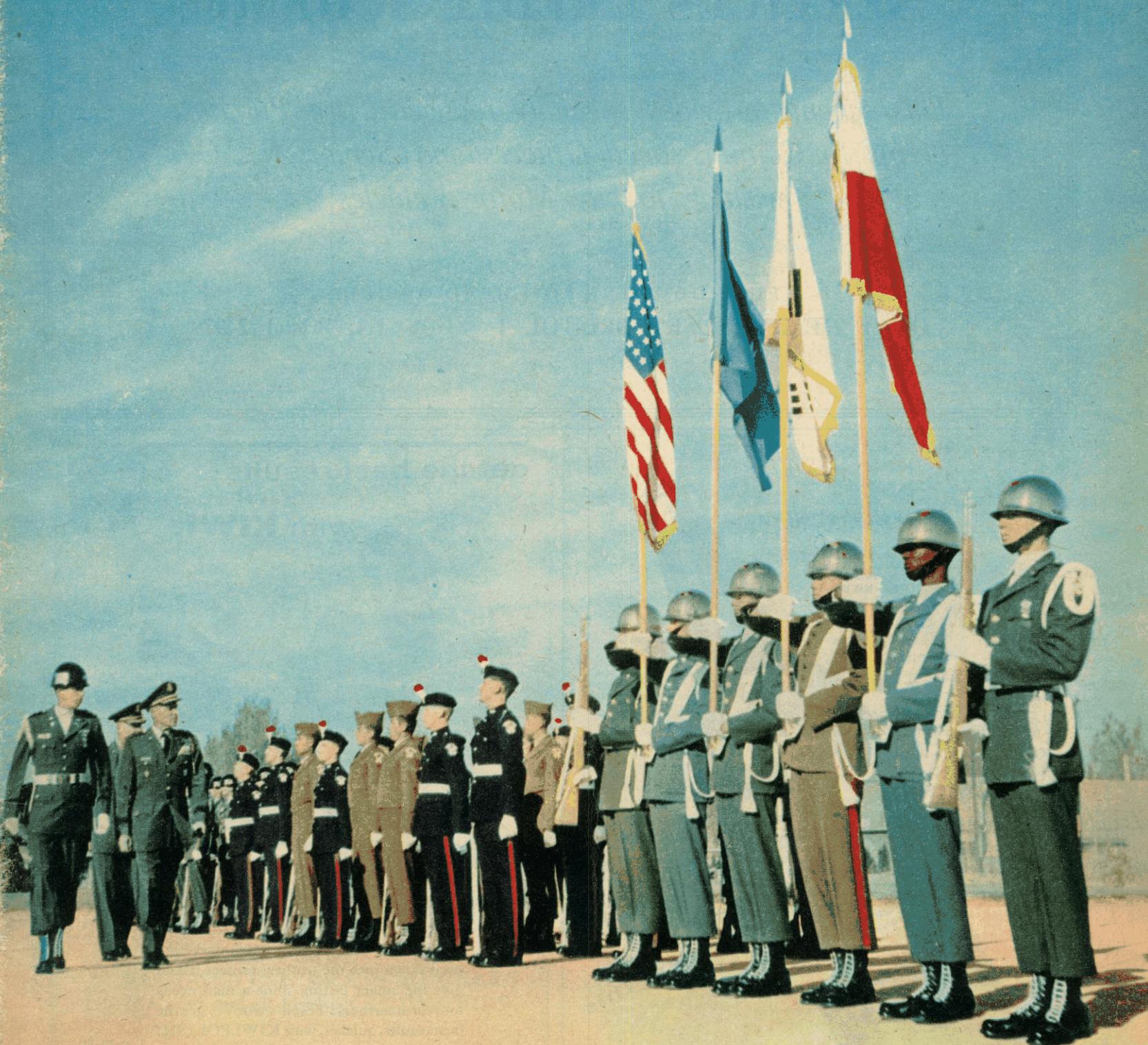


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SOLDIER



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(See pages 18-19)

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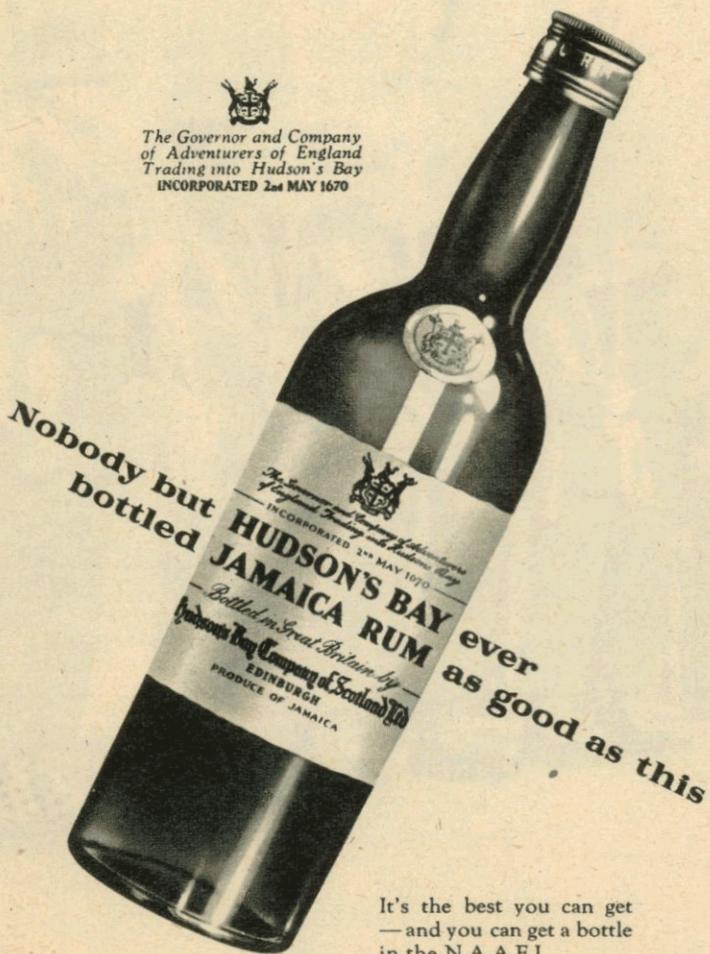
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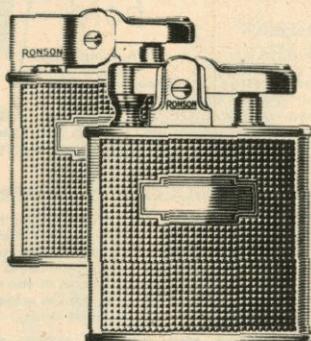
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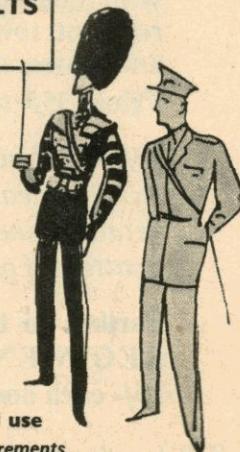
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Palms and pre-fabs, coral and concrete, link East and West in the Army's newest outpost.

SOLDIERS ON A CORAL ISLAND

HALFWAY across the Indian Ocean, 2000 miles out from Aden and Singapore, a troop-carrying aircraft circles an atoll of palm-covered islands and touches down on a broad concrete runway to refuel.

This is Gan, a little coral island in the Addu Atoll, which last month became the Army's new strategic stepping-stone to the Far East and to the missile proving grounds of Woomera and Maralinga in Australia.

Gan, in the Maldives Archipelago south-west of Ceylon, now replaces Katunayake in Ceylon as the main link on the reinforcement and trooping route to and from the Far East. It is vital to British strategy in that part of the world, for in an emergency troops could be flown via the Maldives without embarrassing Ceylon, India or Pakistan.

Most soldiers who will now call on Gan will pay the island only a fleeting visit, perhaps staging for a night, but a handful of Sappers, Signalmen and men of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers live and work there, running a field post office and maintaining an automatic telephone exchange built by the Army for the Royal Air Force station.

Work began on the new base in January, 1957, when Royal Engineers were flown from Singapore in a *Sunderland* flying-boat

On the tiny coral island of Gan, Britain's new strategic stepping-stone in the Indian Ocean, the Army is helping to build up and maintain a £4,500,000 air staging and refuelling post. Men of the Royal Corps of Signals look after an automatic telephone exchange while Sappers handle the island's mail in a "Robinson Crusoe" hut

to blast a way with explosives through the coral to the beach selected for landing heavy equipment and a small Royal Air Force party started to clear the overgrown coral runway. A jetty and a cookhouse were built, water (piped from a well) was laid on and work began on extending and rebuilding the runway, using ground coral with cement for the surface.

In October, a sergeant and a Sapper arrived to set up a field post office and a year later the Air Formation Signal Installation Troop, Royal Signals, began laying cables and overhead wires and assembling the telephone exchange.

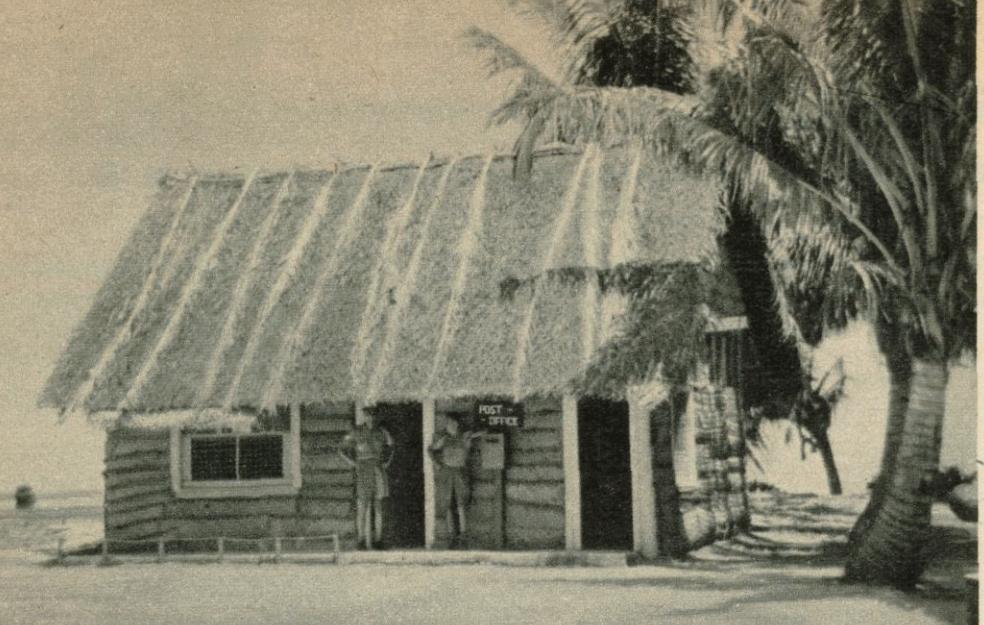
The Troop, commanded by

Lieutenant (Technical Officer, Telecommunications) A. V. Render, included Warrant Officer (Foreman of Signals) A. Holmes, 24 non-commissioned officers and men, and a mechanic of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Although its main task was to install the 100-line automatic exchange, the Troop had also to connect up the Royal Air Force navigational aids and meteorological devices and provide control circuits and keying lines for a relay station.

Before this island of palm trees became a concrete "aircraft carrier" its highest point was nine feet above sea level, but an afternoon's work by bulldozers reduced this to a mere six feet. Much of Gan's centre is only a foot above sea level and cable trenches were always waterlogged.

OVER . . .



Gan's thatched post office, unique in the Army Postal Service, might almost be a pantomime set for "Robinson Crusoe." Its roof and walls have been re-thatched several times. At the door are the "Postmaster," Sgt F. J. Thompson, and his assistant, Sapper Noakes.

Pumps to remove the water, which rose and fell with the tide, were an indispensable part of the Troop's plant.

The telephone exchange regularly flooded and the Signalmen had difficulty keeping their cables dry when jointing them. High humidity also caused trouble, although equipment and stores had been treated for tropical conditions.

This aerial view of Gan shows part of the new runway, sweeping diagonally across the whole island. Left are the new prefabricated buildings which accommodate the soldiers and 400 airmen on Gan, and the jetties for unloading supplies. Picture key: 1, Cinema; 2, Hard standing for aircraft; 3, Hospital; 4, Sergeants' mess; 5, Officers' mess; 6, Dining hall and transit; 7, NAAFI building.



MORE than 700 islands, only 200 of them inhabited, make up the Maldivian Archipelago. Gan is one of 27 islets in a six-mile circle which forms the Addu Atoll, 60 miles south of its nearest neighbour and 600 miles south-west of Ceylon.

The Maldivians, who became Muslims in the 12th century, were frequently invaded by pirates and in 1887 sought British protection.

A new agreement in 1956 allowed Britain to establish an air base on Gan. After a coup d'état in 1957, power passed from a short-lived republic back to the 836-year-old sultanate and the new Prime Minister demanded a rent of £100,000 a year for the base.

Later, the inhabitants of the southern islands broke away and formed the "United Suvadive Islands."

Britain has offered to act as mediator between the rival factions, to revise the 1956 agreement, and to provide economic aid, including the building of an airfield at Malé, 330 miles north of Gan.

Nor was laying lines without hazard. Frequently they were swept away, not by gales and tornadoes but by mobile cranes and other machines working on runway and building construction.

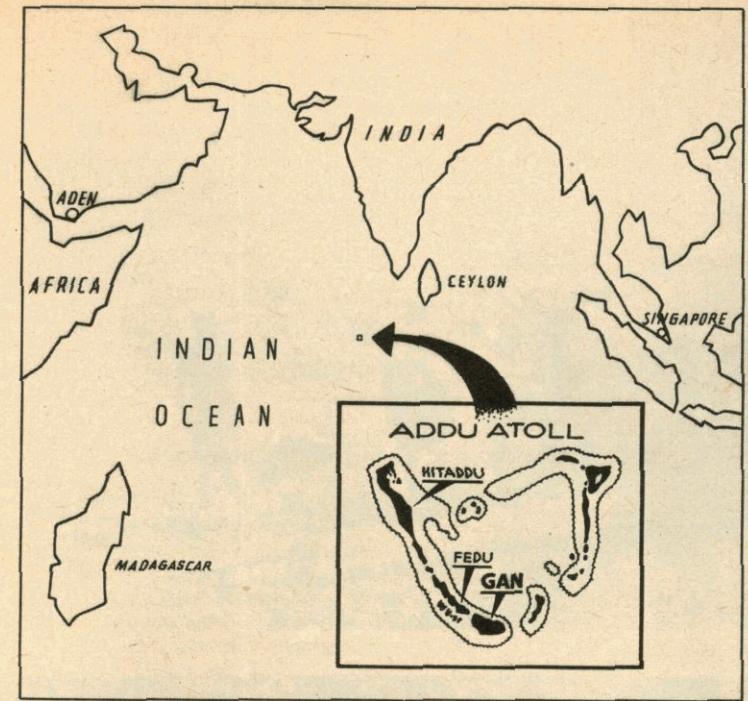
During its year's work on Gan the Troop, with the help of native labour, trench-digging and cable-laying machinery, laid 11 miles of underground cable and six miles of overhead wire, carried on poles

made locally of reinforced concrete.

In August last year the installation work was completed as far as possible and the Troop returned home to disbandment. In its place is a maintenance troop from 19 Signals Regiment, Singapore, consisting of a staff-sergeant, 12 cable jointers, technical storemen and telegraph technicians and a Royal Electrical and Mechanical

Engineers mechanic, all under the command of Captain E. Wells.

The field post office on Gan is housed in a "Robinson Crusoe" hut of palm tree poles with a thatched roof and walls lined with corrugated iron. It has served the Royal Air Force, Army, Air Ministry Works Department, NAAFI, the civilian contracting firm on the island and Indians, Pakistanis and other native



SOLDIER's map shows Gan's vital position as the new "half-way" house to the Far East. Inset: Coral-reefed Gan and its neighbours of Addu Atoll.

workers. At the peak of the building programme it handled nearly 5000 postal orders a week, paid in wages by the contractors and sent home by the labourers.

There is still a brisk trade, too, in souvenirs sent home by soldiers and airmen — brightly-coloured seashells, models of the Maldivian 10-man canoes and sailing vessels and, of course, coconuts, stamped and addressed on their husks.

In the early days of Gan, Sappers and Signalmen lived in tents but now all ranks are accommodated in pre-fabricated wooden buildings that are cool, airy and comfortable.

The original open-air cinema is now indoors, sharing a hangar with electricity generators, and

there are new officers' and sergeants' messes and a junior ranks' club in permanent buildings.

Gan has its own football league (matches are played on a pitch that can be either water-logged or raise clouds of dust), and basket ball, cricket, swimming (in a lagoon protected by shark-nets), yachting, Judo, weight-lifting and body-building are popular.

During the build-up of the airfield, leisure hours were few, but sport and clubs quickly flourished, for other islands in the group were out of bounds and Gan itself is only a mile and three-quarters long and three-quarters of a mile wide — a walk round the

OVER . . .



Above, L/Cpl Hughes and Sgmn Smith using hammer and jumper during the erection of a temporary telephone line. Overhead lines fought a losing battle against mobile cranes.



Left: Laying the first underground cable are Lieut (TOT) Render, WO II (FOS) Holmes, Cpl Trigg, Cpl Kirby, Sgmn Whitworth, Sgmn Jeffry, Sgmn Dilsworth and L/Cpl Lightowers.

SOLDIER to Soldier

INITIATIVE is one of the most admirable and necessary qualities in a soldier and the Army rightly encourages its development.

But should it (and can it) be taught by sending troops on expeditions that involve such militarily unrewarding tasks as stealing kisses (and panties) from publicity-hungry film starlets, breaking into nudist camps and being photographed sitting on a chorus girl's knee — to mention just a few of the more zany tests recently carried out by some units in Britain?

No doubt such tests are good fun but their military value is nil and few will disagree with Mr. Norman Dodds MP who, as SOLDIER went to press, was to ask Parliament to ban them. "They are degrading and costly," he says. "Soldiers are made on the parade ground and not by kissing a strip-teaser or getting a show-girl's garter."

MR. GILBERT HARDING, who not so long ago wondered "whether the time has not come to abolish the Queen's commission" has been taking another swipe at the Army.

This time he accuses it of laxity for not having handed over to the local authorities in an area where there is a waiting list for council houses, some married quarters which have been empty for periods of up to two years.

He was told that the Army was negotiating for their disposal. "What pompous nonsense," he raves in his Sunday newspaper column. "Why do there have to be 'negotiations'? Any clerk could sign a chit handing over the houses temporarily to a council so that they could be occupied while the wrangling goes on about the charges."

Simple, isn't it? But handing the houses over to a council might not be the answer. The owner of the land on which the quarters stand may have parted with it compulsorily and has a right to be considered now the nation no longer needs it (remember Chichester Down?). He may want the land back, complete with the houses, but it would be no use selling it to him if the local council were to step in with a compulsory purchase order of its own.

