have their "homes de repos" in smart chalets beside the Mohne See.

The Canadian brigade group has been in process of rotation. Newcomers to Germany (all with Korean service) are the 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry; the 2nd Battalion The Royal Canadian Regiment; the 2nd Battalion The 22nd Regiment, a French-speaking unit popularly known as the "Van Doos" (from *Vingt-Deux*); the 2nd Regiment of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery; and a squadron of Lord Strathcona's Horse.

The camps were formally handed over to the Canadians at a ceremony attended by the British High Commissioner in Germany, Sir Frederick Hoyer Miller, and the Canadian Ambassador to Germany, Mr. T. C. Davis. It was an historic day—and a proud one for the Commander-in-Chief of Northern Army Group, General Sir Richard Gale.

**Footnote:** The Canadian private soldier is reputedly the highest paid private in the world: his basic rate in Germany works out at about £40 a month.

Corporal John M. Armstrong (left), 12 years service, shipped his Buick Roadmaster from Canada at a cost of 300 dollars. It still has Ontario registration plates. No, the car was not bought entirely out of Army pay. Corporal Armstrong draws rents from property he built in Canada after the war. But "I think the Army's 100 per cent," he says.



Sir Frederick Hoyer Miller inspects a Guard of honour of the Princess Patricias.



Commanding the Patricias is Lieut-Colonel S. C. Waters, who served in North Africa, Italy, North-West Europe and the Aleutians. Below: RSM L. F. Grimes once soldiered in the Northamptonshire Regiment.



## The Patricias Are There

BEST-KNOWN of Canada's Infantry regiments, to the British man in the street, is probably Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, variously known as the PPCLI, the Princess Patricias, the Patricias, the Princess Pats or simply the Pats.

The 2nd Battalion of the Regiment, well sprinkled with Korea ribbons and parachutists' wings, and wearing a recent prairie tan, is now in Germany.

The Patricias wear the maroon beret of the Airborne forces, but their role in Germany will be a straightforward Infantry one, as it was in Korea. They will resume airborne training when they return to Canada two years hence as part of that country's mobile striking force.

A great many former British soldiers have served in the Patricias. Indeed, when the Regiment was raised in 1914 it contained representatives of every regiment in the British Army, except one (history does not record which one). The present Regimental Sergeant-Major of the 2nd Battalion, Mr. L. F. Grimes, served in the Northamptonshire Regiment from 1933 to 1941, and before that in the Royal Artillery.

The story of the raising of the Regiment is a unique one; almost overnight, a blend of private enterprise and Royal patronage produced a seasoned battalion. On 3 August 1914, when the balloon was going up, Mr. A. Hamilton Gault, a Montreal business man who had served in the South African War, called at Ottawa and proposed to the Minister of Militia and Defence that he should be allowed to raise a regiment, in the old-fashioned manner. It would be composed of veterans and would be put at the disposal of the Imperial Army. Mr. Gault found energetic backing from Lieutenant-Colonel

Every British regiment, except one, was represented in Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry on the day it first paraded in 1914

Francis Farquhar DSO, Grenadier Guards, Military Secretary to His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, then Governor-General of Canada. The War Office in London was consulted, and gave its approval. It was agreed that the new regiment must not "poach" on the Militia. Mr. Gault undertook to put up 100,000 dollars towards the cost of raising, clothing, equipping, transporting and maintenance of the Regiment, the rest to be borne by the Department of Militia and Defence.

Lieutenant-Colonel Farquhar was nominated as the first commanding officer of this veterans' battalion. At his suggestion Princess Patricia, daughter of the Duke of Connaught, was asked if she would give the regiment her name. She consented, and so was forged

a valued Royal link. The initials VP which may be seen today on the Patricias' route signs in Germany are those of Victoria Patricia.

Within one week of Mr. Gault putting up his proposal the Regiment was in existence—on paper; ten days later it was in existence on the parade ground, 1098 strong. Prospectors, trappers, cow-punchers, guides, business men and old soldiers poured into Ottawa by every train. From the West came the Legion of Frontiersmen to enlist as a body. One party of recruits is said to have forced an unwilling train crew at the point of the gun to take it to Ottawa.

Out of the total strength of 1098, 1049 men had served with the Colours and owned 771 decorations or medals. Less than ten per cent were of Canadian origin; almost 65 per cent were Englishmen, 15 per cent Scots and ten per cent Irish. Two sections were composed entirely of ex-Guardsmen, two of ex-Riflemen, and two of English public-school boys. In the history of British arms there was nothing quite like the composition of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

Before the Patricias left for France they were presented with a Camp Colour designed and worked by Princess Patricia. It bore the initials VP in gold, entwined on a blue centre against a crimson ground. The Colour became famous as the only one carried into action by a British unit during the Great War; officially it was a Camp Colour only, so no regulation was infringed (later it became a Regimental Colour). Once it was buried by a direct hit on Battalion Headquarters at Sanc-



As she was when her regiment was raised: Princess Patricia.

tuary Wood, and at other times it was ripped by splinters. The Patricias' were blooded—heavily—at Frezenburg, but the Brigade of which they formed part held the line at a critical stage. They fought at Ypres, Vimy, Passchendaele and in the pursuit to Mons.

When the Regiment returned to Canada it was commanded by the man who had raised it—Lieutenant-Colonel A. Hamilton Gault (Lieutenant-Colonel Farquhar and two other commanding officers were killed in action). It was then selected as one of three Infantry regiments to comprise the Canadian Permanent Force, and was based on Winnipeg and Esquimaux, British Columbia. (Today its Depot is at Calgary, Alberta).

In December 1939 the Regiment again sailed for Europe as part of the Canadian Division. Its first contact with the Germans was in Sicily. Later came strenuous fighting in Italy and North-west Europe. A second battalion was raised for Far East service.

On one occasion Princess Patricia saw her regiment over-run. That was on the day in 1919 when she married Commander Alexander (now Admiral Sir Alexander) Ramsay, in London. The Patricias' guard was rushed by immense crowds—"the only occasion in history on which the Regiment lost its ground," said the Colonel.

Last year Lady Patricia Ramsay travelled to Calgary to present her regiment with new Colours.



# 15 MEN SCATTER

*The Army Act was drawn up for an age of livery stables and victualling-houses. At last Parliament decided it was time the Act was dusted off. Many Army crimes, it appears, have gone right out of fashion.*

IT is some 70 years since the Army Act was last overhauled. The bearded Parliamentarians who went through it clause by clause in Queen Victoria's day doubtless prided themselves that they had "got the bugs out of it," though that is not the expression they would have used.

Gad, sir, the Army was the Army in those days—an officer marrying an actress was liable to be threatened with proceedings under Section 16 ("scandalous conduct").

But after 70 years the Army Act (which has to be passed annually by Parliament) is full of anachronisms. The Army it describes is one preoccupied with finding livery stables and forage for its horses, with billeting its troops in victualling-houses (but not in the premises of distillers who do not ordinarily allow tipping). Occasionally after the word "carriages" there is a grudging reference "including

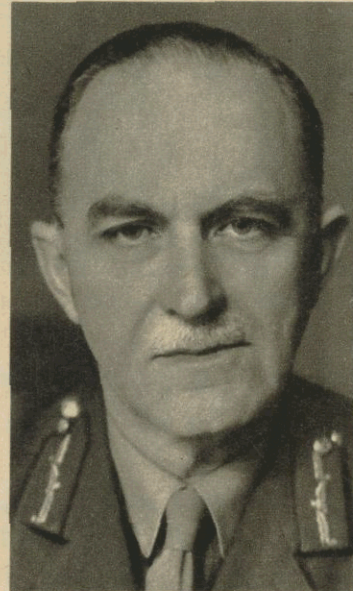
a Select Committee of MP's set to work to examine how the Act could be revised. The latest report of their deliberations has now been printed—500 pages of small type, including a racy story told by one of the members on page 34, published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office at 18s.

Much of the discussion, inevitably, turned on court-martial, cowardice and mutiny. The Select Committee made the startling discovery that it was possible under the Army and Air Force (Women's Services) Act for a man to be tried by a court-martial composed of women. Mr. George Wigg thought it was just conceivable that some day a man might be brought up, "perhaps even on a charge of cowardice, before some young woman." In fact, the Committee were told, no man had yet been tried by a court on which a woman served.

Brigadier Dame M. F. Coulshed, Director of the Women's Royal Army Corps, was called before the Committee and asked: "Do you feel the fact that women do not exercise powers of punishment over men puts any mark of inferiority on the women's services?" She replied "No." Later she was asked whether she thought it was desirable to have a man sitting on a court-martial trying a woman. Her answer was that "it is preferable to have a male officer because we have not the legal knowledge, and would not have for years to come, and I think we should have that safeguard."

The Select Committee recommended that, where possible, women should be tried by courts consisting of a majority of women, and men by courts composed only of male officers, unless it was thought particularly desirable for a woman officer to be appointed a member. Until women had more practical experience of courts-martial the presiding officer should always be a male officer.

Since 1939, the Committee were told, the death penalty for MUTINY had been carried out only three times. The Committee thought that liability to the death penalty, whether in peace or war, should be limited to the most serious forms of the offence—but that all mutinous offences,



Lieutenant-General Sir Kenneth McLean: for 29 days Members of Parliament asked him questions about crime and punishment.

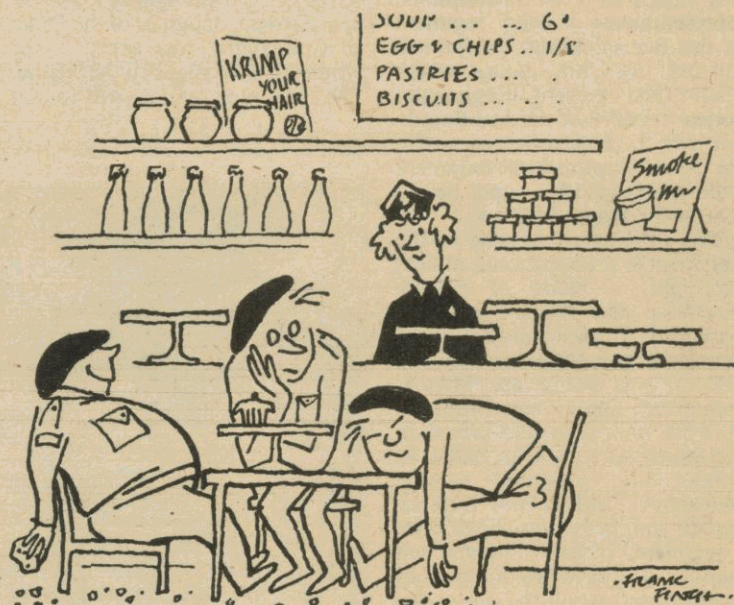
even though they differed in degrees of seriousness, should continue to be called mutiny. Tucked away in an appendix to the Report are references to certain mutinies of World War Two, including the little-known and horrifying story of Christmas Island. In 1942, after the Japanese bombed the island, the garrison troops (not British) attacked and killed their British officer and four British NCO's and then ran up the white flag of surrender. Five of the garrison were sentenced to be hanged, but reprieved.

On the recently topical subject of COWARDICE, the Committee recalled that the death penalty for that offence was abolished in 1930, but was retained for certain offences involving treachery, mutiny or sedition. However, under the present law certain offences which might be committed through cowardice could be punished by death. The Committee recommended that, where cowardice was the motive, such offences should be punished by imprisonment.

A new clause to cover CARELESS TALK has been drafted. Under the existing Act courts must be satisfied that any disclosure is injurious; but in the interests of security the suggested new clause has been drafted in wider terms to cover the passing on of "any information which is, or purports to be, information useful to an enemy."

When the topic of FRAUDULENT ENLISTMENT came up, Mr. George Wigg pointed out how this offence had lost its former character:

"People used to enlist fraudulently as a profession, in order to earn a bounty and the pairs of boots and so on which could be sold for good money in their progress from Edinburgh down to London or from London up to Edinburgh, as members of the old militia. I have served with men in the barrack-room who have 40 or 50 fraudulent enlistments to their credit, but I think those days have passed."



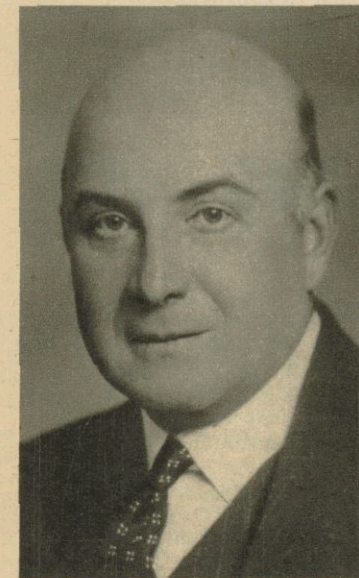
"The offence of drunkenness has now become much less common than indigestion through eating cakes in the canteen."—Mr. George Wigg, MP.

# THE COBWEBS

The offence of fraudulent enlistment was still retained, the Committee were told, "to catch the man who cannot be found guilty of desertion because he has enlisted in another unit or another service." When Mr. Wigg asked: "Why should he be punished for doing that?" Lieutenant-General Sir Kenneth McLean replied: "Because we do not want a soldier who is fed up with his unit to say 'I am fed up with this, I will join the Gunners.'"

If the Committee's recommendations are accepted, the offence will in future be dealt with in the section on desertion.

The Committee decided that the offence of using TRAITOROUS WORDS against the Sovereign ought not to be retained in the Act. The offence consists of expressing disloyalty to the



Chairman of the Select Committee was Sir Patrick Spens, an adjutant in the Queen's Royal Regiment in World War One.

Sovereign personally, not to the monarchy as such. Service Departments represented that the clause be retained, in view of the special relation of the Sovereign to the Army; but a majority of the Committee recommended its abolition on the grounds that its retention would imply that the Services were more given to using disloyal words than civilians.

The Committee recommended that LOOTING should be included as a clearly defined offence. Their draft urges that any person subject to military law who "steals from, or with intent to steal searches the person of anyone killed or wounded in the course of warlike operations, or steals any property which has been left exposed . . . or takes otherwise than for the public service any vehicle, equipment or stores abandoned by the Army" shall be guilty of looting.



Members of Parliament were told that soldiers used to make a profession out of fraudulent enlistment, "flogging" their boots as soon as they had drawn them.

Defining acts of looting was not too easy. Lieutenant-General McLean told the Committee: "What we want to avoid is a small unit going forward, overrunning an enemy dump which is filled with field-glasses and wireless sets and things of that sort and pinching the lot, not necessarily for the individuals' advantage but for the Quartermaster's advantage, when those items are wanted back in the ordnance depot behind the lines."

Mr. Ian Harvey said he thought very few people were likely to steal things on behalf of the Quartermaster.

In a discussion on SCANDALOUS CONDUCT, Mr. Bing wanted to omit the words "and a gentleman" from the end of the clause which reads "in a scandalous manner, unbecoming the character of an officer and a gentleman." As it stood, the clause set a social distinction, he said. With equal logic one might say "unbecoming the character of a quartermaster sergeant and a high-class tradesman."

