

SOLDIER

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

ARMY MAGAZINE

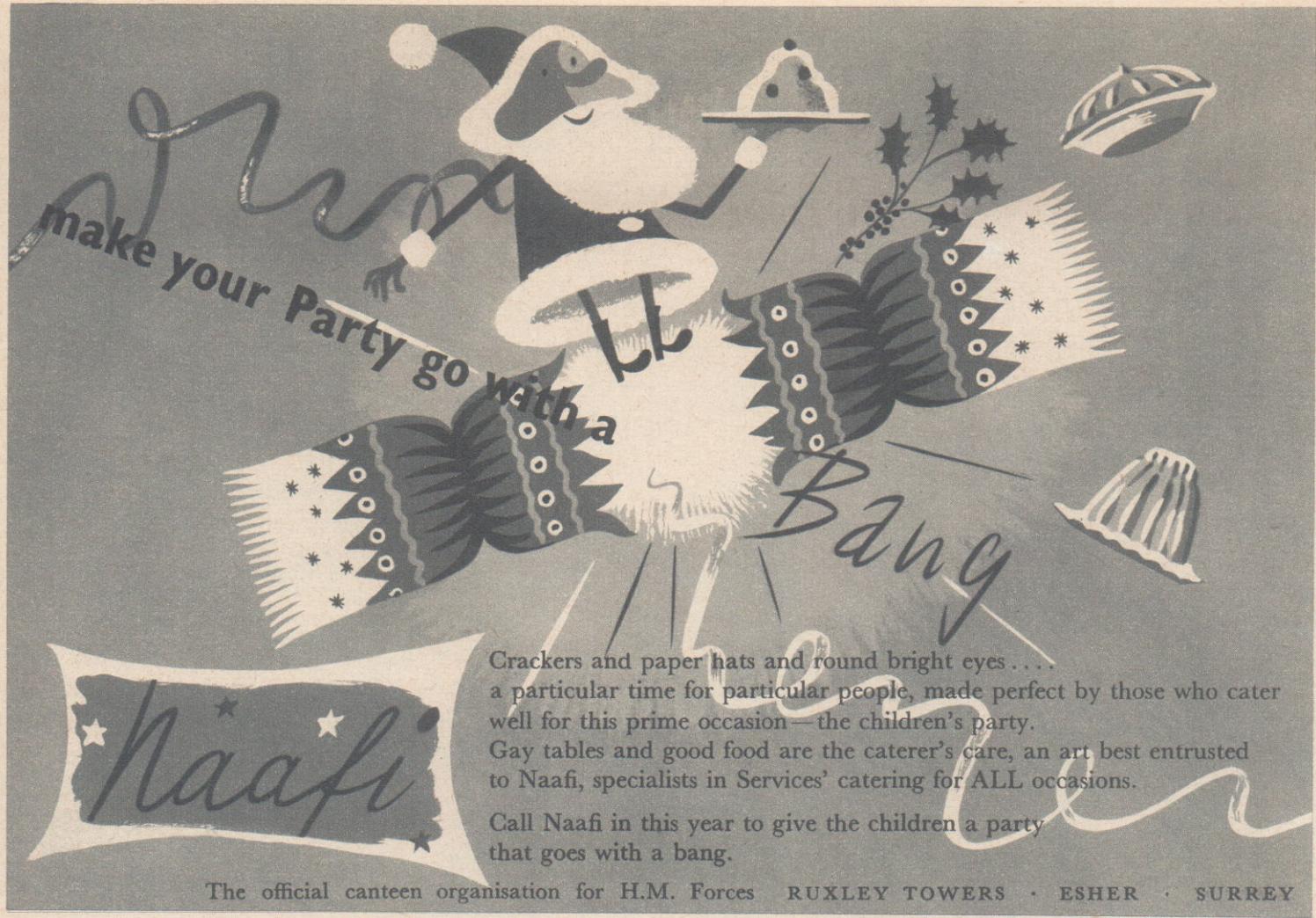
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Passing through New York, the Editor of **SOLDIER** called in to see — — —

The General on The 62nd Floor

WHEN Major-General W. A. Dimoline goes to his office in New York's fabulous Empire State Building he steps into an express elevator which carries him 55 storeys without stopping, at a top speed of 1000 feet per minute.

After the 55th floor the elevator becomes a "local." Not until it reaches the 62nd floor does Major-General Dimoline leave to enter the office which he occupies as head of the Service advisers on the British delegation to the United Nations.

He is still a long way from the top of the building, which is 102 storeys and 1472 feet high (to the tip of the television mast). To reach the top storey he would have to change elevators at the 80th floor, and again at the 86th. Nevertheless, the view from his windows over the soaring spires of Manhattan is as thrilling as anyone would wish. In winter, he can watch snow falling upwards (thanks to vertical draughts). In normal weather he can see in the distance the flat rectangle of the new United Nations Building beside the East River; and contemplation of that building is enough to bring him back, metaphorically, to earth.

Major-General Dimoline is Britain's permanent representative on the Military Staffs Committee of the United Nations. The other nations represented on that Committee are the United States, France, Russia and China, all permanent members of the Security Council.

The first British general appointed to this post, in 1946, was Lieutenant-General Sir Edwin Morris. In those days there were hopes of organising an international security force under the United Nations. It was to be a "fire brigade" composed of contingents from many countries. The task of the Military Staffs Committee was to advise the Security Council on how to set up and operate this force. Where, for instance, was it to be based? Who was to command it? For long the Military Staffs Committee, meeting in secret under a different chairman each month, debated this problem, but no progress



High-level post: Major-Gen. W. A. Dimoline, Britain's representative on the Military Staffs Committee of UNO, has his office in the world's highest building.

could be made. Slowly the vision of an all-in international army faded. The Western Powers were obliged to make their own security plans — and to create their own version of an international army in Korea.

Since then the Service chiefs in New York have been working on an amended brief. Even though an "arms race" is in progress, they have been advising on plans for world disarmament. In November of last year the United States, Great Britain and France put forward their own disarmament proposals, which called for "disclosure and verification" of the armaments held by all powers. Next day M. Vyshinsky complained that he had been unable to sleep; the proposals had kept him "shaking with laughter." Soon afterwards the Soviet advanced their counter-proposals, which included outlawing the atom bomb, cutting the arms programmes of the Big Powers by one-third and holding a world-wide arms census. The Western Powers did not shake with laughter; instead, after much debate, it was agreed to set up a Disarmament Commission under the Security Council.

For the British Service chiefs in

OVER





62nd FLOOR (Continued)

their skyscraper those long negotiations must often have been frustrating in the extreme. One of Major-General Dimoline's predecessors was a former Commander-in-Chief of Rhine Army: General Sir Richard McCreery. Admirals and Air Marshals have also taken turns at this assignment.



New York traffic does not worry L/Cpl. John Edgar of the Parachute Regiment, who is driver to Major-General Dimoline.

From his pinnacle, Major-General Dimoline no doubt thinks often of another continent where so much of his Service career has been spent. After World War One, in which he was awarded the Military Cross, he served for more than five years in West Africa, and between 1937 and 1948 he was based without a break on East Africa, save for the period when he commanded East African troops in Burma and India. Between the African way of life and the American there is a sufficiently startling gulf; but commanders must be flexible, and Major-General Dimoline has already held his first barbecue. Apart from his driver-batman and a Movements Officer who is stationed a stone's throw from Wall Street, the General is the British Army's only representative in New York. From time to time he visits the British Army Staff in Washington, and calls in at the Pentagon. Not long ago he stood on a reviewing stand in Texas on Armed Forces Day, and he has visited West Point. He took a fishing holiday in Canada, crossing to the Pacific coast (and in one day caught 78 trout, "all legally.")

General Dimoline has been impressed by the purposeful way in which New York City has organised its Air Raid Precautions. Business offices now bear the "Shelter" signs which were so familiar in Britain during the war. On the highways running out of New York are huge signs reading: "In the event of an enemy

In the shadow of this United Nations Secretariat Building in New York the statesmen wrangle.

attack on New York City this highway will be closed." From his office window, during a practice alarm, the General saw one of the sights of the century: New York coming to a full stop. Cars pulled into the sides of the streets, and their occupants joined pedestrians in making for the shelters. Miraculously, in full daylight, throbbing Manhattan was left empty, full of a sinister quiet.

What air raid precautions can the occupants of a skyscraper take? The General's own instructions in the event of an air raid are to move to a room on the same floor in the centre of the building. Nothing but total chaos could result from trying to evacuate suddenly buildings which each house tens of thousands of people. (Nobody knows how the buildings of New York would stand up to heavy bombing, but probably skyscrapers could take heavy punishment; when an aeroplane crashed into the Empire State Building, at the 78th floor, an office boy five storeys higher up continued to read his comic without noticing anything).

General Dimoline's driver-batman is Lance-Corporal John Edgar, of the Parachute Regiment, who comes from Huddersfield, Yorkshire. He has been with General Dimoline for six years. In New York he passed his driving tests without difficulty; he knows what signs like "Squeeze Right" and "Soft Shoulder" mean, and he observes the compulsory minimum speeds as well as the maximum.

Only the Few See New York...

THE British soldier posted to America (probably to Washington) may find himself travelling to New York as a tourist passenger on a Queen liner. (Officers up to the rank of lieutenant-colonel travel Cabin class; those of higher rank, First class).

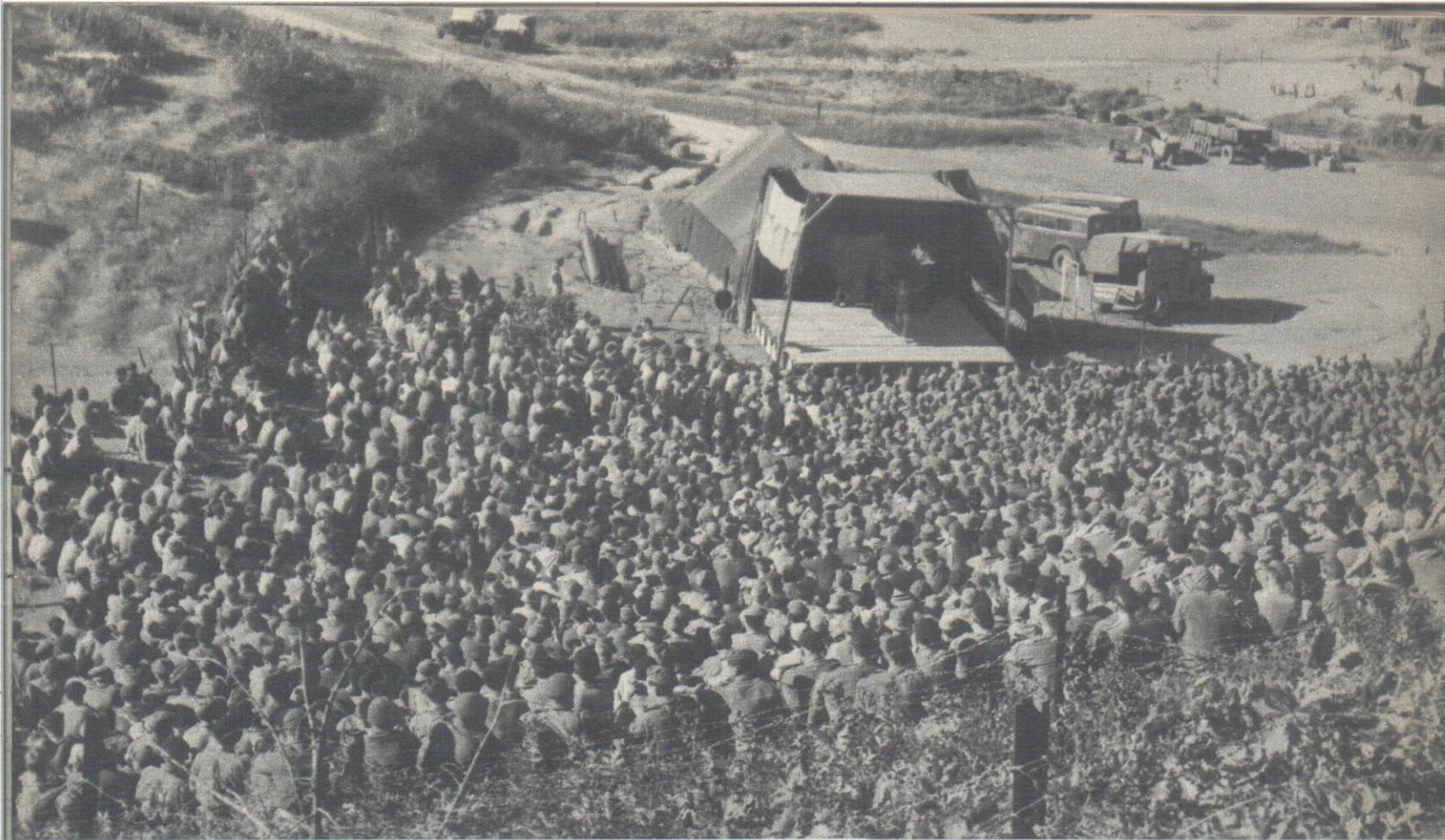
When the vessel docks in sight of the mid-town skyscrapers, a uniformed representative of the British Army will come aboard and hand him a modest wad of dollars, with earnest advice about not squandering them.

If the soldier is unlucky, he may be put at once on the train to his destination; if lucky, he may be sent to a hotel for the night, with a chance of a few hours sightseeing.

A careful soldier can do a good deal on a few dollars, if he limits his appetite to hamburgers and hot dogs and refrains from having his hair cut (this costs the equivalent of 10s or 12s). He may choose to go on a "rubberneck" tour in a glass-roofed bus; he will certainly ascend a skyscraper. He will visit one of the great cathedral-like rail terminals, where the trains are kept firmly out of sight. He will probably put a dime into one of the ingenious iced-drink machines which abound, pre-selecting one of four flavours. If he is curious about American television, he will probably find a set in operation in the nearest bar. It will be showing a ball-game, all-in wrestling or perhaps a give-away programme. At frequent intervals someone will hog the camera to pour himself a glass of beer or light a cigarette, and exclaim "M-m-m! That's g-o-o-o-d!"

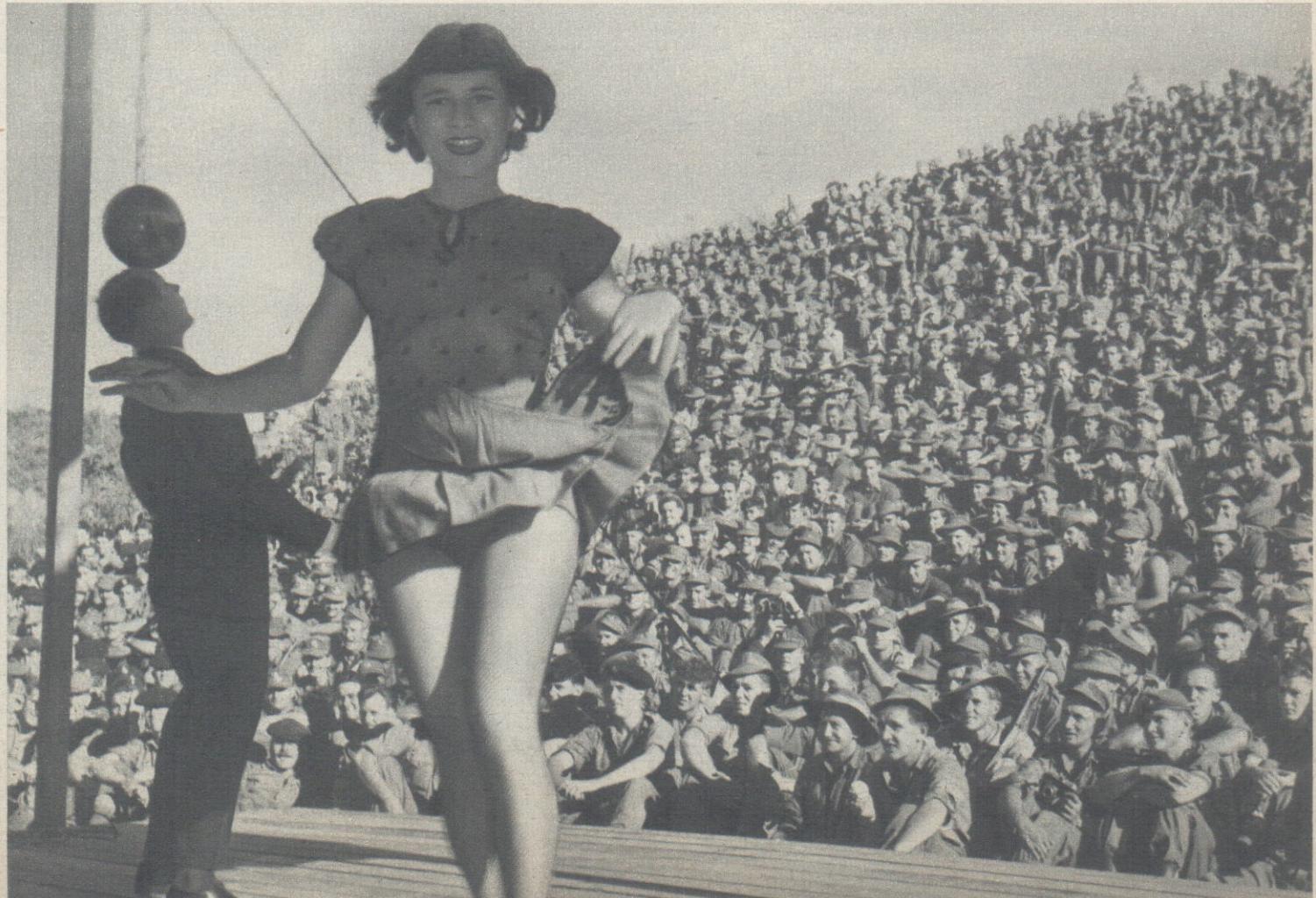
The soldier will not have seen New York until he has watched the bumper-to-bumper, six-abreast car race to the suburbs in the late afternoon, and of course the lights of Broadway.