The Army, says Mr. Harding, has been "quite happy" to let the houses remain empty.

Does he not know that in the past two years the Army has been in the throes of reorganisation, meanwhile sending thousands of troops, without their families, to overseas stations? In that time there might have been a permanent need for the quarters to accommodate the families of the men serving overseas.

Mr. Harding, we hope, would have been the first to protest if "some clerk" had signed a chit to hand the houses over while the Army's own families were homeless.

THE CHESHires WERE THERE, TOO

THE first British Infantry-men to visit Gan went to the island last August when 100 men of the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment, flew from Singapore on an air mobility exercise.

During their seven days' stay the Cheshires lived under canvas and visited the neighbouring island of Hittadu, where they saw the native women making fishing nets and were given gifts of coconuts.

Unloading supplies from a launch at one of the old jetties. Standing off-shore is a landing craft.



CORAL ISLAND continued

whole island takes only three hours!

Gan's weather is always unpredictable, with torrential rain one day and blazing sunshine the next. The monsoon season is at the end of the year and there is an average temperature of 85-90 degrees all the year round, with high humidity and always a strong wind.

Fresh vegetables are flown from Ceylon to Gan where little will grow except palm trees. There are flies, mosquitoes and red ants, small chameleons and a few non-poisonous snakes. A colony of rats was ruthlessly hunted and brought under control by a hygiene section.

Gan's 287 native families have been transferred to live in pre-fabricated wooden huts on neighbouring islands in the Addu Atoll and are enjoying a new prosperity from their employment on Gan.

Life for the Maldivians has

changed rapidly and so, too, has Gan itself. Once palms and thick vegetation covered the island to the edge of its white sandy beaches. Now, bereft of greenery, Gan has become a static aircraft carrier dominated by an 8700-feet concrete runway capable of taking the Royal Air Force's most modern aircraft, including V-bombers, *Canberras*, *Hastings* and *Beverleys*, as well as *Comets* and *Britannias*.

The latest navigation and instrument landing aids will enable Gan airfield to deal with round-the-clock movements of routine transport aircraft or, in an emergency, with reinforcements for the defence of the Commonwealth.

● Gan may be tropical, but it is, officially, not a paradise island—the Treasury has scheduled the Maldives Islands, for superannuation purposes, as "an unhealthy place."

PETER N. WOOD



WO II (Foreman of Signals) Holmes with "Smoky," a Maldivian boy who had a smoker's cough at the age of five. "Smoky" was persuaded to change to sweets which he extracted from Servicemen merely by grinning at them.



"And we'll have the Officers' Mess there."

Courtesy Daily Mirror

THE CAKE WENT BY CANOE

WITH the help of a Royal Navy frigate, a canoe and a native runner, NAAFI delivered a birthday cake to a corporal of the Royal Air Force Police who spent his coming-of-age on Hittadu, a neighbouring island seven miles from Gan.

The corporal's cake, ordered by his sister in Aldershot, was baked and iced by NAAFI in Singapore and shipped to Gan, where the NAAFI district manager persuaded "President" Afif Didi, who was visiting Hittadu by canoe, to take the cake with him. A native runner, waiting on the beach, then carried it four miles to the Royal Air Force outpost, where it was duly presented to the corporal on his birthday.

RIVER CROSSING —NEW STYLE

IF the bridge is blown and the water is too deep to drive through, how do you get a Land-Rover and trailer and a crew of six men to the other side of a 75-yard wide river?

Easy, say the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Just wrap the vehicle up in some canvas and swim it across.

And to prove that it can be done, six men of 17 Gurkha Division's Light Aid Detachment, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, recently demonstrated the technique to high-ranking officers from Headquarters, Far East Land Forces.

The six men, acting as an anti-terrorist patrol, drove down to a 75-yard wide river mouth at Tanjong Klong, near Singapore and, while three of them took up defensive positions, the rest unhooked the vehicle's trailer and pushed it into the water until it floated. Then, hanging on to ropes attached to the trailer, they pushed and swam it to the other side, probing a course free of obstacles for the Land-Rover to follow.

Then they swam back with the trailer to the embarkation point, took a three-ton lorry canopy from the Land-Rover and held it half over the water while the vehicle was driven on to it.

The canopy was lashed down with ropes, packs and equipment were stacked into the trailer which was roped to the Land-Rover and the six men set off, guiding the load over the previously reconnoitred course.

The crossing took less than half an hour (at no time did the water reach more than halfway up the canopy) and within minutes of reaching the far side the vehicle was driven away.

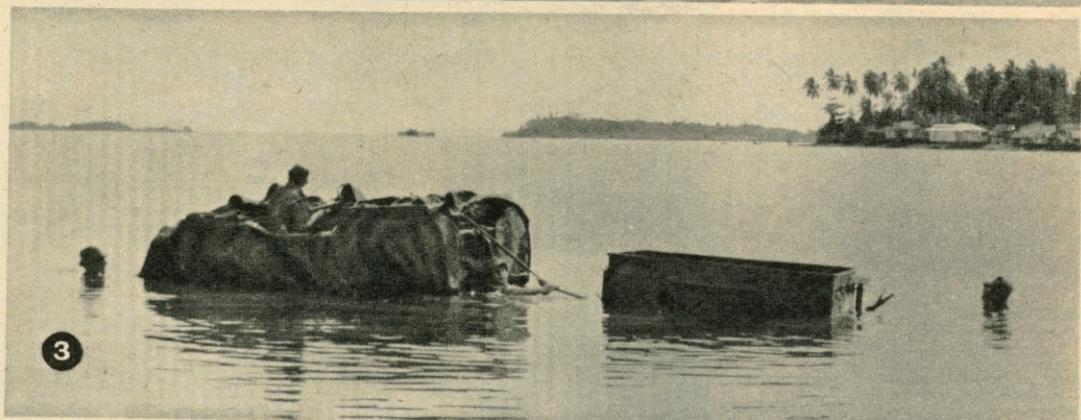
The demonstration was a triumphant conclusion to a series of experiments conducted by Second-Lieutenant Alan Beckwith and his Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' team over the past six months.—From a report by Corporal K. H. Sharp, Army Public Relations. Photographs: Corporal D. I. Sullivan.



1



2



3



4

1 The vehicle is driven on to a canvas canopy held half over the water . . .

2 . . . securely lashed up and manoeuvred into deep water until it floats . . .

3 . . . and, with trailer attached, pushed and swum across to the other side.

4 And, hey presto, the vehicle emerges from its cocoon ready to be driven off.



The Army Air Corps' badge is worn on a navy blue patch on a sky-blue beret.

Right: One of No. 1 Wing's Austers sets off on a training flight over Germany.

Soldiers, sailors and airmen work side by side in the unit that acts as Rhine Army's "eyes." They belong to No. 1 Light Aircraft Wing of the Army Air Corps whose soldier-pilots carry out a wide variety of tasks in their Austers and Skeeter helicopters



FROM beneath a *Skeeter* helicopter protruded three heads. One wore the Royal Air Force beret, another a Royal Navy peaked cap and the third the light blue beret of the Army Air Corps.

"Perhaps," said the RAF Flight-Sergeant, "it needs a new flint."

"Maybe the elastic is broken," suggested the Petty Officer.

The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' Corporal in the light blue beret surveyed the pair good-humouredly. "You chaps," he said, "don't know a good aircraft when you see one."

Scenes like this, in the main hangar at the Rhine Army headquarters of No. 1 Light Aircraft Wing, are not unusual in the Army Air Corps these days—but nowhere else in the Army can

The statue of Herman, the legendary German hero, towers over a *Skeeter* helicopter of 652 Squadron on the Teutoburger Hills near No. 1 Light Aircraft Wing's headquarters at Detmold.

tradesmen of all three Services be seen working side by side on the same job.

Since it was formed in September, 1957, the Army Air Corps has developed inter-Service cooperation to a high degree. At the start the Corps relied almost entirely on the Royal Air Force for aircraft servicing and maintenance, and there was a ready response from the Royal Navy when the call went out for volunteers last summer.

It will not be long, however, before the Army can supply enough of its own riggers, fitters and other craftsmen to keep the aircraft flying.

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' mechanics, trained at the Army Air Corps centre at Middle Wallop, joined the Wing two years ago and for a time were heavily outnumbered by Royal Air Force mechanics. But soon the trickle of tradesmen from Middle Wallop increased to a steady flow. Helped and encouraged by the experienced airmen, the Army mechanics quickly got a grip on the job and, from September, 1958, when REME accepted full responsibility for aircraft servicing, the Royal Air Force began to fade from the Air Corps scene.

There are still airmen—mostly senior non-commissioned officers—serving with the Corps, but their numbers are few now. Sailors on attachment from the Fleet Air Arm play a prominent part, and will probably do so for another two years, for there is a shortage of REME recruits for aircraft work.

The Army Air Corps is the most heterogeneous of Army formations. The pilots at Detmold, whose aircraft are serviced by soldiers, sailors and airmen, include several ex-Royal Air Force men and represent 17 different corps and regiments.

One of three Royal Air Force survivors at Detmold is Flight-Sergeant J. A. Connolly, whom SOLDIER met recently at No. 1 Light Aircraft Wing. Formerly with No. 617 ("Dam-Buster") Squadron, he switched from *Vampire* jets to *Austers* and helicopters when he began a long-term attachment to the Army nearly three years ago. He has watched the REME mechanics' progress from the start and says: "In a year or two, when they have mastered all the finer points, they will be as good as the best in the RAF."

"They are just as good now," was the terse comment of Warrant Officer First Class A. L. Skirrow, REME.

Petty Officer Joe Kerrigan was among the first to offer his services when the call went out last year for volunteers from the Fleet Air Arm to help the hard-pressed Army Air Corps ground staff. He had worked as an air fitter in the carriers *Unicorn* and *Albion*, and thought a 2½-year attachment to the Army might make a pleasant change. He has not been disappointed.



1 Captain C. McK. Bonhomme (right), one of the Army's leading helicopter pilots, discusses his flight plan with a fellow pilot before taking off from an advanced airstrip in Germany.

2 Ground staff go to work on an Auster during a recent exercise. Refuelling and camouflaging take only minutes. Left to right: Gnr A. Wilson, Cpl T. Fleming and Gnr R. Wheeler.

3 A combined Services' operation on a *Skeeter* engine in the unit workshops. The reclining soldier is Cpl D. Cotterell, REME. Soon, all the maintenance staff may be soldiers.

Petty Officer Kerrigan is one of a dozen sailors at Detmold. "We certainly need them at present, and they are doing a fine job," said Lieutenant-Colonel D. P. D. Oldman DFC, Royal Artillery, the Wing's Commanding Officer, who has been flying since 1940.

The Wing, which controls all light aircraft in No. 1 Corps area in Rhine Army, comprises two squadrons—652 and 654—and two liaison flights. In the past two years its veteran *Austers*—some of them are over 12 years old—have ranged far and wide on the Continent on liaison and communications flights.

Every day when weather permits, the crews of No. 652 Squadron and No. 18 Liaison Flight, both stationed at Detmold, take off from the grass field on their various duties—practising artillery spotting and visual reconnaissance, flying commanders on manoeuvres and ferrying passengers, not only to all parts of Rhine Army but also throughout Europe.

Similar training is carried out by No. 654 Squadron, stationed near Hanover, and No. 12 Independent Liaison Flight, near Rhine Army's headquarters at Moenchengladbach.

In the interests of efficiency, pilots are normally limited to five operational flying hours a day, and the monthly individual total is about 50. Most of the pilots have at least 500 hours to their credit, and some have well over 2000.

Skeeter helicopters have recently joined the *Auster* force of No. 1 Light Aircraft Wing and, in the hands of experienced helicopter pilots like Captain C. McK. Bonhomme, Royal Artillery, have quickly proved their versatility. "The *Skeeter* is a first-class aircraft," he told SOLDIER. "But we wish it could lift more weight."

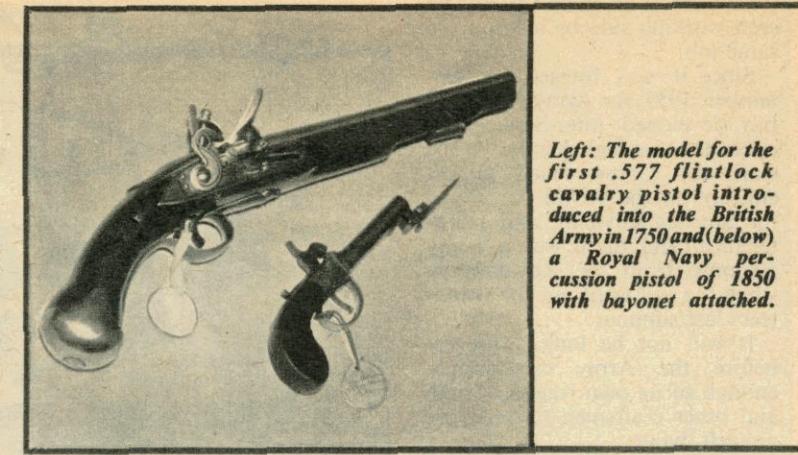
The only non-commissioned officer pilots in the Wing are with No. 18 Liaison Flight. Among them is Sergeant Owen Harris, who survived a hair-raising crash in the Malayan jungle in 1952 when the propeller flew off his *Auster*. After 12 years with the Glider Pilot Regiment he left the Army in 1957 but hankered to get back to flying throughout his two years in civilian life. With a quick transfer to the Air Corps in mind he joined the Royal Artillery. Within a fortnight he was posted to No. 1 Light Aircraft Wing and, a few weeks later, was flying solo again.

Much of the Wing's flying is done within sight of the gigantic statue of Herman, the German hero who routed the legions of the Roman General Varus in the year A.D. 9. Herman, towering above Detmold on the Teutoburger Hills, is the perfect landmark. Flying men say there is a set drill if your navigation fails over Germany. You just fly round in ever decreasing circles until you see Herman, and then lay off a course from there.

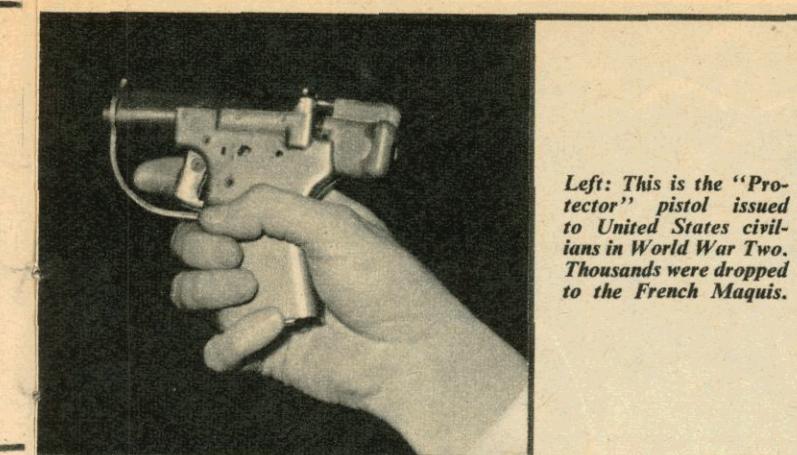
K. E. HENLY

★ IT IS A COLLECTOR'S DREAM—A DISPLAY OF MORE THAN 2000 WEAPONS, SOME THREE CENTURIES OLD AND MANY THE MODELS FROM WHICH ALL OTHERS WERE MADE

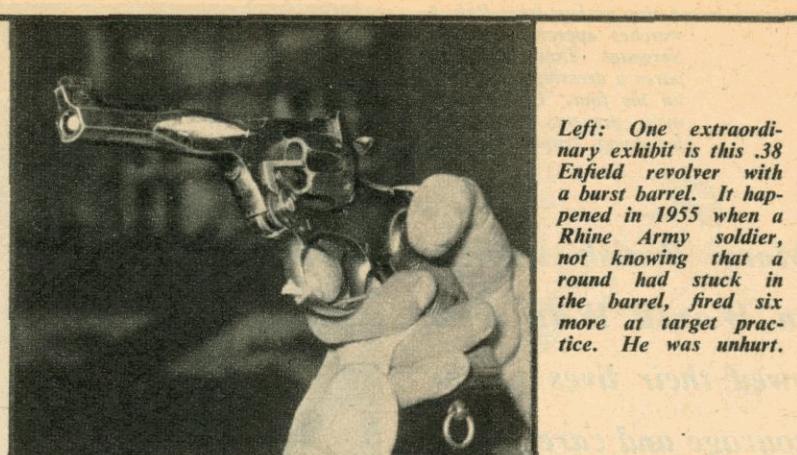
The flintlock mechanism of the "William and Mary" musket of 1689. It fired a .875-inch round, the biggest small-arms round ever used by the British Army.



Left: The model for the first .577 flintlock cavalry pistol introduced into the British Army in 1750 and (below) a Royal Navy percussion pistol of 1850 with bayonet attached.



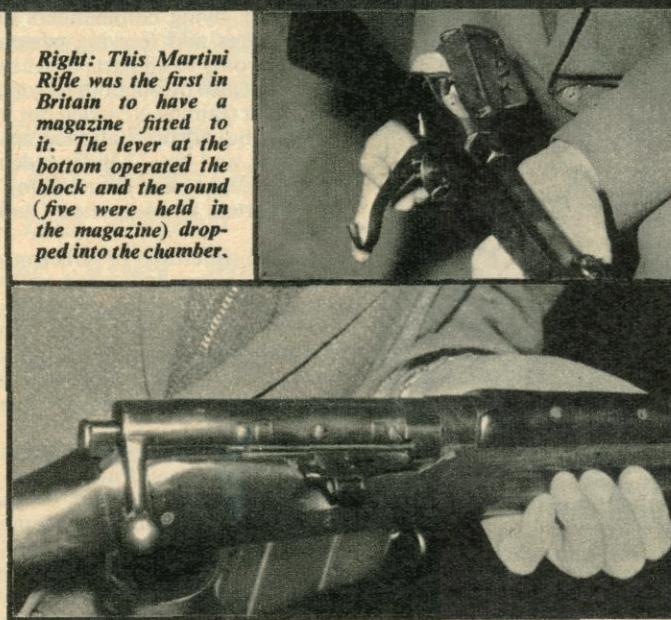
Left: This is the "Protector" pistol issued to United States civilians in World War Two. Thousands were dropped to the French Maquis.



Left: One extraordinary exhibit is this .38 Enfield revolver with a burst barrel. It happened in 1955 when a Rhine Army soldier, not knowing that a round had stuck in the barrel, fired six more at target practice. He was unhurt.