To this Brigadier O. L. Prior-Palmer replied that he had never imagined "gentleman" to be a social status. "I have often found far greater gentlemen among the Other Ranks in my regiment than I have sometimes found in other spheres of life . . . A gentleman is either a natural gentleman or he is not a gentleman." Colonel A. Gomme-Duncan said that the obligations of a gentleman were moral rather than social, and it was most important to retain the words "and a gentleman."

The word "gentleman" remains in the clause—and the penalty for not behaving as one is cashiering.

In the report occurs this sentence: "While recognising that in recent years there have been considerable social changes in the Army . . . the Departments

considered that there should on that account be no lowering, nor any indication of lowering, the standard of conduct required from an officer as the holder of Her Majesty's commission."

Mr. George Wigg was not the only one to draw on his personal memories of Army life. The chairman, Sir Patrick Spens, recalled during a discussion on ILL-TREATMENT OF OFFICERS a case in a mess at Aldershot where a young officer was consistently ill-treated by fellow officers in an effort to make him hand in his papers. "I remember there was a scandal . . . there was a consistent system of immersing him in water and doing other things of that sort to him regularly after the senior officers had left for the night." The clause about ill-treatment of officers is retained, but it is unlikely to cramp the fun on mess nights.

Brigadier Dame Frances Coulshed denied that the women's services felt any "inferiority" because they could not punish men.



Dinkum dinner for Tokyo tot.

## SOLDIERS ADOPT ORPHANS

JAPANESE orphans, most of whom had never seen foreigners before, have been befriended by troops of the Commonwealth Forces Club at Ebisu Camp, Tokyo.

The Club decided that the proceeds of a monthly dance should go to some good cause. They voted in favour of "adopting" an orphanage and giving the children periodical treats, and also helping them with hard cash.

For the first party, two bus loads of Australians, New Zealanders, Canadians and British soldiers arrived at the Futaba Orphanage, loaded with ice-cream and sweets—and the soldiers enjoyed the party as much as the children.

The under-sevens received the special attentions of the Commonwealth troops, but plans were made to bring in the whole orphanage of 150 children for the Christmas party.

The life of an orphanage child in Japan is normally not a rosy one; orphanages depend almost entirely on charity.

Up in (Canadian) arms.





**S**APPERS in sarongs? Well, why not? Malayan Sappers have a long tradition of service. In 1887 there were Malays in the Royal Engineers. They were enlisted as submarine miners in the Singapore Company of the Eastern Battalion, Royal Engineers, and served in that exacting role until the Royal Navy took over 18 years later.

# SAPPERS WHO WEAR SARONGS

**MALAYA**

**ROUND-UP**

In 1938 five Malay companies of the Fortress Battalion were employed on anti-aircraft search-lights and defence lights. Many of the original volunteers are still serving with the Royal Engineers.

Today the Malayan Royal Engineers help to maintain Army camps and barracks. They serve in the Singapore Engineer Regiment which operates in the great base of Singapore, in the Engineer Training Centre at Kluang and in the Malayan squadrons of 50 Field Engineer Regiment.

These squadrons, now the divisional Sappers of 17 Gurkha Infantry Division, have been supporting the Security forces since the early days of the Emergency, and have turned their hands to a rich variety of tasks.

They have built light airstrips and improved aerodromes. They have cut jeep tracks and light roads through jungle rubber to enable Security forces to move more quickly than the bandits. Recently they have taken to destroying roads too—blowing holes ten or fifteen feet in disused estate tracks, to prevent bandits running stolen lorries over them.

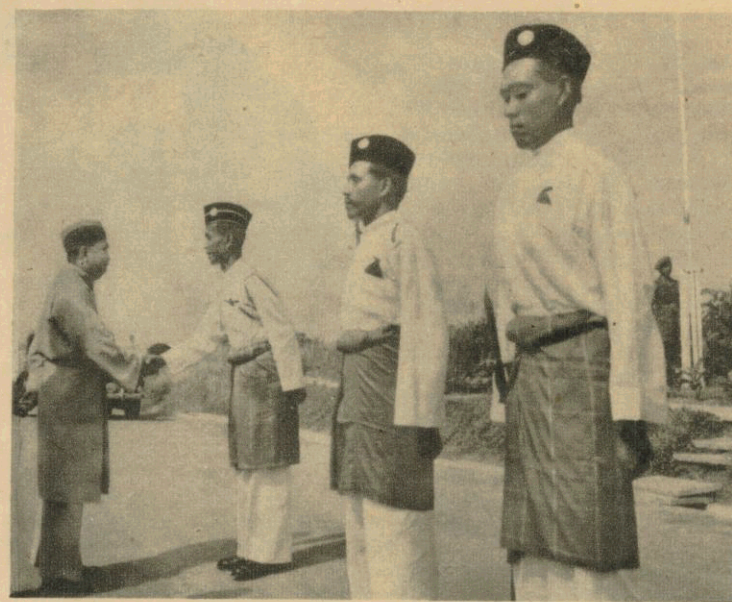
Malayan Sappers have tackled most kinds of bridges—from crossings improvised with local

timber on jeep tracks to major Baileys like the 480-foot Connaught Bridge over the Sungai Klang. They have helped the Public Works Department in launching and landing their floating Bailey bridges.

Bridging and watermanship go hand in hand. During the heavy floods of 1950-51 and 1951-52 the Sappers more than once came to the rescue of stranded communities; first bringing families to safety in equipment boats, then quickly replacing the broken bridges. It is the Engineers too who operate or demonstrate the equipment boats used in operations against bandits.

The Squadrons have neutralised bandit booby-traps, carried out mine-detection for Her Majesty's Customs, and on many occasions have searched out and destroyed unexploded RAF bombs. In November, 1952, a troop was flown into Kuantan and in four weeks disposed of 286 RAF bombs, including two 500-pounders, and cleared a small anti-personnel minefield.

Water supply is another Sapper commitment. At Yong Peng an improvised installation erected by the Malayan Squadrons enabled the New Village to be resettled six weeks sooner than would



A handshake for Malayan Sappers—from the Sultan of Selangor.

otherwise have been possible. Meanwhile, recruiting has already begun for the 1st Field Squadron of the Federation Engineers, who will soon be taking their place side by side with their comrades of the Malayan Royal Engineers.

Water supply is another Sapper commitment. At Yong Peng an improvised installation erected by the Malayan Squadrons enabled the New Village to be resettled six weeks sooner than would

## THE RED

**N**OT one soldier on active service against Malaya's Communist terrorists dies of scrub typhus, the disease which claimed hundreds of victims—Allied and Japs—in the Burma Campaign. Reason: the anti-biotic drug chloromycetin has proved one hundred per cent effective in curing it.

So swift is the cure that soldiers usually can be back on duty within a week. Under older methods of treatment they were away from two to six months, and the death rate could be as high as one in four.

The story of the finding of chloromycetin is one of the romances of medical science. After growing 20,000 moulds from 6000 samples of soil from every part of the world, and testing them to see if they produced an anti-biotic substance which had a wider range than penicillin, Dr. Burkholder, of Yale University, found an outstanding mould from a soil sample sent from Venezuela. The chemical it produced was purified and later synthesised: it was chloromycetin.

It was in Malaya that chloromycetin was first used in the treatment of scrub typhus. In mid-1948 a small wooden box some seven inches square was brought to Malaya. It contained the world's supply of the drug, and was to be used by the first of five medical research teams of the United States Army operating in Malaya.

The first patients were five or six soldiers in Kuala Lumpur.



Men on patrol carry rounds in bandoliers, for quick use.

## MITES ARE BEATEN

They were seriously ill with high fevers. Every man was given chloromycetin and "next morning the scene that met us was sensational," said one of the experts. "The men were smiling . . . asking for food . . . their temperatures gone. For several days we were anxious. Would the cure be permanent? It was."

Scrub typhus is carried by mites so small that they look like specks of red dust. The young mites live in the soil and normally start their evil career by feeding on a rat or some other animal—even a man. Troops in the jungle cannot avoid coming into contact with them, as much of their patrolling has to be done over cleared forest areas where they are often found. If the mite which bites a man is carrying typhus germs, then about ten days later the victim goes down with scrub typhus.

Much was learned during the war about the causes of scrub typhus and its prevention by treating clothing with chemicals, which are still in use by our forces in Malaya. The United States Army is experimenting with new insect repellents which also protect men against leeches.

However, it was not until 1948 that the cure for scrub typhus was discovered. Now, chloromycetin kills the fever within 36 hours. It also cures typhoid fever (enteric)—the first cure ever found for this disease.

The Institute for Medical Research in Kuala Lumpur was started as a one-man laboratory

# A ROUND LASTS ONLY TWO MONTHS IN JUNGLE

**O**NLY 60 days after ammunition is taken from its hermetically sealed tropical packing in Malaya its active service life is officially finished. The life of detonators for 36 and 80 grenades is only half this time, and of gun-cotton slabs one week.

By European standards this wastage is extravagantly high, but on patrol in Malaya ammunition is almost constantly exposed to damp—rain or sweat, or moisture during the night. Ammunition downgraded is used for training.

Captain George Prosser, of Headquarters Malaya, says: "With battalions split up in company strengths the storage of ammunition is a big problem. At times when almost every man is on patrol it must be stored within sight of the guard. Walls made from mortar bomb boxes filled with earth and roofs of palm leaves over tent sheets make fairly good storehouses. As companies often move, the building of double-roofed Nissen huts for ammunition storage at a cost of about £700 each would be a waste of money."

Ammunition stored in England is first-line for 15 years. In the tropics—and especially Malaya—10 years is a maximum.

In Kuala Lumpur WO.1 James Parker issues ammunition—when called upon—round the clock. Most of his non-office-hour issues are for despatch to units by parachute. "I'm not so worried at the possibility of ammunition being stolen as of it being damaged by white ants. I check for their presence every day."

The Royal Army Ordnance Corps has its own 21st Air Maintenance Platoon to pack ammunition, explosives and other ordnance stores for delivery by parachute in Malaya.

Staff-Sergeant Michael Carter says that no one packs eggs more carefully than he packs his detonators—most dangerous of all explosives for delivery by aircraft.

"A tin, about the size of a cocoa tin, contains 25 detonators, and this is snugly fitted in a box of coconut fibre. The detonator packs are equipped with the finest parachutes to ensure against accidents."

Not one parachute supplying ammunition has failed in Malaya in Staff-Sergeant Carter's time. He recalls 25-pounder shells being dropped at the front in Burma, for he helped to dig them out of nearly 30 inches of mud. And as soon as they were recovered they were fired. (As supply parachutes descend at about 30 feet per second, it is abundantly clear why experts are needed to pack ammunition and explosives.)

A Royal Air Force supply pilot says: "With explosives in your plane you like to feel they are securely packed, especially in bumpy weather. I have every confidence in the boys of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps."

For building jungle forts in Malaya helicopter landing grounds must be prepared. To make these zones explosives are used in clearing trees. One pound of plastic will destroy the roots of a 200-foot jungle giant.

WO.1 John Brennan is in charge of the returned ammunition group in Kuala Lumpur. Indicating a box of six-pounder shells, he said: "These are being stowed for

dumping five miles out to sea off Port Dickson next week. It's not worth the risk to salvage their cases." Some ammunition returned to him can be used for training, after a little cleaning-up. Grenades may need a new fuze and some three-inch mortar bombs require new augmenting or primary cartridges fitted to the tails.

All the recovered terrorist bombs—some improvised from parts of old stores—are dumped at sea, except for those items which are too dangerous to move. These are blown where found. A man who has one of the most responsible tasks is 25-year-old Staff-Sergeant Douglas Lawrence. For two-and-a-half years he has been second ammunition examiner to Captain Prosser at Headquarters Malaya. He helps to dismantle crude terrorist bombs. One of these had a thin bamboo splint to take the place of a split pin.

D. H. de T. R.

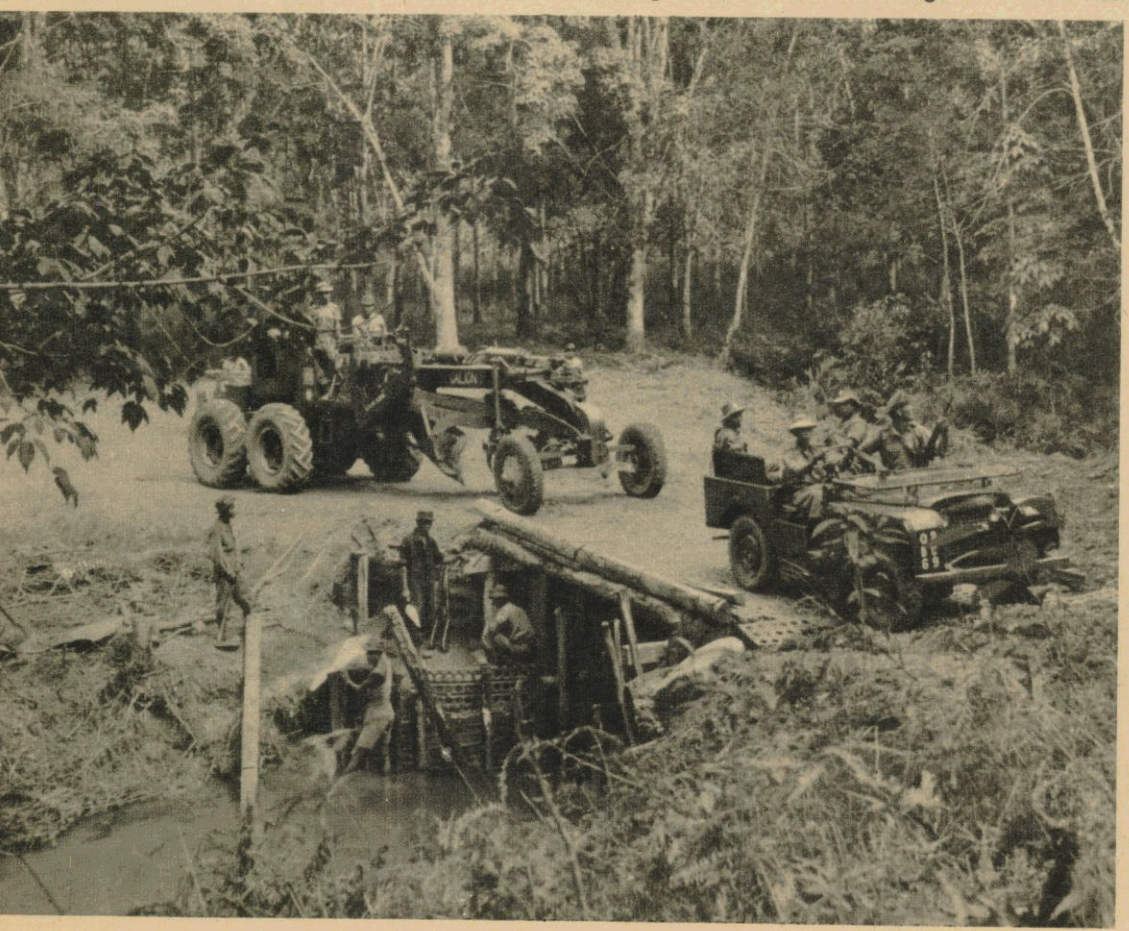


Packing detonators—25 to a tin—for dropping in jungle.

