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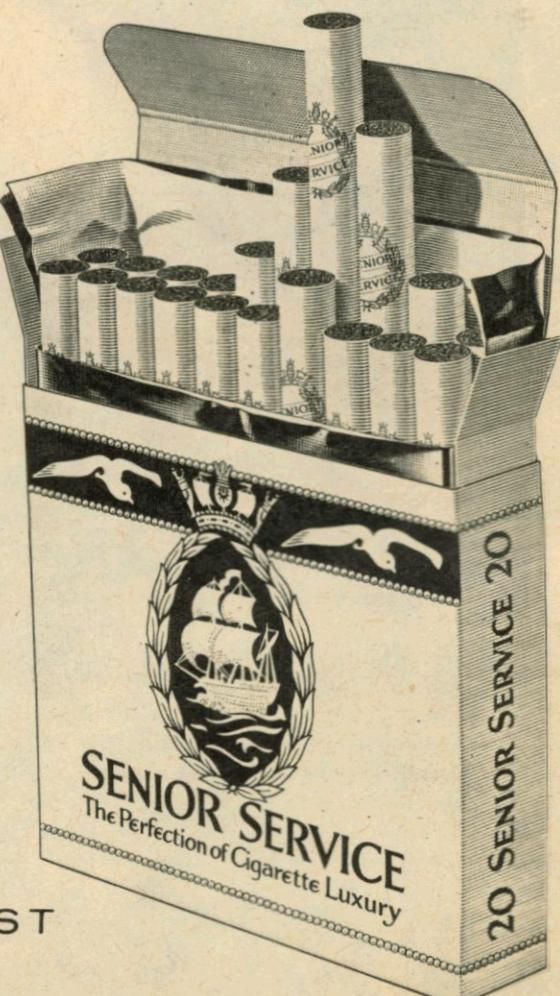
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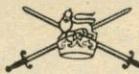
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THE DESPATCHERS WHO DICE WITH DEATH

JUNGLE covered ridges, wreathed in wisps of cloud, towered menacingly above the Royal Air Force *Valetta* as it flew low over the Malayan police fort.

The pilot's voice crackled over the air: "We have four packs for you this morning. Can you give me your weather conditions?" A pause, then the pilot again: "We will be with you in ten minutes."

At his side the navigator pressed a button and switch. A buzzer sounded in the body of the plane, a red light glowed and four despatchers of 55 Company, Royal Army Service Corps (Air Despatch), in their black track suits, began strapping parachutes to packs.

Tree tops, a bare 30 feet from the wing tip, hurtled past alarmingly as the *Valetta* flew low up the valley. A ridge loomed ahead, seemed to swoop on the *Valetta*'s nose like a boiling green sea, then suddenly fell away and disappeared in a craze of revolving hills and sky as the aircraft

OVER . . .

An RAF plane flies in to drop supplies on a typical jungle clearing. The white dot near the aircraft's wing tip is a marker balloon. Parachutes and packs lie on the ground.



FAR EAST REPORT 1

This is the first of a series of features on the British Army in the Far East by **SOLDIER** Staff Writer PETER N. WOOD and Cameraman FRANK TOMPSETT who have been visiting Singapore, Malaya, Nepal, North Borneo and Hong Kong

banked sharply in a 180-degree turn. The despatchers, on long-lead safety belts, snatched at hand-holds as the plane heeled over, then steadied themselves as, throttled back, it headed towards a tiny clearing in the jungle.

One sharp buzz from the navigator and the despatchers lifted up a board from which two packs of supplies slid out of the plane's open doorway. Lying flat on the floor and craning his head from the doorway the sergeant despatcher watched the packs, their parachutes open, glide down to the patch of green turf. "Packs away," he reported.

Twin engines roaring at full throttle, the plane lifted its nose and climbed sharply, straining, over the dark green hills directly ahead. Levelling out, it banked to start a second circuit and "double drop" the final two packs before quickly gathering clouds blocked the all-important "escape" route from Fort Brooke.

As the aircraft climbed away, Malayan police down at the fort collected their packs—rations of fresh meat and vegetables.

Valetta 484 had been airborne for an hour, taking off from 52 Squadron's base at Kuala Lumpur, climbing over the town's new multi-storeyed buildings and heading out above meandering rivers and mountain tracks to the cotton wool clouds hanging over the jungle.

From Fort Brooke the aircraft made for Zulu Two Bar. Despatcher Sergeant K. Robinson, on his 76th mission, bandaged a thumb cut while pushing away a pack. The three men in his team, Drivers Carrington, McDonald and Searle, rolled up parachute release tapes and dragged to the doorway the next batch of packs.

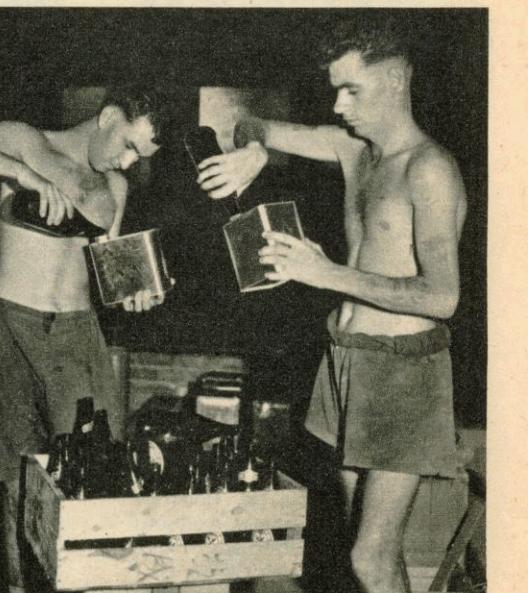
Thousands of feet below a second *Valetta* circled another jungle fort and, 20-odd miles beyond, red balloons floated up from the trees to mark Zulu Two Bar, a jungle dropping zone of the New Zealanders. The *Valetta* ran in, dropped its packs and climbed away, circling. Seven more times the plane circled, dived and zoomed while the parachutes settled in a Bisley

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

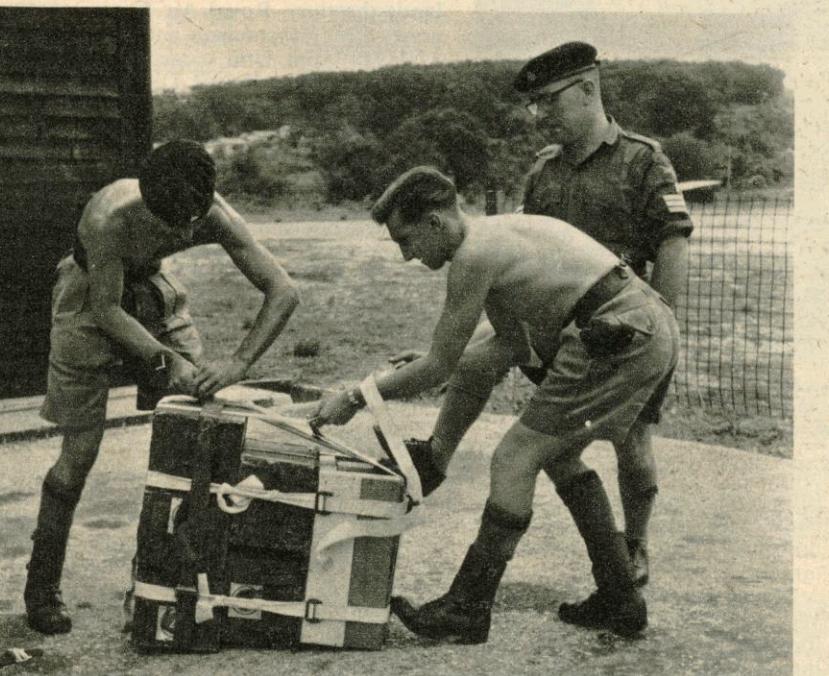


Gurkha soldiers must have their chickens "on the hoof" so they are dropped live in open crates. Here RASC despatchers transfer the birds from their delivery basket. These rations are going to the 2nd/6th Gurkha Rifles.

The only bottles dropped are those containing medical supplies, which need careful packing (left, below) and rum. Right, coconut oil, for Gurkha cooking, comes from NAAFI in beer bottles and must be transferred to tins.



Fastening up packs for dropping the following day. The green straps (popular in the jungle as belts) hold the pack together; white straps are for attaching the parachute in the plane.



Right: Men of the RAOC air maintenance supply platoon harnessing a "packets easy" (185 lbs of bulk explosives for jungle clearance) held at half-hour readiness for rescue operations.

Below: Every pack has to be manhandled on to a lorry, taken to the airfield, unloaded and lifted into its proper position in the plane. In the hot Malayan sun this is a gruelling task



30,000 TONS FROM THE AIR

A special supply pack floated down to the Malayan jungle on 8 December, 1959. It carried a letter stating that 55 Company, Royal Army Service Corps (Air Despatch), with 52 and 42 Squadrons, Royal Air Force, had despatched a total of 25,000 tons of supplies during the emergency. Today the total is about 30,000 tons.

A commemorative shield, promised in the letter, was claimed by Fort Chabai, a Malayan police outpost.

Another landmark, also in 1959, was the despatch (with a ten-dollar note gift, claimed by a Sapper) of the 3,000,000th 24-hour ration pack.

Outside its routine work of re-supply 55 Company has undertaken some unusual tasks, including the parachuting of a tractor to Royal Engineers at a police fort and drops to the Oxford University expedition in Sarawak.

A Royal Air Force doctor, medical team and equipment, were dropped in a stricken Borneo village, and on several occasions relief supplies have gone to Malayan kampongs marooned by floods.

Sarongs, lipstick, bras and cigars for aborigines; iced beer for New Zealanders; birthday cakes and Christmas fare . . . nothing has ever been too much trouble for 55 Company.

SOLDIER to Soldier

THE War Minister, Mr. Christopher Soames, has been investigating recruiting problems and ways of keeping the Army in the public eye after the last National Service-man has gone into the Army at the end of this year.

No other War Minister has been faced with quite the same problem. Over the past 21 years almost every family in Britain has been closely linked with the Services through conscription and every fit young man has had personal experience of one of them.

Soon, all that will change as the call-up ceases and, unless close contact between the public and the Services can be maintained, a generation will grow up unaware of the Services' needs and the excellent careers they offer.

How is this close contact to be achieved?

Obviously, the Army must keep pace with the best that industry and other professions can offer. Advertising, recruiting posters, public relations, exhibitions, public ceremonies when the Army shows itself off and careers masters at schools will all play an important part.

But much, too, will depend on the individual soldier. If by his enthusiasm and pride he can persuade his civilian friends that soldiering in the 20th century is still an honourable and worthwhile profession, he will achieve more than all the other recruiting devices put together.

Self advertisement, unlike self praise, is the highest recommendation.

OLDIERS of Britain's Strategic Reserve shivering on the bleak Yorkshire moors one day may find themselves 24 hours later in action under a tropical sun. And because of the rapid change of climate they may not be able to fight efficiently.

This problem is now being tackled by the War Office and the Medical Research Council. They have organised field trials in Aden in which three groups of soldiers will take part: one from Britain, unacclimatised; another naturally acclimatised in Aden and a third artificially acclimatised by daily exposure to heat in climatic chambers.

If artificially acclimatised men can fight as well as those who have been naturally conditioned, the day may not be far distant when every soldier can be prepared for service in any part of the world at a moment's notice.



On a signal from the cockpit the despatchers lift up the board and a pack slides out into the slipstream. Note the long-lead belts and manifest. Track suits allow the despatchers to move freely and safely in the plane.

grouping on the tree-cleared dropping zone. And seven more times the closely-knit team of crew and despatchers diced with death.

Ten packs had gone down to the jungle patrol—a week's rations for 25 men of the 2nd New Zealand Regiment, seven Malayans and 12 aborigine porters, five yards of "four-by-two," candles, soap, six pencils, two small combs, a map sheet, cigarette papers and a jar of hair cream . . .

Away again to the final task, but the cloud had closed in and the *Valetta* broke off to land at Ipoh for refuelling and to await an improvement in the weather. In an hour it was airborne again, heading for Tongo Three.

Four runs here, each in a figure eight, with the sheer rock face of a spur slipping to starboard as the *Valetta* banked and climbed. "It's frightening at times, but it's exhilarating," said the pilot.

Out went the last packs—rations, including live chickens, Chinese cabbage and curry powder, and two pairs of size five hockey boots for 20 men of the 2nd/6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles.

Back to Kuala Lumpur and a perfect landing at the end of four hours' typical "milk round" flying. *Valetta* 484 was last in, but of the day's five tasks only this one had been completely success-

ful—no "candling" of parachutes, no packs brought back undropped and none landed off target.

Master Pilot Tommy Owen, a veteran of 4000 hours' flying, took off his helmet and mopped his forehead. Tensely he summed up the sortie: "It was bloody uncouth."

Five such tasks as these, dropping mixed packs to police and Commonwealth troops, represent a typical day's flying for the air despatchers of 55 Company, Royal Army Service Corps, and the crews of 52 Squadron, Royal Air Force, two units which have been inseparably and uniquely linked for the whole of the 12-year emergency in Malaya.

At first the demand for air supply was small but as patrols penetrated deeper into the jungle and police forts were built to harry the terrorists still further, the air drop increased to a monthly average of 650,000 lbs. But peak loads are now a memory and supply dropping has resolved itself into a more regular and more amenable pattern. As one despatcher put it: "We're working office hours now."

Nevertheless both crews and despatchers still work as hard at a task which has always provided its reward in the all-round acknowledgement of its efficiency and essentiality.

Company and Squadron still face, too, though happily to a much lesser extent, the inherent and unavoidable risks of low flying in the jungle hills. They have enjoyed life side-by-side—and fearlessly met death together.

From 1950 to 1955 a sergeant, two corporals and 14 drivers lost their lives. In 1956 a sergeant, four corporals and ten drivers—and their Royal Air Force crews—were killed. Fifteen despatcher casualties in that year represented a tenth of the Company's strength and totalled three more than the fighting casualties of all the other British, Commonwealth and Federation troops in Malaya.

It was from one of the four disasters in 1956 that Driver Thomas Lee dramatically reappeared after being posted as killed. When a *Bristol* freighter crashed in the Cameron Highlands the three Royal Air Force crew, three despatchers and two Malayan Film Unit cameramen lost their lives. Driver Lee, the only survivor, wandered for 12 days alone in the jungle until he was found, 7000 yards from the wreckage, by an Infantry patrol.

Now, jungle survival courses and rigorous standards of training for pilots and aircrews have cut casualties. The Royal Air Force recognises that it takes six months' training before even an above average pilot can successfully drop supplies on a 30 yard wide strip or zone.

The despatchers—all volunteers—average ten sorties a month. For their air despatch wings they must complete 20 operational or 40 training flights, or a combined total of 40 flights, each operational task counting double.

During the peak period of the emergency 55 Company was organised in three platoons. Now one supply platoon does the work, in alternating sections. Ordnance items, rations and NAAFI supplies are packed by the platoon and early on the

dropping day taken by lorry to the airfield and loaded in the planes. A *Valetta* carries two tons of packs—and at every stage the packs are man-handled by the despatchers.

Each pack, of locally-made wooden cases, has to be fitted with green holding straps, white parachute straps and calico percussion heads filled with coconut fibre to break the fall.

The only bottles dropped are those used for rum and medical supplies. Jungle boots, hockey boots for the Gurkhas, and clothing, are dropped in sacks without parachutes.

Ordnance stores are provided by 21 Air Maintenance Supply Platoon, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, which lives with the Company and holds 400 items representing almost every section of a Base Ordnance Depot. The Platoon has supplied clothing, ammunition, equipment, vehicle spares, stationery and a host of odd items from outifts, finger-print and lighters, petrol to soap, yellow, bars and chinagraph pencils.

One item, "packets easy" (bulk explosive, primers, fuses and detonators) is held on half-hour readiness for dropping to jungle rescue teams to clear a landing strip for helicopters.

For over a year now 55 Company has been training the Armed Forces Maintenance Corps of the Malay Federation Army in the art of air supply—already many Malayans have earned their despatch wings—with a view to the Royal Malayan Air Force and Malayan despatchers taking over part of the supply commitment. The jungle area and police forts on the Thailand border will continue to be the responsibility of 55 Company.

Officially, the emergency has ended, but 55 Company, Royal Army Service Corps (Air Despatch), is still very much in business—as it has been for 12 long and hard years.

55 COMPANY, Royal Army Service Corps (Air Despatch), was formed in 1944 as 799 Company. The despatchers supplied resistance forces on the Continent, took part in the Falaise Gap operations, flying in Dakotas (the Dakota is still the emblem of the "Dak and Dagger Boys"), and suffered heavy losses at Arnhem.

In May, 1945, the Company went to Borneo operating with Fourteenth Army, then to Java and Batavia. After working as a transport unit during the evacuation of British troops from Burma, the Company re-trained in Singapore, became 55 Company and moved to Kuala Lumpur.

A detachment based on Changi Royal Air Force Station, Singapore, trains units in air portability and undertakes supply tasks in Burma.

Since well before the Boxer Rising, three generations ago, Chinese soldiers have loyally answered Britain's call-to-arms. Today they serve in almost every unit of Hong Kong's British garrison. They learn soldiering in a special training unit where it's . . .

FAR EAST REPORT

2

BAREFOOT TO BOOTS— AND NO CHOPSTICKS

YESTERDAY they were just a few more Chinese, padding barefoot through the paddy fields of the New Territories or slip-slopping in sandals along Hong Kong streets.

Today they are raw young recruits in the British Army, wearing the General Service Corps cap badge and starting their soldiering in the Hong Kong Chinese Training Unit.

On joining the unit, in Lyemun Barracks high on a promontory of Hong Kong Island, the recruits meet their first challenge—Army boots. They break them in with the keenness of a youngster determined to become a good soldier.

Like the Arab who enlists in the Aden Protectorate Levies to buy himself a rifle, a camel and a wife, the Hong Kong Chinese is anxious to become an efficient soldier, but he, too, has an eye for the future.

He wants to be a soldier, to learn a trade which at the end of his service will land him a good job against the competition of Hong Kong's rapidly increasing population, and to save money which, though small by British standards, will make him a comparative Croesus within the bosom of his family.

In the Hong Kong Chinese Training Unit, under the supervision of British and Chinese instructors, he can achieve all these ambitions. He spends four months there on basic training and is then posted to a unit to complete a further two months on probation before being ranked a trained soldier.

As in similar establishments, the recruit's time at Lyemun is divided between military training, education and physical training. He learns foot drill, is taught how to handle the FN rifle, the Bren and the Sterling, and is given an insight into the 2-inch mortar and rocket launcher.