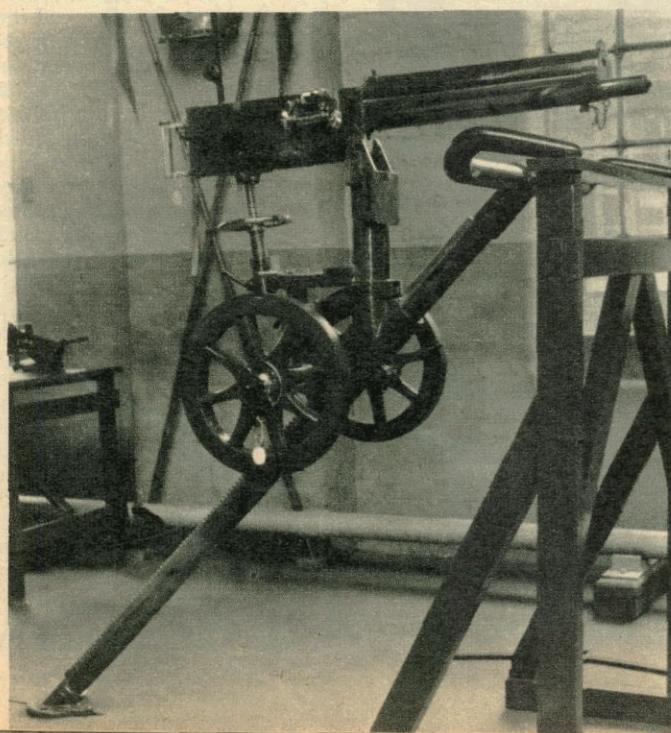
FROM FLINTLOCKS

Right: This Martini Rifle was the first in Britain to have a magazine fitted to it. The lever at the bottom operated the block and the round (five were held in the magazine) dropped into the chamber.



And this is the Lee-Metford, ancestor of today's Lee-Enfield and the first magazine rifle to be used by the British Army.

Used in forts and from semi-permanent positions in India in the 1890s, this Maxim machine-gun was raised on a rack for a quick burst "over the top" and then rapidly lowered before the enemy could hit back.



IT is a sight to make any collector go green with envy, for scattered about the room, on tables and in racks, are more than 2000 weapons, ranging from 300-year-old flintlock muskets to modern machine-guns and self-loading rifles—most of them the first of their kind to be made.

This unique collection of pistols, revolvers, carbines, rifles, sub machine-guns and machine-guns—it includes every such weapon used by the British Army in the past 160 years and is believed to be the most valuable and comprehensive in the world—is on permanent display at the Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield, Middlesex.

The barrels were rotated by hand—an efficient operator could work up to 150 rounds a minute—and the weapon was gravity-fed from a 40-round magazine.

First used in a major operation by the British Army in the 1879 Zulu War, the Gatling gave fair service for many years but because it jammed easily it was never very popular.

Also on display are the five-, twin- and single-barrelled models of the Gardner .303, gravity-fed



Since 1940 only sealed drawings have been required but over the past 20 years small arms used by the British and some foreign armies—many salvaged from the battlefields of World War Two and in Korea—have been sent to swell the collection.

In spite of their age, most of the weapons are still serviceable and remarkably accurate, as one official discovered when he recently scored a seven-inch group at 200 yards with six shots from a Gardner machine-gun of 1887.

Pride of place in the collection

This crude "rifle" used by the Mau-Mau against British troops in Kenya comprised a roughly carved wooden stock, a length of water-pipe bushed to take a .303 cartridge and a nail-head forming the striker.



TO SELF-LOADERS

machine-gun which, because it weighed only 200 lbs and could be man-carried, was a big improvement on the Gatling.

Old time battles in distant places are recalled by the "Mounting, Carriage, Parapet, Maxim Gun" which was used in India from forts and other semi-permanent positions. It could be raised on a rack for a quick burst and then quickly lowered.

One of the most valuable weapons in the collection is the demonstration model with which Sir Hiram Maxim, an American who became a British citizen, convinced the British Army of the merits of his revolutionary machine-gun—the first automatic, recoil-operated, belt-loaded gun in the world.

The British demanded a weapon with a maximum weight of 100 lbs and a rate of fire of 400 rounds a minute. Maxim responded with one of 40 lbs and a rate of 2000 rounds in three minutes. A later version, cooled by air instead of water, weighed 25 lbs, but this was used only experimentally.

Before its inventor died, in 1915, the Maxim was in widespread use and it stood the British Army in good stead at the start of World War One when its successor, the Vickers, was

rifle—the first designed from scratch as a breech-loader to be used by the British soldier.

At this stage the name Lee crops up for the first time. James Lee, a Scot who emigrated to America, designed a bolt-action rifle and William Metford, a Westcountryman, offered to the Government a seven-groove rifle barrel. In 1891 the Lee bolt-action and the Metford barrel were incorporated into one weapon and the result was the Lee-Metford, Britain's first magazine and bolt-action rifle.

In 1895 Enfield improved the rifling and the modified weapon—the Lee-Enfield—went into Army service. The Short Magazine Lee-Enfield was approved in 1902 and has been in use ever since.

Comparison of the Pattern Room models shows that, since muskets went out in 1867, the weight of Service rifles has remained surprisingly constant, with never more than a 1½-lbs variation.

Crudest of the many foreign models on view is a rifle used by the Mau-Mau in Kenya. It has a hand-carved stock to which is attached a piece of one-inch pipe, the head of a nail forming the striker. The pipe is bushed at the chamber end with a piece of rolled metal to support a cartridge.

The 400 pistols and revolvers, neatly arranged in show-cases, embrace fascinating examples of the gunsmith's art over the past 250 years, including a massive .577 cavalry flintlock pistol of 1750 and a .577 cavalry percussion pistol (1857) with a ten-inch barrel and detachable butt.

A more modern but less impressive exhibit is the Protector single-shot pistol, intended for use by American civilians in World War Two in the event of a Japanese invasion. Made for a dollar from steel tubing and a pressed body, it fired a .45 bullet and had spare rounds in the pistol grip. When the invasion scare subsided, thousands of these weapons were sent to Britain and were later dropped in bundles of 48 to resistance groups in France and Belgium.

Early in World War Two, when Britain prepared against invasion, the staff at Enfield were set to work designing weapons from everyday articles to be found in most homes and tool-sheds. The result was a formidable array of primitive and fearsome weapons, some of which were manufactured by the thousand and issued to the Home Guard. Most of these are on view in the Pattern Room.

K. E. HENLY

AUTOMATIC—IT'S AN OLD IDEA

THE issue of the new self-loading rifle to the British Army rounds off a story that began nearly 300 years ago.

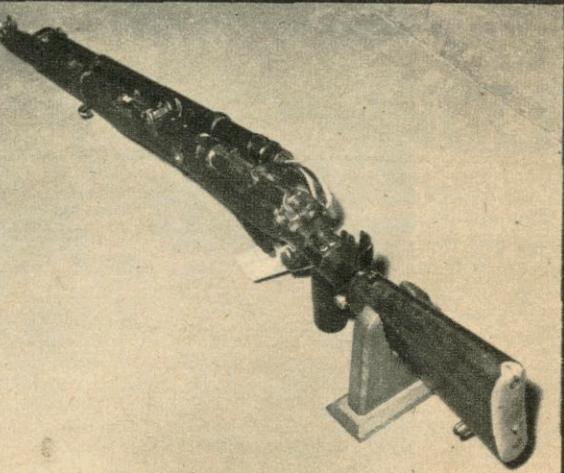
The first attempt to design a self-loader was made in 1663 but, like many inventions which came years before their time, the device was neglected and quickly forgotten.

Then, in 1893, the British firm of Griffiths and Woodgate produced a self-loading rifle operated by the blow-back action of the cartridge. The original model is in the Pattern Room at Enfield, but the weapon was never manufactured in quantity.

In 1909 a Lee-Enfield self-loader appeared—to suffer the same fate as its predecessors. Then, in 1916, the Army's base workshops in France converted a Lee-Enfield rifle into a self-loader. It had a gas port three inches from the muzzle and a large cylinder and piston on the right of the barrel. An angular cam at the rear end of the piston rotated and moved back the bolt.

But again the Army was unimpressed and only now, after nearly 70 years, is the bolt action rifle reaching the end of its life.

Right: A Lee-Enfield converted into a self-loader in 1916. It had a cylinder and piston on the right of the barrel and a cam on the piston operated the bolt.



A tiny patient from Pak A watches apprehensively as Sergeant Donachie prepares a dressing for a sore on his foot. Early treatment prevents sore from becoming tropical ulcers.

Many British soldiers in World War Two owed their lives to the courage and care of the farmers and fishermen of Sai Kung. Now, nearly 20 years later, the Army is helping to write off its debt



THE ARMY PAYS A DEBT...

Left: Led by a Chinese marine police constable, the Gunner patrol passes through Pak Sik Lap on the way to a village on Lung Shun Wan Chau Island.

Below: A patrol rests in the hills and makes friends with Chinese traders who carry their wares in yoked baskets.



WHEN Hong Kong fell to the Japanese in World War Two scores of British and Commonwealth soldiers and civilians fled to the mountainous, almost inaccessible Sai Kung Peninsula at the eastern end of the New Territories.

Here, for months and sometimes for years, they were hidden and fed—and many were helped to escape—by the impoverished Chinese peasant farmers and fishermen who courageously ignored Japanese threats of torture and death for harbouring the enemy.

Now, the Army is helping to repay its debt by sending patrols into the Peninsula and the surrounding small islands, giving medical treatment and advice to the villagers and ensuring their general well-being.

The patrols, sent from units stationed in the New Territories, spend four or five days in the area, pitching camp in a central spot and going out each day to outlying villages.

Recently, some 30 Gunners of Centre Section, 74 (The Battle Axe Company) Medium Battery, of 32 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery, went to Lung Shun Wan Chau (High Island) which lies off the Sai Kung Peninsula and during the five-day visit sent patrols to five fishing villages on the island and five more on the mainland. At each village they called upon the headman to tell them how many people lived there and what food and building materials they needed, and passed the information back to the Hong Kong Government which later sent the necessary supplies.

The Gunners went to the island in a landing craft manned by men of 79 Company, Royal Army Service Corps (Water Transport), taking all their food and water for the duration of the visit, for most of the streams and pools in the area are contaminated by water from the paddy fields.

Camp was made in a grassy promontory sheltered by hills from the cold winds that blew off the South China Sea, and within minutes the Signals Section had set up a wireless station to maintain contact with the Regiment in Kowloon and as a base for the link between patrols.

The following day, the first patrol, led by Battery Sergeant-Major J. Purkiss and accompanied by a Chinese Marine Police constable, who acted as interpreter, and Sergeant D. Donachie, 18 Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps, set out along the coast in an assault craft to call on the village of Tai She Wan. But when the troops arrived they learned from some fishermen lying off-shore in junks and sampans that the villagers had moved to Pak A, a larger community some four miles away on the other side of a range of hills.

So the patrol set off again, slogging through paddy fields and then climbing through narrow valleys, along barely perceptible tracks and up steep hills covered in loose, crumbling rocks hidden by coarse grasses and trailing plants. It was hard going but at last the patrol came in sight of the village, to be met by the uproarious barking of a motley collection of mongrel dogs and hordes of small, ragged children holding out their hands and crying "Cumshaw," the Chinese equivalent of "baksheesh."

After the village headman had been interviewed and the troops had distributed cigarettes (receiving in exchange cups of local tea, a curious pale amber liquid with a dry, spicy tang), Sergeant Donachie went into action with his first-aid box. For several hours he was kept busy applying acriflavine to sore-covered faces, arms and legs, bandaging cuts and treating bruises.

At first the adults were shy and mistrustful, but once their children had been treated they came forward eagerly to show their injuries. Many produced dirty bottles to be filled with lotions and creams, but their requests were politely refused for it has been found that they eat and drink them, imagining that what is good for external use will also cure stomach-ache and other internal complaints.

Most of the inhabitants of Sai Kung and its neighbouring islands lead a hard, open-air life and are very healthy, but as the standard of hygiene is low cuts and grazes sometimes turn into running sores which, if not treated in time, develop into tropical ulcers. The usual local treatment is to apply a herbal brew and cover the cut with a piece of rice paper.

Fortunately, Sergeant Donachie found no seriously ill patients, but if there had been any the police launch would have been called up by wireless to take the casualties to a mainland hospital.

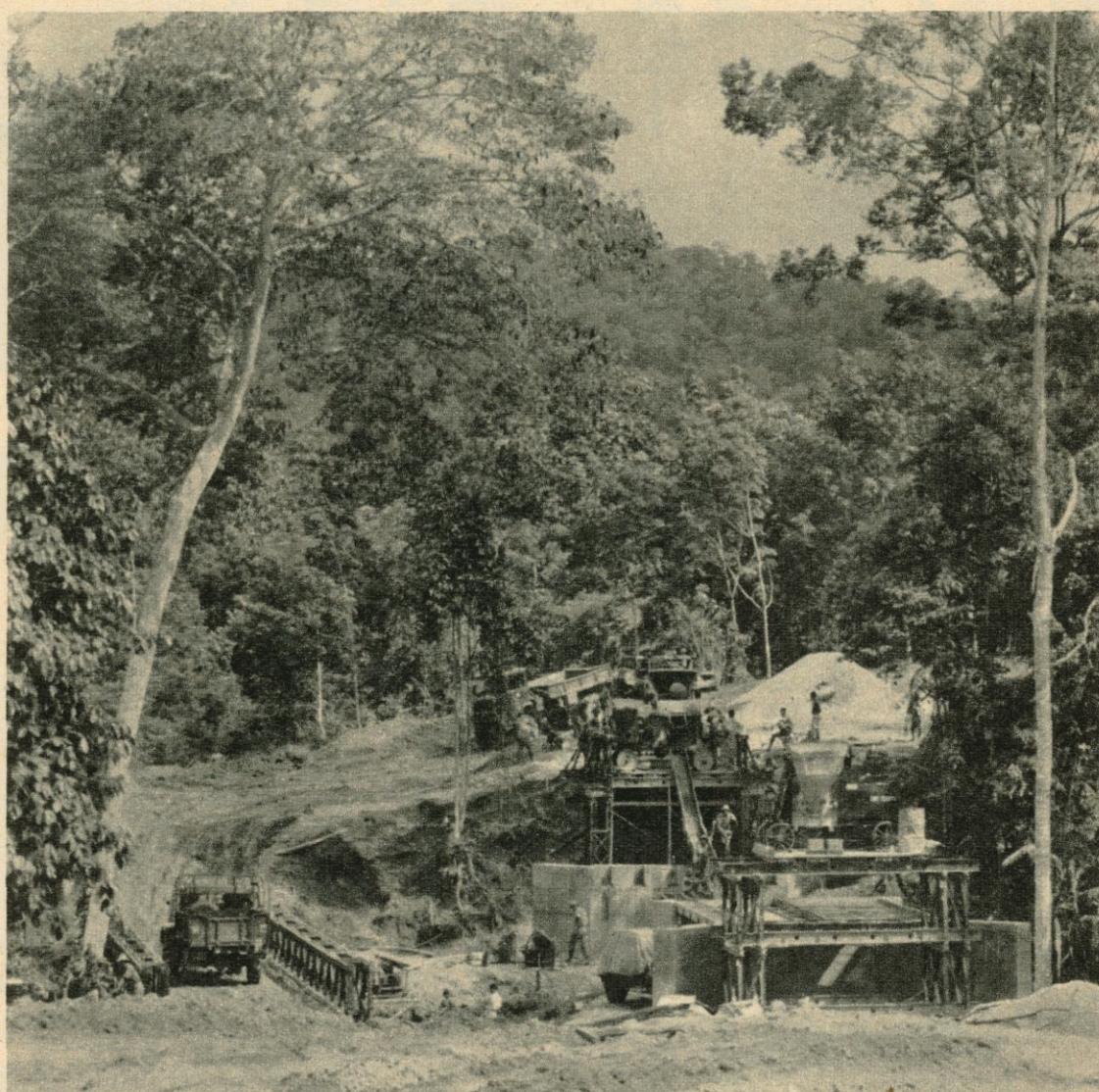
Later, similar patrols were sent to other villages on the island and the mainland, and everywhere they went the troops were warmly

welcomed. Some men traded their "hard-tack" biscuits with local fishermen for hooks and lines and went fishing for crab and garoupa, to supplement their "compo" rations and all took time off to bathe in the crystal-clear sea.

On the fifth day the landing craft returned to take the troops back and as the vessel left villagers crowded the sea-shore, to wave a grateful farewell to the men who had helped to repay a little of the debt the British Army owes them.

—From a report by Sergeant M. W. H. Harrison, Military Observer, who also took the pictures.

... it wasn't until I'd approved the list of postings and sent it off that I realised I was on it!



Deep in the Kedah jungle the Sappers build a concrete bridge over a river near Nami. Note the 70-ft long Bailey bridge which serves as an access road. The 52-mile project took more than two years to complete.

... AND OPENS UP THE JUNGLE

BRITISH, Australian, Gurkha and Malayan Sappers recently completed, six months ahead of schedule, a 52-mile road building project which has opened up more than 600 miles of thick jungle and swamp in Kedah, Northern Malaya.

The task, which took just over two years, meant blasting a way with explosives and bulldozers through hilly jungle and swampland and constructing two main roads and a minor one, and building 19 14-ft wide permanent concrete bridges, including one 451-ft long at Nami which took seven months to complete.

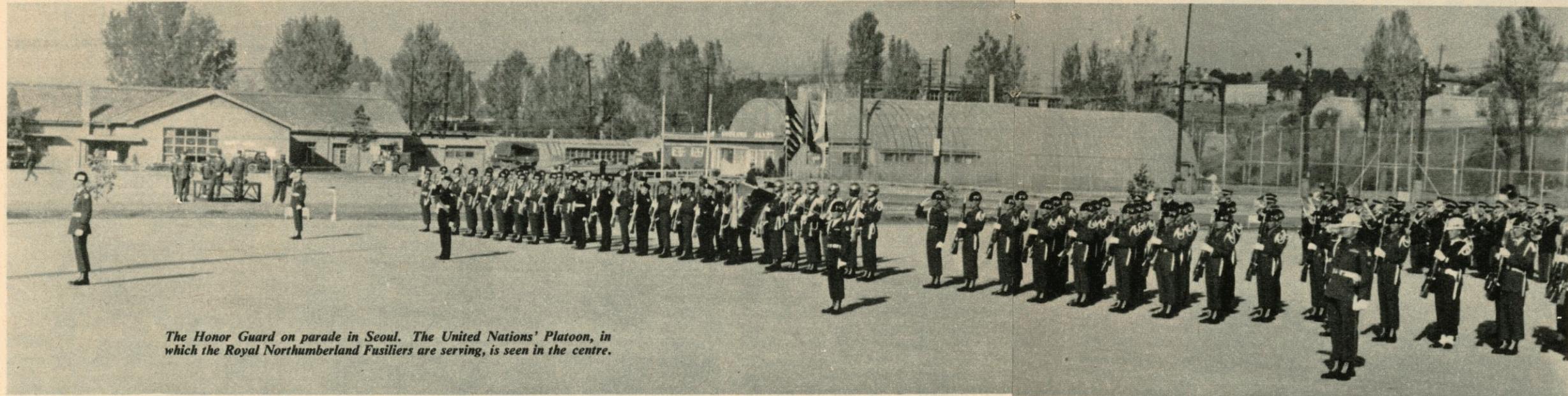
During the operation more than 50,000 lbs of explosive was used in clearing obstacles (including some trees 200-ft high), quarrying and forcing a way through country inaccessible to machines.