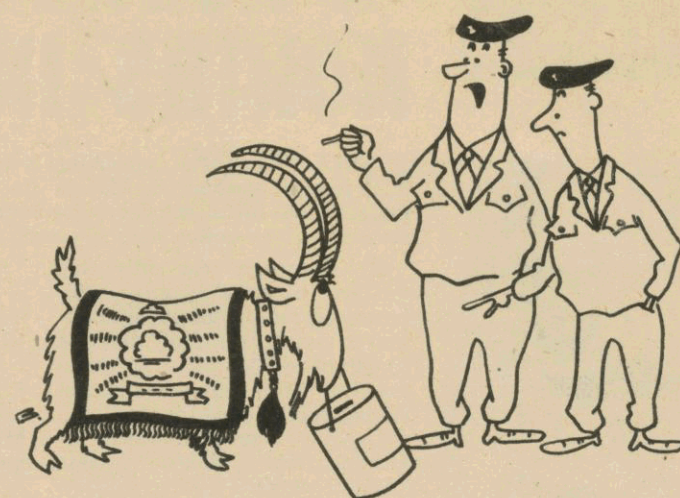
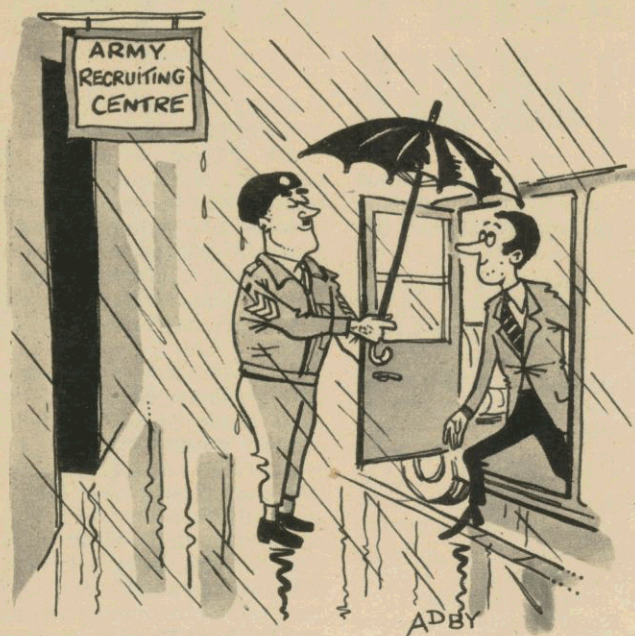
The Somerset Light Infantry draw fresh ammunition—still in its tropical packing.



Sappers of 75 Malayan Field Squadron built the bridge. Men of 50 Field Engineer Regiment, in their Land-rover, and of 78 Malayan Field Park Squadron, on the motor-grader, drive over it during a recent exercise.







"He's trying to buy himself out."



"You said I was to come to you if I was in trouble, sir."



"Do you object to being tried by any member of this court-martial?"



"I want three volunteers to show our new pyjamas to the Army Council."

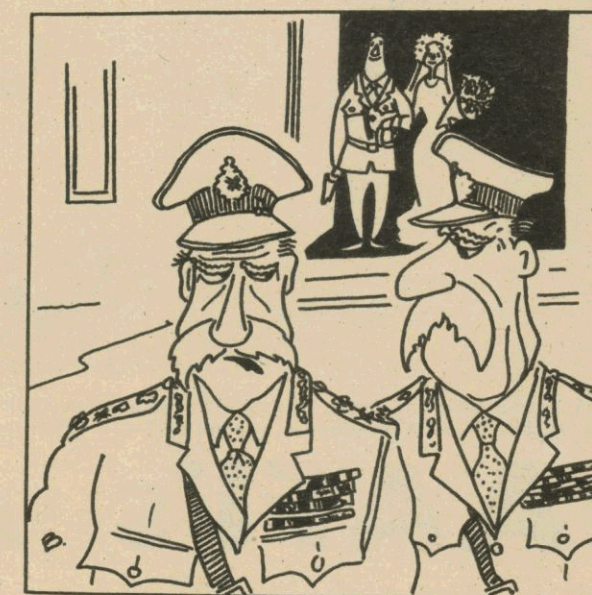


David Pratt

## SOLDIER HUMOUR



"And no more riding down the High Street shouting 'Yippee!'"



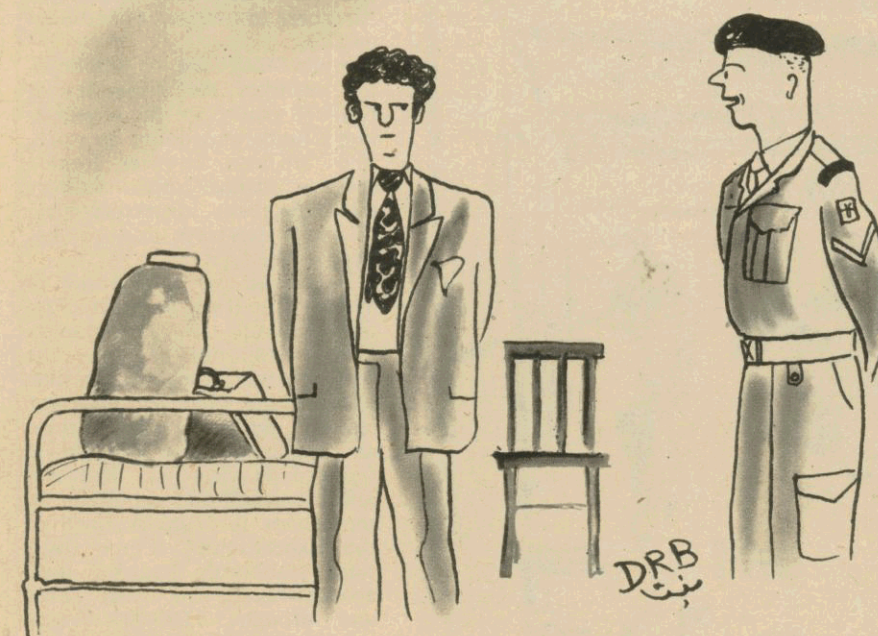
"I still think there's something wrong in an Army in which colonels can marry colonels."



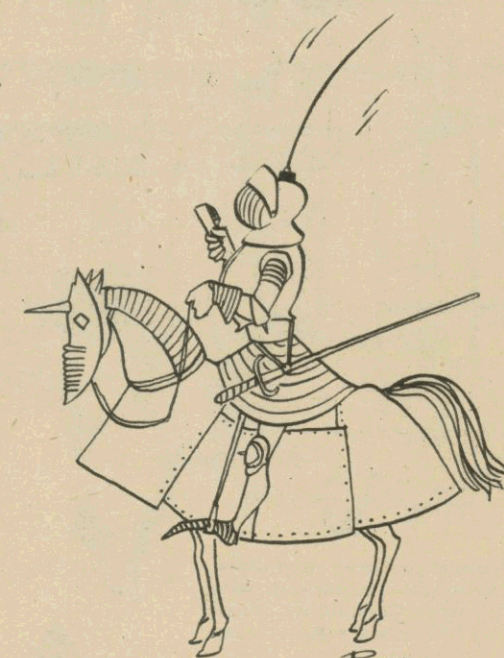
"Eyes front, Orderly Officer!"



"No, I don't want another portrait done—I just want you to add my Coronation Medal!"

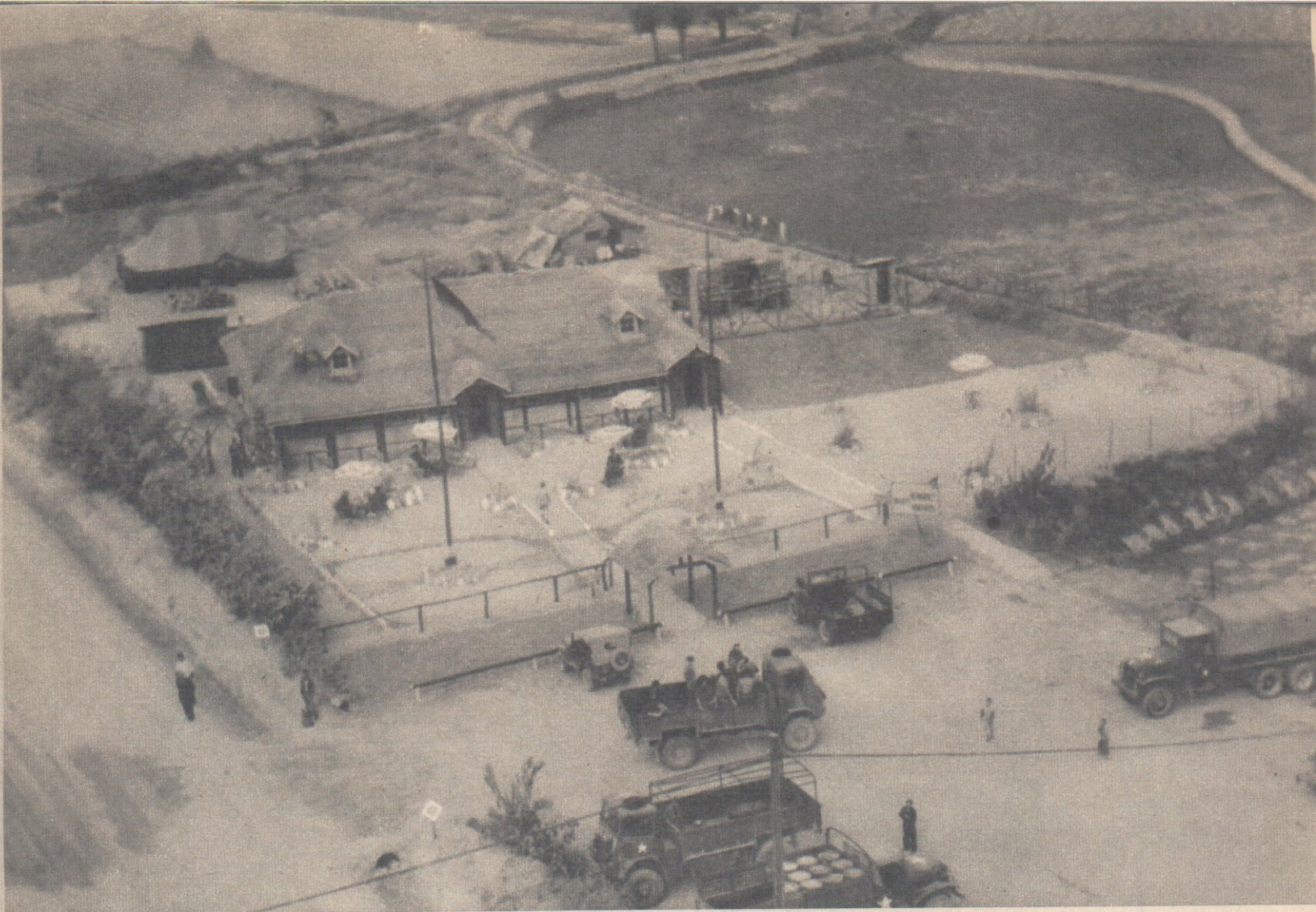


"The chair is to get up and rest on during the night."



Ray





Seen from a different angle, this sight has gladdened the hearts of many soldiers in Korea. It is the Newmarket Roadhouse, a good pull-up for drivers of the Commonwealth Division.

# NAAFI's Army

*In operational commands—like Korea—the men who staff canteens are paid by NAAFI but are nevertheless trained fighting soldiers*



Inside another Korea roadhouse, the Newcastle: customers with beards are Canadians, those wearing helmets are Americans.

**I**TS official name is RASC/EFI—Royal Army Service Corps/Expeditionary Force Institutes.

It is a force with no fixed peacetime establishment, with only two permanent full-time soldiers. At present it is to be found only in Korea and at its depot near London.

The purpose of Expeditionary Force Institutes is to bring NAAFI to the Army and Royal Air Force in overseas operational theatres.

When they are in uniform, the members are employees of NAAFI, paid from the organisation's funds and doing its work. They are also, however, trained soldiers, living under military discipline, ready, in an emergency, to down tea-trays and rolling-pins and to fight.

A wealth of experience in World War Two has gone into the build-up of Expeditionary Force Institutes. From the "phoney war" onwards, its men were serving wherever there was fighting. By the end of 1943 they, and members of the sister Naval Canteen Service, had lost 600 killed, missing and captured. In the retreat to Dunkirk, men of the Expeditionary Force Institutes stubbornly guarded their account-books and cash boxes and brought 6,000,000 francs safely back to Britain.

In the post-Dunkirk days, a new depot for NAAFI's private army was set up at Norwood. It





trained and sent abroad more than 900 officers and 10,000 men, including the contingents for the North African expedition and D-Day—brigadiers' commands, both. In those days, establishments included NAAFI girls in the Auxiliary Territorial Service/Expeditionary Force Institutes. There is no women's section at present.

Since the war, RASC/EFI has been re-born in a new form. For Korea, men were enlisted on the 18-months type "K" engagement and more than 300 of them are serving there. At home, the force consists mainly of members of the Army Emergency Reserve. Many are National Servicemen who have finished their full-time training in either the Army or the Royal Air Force, and have chosen this way of doing their part-time training.

"We will take as many suitable men as we can get," an official told SOLDIER. "If war came, we could use them all. In 1939 the total strength of NAAFI was 8000. The war-time peak was 125,000 soldiers and civilians."

Officers for RASC/EFI come mainly from the senior ranks of NAAFI employees, and their commissioned ranks are graded according to their NAAFI responsibilities.

The only permanent uniformed staff are the officer commanding the depot, Major C. E. Walter,

MVO, MBE, and Regimental Sergeant-Major A. E. Marrison, both of whom retired from the Regular Army after long service in the Royal Army Service Corps and have been re-employed by NAAFI. They run the depot at Totteridge Lodge, in Hertfordshire, NAAFI's new training centre, which was opened just in time to act as headquarters for the organisation's Coronation activities.

To Totteridge last summer went National Servicemen for their first year's part-time training. They were nearly all men whose trades, military or civilian, fitted the requirements of the force—grocery, catering, distributive, transport or accountancy. SOLDIER met one who was a toll-collector in private life, but he had been a cook in the Army Catering Corps. Two others were civilian NAAFI employees.

The flow of girls under training, which normally fills much of Totteridge Lodge, was stopped for four weeks, while two batches of 70 recruits moved in for a fortnight's training each, and the men took over accommodation normally occupied by the girls. With its panelled walls, gaily-curtained dormitories and dining-rooms with separate tables, it was all very different from the rugged quarters allotted to most men of Britain's Reserve Armies on their summer training.

Life, however, was fairly strenuous. Instructors borrowed from the Royal Army Service Corps were there to give the men daily military training, including firing on the miniature range and on an open range at Pirbright. Life was run Army-fashion, complete with an orderly-room manned by NCO's of the force on their way to or from Korea.