It was in 1942 that the British Army first appointed a Movements staff in New York. Today the Movements Officer is Major P. G. Brooke, Royal Engineers; and with him is Warrant Officer H. A. R. Wright BEM, Royal Air Force. The day's work may involve seeking out Service families on board the Queen Elizabeth, or meeting a general flying in to New York International Airport, on Long Island.



KOREA REPORT - IN PICTURES

THERE'S no audience in the world like a Korea audience. They'll sit tight through pouring rain on an open hill side if need be. The stage is made of sticks and canvas, but the performers rate it a privilege to play on boards like these. These pictures (by Sergeant Mark Carson, RASC) were taken when an American show visited the 1st Commonwealth Division. It went down in a big way — and so did the Ted Ray show which was staged in similar conditions. **OVER** ➤



KOREA

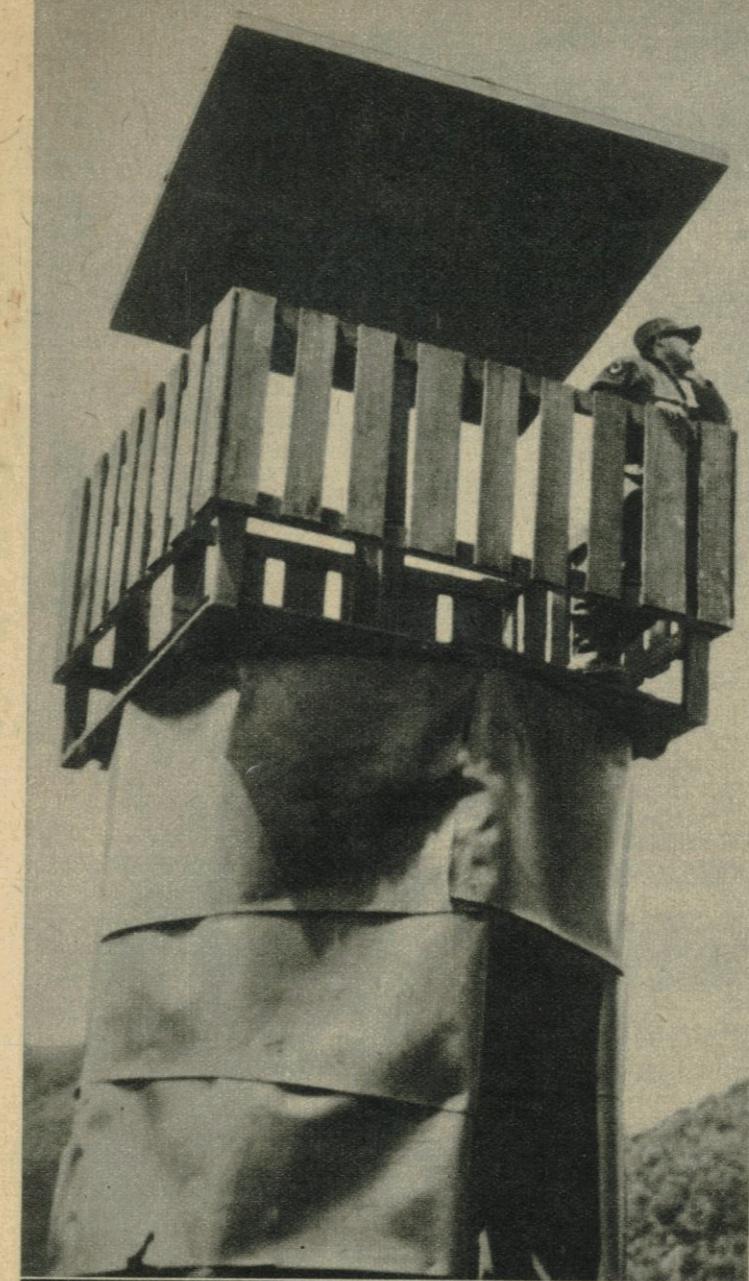


Above: There's the enemy. Communist fortifications, viewed across a Korean valley from a United Nations outpost, have a deceptively peaceful look.



Below: The tracery of war. Phosphorus shells explode at a munitions dump. What looks like ice, or foam, or blossom is deadly fire.

REPORT (Continued)



Using "every ingenuity and device," men of the Turkish Brigade built — with the aid of ammunition boxes — this minaret from which a uniformed muezzin calls the faithful to prayer. Below: Also using "every ingenuity and device," Captain Albert J. Barron, United States Army, manufactured his own multiple rocket launcher from four "bazookas."



KOREA REPORT Concluded on Page 10

THE GLOSTERS' ARMOURER WRITES A BOOK

SERGEANT Robert Owen Holles, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, was the man who looked after the weapons of the 1st Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment in Korea.

Along with the Battalion, he returned to Britain and settled down on Salisbury Plain.

In his bunk, next to his armourer's shop, he spent his evenings at his typewriter. In five months he had written a first-hand account of the Glosters in Korea, which he called *Now Thrive the Armourers* (from a famous passage in Shakespeare's *King Henry V*). He sent the manuscript to a firm of publishers, who immediately accepted it. Extracts from it have been serialised in a national newspaper. A film company is negotiating for the screen rights.

It is Sergeant Holles's first full-length book, but he has had literary ambitions ever since he contributed to his school magazine. He entered the Army Apprentices' School at Arborfield in 1941 and qualified as an armourer. During a number of postings in Britain, he wrote short stories and saw them published.

In January 1950, he was posted to the Glosters at Colchester; when the Battalion went to Korea, it was his first overseas tour. In Korea he made daily trips from the Battalion's "B" Echelon, which was his base, to the forward positions to repair any weapons which needed attention.

On the day the first waves of Communists attacked the Glosters' Imjin River positions, Sergeant Holles was there at work, as usual. That night he returned to "B" Echelon, 18 miles away. The next day he could not get back to the Battalion. It was already partly cut off.

Sergeant Holles, son of a sergeant-major in the Royal Tank Corps, is 26 and newly married. In his spare time, he is trying his hand at a novel and writing short stories. He has four more years of his engagement to serve.

SOLDIER'S critic writes:

Sergeant Holles's book is a well-executed piece of craftsmanship, clean, sound and balanced like the weapons he services.

Only one member of the Battalion — Lieutenant-Colonel Carne — appears under his real name. This is to avoid any embarrassment to relatives of men killed or missing.

The early chapters, which tell of retreats and frustrations, could easily have been dull; but they are extraordinarily vivid. There was the day the men saw political prisoners being



Sergeant R. O. Holles: craftsman with words, as well as weapons.

butchered in the fields; there was the wonderful moment when the Ulsters' pipes were heard, playing "Mother Machree" amid the empty, frozen hills; there was the uproarious Christmas party, held when the news was grave; there was the Korean woman who took her emaciated infant and slid it through an ice hole into the river; there was the tale of the refugees frozen on to the outside of a train, who had to be knocked off with poles; there was the tragic, but none the less exasperating, moment when refugees strayed on to a defensive minefield and blew it up; there was the Korean boy whom they adopted after they found him opening silkworm cocoons to eat the grubs.

Sergeant Holles has a good ear for soldiers' dialogue, which does not mean his characters revel in obscenity. His Infantrymen treat each other as soldiers treat each other. There are no mock heroics. There is no slush. The author has some good descriptive phrases; Korean rain comes down like "liquid graphite."

Many of the incidents which were mentioned in the newspapers appear in the story of the Imjin Battle — the tank diving through a wooden shack to shake off an unwanted guest, for instance. But the story — seen through the eyes of one platoon — reads much more personally, more authentically, than it did in the words of the war correspondents.

Let's hope that a story as good as this is being written by one of the Glosters now in captivity.

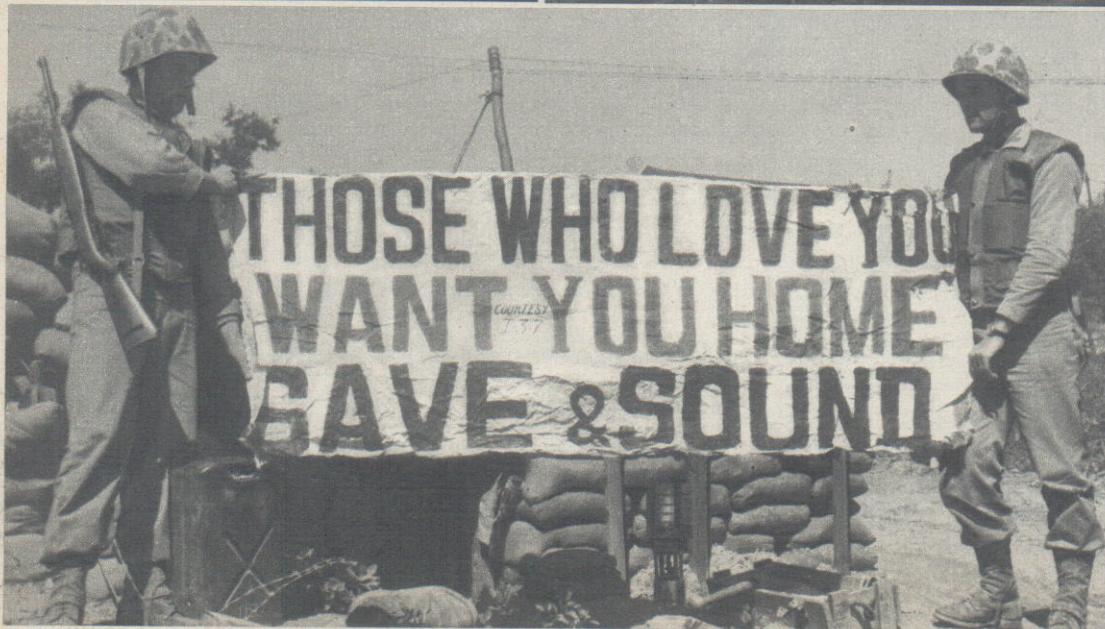
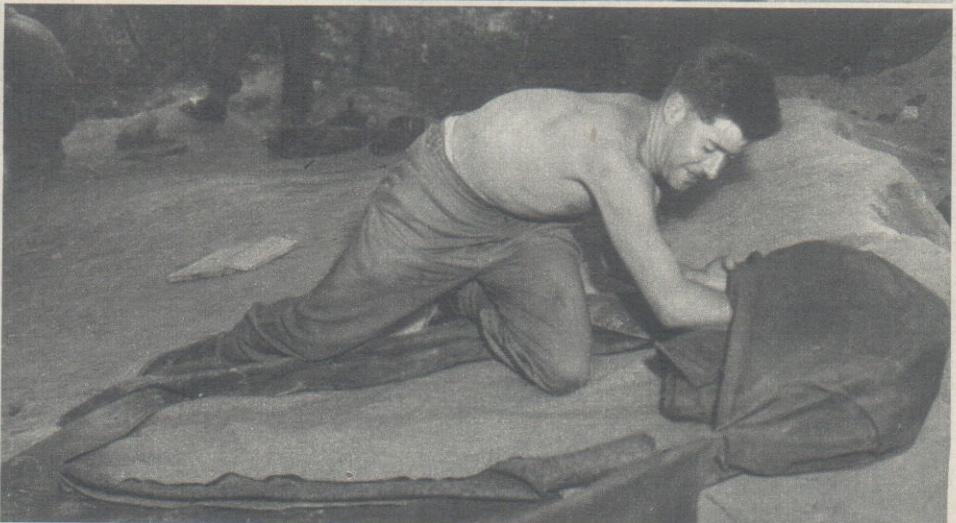
Sergeant Holles's book is published by Harrap at 12s 6d.



The sun shines on bared heads of men of the 1st Battalion, The Durham Light Infantry, attending evening service before a packing-case altar on a Korean hillside.

KOREA REPORT (Concluded)

Below: A Communist message to the United Nations troops produced only a smile at the author's spelling. Right: He's making his bed and soon he must lie on it: Corporal Ronald Bellringer, of the Durhams. Lower right: Close-up of tragedy: a wounded South Korean soldier, with part of his jaw shot away, waits to be collected from a forward aid station.



ONE of the games at which anyone can play is that of making clever deductions from columns of statistics.

Notoriously, figures can be made to prove anything.

With this reservation in mind, let us look at the Army recruiting statistics which have been issued for the last six months.

The figures show, firstly, which regiments have been attracting most recruits from civil life. Secondly, which regiments encourage most National Servicemen to re-enlist.

The second category is of especial interest, for the Army's problem today is not so much to bring in new recruits as to persuade those who are already in to stay in. Otherwise there will eventually be no such thing as a long-service soldier in the Army.

Two Infantry regiments — the Green Howards and the Durham Light Infantry — have each twice headed the monthly list of re-enlistments from National Service (on one occasion the Green Howards tied with the South Wales Borderers). The other two Regiments of the Line which came out on top are the Sherwood Foresters and the Lancashire Fusiliers. The Green Howards have had a consistently good average, whereas some of the others have had conspicuous ups and downs.

IT is tempting to assume that the regiments which can boast most re-enlistments are those which have a little extra something the others haven't got. No doubt there is much in this theory; though some less flattering ex-

planations have been put forward.

First of all, it is important to remember that seven Infantry regiments now have two battalions — a reward for their earlier success in recruiting. These are the Black Watch, the Sherwood Foresters, the Durham Light Infantry, the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, the Royal Welch Fusiliers, the Green Howards and the Lancashire Fusiliers. When their second battalions have shaken down, these regiments may well be at the head of the list each month.

The most successful regiments are not the "glamour" regiments — in the Fleet Street sense, anyway. The Green Howards and the Sherwood Foresters are romantically named, but names alone do not make men sign on again. The War Minister has traced some of the Green Howards' popularity to the holding of frequent "at homes" at the Depot — but other regiments hold "at homes," too. The fact that a battalion has been dwelling amid swamps and leeches, or sand and flies, does not appear, in itself, to be a deterrent to re-enlisting.

Analysts have not been slow to point out that in the areas from which regiments like the Lancashire Fusiliers, the Green Howards and the Durham Light Infantry are drawn there is a certain amount of unemployment or short-time, that living conditions are often indifferent and factory wages low. Is that why men in these regiments re-enlist? At this stage *nobody really knows*, except the man who signs on the dotted line.

CONSIDER the next point.

Why do so many more National Servicemen re-enlist in the Infantry than in the Royal Armoured Corps and the "big battalions" like the Royal Engineers, Royal Signals and Royal Army Service Corps, with their much bigger intakes of volunteers from civil life?

It is an astonishing thing that the Green Howards have persuaded more National Servicemen to become Regulars than all the dashing tank and armoured car regiments put together. Ah, say the wiseacres, that is because men in mechanised units can more easily find jobs in civil life; who wants the man whose only skill is with the machine-gun and the rocket launcher? (On the other hand, comes the cry, does a bus company inevitably choose a man with a talent for driving a Centurion through the sides of houses?) How many Infantrymen signed on because they realised they had no marketable trade? How many because they thought that footslogging had a greater appeal than wielding a spanner? *Nobody knows, except the man who signs on the dotted line.*

Another question: Why do the county regiments have more re-enlistments among National Servicemen than the Guards regiments? The Guards, notably the Coldstream and the Grenadiers, attract more recruits from civil life than do the county regiments, and obviously "glamour" counts. The reason why more National Servicemen do not sign on may be that the Guards always have

a higher proportion of Regulars, and therefore there are fewer temporary soldiers open to persuasion.