More than 120 pieces of plant machinery—heavy tractors, stone crushers, bulldozers, concrete mixers and vibrators—were used and the average number of troops employed at any one time was 700, constantly under police guard in case of attack by terrorists.

Technicians of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers maintained and repaired the plant on the site.

Nine years after the famous battle of the Imjin, where the Regiment fought alongside the Glorious Glosters, men of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers are back in Korea again, this time as members of the...

FIVE NATION HONOUR GUARD



The Honor Guard on parade in Seoul. The United Nations' Platoon, in which the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers are serving, is seen in the centre.

IMMACULATE in their "Blues" and berets adorned with the red and white hackle, a sergeant and 13 men of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers marched on to a parade ground in Seoul, capital of war-torn southern Korea, to be inspected by a United States general.

Beside them, in khaki uniforms and tall side hats, strode swarthy

skinned soldiers from Turkey and Thailand; behind them, resplendent in chromium-plated helmets, white neckerchiefs and white-laced ankle boots and carrying unfurled flags, marched American soldiers, followed by impeccably turned-out men of the South Korean Army.

On parade were the men of five nations—but they all belonged to the same unit and each wore on his left arm a colour patch in the form

of a white Maltese Cross surmounted by the words "HONOR GUARD."

This unique military unit is the Eighth United States Army Honor Guard, made up of 180 men in four platoons whose job is to parade for high-ranking visitors and guard Eighth Army's Headquarters and the Commander-in-Chief's residence in Seoul. Formed

in 1955, it is a crack force in which British troops have served continuously—in the United Nations' Platoon—since June, 1957. At one time no fewer than ten nations were represented.

When the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers recently flew from Hong Kong for a three-month tour of duty with the Honor Guard they were taught the new arms and foot drill the Honor Guard uses—a speeded-up version based on the British and Australian drill manuals—and two days later carried out their first official parade. Sergeant George Richardson, the new United Nations'

Platoon Commander, had little difficulty making the Turkish and Thailand soldiers in the Platoon understand English words of command, thanks mainly to the training they had received from his predecessor, a sergeant of 32 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery, from which the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers took over.

The men of the Honor Guard—

they live at Eighth Army Headquarters in a smart, up-to-date camp which has two cinemas and a number of clubs, have to work hard to retain their coveted arm flash. On most days they spend three or four gruelling hours on



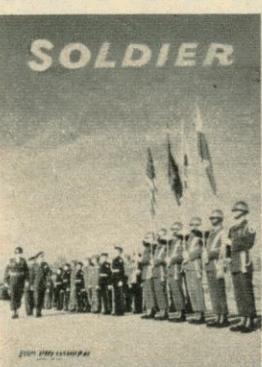
Fusilier Wm. Stark, tries out a parka jacket before going on night guard. Note the Honor Guard arm flash worn by Fusilier F. Manders.



The Honor Guard colour party, wearing chromium-plated helmets, march past the saluting base at Seoul. They are carrying the flags of (left to right): The United States, the United Nations, the Republic of Korea and 8th US Army.



Left: One of the Thailand soldiers in the United Nations' Platoon which once boasted ten nationalities.



COVER PICTURE



SOLDIER's front cover picture by Sergeant M. G. Hodges, Army Public Relations, shows Major-General William S. Biddle, the United States Army's senior member of the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission in Korea, inspecting the Honor Guard.

The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers (in the centre of the picture) are the only members of the Guard who wear "Blues."

the parade ground, perfecting their drill under the watchful eye of the United States Army Guard Commander, Captain Charles Gillis, and throughout the day are on immediate call to turn out to welcome visiting dignitaries (sometimes they have paraded twice every day for a week). At night they take turns in three-man guards at the headquarters and the commanding generals' house.

Off duty, the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers wear battle-dress with two signs on their sleeves: the crossed kukries of 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade Group (Hong Kong) on the right and the red and white United States Eighth Army flash surmounted by the title "HONOR GUARD" on the left.

Among other British units which have been represented in the United Nations' Platoon of the Honor Guard are The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, The Green Howards, The Lancashire Regiment, 1st Royal Tank Regiment, and 49 Field, 5 Field and 32 Medium regiments, Royal Artillery.

Soon after their arrival in Seoul the 14 Royal Northumberland Fusiliers toured the area where, in 1951, the 1st Battalion of the

Regiment fought alongside the Glorious Glosters at the Battle of Solma-Ri and lost a third of its officers and men.

The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers are not the only British soldiers in Korea. Twelve others, commanded by Brigadier J. W. A. Stares DSO, work in the British Commonwealth Liaison Mission in Seoul and two Sappers help to man a post office.

—From a report by Sergeant M. G. Hodges, Military Observer, who also took the pictures.



Gingerly, the first paratrooper lowered himself through the hole on to the track . . . the other five followed, hugging the ground as the train trundled over them.

All they had was a blunt knife—but it opened the way to freedom for a young paratrooper and his five comrades as they sped towards Germany in a prisoner-of-war train

THE PARATROOPER HACKED HIS WAY TO FREEDOM

AS the French train, crammed with 400 prisoners of war, ground slowly but relentlessly through the night towards the German frontier only 90 miles away, five British paratroopers and an American soldier in turn hacked and sawed desperately with a blunt knife at the wooden floor of their battened-down cattle truck.

Inch by inch they forced the knife through the thick boards, prising them up and bending them back until they split, leaving a jagged hole just large enough for a man to get through.

Quickly, as the train reduced speed uphill, one of the paratroopers dropped through the hole and flattened himself in the centre of the track. The other five followed rapidly, hugging the ground as the wagons rumbled over them.

As the train disappeared over the hill the six men scrambled to their feet and made for some high ground where they could hide and watch for German patrols sent to search for them.

One of the men who took part in this remarkable escape—all got safely back to their units—was Private Douglas Baines, of 12th (Yorkshire) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, who had been captured after eluding the Germans for six weeks in Normandy in 1944.

After his escape he joined the French Maquis, was liberated by the Americans and later took part in the airborne assault across the Rhine.

Private Baines' adventures began when, in the early hours of D-Day, 6 June, 1944, he parachuted into a canal behind the German lines in the swampy countryside near Cabourg, several miles from his Battalion rendezvous. He soon met an officer and three other men of his own Battalion and with them tried to find a way out through the knee-deep marshes.

But, by daylight, when they had almost reached Varaville, the paratroopers were still bogged down and had to take refuge in a barn to avoid German patrols. That night they again tried to break out but were baulked by a huge German minefield littered with dead cattle and had to return to their hiding place.

They were awakened next morning by a Frenchman who told them that they were completely surrounded by strong German forces and that he could take them by canoe along the River Dives to a safer village just outside Cabourg. Somewhat hesitantly, the fugitives agreed, but they need not have worried for the Frenchman was a Resistance man who, during the next few days, brought in 15 more paratroopers who had been cut off.

On the night of 14 June the 20 paratroopers made one more attempt to link up with British troops in Varaville, but were unable to penetrate the enemy cordon and were forced to return to their hide-out. By now they were without food so they killed a cow and stole potatoes from nearby farms, sharing the "loot" between them.

The next night, 13 of the party

set off along the coast towards the landing beaches and did not return and on 16 June the other seven, including Private Baines, made their way inland towards Caen, crossing the heavily-guarded Cabourg Road without being detected.

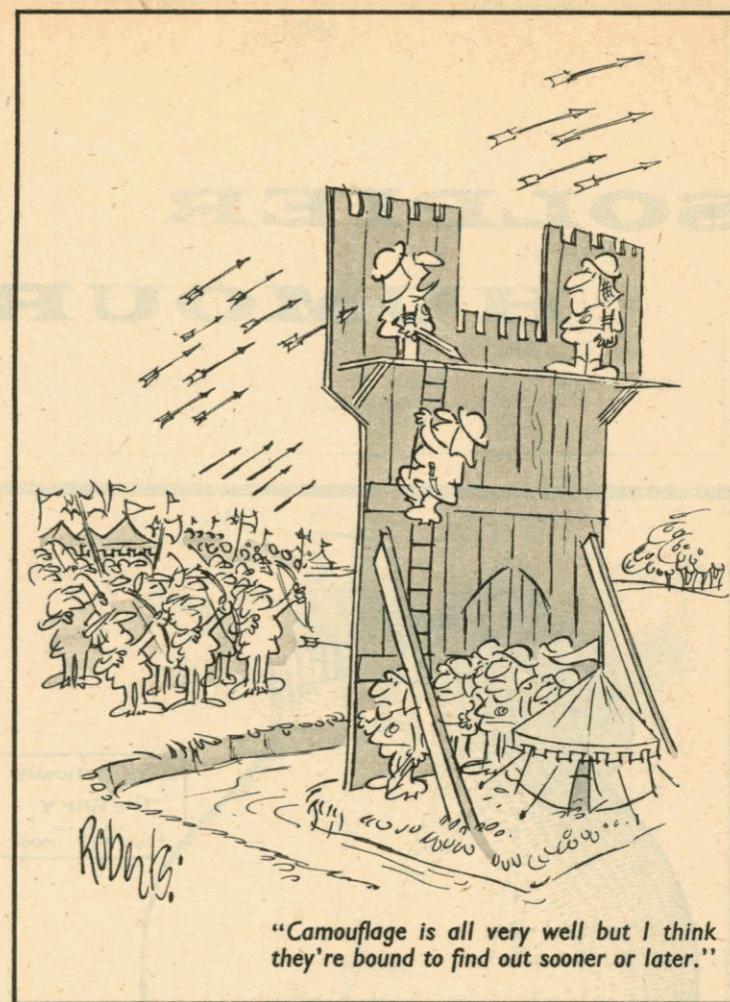
But now, the seven were worse off than before, for they soon ran into even swamplier ground and were bombed, shelled and mortared by both sides. For a fortnight, hiding in a farm by day, they tried to escape the German ring but there was no way out and the men were growing weaker. They ran out of food again and then found some supplies dropped by the Royal Air Force but these kept them going for only a few days.

Now, almost at the end of their tether, weak from lack of food and exposure and covered in swamp mud, Private Baines and a Private Peacock of 7th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, decided to make a break for safety along the coast road—but ran straight into a German patrol and were captured.

After being closely interrogated for 24 hours, the two paratroopers were sent to a temporary camp at Dozule (where their daily ration was one cup of ersatz coffee and a slice of black bread), from there to Alençon and later—on 10 August—to Chartres.

Two days later, with 400 other British and French prisoners, Private Baines was taken to Paris by bus and put aboard a special train bound for Germany, but at Rennes, where the railway system had been badly damaged by the Royal Air Force and French saboteurs, the prisoners were taken off and sent to Chalons.

Here, Baines met a Private Ruff, also of 12th Battalion, who told him that the Germans had the day



"Camouflage is all very well but I think they're bound to find out sooner or later."

Meuse, where they stayed for five days in the house of the son of a local official who, with the help of other villagers, provided them with complete civilian outfits.

On the fifth day, a Frenchman arrived, bringing with him four old rifles, and told the escapers that he was the local Maquis leader and needed them to help fight the Germans. To their astonishment—because they had not seen him before—he said he had carefully checked all their identities and was satisfied they were not Nazi spies!

The Frenchman took the four soldiers with him to the nearby village of Haironville, lodging them in different houses in case of a sudden German attack, and two days later they joined the main Maquis camp at Stainville.

But Baines did not go into action with the Maquis for, on 31 August, American tanks arrived on the scene and he and his comrades were sent back to Haironville and from there returned to Bayeux where they rejoined 6th Airborne Division.

Private Baines later fought in the Ardennes and in March, 1945, volunteered to take part in the airborne assault across the Rhine, this time going into action by glider. As the glider came into land it was hit head on by a German 88 shell and Baines was severely wounded in the left leg, which later had to be amputated.

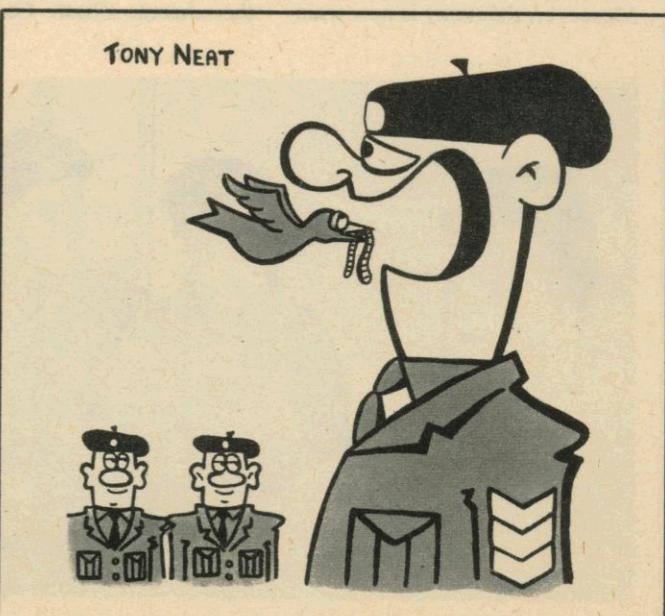
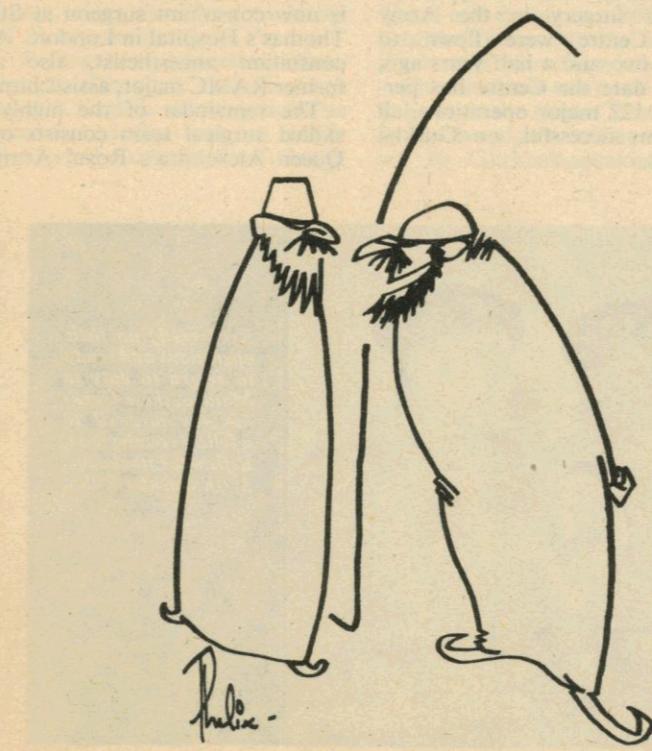
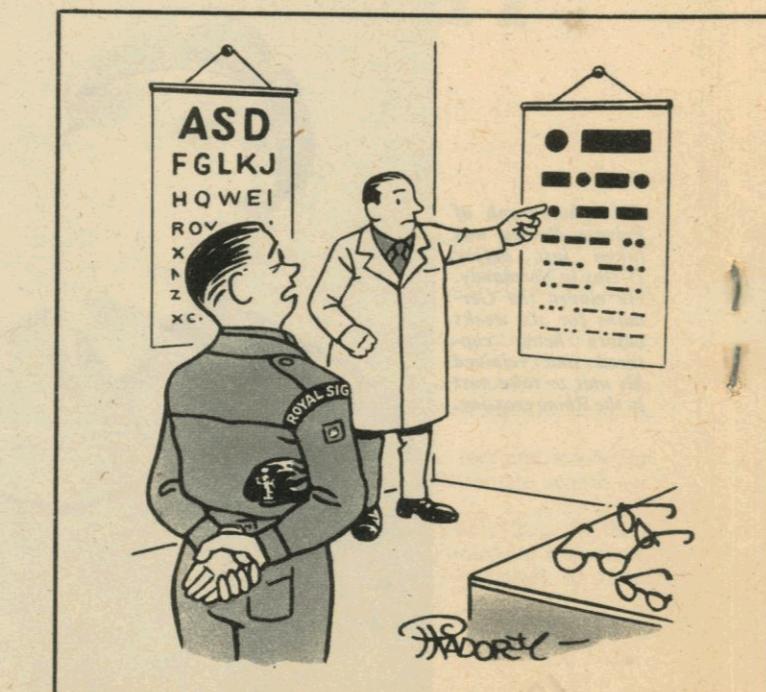
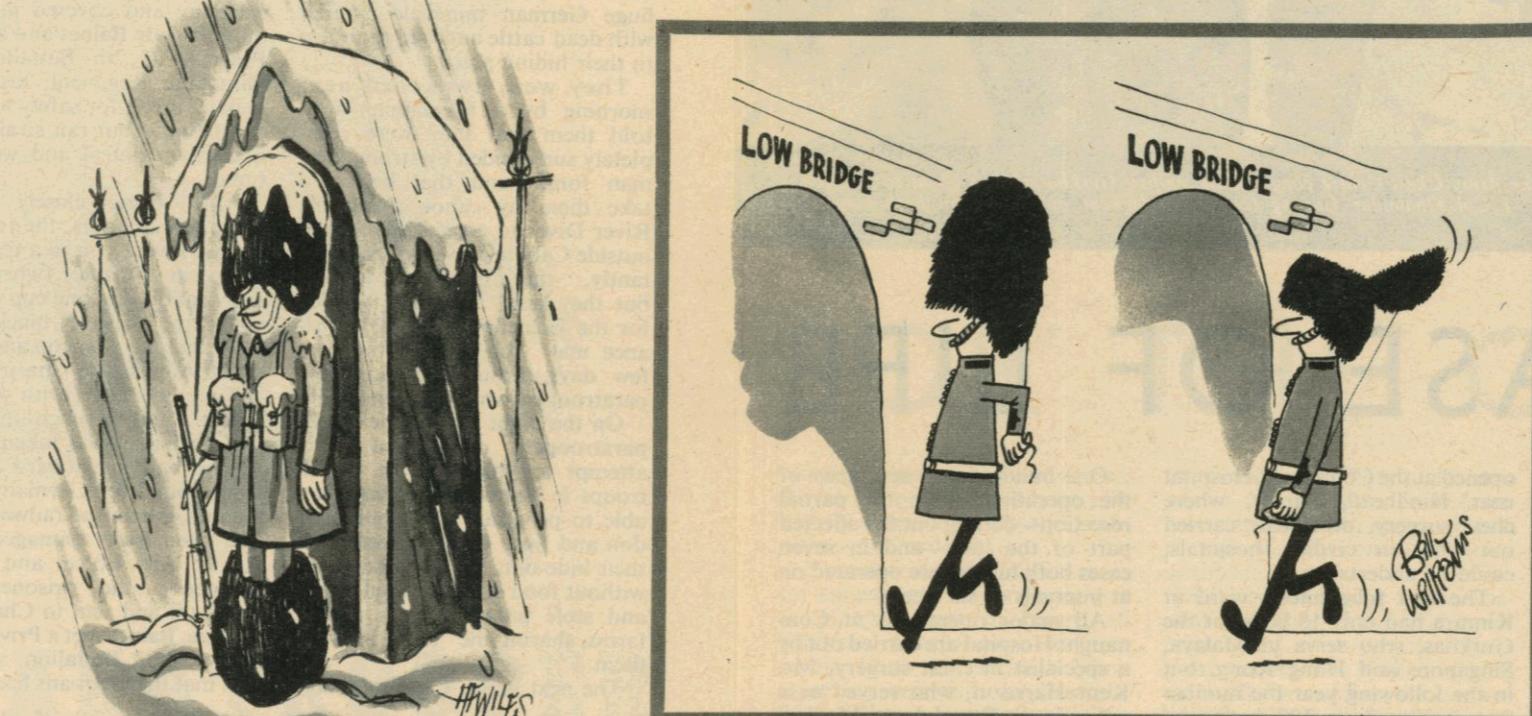
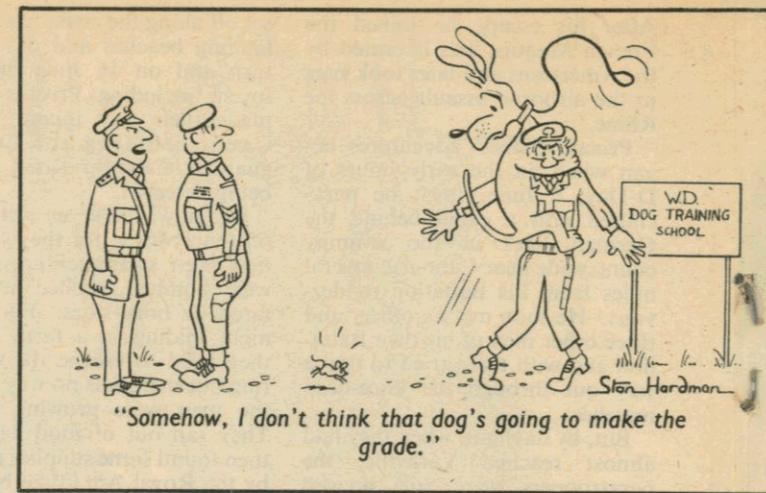
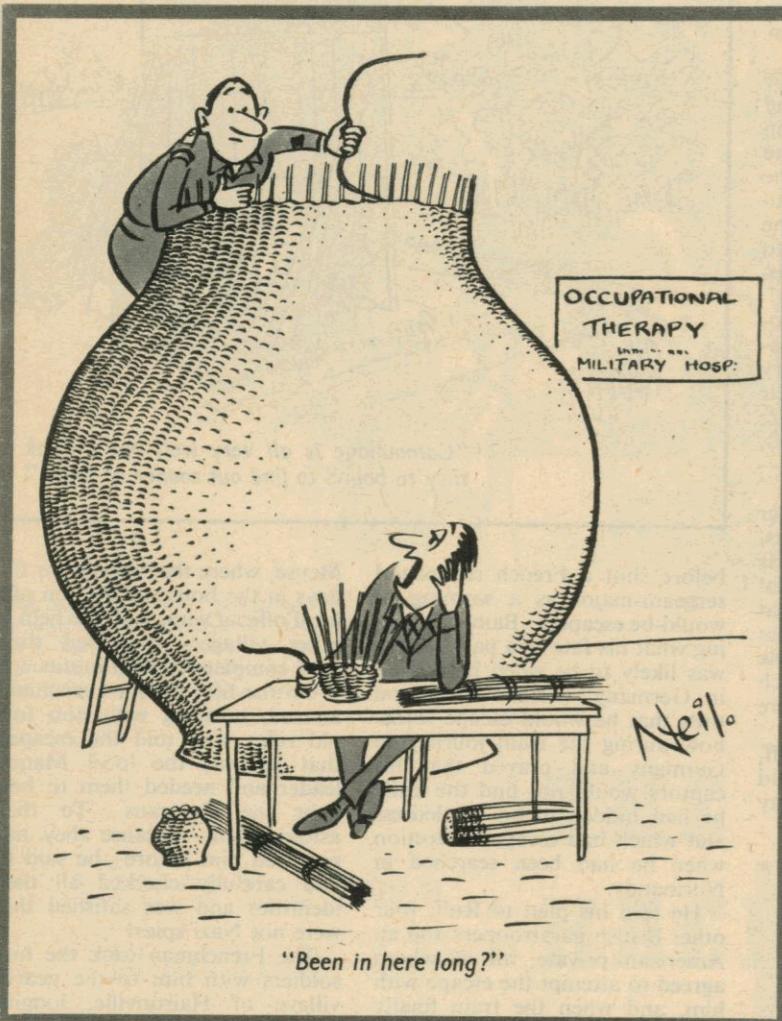
Today, Douglas Baines, the man who cut his way to freedom, is a clerk at a spinning mill in Yorkshire.