Recruits are squaddled in educational grades after an initial test, with 30 men allotted to each of four platoons in the Training Company. Each platoon has a Chinese sergeant, corporal and lance-corporal instructor. Platoon Sergeants Lai Kwong and Chan Hong Kan have both completed 12 years' service and were promoted sergeant together. Sergeant Lee Cheuk Kau, of 3 Platoon, is an ex-champion recruit of the unit.

The seven British soldiers of the 67 permanent staff include the unit's commander, Major J. A. Girdwood, of the 2nd East Anglian Regiment, Captain Eric Morgan DCM, of the King's Own Royal Regiment, who commands the Training Company, and a Warrant Officer Class II as his second-in-command, the regimental sergeant-major and regimental quartermaster-sergeant. Captain Morgan is half-way through a second tour of three years with the unit.

Physical training, taught by Sergeant Hui To Chiu, one of the first two Chinese to attend an instructors' course at the School of Army Physical Training, Aldershot, and Army rations substantially larger than they had at home, quickly build up the Chinese physique. The average recruit puts on four pounds in his first



First week recruits, unused to boots, find it difficult to co-ordinate arms and legs. But they learn quickly. Soon they will be as smart as the trained soldiers (below) formed up in quarter-guard for inspection by Maj-General G. A. Thomas, Chief-of-Staff, Far East Land Forces.





Above: Lunch, with a big helping of rice, is the day's main meal. Note the doughnuts and the "E" (English-speaking) badge of the Orderly Officer, CSM Lam Fat. Below: Rifle instruction for recruits of the 33rd Intake, the first men to be issued with the FN rifle.

month and up to seven pounds more in the next three months.

Instead of only one meal a day the recruits eat a breakfast of bread and jam, tea and margarine, a lunch of rice, fish or meat, and fruit, and a smaller evening meal, prepared under the supervision of a 57-year-old Chinese cook corporal of the Army Catering Corps.

Most recruits bring their chopsticks to Lyemun but soon abandon them for the issue knife, fork and spoon. They find that only a spoon can tunnel away a huge plateful of rice in an Army lunch-time break so much shorter than the Chinese normally allow for a meal's delicate chopstick manoeuvring and courtesies.

The education team of a British staff-sergeant and two Chinese civilians, aims at upgrading each recruit after three months.

Most recruits speak Cantonese, but the farmers from the New Territories use Hakka in which the unit has a fluent interpreter in Platoon Corporal Sung Chun.

The unit's three or four intakes of recruits each year apply to join up in response to newspaper advertisements. Each is medically examined, specifically for tuberculosis, vetted on background—they must have lived

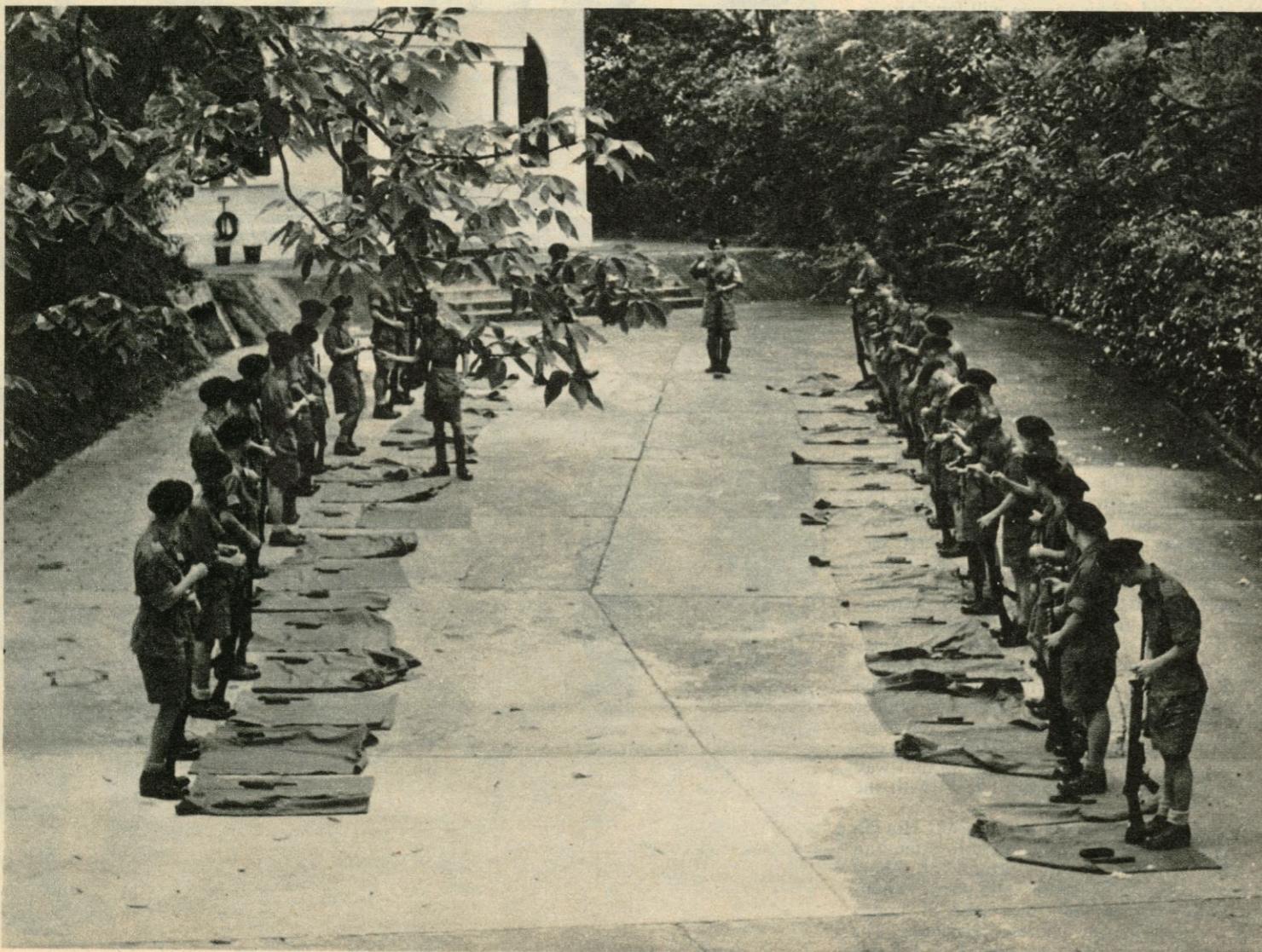
ten years in Hong Kong Colony—and must be at least 5ft 2in tall, weigh 110lbs and preferably have some knowledge of English.

Service is for three years and can be extended to 12 or 22 years. Pay is about a third of that of the British soldier. Pensions, gratuities and married allowances are being introduced.

The Chinese recruit is a happy and contented man and will rarely let anyone down. The fact that there is little or no crime in the Training Unit is closely related to the Chinese anxiety to avoid transgressing and thereby risk "loss of face." An open reprimand for the mildest misdemeanour, if given in front of his comrades and so resulting in "loss of face," is taken very seriously.

Conversely the Chinese will exploit any tendency towards leniency for what he knows to be a major offence. Hence the task of the British instructors is by no means an easy one.

The competitive spirit is fostered between platoons in drill, physical training, sports and skill-at-arms, and the unit holds the Far East Land Forces basketball championship. In recreational hours the Chinese turn to their traditional game of *mah-jongg* (sets are provided by the unit) and enthusiastically take



Left: Sgt Hui To Chiu, one of the first two Chinese to train at the Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot, shows a squad of new recruits how to climb up a rope.

Right: The average Chinese boy is not built to fill a British uniform. Even the smaller sizes and Gurkha sizes have to be tailored to fit him.



Below: At an English class a recruit tells the time from the instructor's clock. Note the models and toys which are used for improving the students' vocabulary.



A CENTURY OF SERVICE

The Hong Kong Chinese have served the British Army for over a century. In the Boxer Rising of 1900 they protected British interests against their own kith and kin and, during World War One, Chinese Labour Battalions worked on the Western Front in France, releasing British troops from the front line.

Before World War Two there were Chinese soldiers in the 100-year-old Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps, a Royal Engineer company, a Royal Artillery unit and the Hong Kong Chinese Regiment.

When Hong Kong fell on Christmas Day, 1941, after a 17-day siege, many Chinese joined the British Army Aid Group in China and later fought in Burma as the Hong Kong Volunteer Company which, in 1948, became the present Hong Kong Chinese Training Unit.

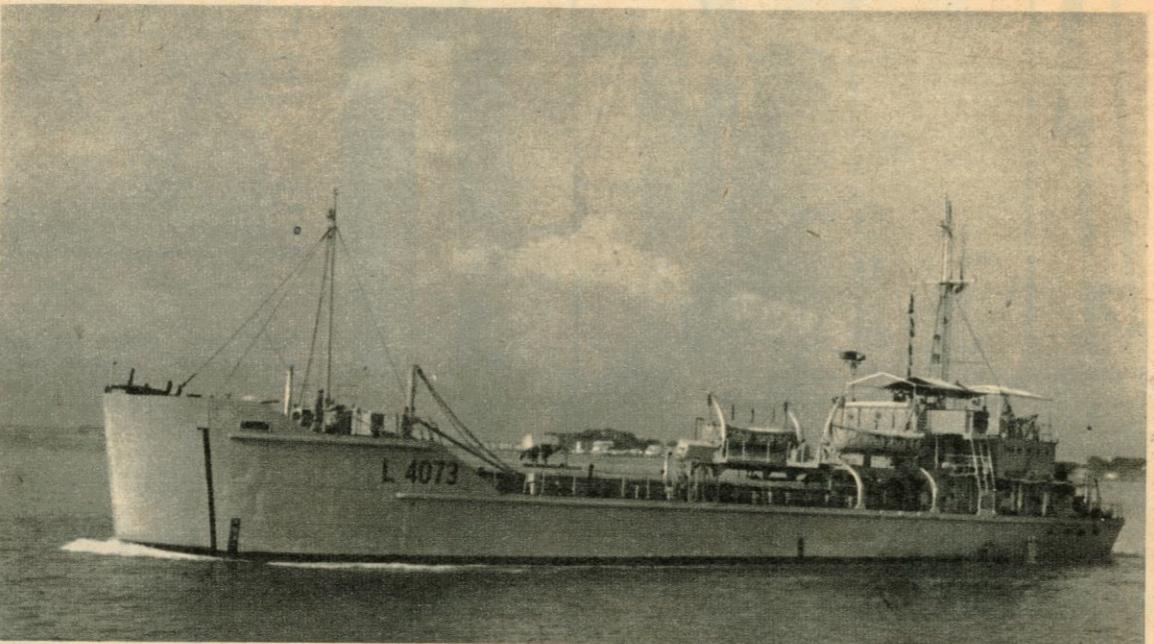


up the British soldier's darts and housey-housey.

At the end of their basic training they go to an impressive variety of jobs within the garrison's British units. Many become Royal Army Service Corps drivers and muleteers or put to sea with the Royal Army Service Corps' fire brigade and water transport company.

Others become dispatch riders, operators or linesmen with the Royal Corps of Signals, nursing or theatre orderlies of the Royal Army Medical Corps, Royal Army Ordnance Corps storemen, or ammunition handlers for the Royal Artillery and Royal Armoured Corps.

The traditional Chinese game of *mah-jongg*, played here with modern plastic tiles, is a popular recreation. Here, East Wind is looking at his hand while South takes a tile from the "wall."



SOLDIERS AT SEA MAKE HISTORY

THE ARMY'S DEEP SEA SOLDIERS—MEN OF THE ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS FLEET—MADE HISTORY WHEN THEY SAILED THE LANDING CRAFT TANK "ARDENNES" FROM PORTSMOUTH TO SINGAPORE. THEIR 6000-MILE JOURNEY TOOK THREE AND A HALF MONTHS

B RITISH and Malayan soldiers of 37 Company, Royal Army Service Corps (Water Transport), shaded their eyes from the Singapore sun and looked out towards the grey-painted tank landing craft slowly approaching her moorings from the harbour entrance.

This was the moment for which they had been patiently waiting—the arrival from home of the first of three really large craft to replace the Company's smaller vessels.

For the 40 soldiers aboard the Landing Craft Tank *Ardennes* it was the end of a historic journey of 6000 miles lasting three and a half months and undertaken for the first time by an all-military crew.

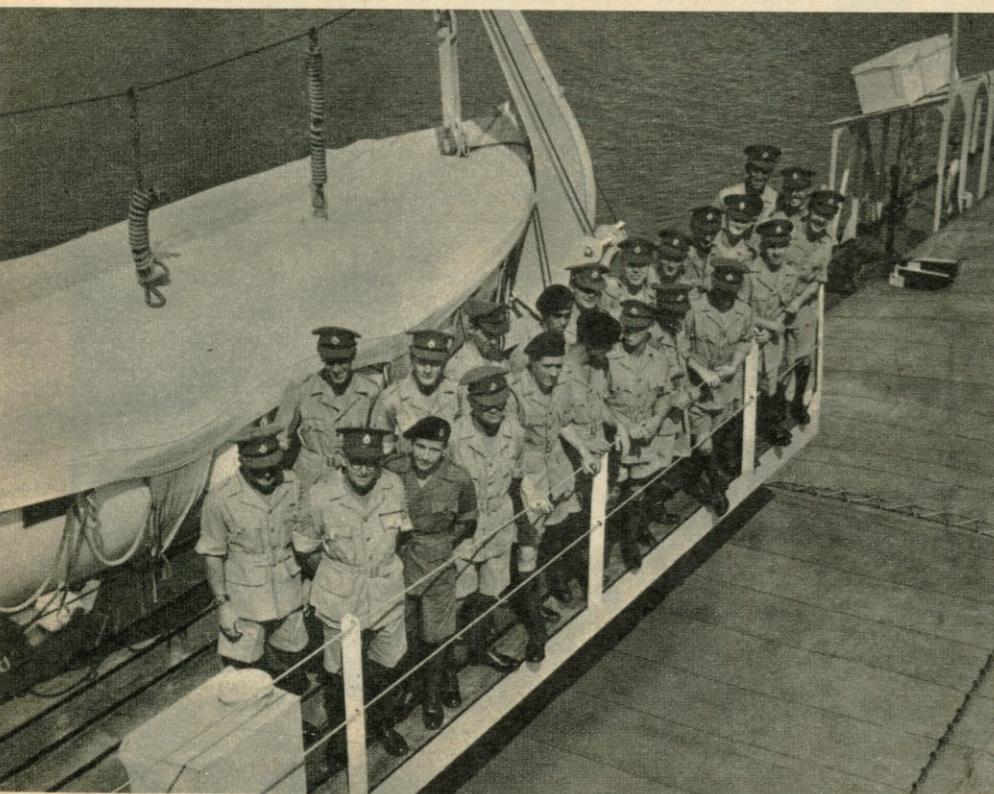
Warrant Officer J. Brack, the ship's coxswain, takes a reading through a sextant. Mr. Brack, who is also a senior navigator, stood a watch during the voyage.

The *Ardennes*—official number L4073—started her epic voyage from Portsmouth and on her first night at sea, in the English Channel, met the roughest weather of the whole trip. Several of her crew were sea-sick as the vessel rolled in heavy seas.

After a calm crossing of the usually turbulent Bay of Biscay the *Ardennes* put into Gibraltar for the first round of receptions, inspections, exchange visits and sight-seeing over The Rock. This set the pattern for a week's similar activities in Malta before sailing on to Cyprus. Bad weather prevented the *Ardennes* from putting in to Famagusta and she was fuelled at sea by a Fleet tanker—another first time for a landing craft.

The *Ardennes*, which was under Royal Navy operational command for her whole trip, next made for Port Said—no one was allowed ashore there—and with an Italian and two Egyptian

The crew of the *Ardennes*, most of them still in the khaki drill—unfamiliar to Singapore's olive-green clad soldiers—which they wore during the trip. Below them is the tank deck, hatched over for carrying stores for the landing craft.



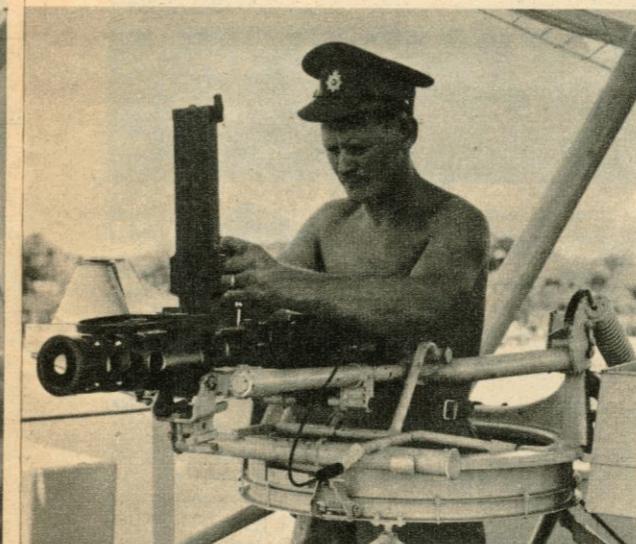
At the end of her 6000-mile voyage from home the Landing Craft Tank *Ardennes* cruises through Singapore Harbour towards her mooring off Pulau Brani Island, the base of 37 Company RASC (Water Transport) which she has now joined.

pilots, entered the Suez Canal. Along the banks the crew saw the old British camps of the Canal Zone, some now occupied by Egyptians and others by United Nations' troops.

At Aden, the next port of call, the *Ardennes* stayed for five weeks. During this time there was added excitement for the crew when the tank landing craft helped the Royal Navy in a hunt for gun-runners. Sailing along the coast early one morning the Army vessel sighted a suspicious dhow running without lights.

Between Aden and Singapore the *Ardennes* called only at Colombo where Ceylon's Army and Navy gave her crew the most magnificent reception of the trip. Transport was provided for sight-seeing and parties and a car was placed at the disposal of the ship's Commanding Officer, Major D. E. Cuff.

Throughout the trip there was no shortage of rations or beer, but at times the ship became uncomfortably hot, with the engine room temperature up to 110 degrees (the *Ardennes*



L/Cpl P. Hussey, bosun's mate and gunnery instructor, strips a Browning. Before joining the Army he served for nine years in the Royal Navy as an able seaman.

and her sister ships are being fitted out with air-conditioning in Singapore). Because her tank deck carried 120 tons of stores for the three vessels, the crew were unable to play their usual deck games of cricket and football, and instead swimming became the main recreation.