It is to be noted that a great many more National Servicemen re-enlist in the Gunners than in the Royal Engineers, the Royal Signals and the other big corps (though the Royal Engineers consistently attract most recruits from civil life). Are there more jobs in civil life for Sappers and Craftsmen than for Gunners? Or do the Gunners re-enlist because they have a stronger family tradition? Again, *nobody knows except the man who signs on the dotted line.*

So it boils down to this: every National Serviceman who enlists ought to be invited to say why he did so. Was it because he found himself in a "good mob"? Was it for the money? The security? The adventure? Was it because he could not find a civilian job? Or even because he wanted to shake off feminine entanglements? A breakdown of motives, if they could be obtained, would immensely illuminate these recruiting statistics. (No doubt, as in any poll, there would be a number of "don't knows.") The more we know about what attracts men to the Army, the better.

Meanwhile, Commanding Officers, whatever their feelings about the value of statistics, are going to keep on examining these monthly returns with keen, and in some instances, painful interest. How is the world to understand (the CO of the Loamshires may say) that there is nothing wrong with the old regiment — but that there happens to be a big new aircraft factory, paying high wages, just across the road from the Depot?

TALE OF TWO FUSILIERS

ONE day in the summer of 1926, "Nobby" Clarke of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers was walking along Victoria Street, London to his desk at the War Office. His head was full of worries.

In front of him he saw a blind man feeling his way with a stick. "Nobby" took his arm, helped him over a crossing and the two began to talk.

Here was a totally blind man, living eight miles out of London, travelling daily in to the city to work. A former Royal Scots Fusilier, he had been blinded in the trenches in 1918, when he was aged 18. Now he was married, with a daughter whom he had never seen.

"What have I to worry about?" thought "Nobby."

The result was that almost every working day for 26 years the one Fusilier met the other Fusilier at Victoria Station and guided him to his place of work, and back again in the evening.

Now at the age of 67 Major William Clarke, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, is retiring from the Army, after 18 years regi-

mental soldiering and an unbroken 30 years at the War Office. His blind friend, Mr. Peter Martin, who is telephone operator at the Imperial Defence College, will continue to make his way to work, but the two will no longer rendezvous at 8.30 a.m. at Victoria.

They will still meet as friends, however; notably at the sessions of the Inniskilling Regimental Association, where Mr. Martin has come to regard himself as an old Inniskilling. Major Clarke has met many of the lads of St. Dunstan's. It is a humbling experience, he says, to go downstairs in a dark office on a winter evening, switch on the light — and see a blind man look up smiling from his switchboard.

Major Clarke likes to recall his days with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, whom he joined in 1904. There was the



They met daily for 26 years: Mr. Peter Martin, blind telephonist, and Major William Clarke.

bless the Malta Garrison. When the Inniskillings paraded next day, one man was absent.

Then there was the soldier's wife who wrote to explain that her doctor had advised her, for her health, to have a baby. She asked that her husband might have 48 hours leave, and ended:

"I hope you will be able to grant my request. If you do I'll see that my husband gets back to his unit in time. We can do all that's necessary in 48 hours."

THE NICKNAME PATROL

IN the Malayan "emergency" men of many races have long been working together to stamp out the bandits.

Just how intimately they collaborate was shown by a patrol which recently went out from Bentong, a little town in the middle of a notorious bandit area.

The patrol was led by a British NCO, loaned by an African battalion, and consisted of Chinese and Malays.

The NCO was 39-year-old Staff-Sergeant Instructor Charles Runacres of the Army Physical Training Corps. He is attached to the 1st Battalion of the King's African Rifles, and the Battalion lends him to the civil authorities to help with the training of Bentong's Home Guards.

Most of the Home Guards are Chinese, and SSI Runacres has not mastered their real names. They answer happily, however, to nicknames like Loch Ness Monster, Genghis Khan, Popeye and Sneezy.

"They're as keen as mustard," says SSI Runacres. "The variety of their arms is a bit unusual—Service rifles, the odd sporting rifle, Stens, pistols, shot guns and automatic shot guns. But they would be as good in a fight as they are on the Battalion range."

The role of the Home Guards is strictly what their name says and not that of soldiers. Their task is to protect their town and neighbourhood. They do short patrols on the outside perimeter, looking for any terrorists who may be creeping up on the town. These patrols are also useful training for any occasion when terrorists may have to be chased or intercepted and destroyed.

SSI Runacres, whose father was a regimental sergeant-major on the Army Gymnastic and Fencing Staff at Aldershot, enlisted into the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment. Later he was a paratrooper for seven years. With a Royal Air Force squadron-

of his family's record of service as contractors to the British Army dating back to 1851.

Hamid's great-great-grandfather enjoyed the privilege of a special appointment to Lord Roberts, and since then the family has been on friendly terms with many generals and field-marshals.

Among those who sent Hamid Christmas cards last year were Field-Marshal and Lady Alexander and Lord Birdwood.

In 1880, as an Assistant Political Officer in Afghanistan, the former British Prime Minister, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, wrote to Hamid's father a *chitti* which reads: "To officers command-

ing posts from Kabul to Peshawar... the family have done their good service for Government in Kabul since last October; the family are now going to Peshawar and I shall feel much obliged if they are allowed to encamp within our line of sentries at each post on the line."

The 1st Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment are probably the sole fighting unit of the British Army who have had their *char wallahs* in the jungle supplied by the Royal Air Force. The occasion was in 1950, when a company was supplied by air at a tactical base, and the faithful teamen accompanied the troops.

D. H. de T. READE



The arms of the Bentong Home Guard are many and various. This man is aiming an automatic shotgun.



SSI Charles Runacres, of the Army Physical Training Corps, led a Chinese-Malay patrol.



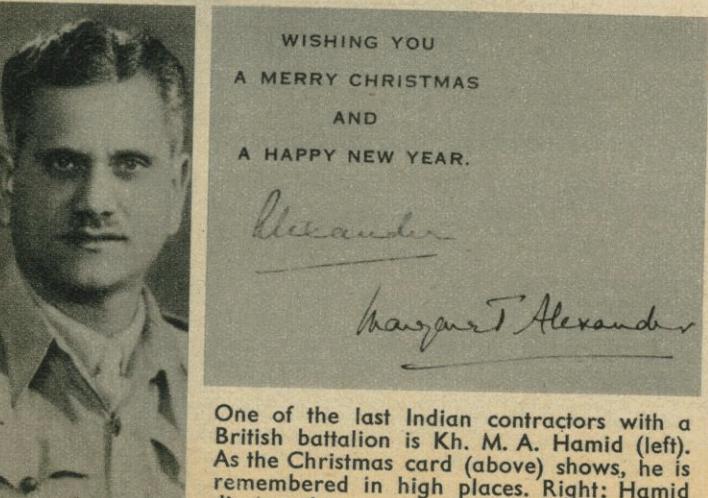
A feminine occasion, with the temperature in the 'nineties: Members of the Women's Royal Army Corps, in tropical dresses, parade in Singapore for the Duchess of Kent. On the right of the Duchess is Captain A. Hodgson, WRAC.

HAMID OF THE SUFFOLKS

THOUSANDS of British troops who served in India and other Eastern stations remember the Indian regimental contractor, the man who provided the *char wallah* (tea man), *dhozi wallah* (washerman) and *nappi* (barber).

One of the last remaining contractors is the Peshawar-born Kh. M. A. Hamid, now a British subject, who is with the 1st Battalion The Suffolk Regiment in Malaya. He became their contractor in Transjordan six years ago, following them to Palestine, Egypt, Greece and Malaya.

"When I joined the Suffolks I promised their Colonel to stay with them for ever," he says.



One of the last Indian contractors with a British battalion is Kh. M. A. Hamid (left). As the Christmas card (above) shows, he is remembered in high places. Right: Hamid displays his wares to men of the Suffolks.



THE JEEP BORE A CROWN



A jeep like a jewel—complete with Royal crown and Standard—awaited the Duchess after her visit to the British Military Hospital, Singapore. It even had a ladder to the passenger seat.

THE

COMPANY OF SERJEANTS

"PRIDE AND

COMMANDING Officers are enjoined to form a serjeants' mess, as a means of supporting their [the serjeants'] consequence and respectability in the Corps."

This sentence appeared in 1822 in General Orders for the Army (which became King's Regulations in 1837). For the first time, the serjeants' mess had, in black and white, the official blessing of Whitehall.

The serjeants' mess, however, had been evolving earlier than that. In 1803 the Duke of Kent (father of Queen Victoria) laid down in his Standing Orders for the Fortress of Gibraltar: "All unmarried serjeants are to be formed into a mess by themselves and on no account to mess with the corporals, drummers or privates." Similarly, unmarried corporals in his command were to be formed into exclusive messes.

Sir Charles Oman, who wrote an authoritative book on Wellington's Army, records that the NCO's in the Peninsula kept together and formed messes of their own. "Pride and propriety," he adds, "kept them from sharing the carouses of the rank and file."

Many of the men who served under Wellington as serjeants wrote their memoirs, but *SOLDIER* has been able to find no mention of mess-life as it is known today. Serjeant Stephen Morley of the 5th of Foot, however, wrote that, "He who has once joined the company of serjeants is disinclined for any other."

The serjeants' mess had many obvious advantages. It knit the senior NCO's into an exclusive little body, which was good for their dignity and the respect in which they were held. Its comforts and prestige were an added inducement to young soldiers to work for promotion. It was a place where serjeants could relax without inviting undue familiarity from the rank and file.

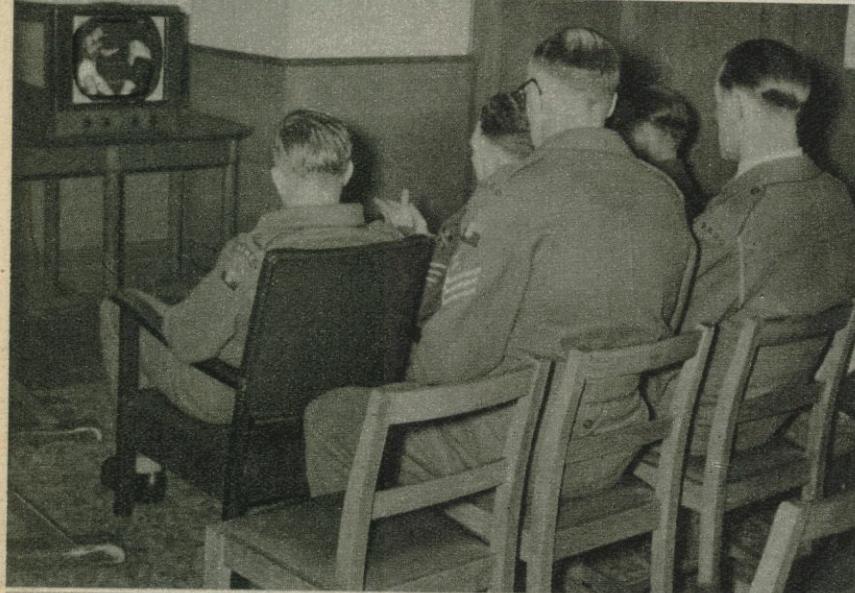
Only the Household Cavalry has abstained from providing a mess exclusively for its serjeants and warrant officers. Instead, it has a non-commissioned officers' mess to which everybody from the most junior NCO to the regimental corporal-major belongs. The case for a mess of this sort is put by R. A. Lloyd in his book, "A Trooper in the 'Tins':" "It is good for the youngster to move freely among his seniors; and it does the older NCO's no great harm to be reminded by the presence of juniors in their midst that they themselves were once young and green."

Outside the Household Cavalry, however, the serjeants' mess has come to stay. Today, Queen's Regulations lay down that "a serjeants' mess will invariably be formed when practicable," and

PROPRIETY" MADE THE SERJEANTS' MESS AN EXCLUSIVE BODY



Chilwell Garrison serjeants' mess, one of the most up-to-date, was opened in 1950. Above: The dining-room.



Left: Television corner, in the lounge, is well filled when a sports programme is being shown.



Below: The outside of the mess. Note the modern lines of the building and the long terrace.



Left: Some of the serjeants' mess silver of the 15/19th Hussars. The clock chimes the regimental march. Above: No silver here: an improvised mess established in a stable by serjeants working on flood relief at Lynmouth. Note officers' mess in background.

contain five pages devoted to the conduct of such messes. Among other things, it is stated that in certain corps corporals may be made members of serjeants' messes where numbers are small.

An old regulation, that a new serjeant would pay an entrance fee not exceeding three days pay, and that when he was promoted again he would pay a fee not exceeding the difference between his old and new rates of pay, was put in abeyance in 1943. It was finally cancelled this year, but provision was made that warrant officers and serjeants appointed to a newly-formed corps might be called on for a contribution not exceeding three days pay, subject to War Office sanction. At the same time, maximum monthly subscriptions were raised from three to five shillings for unmarried members and 1s 6d to 2s 6d for married members. Maximum subscription for members of serjeants' messes of the women's corps is three shillings.

Serjeants' messes are governed not only by official regulations but by their own rules as well. Etiquette is strict and a serjeant who absent-mindedly commits the offence of entering a mess improperly dressed will not only have to buy a round of drinks but probably suffer a severe wagging from a senior warrant officer. An old Cavalryman of *SOLDIER*'s acquaintance recalls having to pay two rounds, once for entering the mess with a broken spur and once for looking in at a mess dance wearing civilian clothes, a privilege reserved in his regiment to warrant officers.

Mess customs vary much from

regiment to regiment. In some of the Guards messes, a serjeant may keep his hat on at certain times — an offence which would quickly evoke the traditional fine in another unit.

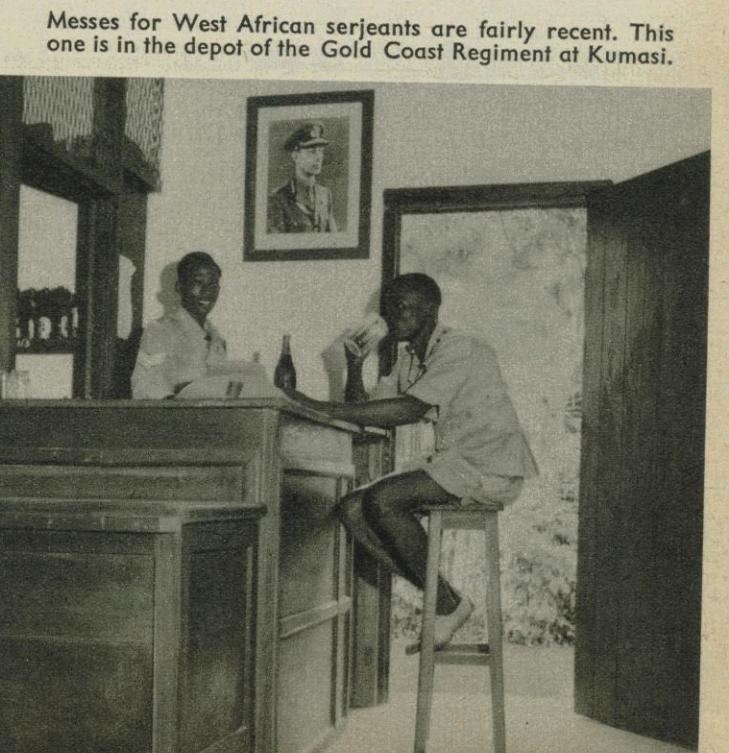
In some messes, the regimental serjeant-major's chair at the head of the table is reserved for him at all times, even though he may live in married quarters and eat in the mess only on special occasions.

A veteran soldier who was appointed physical training serjeant at the Guards Depot at Caterham, between the two World Wars, likes to tell the story of his first visit to the mess. As he entered the door, he saw the regimental serjeant-major, whom he had not met before, at the bar. He walked over and said, "Good morning, Sir. I'm Serjeant Blank, the new PT instructor." He was ignored, so he repeated his self-introduction. Again he was ignored. Then he felt a hand on his arm, "Wait until he gets outside," whispered another serjeant. "He won't talk shop in the mess." When the RSM moved a few minutes later, the new serjeant followed him to the door and there said his piece for the third time. It was received with a handshake and, "How do you do, Serjeant Blank. Come in and have a drink."