LESLIE HUNT



This photograph of Private Baines was taken just before D-Day in Normandy. He eluded the Germans for six weeks before being captured and rejoined his unit to take part in the Rhine crossing.

SOLDIER HUMOUR

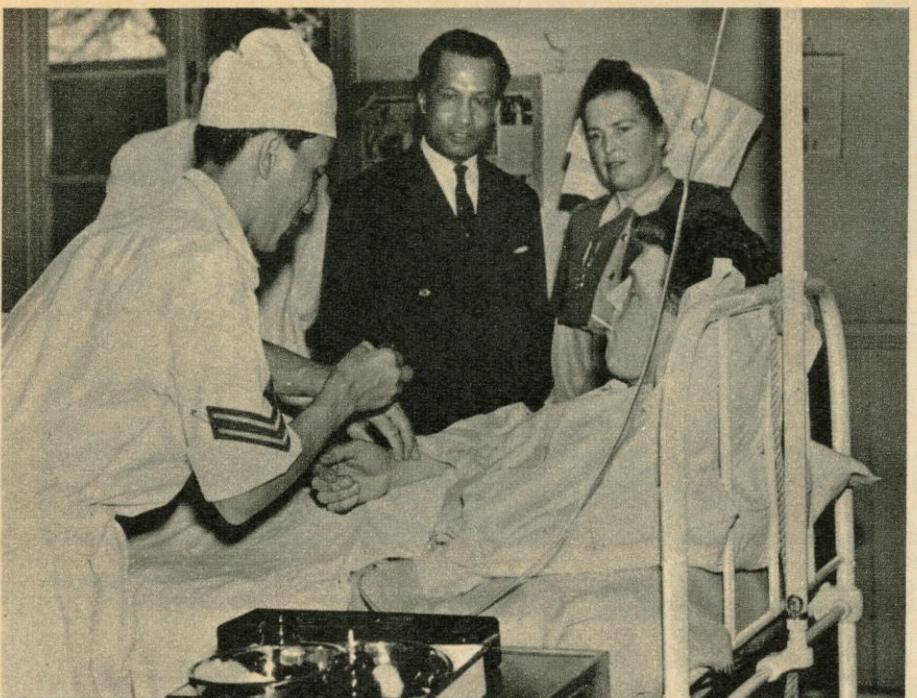


To its Malayan victories over scrub typhus, malaria, and leptospirosis the Royal Army Medical Corps has added a triumph over tuberculosis.

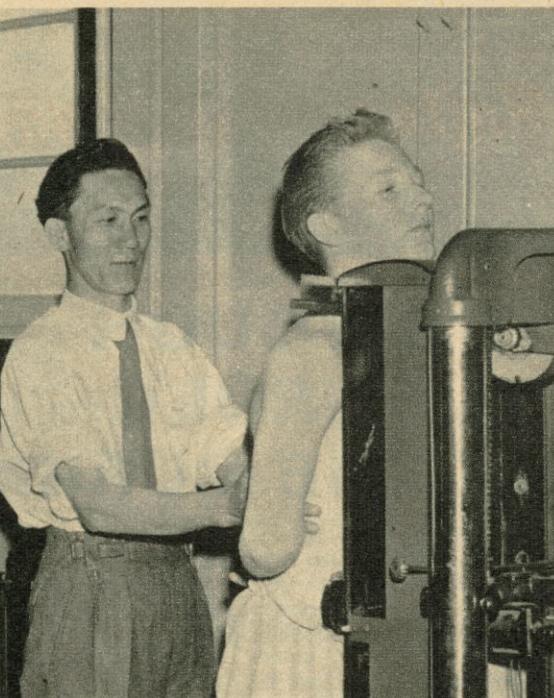
More than a hundred stricken Gurkhas have undergone operations at the Army Chest Centre in Surrey and returned, cured, to soldier on



Nursing sisters at the Army Chest Centre congratulate smiling Gurkha soldiers about to return to their regiments. L/Cpl Obahadur Gurung (centre) underwent operations on both lungs.



Watched by the Nepalese Ambassador, Gurkha patients demonstrate the RAMC's "24 procedures" which, with first-aid and English, they are taught at Hindhead.



A Gurkha soldier-patient who is learning radiography positions a junior private for an X-ray.

NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR THE GURKHAS

ONLY a few years ago when a Gurkha soldier contracted tuberculosis his career as a soldier was finished. Discharged from the Army, he returned to his native Nepal to die.

Today the stricken Gurkha goes to hospital and after a two-year course of treatment returns, cured, to soldier on with his regiment.

The pattern of his life was changed almost overnight in 1950 when the Royal Army Medical Corps opened a ward in the British Military Hospital at Kinrara, Malaya, for the treatment of Gurkha tuberculosis cases.

Since then the number of beds there has been increased and over a hundred Gurkhas have also undergone surgical treatment at the Army Chest Centre in Surrey. Moreover, the Army is now train-

ing the Gurkhas as the vanguard of a campaign to rid their homeland of the dreaded disease.

New "wonder" drugs introduced in 1948 revolutionised the treatment of tuberculosis. The Army took part in the Medical Research Council's trial of the drugs and was "in on the ground floor" when they were brought into use. In October, 1953, a further big step was taken when the Army Chest Centre was

opened at the Connaught Hospital near Hindhead, Surrey, where chest surgery, previously carried out only in civilian hospitals, could be undertaken.

One hundred and seventeen of the operations were for partial resection—cutting out the affected part of the lung—and in seven cases both lungs were operated on at intervals of six weeks.

All major operations at Connaught Hospital are carried out by a specialist in chest surgery, Mr. Kent Harrison, who served as a major in the Royal Army Medical Corps during World War Two and is now consultant surgeon at St. Thomas's Hospital in London. A consultant anaesthetist, also a former RAMC major, assists him.

The remainder of the highly-skilled surgical team consists of

Queen Alexandra's Royal Army

Nursing Corps officers and nurses, Royal Army Medical Corps officers and operating theatre technicians and orderlies.

Now that the back-log of cases for surgery has been overcome it is expected that in future all Gurkhas will be back at duty within 12 to 15 months of first reporting sick with tuberculosis. They will then complete a further 12 months on the "wonder" drugs, taking them for a minimum of 24 months in all.

During their six months in Connaught Hospital the Gurkhas attend English classes, train as nursing orderlies and are taught the Royal Army Medical Corps'

24 procedures. Thirty-eight have gained the St. John Ambulance Association preliminary certificate in first-aid, and one the senior certificate.

Selected men work in the hospital laboratory and learn how to take X-ray photographs. Apart from making the Gurkhas even more efficient soldiers the medical training will, it is hoped, assist in stamping out tuberculosis in Nepal and enable the Gurkhas to help their comrades who have not the benefit of modern treatment.

The Gurkhas are made to feel at home in the Army Chest Centre by the hospital's welfare officers, led by Gurkhali-speaking Miss

Margaret MacLean, a British Red Cross and St. John welfare officer who has served at Kinrara. Their festivals are observed in the hospital and they are taken on trips round the countryside and to London.

.....

Gurkhas undergoing treatment, whether at Kinrara or Hindhead, receive pay and allowances for the two years. At Kinrara their families can be accommodated in the nearby lines of a Gurkha regiment.

The drop in new cases since these measures were put into effect is an encouraging pointer towards the Gurkha's future freedom from tuberculosis—and a tribute to the work of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

PETER N. WOOD



Recovered from their operations and ready to return to duty in Malaya, these Gurkhas say farewell to a fellow countryman, Rifleman Lilbahadur, 2/7th Gurkha Rifles.

Connaught Hospital occupies over 50 acres of pinewood in the Surrey hills near Hindhead. Its huts, joined by long corridors and surrounded by lawns and flower beds, were originally built in 1939 to house a militia battalion and later became a hospital for the Canadian Army. After World War Two it was a general hospital before being devoted entirely to tuberculosis and chest diseases.

The staff of the 200-bed Connaught Hospital includes six National Service medical officers and 18 nursing officers of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps. Besides Gurkhas, the hospital treats British Regular soldiers who intend to remain in the Army, their wives and children and the Women's Services. In preference to transferring to civilian hospitals, some stay on as voluntary patients at the Army Chest Centre after their service has ended.



Lieut-Col J. B. Chambers, QARANC, Matron of Connaught Hospital, presents a St. John Ambulance Brigade first-aid certificate to Gurkha Sgt Ramkishor Dewan.

Military Miscellany

IT'S TOUGH IN BORNEO—ASK THE GURKHAS

"It's pretty rugged soldiering in Borneo," they told the 1st Battalion of the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles as the unit was on its way by air and tank landing craft to take part in an exercise there with the local police.

The Gurkhas, who have a well-earned reputation for being among the toughest soldiers in the world, just smiled. But they were not smiling a week later, for in that time they had learned just how rugged the mosquito and leech-ridden mangrove swamps, rock-covered hills and thick jungles can be.

Their first experience came when, trying to find a route from Sandakan, on the east coast, to Bilit, some 20 miles away, they took nearly five hours to march the first ten miles over going so rough that their jungle boots were ruined and new ones had to be air-dropped from an Auster.

But there was worse to come. They took three days to cover

the next eleven miles, ploughing waist deep for nearly two days through a mangrove swamp overgrown with weeds where probably no man had been before. And at the end was the River Menugal, a stagnant stretch of water only 20 yards wide which took three hours to cross.

Another patrol took five days to cover the 40-mile stretch of rocky hills and jungle between Sandakan and Beluran, and food supplies parachuted to them landed high in the trees and had to be cut down.—From a report by Sergeant P. M. Howard, Army Public Relations, Far East Land Forces.



Above: A patrol sets out in an assault boat up one of the countless streams in North Borneo. It was not all so pleasant as this. Below: Another patrol, exploring the north-east coast, wades ashore with its boat.



SAPPERS WHO SERVE AT SEA

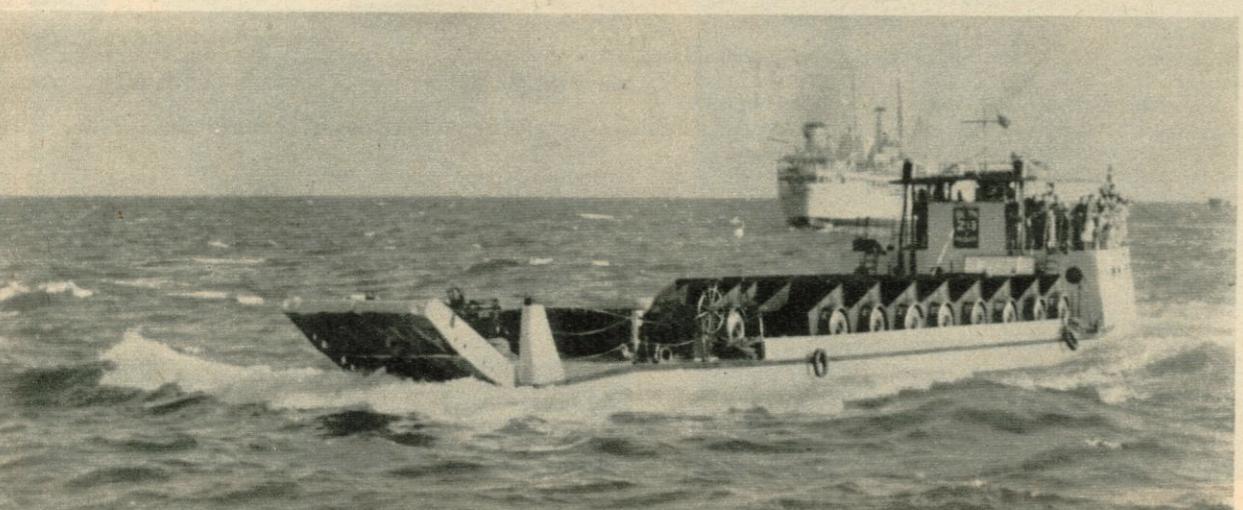
SOLDIERS who spend most of their time at sea are the Sappers of 52 Inland Water Transport Port Operating Squadron, Royal Engineers, who man a fleet of seven "Z" craft and two tugs based on Famagusta and Limassol in Cyprus.

Any day may find them on their way to Aden, North Africa or Bahrain with urgently needed supplies, ferrying troops and fresh water to troopers anchored in Famagusta Bay, loading and unloading stores, acting as landing craft for seaborne assault exercises and dredging the harbour of silt.

The crews, skippered by a Sapper sergeant, who has a corporal for a mate, four Sappers as deck hands and a lance-corporal and a Sapper as engineers, live on board even when their vessels are tied

up ashore. Some are ex-lightermen from the Thames and the Humber but many have had no experience of sea-going craft when they join No. 17 Port Regiment, Royal Engineers, at Southampton for their training. Corporal R. Metcalf, who skipper the tug "Foundation Martha", which once plied on the Great Lakes of Canada, joined the Royal Engineers 16 years ago.

The Sapper-sailors belong to the Transportation Troops, Cyprus, which also includes a detachment of Sapper and Royal Pioneer Corps stevedores in 51 Port Operating Squadron and Sapper marine engineers and shipwrights of 53 Port Maintenance Squadron who carry out most of the repairs to the fleet in their floating workshop—a converted "Z" craft.—From a report by Captain D. A. Harris, Military Observer.



A "Z" craft, carrying a cargo of Army trailers, ploughs through a choppy sea off Famagusta. Sometimes these flat-bottom craft sail from Cyprus to North Africa.

"RED DEVILS" DROP IN FOR A FIGHT

AT dawn on the North African coast near Derna a marker flare blazed in the pale blue sky. Seconds later pathfinder paratroopers tumbled out of a Hastings and dropped rapidly on to the edge of the airfield.

More flares—green, red, blue and purple—went up to guide the main force in and suddenly the sky was filled with billowing parachutes as wave after wave of Hastings and Beverleys swept in from the sea. Within minutes the paratroopers were in action and the airfield had been captured.