For the long sea voyage the *Ardennes* carried an augmented crew of four Royal Army Service Corps officers and 36 other ranks, including five National Service volunteers, of the Royal Army Service Corps, Royal Signals, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and Army Catering Corps.

The three other officers were the First Lieutenant, Captain W. B. Middleton, who also acted as Gunnery Officer, Lieutenant R. Martin and Second-Lieutenant R. Craig. Watches were also shared by the coxswain, Warrant Officer J. Brack, who is a trained navigator.

The crew also included Warrant Officer R. Theobald, the Chief Engineer, who had previously served with 37 Company, Royal Army Service Corps, as Chief Engineer of a smaller tank landing craft.

In Singapore, Warrant Officer Theobald and Major Cuff met Warrant Officer R. A. D. Sinclair, now Craft Control Officer of 37 Company and the Army's senior navigator, who with

them helped to form the *Ardennes*' parent unit, 76 Squadron, Royal Army Service Corps (Landing Craft Tank).

Only one officer, the two warrant officers, two sergeants and a corporal electrician of the original crew are remaining in Singapore with the *Ardennes*, as the British element of her new Malayan crew.

The 970-ton Mark VIII *Ardennes* replaces one of 37 Company's three smaller Mark IV tank landing craft, *Algiers*, *Arakan* and *Akyab*.

The radar-equipped Mark VIII can carry 350 tons of cargo (or five Centurion tanks) and steam at ten knots as against the Mark IV's capacity of 150 tons and speed of only eight knots, and will be able to clip seven or eight hours off the 45-hour return trip from Singapore to Penang which is the landing craft's routine task.

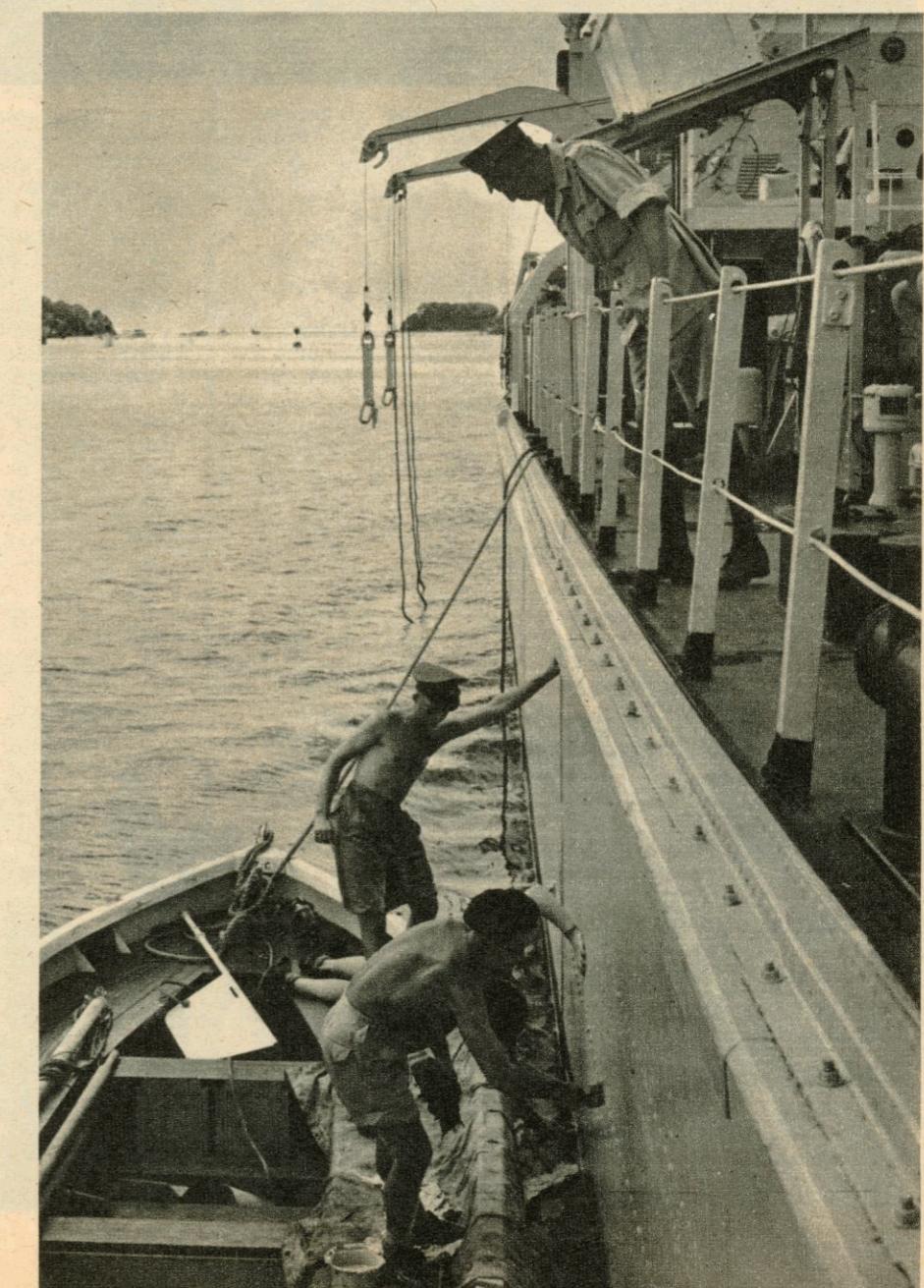
Later this year the two other Mark IV craft will be replaced by the *Agedabia* and *Arromanches* which will also be sailed out from home by Royal Army Service Corps crews. These sister ships of the *Ardennes* will follow the route she has pioneered, manned again by the Army's "deep sea" soldiers.

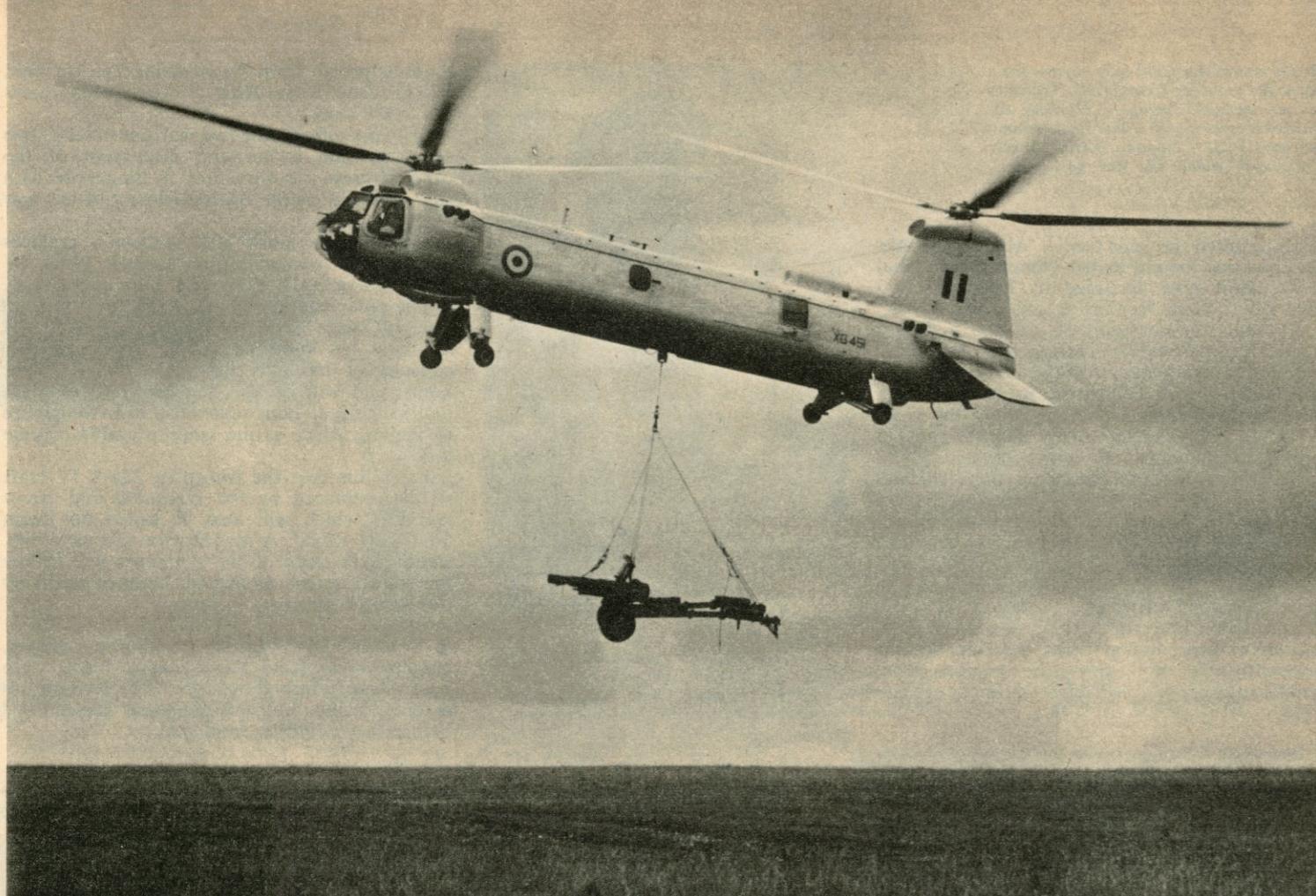
• The *Ardennes*, *Agedabia* and *Arromanches*, commissioned from the Reserve Fleet, were built towards the end of World War Two for use in the Pacific, but the Japanese surrendered before they could be employed.



Major D. E. Cuff, captain of the *Ardennes*, is a former commanding officer of her parent unit, 76 Squadron RASC (Landing Craft Tank), which was formed for the Suez operations.

Sgt C. Bridge, the ship's bosun, takes a look at repainting work. Buffeting seas rapidly wear off paint: sister craft have even had plates buckled by heavy waves on the Hebrides-St Kilda run.





The Bristol 192 helicopter gently lowers its 105-mm howitzer to the ground. The Bristol can carry the weapon, detachment and ammunition, and is used by the Royal Air Force as a troop and cargo carrier.

Left: A remarkable picture showing the 105-mm howitzer in action. Note the round in flight. The 105-mm can be used as a field gun, an anti-tank gun or a mortar. Its range is 14,000 yards.

Photographs by SOLDIER Cameraman PETER O'BRIEN

The British 7.2-inch howitzer and mounting on which the American "atomic" 8-inch howitzer will be used in the British Army. The weapon in the picture is the one that fired the victory salute in 1945.

WHIRLIBIRDS BRING UP THE GUNS

A TWIN-ENGINED Bristol 192 helicopter, a 105-millimetre howitzer slung from its belly by steel wires, came in at nought feet and gently dropped its load.

Fifteen seconds later the helicopter landed by the side of the howitzer, five Gunners leapt out, unloaded ammunition from the hold and, less than a minute after landing, were in action.

Along a shallow valley, only a few feet above the ground and hidden from the "enemy" came three Westland Whirlwind helicopters, each carrying parts of a 105-mm howitzer, ammunition and a gun detachment. As the Whirlwinds touched down the Gunners began to assemble the howitzer and, three minutes later, had fired the first round.

The Gunners, taking part in the Royal Artillery's annual demonstration at Larkhill, on Salisbury Plain, were showing high-ranking officers of the British and NATO armies how helicopters can play a vital role in war by speeding weapons, men and supplies to the front line.

Spectators who had any doubts about the use to which helicopters can be put in the Royal Artillery had them quickly dispelled by a remarkable display of speed and efficiency.

They were impressed, too, by the performance of the new 105-mm lightweight howitzer which will eventually replace the 25-pounder gun. It is highly mobile (it can be manhandled in pieces over rough country and rapidly assembled) and fires a heavier shell than the 25-pounder.

The Gunners—from ten different units—demonstrated their versatility with displays of many of their roles. Field and medium guns, directed by airborne observation officers, pounded the

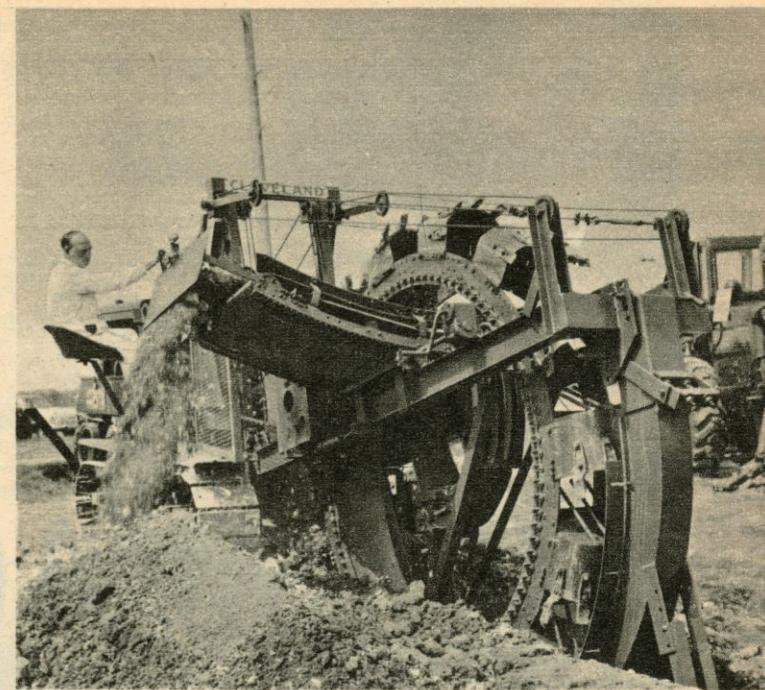
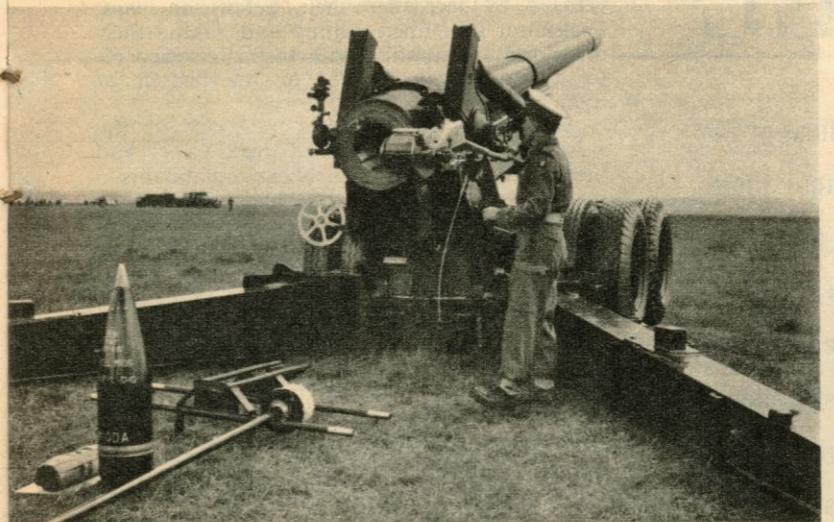
"enemy" in a counter-battery operation and 25-pounders went into action with armour-piercing and anti-personnel shells against tanks and Infantry, withdrawing under a smokescreen only after the detachments had engaged the enemy with their Brens and Sterling sub machine-guns.

Then, after a nuclear bomb (its mushroom cloud cleverly simulated by a petrol and oil bomb) had exploded some miles away, the Gunners, firing high explosive and smoke shells, supported the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, in an attack.

There were plenty of vehicles and weapons on show, too, among them the Corporal guided missile on its erector, the 5.5-inch medium gun, the new self-propelled 155-mm gun used for close support of armoured brigades (two regiments in Rhine Army are already equipped with the weapon) and the electrically operated L.70 anti-aircraft gun, which fires 240 rounds a minute and can engage targets flying at more than 600 miles an hour.

Not on display was the United States dual-purpose 8-inch howitzer which will soon be issued to the Royal Artillery. This weapon is the smallest artillery piece which can fire atomic shells and has a range of ten miles. It can also fire conventional ammunition.

In the British Army the howitzer will be fired from the British-made 7.2-inch mounting.



The Cleveland fixed wheel bucket trencher, a new mechanical answer to the problem of digging trenches quickly, is undergoing trials by the Royal Engineers. A conveyor belt ejects the debris to form a parapet.

SAPPERS SPEED THE DIGGING

THE Royal Engineers are no longer content to crawl slowly around on tracked vehicles when building roads and airfields. They are taking to wheeled machines which can move with normal road convoys and which do not need transporters.

Some of this new plant, including a road roller that can be hydraulically jacked up on its own rubber-tyred wheels for towing, a high speed road surfacing unit, a wheeled paver and a new medium tractor, was demonstrated recently at the School of Military Engineering, Chatham.

The new tractor, *The Gainsborough*, which has just been accepted by the Army to replace the light bulldozer, has four-wheel drive and steering, a speed of over 30 miles an hour and can hydraulically operate a dozer blade, shovel or scraper.