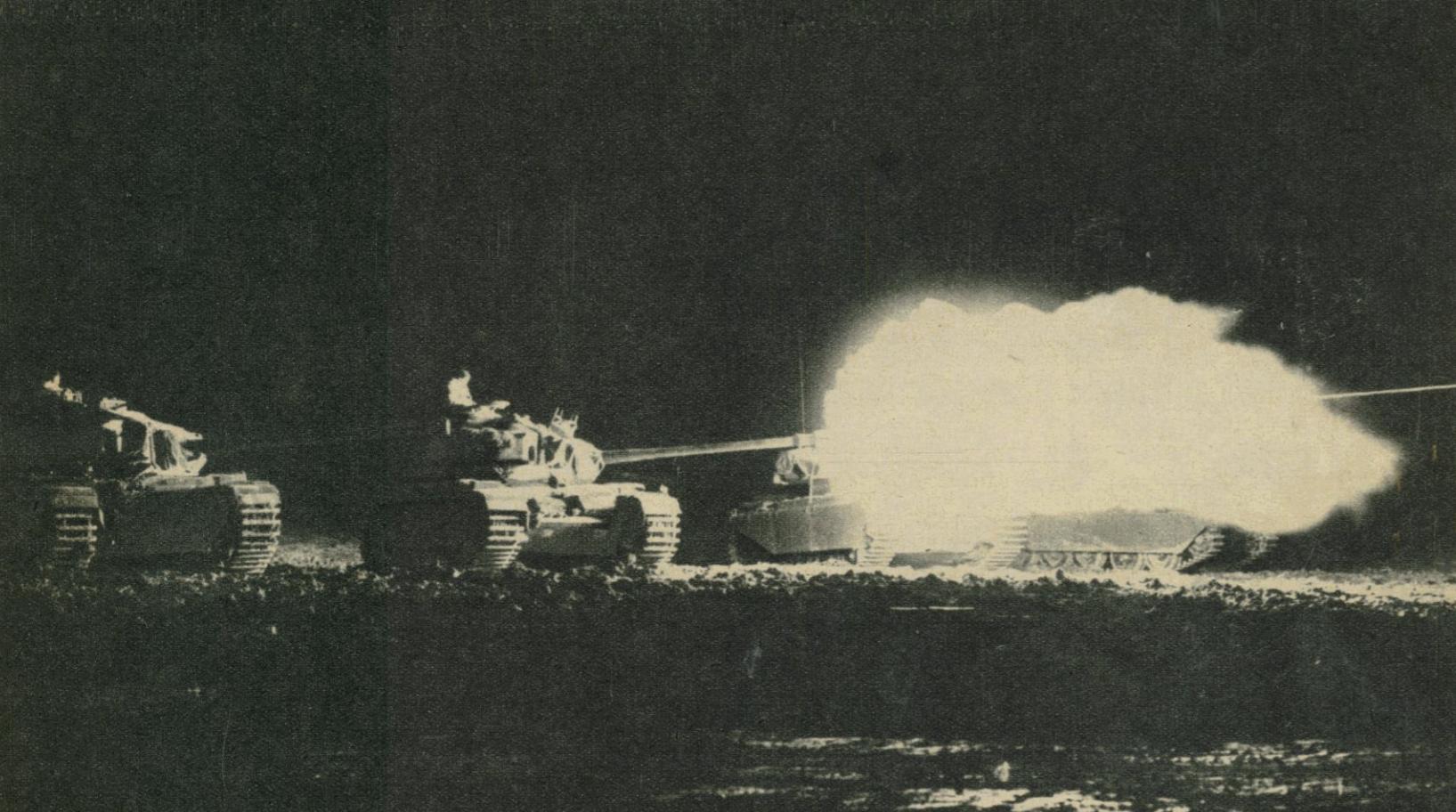
Modern serjeants' messes tend to chromium-plating, strip lighting and television sets, but the members seem able to settle in cosily wherever they can get together. A year or so ago, a Guards serjeants' mess installed itself in the execution chamber of an old castle in Cyprus. In Korea, the serjeants of front-line

cards and shove-ha'penny are among the staple activities. Guests, ladies among them, are invited on special occasions for whist drives, socials, dances and tombola. A mess calendar also includes games matches and invitations to the officers to drinks or smoking concerts. Highlights of mess life include formal dinner-nights, which may end by providing an item for the regimental magazine on the lines of "WHO left his trousers in the static water-tank?"

Footnote: Not every army segregates its serjeants in messes. For exceptions, visit Korea.

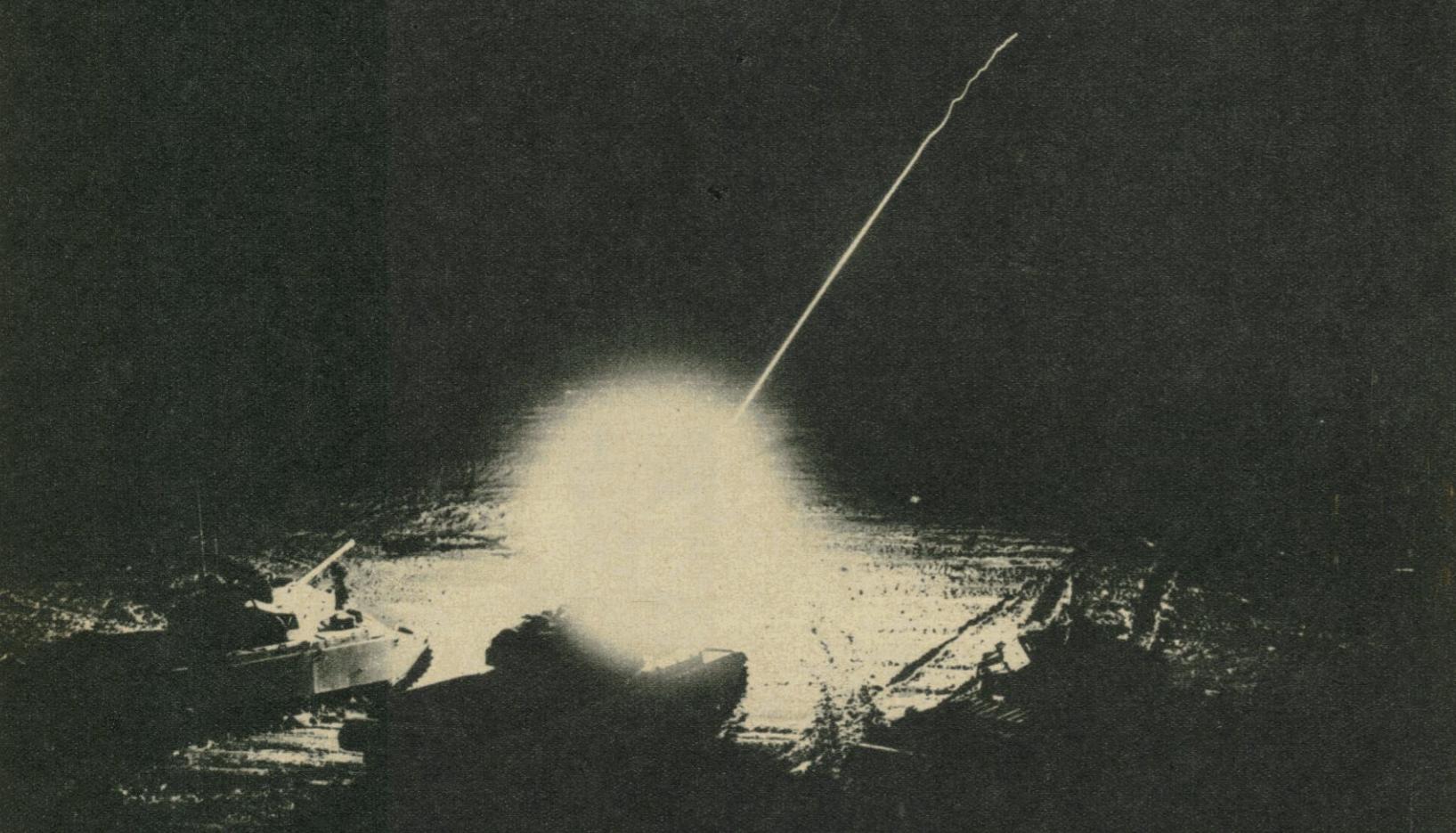


Messes for West African serjeants are fairly recent. This one is in the depot of the Gold Coast Regiment at Kumasi.



Centurions in action at night: these pictures were taken on Hohne Ranges during a demonstration designed to show that tanks can engage certain targets in pitch darkness.

THE BIGGEST



Behind a row of self-propelled 25-pounders, gunnery instructors watch targets for hits.

RANGES IN EUROPE

Fourteen hundred square miles of famous Luneburg Heath give generous scope for the Army's field gunners. Here, even an armoured division has plenty of room to manoeuvre

TO achieve complete readiness for war a modern, mechanised army must have plenty of elbow room.

Ideally, its tanks should be able to train — using live ammunition — over various types of countryside where there is ample space for manoeuvre. Its artillery should be able to fire at the longest range of its most powerful guns. Its Infantry should be able to exercise with both tanks and artillery up to at least divisional level.

The Rhine Army Ranges, which include the field firing areas of Hohne and Munsterlager and the adjacent "dry" (no weapons are fired) training area at Reinschlen, satisfy all these requirements and many more. Together they form the largest training area in Europe, stretching over more than 1400 square miles of Luneburg Heath.

It is chiefly because of the existence of this battle area that the British Army of the Rhine has been able so rapidly to switch from its occupational role to become one of the most highly-trained commands in the British Army.

Thousands of soldiers at a time are taken to the training area to see set-piece battles and demonstrations of fire-power. They are no less impressed by the dimensions of the NAAFI — a 5000-seater housed in a number of joined-up marquees.

For tank and armoured car crews, there are specially constructed "battle-runs" which provide most types of ground and forms of action which could reasonably be expected in Europe.

Sheltered in thick concrete pillboxes, German range workers manipulate the scores of target dummies which appear suddenly in a tank's path. Cunningly concealed wood and hessian "tanks," some running on steel rails, but mostly on wooden sledges, and dummy anti-tank guns fitted with explosives "fire back" when attacked. Cardboard men suddenly burst into **OVER**

On a hill overlooking a probable tank approach, an Infantry anti-tank detachment goes into action, with live rounds.





History is turned up by tank tracks on Luneburg Heath: Major A. W. Robinson holds two prehistoric axe heads.



BIGGEST RANGES IN EUROPE (Cont'd)

activity, blazing away with Bren guns firing wooden bullets. As an RAF plane flies overhead there is a simulated bomb explosion. Many of the effects are derived from the "battle box" invented by the Commandant, Lieut-Colonel George Witheridge DSO, Royal Tank Regiment (see SOLDIER, March 1950).

The manufacture and repair of targets (static and moving), barrier posts and route signing is performed by the Ranges' own target factory.

While the size of the Hohne Ranges is of tremendous advantage in training, the safety problems are considerable. All roads leading to the ranges are closed by barriers and large signs bear notice of times when firing

is in progress. At 21 of the 120 barrier posts are German watchmen who telephone Range headquarters every time a person or vehicle passes through or keep them out if they are likely to run into danger.

Before a practice, the Range Control Officer, Major W. A. R. Pledger, plans the area to be used. With the chief instructor and the commanding officer of the unit on training he pin-points firing positions and observation posts on a huge sand table model. On the tank battle runs he ensures that targets are so placed that when tanks fire on them shells fall inside the firing area.

On all shoots, gunnery instructors keep a strict eye on safety precautions. Each is in radio touch with the Control Officer.

Throughout an exercise, the latest information on gun positions and targets is marked on a map in the Control Room. This information comes from a control team which follows the exercise



Above: Safety watch is kept from control towers, and an ambulance stands by.

Left: Before every "live ammunition" exercise, the Control Officer (Major W.A.R. Pledger, centre) goes over the ground on a huge sand-table model.

Right: The Range workshops experiment with new types of model targets.



in vehicles fitted with wireless, and from control towers on the ranges.

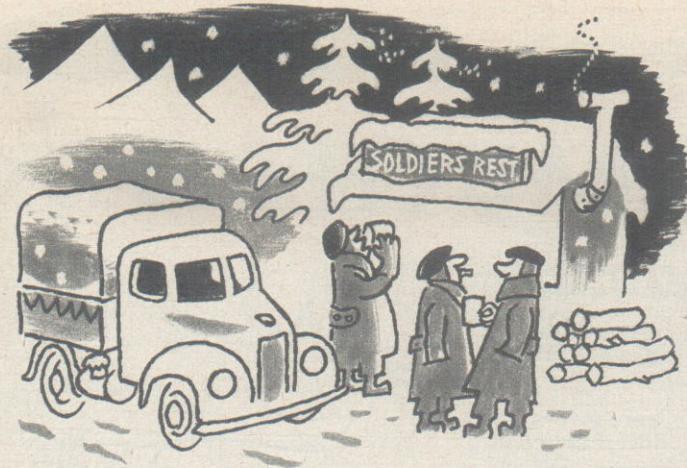
The problems of security and prevention of theft have been partly solved by the use of horse and dog patrols which change route daily.

One of the manoeuvre areas includes Victory Hill, on which stands the memorial to commemorate the surrender of the German armed forces in North-West Europe.

Things You Wouldn't Know Unless We Told You

ACCORDING to Queen's Regulations, a commanding officer must discourage any tendency among his officers to indulge in practical jokes.

Nothing is said about checking practical joking among non-commissioned officers and men.



SEASONS COMPLIMENTS

HAIL to the Army! (Pay attention!
Those who talk will receive no mention).
Here is a royal health to all —
Famagusta and Ludgershall,
Barton Stacey, Belize, Inchon,
Sennelager and Panmunjon!
Hail to the camps beloved of Allah —
Sha Tau Kok and, of course, El Ballah!
Hail, *bimbashis* in Kordofan!
Greetings to Tanjong Rambutan!
How is the prickly heat in Thule?
Here's to a leechless *ulu* Yule!

Here's to the boys in armoured vests,
Here's to recruits on driving tests,
Here's to clerks and parachute-folders,
Salvage officers, imprest-holders,
Dhobi-wallahs and referees!
Here's to the lads in LAD's!
Drink a health to the battle schools,
Spare a thought for the typing pools,
Drink to the man with fifteen daughters
Last on the list for married quarters!

Hail to the generals in their clubs!
Hail to the nude in home-made tubs!
Here's to the regimental goat,
Munching there in his fancy coat!
Here's a toast to the "Soldier's Rest"!
Brigadier Head, sir, all the best!
Here's to the drafted and diluted,
Here's to the surplus and uprooted,
Here's to the first-time-separated,
Here's to the newly-vaccinated,
Here's to the lads incarcerated,
Here's to the frankly pixelated,
Here's to the serjeants, decimated
Thanks to the dear old Shadow Roll!
Here's to the bull boys, washing coal!

Greetings again, this Christmastide —
All who are blithely occupied
Building bridges or damming brooks.
Hail to the gagmen's target: cooks!
Here's to the men on Flails and Arks,
"Dusty" Millers and "Nobby" Clarks,
"Tommy" Thompsons and Wilsons ("Tug")!
Here's to the frogmen (glug-glug-glug)!
Here's to the bathing girls who pose
Under a hundred mistletoes!
Some look nice and a few look naughty —
Here's to the lady on page forty!
Here's to the veteran who reveres
Mademoiselle from Armentieres!
(*What about Service women? — Ed.*)
Blessings on every lovely head
Cunningly crowned in bottle-green,
Goddesses of the war machine!
(*That's an improvement — Ed.*) And greetings,
Garrison children (little sweetings!)
Here's to the gangling, gongless cove
Crouching over the guard-room stove;
Does he dream of immortal glories?
No, he's reading *Astounding Stories*!

Here's to those who will primp and preen
Soon, for the crowning of their Queen!
Here's to the next men called to spill
Good red blood on a far-off hill!
Here's to that potent instrument,
Forged in the fire of precedent —
Here's to the County Regiment,
(Grumblers all, but well content),
Pride of the Thin Red Line! (*Well said!*)
That will be all till next year — *Ed.*)

Verses by ERNEST TURNER
Decorations by FRANK FINCH





1. Can you complete this well-known limerick:
*There was a young lady of Ryde,
 Who ate some green apples and died.
 The apples fermented
 Inside the lamented — — —*

2. You are buying nylons for your girl. The assistant offers you the choice between a 15-denier pair and a 30-denier pair. Which of these would have the finer thread?

3. You've heard of a titmouse. Is it an animal or a bird? Or neither?

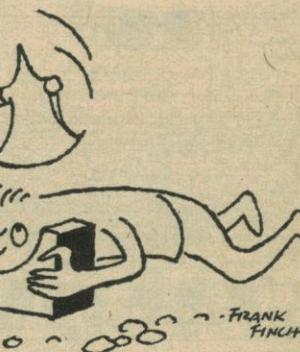


4. His new name is Viscount Norwich. The punning picture above will help you to remember his former name.

5. Re-write the following in five simple words:

(a) "The majority of the members of the populace are favourably disposed, by and large, towards the consumption of refrigerated beverages."

And this in six simple words:
 (b) "Young members of the female sex abandon the use of their optic faculties when participating in osculatory activities."



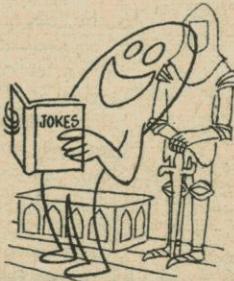
12. And the picture above illustrates the title of a famous novel which has been filmed. Clue: it is about a psychoanalyst.