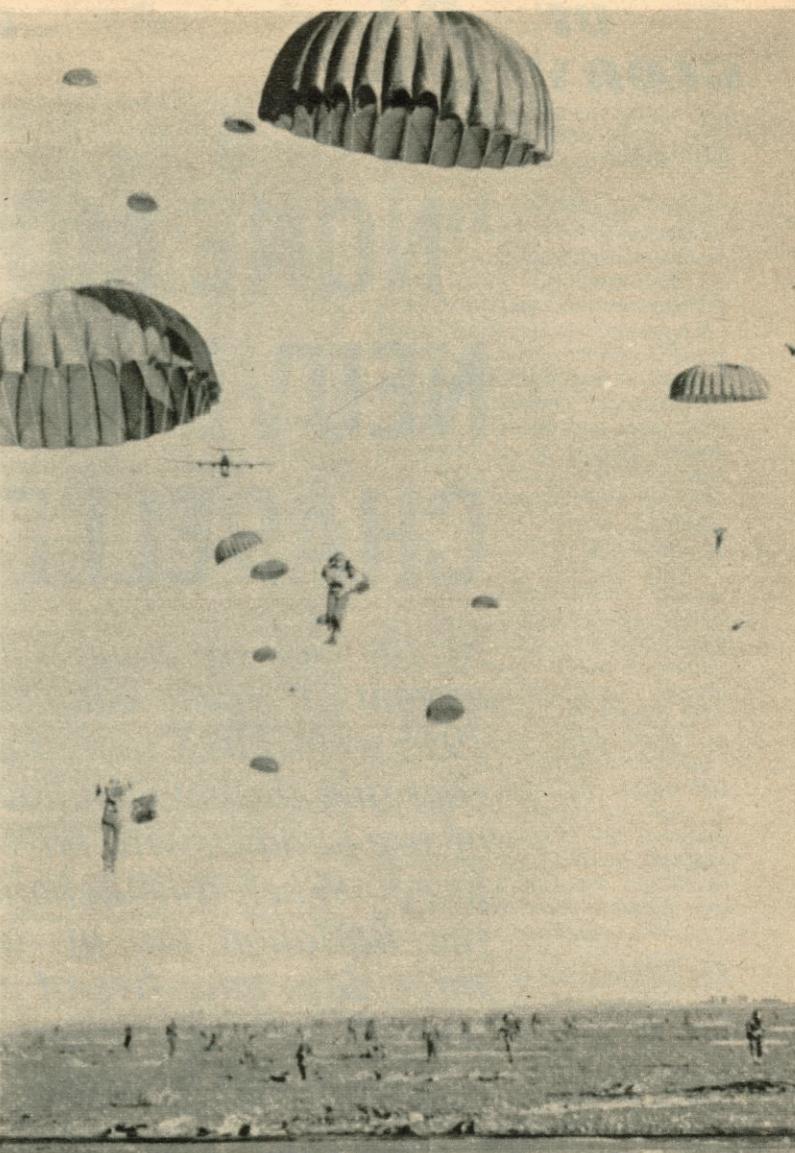
This—operation "Dry Martini"—was the biggest airborne exercise (it lasted for three days) ever held in North Africa and was carried out by the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and supporting elements of 16 Independent Parachute Brigade: airborne Gunners, Sappers and men of the Welsh Guards, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Army Service Corps, Royal Army Medical Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

The men of 16 Independent Parachute Brigade had been flown from England to join the 2nd Battalion, Parachute Regiment which was already in Cyprus from where the assault

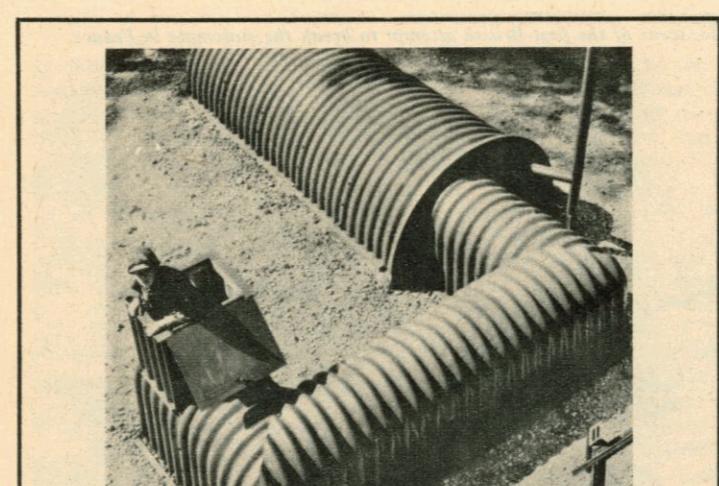
on Derna, 800 miles away, was mounted.

As the paratroopers, led by Lieutenant-Colonel D. Beckett, advanced rapidly towards Tobruk across the flat, featureless desert, driving through enemy positions held by men of The Welch Regiment, The Royal Air Force Regiment and 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, Hawker Hunter aircraft and Austers of 8 Independent Reconnaissance Flight, Army Air Corps, pinpointed enemy strongpoints and flashed their information to troops on the ground. In their wake, as the supporting troops went into action, supplies of petrol, rations and ammunition were air-landed and ferried forward until the attackers reached their final objectives.

But the paratroopers did not have it all their own way. On the last day they were counter-attacked and driven back towards the sea and honours ended all square.—From a report by Army Public Relations, Libya.



Another stick of paratroopers drops from a "Beverley" to join the men who have already landed. Left: Waiting for the order to advance, the paratroopers shelter behind rocks in the desert outside Derna.



ATOMIC SHELTER—SWEDISH STYLE

THREE'S something familiar about this pre-fabricated, portable shelter recently adopted by the Swedish Army to protect troops against blast and radio-activity.

It is a bigger and better version of the famous Anderson air-raid shelter which saved thousands of lives during air-raids in Britain in World War Two.

In its new form, the shelter, which can be rapidly assembled, is lowered into a deep trench and the excavated earth is piled on top to form a barrier against an atomic explosion.

A FIVE-WAR VETERAN SAYS FAREWELL

FEW serving British soldiers can claim to have fought in as many wars as Sergeant Thomas Cushing, of The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, who, at 50, is shortly to retire after 33 years as a soldier, 22 of them in the British Army.

Son of a Connaught Rangers regimental sergeant-major, he went to America when his parents died and in 1926, at the age of 17, joined the United States Army. His first war was a minor affair in South America. A few years later, while serving in China with the United States Marines, he met a Royal Inniskilling Fusilier and was so impressed that he vowed one day to join that Regiment—which he did in 1938 after leaving the US Marines and fighting in the Spanish Civil War.

In 1940 he was captured at Dunkirk and after several unsuccessful escape bids was sent to a concentration camp, where his fellow prisoners included Captain



Sergeant Thomas Cushing, a soldier since 1926, has fought in five wars.

Peter Churchill, in whose book "Spirit in the Cage," Sergeant Cushing is mentioned.

Sergeant Cushing served in Palestine with the Royal Irish Fusiliers in 1946, in Korea with the Royal Ulster Rifles, and returned to the Inniskillings in time to fight Mau-Mau in Kenya.

"NONE MORE NOBLE THAN NEUVE CHAPELLE"

In the van of the suicidal assault at Neuve Chapelle in 1915 went The Cameronians, charging through a holocaust of fire at dawn with bayonets fixed. When a lieutenant led the Battalion out of action three days later five of every six officers and men had been killed or wounded

A war artist's graphic portrayal of British trenches being shelled at Neuve Chapelle, scene of the first British attempt to break the stalemate in France.



As the deafening barrage from 300 British guns roared overhead, The Cameronians fixed bayonets and went over the top, charging through the thick mud towards the German trenches.

Suddenly, through the haze and smoke, they saw with horror that the barbed wire defences in front of the German positions were still intact and the next moment a hail of mortar, machine-gun and rifle fire struck them.

"Charge," roared the Colonel—and The Cameronians went irresistibly forward, bashing at the wire with their rifle butts and frantically tearing at it with their hands. As one man fell another took his place until, at last, the wire was down and The Cameronians surged on, clearing the first enemy trench with their bayonets and bombs.

In that first gallant charge at Neuve Chapelle in Northern France on 10 March, 1915, the 2nd Battalion The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) lost almost every officer and more than half of the Battalion were killed or wounded. Three days later when the Battalion was taken out of action, only one junior officer and 150 of the 900 men who had gone over the top were left standing.

The Battle of Neuve Chapelle—the proudest of all The Cameronians' battle honours—took place during the British Army's first planned offensive against the Germans in World War One, in an effort to break the stalemate of trench warfare which had bogged down the opposing armies through the bitter winter of 1914-15.

It failed to achieve its strategic object, but it demonstrated that the spirit of the British Expeditionary Force



The Cameronians break through the wire and surge into the German trenches. In the first furious charge more than half the Battalion were killed or wounded.—Reproduced from the painting by War Artist H. Oakes-Jones.

Apart from a few artillery ranging shots there was little noise until 7.30 a.m., when suddenly the air was rent by the explosions of the first of 300 guns in a bombardment intended to destroy the German trenches and protective obstacles, particularly the barbed wire. This destruction, so vital for the help of the assaulting Infantry, was most effectively done except on a frontage of about 400 yards on the left sector, where 23rd Brigade were to attack. There, largely (it was reported afterwards) because of the peculiar lie of the ground the bombardment failed to cut the wire or damage the enemy positions sufficiently.

The 2nd Cameronians and the 2nd Middlesex were the leading battalions of the 23rd Brigade; the 2nd Devonshire was in support and the 2nd West Yorkshire in brigade reserve. At 8.5 a.m., when the artillery barrage lifted to a general line 300 yards farther east, including the village of Neuve Chapelle, the leading battalions, confident that the bombardment had been successful, scrambled from their trenches and advanced across "No-Man's-Land" towards the still intact wire behind which the Germans were waiting.

The leading waves of the Middlesex were shot to pieces and stopped for a time. The Cameronians, too, were momentarily halted but, urged on by their Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Bliss, charged under a hail of shrapnel and bullets,

desperately trying to penetrate the wire. Time and again they were driven back, but went forward again and finally the remnants of one company found a way through and, led by a Lieutenant Bibby and a bombing party, surged into the German trenches. Further rushes by men of the Cameronians and Devons carried their assault forward another 250 yards, and then the attackers were held up again by fire from their front and their left flank.

By 10 a.m. the central battalions of the assault had broken through on a front of 1600 yards, had captured Neuve Chapelle and reached their objective—the Smith-Dorrien trench to the east of it. On both flanks, however, the Germans were still holding portions of their trenches.

For the next two days the fighting went on with varying intensity, and then the battle petered out, chiefly because of exhaustion

on both sides, but the British had advanced their line about 1000 yards on a front of about 3000 yards.

To the 2nd Cameronians, soon after the battle, Field-Marshal Sir John French, the Commander-in-Chief, said: "I come here to express my heartiest gratitude for the splendid part you played in the battle of Neuve Chapelle. I know what awful losses you suffered; I know the gallantry you displayed on that occasion has never been surpassed by a British soldier. You have many noble honours on your Colours; none are finer than that of Neuve Chapelle, which will soon be added to them."

Major-General Sir F. Davies, who commanded the Eighth Division in the battle, said in Glasgow after the war: "There is another regiment I should like to refer to—the old 90th Greys [The Cameronians]. With hardly a man of less than five years' service they went into action 900 strong; 30 officers lay dead or wounded between the trenches, and when the German trenches were rushed only two officers of the battalion were standing up, and one of those was wounded."

"That made no difference, the men fought on just the same, and for two days the battalion, or what was left of it, was commanded by the only surviving officer, a young second-lieutenant of the Special Reserve. Every man in that action fought as if he were an officer . . ."

And the 23rd Brigade Commander, Brigadier-General Pinney, paid this tribute: "In face of heavy fire your Regiment charged right through the German wire, over the first enemy trench and into the second. Colonel Bliss, with more than 20 officers and 30 sergeants were casualties at a very early moment . . . In spite of their heavy losses the remains of the battalion went on, fighting and getting forward just as they had done when their officers were with them . . . On the fifth day they were brought out of action by a second-lieutenant and the sergeant-major . . ."

ERIC PHILLIPS

Supported by a grenade-thrower of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment, Indians of the Garhwal Brigade get to grips with the Germans on the right of the line.—From a war artist's painting.





Win Two Books, Photographs or Cartoons or **SOLDIER** free for a Year

PICTURE PUZZLE

THIS month it may be your turn to win a prize in **SOLDIER**'s Picture Puzzle contest. All you have to do is identify the six everyday objects which are shown here photographed from unusual angles.

There are six prizes to be won—by the senders of the first six correct solutions opened by the Editor.

The sender of the first correct solution may choose any two of the following recently published books: "The Desert and The Jungle" by Lieut-General Sir Geoffrey Evans; "From Libyan Sands to Chad" by Nigel Heseltine; "The Death and Life of Germany" by Eugene Davidson; "Given in Evidence" by ex-Detective Chief Superintendent John Capstick; "The Wildest Game" by Peter Ryhiner; and "The Soviet Air and Rocket Forces" edited by Asher Lee.

The senders of the second and third correct solutions may choose whole-plate monochrome copies of any two photographs and/or cartoons which have appeared in **SOLDIER** since January, 1957.

The senders of the fourth, fifth and sixth correct solutions will be sent **SOLDIER** free for 12 months.

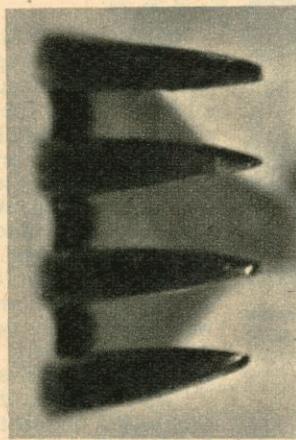
All entries must reach **SOLDIER**'s London editorial offices by Monday, 28 March.

RULES

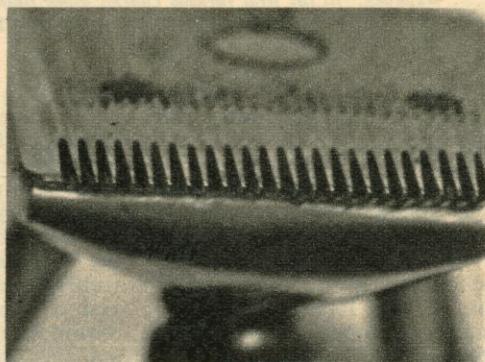
1. Entries must be sent in a sealed envelope to:
The Editor (Competition), **SOLDIER**,
433, Holloway Road, London, N.7.
2. Each entry must be accompanied by the "Competition 22" panel printed at the top of this page.
3. Competitors may submit only one entry.
4. Any reader, Serviceman or woman and civilian, may compete.
5. The Editor's decision is final.

★ *The solution and the name of the winner will appear in **SOLDIER**, May.*

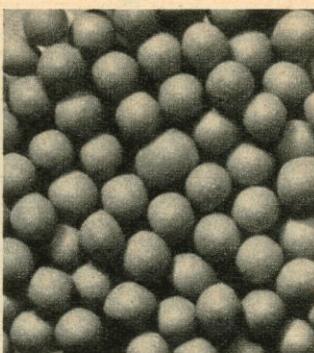
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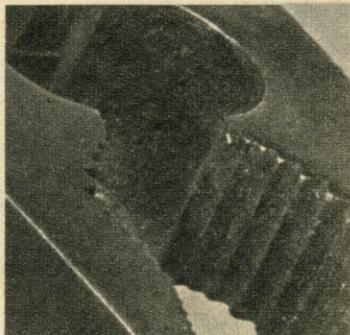
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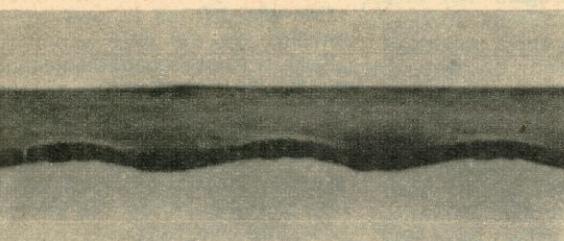
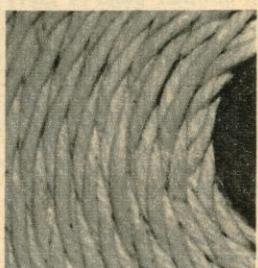
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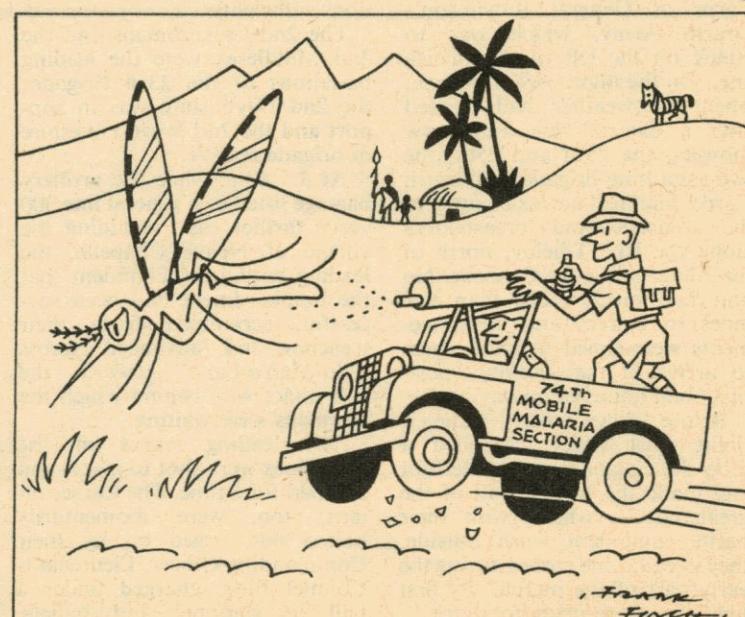
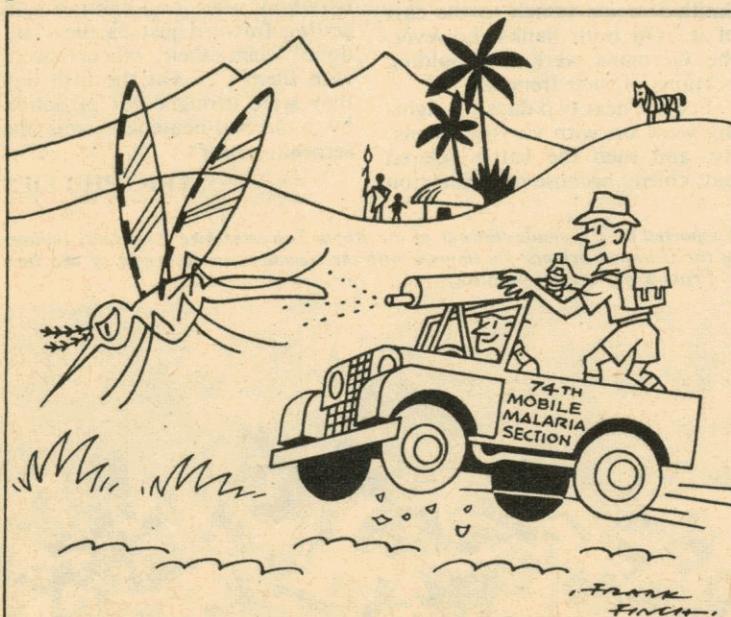


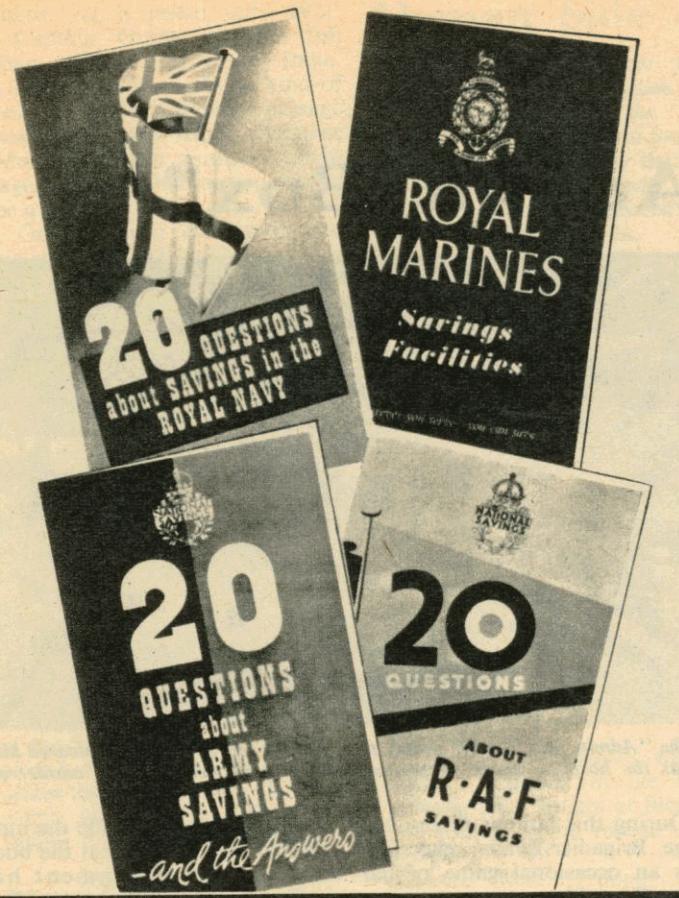
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HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

These two pictures look alike, but they vary in ten minor details. Look at them very carefully. If you cannot detect the differences see page 38.