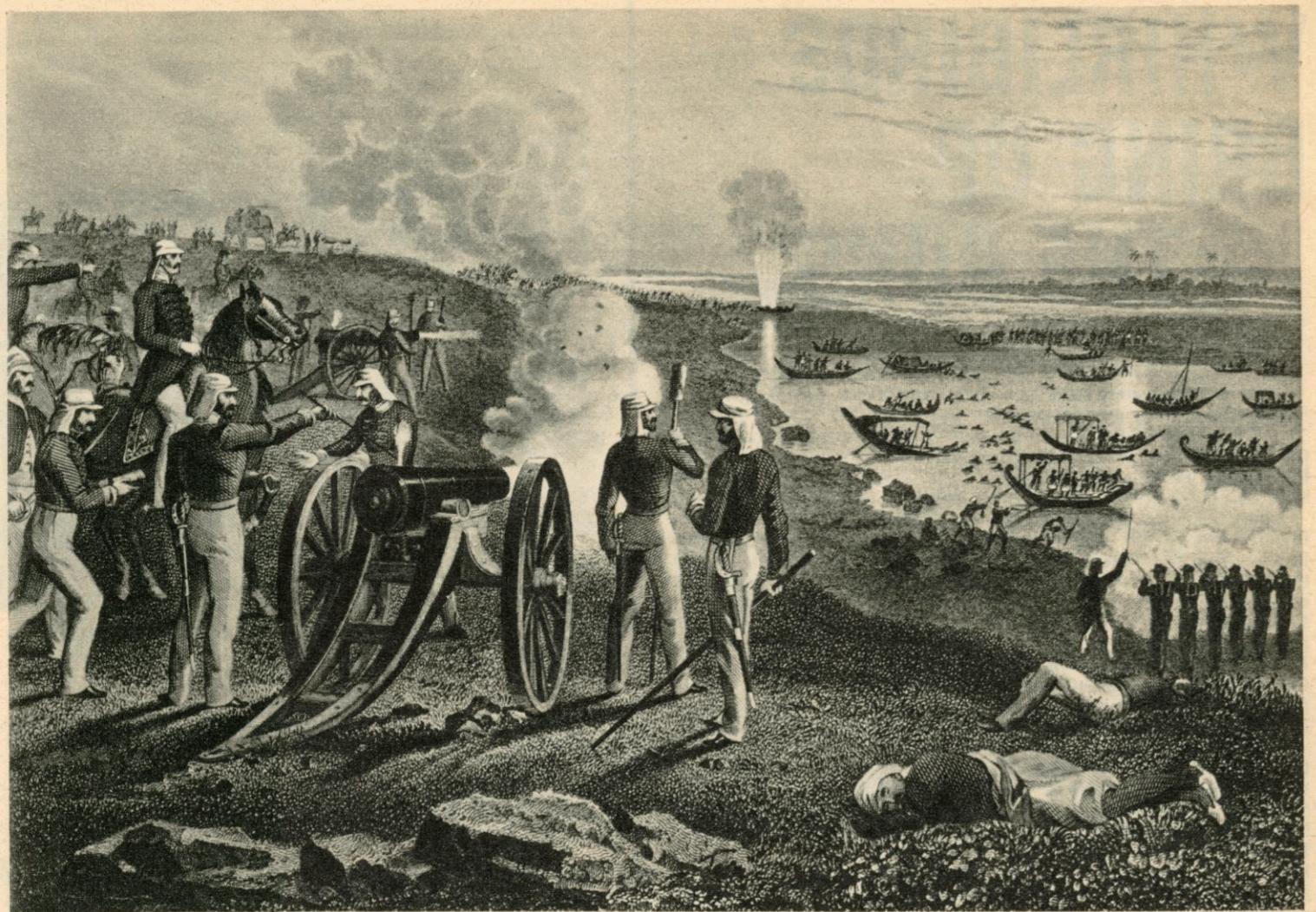
Speed and mobility are as important, too, in the rapid construction of field defences. Today's Infantrymen can use explosives to ease and hasten the arduous task of digging a two-man hole but, looking ahead, the Sappers are constantly trying out new mechanical methods of digging.

One new device on show at Chatham was the Cleveland fixed wheel bucket trencher which rapidly scoops out a narrow trench, throwing the debris to one side to form a parapet, while moving forward on its own tracks.

The Royal Engineers think this machine, if it can be mounted on wheels instead of tracks, may be an answer to the problem of digging in rapidly.



The Gainsborough four-wheeled tractor has a recovery winch and double drum cable control unit and can operate a dozer blade, a shovel and a scraper.



After the relief of Arrah, Major Eyre led his Battery in many actions during the Mutiny. Here he is seen directing the guns at Allahabad.

GALLANTRY, GRAPE-SHOT AND COLD STEEL

Hours of Glory

32

For more than a week during the Indian Mutiny 103 years ago, thousands of rebels besieged a British garrison in a fortified house at Arrah. The first attempt at rescue ended in disaster. The second, against tremendous odds, achieved undying fame in the history of British Arms.

COUNTLESS brave deeds were performed in battle during the Indian Mutiny but none surpassed in daring or sheer courage the feat achieved by a force of 200 Gunners and Fusiliers, led by the gallant Major Vincent Eyre, of the Bengal Artillery, in the relief of Arrah in August 103 years ago.

In face of almost incredible odds Eyre's tiny force marched against thousands of rebels besieging the town and in an extraordinary action routed them with cold steel and grape-shot.

In July, 1857, two months after the Mutiny had begun at Meerut and spread like a forest fire across the great plain of northern India, the native troops of Major-General Lloyd's division at Dinapore, some 400 miles from Delhi, refused to surrender their percussion caps, broke out into open mutiny and, taking their arms and ammunition with them, marched off to nearby Arrah, capital of the district of Shahabad.

At Arrah the rebels released all the prisoners in the gaol, looted the treasury and besieged the score of European inhabitants—mainly civil servants—who had taken hasty refuge in the home of a Mr. Vicars Boyle, a railway engineer. Mr. Boyle had had the foresight to fortify his house and here, with the help of 50 loyal Sikhs, the Europeans, led by the local magistrate, Mr. Herwald Wake, determined to hold out.

Their position was, to say the least, precarious, for in addition to three highly trained battalions of the Bengal Native Infantry, they were faced by a large force of armed retainers of the local Indian land-owner, Kunwar Singh, and a number of sepoys on leave who had joined forces with the mutineers.

When news of the siege at Arrah reached Dinapore, the aged and gouty General Lloyd, who until now had taken little action, despatched down the River Sone to relieve the besieged town a force of some 400, all Europeans except 70 Sikhs, commanded by Captain Dunbar, of the 10th Foot (later The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment).

Disembarking a few miles from Arrah, Dunbar made a fatal mistake by deciding to march straight to the town through the night. En route his column was ambushed on an exposed causeway and cut to pieces. Dunbar was killed, retreat turned into rout and only one officer and 50 men ultimately returned to Dinapore unwounded.

Meanwhile, the situation at Arrah grew hourly more desperate. The mutineers, now joined by hundreds more dissidents, surged round Boyle's little fort and attempted to capture it by rifle fire.

When this failed, the rebels brought up two ancient guns, mounted one on a nearby roof and tried to batter the fort into surrender.

This failed, too, so they lit huge fires on which they threw chillies to give off blinding clouds of acrid smoke and dragged the reeking carcasses of dead Sepoys and animals to rot by the walls of the fort in an attempt to force the little garrison out. And then they began to drive mines underneath the fort.

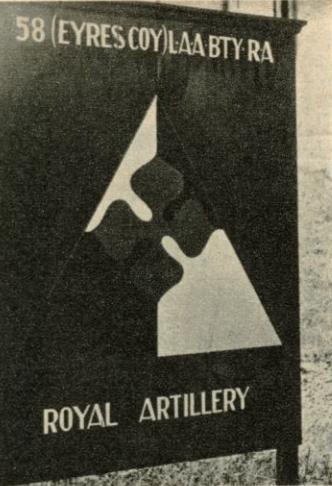
But Herwald Wake and his men held out, taking heavy toll of the rebels. It seemed a hopeless fight but help was on the way.

Even as the remnants of Dunbar's stricken force retreated, Major Vincent Eyre's European battery of the 1st/5th Bengal Artillery and some 160 men of the 5th (later The Royal Northern Ireland) Fusiliers were dashing to the rescue.

Major Eyre, a brave and experienced officer who had served with distinction in the 1839-42 Afghan Campaign, arrived at Dinapore by steamship on 25 July with his Battery and was told of the mutiny of General



Left: This picture of Eyre, then a lieutenant-general, was taken in Rome in 1876, five years before he died.



Right: Not only the name lives on in the Battery. The yellow quattrofoil on the black and white triangle of the Battery sign was taken from the general's coat-of-arms and crest.

Lloyd's three native regiments. When he reached Buxar he learned that Arrah, 45 miles away, was being besieged, so he ordered the ship to proceed to Ghazipur where he exchanged two of his nine-pounder guns for the loan of 25 men of the 78th (later the Seaforth) Highlanders and returned to Buxar.

In his absence a detachment of the 5th Fusiliers—160 strong—had arrived, so, on his own responsibility, Major Eyre took the Fusiliers under his command, sent the Highlanders back to Ghazipur and prepared to march on Arrah.

It was a daring scheme—Eyre's force totalled only 200 men, two nine-pounder guns, and one 24-pounder howitzer and he had neither bullocks nor ammunition wagons—but desperate measures were called for. Major Eyre was never one to let the grass grow under his feet and by 30 July he was ready to go, the guns pulled by plough oxen requisitioned from the fields and ammunition and stores carried in carts he had seized from local inhabitants.

Without waiting for General Lloyd's permission, Major Eyre's scratch force set off for Arrah at sunset on 31 July.

After several weeks of heavy monsoon rain the going was difficult but the oxen floundered on with their unaccustomed burdens.

On the second day out Eyre learned of Dunbar's defeat and, realising that all hope for the

Europeans in Arrah now depended on him, he relentlessly forced his men on even faster.

At dawn on 2 August, shortly after the third morning's march had begun, Eyre's force made contact with the enemy. Suddenly, near Goojerrageunge, the notes of a bugle sounded from a wood in front and on the flanks thousands of rebels appeared and attempted to surround the British force.

Then came the climax to the battle. As the rebels began to move in more closely, Major Eyre ordered his troops to fix their bayonets and charge.

The Fusiliers responded magnificently and, with a rousing cheer, dashed headlong into the foe. The rebels broke and fled in disorder, unable to face cold steel, and the Fusiliers rapidly cleared the stream while the guns poured round after round of grape into the fleeing mutineers.

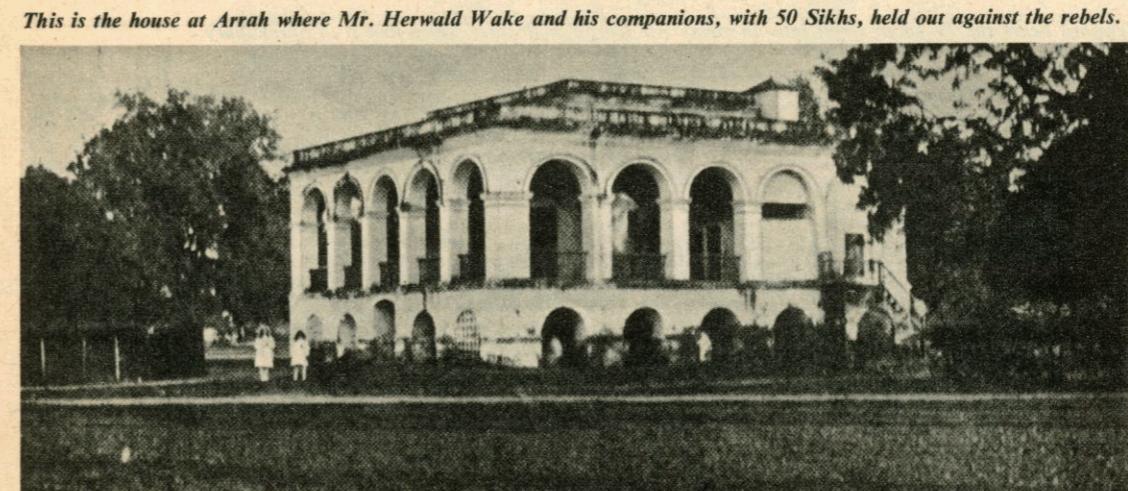
Astonishingly, 200 British soldiers had routed an enemy nearly 25 times as strong in numbers and on the battlefield lay hundreds of dead sepoys from nine different regiments.

The way to Arrah was now open and on the morning of 3 August Major Eyre's tiny force, which almost miraculously had suffered only 16 casualties, entered the town and marched on Mr. Boyle's house. The heroic little garrison was still holding out but relief had come in the nick of time. The rebels had completed mining the ground underneath the fort and a charge was discovered already prepared and ready for detonating.

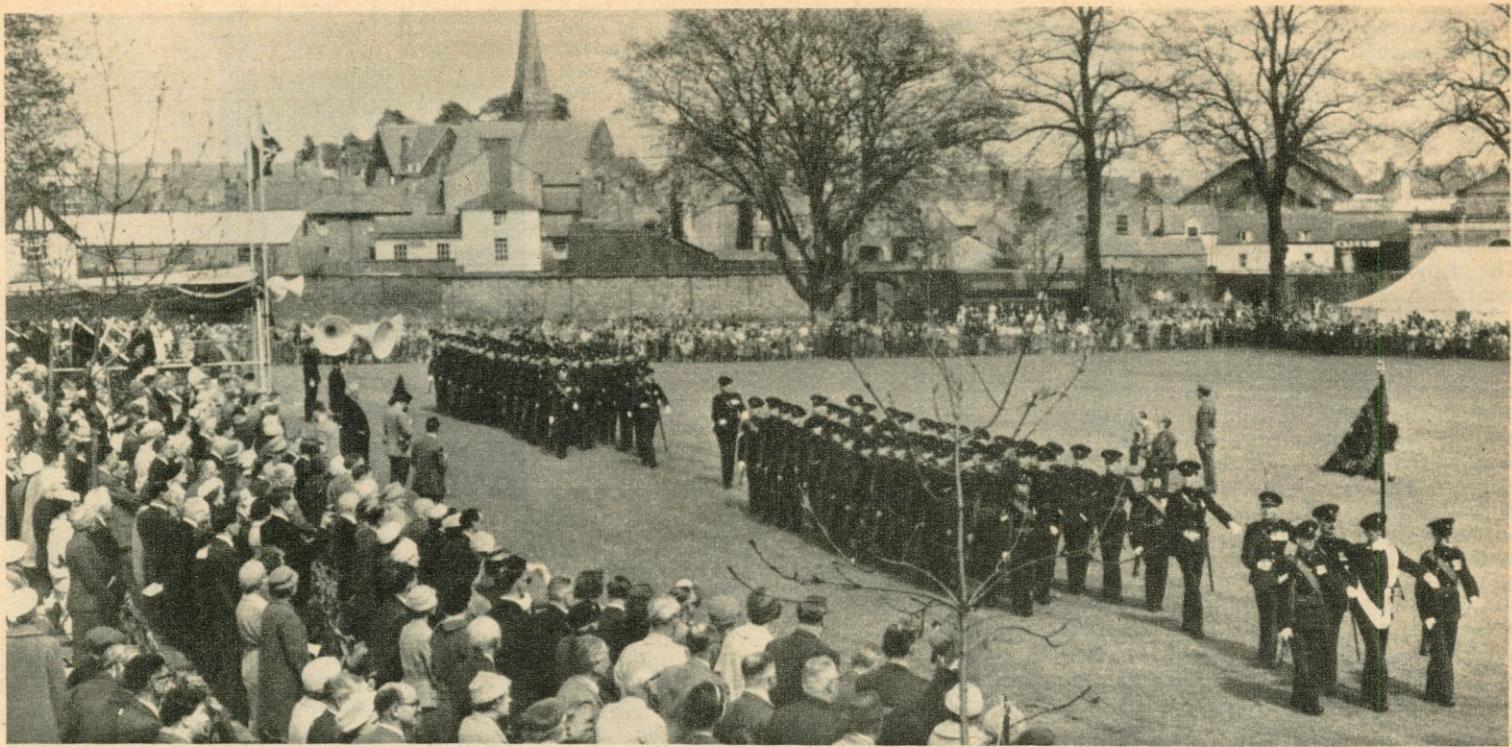
Major Eyre's brilliant victory against overwhelming odds is proudly commemorated by the Battery which bears his name—58 (Eyre's Company), Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery, at present stationed at Lingfield in Surrey. This honour was granted in 1934.

Major Eyre later became a general and was knighted.

D. H. CLIFFORD



SOLDIER regrets that because of pressure on space, No 8 in our Escape series of articles has had to be held over. It will appear in the September issue.



The King's Shropshire Light Infantry march past the Mayor of Oswestry after receiving the Freedom of the town.

"The Elegant Extracts" On The March

AFTER 25 years, the King's Shropshire Light Infantry were marching through their home counties again, on a fortnight's triumphal tour.

In 1935, the 2nd Battalion went, on foot, the length of Shropshire and Herefordshire. Some of the officers, including the adjutant, Captain W. R. Cox, were on horseback.

In 1960, the 1st Battalion did most of the "march" in vehicles, foot-slogging only ceremonially through the towns. The adjutant of 25 years ago, now Major-General W. R. Cox, Director, Territorial Army, and Colonel of the Regiment, joined in again, travelling by helicopter.

Nearly 20 places were able to see their county regiment, places with pleasant names like Leominster and Ledbury, Madeley, Much Wenlock and Oakengates, as well as the bigger towns.

The Battalion, indeed, was determined that it must have a comprehensive programme and it had to travel all the way from Colchester to the Midlands before starting its march.

Hereford and Oswestry gave the Regiment their Freedoms. Shrewsbury and Bridgnorth were reminded that five years ago they, too, gave the Regiment the right to march through their streets with "Colours flying, bugles sounding and band playing."

The King's Shropshire Light Infantry are quick to point out that this wording is different from the wording of Freedoms given to ordinary Infantry regiments (usually, "with Colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed"). Light Infantry regiments have bugles instead of corps of drums and never fix bayonets on ceremonial occasions—"only when we're angry."

At Oswestry, the Regiment gave a new ending to the Free-

dom ceremony. When the speeches were over and the Battalion had marched past, an Army Air Corps *Skeeter* helicopter landed on the field between the Battalion and the dais. Into it went a second-lieutenant, bearing the Freedom scroll in its silver casket, and he was flown away to the regimental depot at Shrewsbury where the scroll was handed over for safe keeping.

Many were the former members of the Regiment who saw the Battalion on its travels. Among them were the bearers of the twin mayoral maces of Oswestry, twin brothers Gordon and Gerald Pryce-Jones. Resplendent in top-hats with bands of cloth-of-gold, robes, medals and regimental ties, they were making their first joint appearance as mace-bearers on the day their Regiment was honoured.

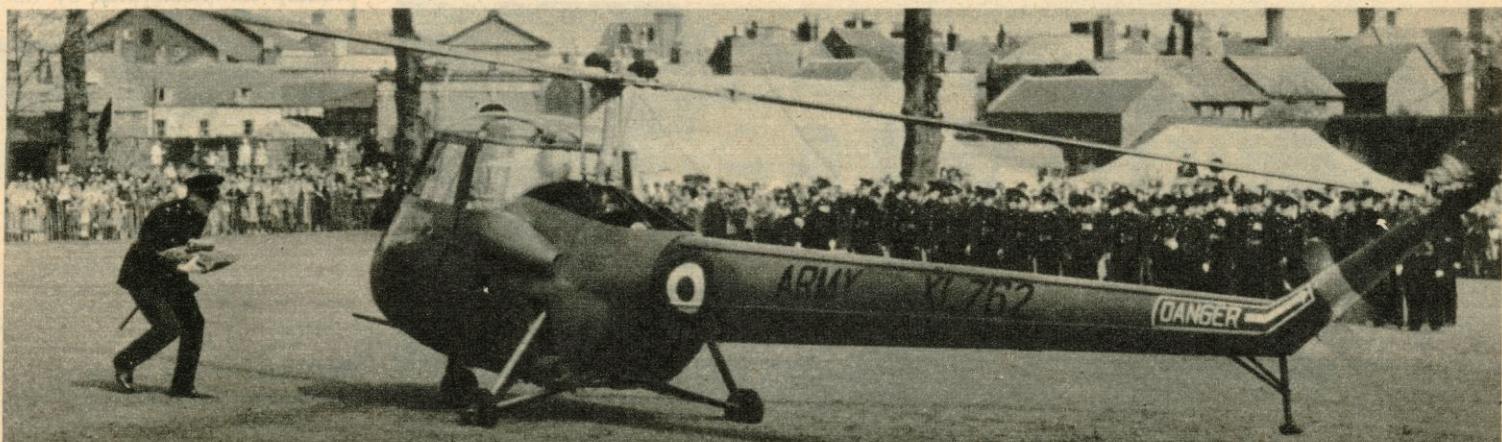
In many of the towns, the Battalion arranged its own entertainment for its hosts—Beating

Retreat, gymnastic displays, riot drill demonstrations, musical programmes by the bugles and band, and displays of weapons and equipment. The last were opened with a burst of blank fired from a Bren, an overture which infallibly brought children running in hundreds, eager to queue up and take a turn at touching the trigger.