The NAAFI side of training was designed to teach the soldiers about the organisation, and how it works. It included lectures on such subjects as salesmanship, packaging, display and point of sale advertising, storage and selling of wines and visits to NAAFI installations.

A smaller number of men doing their second- or third-year training, were scattered over various of the organisation's establishments, such as the transport

**A chef demonstrates the NAAFI way of carving a joint.**

**Right: Military training for a member of RASC/EFI.**



garage at Watford and the bakery at Aldershot. Their purpose was to learn NAAFI's methods as applied to their own trades. At Totteridge SOLDIER found four cooks at work with the kitchen staff. They were learning the organisation's recipes and, equally important, what portions it gives and the prices it charges—every item of food that comes from its kitchens must be accounted for. Similarly, in the demonstration grocery shop, a soldier who, in civilian life, is a grocer was being instructed in methods of making out bills and keeping accounts. NAAFI's accounting is more strict than that of most commercial firms, and rebates and discounts at different rates complicate matters. The second- and third-year men came together at the end of their fortnight for three days' intensive military training.



**Regimental Sergeant-Major A. E. Marrison, one of two permanent uniformed members of the depot.**

**Below: A grocer in civilian life, he learns the NAAFI method of accounting in a model shop.**



"And remember, when the ref. shouts 'Break,' you don't go dashing away to the NAAFI."







The bells of Chester Cathedral have rung curfew for 1000 years.

*Chester, once the headquarters of Caesar's 20th Legion, has a proud military past. Its ancient castle still houses soldiers*

SOLDIER visits

# THE SECOND OLDEST GARRISON IN BRITAIN

**A** SOLDIER standing near Chester Cathedral at ten minutes to nine any evening can hear the tolling of a curfew bell warning all good warriors to return within the city walls.

But it is not today's National Servicemen for whom the bell tolls. The curfew is the one which sounded 1000 years ago for the benefit of Mercian warriors. (After the curfew call the bell rings out the day of the month, and if it is the 31st day the bell will ring 31 times.)

For nearly 2000 years Chester has been a garrison town—the oldest in Britain, after Colchester. In AD 60 the Romans built a fortress on a low sandstone hill at the head of the River Dee estuary and called it Deva. It was one of a ring of forts guarding the West of Britain and was the headquarters of the 20th Roman Legion.

Today Deva is called Chester, and houses the headquarters of Western Command. In its garri-

son area are four big military centres.

Few other cities have had such a stirring military history. When the Romans left, the local inhabitants organised their own armed resistance against marauding Saxons and Scots. So well did they fight that Chester was the last western outpost of Romano-British civilisation to fall, long after the eastern districts had been conquered.

Three years after the Battle of Hastings, Chester was still holding out against the Normans. In the Middle Ages it produced the best bowmen in England; King Richard II had a personal bodyguard of 2000 archers all drawn from Cheshire.

Except for the period of World War Two, there are more soldiers in Chester garrison today than at any time since the Jacobite Rebellion, when the city was garrisoned against the Pretender. Immediately before the last war it contained only the Depot of the Cheshire Regiment and the Headquarters of Western Command, then the smallest Army Command in Britain. But as military instal-

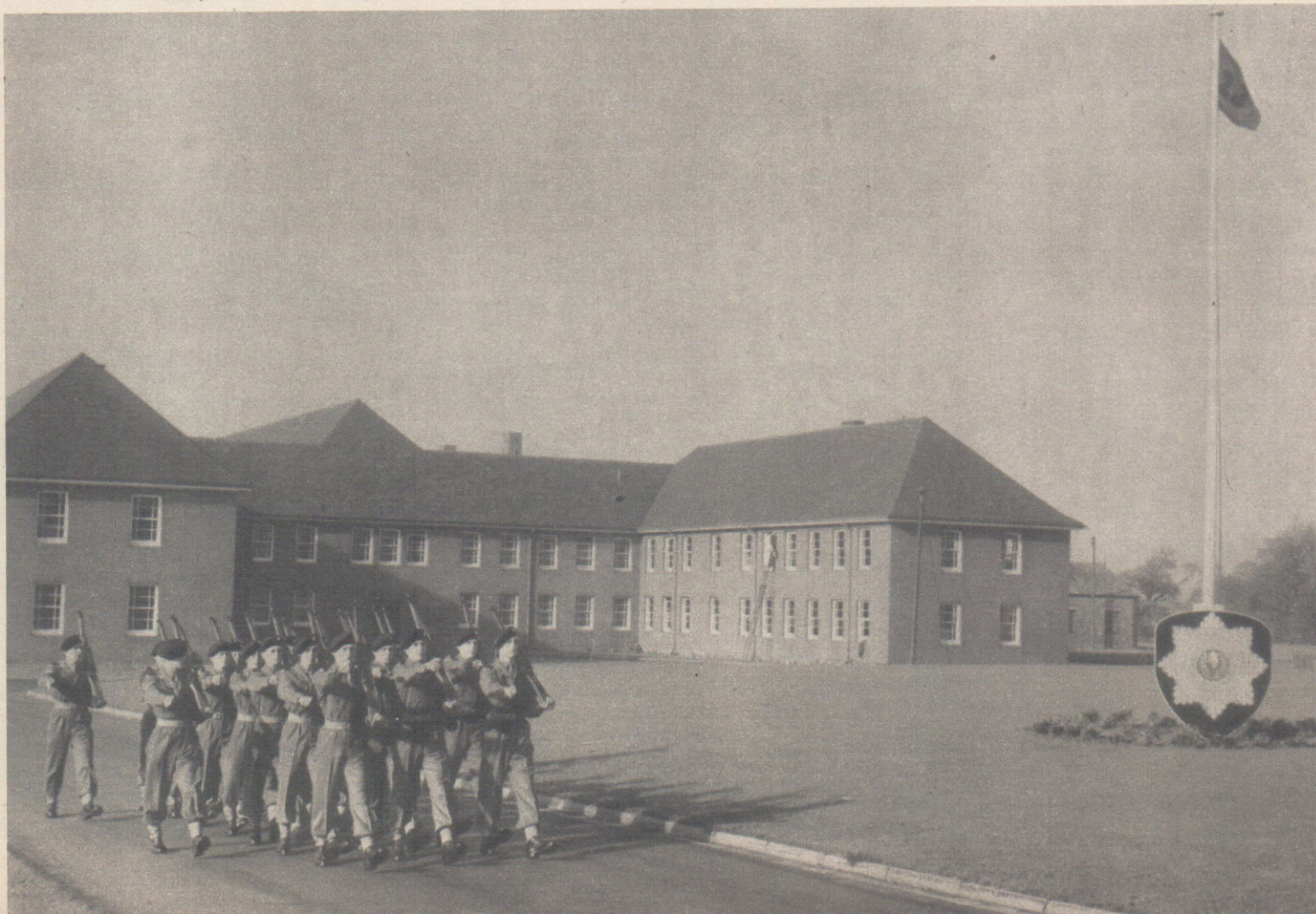
lations were moved westwards to escape bombing, and new units and formations sprang up, Chester, with its key communications, became once again an important garrison. Since the war many of the wartime camps and headquarters have been retained.

Western Command, the Headquarters of which occupy a large brick-built block of offices overlooking the River Dee, now covers an area in which one-third of the population of Britain lives. It includes the highly industrialised parts of the Midlands and Wales. In its area are three BBC stations and 365 newspapers.

On the opposite side of the river from the headquarters, and within the Roman Walls, only a handful of soldiers are now billeted in Chester Castle, which until 1940 had been the Depot of the Cheshire Regiment for 90 years. They are the clerks and general duties men employed at Western Command Headquarters and a detachment of Military Police.

The soldiers who live in the Castle (founded in 1069) occupy parts which are believed to date back to the 14th or 15th century, but the accommodation and amenities are as modern as the building will allow. Small rooms with walls nearly three feet thick have been linked up to make barrack-rooms, modern fireplaces have been installed, and wooden floors have replaced the stone flags. There are tiled, electrically lighted washrooms. The officers' mess of Western Command Headquarters is in another part of the

At The Dale, the Cheshire Regimental Depot, National Service and Regular recruits receive their first ten weeks' training.







**Left: Military Police** patrol past one of the oldest buildings in Chester. The Falcon cafe was built in 1632 and is typical of Chester's black-and-white architecture.



**Right: In the Grosvenor Museum** Private Phillip Smith ponders the armour and equipment of a soldier of the 20th Roman Legion, which once garrisoned Chester.

**Below: From King Charles's Tower** on the old Roman walls Charles the First saw his forces cut to pieces at the Battle of Rowton Heath.

Castle which, together with the rest of the building, was rebuilt in 1813 when the Chester Assize Court and county offices were set up there.

In the Castle's 13th-century Agricola Tower, named after the Roman Governor of Britain, is the Cheshire Regiment's museum, one of the show-pieces of the city. Sightseers from many parts of the world, as the regimental visitors' book confirms, browse among the relics of past campaigns. The stream of visitors is so constant that the Regiment have had to appoint a permanent museum orderly, Lance-Corporal R. L. Sumner. He has already collected names from the United States, Australia, Canada, France, Holland, Argentina, Peru and even Patagonia.

On the floor above the Museum is a chapel where King James II attended Mass in 1687. Shortly afterwards the Tower was used as an ammunition storehouse, a practice which did not cease until 1921 when it was decided to use the chapel again for services. Since then the children of many officers of the Cheshire Regiment have been christened there.

The Cheshire Regiment was formed as the 22nd of Foot by the beat of drums outside the

Castle in 1689, when the Standing Army came into being.

In the great cathedral is a Regimental Chapel where the flags, emblems and memorials of the Regiment are displayed. Hanging from the walls and pillars are many Regimental Colours, including the one used to wrap the body of General Wolfe when he was killed at the capture of Quebec in 1759. This Colour was also carried by the Regiment at the Battle of Bunker Hill in the American War of Independence.

Since 1940 the Cheshires' Regimental Depot has been at the Dale, one of the best camps built under Hore-Belisha auspices before World War Two. Under a single roof are housed barrack-rooms, wash-houses, baths, cleaning and drying rooms, dining hall, cookhouses, canteen and offices. During the late war the Dale was one of four machine-gun training centres in Britain, taking recruits from four regiments until the numbers became too large to handle. So two regiments were sent to nearby Blacon camp and the Dale carried on with the other two. For three months in 1941 the main block was turned over to 200 of the first conscript ATS girls.

Today the Dale trains both Regulars **OVER**







The 288-year-old Militia Buildings now house soldiers' families and is transport company's offices. Below: Lance-corporal R. L. Sumner a Museum Orderly in a 13th-century tower in Chester Castle.



and National Servicemen. The latter are afterwards sent to the Cheshire Regiment or to one of the other regiments in the Mercian Brigade. The training grounds these days never see a Vickers medium machine gun, an omission which causes distress to many of the present-day instructors who cut their teeth on that weapon.

Passing-out parades are held every ten weeks when Major K. B. S. Trevor, DSO, who commands the Depot, invites all parents to see how their sons have progressed. As most recruits come from Chester itself or nearby towns there is always a large turn-out.

A few miles from the centre of the city are Saughton and Blacon camps which come within the Chester Garrison boundary. Saughton is a Gunner stronghold where anti-aircraft recruits train and live alongside soldiers from 14 other units. Girls of the Women's Royal Army Corps who work at Western Command Headquarters live there, too. For several years during the war the camp was an American military hospital and when it was handed back almost every hut had been fitted with central heating, a luxury not enjoyed at Blacon Camp.

For some years after the war Saughton had an unusual role: it was a physical development centre, building up the physique of insufficiently robust recruits. Much fine work was done there.

Blacon Camp is the home of Western Command Signals Regiment and the training centre for all National Service Army Emergency Reserve Signallers in Britain. Last year more than 14,000 did their 15 days' annual training there.

Chester's fourth big military centre is Eaton Hall, the "Sandhurst of the North," which trains all National Service officers for the Infantry and certain services. It was the residence of the Dukes of Westminster, and the late Duke had a wing there.

The housing situation for soldiers' families in Chester is rather better than in most other garrison towns. Since the war a fair number of houses have been built at all three camps. At the Dale, for instance, where there were only eight married quarters in 1940, there is now a well laid-out estate of 81 houses. Plans are being made for more houses to be erected at all three camps over the next few years.

A number of married soldiers serving in Chester Garrison live in the 200-year-old Militia Buildings opposite Chester Castle. It is an historic address, but the occupants would appreciate something considerably more modern.

Only very few married soldiers in the Chester area are without



Chief-of-Staff Western Command: Major-General K. G. Exham.



Garrison Commander: Brigadier H. M. Liardet, also commands a Territorial brigade.

homes, for if Army quarters are not available it is not too difficult to rent a house or rooms under the Army's hiring system. "The people of Chester seem to understand the soldier's problems in this respect much more sympathetically than people do in other places I have been stationed in England," a senior officer of Western Command told SOLDIER.

If a soldier is bored in Chester he would be bored anywhere. There are seven cinemas and 375 hotels and public-houses. There is the famous Royal Theatre, where Garrick and Mrs. Siddons played. There is a racecourse and a zoo. And, in the season, there is the river for boating and fishing.

## THE JUDGE COMMANDS THE GARRISON

*"Your troops in the Castle are in good health and in good heart," they tell him*

THREE times a year when the Cheshire Assizes are held at Chester the senior judge becomes Garrison Commander of the Castle, in a ceremony which is believed to be unique.

On the opening day of the Assizes a guard of the Cheshire Regiment forms up on the Castle courtyard and two buglers greet the judges with a fanfare. The officer commanding the Cheshire Regimental Depot informs the senior judge that he has been ordered by the Commander-in-Chief, Western Command, to receive the judge's commands for the Garrison of the Castle. He then hands over a parade state of the troops of Western Command lodged in the Castle.

In reply, the senior judge asks the officer to convey his appreciation of the Commander-in-Chief's courtesy and adds: "I desire you to inform me of the state of health and well-being of the Garrison." To this the officer replies: "The troops of the Garrison of the Castle are in good health and in good heart."

Their Lordships, wearing their military medals and decorations on their ermine capes and led by the senior judge, then inspect the guard while a military band plays. At the mid-day recess that day the judges are entertained to lunch

in the Officers' Mess of Western Command Headquarters.

For more than 200 years it has been customary for the senior judge to accept the parade state and to become Garrison Commander of the Castle. But the ceremony in its present form, with guard, band and buglers, has been in existence only since 1946, when General Sir Brian Horrocks, then Commander-in-Chief, Western Command, thought more formality should be introduced.

The origin of Chester's tradition is obscure. While Chester is the only Assize town where the senior judge becomes garrison commander, there are other Assize towns where the Army's buglers attend the judges. Until just before World War Two the Army used to provide buglers at most Assize Courts, but now, with so many units overseas, it has become increasingly difficult to do so. The Royal West Kent Regiment were often called on to provide buglers for Maidstone Assizes, where last year a bugler from the East Surrey Regiment carried out the duty with a civilian.



With the Castle as a background two Cheshire Regimental buglers greet the judges each morning of the Assizes.