A MESSAGE from the Chairman of HER MAJESTY'S FORCES SAVINGS COMMITTEE

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Liar Dice In The "Admin. Box"

THE corps exercise had produced some strong criticism of tactics and nobody was surprised when a second exercise was ordered.

The day before it was due to start, the adjutant of one battalion rang up the brigade major and asked who was to do the umpiring, as no one had been nominated. "Good heavens," said the brigade major. "Thank you very much for letting me know. I'll find out."

The brigade major was one of the few who knew that there were to be no umpires; it was not to be an exercise but the real thing. Thus was kept, to the last minute, the secret of the first British offensive in the Western Desert in 1940.

The brigade major is now Lieutenant-General Sir Geoffrey Evans, and the battle which followed is one of five, described from four different levels, of which he writes in "The Desert and the Jungle" (William Kimber, 25s).

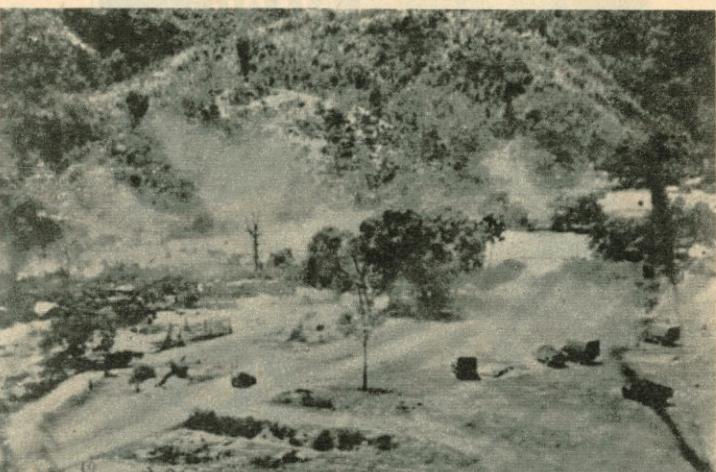
To maintain surprise, the author's brigade commander ordered that all vehicle wind-screens should be smashed, so that no reflections should give the game away. All lights and horns were disconnected, except one horn—and that gave a shrill blast at the wrong moment. In the desert stillness, even the opening of a bottle of champagne was enough to put brigade headquarters defences on the alert, and

there was some concern about the noise made by tanks and carriers. The Italians, at least, were surprised at the scale of the attack. Before long, their camp at Nibewa was in the hands of 11 Indian Brigade, and the first of thousands of prisoners were on their way back.

The author was still a brigade major at Keren, that "tough nut," as Sir Anthony Eden described it, where the Italians were embattled in rocky mountains and after hard fighting were caught napping by a column which attacked through a railway tunnel.

He commanded a battalion at the Battle of the Omars, back in the desert, and a few weeks later took a column safely through German lines after Benghazi had become almost encircled.

The most desperate of the five battles was in the Arakan. The author, now a brigadier, was ordered to defend the corps administrative area—to become famous as the "Admin. Box"—when the Japanese attacked. Cut off by the Japanese, with administrative troops helping to man the perimeter, the garrison wore down the attacks. The black spot in this battle came when the Japanese overran the hospital; few patients or staff survived their atrocities. When food and ammunition ran short, aircraft dropped more, to the fury of the Japanese who had outrun their own inadequate supply system.



The "Admin. Box" under enemy fire. On the left of the light-coloured hill was the hospital where 35 patients and doctors were brutally murdered.

During this famous three-week siege, Brigadier Evans' relaxation was an occasional game of liar dice. One of his opponents was a divisional commander whose headquarters had been overrun and who was controlling the battles of his brigade as a guest in the "Admin. Box." With his headquarters, the general had lost his glasses and his prowess as a dice player suffered.

As a major-general, the author was commanding the 7th Indian Division when it made the crossing of the Irrawaddy at Nyaungu. This was a complicated amphibious assault, one of the widest crossings of a river by an Army

in history. It was made the more difficult by the fact that the boats and rafting equipment had suffered on their long trip from India: of 96 outboard motors of one kind, 90 needed repair and the other six were unserviceable. Despite many snags, it was done. There was opposition, but the enemy was taken by surprise and the bridgehead was rapidly established.

During this operation the general who had been the refugee in the "Admin. Box" and was now the authors' corps commander, appeared with a new pair of glasses—and took his revenge at liar dice.

In The Days of Swords and Horses

ONE of the British Army's curious and forgotten records is that for double sword-swinging.

With a cavalry sword in each hand, the man practising the exercise went through a sort of Indian club drill—back and forth, sideways, up and down—so many

times to the minute.

At some period during World War One, the record for this pastime stood at 66 hours. A Gunner in Peshawar decided to try to beat it.

For more than 24 hours all went well. Then he began to sway. The cord holding one sword to his

wrist gave way and the sword fell to the ground. The man had ten seconds in which to pick up the sword and get back into the rhythm of his swing, but made no attempt to do so. Like a boxing referee, the officer detailed to supervise this stretch of the marathon counted him out. Mad with heat-stroke, the Gunner tried to attack the officer with the remaining sword. It took four men to hold him.

The officer thus rescued was Captain Freddie Guest of the 8th Indian Cavalry, who tells the story in "Indian Cavalryman" (Jarrold, 25s), a chatty little book mostly about a way of life that is rapidly being forgotten.

Captain Guest went to India as a cadet in World War One. Attached to the Middlesex Regiment, he was on active service on the North-West Frontier soon after being commissioned. It was a successful punitive expedition into the heart of Waziristan and it lasted a year. The tribesmen, how-

ever, got a mild revenge. As the victorious British and Indian troops were on their way back to India, the locals diverted a river by night and flooded to a depth of about three feet the camp in which the author was sleeping. No great damage was done, but a good laugh was had by all—especially the defeated tribesmen.

Polo, pig-sticking, horse-racing and the social scene, enlivened by gorgeous uniforms, provide lively, if nostalgic passages.

A curious survival of which the author had experience was the Silladar system. It was like that which once held sway in the British Army: the colonel received a fixed sum for the upkeep of the regiment. He had authority to decide what uniform it should wear (the system produced the Sam Browne belt), what sort of horses it should ride, and even how it should be armed, with the result that no regiment could refit from any central depot. In modern war, the system could lead only to

chaos, yet it lasted until 1921.

Captain Guest saw his full share of the wild life of India. Like most writers of this kind of book, he had a dangerous passage when he went to shoot a panther which had been annoying a village. The panther turned out to be a tiger.

Once he saw a cow immobilised by a cobra which had twined round her rear legs and was feeding at her udder. With a friend, he was once chased by bees and stung until both men dropped unconscious—thus unpleasantly acquiring that immunity to rheumatism which bee-keepers are said to enjoy.

Captain Guest transferred to the Reserve when the internal combustion engine displaced the horse from his regiment. He was back in uniform, however, at the outbreak of World War Two. After being in the first party to escape from the Japanese in Hong Kong, a story he told in "Escape from the Bloodied Sun," he found a new use for the dying arts of the horse age, spending much of the rest of the war training officer-cadets to manage the mules which served both British and Indian units so well in Burma.

How Many Harp Strings?

HOW many strings were there on the angel's harp in the cap badge of the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars? Is the gilt chain shoulder belt worn by the Bandmaster of the 10th Royal Hussars when he is dressed in the frock coat? And what are the exact measurements of the collar badge worn by the 7th Queen's Own Hussars?

These and many other detailed questions concerning the dress distinctions of these regiments are answered in three booklets (published by Langridge's Military Publications, 13 Oxford Road, Cambridge, at 10s 6d each).

Each booklet is illustrated with nearly 150 drawings (many of them life size) of all the articles of regimental dress which differ from the universal pattern.

The publishers' claim that the booklets are the most fully illustrated ever published on the subject of military dress is slightly tarnished by the occasional errors into which both artist and writer fall.

In the 7th Hussars, for instance, acting corporals as well as full corporals wore the arm badge. And in the 7th King's Royal Irish Hussars the tea-cosy hat was not the same on both sides. (These errors have since been corrected in supplements.)

Nevertheless, these informative booklets will be invaluable to military modellers, artists and badge and insignia collectors.

Similar booklets on each of the regiments of the Royal Armoured Corps and the Household Cavalry are to be published in the near future.

Human Side of War

A FEW years ago Field Marshal Sir William Slim walked into the War Office Library to look up the official account of a battle in which he had taken part. He found it, cursorily dismissed in a mere five-and-a-half lines.

It irked him to think that officialdom could so lightly ignore the human side of war and there and then decided to do something about it.

The result is "Unofficial History" (Cassell, 21s), a series of personal reminiscences gleaned from nine small battles in which he had been involved. They shine with good humour, reveal a remarkable understanding of the

soldier's character—and make a pleasant change from the chronicles of what went on behind the closed doors of the councils of the great.

The book bristles with anecdotes typical of "Uncle Bill," the affectionate name by which the Field-Marshal was known by all his troops in Burma. There was, for instance, the time when a lorry loaded with Gurkhas ran off a track and fell into a ploughed field some feet below. The driver changed down, crossed the field and joined the track again without losing his place in the convoy, while the Gurkhas sat rigidly to attention all the time as if nothing unusual had happened.

Then there was the day when Major-General Slim and a Russian general met in Persia and attended a party. A Russian group of professional singers gave a brilliant rendering of "The Volga Boatmen," to which Uncle Bill and his party replied by singing "Daisy, Daisy."

Field-Marshal Slim makes no secret of the fact that he hates red tape and cites the occasion when he authorised lorries to travel 600 miles from Persia to Palestine to fetch beer for the troops!

In every battle that the British Army fights, he writes, two factors remain constant: it will always be fought uphill and always at the junction of two maps.

War Two, women who displayed incredible bravery, like Violette Szabo who was executed at Ravensbruck because she refused to talk under Gestapo torture.

The stories of some of these remarkable women are told by James R. Power in "Brave Women and Their Wartime Decorations" (Vantage Press, New York, 21s), an unusual, informative and well-written book that traces the record of women soldiers throughout the world and describes the gallantry medals they have won.

Women Who Followed The Drum

FROM the time of Boadicea to World War Two British military history is rich in the brave deeds of gallant women who went to war.

There was Kit Welsh, who became a dragoon in the Royal Scots in 1702, fought at Blenheim and Ramillies and retired with a pension.

There were Trooper Mary Ralphson, who fought alongside her husband with the 3rd Dragoons at the battles of Dettingen, Fontenoy and at Culloden Moor; Phoebe Hussel who served in the 5th Foot (now the Royal

Northumberland Fusiliers); Mary Talbot, who went with the 82nd Foot (later the Lancashire Regiment, Prince of Wales's Volunteers) to Flanders, where she was wounded, and who later served as a powder monkey on a man-o'-war on the Glorious First of June. And there was the extraordinary Dr. "James" Barry who became Inspector-General of the Army Medical Department and was discovered on "his" death to have been not only a woman but a mother.

In more recent times many women went into action in World

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British troops in action on the North-West Frontier, where the author served in World War One. In that campaign all stores were carried by camel.

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In the Reverend John Fail, the "Gentle Giant" of Army soccer, the Army selectors have found an ideal captain for the young amateur team. Signed by Fulham at 17, he has 12 years' experience in top-class amateur football.



The Quick-Passing Padre

THEY made me captain because I was the only one with three pips and a balding head," says the Army amateur soccer team's 29-year-old skipper and left-half—the Reverend John Fail, of the Royal Army Chaplains' Department.

But his team-mates do not agree. They say, "but a very fine wing-half, with a powerful shot in both feet."

Mr. Fail, a burly 14-stone, six-footer, has been playing top-class amateur soccer ever since he left Westminster School in 1948 and was signed as an amateur by Fulham at the age of 17. When he joined the Sappers as a National Serviceman in 1949, he led 9 Training Regiment, Royal Engineers, to the top of the Aldershot Intermediate League and later captained the Bristol University team, played for Gloucestershire in the county championship and won a place in the English Universities eleven.

After leaving University to become a Methodist minister, the footballing-parson skippered Wolverton Town in the Spartan League and earned league representative honours.

A colleague races into position to take one of the pin-pointed ground passes which mark the wing-half artistry of the Army's 14-stone footballing parson.



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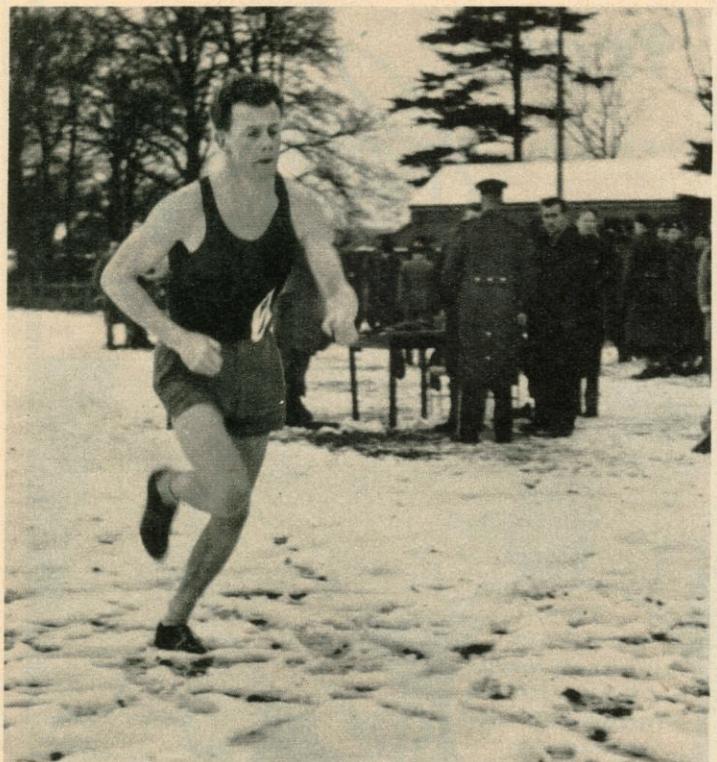
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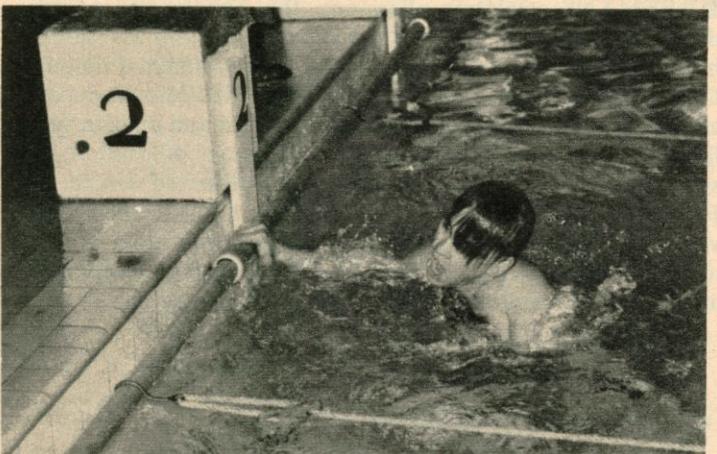
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THE ARMY FINDS A NEW STAR



Above: L/Cpl Collum pounds through the snow to finish an easy winner of the 4000-metres cross-country run. Below: Flight-Lieutenant P. Little, RAF, a British international, competing in the swimming event. He lost his way in the cross-country run and was disqualified. He finished tenth.



Below: Top-class marksmanship earned Cpl F. R. Finnis first place in the shooting with a 160-points lead over his closest challenger, L/Cpl Collum.

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In less than three years a young Life Guards lance-corporal has fought his way from obscurity to the forefront of Britain's Olympic Games modern pentathlon hopes

LANCE-CORPORAL LEONARD COLLUM, a physical training instructor in the Life Guards at Windsor, is a remarkable young athlete.

Only three years ago he had never ridden a horse, never fenced, never fired a pistol or revolver and never run in a cross-country race—four of the five accomplishments in which modern pentathlon competitors must shine.

Yet, in a Combined Services Pentathlon at Aldershot recently, he snatched a spectacular victory. With a score of 4053 points in the five events (the fifth is swimming) he trounced a strong field of 22 competitors, among them the British international and Army champion—Lieutenant P. J. Harvey, of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment—and several others who are short-listed for the British team to compete in the Olympic Games later this year.