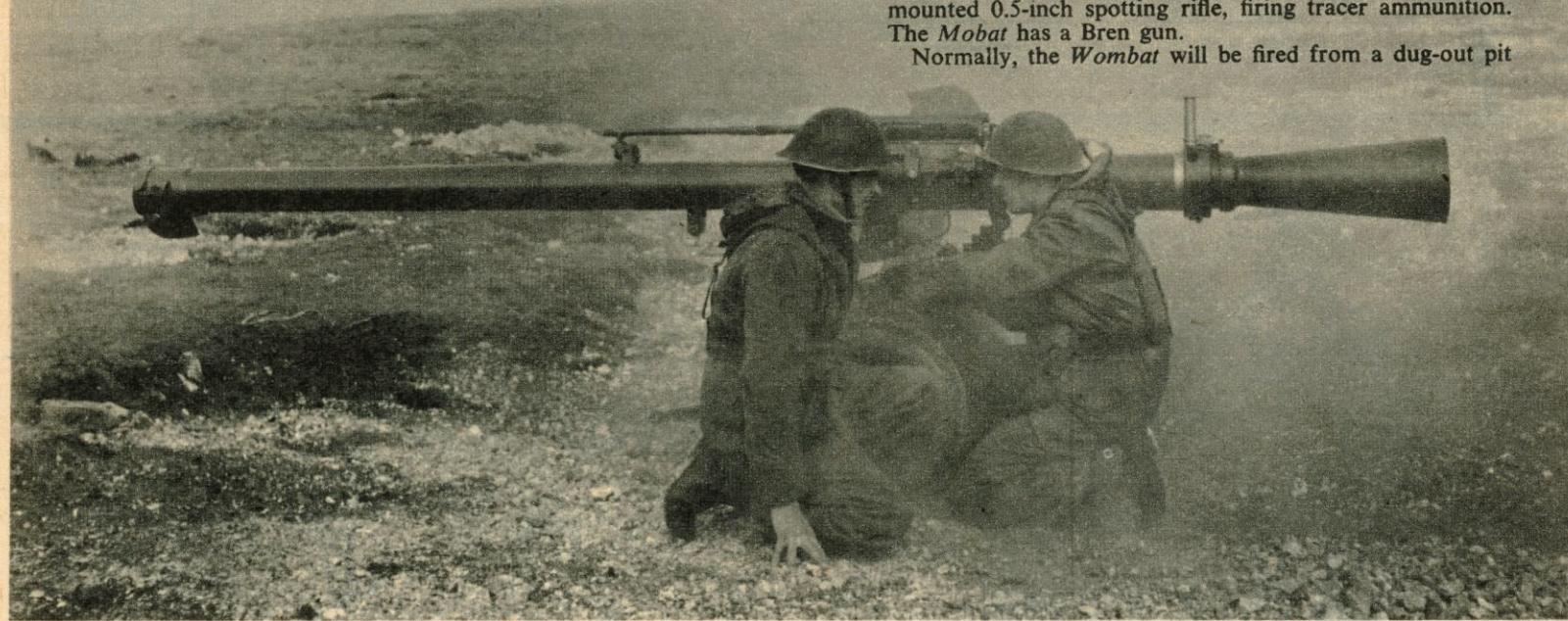
When the day's formal functions were over, there were more intimate occasions. Battalion teams were welcomed into the pubs and clubs to play darts, dominoes, snooker, billiards and table-tennis, or to compete on .22 ranges. One darts team played a team of indoor archers, armed with miniature bows.

"The Elegant Extracts"—an allusion to the officers of the 2nd Battalion of the 85th Foot (later the King's Shropshire Light Infantry) who were once selected from other regiments—is the Regiment's nickname.

Second-Lieutenant J. Hereford bears the Freedom scroll into an Army Air Corps' helicopter which flew it to Shrewsbury.



AND NOW THE WOMBAT



Smoke envelops the detachment commander and his two gun numbers as the Wombat is fired on Salisbury Plain. The weapon weighs only 650 lbs, but it will knock out heavy tanks.



The Wombat is highly mobile. Here it is loaded up a special ramp on to a Land-Rover from which it can be fired. Note the spotting rifle.

A NEW recoilless, lightweight anti-tank gun which can be manhandled and fired by only two men yet will destroy heavy tanks, is undergoing troop trials.

It is the *Wombat* which has been developed as an Infantry battalion weapon and is the third of the *Bat* (Battalion Anti-Tank) family.

The original *Bat*, introduced in 1954, was a towed gun protected by a shield and weighed just over a ton. Its successor, the *Mobat* (a modified *Bat*), which is now in service with the Infantry, is also towed but has no shield and weighs only 1700 lbs. The *Wombat* is even lighter—only 650 lbs.

The *Wombat* is carried on a long-wheelbased Land-Rover, clamped in a cradle that takes the weapon's weight off its tyres, and can be manhandled over short distances on its own two-wheeled carriage. Although the *Wombat* fires the same calibre round as its two predecessors, it has a greater chance of hitting its target with its first shot because of its co-axially mounted 0.5-inch spotting rifle, firing tracer ammunition. The *Mobat* has a Bren gun.

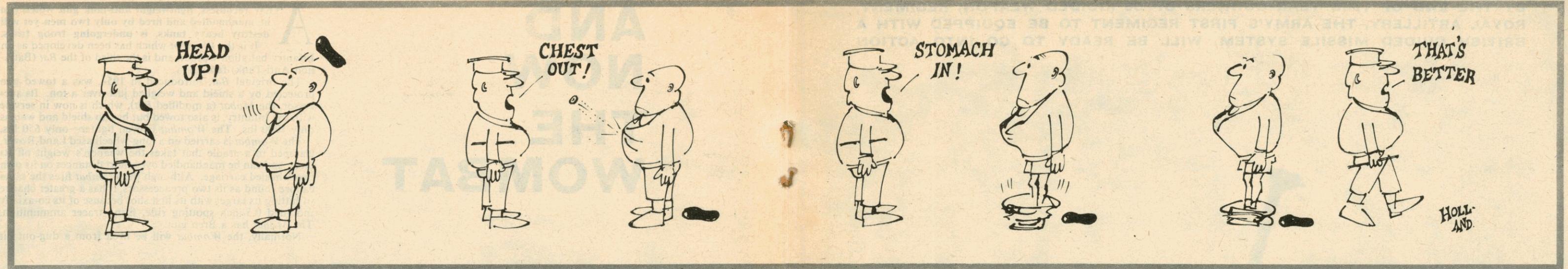
Normally, the *Wombat* will be fired from a dug-out pit

but in an emergency it can be fired from its Land-Rover, although with a limited traverse.

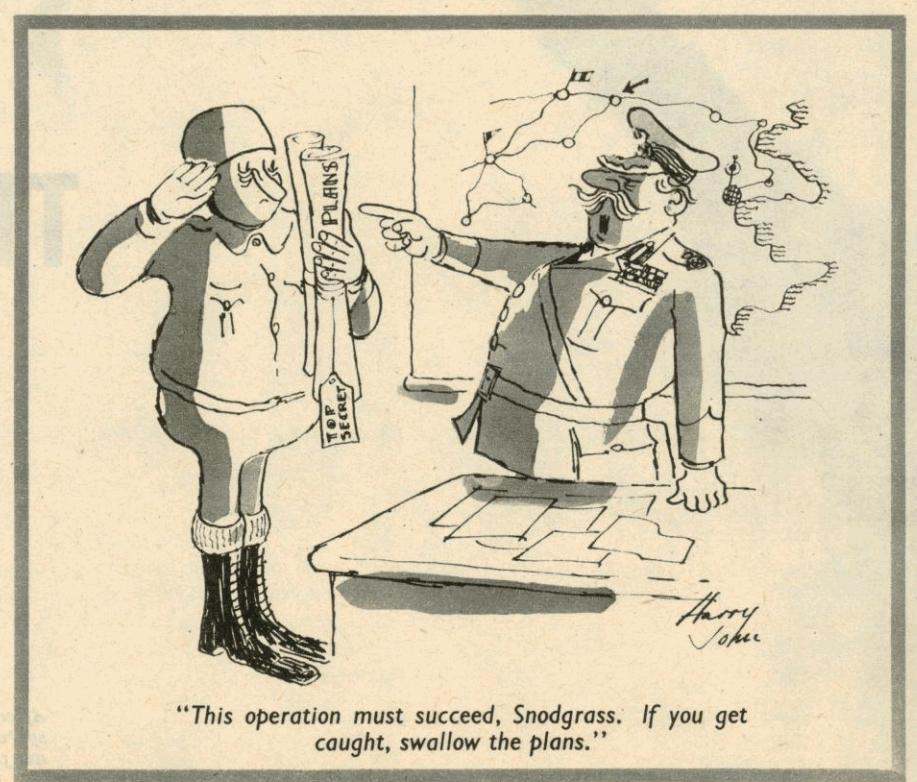
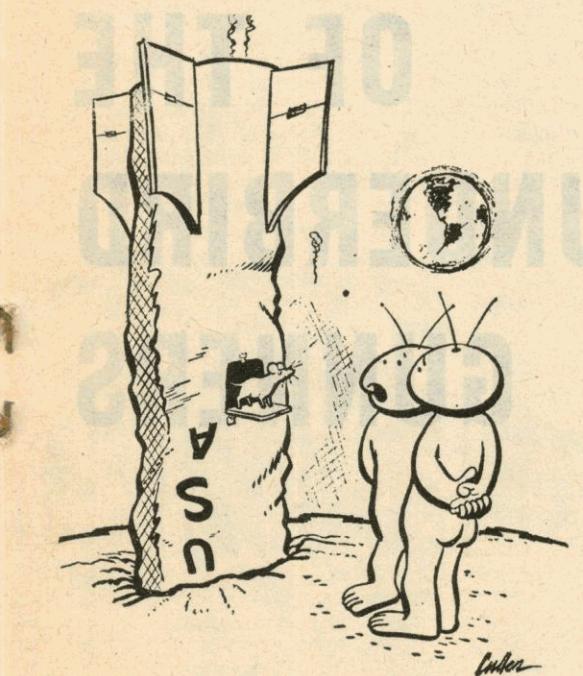
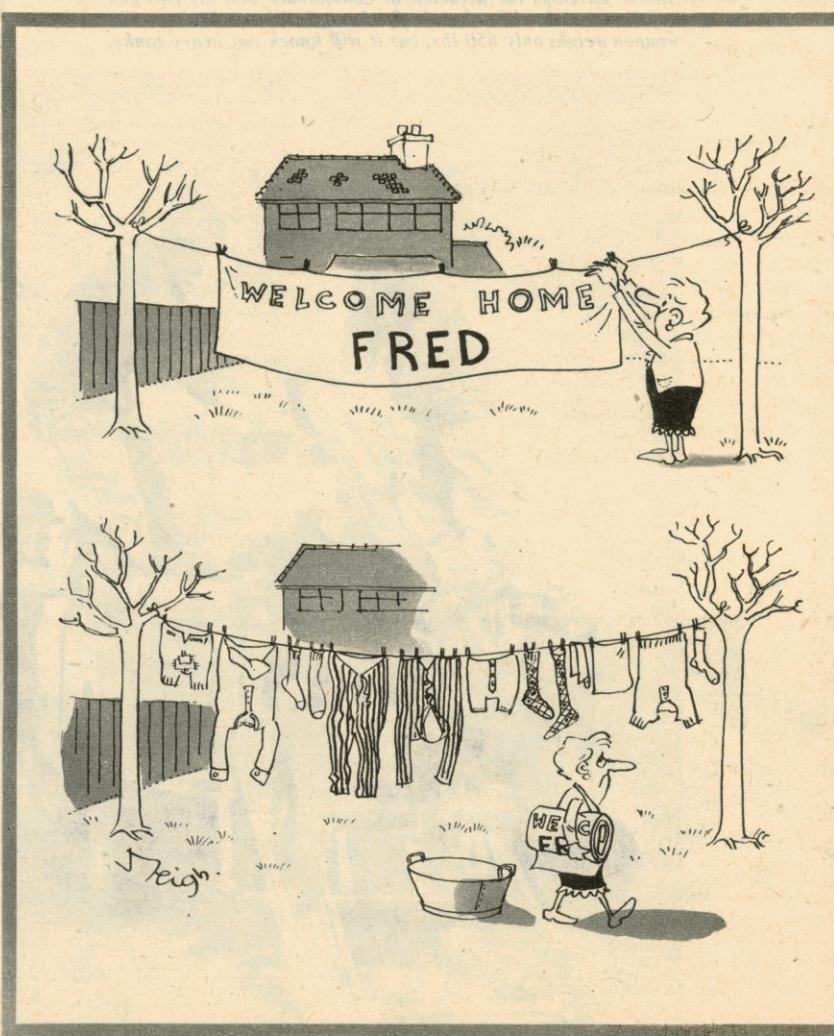
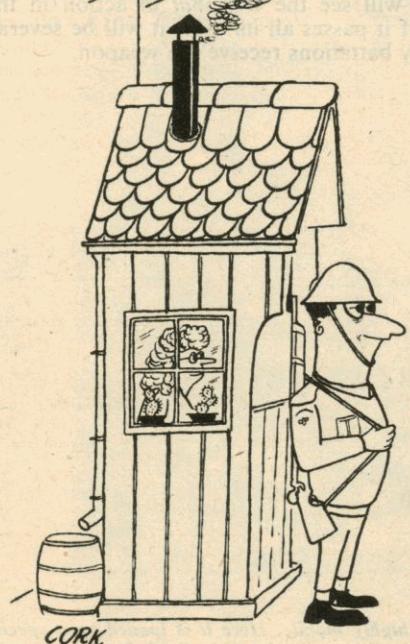
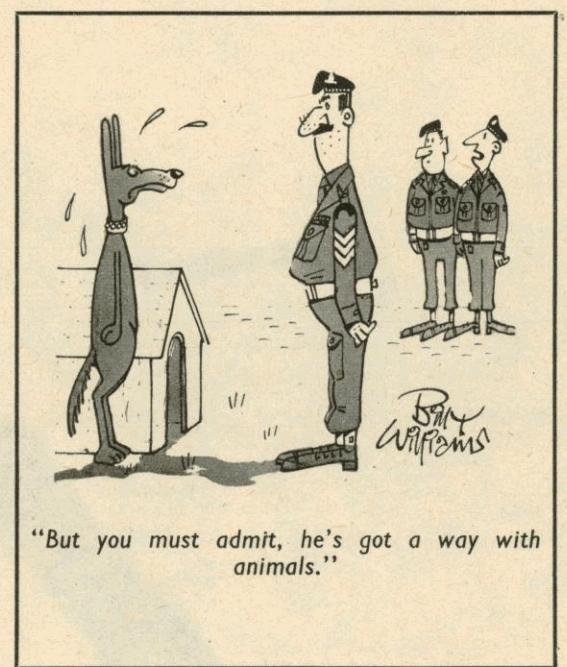
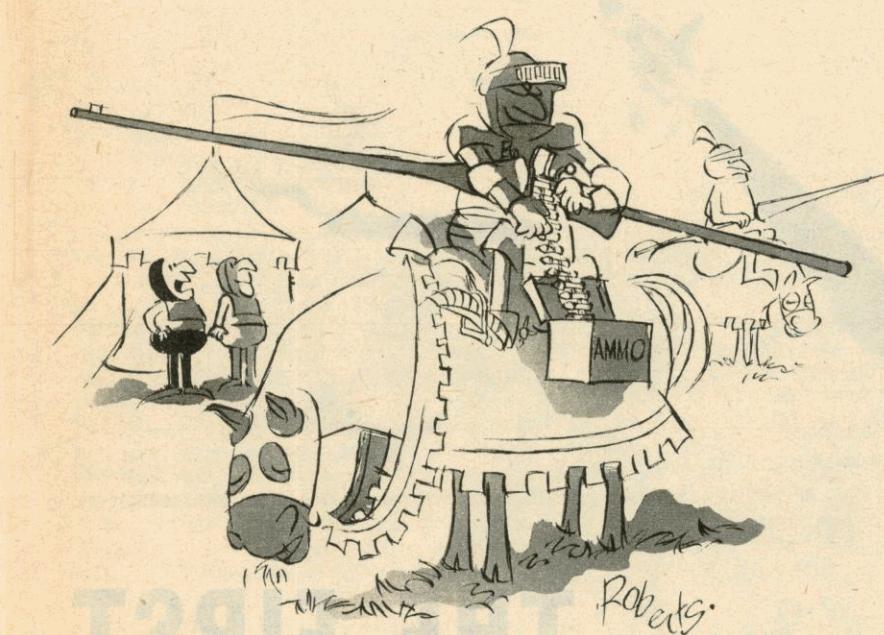
The weapon has a team of four—a detachment commander, two gun numbers and a driver. The detachment commander will be responsible for target selection, laying, aiming and firing, one gun number will load and unload the main armament and the other will maintain and operate the spotting rifle and assist in reloading the *Wombat*. Two men can maintain the gun in operation for limited periods.

The *Wombat* has been developed by the Armament Research and Development Establishment at Fort Halstead, Kent. Its light weight has been achieved by using very high-grade steel for the barrel and breech mechanism—thus allowing the barrel to be thinner and lighter—and by making its carriage of light alloys.