13. A British car recently ran 10,000 miles without stopping—yet its wheels were changed in the course of the run. How was this done? And what kind of car was it?

14. An American newspaper owner gives away his paper any day on which rain falls. In which State is his newspaper published?

15. If a material is friable, you can:
 (a) cook it in a frying pan;
 (b) crumble it into small pieces;
 (c) stretch it out into a wire;
 (d) beat it into a thin sheet.

16. Name two very famous men whose middle names are Spencer.



SCREEN SOLDIERS — WHO ARE THEY?

You may have seen some of these faces in films, or you may remember seeing them in **SOLDIER**. Can you name the actors and actresses—and also the films in which they appeared?



17. One word will link the pairs of words below. Example: CART.....LAUGH. Link-word: HORSE.

(a) CORK ... DRIVER;
 (b) RUM ... JUDY;
 (c) FISH ... WALK;
 (d) HELL ... ARMS.

18. Here are the anagrams of four zoo animals (the last three contain two words each):

(a) Atora Gill;
 (b) Helen Diana Pint;
 (c) Greta Lebing;
 (d) Gracie Alemane.

19. Who described marriage as a friendship between a man and a woman recognised by the police?

20. Here's one of the oldest traps in the world, but a national newspaper recently fell into it. What (if anything) is wrong with this illustration?

21. The detective was questioning a suspect who said: "I am a hundred per cent American citizen and I am here on holiday." What made the detective suspect the man to be a "phony"?

22. The Conservative Party of Great Britain held its annual conference this year at Brighton, Torquay, Eastbourne or Scarborough, and the Socialist Party at Blackpool, Morecambe, Yarmouth or Margate. Which?

23. Here's another picture in which there might (or might not) be a fundamental error. Can you spot one?

24. When a man calls your wife a bit of a dilettante, he means that she is one of these:

(a) a flirt;
 (b) a spreader of false rumours;
 (c) a dabbler in the arts;
 (d) a lover of sentimental fiction.

25. Think of the name of a golf club. Add one letter to the end, and the word means "more cheeky." Add still another letter to the end, and you have an uplifting garment.

26. With which advertisers are these phrases connected:

(a) You want the best seats. We have them;
 (b) Preparing to be a beautiful lady;
 (c) The pause that refreshes;
 (d) The best car in the world.

27. Which of these distinguished generals recently became head of the British Broadcasting Corporation:

(a) General Lord Ismay;
 (b) General Sir Brian Horrocks;
 (c) General Sir Ian Jacob;
 (d) General Sir Oliver Leese.

28. A man who puts F.R.C.S. after his name is:

(a) Fellow of the Royal Cambridge Society;
 (b) Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons;
 (c) Fellow of the Royal Chirurgical Society;
 (d) Fellow of the Royal Committee on Shipping.

29. Who wrote:

*"If I were damned of body and soul,
 I know whose prayer would make
 me whole,
 Mother o' Mine, Mother o' Mine."*

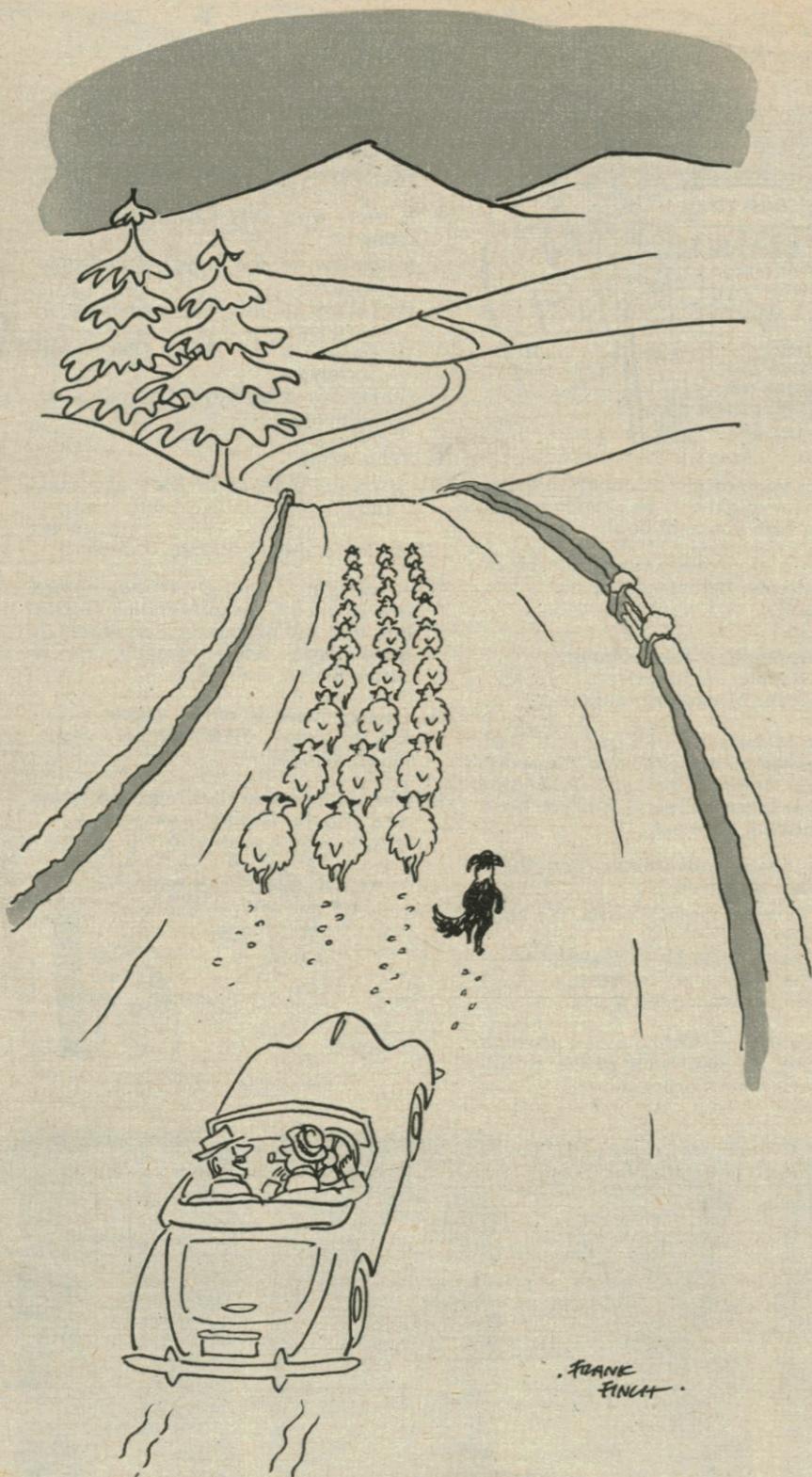
30. A young man whose Christian names are Edward George Nicholas Patrick has had his picture in the papers a good many times recently. He is better known as—who?

31. One of these is out of place: Arno, Emett, Anton, Beachcomber, Siggs, Giles. Which?

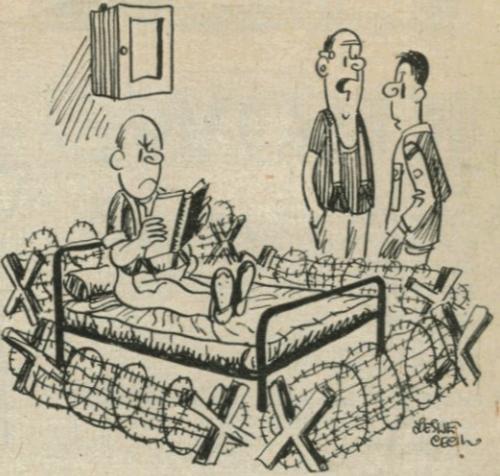
32. This last picture illustrates the name of a popular woman's magazine.



(Answers on Page 33)



"They tell me the Colonel's farm is not far from here."

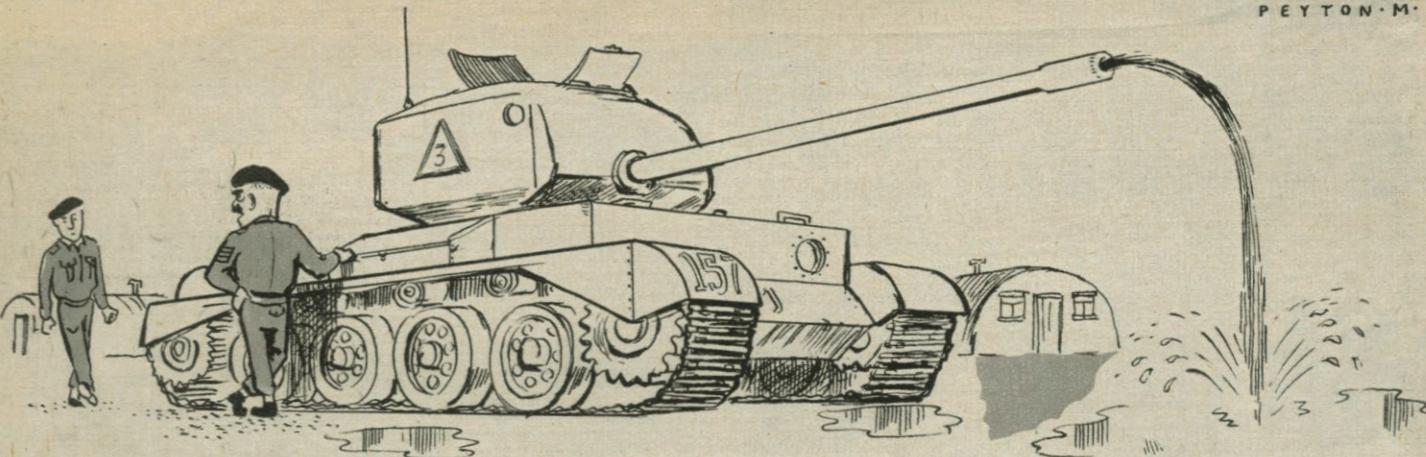


"Never knew a man make such a fuss about losing a bit of kit!"

SOLDIER HUMOUR



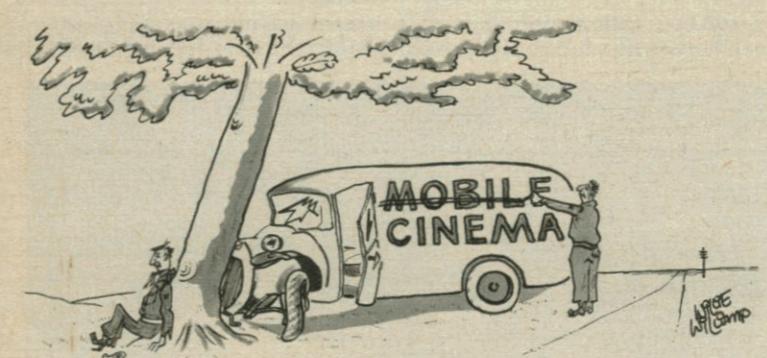
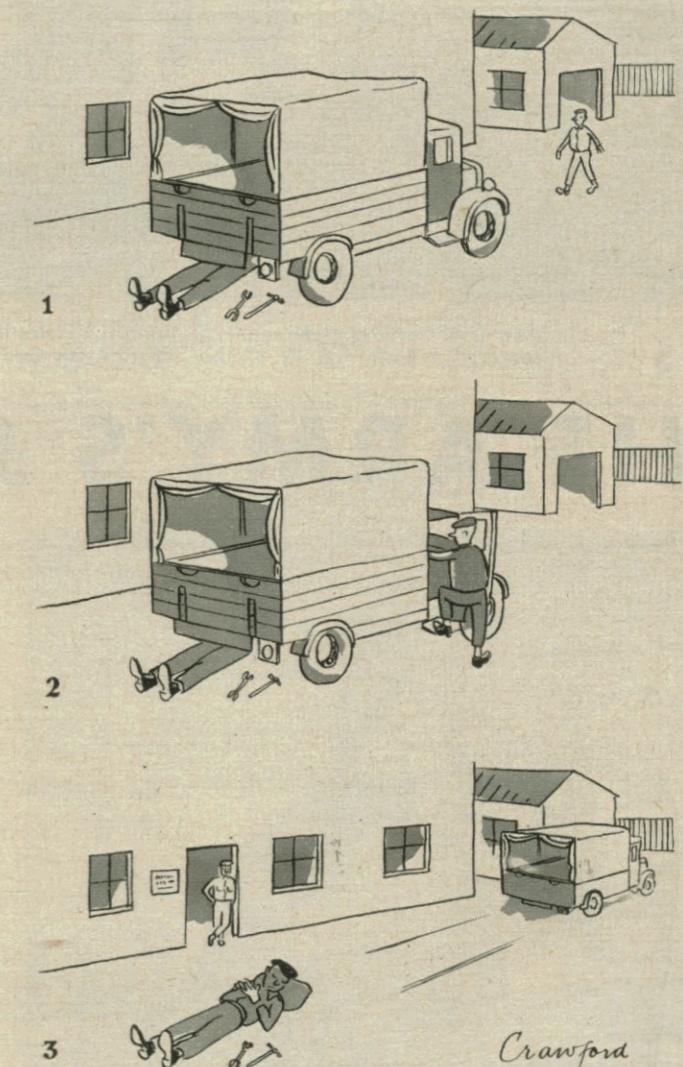
"But our Sarge says, 'Never salute anyone with a fag on.'"



"Perhaps you noticed there was rather a heavy shower while you were in the NAAFI, Trooper Thompson?"



"Heads, he's yours."



3



Thanks to the National Service dragnet, the Army can now field a Soccer team capable — once in a way — of flooring First Division professionals



The Civil Service goalkeeper, D. Wiltshire, tries to snatch the ball from the feet of the Army centre-forward, Private V. A. W. Keeble, Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Who talks about Civil Service caution?

THE ARMY'S £100,000 TEAM



Army goalkeepers jump for it: Above: Gunner J. King snatches a high one from a Civil Service forward. Right: Private William Fraser foils an Aston Villa attack.

WHEN the Army beats a First Division football team, as it did Aston Villa by three goals to one, then it has reason to feel pleased with itself. In the past it has had to wait for a war before it could field stars. Now, National Service has changed all that.

By those who ought to know, it is estimated that the Army side, in terms of transfer money, is worth not less than £100,000. But, strong as it is, this team did not succeed in beating the Football Association, who won 4-1.

Cont'd
on Page 27



YOU'VE REALLY GOT SOMETHING THERE!



YES, YOU'VE REALLY GOT SOMETHING
WHEN YOU'VE GOT A
BLUE RIBAND
CHOCOLATE SANDWICH WAFER

A GRAY DUNN PRODUCT



For your Christmas 'stocking'

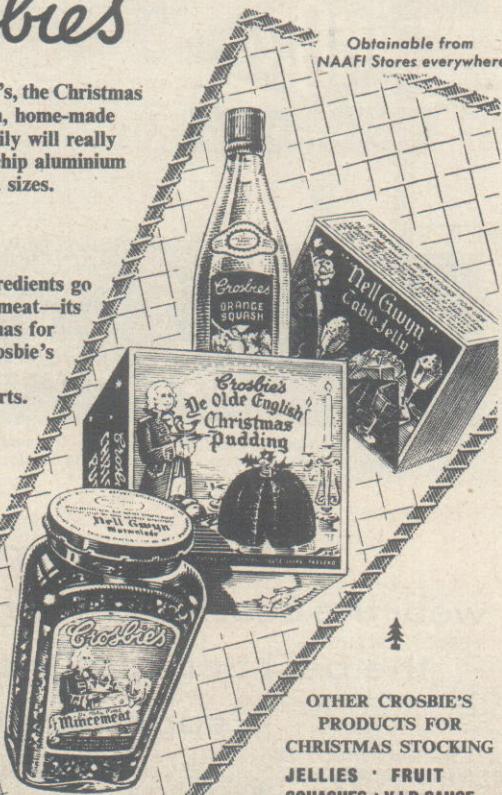
Crosbie's

This year buy Crosbie's, the Christmas Pudding with the rich, home-made flavour that your family will really appreciate. In non-chip aluminium basins, 1 lb. and 2 lb. sizes.



Only the finest ingredients go into Crosbie's Mincemeat—it's rich, spicy goodness has for many years made Crosbie's a family favourite for mince pies and tarts.

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Cheering..Energising..Sustaining

DELICIOUS 'Ovaltine' is a worthy favourite with the Forces. Its warming, cheering nourishment helps to sustain strength and energy.

At bed-time, too, when you feel the need of a really good night's rest, a cup of 'Ovaltine' will help to promote the conditions favourable to natural, restful sleep. Remember to order 'Ovaltine' in your canteen.

Drink delicious
Ovaltine

OVALTINE TABLETS
for eating

'Ovaltine' Tablets, containing the sustaining and energizing properties of 'Ovaltine' are a valuable emergency ration. They are packed in handy sizes for the pocket. Prices 8d & 1/3d.