Mr. Justice Hallett, MC, the senior judge, inspects the Cheshire Regiment's guard after accepting the command of the Castle garrison.

At Chelmsford and Warwick the buglers are now provided by local cadets. Since 1947 the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers have sent buglers in full dress to each Assizes at Newcastle, replacing the Sheriff's mounted Heralds.

There was not always such a friendly relationship between the Army and the Law. When the Standing Army was formed the judges considered the presence of soldiers in Assize towns when the courts were sitting to be an infringement of constitutional rule. One judge feared that soldiers

would attempt to rescue their comrades who were to be tried by the civil courts.

Until 1798 the War Office used to warn commanding officers to move their troops out of town at Assize time or to confine them in quarters, which in those days were generally inns. This so enraged innkeepers in Sussex in the middle 1700's that they tore down their signs and surrendered their licences. When barracks were built soldiers still had to be confined during Assizes, but the practice ended in 1885.

The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers also observe an old custom: they send trumpeters to Newcastle Assizes to sound fanfares.





# The "Dukes" Tried Everything

**F**EW regiments in World War Two served in so many roles as the Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

They fought as Infantry and Pioneers with the British Expeditionary Force in 1940, and later in Italy and North-West Europe. Two battalions trained in Iceland as mountain troops but were destined to fight in Holland, over the flattest landscape in Europe. In Burma the 2nd Battalion became Chindits and in the 1942 retreat covered 700 miles in 90 days—most of the way on foot and always in contact with the Japanese.

## No Wonder Life Was So Short!

**F**OR Michel, the red carpet was out. As he returned from his first mission as a secret agent in post-Dunkirk France, he was ceremoniously escorted to a large and well-filled bath.

While he soaped himself with one hand and held a glass of liquor in the other, Michel's superior officers sat around the bathroom and listened to the tale of his adventures.

They had more plans for Michel—otherwise Captain Peter Churchill DSO—and "Duel of Wits" (Hodder and Stoughton, 12s. 6d.), is the record of how he carried them out. The book (second in a series) takes his adventures in France to the moment he and Lise, better known as Odette and now as Mrs. Churchill, were captured by the Gestapo. It is a fascinating behind-the-scenes record of wartime Intelligence. At one time Michel found himself practising sabotage on a model radio aerial with two accomplices who were circus acrobats, and whose skill in unarmed combat alarmed the professional instructors.

Lise turned out to have an endearing, but alarming, habit of playing practical jokes on senior German officers. But much more alarming was the lack of security mindedness among his French colleagues. Resistance leaders would meet in large groups, in public places, note-books in hand, to make their plans. Michel was introduced to many people it would have been better not to know. Once Michel and Lise went to a shop where, it was reported, cakes of peace-time quality were on sale. The woman would not serve them. Months later, Michel heard that a Resistance leader had upbraided the shopkeeper for refusing to serve "the head of the British Secret Service." "No wonder the average life of an agent is so short," commented Michel.

Relations between the underground workers were not always happy. One Resistance leader was dismissed from his command, and decided to continue operations on his own. The result was seen in battles for "swag" between rival Resistance men on the moonlit dropping-areas. The Germans were forgotten.

Two battalions were converted to anti-tank regiments, one landing at Salerno and fighting with General Clark's 5th US Army in Italy. Two batteries of this regiment went to Greece on guard duties. One battery of the other regiment was captured in Singapore and lost one officer and 33 men in Japanese captivity.

Another battalion operated searchlights in Britain until 1944 and then went to France and later Germany as garrison troops. Two battalions became Royal Armoured Corps units, one of them at the end of the war taking its tanks to Sumatra to break up armed gangs of Indonesian Nationalists and Japanese deserters.

## The Kesselring Version

**O**N an Italian road, a German staff car collided with a long-barrelled gun. One of the car's occupants, a field-marshal, received severe concussion and a nasty gash on the temple.

Soon the story was circulating that the field-marshal was doing well—but the gun had had to be scrapped. The man who had this reputation for toughness now tells his story in "The Memoirs of Field-Marshal Kesselring" (Kimber, 25s.).

The author began his career as an Artillery officer, but in 1933 became one of the "fathers" of the future Luftwaffe. As a Luftwaffe commander, he took part in the battles for Poland and France, and the Battle of Britain—in

One of the anti-tank regiments even sent 100 men to join Merchant Navy trawlers as anti-aircraft gunners, armed with Brens!

Yet the eleven active battalions all preserved the identity of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment in their titles—even the one which ended the war as squadrons of the 2nd Armoured Delivery Regiment.

In his book "The History of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment: 1919-52" (William Clowes and Sons Ltd., 15s.), Brigadier C. N. Barclay DSO recalls that the Duke's name was given to the Regiment on 18 June, 1853, the first Waterloo Day after the Duke of Wellington's death. The Duke became a major in the 33rd Foot in 1793 and the rest of his regimental soldiering was done with them.

It was not until 1936 that another Duke of Wellington, then the Earl of Mornington, joined the Regiment and served with the

which connection he makes the surprising statement that the Royal Air Force fighters kept out of the way of superior German forces.

Subsequently, Field-Marshal Kesselring was in overall command of the German forces in the Mediterranean; in an emergency, he took command of the front line of Rommel's forces. He was still in command during the invasions of Sicily and Italy, and was one of the last high German commanders to suspect that the Italians were about to make a separate surrender, an attitude which drew from Hitler the remark, "That fellow Kesselring is too honest for those born traitors down there." The author declares that the monastery at Cassino was not occupied as part of the line.

In March 1945, Kesselring became commander-in-chief of the forces fighting the Allies in the west. "I felt like a concert pianist who is asked to play a Beethoven sonata before a large audience on an ancient, rickety and out-of-tune instrument," he says. It was a brief command, which ended in surrender, trial on a war crimes charge, and death sentence. The last was commuted to life imprisonment. This was, thought the ex-Field-Marshal, an aggravation of punishment: "Death by shooting would have been an end worthy of a soldier, whereas to have to live with criminals in jail was a humiliation and dishonour." They gave him the job of gumming paper bags. He was released in 1952.



The sixth Duke of Wellington: he was killed at Salerno in 1942. (Photograph from "The History of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment.")

1st Battalion at Malta. He joined the Commandos and in 1942, after having become the 6th Duke of Wellington, he was killed at Salerno while a troop commander in No. 2 Commando. A citation for an immediate award of the DSO was at his headquarters on the day he was killed.

Other members of the Wellesley family have served in the Regiment: Lieut-Colonel F. H. B. Wellesley, who commanded the 1st Battalion from 1926 to 1930, and his son, Major F. H. V. Wellesley who retired from the Army in 1952.

During the late war the Victoria Cross was won by two "Dukes"—Private R. H. Burton in Italy and Sergeant H. V. Turner (posthumously) in Burma.

Since this book was written the "Dukes" have made stirring history in Korea, notably at the Battle of the Hook (SOLDIER, August 1953).

## Man on the Run

**G**UNNER Gordon Instone jumped out of a column of prisoners, marching from Calais in 1940, into a stream and then began to tramp France, sneezing his head off with hay fever.

In "Freedom the Spur" (Burke, 15s.), he tells of his tortuous journey home. He made some good friends, worked on a French farm, and found romance in two places. Once he was picked up by the Germans, to be deported (as a Frenchman) to forced labour in Germany. He hit both his guards over the head with a steel rod and jumped from a speeding truck.

Then he was befriended by a café proprietor, who turned out to be a Cockney deserter of World War One ("I suppose me old woman's been drawin' a pension ever since") and who invited the author to settle down and get to know a daughter of his second "marriage."

With a French officer, the author made his way to Paris, where he worked for a few days cleaning and greasing German cars and amused himself by misdirecting German soldiers looking for their dental centre. Eventually he reached Spain after being captured and escaping four times in all. Later he served as a major in Military Intelligence.



It took Brigadier Sir John Hunt only a month to write his record of the historic exploit which he organised: "The Ascent of Everest" (Hodder and Stoughton 25s.). Brigadier Hunt is now at the Staff College, Camberley, where this photograph was taken on the day he reported back to the Army for duty.



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# Ten Vickers Made History

IT was the biggest barrage of bullets on record. In 12 hours ten Vickers medium machine-guns, firing continuously except to remedy stoppages and change barrels, put down nearly 1,000,000 rounds. It was a feat never before attempted and one which is unlikely to be repeated.

It happened on 24 August, 1916 on the Somme. To ensure the success of an attack the 100th Machine-Gun Company, armed with ten Vickers guns, took up position in Savoy Trench. Their job was to neutralise an area some 2000 yards away.

Two Infantry companies were sent up to keep the gun positions supplied with ammunition and water and the ammunition belts were kept loaded by two men working continuously on a hand driven machine. Factory-filled belts had not then been invented.

At the end of the action, all the guns were still firing and one of them had fired 120,000 rounds. But the water supply had only just lasted and more than 100 barrels had been worn out.

This story is told by Major W. G. B. Allen, of the Loyal Regiment, in his "Pistols, Rifles and Machine-Guns" (*The English Universities Press Ltd.*, 15s.) to illustrate his belief that the machine-gun is still the best answer to massed attacks, as seen lately in Korea.

The author, who was for three years an instructor in Infantry weapons at the Royal Military School of Science, argues strongly for the speedy replacement of the present bolt-action rifle by a semi-automatic rifle, which, he claims, is able to fire at three times the rate and with equal accuracy. The bolt-action rifle has been fired by an instructor at the Small Arms School, Hythe at 36 aimed rounds a minute, but the average soldier can rarely rise above 15. Yet the average soldier can fire 40 aimed rounds a minute with a semi-automatic like the British .280 rifle while an expert marksman can get off 60.

This is the author's summing up of the case for a semi-automatic rifle: "Superiority of fire is essential in war and once the enemy have passed through the defensive fire position and have only 200 or 300 yards to go, small-arms alone must stop them . . . this is the period when rapid fire is most effective . . ."

How long will it be before the British soldier has a semi-automatic rifle? Much depends on the discussions now going on behind locked doors between Britain and the United States and other North Atlantic Treaty countries. Britain says the .280 rifle is best, the United States fancies the .30 Garand and the Belgians have recently produced a dual-purpose automatic and semi-automatic weapon which weighs only eight pounds and has a very simple mechanism.

Major Allen's book is more than a broad survey of the principles

and uses of modern small-arms. It is a study of small-arms from the days of the English long-bow, and is refreshingly free from technical jargon. Every instructor ought to read it.

In its pages are many oddities of information like these:

★ In a musket versus long-bow contest at Pacton Green, Cum-

berland in 1792 the bowman scored with 16 arrows out of 20 at 100 yards range, while the musket

placed only 12 balls in the target.

★ The cross-bow was considered a barbarous weapon and Pope Innocent the Third forbade its use in wars between Christians, but sanctioned it when fighting against Infidels.

★ An Englishman, James Puckle, invented a hand-driven machine gun in 1718. He proposed to use the weapon with two types of cylinder—one to fire round bullets against Christians and the other square bullets against Infidels.

## Memories of "Wipers"

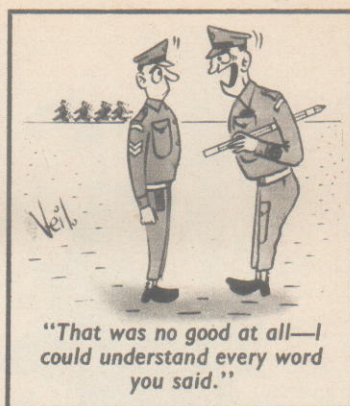
YPRES—or "Wipers" to the British soldier—occupies a special place in history as the first city to be pounded to rubble in twentieth century total war.

Thousands of soldiers remember even now the haunting silhouette of the ruined Cloth Hall. Others remember firing the guns hidden in the ruined wine cellars. Others again may have grateful memories of having their wounds treated there by the Friends Ambulance Unit, which held out in the town as the guns levelled it, stone by stone. The man who commanded the Unit, Geoffrey Winthrop Young (more widely known as a mountaineer), movingly describes the slow martyrdom of the medieval Belgian city in

his reminiscent "The Grace of Forgetting" (*Country Life*, 21s.).

The Friends Ambulance Unit was often heavily snubbed by the military in the early days; but, like Florence Nightingale's nurses, they survived to win the respect of soldier and brass-hat alike.

After Ypres, Mr. Young commanded his Red Cross volunteers on the Italian front for nearly three and a half years; his cars and ambulances carried 177,000 wounded and sick. He was there when the Italian line broke disastrously at Caporetto.

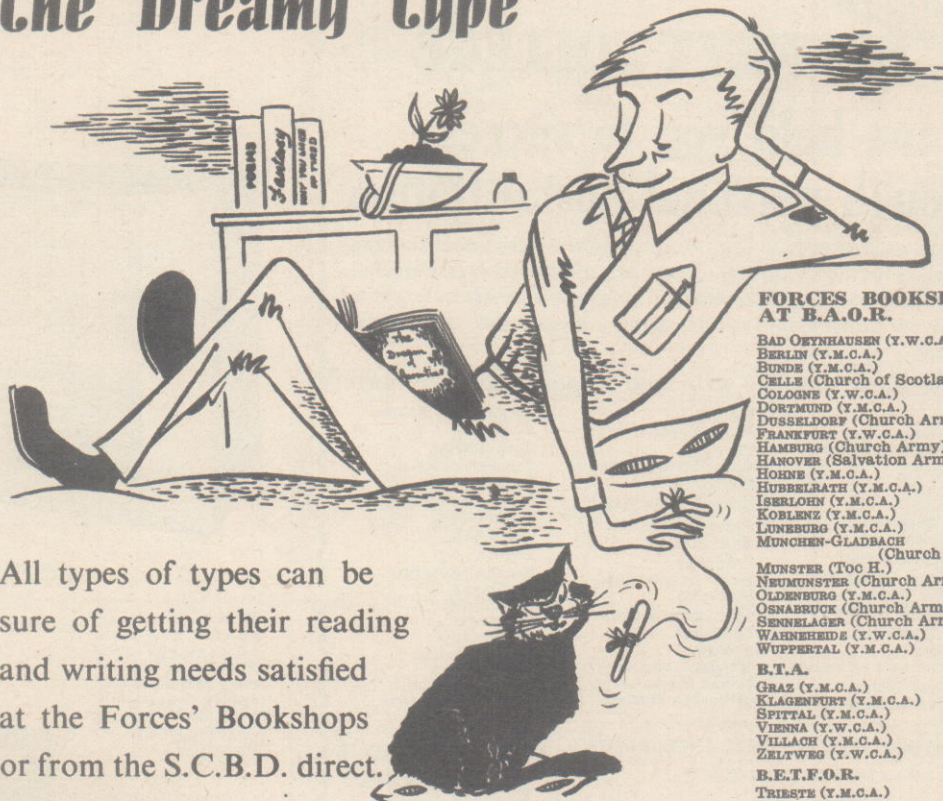


## IN BRIEF . . .

TWO best-selling novels about soldiering in World War Two are now re-published by Corgi Books at two shillings each. One is John Brophy's "Immortal Serjeant" (which was filmed), the story of a corporal who learns the art of leadership the hard way when he takes over command of a lost patrol in the Western Desert. The other is Guthrie Wilson's "Brave Company," an unusually vivid and authentic picture of Infantry fighting in Italy.