Few troops will see the *Wombat* in action in the near future. Even if it passes all its trials it will be several years before Infantry battalions receive the weapon.



humour



BY THE END OF THIS YEAR GUNNERS OF 36 (GUIDED WEAPON) REGIMENT, ROYAL ARTILLERY, THE ARMY'S FIRST REGIMENT TO BE EQUIPPED WITH A BRITISH GUIDED MISSILE SYSTEM, WILL BE READY TO GO INTO ACTION

THE FIRST OF THE THUNDERBIRD GUNNERS

After its first violent acceleration the Thunderbird is flying at full speed. The initial thrust of the boosts ceases and they fall away as the sustainer motor, belching out black smoke, takes over.



A Gunner detachment transfers a Thunderbird to its launcher from the transporter on which the missile has been brought from the field assembly point.

IN a camouflaged regimental command post among the bushes on a Hampshire heath a Gunner officer reported by wireless to his battery command post that an enemy aircraft, approaching at supersonic speed, had been picked up by radar 100 miles away.

Seconds later, a giant height-finding radar began to scan the skies and in nearby vehicles Gunners craned more intently over their own radar screens, identifying the aircraft's "blip," and following it closely as it came within range.

In the launcher area not far away, teams of Gunners carried out a final check on two sleek weapons—20-ft long *Thunderbirds* pointed gracefully but menacingly skywards—and retired to a previously prepared dug-out.

At the launcher command post a second-lieutenant and a sergeant waited for the order to fire and, when it came, the officer turned a key among the mass of dials in front of him and pressed two buttons.

In wartime, the two *Thunderbirds* would have leapt from their launchers with a deafening roar and, trailing smoke and flame, sped on their way towards the doomed aircraft.

In fact, the *Thunderbirds* remained on their launchers, for this was the first field exercise for 56 Battery, 36 (Guided Weapon) Regiment, Royal Artillery, the first of the Army's mobile, hard-hitting *Thunderbird* regiments.

When the last of the Royal Artillery's heavy anti-aircraft regiments recently bade farewell to its stalwart 3.7-inch guns on Woolwich's Front Parade, the ceremony closed a glorious chapter in the history of the Royal Regiment.

But already a new era had dawned in anti-aircraft defences in the field. For over a year 36 (Guided Weapon) Regiment, Royal Artillery, had quietly been preparing itself to take a proud place in the new Regular Army of tomorrow.

By the end of this year, the new Regiment, the first in the Army to be equipped with a British guided missile system, will have completed its training and fired its first practice camp.

The *Thunderbird* Regiment has its origins in

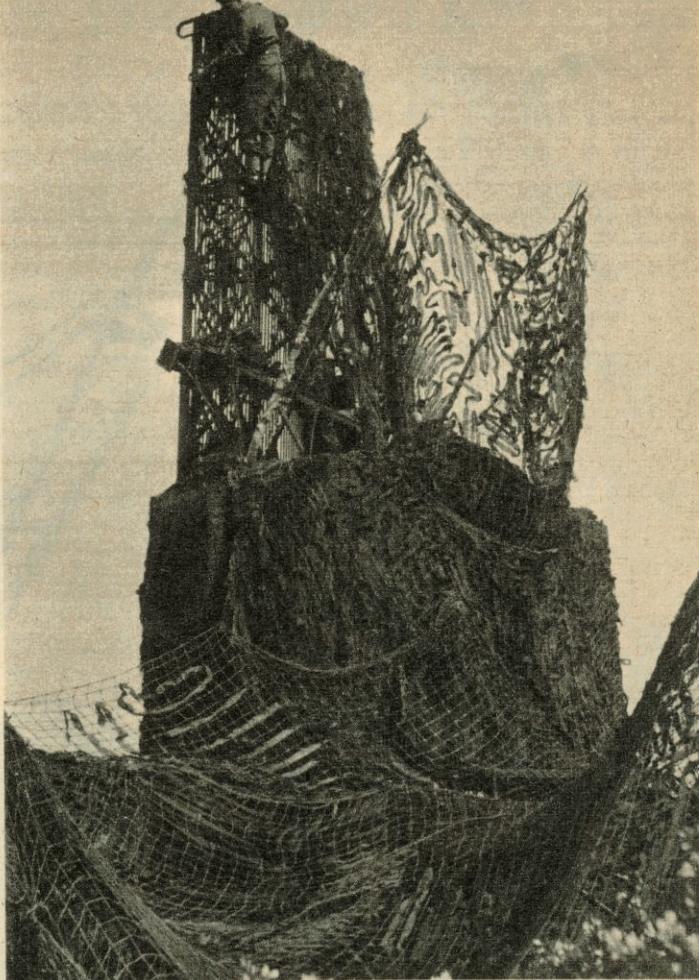
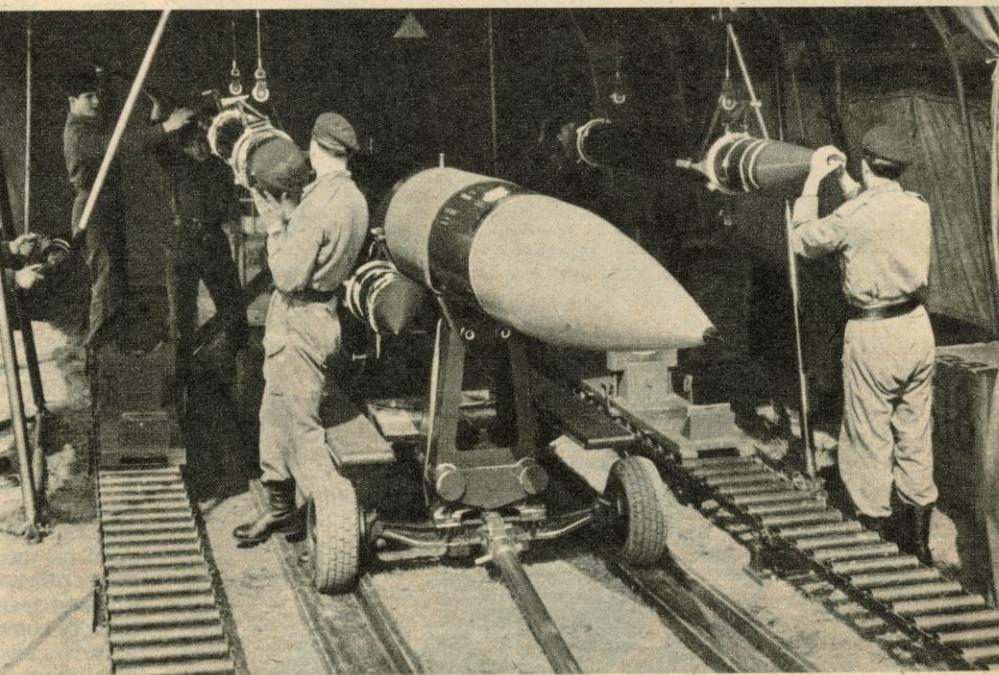
THUNDERBIRD is 20 feet long and is powered by solid fuel. Four boosts accelerate the missile to a high speed very rapidly. After the main motor has ignited the boosts fall away and the missile speeds on to its target.

A semi-active homer, *Thunderbird* locks on to its target through a radar receiver in the missile's nose. This picks

up a beam reflected from the target by an "illuminating" radar set on the ground.

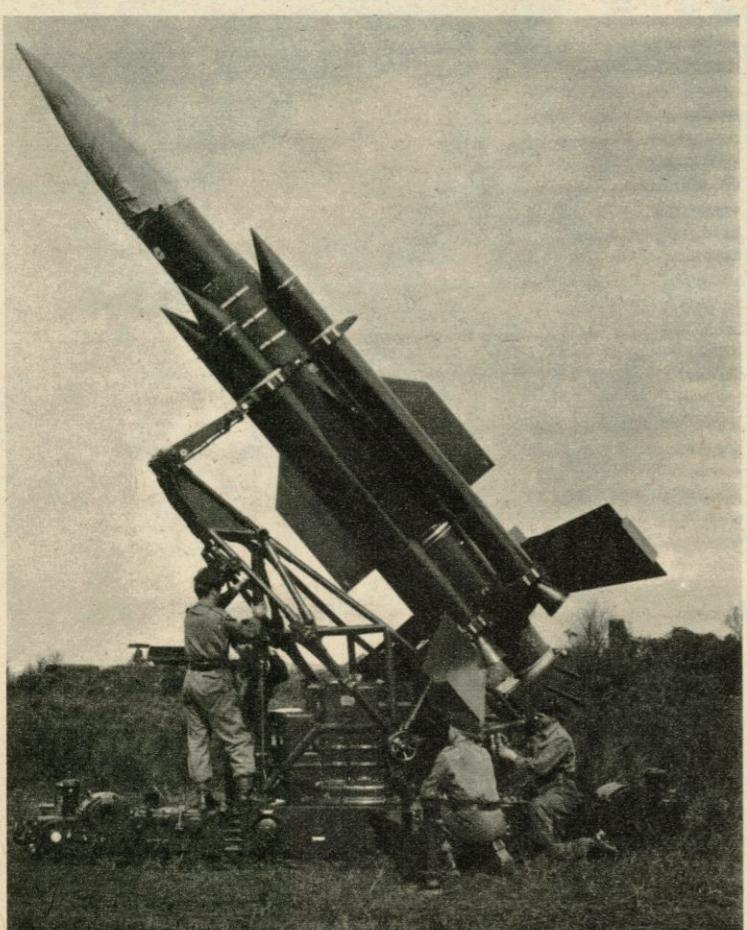
The missile's extremely high accuracy and reliability were demonstrated during exhaustive acceptance trials in Australia.

The successor to *Thunderbird* is now in an advanced state of development.

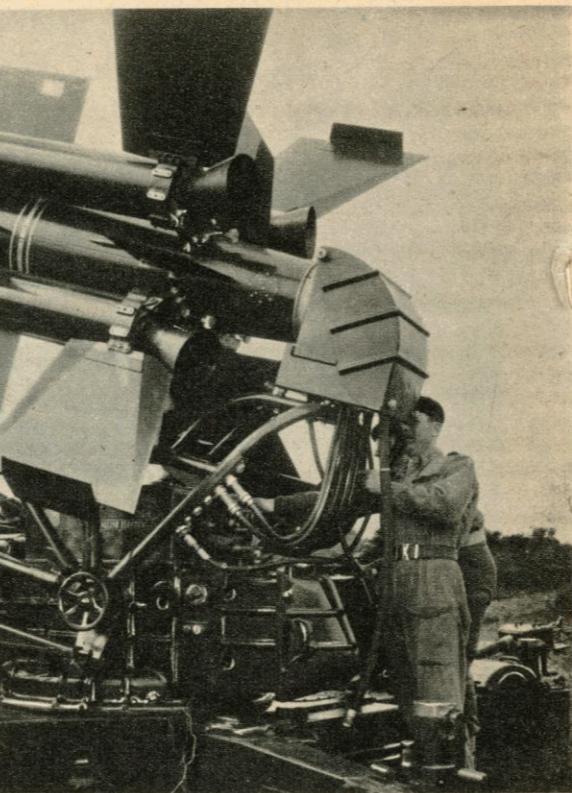




After the boosts and fins have been fitted and the missile tested in the forward assembly and test point, it is hoisted on to a transporter to be taken to the launching area. Below: Thunderbird is ready in position on the launcher.



Making final adjustments to the Thunderbird as it rests on the launcher in the forward area. In a normal state of readiness firing can be carried out in less than a minute and a launcher can be reloaded in under four minutes.



THUNDERBIRD GUNNERS continued

Malta, GC, where, before re-organisation, it served in a heavy anti-aircraft role, and during its training period has been based on another old home of Artillery—the former Coast Defence centre of Shoeburyness.

Formed in Malta from three batteries serving there, 36 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment came home in 1956 and in April last year became 36 (Guided Weapon) Regiment, retaining 56 and 60 Batteries.

By this time only a comparatively few officers and senior non-commissioned officers remained of the heavy anti-aircraft regiment. Most of the men had been posted away because they were becoming due for release. Their places were not taken by specially trained men, but by Gunners from all branches of the Artillery.

"You are not selected for the Regiment because you are a boffin," the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel F. S. Eiloart, told SOLDIER. "Training is based on the same principles as in any other Gunner regiment—drill and team work. If a light does not come on when it should there is a drill for doing something about it."

Lieutenant-Colonel F. S. Eiloart took over command, two days before the reorganisation, from Sandhurst where he had been a company commander and instructor for three years. Previously he had been a battery commander of 4th Royal Horse Artillery Regiment in Germany. Both his battery commanders, however, have had previous experience of guided missiles and were at the School of Artillery on the ground floor of Thunderbird development.

Two months after it was

formed the Regiment sent a cadre of officers and non-commissioned officers from 56 Battery to the School of Anti-Aircraft Artillery, Manorbier, to train for three months on the new equipment. A similar cadre followed from 60 Battery and the two cadres then trained the remainder of their batteries.

On the next stage the whole of 56 Battery went to Manorbier for four months' training, returning in March this year. The other battery came back last month and after regimental training, which will include tactical deployment, the Regiment hopes to fire its first practice missiles in October or November at the Ty Croes range in Anglesey.

Under the present establishment each of the two batteries comprises a headquarters troop, with a battery command post and target illuminating radar equipment, a firing troop and a servicing troop. Orders from the battery command post are passed down to the firing troop's launcher command posts, thence to the four missile launchers. In a normal state of readiness firing can be carried out in less than a minute and each launcher can be reloaded in just under four minutes.

The task of the servicing troop is to collect missiles in containers from the Regiment's Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' Workshop and prepare them for launching. The containers are carried on a towed flat trailer, lifted by mobile crane on to a cradle, tested, uncanned and run into the assembly point for fitting of fins, wings, boosts, radar dome and warhead. The troop then delivers the missile to the launcher. The Regiment's Headquarters

SHOEBURYNES, the present station of 36 (Guided Weapon) Regiment, has been the site of a firing battery, a coastguard station and the home of the old Coast Defence School.

In 1805, Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Shrapnel tested there the shell which bears his name. An Artillery detachment fired 2336 rounds at three targets, perforating them 84 times and scoring 10 direct hits.

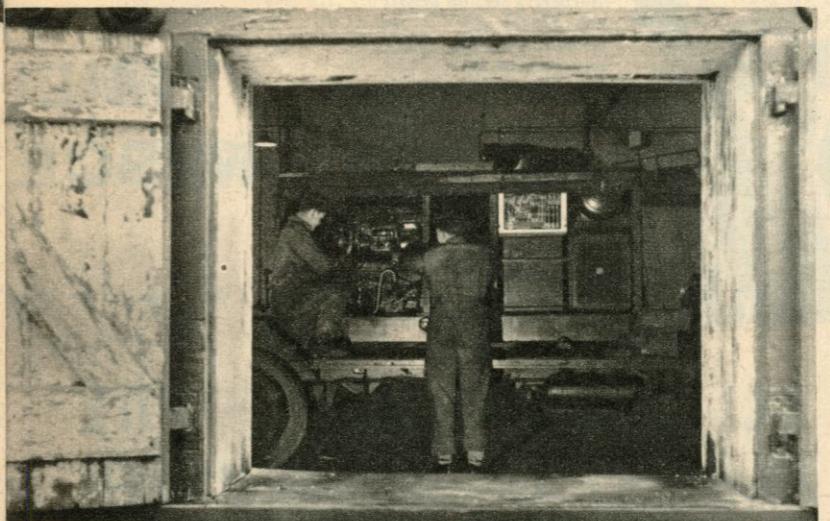
Shoeburyness grew rapidly after the founding there in 1849 of the Gunnery School and Experimental Establishment which has developed into the present Shoeburyness Proof and Experimental Establishment.

There the "Woolwich Infant," an 81-ton gun, was tested, and there, too, rockets were tried out long before the advent of Thunderbird.

The Prince Imperial, a son of Napoleon III and an officer in the British Army, fired a 9-lb steel rocket on the ranges in 1874. It boomeranged back towards his men, missed them and chased a stout major who was practising croquet shots on the tennis courts before burning itself out in some bushes.

During its stay in Shoeburyness, 36 (Guided Weapon) Regiment is constantly reminded of its links with the past history of this Gunner town. The Regiment occupies the 100-year-old Horseshoe Barracks—they are to be rebuilt in the near future—and part of the workshops is sited in an old Coast Defence School building with portholes where Artillerymen used to practise running out their guns.

Within the regimental lines, too, is the garrison church of St. Peter and St. Paul, built in 1866, where many ex-Gunners still worship. Its memorial tablets and stained glass windows reflect the long association of Shoeburyness with the Royal Regiment of Artillery.



REME technicians, framed in an old gun port hole, maintain a test generator in the Regiment's Workshops.

Battery includes a section of the Royal Corps of Signals and the Surveillance Troop. In this troop's equipment are the regimental command post, a height-finding radar and surveillance radars.

The Regiment's workshop is divided into two sections, the Support Platoon being responsible for the Regiment's 200 vehicles, and the Field Platoon

P.E.J.

COVER PICTURE

THE first Thunderbird Regiment, 36 (Guided Weapon) Regiment, Royal Artillery, is almost ready to take its place in the new Regular Army as a defence in the field against high flying jet aircraft. The Regiment will complete its training and fire its first practice missiles later this year.

SOLDIER's front cover shows the Thunderbird leaving its launching pad in a flurry of smoke and flame, its four boosts rapidly accelerating the missile as it speeds towards its target. When the main motor ignites the boosts fall away.



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THREE-DAY BATTLE IN BERLIN

HERE'S not much room in Berlin for military manoeuvres but that does not prevent the British units stationed there from keeping up to date with their training.

Recently the three Infantry battalions in the British Sector—the 1st Battalions of The York and Lancaster Regiment, The King's Own Scottish Borderers and the 1st East Anglian Regiment—showed how it could be done by taking part in a three-day and night inter-battalion platoon battle competition in which tactics, weapon handling, initiative, leadership and powers of endurance were tested.

The contest began with a detailed inspection by the Berlin Independent Brigade staff to check each platoon's readiness for battle, after which the competitors were sent on a 60-mile course through "terrorist-infested" country. On the way platoons were faced with tactical problems and given special tasks to do.

Each platoon had to surround a terrorist hide-out in silence and capture four terrorists alive. They had to lay an ambush and fight their way out of trouble when they themselves were surrounded and three times had to make an assault crossing of the Havel See. At night they patrolled and attacked strongpoints and on the last day made a 25-mile forced march and fired their weapons on a range.

At every level the platoons' ability and ingenuity were tested—even the food and bivouacs were carefully inspected. And to make things more realistic "B" Squadron of the 14th/20th King's Hussars, sometimes using live ammunition, acted as the enemy.

In a close-fought contest The York and Lancaster Regiment ran out winners of both the battalion and platoon tests. The champion platoon—No. 7 of "C" Company—was led by Lieutenant J. Byrne.—From a report by Army Public Relations, Berlin.