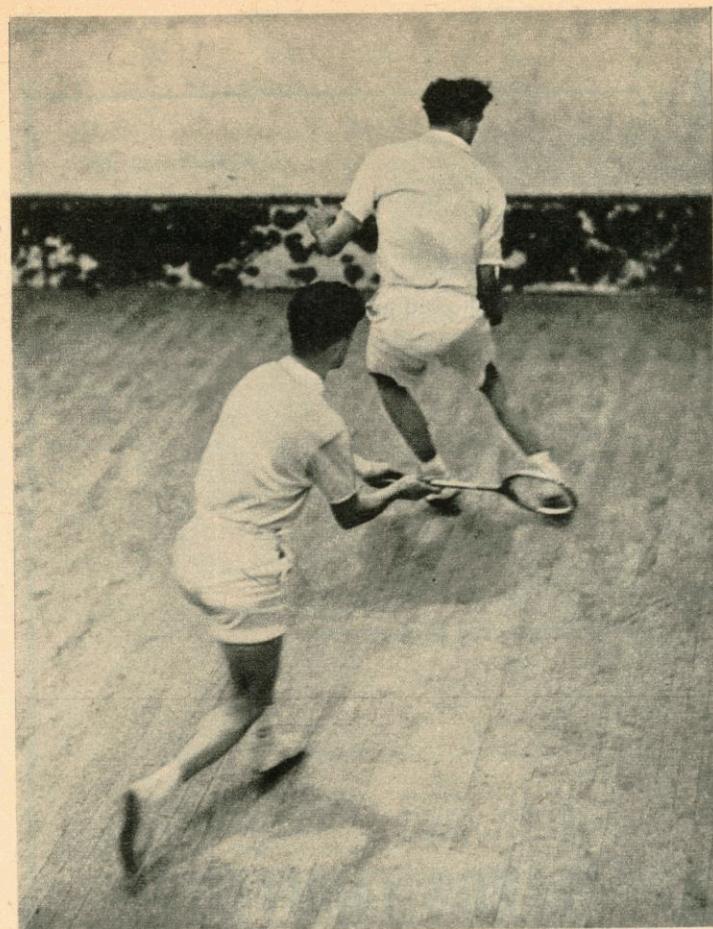
Lance-Corporal Collum's unexpected and brilliant success, which puts him well in the running for international honours, was a triumph of perseverance, for in the past six months he has spent most of his spare time in strict training, particularly to improve his riding ability, the poor standard of which let him down repeatedly in former events and last year cost him a place in the British team competing in the world championships. Night after night, under the expert eye of Captain Thompson, the Household Cavalry Riding Master at Windsor, he rode round and round the indoor School, im-

proving his style and technique. His enthusiasm paid high dividends because this time he made so few mistakes in the riding event that he dropped only 14 points and was second to the British international, Flight-Lieutenant Peter Little, of the Royal Air Force.

In the other events, Lance-Corporal Collum easily won the cross-country race in 16 minutes 21 seconds, was runner-up in the pistol and revolver competition—his best performance so far in this event—fifth in fencing and sixth in swimming. His previous best all-round placing was eighth in the Inter-Services pentathlon in 1957, his first competitive year.

Runner-up in the competition, 424 points behind the winner, was Lieutenant P. J. Harvey; third, Lieutenant R. F. Tuck, of the Royal Marines, another British team possible for the Olympics; and fourth, Captain R. M. Mortimer, of the Royal Army Service Corps Training Centre.

Other Army stars who competed were Corporal F. R. Finnis, of the 1st Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment, the British team reserve last year, who finished well down the list at number 11;



After a fast and furious battle Gunner Stuart Hicks (nearest camera) beat Major M. J. W. Tingey in one of the most thrilling finals for many years.

Lieutenant G. Brown, Royal Military Police (17th); Lieutenant S. E. Terret, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (fifth) and Sergeant B. Edwards, Army School of Physical Training (sixth).

Lieutenant Tuck and Corporal J. Brockwell, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, tied for first place in the fencing; Lance-Corporal P. Exton, Royal Military Police won the swimming and Corporal Finnis the shooting.

The event, staged by the Royal Army Service Corps Training Centre, was the first of a series of "warming-up" pentathlons and tetrathlons designed to help competitors reach peak fitness early in the season and so give the British and Services selectors a better opportunity to assess individual form.

Below: L/Cpl Collum, whose horsemanship has not impressed in the past, showed a remarkable improvement and dropped only 14 points in the riding event.



Squash Champion Is A Gunner

FOR the first time in the history of the Army Squash Rackets championship—first held in 1927—the title has been won by a man from the ranks: 24-year-old Gunner Stuart Hicks, of the School of Artillery, Larkhill.

Gunner Hicks, who also plays hockey for the Army and is a three-handicap golfer, won the championship by beating Major M. J. W. Tingey, of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, in one of the most exciting and skillful finals for many years. He won the first game 9-4, lost the second by 6-9 and then piled on the pace to take the last two games at 9-4, mastering his opponent in 46 minutes.

Gunner Hicks, who has three times been a semi-finalist in the Yorkshire Senior Squash Rackets championship, has been playing competitive squash since he was 11 years old.

The Women's Royal Army Corps championship was won, for the third successive year, by

Captain M. E. MacLagen, who beat Captain D. J. Temple 9-3, 9-2, 5-9, 9-2.

The Veteran's title was decided in a battle between two brigadiers and ended in a win for Brigadier G. O. M. Jameison over Brigadier J. S. Vickers by 9-3, 9-3, 9-0.

Gunner Stuart Hicks, who smashed the officers' 33-year monopoly of the squash championship, proudly takes possession of the handsome trophy.



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BE CHEERFUL

Regular Sergeant's letter ("It's Not So Bad," January) prompts me to wonder why newspapers so often publish the black side when they might just as easily look on the bright side.

During my 30 years in the Indian Army I lived under canvas in temperatures ranging from 132 degrees to 23 degrees of frost. But we didn't complain. We made the best of it and had a jolly good time. Nor do the men (and women) in the Services today want feather-beds, though the stuff some newspapers print suggests they do.

When the best available has been provided it is much better to make the best of it and stop running it down. Destructive criticism is easy, but it doesn't help morale.—Lieut-Col G. Sanders, Indian Army (Ret), Yew Close, Bristol Road, Wells.

ALDERSHOT FREEDOM

Your interesting article ("A Face-lift for Aldershot," February) prompts me to point out the remarkable fact that only two regiments have ever received the freedom of Aldershot, a town which claims, with good reason, to be "The Home of the British Army."

The first to receive the freedom, immediately after World War Two, was the Royal Hampshire Regiment; the second, in 1957, The Parachute Regiment.

One would have thought that many other regiments with a long and close association with Aldershot would have been similarly honoured.—"Perplexed," Potters Bar.

★ Since this correspondent's letter was received the Aldershot Town Council has decided to confer its freedom on the Army Physical Training School in honour of the centenary this year of its establishment in the Borough.

At the same time, a councillor suggested that the honour should be bestowed on the entire British Army in 1963, when the Army becomes an all-Regular force, and a sub-committee was set up to consider the proposal.

MESS QUESTION

More and more units are using the term "Warrant Officers" and "Sergeants' Mess" in official correspondence and on signs outside messes. It even appears outside the mess at this GHQ—and, to make matters worse, the expression appears on SOLDIER's front cover (December).

Queen's Regulations refer only to the "Sergeants' Mess," so I feel it is high time the War Office issued a directive to return to the traditional mess nomenclature.—Conductor F. H. Tanswell, RAOC, GHQ, Farelf.

★ Sergeants' messes in the British Army were in being long before there were warrant officers—but warrant officers have always been members of

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

Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published.

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

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

these messes, which is why many units include "warrant officers" in the title. A case, at least as strong as Conductor Tanswell's, could be made for Queen's Regulations to bring the title up to date.

OLD STAGERS

Recent letters in SOLDIER have drawn attention to long service in the Territorial Army.

I would like to remind "old staggers" that, in certain circumstances, warrant officers and non-commissioned officers may be permitted to retain their rank on discharge, with the right to wear the uniform of their corps.—L. A. Whittingham, WO1 (R), TA, 58 Dawes Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex.

★ Territorial Army Regulations state that this recognition of long service can be granted, if specially recommended, only to warrant officers and non-commissioned officers who have served not less than ten years in or above the rank of sergeant. For this purpose, embodied service counts double.

Uniforms are provided at the wearer's expense and the letter "R," in white metal or bronze, is worn above the badges of rank.

RECOVERY

In your article "A Big Job for Big men" (January) you infer that tank recovery is a responsibility of the regimental members of 123 Company, Royal Army Service Corps (Tank Transporter).

Although in all units a driver should do his best to extricate his vehicle from a difficult position, the recovery of any equipment casualty involving the use of special recovery equipment and vehicles is the responsibility of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. The RASC Company in question has permanently attached to it for repair and recovery duties 123 Company (Tank Transporter) Workshop, REME.—Lieut-Colonel R. Sutcliffe, REME.

★ **SOLDIER** erred by omitting to state that recovery work was carried out by 123 Company (Tank Transporter) Workshop, REME, and apologises to the men who undertake recovery tasks.

MARCHING FEATS

This modern craze for long-distance marching is not new.

As long ago as 1799 a Captain Barclay, of the Royal Welch Fusiliers (then the 23rd Foot) walked 150 miles in two days, and in 1808 won a 1000-guinea wager that he would walk 1000 miles in 1000 successive hours.

He lost more than two stone in weight during this remarkable marathon and slept for 17 hours after he had completed the course.

I wonder how many modern soldiers could equal the feat?—"Boots," Birmingham.

In spite of all the recent publicity given to long-distance marching, one remarkable feat, which we are claiming as a world youth record, seems to have been overlooked.

It was performed by Junior-Gunner K. Salt, aged 17, of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, who marched 110 miles from Birmingham to London (most of it in pouring rain) in 29 hours 50 minutes—more than three hours quicker than the time set

up by the winner of a national marching contest.

Junior-Gunner Salt was pained in turn by three other junior Gunners and myself. After a few miles his left leg began to trouble him, so we bandaged it with a torn-up jacket and, with only 20 miles to go, his hamstrings went "soggy." We wound some puttees round both his knees and he finished the course stiff-legged.

Junior-Gunner Salt's achievement was a tribute to his courage and stamina, and we doubt if any member of any other Boys unit can do better.—Lieutenant R. Jackson, RA, Junior Leaders Regiment, RA, Gamecock Barracks, Nuneaton, Warwickshire.

As an ex-Rifleman I was very interested to read in "Soldier to Soldier," January, that in 1809 the Rifle Brigade, fully equipped, marched 52 miles in 24 hours to take part in the Battle of Talavera.

This famous forced march was, in fact, made by the Light Brigade—that is, the Rifle Brigade (then the 95th or Rifle Regiment), the 43rd and 52nd Light Infantry—now all united in the Green Jackets Brigade.

In his Talavera despatches Wellington mentions "Craufurd's march of 12 leagues." These were doubtless "legales" or maritime leagues, each equal to 3.49 miles. The total distance was therefore 42 miles.

In his "History of the Rifle Brigade" Verner is more explicit for he states that the march started at Navelmoral at 4 a.m. on 28 July and the Brigade arrived at Talavera at 6 a.m. on 29 July, that is 42 statute miles in 26 hours (along difficult roads and under a Spanish sun).—1st Lieut W. G. A. Faber, Royal Netherlands Air Force, Stalpertonstraat 61, The Hague, Holland.

May I put in a word for "Stonewall" Jackson's Confederate troops in the Shenandoah Valley campaign of 1862?

Jackson's force of 16,000 men marched 600 miles in 39 days, during which period it fought and won five major battles, defeating four separate Union armies totalling 63,000 men.

It is not surprising that the Infantry under Jackson earned themselves the name of "Jackson's Foot Cavalry."—M. A. Rich, 5 Rosedene, Cavendish Road, Bowdon, Cheshire.

WAR PICTURES

Perhaps a more accurate caption for your picture of The Gordon Highlanders at Dargai (SOLDIER, October 1959) would have described it as "one of the first to be taken of British troops in action."

Many photographs were, of course, taken during earlier campaigns, but until the invention of instantaneous photography, early in the 1890s, they were posed pictures.

Many thousands of military photographs of great historical value must be scattered about museums, libraries and

in private hands. If one does not already exist, a comprehensive collection should be formed before they fade or are destroyed. It would be a big task, but worth the trouble.—Raymond Fieldhouse, 51, Red Scar Lane, Newby, Scarborough.

BATTLE STAMP

Soldier philatelists may be interested to know that the Canadian Post Office has issued a special stamp (shown here)



to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Capture of Quebec in 1759.—G. R. Skilton, 1621, Queen Street West, Toronto 3, Ontario.

COMPASSIONATE LEAVE

Does a soldier still have to use all his privilege leave before being granted compassionate leave? If not, what is the authority?—"Anxious" (name and address supplied).

★ Compassionate leave does not count against privilege leave. Authority is War Office Signal 1142/P.S.11(b), dated June, 1957.

STUDENTS AND CALL-UP

As the end of National Service approaches those deferred until June, 1960, are now exempt from call-up. I could have been deferred up to this date, but, having been led to believe that I should eventually be called up no matter how long my deferment, I let it lapse in order to get my National Service done.

I am now told that as I did not apply for an early call-up I cannot now get an early release. I was kept waiting nine months for my call-up and now face the prospect of losing not just two but three valuable years of study.

Can **SOLDIER** please advise me?—"Student," MELF.

★ Call-up for National Service is a matter for the Ministry of Labour. A scheme for premature discharge for prospective students is outlined in Regulations for National Servicemen 1957, Volume 1, Appendix 1VA. In certain circumstances up to three months' remission of whole-time service can be granted under this scheme to enable a student to enter a university or college, and this period may be exceeded where there are adequate grounds to warrant special approval.

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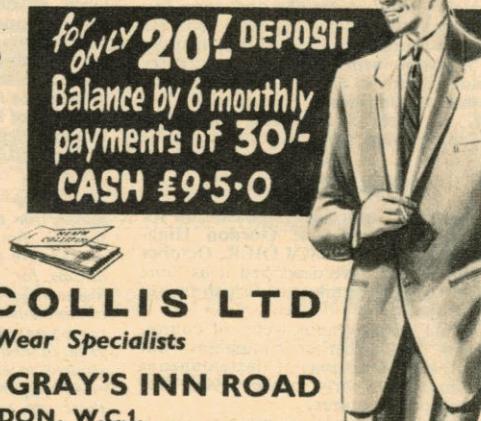
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more letters

WARRANT RANK

What is the age limit for promotion to the rank of Warrant Officer, Class One?—“W.O.” BAOR.

★ The normal age limit is 42, but there are certain exceptions, details of which can be found in War Office Memorandum 18/Gen/3722/P.A.3(a), dated 31 August, 1959.

“LUTZOW'S WILD CHASE”

I have been told that the Regimental march past of the King's Royal Rifle Corps—“Lutzow's Wild Chase”—is an old German song. How did this come to be a British regimental march?—E. G. Blunt, 38 Winsor Terrace, Beckton, East Ham, E.6.

★ The Regimental version of “Lutzow's Wild Chase” has passed through many phases and now bears very little resemblance to the original, which was set to music by Weber. The present version, though retaining the name “Lutzow's Wild Chase,” is, in fact, Von Gehriech's “Jägersleben,” which was finally adopted by the King's Royal Rifle Corps in 1905, because its rhythm is excellent for the step of Riflemen.

WHY NO MEDAL?

I should be interested to know your authority for the statement (Letters, January) that the total killed during the Abyssinian Expedition of 1868 amounted to 46.

C. B. Norman, when compiling his book “Battle Honours of the British Army,” had access to the War Office Casualty Returns, and he gives the total casualties as wounded: two officers and 27 other ranks; killed: none. C. Rathbone Low in “Soldiers of the Victorian Era” states: “Not an officer or man was actually killed in action. Captain Roberts, 4th King's Own, lost an arm, and 19 men were wounded on the 10th April; and Major Pritchard, R.E., and 9 men at the assault of Magdala.”

There is a discrepancy of one in the two accounts, but I cannot believe that your figure of 46 killed is correct.—Ernest J. Martin, Member, Military Historical Society, Kenton Cottage, 834 Kenton Lane, Harrow Weald, Middlesex.

★ **SOLDIER** erred by misreading Sir John Fortescue's statement in his “History of the British Army” that “There died of disease not more than 46 British of all ranks, and 284 Indian soldiers.”

“PUMP AND TORTOISE”

Can you tell me the origin and meaning of the curious nickname “Pump and Tortoise” once applied to the 38th of Foot (later the South Staffordshire Regiment), and at what period the soubriquet was current?—Captain P. D. Kavanagh, “Melrose,” Curragh Road, Kildare, Ireland.

★ The 38th Foot was raised in 1705 and in 1706 was sent to the West Indies, where it remained for nearly 60 years. On their return to England the men were in poor physical shape, suffering from dysentery and other tropical diseases, a fact which may have given rise to the nickname.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Levett, Commanding Officer of the new Staffordshire Regiment, suggests that the nickname had a more recent origin, when a senior officer accused one of the battalions of being unable to march, blaming drink as the cause, and called them the “Pump and Tortoise Brigade.”

Yet another version is given in “Nicknames and Traditions in the Army,” published by Gale & Polden, which says: “The 38th Regt. was called ‘Pump and Tortoise’ on account of its sobriety and the slow, methodical manner of the men while doing their work when once stationed at Malta.”

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

The two pictures vary in the following respects: 1. African holding child's hand. 2. Lines of hut roof. 3. Length of mosquito's tail. 4. Rear hub of truck. 5. Width of windscreen. 6. Zebra's right hind leg. 7. Standing soldier's left stocking. 8. “H” in 74th. 9. Trunk of tall palm. 10. Hat brim of standing soldier.

QUICK CROSSWORD

The winner of **SOLDIER**'s January Quick Crossword competition was Sergeant D. Webster, 2 Detachment, CI Unit, BAOR, BFPO 20.

The correct answers were:

ACROSS. 1. Present. 5. Eastern. 9. Satellite. 10. Overt. 11. Orlop. 12. Litterers. 13. Student. 15. Do. 16. Stud. 18. Fall. 19. Ad. 21. Recalls. 23. Leaking. 25. Utter. 27. Ernie. 28. Salvation. 29. Saddles. 30. Eyeless. DOWN. 1. Pastors. 2. Extol. 3. Eclipsed. 4. Triplet. 5. Exerted. 6. Stole. 7. Elemental. 8. Not used. 14. Unlearned. 17. Accurate. 18. Filters. 20. Dresses. 21. Resolve. 22. Sprints. 24. Ideal. 26. Tribe.

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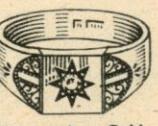
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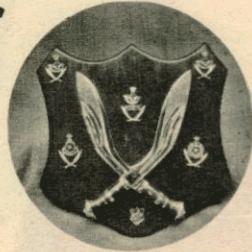
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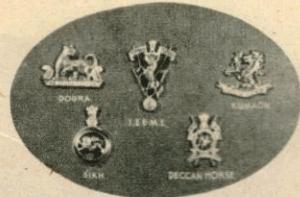
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