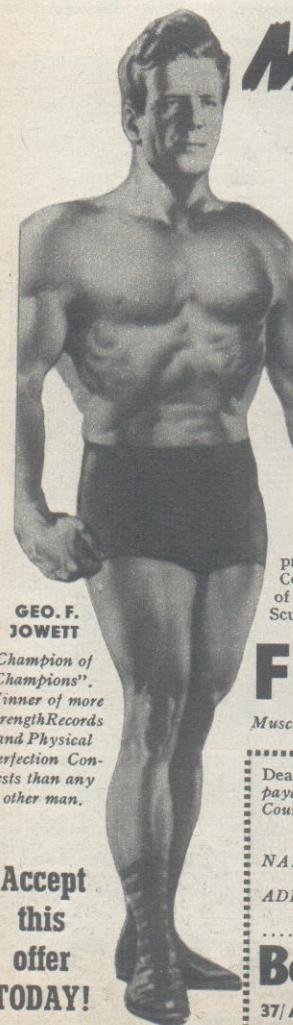
Whenever there's some fun around, Harry's the lad who starts it. Always has his Hohner with him. Out it comes—and on with the dance, the sing-song, or a quiet meander among the classics. Harry learned to play in 5 minutes with the free tutor leaflet. So can you.

Get one—and a Hohner, from your dealer today.

HARMONICAS
AND ACCORDIONS
THE WORLD'S BEST · PLAYED BY THE STARS



This tin...
and only this tin, contains the
real **BLUEBELL** shine.



GEO. F.
JOWETT
"Champion of
Champions".
Winner of more
Strength Records
and Physical
Perfection Con-
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Accept
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TODAY!

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be BIG
FOR ONLY **2'6**

The Body Sculpture Club believes that every man has the right to a healthy, muscular body. So, for **2/6 ONLY** it offers you **FIVE** Test Courses teaching the principles of Body Sculpture. See what these amazing Courses comprise: (1) How to Mould Mighty Arms (2) Create a Deep, Sturdy CHEST (3) Build a Broad, Brawny BACK (4) Develop a GRIP of Steel (5) Build LEGS like Pillars of Oak! These thrilling Test Courses will build you a Big, Husky Body easily, surely, privately in your own home, without equipment. These Courses are compiled by George F. Jowett, "Champion of Champions". Write now or send Coupon to The Body Sculpture Club, 37/A 2, Success House, Surbiton, Surrey.

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If you send **NOW** you will also receive **FREE** Book with pictures and stories of famous strength athletes, also **FREE** Charts showing all the Body Club membership.

Dear George: I enclose 2/6 P. O. (crossed and made payable to The Body Sculpture Club) for my **FIVE** Test Courses, Free Book, Free Charts and details of many other Club offers and privileges.

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MEN IN THE PUBLIC EYE PREFER

BRYLCREEM FOR CLEAN GROOMING

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the pure oils
in BRYLCREEM
are emulsified
to prevent
excessive oiliness

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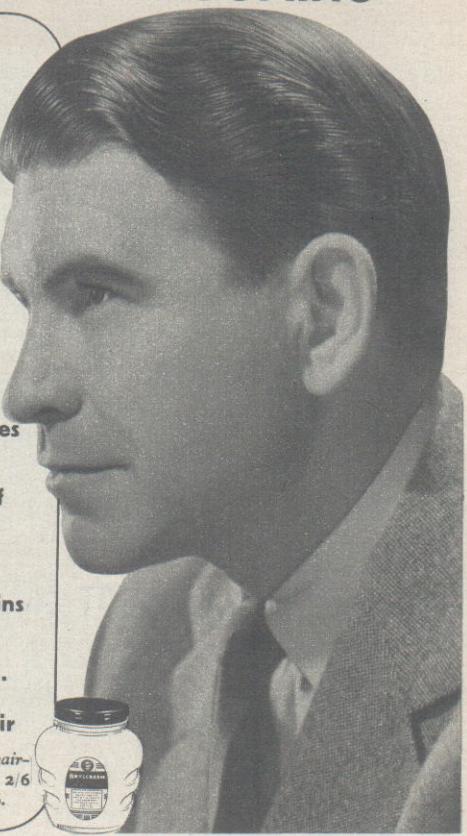
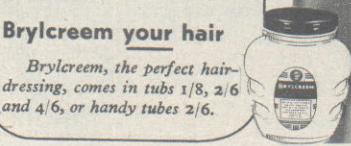
with massage
BRYLCREEM ensures
a clean scalp,
free from dandruff

BECAUSE

BRYLCREEM contains
no gum, no soap,
no spirit, no starch.

Brylcreem your hair

Brylcreem, the perfect hair-
dressing, comes in tubs 1/8, 2/6
and 4/6, or handy tubes 2/6.



114/106

Great names linked in sport



Old Trafford — the home of Manchester United — was badly blitzed during the war.
It is quite close to Lancashire's famous Old Trafford cricket ground.

The best teams
wear the best kit. "Umbro" pleases
the best because the quality
is superlative

The choice of champions

OF LEADING SPORTS OUTFITTERS ALL OVER
THE WORLD

THE ARMY'S £100,000 TEAM

(Continued)

The Villa have been playing the Army in friendly matches longer than any other League club. It was their second defeat — the other being 20 years ago. True, the Villa lacked three of their best men, but otherwise it was the team that beat Middlesbrough the previous week. The Army had already given Everton a hard run for their money.

These "friendly" matches against First Division teams are friendly in the full sense of the word. The professionals relish a change from the fierce striving after league points, which is far from meaning that they do not put their back into the game.

An outstanding "find" of the season appeared to be Private William Fraser (Airdrie), of 2nd Training Battalion REME. In goal the performance of this 23-year-old Australian-born Scot, who had been called up only a month previously, was exceptional. One press critic said: "Fraser showed no sign that the month of square bashing had affected his skill." (Query: Why should it?)

Another player whom the critics praised was massive Private Anthony Marchi (Spurs), of 28th Battalion RAOC, playing half-back. He scored from 30 yards — and the Spurs manager beamed in the grandstand. Gunner Geoffrey Twentyman (Carlisle United) of 17th Training Regiment, Royal Artillery was on top form at centre half; he is shortly to be transferred to a Northern First Division team. Leicester City had two good men in the Army team: Private D. J. Hines and Private W. Webb, both RAOC. Private Hines is an England "B" International, and so is Private W. E. Gunter.

On the same day that the Army defeated Aston Villa another Army team drew against the Civil Service. This time three Regular soldiers took part — just to show that not all the Army's footballers are National Service professionals. One of them, Warrant Officer A. V. Tennuci, started as a Boy in the Royal Army Medical Corps; he has captained the RAMC team. The other two, Bombardier W. Corlett of the Royal Artillery Depot, and Sergeant W. Anderson, of REME, have played for Bromley and Bishop Auckland respectively while serving in the Army. Sjt. Anderson is a Scottish Amateur International.

Later this season the Army will enjoy the distinction of playing for the first time at Hampden Park, though this will not be its first match against Scotland. It is hoped to play Wales for the first time this season.

The activities of the Army football team — even its visits to the Continent — cost the Treasury nothing. In fact, the "gate" money goes to subsidise other Army sports.



The Army's team against Aston Villa. Back row, left to right: Pte. W. Webb, RAOC (Leicester City), Pte. W. E. Gunter, RAOC (Portsmouth), Pte. A. V. Marchi, RAOC (Spurs), Pte. W. Fraser, REME (Airdrieonians), Gnr. G. Twentyman (Carlisle United), Pte. D. J. Hines, RAOC (Leicester City). Front row: Gnr. R. Simpson (Huddersfield), Gnr. G. E. Nutt (Coventry), Pte. A. Kaye, RAMC (Barnsley), L/Cpl. A. E. Fenton, 14/20 King's Hussars (Blackpool) (captain), and Pte. J. Parry, 2nd Sherwood Foresters (Derby County).



Left: Private Norman Deeley, of the South Staffordshire Regiment (Wolverhampton Wanderers). Right: Corporal Tommy Younger, of the Royal Scots (Hibernians).



RHINE ARMY HAS ITS SOCCER STARS, TOO

PLAYING in the Army team against the Football Association at Leeds last month was Norman Deeley of Wolverhampton Wanderers — otherwise Private Deeley N., of the South Staffordshire Regiment, now stationed in Rhine Army. His Commanding Officer has agreed that this 18-year-old half back shall be available to play for the Army.

Another Rhine Army soldier who makes football news is Corporal Tommy Younger, of the 1st Battalion The Royal Scots, stationed in Berlin. When free of regimental duties, he is flown home to play goal for Hibernians. Each trip costs his club about £40. Before the Royal Scots moved

to Berlin, Corporal Younger used to fly home from the British Zone.

Corporal Younger first played in goal at the age of six in his school team (average age, nine). Two years later he was the team's manager. At the age of 16 he had his first trial with Hibernians. Since signing professional forms a year later he has missed very few games with his team.

Corporal Younger is on the physical training staff of the Royal Scots, and has passed on much useful experience to the Battalion team, who (he says) are "doing very well at the moment." — Rhine Army Public Relations.

Double Bluff in the Desert

TOBRUK was besieged, and the garrison depended for a good deal of its water supply on the town's conspicuous distillery.

As was to be expected, a bomber attacked the plant. The bombs landed near but not on the target. Hardly had the dust subsided when men were swarming over the building. They dug shallow "bomb-holes" near the walls and made them look deep by shading with coal dust and waste oil. They scattered prepared "debris" around. With paint and cement, they produced a "hole" on the roof of the main building. A disused cooling tower was blown down.

It all looked fine when a high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft flew over. The Rome communiqué announced a direct hit — and the supply of fresh water from the distillery to the garrison continued undisturbed.

This was part of the prelude to the greatest camouflage achievement of World War Two, the deception before the Battle of Alamein. It is described by Lieutenant-Colonel Geoffrey Barkas, who was Director of Camouflage

They Accepted 11,000 Swords

UNLIKE many formations of World War Two, the 7th Indian Division lives on — as the 7th Division of the Pakistan Army.

It can look back with pride on the first six years of its history, described by one of the original brigade commanders, Brigadier M. R. Roberts, in "Golden Arrow" (Gale and Polden, 25s). The book takes its name from the divisional flash.

The Division was formed in 1940. For two years it was a "Cinderella" and desperately short of equipment. When a Gurkha recruit, lying in dummy ambush behind a dummy anti-tank rifle, was asked what a tank was, he said: "I think it's a kind of Pathan — a very big Pathan, because this is a very big rifle."

When the Division moved to the Arakan in 1943, under Major-General Frank Messervy, it was a fully-trained formation, consisting of British, Gurkha and Indian units. It was the first fully-trained division the Japanese were to meet on the Asiatic mainland.

Along with the 5th Indian Division, the 7th bore the full brunt of a fierce Japanese counter-offensive, and divisional headquarters were overrun. The Japanese had calculated that the two divisions would retreat, but neither thought of it. They stayed firm, supplied by air in the "Battle of the Boxes," and the Japanese suffered their first major defeat.

From the Arakan, the Division moved to Kohima, where it helped to shatter the Japanese advance on India. From then until VJ-Day, it was chasing the defeated enemy southward.

The war over, the Golden Arrow Division moved to Siam where it took the formal surrender of 11,000 Japanese officers' swords, of which 22, belonging to generals and admirals, were received personally by Major-General G. C. Evans, the divisional commander.

in the Middle East, in "The Camouflage Story" (Cassell, 12s 6d). The book is illustrated by Brian Robb, himself one of Eighth Army's camouflage officers, whose war-time cartoons amused the men of the Desert Army.

The task of camouflage at Alamein was to conceal the preparations for the attack at the north of the line, suggest an attack in the south, and slow down the apparent rate of preparation, so that when everything was ready, the enemy would think he still had time in hand.

It was a vast project and completely successful. Tracks were planned and controlled. Petrol was concealed in slit-trenches. Food stacks were disguised to look like lorries, and so were guns and tanks. (A Robb illustration shows a tank disguised as a lorry meeting a lorry disguised as a tank). A dummy pipe-line was built of old petrol-cans, and a dummy dump, looking like 9000 tons of stores, was set up. Dummy tanks were made of hurdles.

To balance the concealment of



Strange goings-on in the Western Desert. An illustration by Brian Robb from "The Camouflage Story."

artillery in the north, dummy batteries were mounted in the south. At the edge of the Munasib depression there were three and a half dummy field regiments, complete with signs of life and careful, but not quite successful, attempts to "camouflage" the "guns." As the attack came nearer, the camouflage was allowed to lapse, and the enemy was given a chance to see the guns were dummies. Then, at night, shortly after the attack had started, real guns and crews replaced the dummies. For a whole day they lay quiet. Then the enemy, ignoring what he still thought were dummies, launched a tank attack in this sector, and the "dummies" blazed off.

Blushes!

IN his book "Great Morning" Sir Osbert Sitwell told how, during the reign of King George V, a Guards band played part of the score of Richard Strauss's "Electra" during guard-changing at Buckingham Palace. It was a difficult piece and they were feeling pleased at having pulled it off successfully in public. Then a scarlet-coated page arrived with a message for the Bandmaster: "His Majesty does not know what the band has just played, but it is never to be played again."

This story is now capped by Christopher Pulling in his book of song reminiscences: "They Were Singing" (Harrap, 18s 6d). It seems that Queen Victoria, listening to a military band at Windsor, was captivated by a certain tune, and sent a messenger to ascertain the title of it. He returned in some embarrassment and reported that it was called "Come Where The Booze Is Cheaper."

we would immediately visit the bookshops, and seize and burn all German propaganda publications, replacing them by stocks of our own, produced by us for this specific purpose."

All in all, Bulldog Drummond had quite a war.

Admirals and Generals

SIR, His Majesty's Fleet is here to go wherever you may send it! The speaker was a sailor and the man addressed was a soldier. More remarkable, perhaps, the speaker was a British sailor and the man addressed an American soldier. To make no mystery about it, the sailor was Admiral Cunningham and the soldier General Eisenhower. The place: the Mediterranean. The year: 1943.

Two hundred years ago, says Captain John Creswell RN in "Generals and Admirals" (Longmans, 18s) such a submission by a sailor to a soldier would have been inconceivable. Both Services were too jealous of their

Successor to 'Sapper'

YOU are the Officer of the Guard at Windsor Castle. It is a very hot day, and after visiting your sentries you have bathed and then thrown yourself naked on your bed, there to fall asleep. Who, out of all the occupants of Windsor Castle, is the last person you would want to walk in?

Back in the summer of 1919 a young Scots Guards officer did as described, and in walked — well, you'll find all about it in Gerard Fairlie's "With Prejudice" (Hodder and Stoughton, 12s 6d). He was the officer concerned.

Gerard Fairlie enjoys some fame as the "original" of Bulldog Drummond, whose adventures he began to chronicle on the death of Drummond's creator, "Sapper" (otherwise Lieutenant-Colonel H. C. McNeile). It is noteworthy that one of the best-known characters of popular fiction this century is the work of two Army officers.

Fairlie's book is a random assortment of chapters about his military and literary careers. He tells a most curious story about a Guards company commander who was drilling a squad, and did not know how to prevent them marching into the railings. At the last moment the author prompted him to shout "About turn." The story does not say whether the officer gave the order on the correct foot.

On the outbreak of World War Two, the author found himself doing an intelligence job in the Low Countries on behalf of Lieutenant-Colonel Gerald Temp-

ler (now General Sir Gerald Templer). It involved keeping an eye on "two most amusing night clubs" in Lille. Later he was lent to the Royal Artillery, to help form one of the Gunners' first battle training centres. "All subsequent battle training centres were copied on that one."

Next came a hush-hush job, on which Fairlie firmly declines to talk; then a post on SHAEF. "As soon as a town was liberated,

Captain Creswell traces the amphibious operations of long ago and of the two world wars, showing how the difficult problems of command were tackled.

Blake and Monck enjoy fame as generals who commanded fleets at sea. Later expeditions were often under the joint command of the Army and Navy; sometimes, when personalities were ill-matched, results were disastrous, as in the assault on Cartagena in 1741; at other times, as in the storming of Quebec, joint command was successful. (General

Wolfe and Admiral Saunders were "strictly enjoined" to be friendly.

With World War Two came the fashion of appointing a "supremo" — that is, giving one man supreme charge of land, sea and air operations. There was, and is, much controversy about whether this is a good plan. Admiral Cunningham, though he thought highly of General Eisenhower as a supreme commander, considers that if the Services are left to worry out their own problems together, they will be less likely to drift apart. On the whole, the co-operation between Army and Navy in the late war was excellent, though General Patton had

some hard (and unjustified) words to say about naval reliability.

Captain Creswell does not like the idea of having a handful of super-commanders who are qualified to handle all three Services. It is asking too much of one man, he says. He thinks that on most future occasions joint command will be the better plan; but that if a big amphibious operation is planned and a man of genius is thrown up at the same time he should be signed up.