Above: Paddles at the ready, a section of The King's Own Scottish Borderers sets off across the Havel See in an assault boat. The three-day contest was a test of skill and initiative.

Left: The Brigade Major, Major E. E. Toms, of the Seaforth Highlanders, inspects the winning platoon of the York and Lancaster Regiment.

MILITARY MISCELLANY



ALLEZ-OOP! IT'S THE BALANCING BOMBARDIER

A REGULAR soldier whose future is literally in the balance is Bombardier Derek Shaw, an assistant physical training instructor in 17 Training Regiment, Royal Artillery, at Oswestry.

As Duo-van-Dek, the Daring Acrobat, Bombardier Shaw is making a name for himself in the entertainment world as a brilliant exponent of balancing tricks.

He balances impossibly on one hand on the sharp edges of wooden blocks, on rollers and on steel poles above which he climbs in one-arm balances by placing blocks one above the other and then lowers himself. For good measure, he balances on his head on a series of blocks set upon a tall table, his arms outstretched and hands revolving hoops.

Bombardier Shaw, who joined the Army in 1956, was appointed an assistant physical training instructor after he had shown unusual agility, and soon somersaults, hand springs, vaulting and bar work became second nature to him.

Then one evening two years ago, he saw an acrobat performing on television. "I can do that, too," said the Bombardier and straight away went to the unit gymnasium to try. He found it more difficult than he imagined but he persevered, training almost every night until he had perfected his own technique.

His achievements soon became known locally and the Bombardier was in great demand to give performances at fêtes and dinner parties in and around Oswestry. Then came his big chance. He entered for an England versus Wales talent contest and reached the last 16 out of 160 competitors. As a result he has since appeared twice in shows at Chester theatre, performed at the Nuffield Centre in London and in clubs and cabarets in the Midlands.

Bombardier Shaw demonstrates the free head-stand, "legs and arms outstretched and whirling a hoop with each hand."

THEY'LL ALL FOLLOW THE GENERAL

WHEN 200 Territorials of the 53rd (Welsh) Infantry Division set out this month on a tough marching competition over the Cambrian mountains they will follow in the footsteps of their Divisional Commander.

It was Major-General Lewis Pugh DSO—a Welshman himself—who devised the march, long before the present craze for long-distance walking began, and a route was reconnoitred by one of his brigadiers, covering nearly 80 miles, only one third of it along roads and tracks.

Then General Pugh decided to cover the course himself, partly "to show the men that the management share the training of the employees," and partly to check the route for himself. He set off with his GSO1, Lieutenant-Colonel K. D. Bright, from Tonfanau, on the West coast of Wales. Three days later when he emerged from the hills near

Penmaenmawr, on the North coast, he was a couple of hours behind schedule, because he had stopped to plan an alteration in the course.

On the first day, when they climbed nearly 3000 feet to the summit of Cadair Idris, the General and the Colonel had to march in mid-summer heat. They discovered a land-slide had taken away part of the proposed course, and planned a diversion. The second day they found dense mist on high ground. The third day it rained steadily but their last morning was all showers and sunshine.

Making a concession to the 30 years or so he can give most of his men—he is 53—General Pugh did not carry all of the 50 pounds or so with which they will be burdened, and he and Colonel Bright slept in hotels instead of bivouacs. They ate hotel breakfasts and dinners, and lunched off coffee from a vacuum-flask and one or two Royal Air Force survival biscuits of a new kind.

Unlike his men, too, General Pugh did not wear ammunition boots. Instead, he had a pair of canvas-and-rubber Indian hockey boots. He gave them only part of the credit for the fact that he had no blisters—the main credit,



Major-General Lewis Pugh (left) and Lieutenant-Colonel K. D. Bright study their map after completing the 85-mile march from Tonfanau to Dwygyfylchi.

he says, went to experience.

The Cambrian march will not be a race, though speed will be taken into account.

Points will be awarded for leadership and team work, march discipline, conduct in bivouac areas, map reading and compass work and, at the end, a short shooting practice. The marchers will face steep climbs, peat bogs, mountain rivers and rock-strewn moors, carrying their food, weapons, ammunition and camping kit.

They will show themselves to be independent of outside supplies for nearly four days—which is as long as the units of

14th Army found practicable in Burma.

Each major unit in the Division and each arm of the service will enter a team of an officer, a warrant officer or sergeant and six corporals or privates. It is only coincidence that the course sometimes follows and often runs parallel to one by which Roman legionaries used to patrol in eights. The Romans had the edge on the Territorials—their patrols included a pack-horse.

This first Cambrian march may be followed by others open to units of other Territorial formations and of the Regular Army.



Lieutenant Porter, tallest man in the Battery, troops the Battle Axe through the ranks as they present arms. The Axe is 151 years old.

A BATTLE AXE ON PARADE

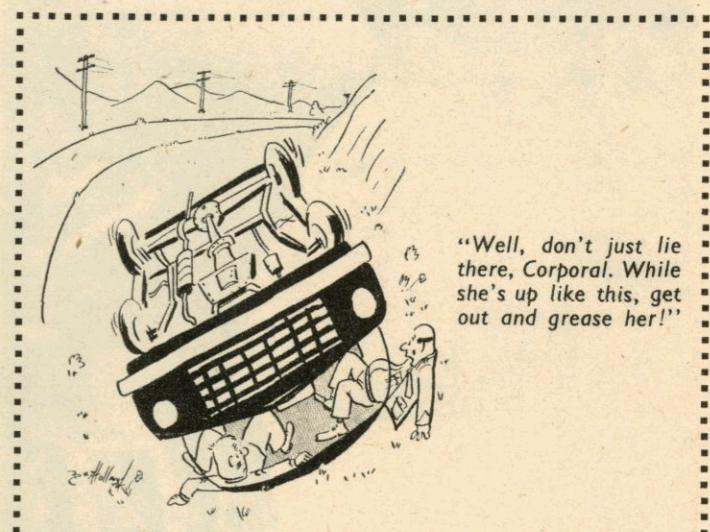
ON a parade ground in Hong Kong a 6 ft 4 ins tall lieutenant—the tallest man in the unit—slow marched between the ranks of a Gunner battery, carrying on his right shoulder a 151-year-old French Pioneer Battle Axe.

No. 74 (The Battle Axe Company) Medium Battery, Royal Artillery was celebrating, as its forebears had done for a cen-

tury and a half, the anniversary of one of its famous feats of arms.

The Battle Axe was presented to 7th Company, 7th Battalion, Royal Artillery, after the Battle of Martinique in 1809 in recognition of the gallantry shown by the Gunners during the campaign.

Through the years weapons and titles have changed and 74 Battery is the direct descendant of the unit that fought at Martinique.



"Well, don't just lie there, Corporal. While she's up like this, get out and grease her!"

then marched past its commander, Major G. R. L. Barron MC. The march past recognised another battery tradition. During the battle of Martinique Captain St. Clair, the commander, showed remarkable powers of leadership and gallantry in directing fire on the French positions and in his honour the Battery today parades for its commander.—From a report by Sergeant M. Harrison, Military Observer. Photograph: Sergeant M. G. Hodges.

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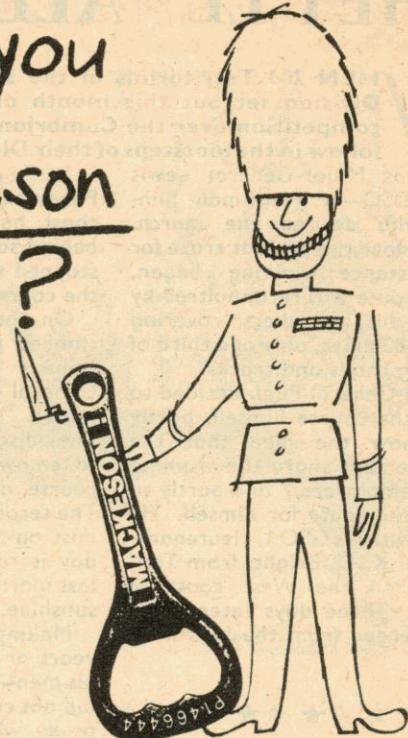
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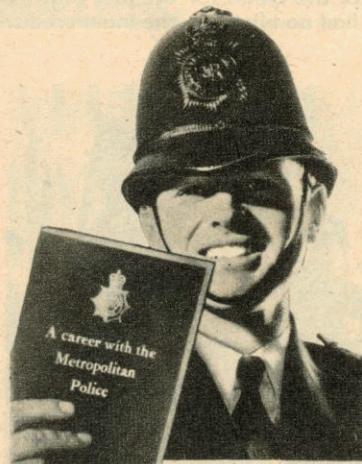
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Can you identify them?

The sender of the first correct solution to be opened by the editor may choose any two of the following recently-published books: "The First World War" by Cyril Falls; "Poles Apart" by Richard Pape; "Rachel Rosing" by Howard Spring; "Bowler's Turn" by Ian Peebles; "Cecil B. De Mille—Autobiography" and "Prince Napoleon in America, 1861" by Ferri Pisani.

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 offices by Monday, 3 October.

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1. Entries must be sent in a sealed envelope to:
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433, Holloway Road, London, N.7.**
2. Each entry must be accompanied by the "Competition 27" 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 winners will appear in **SOLDIER**, November.



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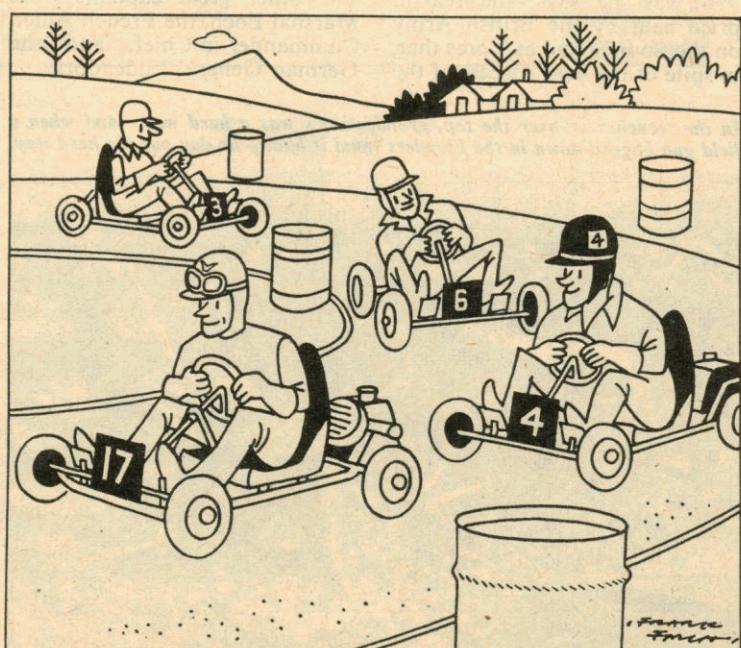
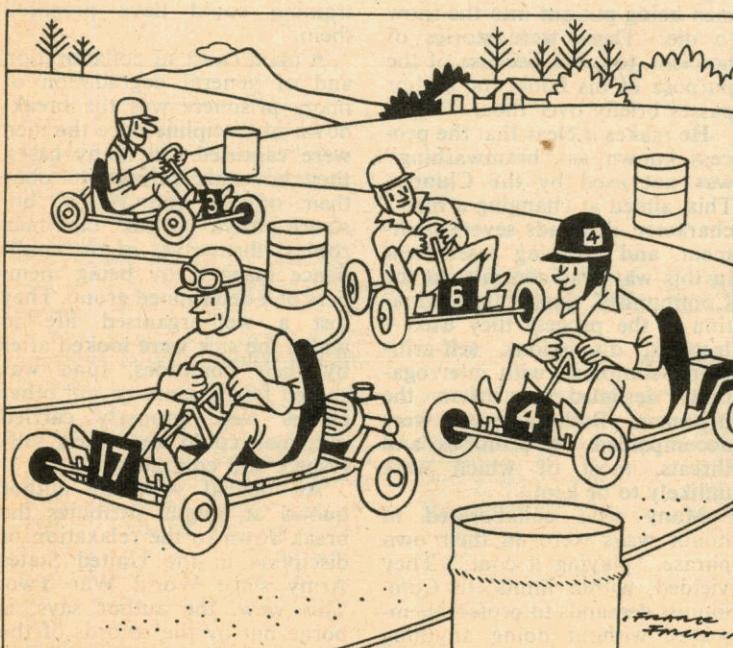
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HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

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.



Father's War And . . .

ANY father whose son asks, "What was World War Two like, Dad?" could do no better than give him a copy of "The War, 1939-45" (Cassell, 50s), a massive, 1120-page anthology of the most vivid writings and speeches made during those momentous years.

And it's an even bet that father would read it first.

Here, for the first time in one book, is told the story of the greatest and cruellest conflict the world has ever known, as seen not only by the politicians, soldiers, sailors and airmen of most of the nations involved but also by the civilians on both sides who endured it.

Beginning with the German invasion of Poland in September, 1939, the book ranges over the whole vast, six-year struggle on land, at sea and in the air, taking the reader from anti-aircraft gun sites in London to Chindit patrols in Burma, from the exultant Germans at Dunkirk to their final capitulation, from the disaster at Pearl Harbour to the

atom bomb at Hiroshima and from the German blitzkreig on Russia to the ignominious suicide of Hitler in a Berlin air-raid bunker.

Many of its pages are necessarily filled with the horrors of war and the foul deeds of evil men, but the book, brilliantly edited by Desmond Flower and James Reeves, is not only a grim record of death and brutality, victory and defeat. Here, too, shine the courage, the humour and the humanity of the men and women caught up in the holocaust.

This is a book every soldier ought to have on his bookshelf.

Grandfather's War

FEW historians are better qualified to tell the story of World War One than Captain Cyril Falls who served on Field-Marshal Earl Haig's staff and was one of the authors of that war's official history.

Not surprisingly, his latest book, "The First World War" (Longmans, 42s), a brief account with an emphasis on the struggle in the West, is a masterpiece of scholarly assessment of the conduct of the battles fought in that now almost forgotten war-to-end-all-wars which destroyed the youth of Europe.

The author is still convinced, 42 years after, that the war could be won only on the Western Front and that the campaigns in Mesopotamia and Palestine were futile.

It was, he says, the fearful price paid by the British Army on the Somme and at Ypres that, in spite of the near success of the

In the trenches or over the top, grandfather's war was a hard war. And when a field gun bogged down in the Flanders' mud it had to be dug out the hard way.



The Battle of The Mind

FOR you the war is over," was the stock phrase addressed by the Germans to Allied soldiers taken prisoner in the two world wars.

The Chinese Communists in Korea adopted no such attitude. For their unlucky captives the war was still on—a war against the mind. The Communists waged it with such success that the American authorities were seriously worried. Nearly one American prisoner in every three collaborated in some way with the enemy. One in every seven, including even lieutenant-colonels, was guilty of serious collaboration, such as writing propaganda tracts or agreeing to spy or organise for the Communists after the war.

Aware that there was serious collaboration, though not yet of its extent, the American Army was prepared for an elaborate investigation when the prisoners were released. Waiting for the main body of repatriates was an operation the like of which had never been seen before. Ten "processing" teams, each consisting of 72 specialists—intelligence and counter-intelligence officers, psychiatrists, physicians and others—were armed with questionnaires running to 114 multi-part questions, plus a demand for the man to write his autobiography. Mostly the teams worked on the ships taking the ex-prisoners on the three-week voyage back to America.

On top of the questionnaires, the men were asked about each others' behaviour while prisoner. The full results were collated, studied and added to over five years. Some of the men's files ended up by being 2 ft thick.

From interviews with those concerned with the investigation, Eugene Kinkead has written a report of it, "Why They Collaborated" (Longmans, 21s).

It is not a pretty picture he presents, as the United States Army readily admits. Apart from collaboration with the enemy, there are stories of prisoners robbing and murdering weaker comrades, of sick men being put out into the snow to die. There were stories of heroism, too, but because of the purpose of his book, the author passes briefly over those.

He makes it clear that the process known as "brainwashing" was not used by the Chinese. This, aimed at changing a man's character, demands severe treatment, and arousing resentment in this way was contrary to the Communists' aims. Indoctrination is the process they used—lectures, discussions, self-criticism—combined with interrogations designed to soften the prisoners. Both processes were accompanied by promises and threats, most of which were unlikely to be kept.

Many who collaborated in minor ways were, in their own phrase, "playing it cool." They yielded, within limits, to Communist demands to protect themselves, without doing anything obviously traitorous. It was a

and the Turks in the Korean prisoner camps, none of whom gave way. In each case there was a strong tradition of discipline.

Of the British privates and junior NCOs in Communist hands, about one-third could, according to the Ministry of Defence, be called Communist sympathisers at the time of their release.

The Ministry doubted if many of the conversions would be permanent. About four per cent came back convinced that Communism was the proper way of life, but some of them had gone to Korea thinking that.

The moral of this book is clear. A man captured by the Communists needs the qualities and the training of a good soldier, not only to keep his principles but also, perhaps, to survive.

Fun In India

IN the market square of an Indian town a platoon of a famous British Infantry regiment stood back to back, nervously fingering their rifles.

On one side of them, separated only by a white tape, was a howling mob of Mohammedans, on the other an angry crowd of Hindus, each bent on destroying the other. One false move and many would die.

The high standard of living the Americans enjoyed in their own Army contributed to their prisoners' downfall, making them take hardly to the rigours of an Asiatic prison-camp. The absence of flush toilets and pills disheartened many. Many refused to eat the food provided because it was not what they were used to, and laid themselves open to illness and death from malnutrition. For this, too, training could have prepared them.

The soldiers gripped their rifles more tightly and prepared to sell their lives dearly.

Then, out of the chill silence came a single joyous shout of laughter which, like the flames of a forest fire, swept through the two mobs. As the joke was passed on men doubled up with laughter and, Hindu and Mohammedan, their quarrel forgotten, went their separate ways home.

The danger was over—which was just as well because the officer in charge of the platoon had forgotten to issue his men with ammunition!

This is one of the stories told by George Foster, a former Regular Army officer, in his highly amusing and excellently written "Indian File" (Michael Joseph, 13s 6d). All the stories are set in India during those pre-war days when it was fun to serve under the British Raj.

Set A Gang To Catch A Gang

A GANG of Mau Mau terrorists was resting in a hut when three more Kikuyu walked in. One newcomer, who claimed to be a senior Mau Mau officer, demanded news of the gang leader's whereabouts.