Are medals your hobby? In "Coronation and Commemorative Medals 1887-1953" (*Gale and Polden* 5s.) Lieutenant-Colonel Howard N. Cole tells you all you want to know in this specialised field, including the story of Edward VII's Coronation Medal which bore the wrong date.

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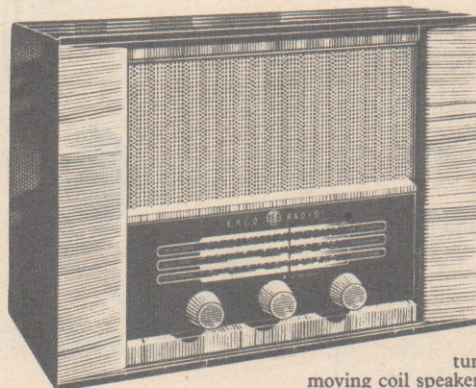


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## "THIS WILL RUIN THE ARMY"

*Prophets of woe had a field day when a Bill was brought in to stop officers buying their commissions—and promotion*

**T**HE date was 6 March 1871. The scene was the House of Commons, which was packed and excited.

One after another, speakers rose to their feet prophesying that the Bill before the House—the Army Regulation Bill—would be the ruin of the country. It would destroy the *esprit de corps* which had carried the British Army to victory over the centuries. Moreover (said Lord Elcho), it was "the most wicked, the most wanton, the most uncalled-for waste of public money . . . in 30 years."

What the Bill proposed to do was to abolish the ancient system by which officers purchased their commissions and promotion. Because of the rise of Prussian military might there had been a clamour for Army reform, and the purchase system was, at this time, the main target.

Powerful elements had ranged themselves against the Bill, and there is no doubt that many of those who spoke against it sincerely believed that disaster would follow if the Bill went through.

Major-General Sir Percy Herbert solemnly warned that if the Bill was passed many officers would at once leave the Army. Colonel C. W. White said the measure "would strike a vital blow at the position and character of officers. It will change them from manly, generous and open men into sycophants, fawners and time-servers."

Colonel C. H. Lindsay declared that "the Army would become an arena of debate, wrangling and distrust which would not only engender acrimony, jealousies and heart-burnings but tend to loosen the reins of discipline." Captain R. A. Talbot said "it would be the death-blow of the regimental system and bring stagnation and favouritism."

Lord Eustace Cecil quoted from a letter written by the Duke of Wellington, who bought his commission and promotions: "It is this system of promotion by purchase that brings to the service men of fortune and education, men who have some connection with the interests and fortunes of the country besides their commissions. It is this circumstance which exempts the British Army from the character of being a mere mercenary army."

Some speakers were afraid that if purchase was abolished the Army would be swamped with undesirables. Viscount Bury thought "it was absolutely essential that the gentleman-like tone that animated the officers should be maintained," and went on to say that abolishment would "introduce a great deal of ill-feeling between the officers and make them hate each other."

## THEY SAID

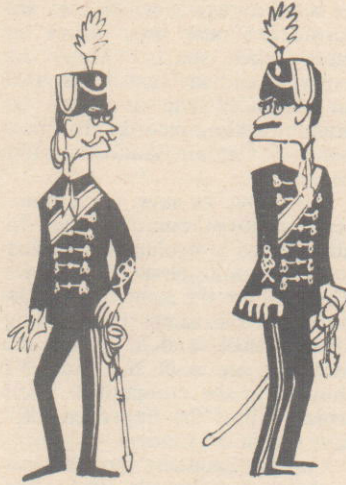
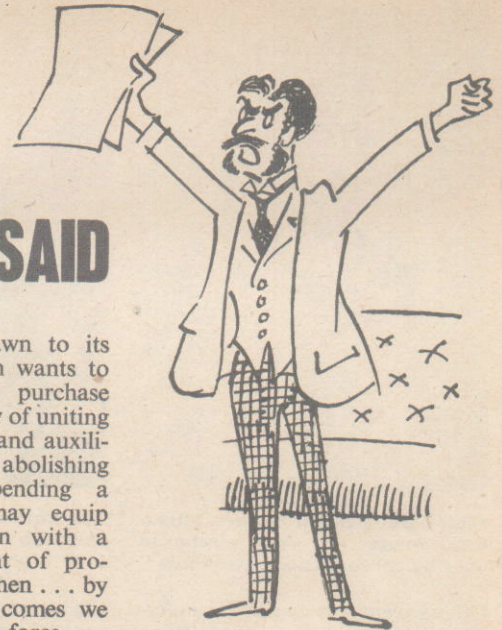
"The Army is in pawn to its officers and the nation wants to get it back." The purchase system stood in the way of uniting the country's Regular and auxiliary forces, but "by abolishing purchase without spending a single farthing we may equip every militia battalion with a permanent complement of professional officers, and then . . . by the time an invasion comes we shall have an auxiliary force . . . fit to stand shoulder to shoulder with our Regulars in the field."

Mr. Trevelyan quoted General Sir Henry Havelock, of Indian Mutiny fame: "I was purchased over . . . by three sots and two fools . . . The honour of an old soldier on the point of having his juniors put over him is so sensitive that, if I had no family to support and the right of choice in my own hands, I would not serve an hour longer."

Sir Tollemache Sinclair said the system of purchase meant that the Army was deprived of the services of brilliant men who had led the Prussian armies to victory over the French, and that it was an excuse "for rich men to obtain the means of destroying regiments and losing battles."

The Secretary of State for War, Mr. (later Lord) Cardwell described the system of purchase as a lottery, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Gladstone, advocated its abolition as the first step towards securing a highly-trained Regular Army and a large and efficient reserve.

The Commons sat late that night, but the Opposition succeeded in delaying the Bill for two more months. Then an antagonistic House of Lords tried still further to delay the



"Mutual distrust" between officers . . .

Lord Claud John Hamilton painted a picture of "mutual distrust, heart-burning, angry rivalries and ill-feeling" which would undermine the Army's morale. Officers would become merely "paid machines, each endeavouring to make the most money he could out of the service."

But there was another side to the story. Supporters of the Bill echoed sentiments widely held throughout the country.

Mr. G. Trevelyan declared:

## HOW IT ALL STARTED

**I**T was a public outcry which caused the purchase system to be ended. But it was a public outcry which caused the system to be set up in the first place.

After Cromwell's unpopular rule by major-generals, the country wanted an Army whose allegiance to the Crown would be unquestionable, and which would be a safeguard against rebellion. So, when the Standing Army was formed in 1689, the Crown and Parliament appointed officers who had everything to lose and nothing to gain by revolution—wealthy, influential men with a deep personal and financial interest in the land.

Officers selected to command regiments had to pay large sums for their commissions and they footed the bill for expenses in raising their units. They were reimbursed by a grant for every recruit they enlisted, and when selecting junior officers accepted payment from them.

Though it gave rise to many unfairnesses, the purchase system provided officers for the Army for nearly 200 years. Some commanding officers spent large sums

measure by calling for an inquiry. But the Government, tired of obstruction, advised Queen Victoria to sign a Royal Warrant abolishing purchase; which she did. Nothing now stood in the way of the Army Regulation Bill becoming law. The House of Lords gave way with a bad grace.

On 1 November 1871 the 200-year-old system of buying commissions in the Army was ended for all time. Now began the method of appointing officers by examination and granting promotion by merit and seniority.

There is no record of any officer having left the Army because purchase was abolished; *esprit de corps* did not suffer and the regimental system continued to work happily.

But the Army is still on its guard against traffic in commissions. Today's Army Act solemnly declares that a fine of £100 or sentence of imprisonment not exceeding six months and dismissal from the Service will be imposed on any person "who negotiates, acts as agent for or otherwise aids or connives at the sale or purchase of any commission," or gives or receives any valuable consideration in respect of promotion or retirement.

in bettering the conditions of their men. Sometimes the motive was to inflate the commanding officer's prestige, as when the Earl of Lucan, commanding the 17th Lancers, had every man's uniform made by a fashionable tailor and himself bought blood horses for them.

Most commanding officers were honest men, but a few lined their pockets by claiming money for more men than they had. This was stopped when every regiment had to parade its full strength before a penny was handed over.

OVER



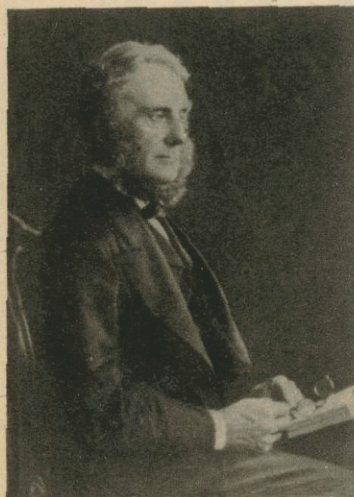


Major-General Sir Henry Have-lock wrote: "I was purchased over by three sots and two fools."

Others were not averse to under-spending on the men's clothing and food allowances and pocketing the difference. A Colonel Chartres was reputed to have made a small fortune in 1702 by allowing into his regiment thieves and debtors. He enlisted them under his protection on payment of a large sum of money and once they were in the Army he black-mailed them into making further payments by threatening to send them abroad or hand them over to the authorities.

One of the great evils which arose in the early 1700's was the paying of more than official prices for commissions and promotion. In wartime prices fell drastically, for not every officer was anxious to go abroad, but in peacetime, when Army life was pleasant and remuneration good, the selling price rocketed well above the regulation price. In 1766 King George the Third drew up a price list under which a sub-lieutenant in the Horse Guards was to pay £1200 for his commission. He could later buy a lieutenancy for £300, a captaincy for another £1200, a majority for an additional £1400 and a lieutenant-colonelcy for yet another £1200. In this way it cost an officer, officially, £5500 to become a lieutenant-colonel, which was

Lord Cardwell described the system of purchase as a lottery.



The Earl of Cardigan: He bought the 15th Hussars for £35,000, the 11th Light Dragoons for £40,000.

the last purchasable rank. Higher ranks were awarded by the Commander-in-Chief without payment.

Yet in 1825 the Earl of Lucan bought command of the 17th Lancers for £25,000, nearly £20,000 over the proper price. Then in 1832 the Earl of Cardigan bought the 15th Hussars for £35,000. The regiment was taken away from him, but four years later he secured the 11th Light Dragoons for £40,000.

Orders banning the payment of over-regulation prices were completely ignored, with the result that a rich young man was able to obtain promotion over the head of the not-so-wealthy officer who was often a better soldier.

In the year that purchase was abolished a lieutenant in the 41st Foot (now the Welch Regiment) was senior in service to every officer above him, including the lieutenant-colonel. In the 87th Foot (now the Royal Irish Fusiliers) one subaltern was senior to the lieutenant-colonel, one of the majors and ten captains, all of whom had bought promotion over his head. In a regiment in India was a captain of 47 years service who had fought at the Battle of Waterloo, at which time not one of his now brother officers, except the lieutenant-colonel, had been born!

Another practice which did much to bring the purchase system into disrepute (yet in which even the Duke of Wellington indulged) was for officers to retire on half pay when they wished to escape serving in unpleasant stations, or to obtain speedy promotion. For example, a young officer would buy a captaincy in a regiment and next day retire on half pay. Having already been a captain, if only for one day, he was now entitled to purchase a majority in a more desirable regiment.

Yet another abuse was that of colonels buying commissions for their infant sons, many of whom never entered the Army when they grew up but continued to draw pay. Occasionally, however, boys actually served with their regiments.

E. J. GROVE

## AT 45, HE PLANS

The manager of the Army football team, who rides from Woolwich to Birmingham for a cup of tea, is planning an assault on the Land's End to John o' Groats cycling record

WHEN the next attempt is made to lower the cycling record from Land's End to John o' Groats—and at the same time to break the 1000 miles record—the man on the bicycle will be Captain George Saunders—"Sandy" to his friends—who is manager of the Army football team. In this capacity, he has had dealings with many young professionals during their National Service.

Captain Saunders is a Gunner, and sports officer to the Field Wing of the Royal Artillery Depot at Woolwich.

He is an all-round sportsman and athlete, but cycling is his first interest nowadays, largely because he is 45, an age at which men are considered past their prime in most other sports. Many an expert would say that it was also an advanced age at which to attempt cycling records. But that is a point Captain Saunders would debate.

Somehow, he says, performances improve continuously, in athletics as in cycling—otherwise records would never be broken. The men are the same, the conditions are the same, the training changes little, and in cycling the machines are much the same. "I think it is the competitive spirit which brings the improvement," says Captain Saunders.

Captain Saunders thought seriously on these lines in 1952, when he knocked ten minutes off his best time for a 100-mile ride—his previous best having been set up when he was a young man.

The present Land's End to John o' Groats, and 1000 miles records were set up in 1937 by a professional cyclist, Sidney Ferris, and nobody has tried to better them. The improvement in his own times suggested a record attempt to Captain Saunders.

Ferris's records are tough ones to beat. He covered the 872 miles

## SPORT

from Land's End to John o' Groats in two days, six hours and 33 minutes, then went on to complete 1000 miles in two days 22 hours 40 minutes. (To make up the 1000 miles, it is usual after reaching John o' Groats to cycle back over the same course for 64 miles and then return to John o' Groats.)

Captain Saunders, who always keeps himself in cycling trim, took a three-weeks break from training last November, to refresh himself. His plan, after that, was to start work again at about 300 miles a week, and to step the distance up month by month, until in the last month he would be covering 1000 miles a week. The attempt will take place early in the summer.

Distances like this are no hardship to him. For a week-end jaunt, he will often cycle from Woolwich to Birmingham and back. He leaves Woolwich around midnight on a Saturday and takes a long route of about 140 miles. He arrives in Birmingham about 10 or 11 o'clock on the Sunday morning and drops in on his father and mother for a cup of tea. He takes a direct route—about 120 miles—back to Wool-



The manager: Captain George Saunders (centre) with Lieutenant-Colonel G. J. Mitchell, secretary of the Army Football Association.

## TO BREAK THE 1000 MILES RECORD

wich and gets home at eight or nine o'clock on the Sunday evening. A favourite training trip of Captain Saunders is from Woolwich to Brighton, then along the coast roads to Margate and home from there.

Training does not mean austerity for Captain Saunders. He smokes 20 cigarettes a day during the cycling season; admits he smokes "heavily" during the rest of the year. He drinks only on special occasions.

The machine for the record-breaking attempt is being made—like his other machines—to Captain Saunders's specifications. In evolving these he has been helped, as in training, by advice from Lance-Bombardier Lou Miller, who is on the sports staff at Woolwich. Lance-Bombardier Miller, a National Serviceman, is a noted amateur cyclist who won the Army road race championship in 1952.

There will be nothing special about the machine, apart from the fact that it will be tailor-made. It will have a "double-clanger," which to cyclists means an arrangement of two sets of sprockets which will give the rider a choice of ten gear ratios.