Captain Creswell's tact is well illustrated in the title of his book. It is *not* called "Admirals and Generals" — although (with equal tact) this review is.

"This is a Rugged Outfit"

IT was Boxing Day in Korea. Behind an upturned box in the snow sat an officer, ready to administer swift justice to those who had celebrated too freely the night before.

"Hat off!" cried the sergeant-major. "Right turn! Quick march! Lefliefleflieflefliefrihalt . . ."

There were allies watching. Said one, with admiration: "Gee, this is a rugged outfit. It beats West Point."

This "rugged outfit" was the 1st Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. The story is told in a short but admirable book about their adventures on and beyond the 38th Parallel: "The Argylls in Korea," by Lieutenant-Colonel G. I. Malcolm (Nelson, 12s 6d).

The Argylls were in the first British contingent to enter Korea. Their major bleeding was on Hill 282, scene of an unhappy mistake by Allied aircraft; scene, also, of the exploit which earned Major Kenneth Muir the Victoria Cross.

In one of their earliest actions the Argylls were embarrassed by the arrival of spectators. "There developed a gap of 800 yards between myself and my leading

platoon, into which the Press and visiting generals rapidly infiltrated," wrote an officer. "This did not aid the general conduct of the battle."

Came the day when the Argylls were glad to be issued with "drawers, woollen, winter, long" — "an unusual issue for Highland regiments," comments the author, with restraint.

The author describes the Argylls in action and in relaxation. He tells how one day the New Zealanders entertained a party from the Battalion to a Maori-style feast. "The *plat du jour* was a whole bullock cooked on red-hot stones in a hollow in the ground. This was covered over and water was then poured into it through a small hole in the top. The effect of the steam rising from the heated stones produced the most delicious dish which was one of the gastronomic memories of the war."

A useful recipe!

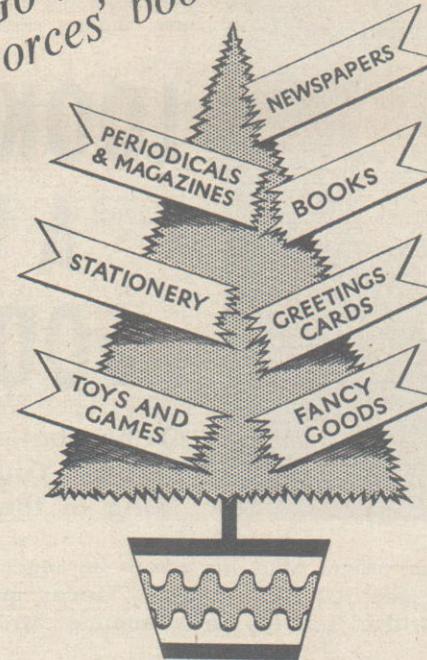
Escape — by a Private

ESCAPE books by officers are many. Escape books by private soldiers are rare. Here is one by Driver Francis S. Jones, Royal Army Service Corps: "Escape to Nowhere" (Bodley Head, 12s 6d).

Driver Jones was captured in Greece in 1941. He first escaped simply by walking away from a column of prisoners which had broken up round a pump to get water. For months he wandered in Greece, heading for Athens where he had friends. He enjoyed the hospitality of peasants, worked as a shepherd to regain his strength after an illness, and resisted the invitation of a Greek farmer to marry his beautiful daughter. Several times he was deflected from his course to seek out mythical British agents and submarines.

From Athens the author set off with a party for the Greek islands in an old sailing boat. They transhipped to a motor-boat and headed for Turkey and freedom. Thirty miles from Smyrna the motor-boat broke down; her skipper had been given money to buy spares, but had used it for a spree instead. Now began an exciting game of hide-and-seek among the Italian-occupied islands, which ended in the author's recapture. He was sent to Italy.

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CHAPMAN & HALL



Showing two types of hockey stick now in use. The one on the right is the new Indian stick.

Miniature boxing gloves are enjoying a vogue as prizes in boxing tournaments. It's a change from medals.

LOOKING FOR A WHITE FOOTBALL?

Or baseball gloves? Or bows and arrows? You'll find almost everything in the NAAFI sports shop

AT least one British officer shot an arrow in anger in World War Two (see *SOLDIER*, October). Today quite a number of British soldiers are shooting arrows for sport.

The evidence is furnished by NAAFI, who sell sports kit in 80 centres throughout the world, with a total yearly turnover of £750,000. In the last three years, their sales of archery equipment have increased tenfold.

It seems that the Royal Air Force were the first to take up archery. That was during the war, as a relaxation for aircrew. Latterly soldiers have been practising this new form of marksmanship, sometimes against conventional targets, sometimes against rabbits and occasionally (as in Germany) against wild boar.

The modern soldier's tastes in sport find reflection in NAAFI's latest sports showroom, recently opened in Kennings Way, London. It houses a £20,000 display.

Soccer is still the soldier's prime sport, but basket ball is quickly growing in popularity. Units stationed near American formations are now buying up equipment for baseball and soft ball (a "soft" ball is just as hard as that used for baseball, but being bigger is simpler to hit. The word "soft" is used in its American sense of being easy).

Anyone who thinks that imported games are ousting cricket is wrong. Many units dip into their sports fund to the extent of £50 a time to equip their stores with bats, stumps, pads and balls (a ball can cost from three shillings to more than £2).

Most units buy their cricket gear in the New Year so that bats may be oiled in time for the season. NAAFI give advice on oiling, for too much or too little

can be equally disastrous. The oil should be placed below the splice and the bat allowed to rest on its back so that the surface absorbs it evenly.

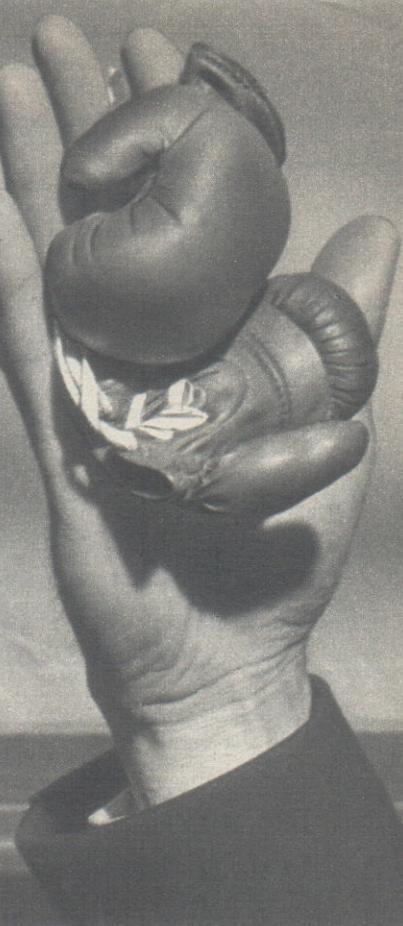
To preserve their stock of bats for first eleven matches some units buy vellum-covered bats, which need no oiling, for net practices and junior games. The vellum can be renewed each season.

Members of the Women's Royal Army Corps have a cricket tradition going back to early ATS days. Not many soldiers know that women play with a ball half an ounce lighter than that used by men and that women use slightly shorter bats.

The war-time system of holding large stocks of soccer boots in units for general issue is slowly dying out. Soldiers are now encouraged to buy their own from their company store, on the "instalment" plan. This pay-as-you-play scheme cuts down "athlete's foot" and lengthens the life of the boots, for each man takes greater care of his own pair.

NAAFI now go in for a new line in soccer balls: white ones for floodlit football. The demand is not great.

In the world of hockey there



is a growing demand for the Indian stick with its more pronounced curve (the Indian wood is easier to bend). The blades are imported from India and attached to shafts made in Britain.

While units buy stocks of tennis, squash, badminton, athletic and fencing kit, NAAFI know of only one — a rehabilitation unit — which purchases sets of golf clubs. Golf remains one of the more expensive sports. Polo kit is not shown. Nowadays there is not sufficient demand, but orders occasionally come through.

There is a steady sale of under-water fishing kit, the most popular item of which is frogmen feet (from £1 2s to £4 19s 9d a pair).

Sports prizes have undergone a change in fashion. Medals are giving way to more useful articles like pens and pencils. Unit boxing champions often ask for a set of miniature gloves (9s 1d) to keep as a memento.

BOB O'BRIEN



Left: These bows and arrows are the real thing. Airmen set the fashion for archery in the Services.

Right: Demonstrating an outsize catchers' mitt. Soldier's who are stationed near American units are dabbling in baseball.





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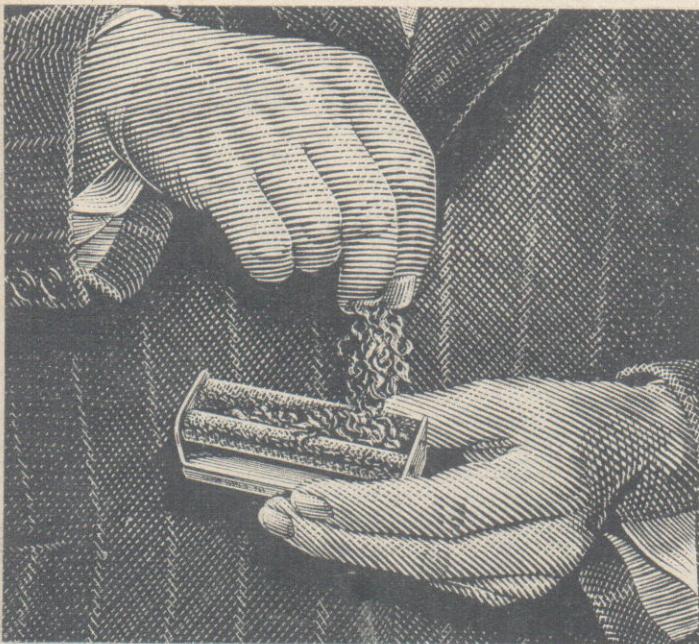


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- 6 Moisten the boot with the rag.
- 7 Finish with a dry cloth and "You could shave in it."

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ANSWERS

(From Pages 20—21)

How Much Do You Know? 1. "And made cider inside her inside." 2. 15-denier is very fine; 30-denier is medium fine. 3. A bird. 4. Duff Cooper (Sir Alfred). 5. (a) Most people like iced drinks; (b) Girls shut their eyes when kissing. 6. Squash. 7. Robbery with violence. 8. Dante, Beatrice; Romeo, Juliet; Troilus, Cressida; Paolo, Francesca; Lancelet, Guenevere; Aly, Rita. 9. (a) deer, antelope; (b) Alabama, Louisiana; (c) flickering shadows; (d) plumeria. 10. (a) Miller; (b) Factor; (c) Beerbohm. 11. "Blithe Spirit." 12. "Mine Own Executioner." 13. It was driven into a "dry dock" at the back of a moving vehicle, and locked into position; then wheels were lifted from the track one at a time and changed. Both "dock" and car were continually moving. The car was a Morris Minor. 14. Florida. 15. (b). 16. Winston Churchill, Charles Chaplin. 17. (a) Screw; (b) Punch; (c) Cake; (d) Fire. 18. (a) Alligator; (b) Indian elephant; (c) Bengal tiger; (d) American eagle. 19. Robert Louis Stevenson. 20. "BC" was not a measurement of time before the Birth of Christ. 21. An American would say "vacation" for "holiday". 22. Conservatives, Scarborough; Socialists, Morecambe. 23. *The Times* does not have news on the front page. 24. (c). 25. Brassie, brassier, brassière. 26. (a) Keith Prowse; (b) Pears' Soap; (c) Coca-Cola; (d) Rolls-Royce. 27. (c). 28. (b). 29. Rudyard Kipling. 30. Duke of Kent. 31. Beachcomber is a prose humourist; the others are humorous artists. 32. "Home Notes."

Screen Soldiers: 1. David Niven: "The Way Ahead." 2. Trevor Howard: "The Third Man." 3. Stanley Holloway: "The Way Ahead." 4. Walter Pidgeon: "Soldiers Three." 5. Edward Underdown: "They Were Not Divided." 6. Robert Newton: "Soldiers Three." 7. Richard Todd: "The Hasty Heart." 8. Clark Gable: "Homecoming." 9. Roger Livesey: "Life and Death of Colonel Blimp." 10. Peter Ustinov: "Private Angelo." 11. Stewart Granger: "Soldiers Three." 12. Ronald Shiner: "Reluctant Heroes." 13. Anthony Bushell: "Who Goes There?" 14. Glynis Johns: "Appointment With Venus." 15. Patricia Neal: "The Hasty Heart." 16. Lana Turner: "Homecoming." 17. Michael Redgrave: "The Captive Heart." 18. David Tomlinson: "Hotel Sahara." 19. Gregory Peck: "Twelve O'clock High."

FILMS COMING YOUR WAY

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

TRENT'S LAST CASE

The famous detective story by E. C. Bentley. It starts with an inquest and a verdict of suicide. Trent, who has managed to acquire fame as a painter and a newspaper reporter as well as a crime investigator, is on the job. It does not look like suicide to him. He discovers that some of the witnesses, including a lady to whom he is attracted, have not been telling the truth. Michael Wilding plays Trent, Margaret Lockwood the lady, and Orson Welles the corpse.

THE GENTLE GUNMAN

Remember the thugs of the IRA who crossed over to England in the early days of World War Two, bringing bombs which they exploded in banks, underground stations and post offices? In this film, an IRA agent in London goes back to Ireland to tell his friends about the futility and suffering of it all, only to be regarded by them as a traitor to the cause. That is when his troubles start. The stars are John Mills, Dirk Bogarde, Robert Beatty and Elizabeth Sellars. Gilbert Harding is also present as an argumentative Englishman.

MONKEY BUSINESS

Not every research scientist is trying to discover the cause of cancer. Cary Grant, for instance, is busy trying to concoct a rejuvenator. While his back is turned, an escaped chimpanzee mixes it for him. Grant samples it, and so does his long-suffering wife, Ginger Rogers. In no time, the dull scientist gets himself a crew cut, a lovely blonde (Marilyn Monroe) and a sports car. Ginger Rogers begins playing marbles and popping live goldfish down the trousers of fat business men. Then they take another swig ... Some of the critics found it embarrassing. Marilyn Monroe stays the way she is, which is just right. We do not see enough of her; or rather, we do not see her often enough.

FATHER'S DOING FINE

The film version of Noel Langley's play "Little Lambs Eat Ivy." It is a light-hearted chronicle of the adventures of a scatter-brained family during a complicated domestic crisis. They include Richard Attenborough as an hysterical expectant father; Heather Thatcher as the distraught mother of four girls; Susan Stephen as a drama student who acts all the time; Peter Hammond as an eccentric fellow drama student; and Noel Purcell as an Irish butler who is suspected of stealing a diamond ring.

LURE OF THE WILDERNESS

The wilderness, in this case, rejoices in the name of Okefenokee swamp and is situated in Georgia — the Georgia in America. There, among Technicolor snakes, alligators, bears and black panthers, lurks a man who has fled from a false accusation of murder along with his daughter, who wields a bow and arrow and is knowledgeable about quicksands. Stars: Jean Peters, Jeffrey Hunter and Constance Smith, with Walter Brennan.

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MOLESKIN MODEL COATS £89	£39
FLANK MUSQUASH COATS £150	£78
DYED FOX CAPE-STOLES £25	£15

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AGE (if under 21)

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The adjutant
KOLYNOS
Dental Cream

Dental trouble often starts with decaying food particles, clinging round and hidden between the teeth. Kolynos is made with carefully blended ingredients that produce an active cleansing foam. This not only penetrates between the teeth, removing every particle of waste, but also polishes the teeth themselves. Then Kolynos rinses out at once leaving the mouth perfectly fresh, the teeth wonderfully white and clean.

LETTERS



PRAISING MEDLOC

Having recently travelled on the MEDLOC troop train on posting to Austria, we wish to express our appreciation of the really first-class food and accommodation, and also the courtesy received from the train staff during our 24-hour trip.

It is our belief that if all troop trains and troop ships could follow the example of the staff of this train, the lot of soldiers travelling abroad and coming home would be much happier.

Once again we say thank you to all for making our long journey such a pleasant one. — **Corporals Ball, Cotter, Irvine and Donaghey (four Irishmen of the Royal Military Police).**

★ **SOLDIER** also has grateful memories of the MEDLOC train, and publishes this letter with much pleasure.