Administrative arrangements for the attempt fall on the cyclist himself and are somewhat complicated. He must ask for official time-keepers of the Road Records Association to be on duty. He must appoint local cyclists to pilot him through towns, otherwise he might lose precious time by missing his way. He must make his own feeding and sleeping arrangements.

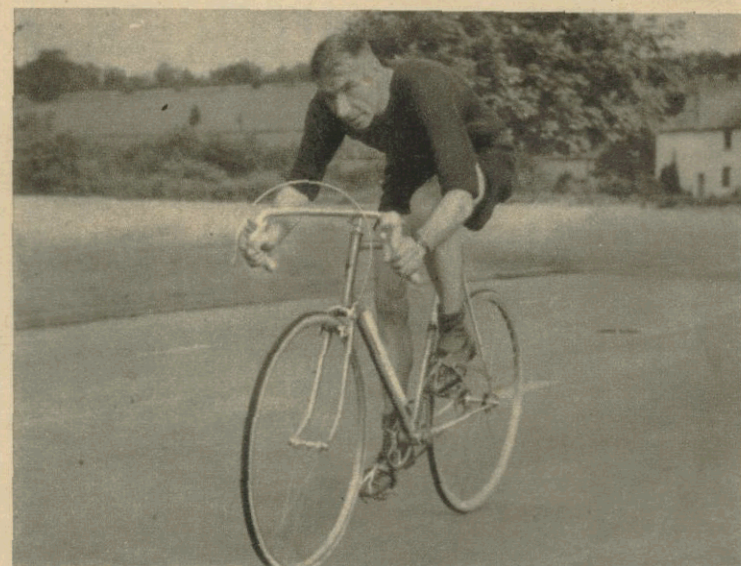
In his attempt (which will cost

him at least £100) Captain Saunders hopes for Army help. He will ask units which have cycling clubs to provide the pilots from their members, and to arrange feeding. Sleeping arrangements will be fairly simple. Ferris, in setting up the present record, allowed himself three hours' sleep, and Captain Saunders feels that he cannot hope for success if he exceeds this time. He may take less—it all depends on the experience he gains in training. But "I must have some sleep," he says, rather regretfully.

A car will follow him on the trip, carrying "as many wheels as I can get," because punctured tyres and buckled wheels are the main worries of the long-distance cyclist. The car will also carry a spare bicycle or so—just in case. There is one very important factor over which he has no control: whether the wind is following him or foiling him can make all the difference between success or failure.

Captain Saunders has been a racing cyclist since he was 19, when he joined the Walsall Cycling and Running Club. The club had a competition which included six cycling and six athletic events. The cycling competitions were 25, 50, and 100-miles road races, a 12-hour race, and a five-mile and a one-lap race, both on the track; the running races were two of five miles, one of ten miles and one of one mile, all on the track, and two cross-country events of seven-and-a-half miles. Captain Saunders won that cup three times, and in the 1932-33 season won 11 out of the 12 events.

Service in Egypt made a gap in



The cyclist: two years ago, Captain Saunders knocked ten minutes off his time for 100 miles. He has his machines made to measure.

Captain Saunders's cycling history. Wherever he was posted in Britain, he joined the local cycling club, and the total of his successes is considerable. In 1952 he won the Luton Arrow open 100-mile race in four hours 44 minutes 15 seconds—after losing four minutes by taking a wrong turning.

He normally has two machines to choose from, and has a new one built every two years. This is because cycling enthusiasts believe that the steel frame of a bicycle goes "dead" after a couple of years. "It may just be psychological," says Captain Saunders, "but one likes to think one's bicycle is the best possible."

When he is not cycling, Captain Saunders still turns out for a game of football with the Royal Artillery Depot team. Nearly all his football has been in the Army, and in 1931 he was picked for the Army to play against Cambridge. One ambition which has never been fulfilled is to be in a team which wins the Army Cup, "But that's the most elusive trophy of the lot," he says.

For all that, Captain Saunders's football career has plenty of colour. He claims to be the only officer to hold a Royal Artillery Association Cup winners' medal (gained when he played for the Depot in 1949). Once, when he was playing for 17 Field Brigade, Royal Artillery, in a league match, the team won by ten goals to nil—all ten scored by Captain Saunders. "Next day," he says, "I picked up a newspaper and saw the heading 'Spoon-fed Saunders' and the chap who wrote it knew what he was talking about."

In 1931, with his Army engagement nearing its end, Captain Saunders contemplated becoming a professional footballer. He had a trial with Walsall, his home team. Then, before anything was decided, he had an accident on the

football field. A doctor told him he would never play football again. The doctor was wrong, but the patient signed on in the Army, and has no regrets.

This is the fifth season in which Captain Saunders has been managing the Army team. He has travelled with it to France, Belgium, Austria, Germany, Ireland and Scotland. One day he gave what turned out to be valuable advice to Gunner Fred Martin, the Aberdeen professional, whose position was inside-forward. Captain Saunders saw him standing in a goal-mouth during practice, and suggested he should try goal-keeping. Soon he was keeping goal in a Gunner team, and now he is Aberdeen's first-choice goal-keeper. "What a player!" says Captain Saunders. "We played him everywhere."

Gunner Johnnie King, now serving, is another young man of the same calibre. In his professional team, Swansea, he is a goal-keeper, but in the Army he has developed a taste for centre-forward. "I played him in goal for the Gunners' Depot because I have no other goal-keeper," says Captain Saunders. "If there was someone else to play in goal, he would play centre-forward."

Besides football, Captain Saunders plays any other game that comes along (including billiards, snooker and table-tennis). "In my job, you have to play them all," he says. "I never played cricket—it interferes with running and cycling—until I served under a colonel who said, 'You will play cricket.' I did—and it is surprising the standard you can reach, if you give your mind to it."

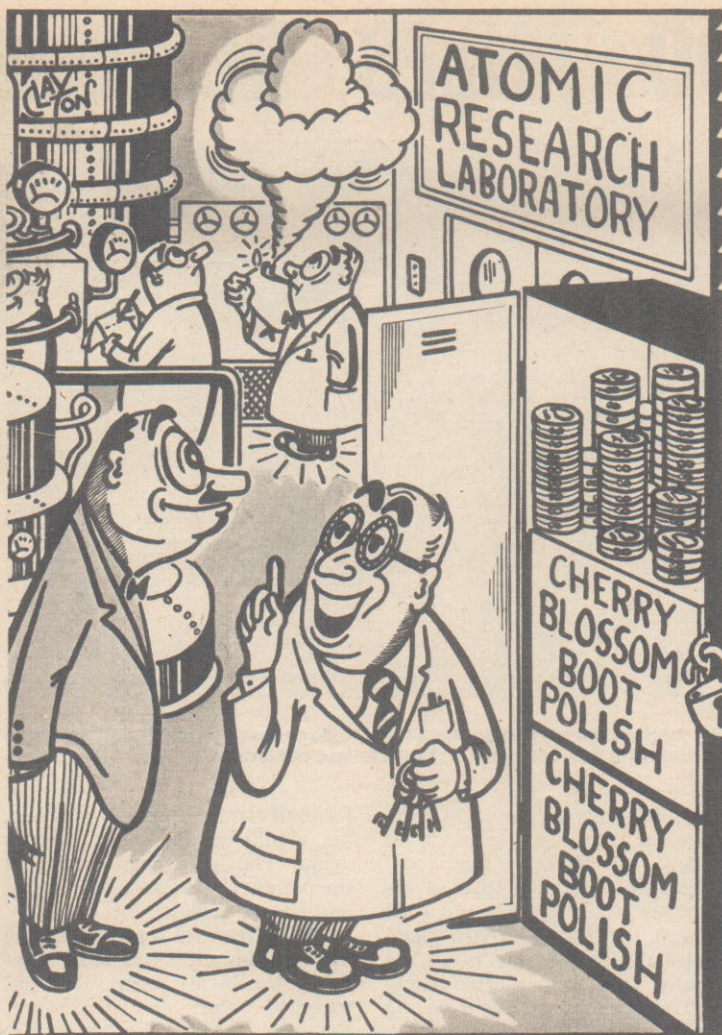
For all his cycling, athletics and games, Captain Saunders still has time for a hobby. He makes wireless sets, and hopes that this experience will stand him in good stead when he leaves the Army.

RICHARD ELLEY



The footballer: Captain Saunders turns out for the Royal Artillery Depot. He nearly became a professional, once played for the Army.





# LETTERS

## ARMY HAIRCUTS

Your issue of November has an article on haircuts. I honestly thought **SOLDIER** was a magazine for soldiers. Instead I find that parts of it are written for a posse of pansies. Just look at these sentences from the article:

"They have to be coaxed back into treating their hair as their crowning glory."

"It improves a man's morale to know that his hair looks right."

"Soldiers beg him to do something to their hair before they dare show themselves to their girl-friends."

"But today's Army is a cleaner Army."

I have never read such tripe in my life. Just look at the collar of a man's greatcoat and see the grease on it. Look at the new Army's fingernails.

The cry used to be "Send me some soldiers," but now it is "Send me some men."—Sgt. D. Davies, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset.

★ This reader also enclosed an alarming photograph from a newspaper showing long-haired youths dressed in the "Edwardian" style fashionable in certain circles.

The sentences to which Serjeant Davies takes exception were all expressions of opinion by members of the hairdressing trade. **SOLDIER** is no advocate of long hair and elaborate styles, but a soldier's self-respect is unlikely to be improved by an unnecessarily ruthless shearing of his hair.

It seems to me that the beret is to blame for the modern soldier's long hair. So long as he can push his hair out of sight (like a woman putting on a bathing cap) nobody worries. Maybe soldiers ought to parade without caps?—"Lancejack," (name and address supplied).

The best test of whether a soldier's hair is too long on top is to make him touch his toes. If his hair falls down over his face, send him to the barber,—"One-Incher" (name and address supplied).

## BROTHER VC's

The Bradford brothers were not the second instance of brothers winning the Victoria Cross, as stated in your November issue, but the third.

They were preceded by the Goughs—Major (afterwards General Sir) Charles and Lieutenant (also later General Sir) Hugh, who both gained the Victoria Cross during the Indian Mutiny—and the brothers Sartorius—Major Reginald winning his Cross during the Ashanti War of 1873-4 and Captain Euston his in Afghanistan in 1879. Both afterwards rose to general's rank.

Incidentally, it is of interest to note that Captain (later Brigadier-General Sir) John Gough, who won the Victoria Cross in Somaliland in 1903 was the

son of General Sir Charles Gough, and he, by his marriage to Dorothy Keyes, the sister of Admiral of the Fleet Lord Keyes, was the uncle by marriage of Lieutenant-Colonel Geoffrey Keyes, who, it will be remembered, was awarded the Victoria Cross for his great gallantry in North Africa in 1941, when he raided Rommel's headquarters.

I should imagine that this record of four Victoria Crosses in one family is unlikely to be surpassed.—Ernest J. Martin, Hon. Secretary, Military Historical Society.

★ A fourth pair of brothers also won the Victoria Cross—27 years apart. The first was Second-Lieutenant Alexander Buller Turner, Royal Berkshire Regiment, who gained a posthumous Victoria Cross in France in 1915. The second was Lieutenant-Colonel Victor Buller Turner, Rifle Brigade, who earned the Cross in the Western Desert in 1942.

## FOUR DSO's

May I add to the list of winners of the Distinguished Service Order and three Bars, published in Letters (**SOLDIER**, November)? The officer is Colonel E. A. Wood and he was with the 6th Battalion, King's Shropshire Light Infantry in France, in 1917.—P. Bates, 47 Broughton Road, Harlecott, Shrewsbury.

★ The regimental history of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry confirms that Brigadier-General E. A. Wood won a third Bar to his Distinguished Service Order.

## LIBYAN BADGE

Can you supply any information about the badge worn by an officer of the Libyan Army in one of your pictures (**SOLDIER**, November)? And how did Serjeant Abdulla Molae become entitled to the Defence Medal?—G. A. Parfitt, "Cottisbrooke," London Road, Shrewsbury.

★ The Libyan Army has not yet adopted its own cap-badge, but wears that of the former Emirial (later Royal) Guard. Serjeant Abdulla Molae qualified for the Defence Medal by service in the British-raised Libyan Arab Force.

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## ARMY AND MARINES

If you have a soldier and a marine equal in all respects—same rank, same service—and both stationed in the same place, does the soldier receive more pay than the marine?—**COMS D. King, Sherwood Foresters, MELF.**

★ The pay codes of the Army and the Royal Marines do not correspond at all points. Thus a six-star corporal in the Army qualifies for basic pay at 14s 6d a day, whereas the highest-paid corporal in the Royal Marines (and in the Royal Air Force) receives 14s a day.

On the other hand, there are cases where the marine is better paid than the soldier. A regimental sergeant-major (non-tradesman) in the Army receives a basic rate of 22s 6d a day, whereas the equivalent warrant-officer in the Royal Marines receives 23s.

Scales of pay of all three Services are not affected by a change of station.

## SAM BROWNE

With Service dress on its way out, and cloth belts now the fashion, is the good old Sam Browne belt dead or dying?—**Ex-officer (name and address supplied).**

★ By no means. The Sam Browne is still officially "optional dress," according to a recent Army Council Instruction. It may be worn with Service dress, which is still authorised for officers of horsed units and optional for other officers, who may wear it on parade with troops in battle-dress on ceremonial occasions. The Sam Browne may also be worn with No. 1 Dress (non-ceremonial) and undress (patrol) uniform on ceremonial parades and other formal occasions.

## BOUQUET

I am writing to thank the British Army for having such a fine group of NCO's. On a recent visit to Berlin, I went to the NAAFI Club where I was treated with fine respect and was invited to the NCO's mess of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Fusiliers. In all my years of service I have never had occasion to be allied with the British non-com. After meeting such a fine group of men I felt it was my duty to express my sincere gratitude to all NCO's of the British Army.—**SFC John Mally, USAREUR QM School.**

## BAND FATIGUES

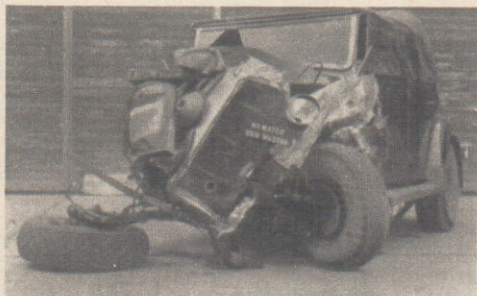
The members of my band, all Regulars, have been given fatigues and armed and unarmed guards to do. We are apparently to continue these armed guards every time our battalion goes on a scheme—yet we signed on for musical

duties only.—**Bandsman, Canal Zone (name and address supplied).**

★ Bandsmen are combatant soldiers, with all the liabilities that implies. They do not sign on for musical duties only. As fatigues and heavy physical exercises might impair their musical performance, they are used in this way only in exceptional cases where security, or the general advantage of the unit, is involved. If duty men are kept back for camp duties, they cannot be getting on with their higher training, and so it is reasonable to use bandsmen for this purpose.