BOWS AND ARROWS

I was interested to read of the use of bows and arrows in warfare (**SOLDIER**, August). In Burma shortly before the Japanese started hostilities, a bush warfare school was formed for British units, including the Royal Scots Fusiliers, Glosters, KOYLI and Middlesex Regiment. I carried out an inspection of their arms when they moved to Rangoon to practise river crossings. Afterwards I was shown bows and arrows used by these troops for hunting purposes. The bow had a rifle-type stock with trigger. Two hands were needed to "cock the bow" and an arrow fired from it was of high velocity and of great accuracy. I expect early members of the school will have more details. — **WOI J. W. Stilwell, REME, 10 Broadway Grove, York.**

COLOURS IN BATTLE

The letter and your answer on the interesting subject of Colours in action remind me that the claim of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry was dealt with in the *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*. From this account and from yours it is clear that the Colour was taken to the theatre of operations, but there is no mention of it going into action in the same manner as did the Colours of the Northamptonshire Regiment at Laings Nek in 1881. In the *Journal* the Commanding Officer of the Princess Patricia's is reported as saying that their Colour was kept at Battalion Headquarters and that on 8 May 1915 it waved over the trenches, being hit by shrapnel and bullets several times. There is no record, so far, of the Colour "going over the top" with the Regiment.

It is noticed from both accounts that the Colour was not consecrated. So, technically, it is questionable whether it could be classed as a regimental Colour until it was consecrated after hostilities.

Did not a battalion of the Foot Guards take their regimental Colours to the theatre of operations in North

● **SOLDIER** welcomes letters.

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

Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published.

● Please do not ask for information which you can get in your own orderly room or from your own officer, thus saving time and postage.

Africa in World War Two? I seem to remember seeing in the Press a picture of them in a ceremonial parade in Algiers or some such place. Perhaps someone can confirm this. — **Major T. J. Edwards MBE, "Somli," Summer Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey.**

★ **SOLDIER** has been unable to trace any regiment of Foot Guards which took its Colours to North Africa.

TRACING A PICTURE

At the end of Lord Roberts's 41 years in India in 1895 he was appointed Commander of the Forces in Ireland with headquarters in the Royal Hospital, Dublin. I was on the staff of Chancellor and Son, local society photographers, and I called on Lord Roberts immediately he arrived and was fortunate enough to secure an appointment for the following day. When I arrived I found him in full field-marshall's regalia mounted on the horse he had ridden on the famous Kabul to Kandahar forced march. The picture I took turned out a great success. Unfortunately, after I had left the firm, it changed hands and the negative was destroyed. There must be many copies in existence and I am anxious to get hold of one, if any reader can help.

I am an old soldier. I joined the Royal Dublin Fusiliers in 1887 and am now 83 years old. — **Loftus Ewing, 34 Dorset Road, Parkwood, Johannesburg, South Africa.**

NO BEARDS

I am a National Serviceman posted to a unit of the Army Emergency Reserve (former Supplementary Reserve). If I grew a beard, would I be allowed to retain it while at annual camp? — **M. Church, Oxford Street, Liverpool.**

★ **No. Beards must come off during the period of the camp. Members of the Reserve, like Regular soldiers and Territorials, must obey Queen's Regulations while in uniform.**

A ruling has been given elsewhere that if a "Z" man turns up at camp with a beard, the decision as to whether he retains it or not is left to the Commanding Officer. The reason for this more indulgent course is no doubt because the "Z" man does not know he is being called up until his papers arrive, whereas National Servicemen with Territorial and Reserve commitments are well aware that there are parades and camps to be attended.



ENJOYING a buggy-ride in Berlin are the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Beverley, in Yorkshire, Alderman H. R. Godbold and Councillor E. Davies. They had travelled the 650 miles from Beverley to visit the 1st Battalion, The East Yorkshire Regiment, at the invitation of the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel D. I. Strangeways. Draped with their chains of office, they saw the Battalion in training and at rest. The horse-drawn carriage was bought by the Battalion during a transport shortage. It carried the visitors to a Battalion parade at which the Mayor addressed the troops and took the salute.

"RANKER"

Is it not time there was some agreement about the use of the word "ranker"? It originally meant, and in the view of many still means, an officer commissioned from the ranks. That was the sense in which Kipling used the word, for one. But the newspapers use "ranker" freely to describe a man serving in the ranks, one of the rank-and-file. The result is that nobody can be sure what meaning the word is supposed to convey. — **"A Real Ranker" (name and address supplied).**

HIS APPEAL

I have been charged and convicted of an offence I did not commit. I engaged a solicitor to prepare and submit an appeal which proved successful. Can I claim legal expenses from the Army? — **"Ex-serjeant" (name and address supplied).**

★ **No. A soldier may approach the Directorate of Army Legal Services for legal aid before making an appeal. If he prefers to use his own solicitor the Army does not pay the costs.**

More Letters on Page 37



"He is not so clever — he's using Cherry Blossom black on brown shoes."

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Swan pens are ever popular Christmas gifts. Fashioned by craftsmen long experienced in quality pen making, and with over 100 years of tradition behind them, they offer a lifetime of good writing. Here are two models that will delight your friends this Christmas.

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BOXING

Can you tell me why a professional boxer cannot participate in Army boxing although a professional footballer can take part in Army football? — Lance-Corporal A. Clarke, Irish Guards, Pirbright.

★ The Army Boxing Association is affiliated to the Amateur Boxing Association, which rules that amateurs must not fight professionals — otherwise they lose their amateur status. This means that Army professionals can fight only Service professionals (their contests are limited to six rounds), or must obtain leave to take part in civilian professional fights. Similar restrictions do not apply in the amateur football world.

ARMY NEWSPAPERS

I read with interest the letter in the November SOLDIER from Mr. G. F. Clements relative to the wartime British and Allied Forces newspapers bibliography he is compiling.

We believe that this Museum possesses the largest collection of British Forces newspapers and journals produced since 1914 in existence and we should be happy to help Mr. Clements.

Although we possess many hundreds of these publications, not always, unfortunately, in complete sets, we have knowledge of many others of which we have never succeeded in obtaining a single copy, and we should be delighted to hear from any reader of SOLDIER who could help us to complete our records.

Our collection of Allied publications of this kind is not so extensive and we would welcome any offers of material emanating from Allied sources. — L. P. Yates Smith, Librarian, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE 1.

TRAINED NURSE

In June you published a letter about trained RAMC nurses wearing the badge of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (now renamed Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps). I have had this badge since 1925 and I have heard so many silly stories as to how one obtained it that I hope I can clear the matter up.

The badge or medal is identical with that worn by women members and in pre-war days it carried an extra sixpence a day until one was promoted above the rank of sergeant. On reaching the rank of staff-sergeant it was possible for a man speci-

Lincoln's New NAAFI Club

THE new NAAFI Club at Lincoln is to be opened by the Duke of Edinburgh on 11 December. It replaces a temporary club which, in the last three years, has sold 5,500,000 cups of tea and 4,000,000 glasses of beer to 750,000 Service men and women, including Americans. Managing the new club will be Miss J. Lawrence, who was in charge of the Hamburg House Club in Germany. Lincoln's is the eighth permanent NAAFI club in Britain; two more are being built, at Chippenham and Glasgow, and another is planned for Salisbury.



MORE LETTERS

THE DUKE'S TEA

Your interesting article on the Duke of Wellington reminds me of his partiality for tea. History relates that it was the "one essential" of his larder. "Tea cleared my head and left me with no misapprehensions," he told his generals before Waterloo. Had such a testimonial been published to all ranks at Waterloo, who knows that tea might not have taken its place in the early 19th century as the soldier's friend? As it was, it was nearly 100 years before the boys came round to the Duke's way of thinking. In 1815 wine and spirits were the soldier's stand-by. About 50 years later beer became popular, and remained so until World War Two.

In the early days of NAAFI something like 95 per cent of the canteen turnover came from beer. Now the hop has given over to soft drinks and less than five per cent of the total comes from beer sales. — George Turnbull, NAAFI Headquarters, Germany.

TWOPENNY CUP

I see that a cup of NAAFI tea is now to cost 2d, but I haven't seen any explanation why. — "Teatotal" (name and address supplied).

★ NAAFI say:

"For nearly 30 years the price of a NAAFI cup of tea remained at 1d. By June, 1949, when the price was increased to 1½d, labour costs had more than doubled in a decade. Today the average wage of a NAAFI canteen assistant is three and a half times the pre-war rate.

"NAAFI sells 157 million cups of tea a year and obviously an uneconomical selling price can result in a very heavy financial loss. A further consideration is the fact that six per cent rebate, based on the selling price, is paid back to the Services. Every effort was made to peg the price at 1½d but rising costs have forced the price up to 2d. This still compares favourably with normal commercial prices."

The price of a cup of tea in a British Railways buffet is 4d.

2 minute sermon

YULETIDE existed before the birth of Christ as a festival of the home to celebrate the passing of the shortest day and to herald the New Year which would bring new life from the dead earth.

These two ideas became reality when Jesus was born at Bethlehem, and Yule became the festival of His birth and was called Christ-mass.

Christmas is the festival of the home, because without Him no home can succeed in being what it should be. Those who take the trouble to get to know Him are never, wherever they may be, homeless. Indeed, it is at the dark time of the year — at the sad and difficult and lonely parts of one's life — that His friendship is most real, like a log fire at home when the world outside is dark and cold and wet.

At Christmas, God made a man of Himself — but that's no reason for man to make a beast of himself. There are better things to do than that, and they won't spoil our fun if we do them. One is to see that our children know what it's all about. Another is to see that we know what it's all about.

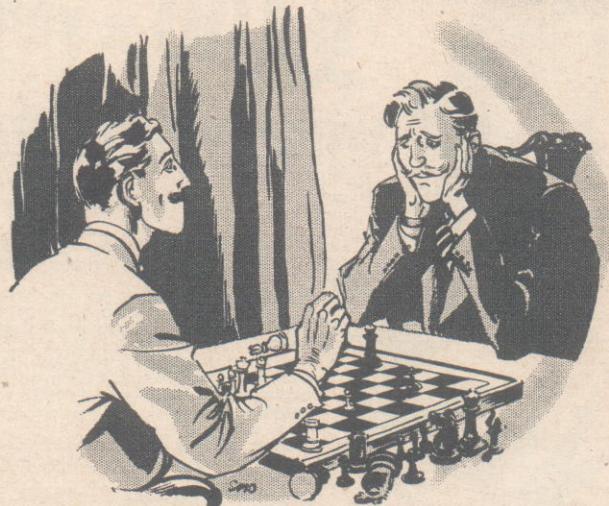
ally recommended to keep the badge, but he lost the pay.

Any private or NCO was eligible provided he had completed three years' training as a nurse and was in possession of AF C344, was specially recommended by his superiors as being of excellent character, was certified by his matron as being above average in his knowledge of nursing duties and particularly tactful and kind with the sick, was clear of company entries for one year and regimental entries for two years. A man had only to be found negligent, inefficient or drunk to lose the badge and his appointment in the QAIMNS.

During the period I was recommended there were only four others with this badge in the RAMC. I still wear the ribbon on the right side of my tunic. This creates much interest when I am in messes where it is unknown. I believe there are at present only three serving RAMC officers entitled to wear this badge. — Capt. (QM) L. H. Osborne, RAMC, 14 Military Convalescent Depot, Saughton Camp, Chester.

★ The medal and additional pay are no longer awarded.

More Letters Overleaf



KNIGHT'S GAMBIT

"Bad luck, Henry. You're now in check for the tenth time in fifteen minutes."

"This, Gerald, is not my day."

"You surprise me. The thought never entered my head when you took my Bishop with my Queen. Unorthodox play, I said to myself, but not without a certain spectacular brilliance."

"Unorthodox training, old boy — a slight carousal on the eve of battle. Not a drop of Rose's all night. Whose move?"

"Mine. Gin to Rose's Lime Juice in one."

"Cheers! Already the master mind is much refreshed. I am prepared to play you forty boards blindfold with a large gin and Rose's in each hand."

ROSE'S — The Wise Man's Nightcap

What will "Crown Life"

do for me if I save

£1 per month?

If you live — Among other things the CROWN LIFE plans will

- * Make money available to you or provide an income for your own later years — when you will need it most. Free of tax.
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If you do not live CROWN LIFE will

- * Pay the rent on your house or clear off a mortgage.
- * Provide your family with a guaranteed monthly income for a definite number of years. Free of tax.
- * Provide the money to give the youngsters a start in their chosen careers. Free of tax.
- * Do what you would have done had you lived.

Income Tax Saving. This is the only form of investment on which an Income Tax Allowance is made.

Really it is surprising what can be done — even with £1 per month. In any event find out what you — at your present age — could obtain. Send the coupon below, and KNOW what you could get — if you decided to.

Policies in Force exceed £250,000,000



LIFE IN GERMANY

I was interested in your article on cost of living in Rhine Army. It is not much use you telling us how good it used to be here. We have only been in Germany since April. I am the wife of a WO II and can honestly say I have never been as hard up as I am now. The only good points are (1) being with our husbands; (2) good quarters; (3) cheap maids. Laundry charges are much higher than at home. As for rations, we have to take what we don't want in order to get the things we do. We get nothing but stewing beef and sausages week in and week out, and we have to deal with NAAFI because we cannot live on our bare rations. Things are much dearer here than in Britain. When it comes to items like children's clothing we miss the low prices of the multiple English stores. But it is not only clothing that is expensive. I saw a pie dish advertised in a London magazine for 3s. NAAFI sell it here for 14s 6d.

It is the privates' wives who suffer the most. I know many who cannot meet the ration bill each month. — "Rhine Army Wife" (name and address supplied).

* NAAFI say they will investigate any complaint of high prices housewives care to send to the Public Relations Officer, NAAFI HQ, Ruxley Towers, Claygate, Surrey, provided an adequate description of the article is given.

To THE CROWN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

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Without obligation let me have details please. Assume I save each month £1; £2; £4; £6. (Cross out the inapplicable.)

Name (Rank) _____

Address _____

Date of Birth _____

SOL. 12/52.

CHANGING ENGAGEMENTS

I consider one of your replies is misleading. In answer to a bandsman's query on reduced service you said that apart from one example (affecting certain Boys who enlisted in 1947) "soldiers are not permitted to change their terms of service." What about the new 22-year scheme to which men on shorter engagements can switch under ACI 273/52? — "Another Bandsman" (name and address supplied).

* Under ACI 273/52 soldiers can, of course, apply to prolong their service and are invited to do so by the War Office. Otherwise they cannot alter their terms of service, particularly in order to shorten them, except in the case of certain ex-Boys referred to in this letter and previous ones.

JOINING UP

I would like to enlist in the Army provided I could get into a unit going to Malaya or Korea. As I am prepared to have a medical examination here and pay my own passage to Britain, could this be arranged? — F. B. Green, Middle Street, Georgetown, British Guiana.

* A British subject living abroad may apply to enlist, and will be accepted subject to medical fitness, approval of character references and ability to pass an elementary education test. He must pay his own fare to Britain. There is, however, no guarantee of a posting to Malaya or Korea. He could apply to join a unit stationed in one of these areas, or due to go there.

Why Cannot WE Soldier On?

"WE must do something for the disabled." How often do we hear that magnanimous cry in our daily lives? Quite often; and especially so if we happen to be at a meeting where that little silver badge, worn in the lapel, and reading "For Loyal Service", is in predominance.

Oh yes, we must do everything we possibly can for the disabled; and in fact quite a lot has been done and continues to be done. For instance, industry must employ 3% registered disabled persons. That is to say, a factory employing 500 people must show on its books 15 registered disabled employees. Of course, a man suffering from Hallux-Valgus, (flat-feet to you, Tommy), would make up the quota of disabled. Yet there are a lot of employers using seriously disabled men and women — such as the blind, the legless, paraplegics, and so on. But does the Army retain, as soldiers, those who are disabled in war, or does it care two hoots about the disabled? Not on your life!

"Yes, chum," you might say, "but we need fit men in the Army." What do you mean by fit? To possess all your faculties — is that what you mean? Then do you consider the mines, the docks and the steel mills as industries necessitating fit men? Well, I know of men working in all of those vital industries, and they're all minus limbs. You would say that as civilians they are executing a more dangerous job than that clerk in the Battalion orderly-room, or your pal at the next desk bashing away on a teleprinter, or the blonde who drives the "Old Man" around. Isn't there room in the stores for that old be-medalled sweat with hooks for hands, or is it a case of — "Yes, I agree, he's damned clever with them, old boy, but most unsoldierly-looking, don't you agree — what?"

How about it, Mr. War Minister? How about a trial for a few of us who like the Army, let us say six men all minus limbs, serving in six different jobs? I'll promise you that they will do their work well. Here are a few jobs that could be used in this experiment — clerk, driver, storeman, teleprinter-operator, telephonist, maintenance-men. That will suffice. Meanwhile don't assume that the disabled want all the "cushy" jobs. Choose Korea, if you like, as the trial area. — A. R. MILBOURNE.

* Andrew Milbourne, a former parachutist who lost his hands in the Battle of Arnhem, is the author of "Lease of Life", which was reviewed in SOLDIER last August.



£400 a year when you're 20!

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