## DIMINISHING

Readers will remember Rhine Army's recent claim to possess the only Humber tourer in the Army, and the swift



One off the list . . .

come-back by Austria in producing another such car doing yeoman service.

The enclosed photograph will no doubt satisfy Rhine Army that it now possesses the only one left.—**WO 1 (ASM) P. C. Robson, 21 Infantry Workshop, REME, Austria.**

★ It will not, however, satisfy readers who sent in claims that units in England and the Canal Zone also possessed open Humber tourers.

## UBIQUE

Your correspondent "Has-Been" (SOLDIER, September) appears to be mistaken in the reason he gives for the Honourable Artillery Company not using the motto 'Ubique.' This passage is taken from "The Honourable Artillery Company" by G. Gould Walker:

"When the question of regimental battle honours for the Great War came to be considered, the Company found itself in a unique position. It is well known that the Royal Artillery carries no battle honours, its service in every theatre of war for two hundred years being covered by the word 'Ubique.' But here were five batteries of Artillery not wearing the 'Ubique' badge and not units of the Royal Regiment, but very definitely part and parcel of a much older corps, the Honourable Artillery Company. It was therefore suggested that these batteries should be considered eligible for the award of

battle honours, to be borne, with those gained by the Infantry, on Colours which, it was submitted, were those of the Company, not merely of the Infantry battalion. The War Office, aghast at such an unprecedented request boggled for a time, and suggested, as an alternative, that the batteries of the Company should be allowed to wear the 'Ubique.' This honour was declined; and eventually the Company carried its point, and its batteries now possess the distinction, unique in this country, of eligibility to win and bear distinctive battle honours."—**A. I. H. Richards, 67, Upton Road, Bexleyheath, Kent.**

★ The Honourable Artillery Company comprises both Infantry and Artillery units.

## FAMILY PENSIONS

If a long-service soldier dies before the date on which he is due to end his engagement, does his wife (or other dependant) receive the gratuity which he himself would have received on his discharge?—**Bandmaster, Aldershot (name and address supplied).**

★ If a Regular dies while serving, the terminal grant he would have received is not paid to his estate. His widow or children, however, are paid in another way. Under the new Forces Family Pensions Scheme, published last January, they may be eligible for a gratuity, the amount varying according to the rank and service of the soldier. The minimum widow's gratuity is £40. In addition, pensions are now payable to widows and children of Regular soldiers of all ranks, the amount depending on the rank and service of the soldier. Details are in the White Paper (Cmd 8741) of January 1953, obtainable from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, price 4d.

## PROMOTION BLOCK

The strain on Regulars owing to the shortage of trained non-commissioned officers becomes increasingly greater as more and more Regulars leave.

With the "soldiering to 55" scheme, an ambitious NCO feels that his promotion is being blocked. The warrant-officer who is carrying on under this

scheme does so because the Army has been his life and the country has offered him this new opportunity. But he also appreciates what younger NCO's feel, and certainly does not want to prejudice the prospects of others. Nevertheless, that feeling is there, and it does not aid Army efficiency.

The answer is that a unit should consist only of men serving up to and including 22 years' service. If it is intended to maintain the "soldiering to 55" scheme, the older men should be extra-regimentally employed, or, when that is not possible, should be borne as supernumeraries on a separate establishment, with a clear indication in their badges or dress that they are not blocking anybody's promotion.

During my service, in Germany and elsewhere, I have also thought that the siting of married quarters near to places of employment was an aid to efficiency. It can do much to counter the manpower shortage, because the good Regular will pop in for a couple of hours on Sunday mornings (when he can do more than on three other mornings) or for an hour or so after tea.—**"Army Enthusiast," Torquay (name and address supplied).**

★ The object of the "careers to 55" scheme is to fit older men into appointments for which, by reason of age and experience, they are best suited, thus releasing younger soldiers for employment where youth and full vigour are essential.

The intention is that these older men should be extra-regimentally employed, either in their own arm or elsewhere. There should therefore be no question of a promotion-block; in fact it should ease the situation as a whole and give the younger man the right opportunity in the right job. The scheme has been in operation only since November 1952, and it is too early to assess its value, but it is expected to be of great benefit to the Army and to the man.

The Army does try to site its married quarters as near to camps as possible. The aim is usually to build them within a radius of two miles, but building land is not always available inside this range.

# FILMS coming your way

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

**HERE COME THE GIRLS:** Bob Hope, elderly, bumbling chorus boy, is chosen to play bait for a murderer who has threatened to kill the leading man. Arlene Dahl plays a designing leading lady and Rosemary Clooney a faithful chorus girl. Tony Martin is the man the murderer is after. In Technicolor.

**ALBERT, RN:** A film with a plot from real life. Albert is the life-size dummy who helped naval officers to escape from a prisoner-of-war camp in Germany. The film Albert is made by the creator of the original, sculptor John Worsley. A "must" for anybody who likes reading escape books. Stars: Anthony Steel, Jack Warner, Robert Beatty and William Sylvester.

**BAND WAGON:** A musical, which the publicity men claim has "twelve song hits out of the top toe-tapping drawer, plus

the most sumptuous production, colour, dancing, teamwork and spectacular numbers yet seen in an MGM musical." All this and Fred Astaire, Cyd Charisse, Jack Buchanan, Oscar Levant and Nanette Fabray.

**INFERNO:** Dirty work in the desert. A lover and his lass leave the lady's husband to die of a broken leg, thirst and coyotes. But the husband is made of sterner stuff, and though a coyote runs off with a rabbit he has shot with his last-but-one bullet, he survives and justice is done. Robert Ryan, Rhonda Fleming and William Lundigan in Technicolor.

**THE INTRUDER:** An ex-lieutenant-colonel discovers a thief in his flat, and the thief turns out to be the man who saved the colonel's tank regiment in battle. The intruder runs away again, but the colonel sets out to find him and return him to a normal life. Exciting tank battle scenes (see SOLDIER, September). Cast: Jack Hawkins, George Cole, Dennis Price, Michael Medwin.

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(Left) Thinning at crown, often concealed in early stages by overlapping dense surrounding growth.

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SOLDIER, January 1954



# MORE LETTERS

## CIVILIAN PARADE

You speculate (SOLDIER, December) on how certain parade-ground orders would be obeyed if it should happen that British troops in Egypt were deprived of their uniforms.

Those of us who attended the Coronation review of ex-Servicemen, and watched how the Household Brigade's Old Comrades conducted themselves, had an idea that some sort of civilian drill had already been devised. This extract from a Daily Telegraph note on the Welsh Guards' Remembrance Sunday ceremony suggests that we are not alone in our suspicions:

"From the deft way in which be-medalled veterans of the Welsh Guards handled their bowler hats and umbrellas during the march and the parade, I suspect they had been putting in a little practice beforehand."—Foot-slogger (name and address supplied).

★ Brigade of Guards Headquarters knows of no "drill course" for Old Comrades, but it is possible that some local branches of Old Comrades' associations organise a little practice. An ex-Welsh Guardsman who took part in the regiment's Remembrance Sunday parade wrote to the Daily Telegraph to say that there was no previous training for the event, although the men had been given details of what was about to take place. He added: "May I stress that all Guardsmen, past and present, are instilled with the necessary discipline, whereby they are always smart anywhere, and at any time?"

## COMMUTING

When I leave the Army in a few months from now, I want to commute some of my pension, to go into business. What percentage am I allowed to commute? To whom do I apply?—Twenty-four Years Service, Canal Zone (name and address supplied).

★ The Commissioners of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, consider applications for commutation of pensions, and each case is decided on its merits. A soldier can take no action to commute his pension until after his discharge. He may, however, apply through his commanding officer for more detailed information.

## PROMOTION

Is it true that Regulars are promoted more slowly than National Servicemen? If so, why?—Regular, BAOR (name and address supplied).

★ It is not true that there are special conditions for the promotion of National Servicemen. Promotion rules are designed to cater for both Regulars and National Servicemen alike. Naturally, the National Serviceman's substantive promotion is limited by the fact that he serves only two years with the Regular Army.

Substantive promotion is by selection, subject to a man possessing the necessary qualifications and to the commanding officer's recommendation. Selection is normally based on seniority, but merit is not overlooked. Accelerated promotion is granted under rules applicable to the arm of the service.

Acting rank is qualification-free, unless specific instructions to the contrary are laid down by arms in relation to a particular group of ranks for trades. The grant of acting rank is based on two general principles: that the man performing the duty for not less than 35 consecutive days shall receive the appropriate rank pay, and that two men must not be paid for doing the same duty.

In all cases, both Regulars and National Servicemen have equal opportunity for promotion to substantive and acting rank.

## INCOME TAX

Is it not unfair that British troops should have to pay income tax out here where only the highest-paid civilian pays it? I know of a person who earns six times more money than I, and who doesn't even pay income tax.—Corporal Geoffrey Normanton, 12th Royal Lancers, Ipoh, Malaya.

★ It is a basic principle of the British pay code that officers and men who are liable for overseas service and who expect to spend a substantial portion of their service overseas should pay income tax on taxable emoluments derived from British Army funds, at the United Kingdom rates, whether they are serving at home or abroad.

## THE SAPPER

I was pleased to see that SOLDIER did not overlook the lapse, after 60 years of publication, of the Sapper (Letters, November).

The explanation would take a great deal of space, but here are some points with a bearing on "Grenadier's" letter.

You cannot compare publishing a journal for a county regiment with publishing one for a corps. A corps, compared with a county regiment, is a vast organisation with an almost unimaginable variety of different types and tastes to consider and interest. This is probably the main factor contributing to the lapse of the Sapper.

The Corps for many years found that a 30-page journal filled most of its wants. This was due to certain factors which no longer exist, for example the publication of the promotion roster.

With, among other things, the enormous expansion in recent years, the Sapper has been unable to publish features of real interest to the widely divergent tastes in the Corps.

To solve the problem by publishing a substantial journal, with first-class features of general interest, would involve, apart from the initial cost of

# REGIMENT WITH A COLONEL'S COLOUR

THE oldest English Regiment of the Line, the Queen's Royal Regiment, is one of the very few still to possess a Colonel's Colour. SOLDIER's cover picture shows it being flown between the Queen's Colour and the Regimental Colour.

The Queen's Regiment was formed in 1661 to strengthen the garrison of Tangier, which was then part of the dowry of Princess Catharine of Portugal, bride of King Charles the Second. In those days, before badges and uniforms had been introduced into the British Army, soldiers fought under the flag of a leader—even down to company level. Regimental history records that in 1686 Queen Catharine presented a Colonel's Colour to the Regiment in appreciation of its services in Tangier and that it was carried in battle until 1750, when by Royal command the practice ceased.

But the Colonel's Colour of the Queen's has always been kept in the Regiment, hung in the officer's mess of the 1st Battalion. The order made by King William the Fourth in 1836 that it must never be displayed in the ranks is still enforced, so that whenever the Battalion changes stations the Colour is carried furled.

No one knows what happened to the original Colonel's Colour. One of the earliest replacements, the date of which is not known, is laid up in the Church of the Holy Trinity at Guildford, Surrey, the Queen's depot town. The Colour shown on SOLDIER's cover was presented in 1930.

On the Regimental Colour of the Queen's Royal Regiment is the earliest British Army battle honour: Tangier 1662-80, and also the Naval Crown commemorating the battle of the Glorious First of June, 1794, in which detachments of the Regiment served with distinction in various warships under Lord Howe.

The 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment (commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. C. Piggott, D.S.O.) recently returned to Britain for the first time for 26 years, and marched through the borough of Guildford with bayonets fixed, Colours flying and bands playing.

production, a loss for a year or two while circulation was being built. This seems to be a major project, which requires careful consideration. Meanwhile, our dear old familiar and inadequate Sapper has temporarily, in the face of overwhelming odds, had to give up. We must accept this temporary lapse as a good sign, necessary for readjustment to the times.

It seems relevant to add that when it comes to selling points, SOLDIER's tactful handling and successful presentation of the Letters feature gives a lead.—Staff-Serjeant W. H. Broomfield (25 years in the Royal Engineers), c/o Garrison Engineer, Tidworth.

★ A note in the final issue of the Sapper said that revival of the magazine would depend on units' answers to a questionnaire. Meanwhile the Committee of Management were planning a Sapper Annual, to record major events in the Corps.

(c) within six months of the formation of the man's Territorial unit—whichever is the latest date.

## RHINO FLASH

Can you name the formation which during World War Two used as a flash a white rhinoceros against a black background surrounded by a white oblong ring. During a recent exercise in the Libyan Desert we came across a burnt-out three-tonner with this sign. I know that 25th Armoured Brigade use a similar flash, but they are of comparatively recent formation and this vehicle was obviously a relic of the Libyan Campaign. —Sgmn B. Halsall, Forces Broadcasting Service, Middle East.

★ It may have been the sign of 1st Armoured Division which formed part of the 8th Army at El Alamein. Their sign was a white charging rhinoceros on a black oval background.

## DO NOT MISS SOLDIER!

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

If you are a civilian, you may order SOLDIER at any bookstall in the United Kingdom.

Those unable to obtain the magazine through the above channels should fill in the order form below.

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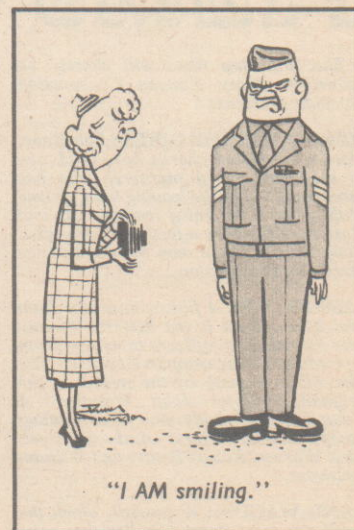
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## TERRITORIAL MEDAL

With three friends, I volunteered for service on the outbreak of World War Two, but we were told we would have to wait until our group was called up, which was June 1940. We were released under Class Z (T) Regulations. We re-enlisted in the Territorial Army in January 1948, as soon as it was known that volunteers were needed, and are still serving.

Now were we classed as Territorials during the war? And, if so, does the six years war service plus six years peace-time service entitle us to claim the Territorial Army Long Service Medal?—Bombardier W. Peers, 11 Harrogate Street, Sunderland.

★ Active embodied war service is reckonable towards the Efficiency Medal (Territorial). In the case of soldiers who were not serving on a Territorial engagement on September 2, 1939, this counts (at single rate only) if a man joined the reconstituted Territorial Army (a) within six months of May 1, 1947, or (b) within six months of the last day of release leave if released after May 1, 1947, or





# RISE AND SHINE!

R.S.M. A. J. BRAND, M.V.O., M.B.E.,  
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for a parade ground polish.



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- 2 Take the lid off the tin.
- 3 Remove dust and dirt from the boot.
- 4 Put a little Kiwi on the boot with a rag or brush.
- 5 Damp a rag with water.
- 6 Moisten the boot with the rag.
- 7 Finish with a dry cloth and "You could shave in it."

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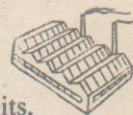


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in "The Heart of the Matter"