Then he noticed two of the men in the hut were drunk, in defiance of the strict Mau Mau rules. At once he held a trial, the two men narrowly avoided the death sentence and on the order of the "officer" were flogged and fined.

After that, with the information he wanted, and the fine, the "officer" and his henchmen walked out, to join a British officer and warrant officer nearby.

It was one of the early pseudo-gang operations in the anti-Mau Mau campaign in Kenya. The British officer was Major Frank Kitson of the Rifle Brigade, the man who started the pseudo-gangs and who tells their story in "Gangs and Counter-gangs" (Barrie and Rockliff, 25s).

The pseudo-Mau Mau officer was a reformed Mau Mau man, as were the leaders of most of the later pseudo-gangs. It was a case of set thief to catch a thief, and it worked well. Africans who had joined Mau Mau in search of adventure, rather than from conviction, were happy to continue an adventurous life from the other side of the fence.

The author went to Kenya for intelligence work and was attached to the police Special

Branch. It was a vague enough assignment and he and his colleagues were told that if they could not be of use, please to keep out of the way.

A few stories of gullible Mau Mau, who would accept at his face value anyone who looked like a Kikuyu and seemed friendly, sowed the seed of the pseudo-gang idea. The purpose was to seek information for the security forces, not to attack, which would have given away the ruse to any Mau Mau who escaped.

It did not always work out like that, however. Once the author's right-hand man, Warrant Officer Eric Holyoak, with another European, was leading a party which bumped into a gang at rest. The patrol was nearly over and the two Europeans were not disguised. Unhesitatingly, Holyoak led his men, six in all, in a charge against the gang, which numbered 64. Reasoning that not even an Englishman would charge in the face of such odds, the gangsters fled, leaving four dead and some useful documents, and taking some wounded with them.

The author went out on a number of patrols himself but, because

of his lack of local languages and the difficulty of disguise, usually played a minor part. Once, however, his white skin came in useful. His party did what all pseudo-gangs dreaded and tried to avoid: they ran into a security forces patrol. The appearance of a white man saved a tragic clash.

One of the difficulties of the intelligence organisation was to stop the over-enthusiasm of the security forces from destroying evidence. Once the author found himself in a swamp, under heavy fire, searching a dying terrorist for documents before the Kikuyu guard could get at him and strip him. On another occasion, African women, shoulder-to-shoulder, were advancing through a wood cutting the undergrowth to hunt terrorists. When the first were flushed, the women hacked at the bodies and scattered the bits before they could be recognised. When the author saw the next man shot down, he flung himself on the body before the women could get at it, and was nearly hacked himself.

Major Kitson earned a Military Cross for his work in Kenya. When it was finished, he went to Malaya and earned a bar to the medal for work against the Communist terrorists.

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"The Leader of Our Finest Hour"

After so many books on the high-level conduct of World War Two, another on the war-time premiership of Sir Winston Churchill might seem superfluous.

Lewis Broad's "The War that Churchill Waged" (*Hutchinson, 35s*), is, in fact, a useful addition to the lore of those momentous times. It adds little to the inside stories that have already been told, but it collates them into a concise and balanced account.

Coming after a spate of biographies which tend to show Sir Winston as a wayward initiator of wildcat schemes, whose advisors had to waste time restraining him, it is a timely reminder of the many occasions he was proved completely right.

History has vindicated his insistence in reinforcing the Middle East when fainter-hearted men would have kept every available soldier and weapon in Britain to repel the expected invasion; his refusal to launch the invasion of France in 1942; his demand for the invasion of Madagascar; his order, in the dark days of 1940, for land-

ing craft to be planned ready for a return to Europe; his inspiration of the Mulberry harbours; his demands for continuing the war in the Mediterranean after the invasion of Sicily.

Coming, too, after so much publicity has been given to the differences between the British and Americans, it is a healthy reminder of the genuine goodwill and co-operation that existed between the two nations and their armed services. No British soldier should forget that the American Army robbed its own troops of the brand-new



The soldier-statesman with the front-line spirit in characteristic pose. He led Britain in her finest hour.

Sherman tank, to send the first batch from the factories to strengthen Eighth Army, then falling back to Alamein after Tobruk had been surrendered to Rommel.

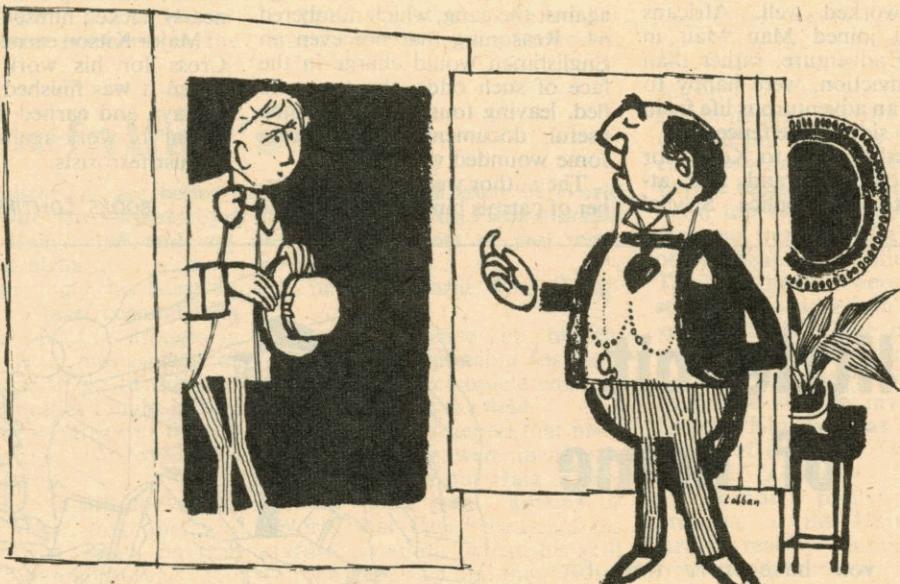
No man has been better fitted to lead a nation at war than Sir Winston. Sandhurst, active service as a soldier and war correspondent, First Lord of the Admiralty in World War One, the study of military history, inventiveness, stubbornness, and offensive spirit—these were only some of his qualifications. The Prime Minister who pried into the loading of the invasion fleets did not do so without cause. He remembered only too well that muddled loading had landed troops on the beaches of Gallipoli without essential stores.

He was a Prime Minister with a front-line spirit. Deprived of a front-row view of the Normandy invasion, by Royal command, he was off the beaches in a destroyer as soon as it could be managed—and demanded that his ship should join in the bombardment. He contrived to come under fire on the Rhine, and went ashore in Athens, then racked by civil war, armed with a revolver.

While the soldier-statesman was fighting Britain's military battles, he was also engaged in the fields of diplomacy and supervising the home front. There was many a skirmish in the House of Commons. One of his many unorthodox moves was to appoint Sir James Grigg, the Permanent Under-Secretary, to be Secretary of State for War—the first Civil Servant to succeed his political chief. One Member of Parliament, a major-general, could not bring himself to give Sir James the title of his new office and described him as "The new official in charge of the War Office."

Sir Winston's, says the author, was "the leadership of our finest hour." The Army may be proud not only to have served under that leadership, but that much of the experience and wisdom that made it successful was gained in its ranks.

It's different now



I rose. "Good morning", I said, and stepped into the safe.

"Come out", said the bank manager coldly.

(LITERARY LAPSSES, 1910)

There was some truth in it when Stephen Leacock wrote his uproarious sketch of a nervous man's first encounter with a big city bank. In those days a first-timer had need to bring some self-assurance with him to meet the august protocol of a banking hall.

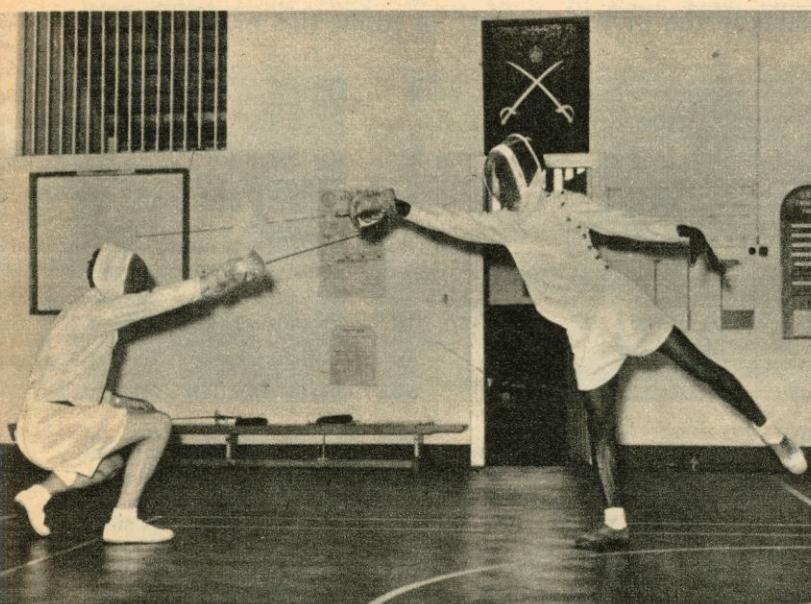
How different today—when people drop in at their Lloyds Bank branches as unconcernedly as they would enter a coffee-bar . . . can even be seen

emerging from the manager's room with the complacent look of one who has just borrowed a modest sum on most favourable terms . . .

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CSMI Sowden (left) cleverly avoids a lunge by Corporal Yussof bin Hussain, new Far East Land Forces épée champion. Both belong to the Sapper team.

A HAT-TRICK FOR THE SINGAPORE SAPPERS

THE Far East Land Forces fencing championships this year proved a triumph for the Singapore Engineer Regiment which won the inter-unit title for the third year in succession, a record never before achieved by any unit.

It was a triumph, too, for the Regiment's 27-year-old Malayan Corporal Yussof bin Hussain. Although he has been fencing for only a year he won the épée event and was runner-up in the Champion-at-Arms contest.

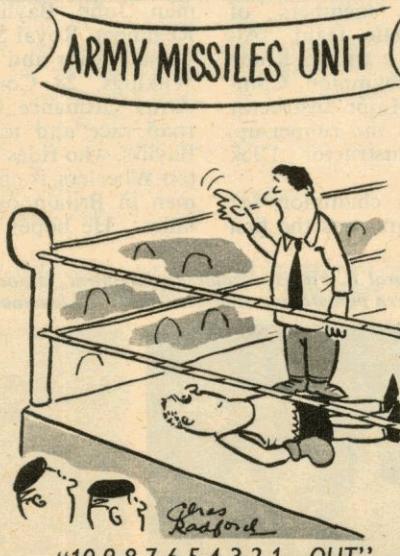
Two other members of the Singapore Base District Fencing Club scored successes—Captain R. J. McCarter, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, being runner-up and Company Sergeant-Major Instructor W. Sowden, Army Physical Training Corps, third in the foils.

The standard of fencing in

Army units in Singapore is higher than ever before, thanks largely to innovations in training introduced by the Singapore Base Fencing Club secretary, Captain T. J. Paterson, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, and the hours of instruction given to novices by CSMI Sowden.

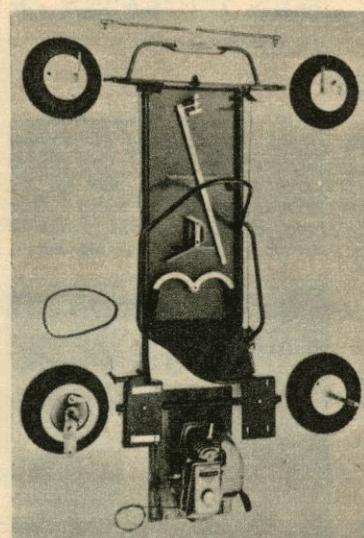
Many Malaysians have taken up the sport, especially in the Singapore Infantry Regiment which finished third in the recent Base District team championships.

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SOLDIERS IN A

British soldiers will compete in the Olympic Games in Rome this month as they

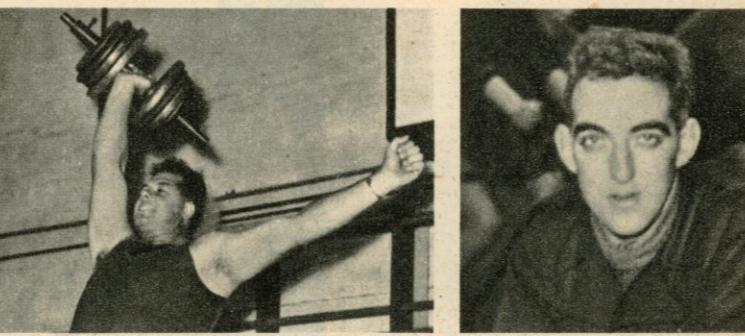


Left: Lance-Corporal J. Dixon, of the Royal Signals (he stands 6ft 7ins in his socks) may be Britain's Olympic basketball centre-half.

Right: 19-stone Private Hillman, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, holder of five British weight-lifting titles, may pit his strength against all-comers. Far right: Pte Roger Wilkins, one of Britain's Olympic cycling hopes.



Above: Private Jim Lloyd, RASC, the Army's welter-weight champion, is the only soldier selected to represent Britain at boxing.



WHEN the competitors march into the Rome arena one day this month to herald the opening of the 17th Olympiad, soldiers will be among the ranks of Britain's top athletes—as they have been in every modern Olympic Games since the fourth was held in London in 1908.

In past Olympic Games soldiers like Lieutenant-Colonel Harry Llewellyn, Lieutenant Lord Burghley, Sergeant Jack Gardner and Sergeant-Instructor Bill Nankeville have enhanced Britain's sporting prestige. Will the 1960 Games produce another Army star?

The chances are fair for, although the team selections had not been completed by the time SOLDIER went to press, more than 20 soldiers had been short-listed to take part in 14 events.

Since Britain was first represented in the modern pentathlon event in 1930 each Olympics team has included at least one soldier.

This year the Army may provide four representatives—Lieutenant J. H. Shelbourne, 18 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery; Lieutenant P. J. Harvey, 2nd Royal Tank Regiment; Corporal F. B. Finnis, Middlesex Regiment; and Lance-Corporal L. D. Collum, Life Guards.

Lieutenant Harvey has been Army champion for the last three years and Corporal Finnis was a British team reserve in the 1959 world championships.

The Army Physical Training Corps will provide at least two, possibly three, members of Britain's gymnastic team. Already certain of a trip to Rome are the British champion, Company Sergeant-Major Instructor Nick Stuart and the runner-up, Staff-Sergeant Instructor Dick Bradley.

Stuart, British champion for the last four years, was the first

soldier to represent Britain as a gymnast in the Games—at Melbourne in 1956. He was fifth in last year's European championships—the best ever by a Briton.

Also well in the Olympic reckoning is Staff-Sergeant Instructor Jack Pancott, who recently became the first in Britain to demonstrate a double somersault from horizontal bars.

Two Army athletes on the short list are Company Sergeant-Major Instructor Eric Cleaver, Army Physical Training Corps (who has broken his own Army discus record every year for the past six years and at the end of last season produced an all-time best of 172 feet 5 inches), and Lance-Corporal Ben Grubb, 14/20th Hussars, the Inter-Services steeplechase champion and Army cross-country champion.

The Army's only boxing representative will be Private Jim Lloyd, 3 Training Battalion, Royal Army Service Corps. This young Army welterweight champion and English international has won all but 15 of his 160 bouts.

Two Army cyclists have been short-listed for Rome—Signaller John Bayliss, 8 Signals Regiment, Royal Signals, for the pursuit team and Private Roger Wilkins, 28 Company, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, for the road race and team time trial. Bayliss, who rides for Southampton Wheelers, is one of the fastest men in Britain over 25 and 50 miles. He hopes for a place in

Cheer up chum . . .

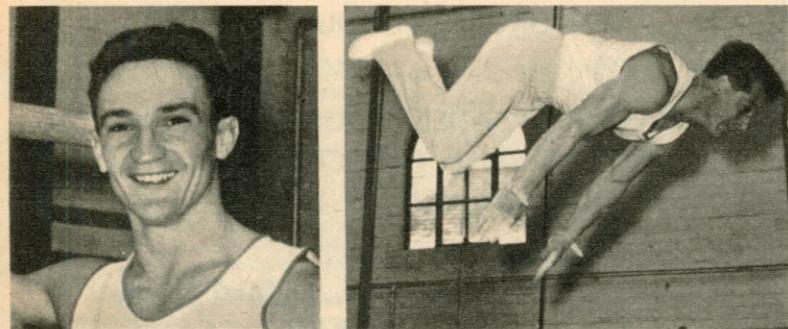


Below (left): Corporal F. Finnis, Middlesex Regiment, is one of four soldiers in line for the modern pentathlon. Another (right) is Lieutenant P. J. Harvey.



ROMAN ARENA

have done since 1908. More than 20 have been short-listed for 14 events



Left: Two gymnasts who will perform in Rome. They are SSI Dick Bradley (far left) and (airborne) the British champion, CSM Nick Stuart. Both are members of the Army Physical Training Corps.

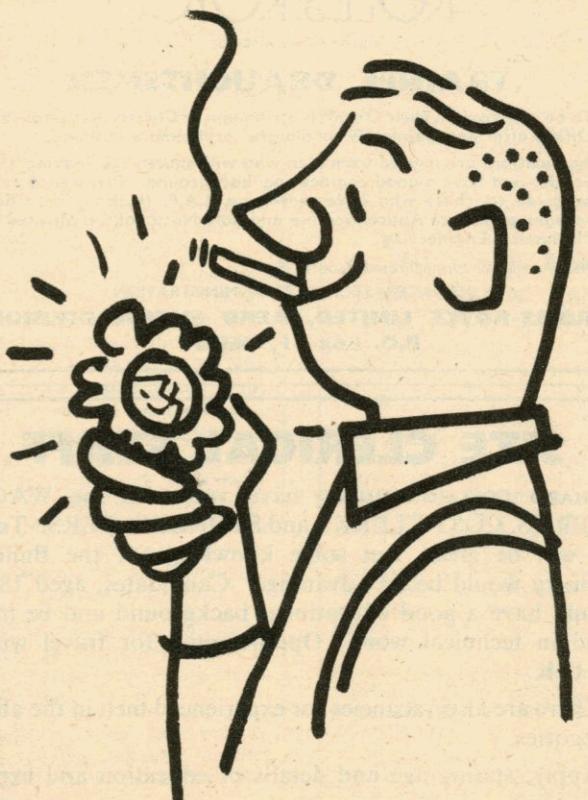
Capt J. Moore, RA, has already competed. In the Winter Olympic Games he skied faster than any other Briton has ever done in the 15-kilometre cross-country race.



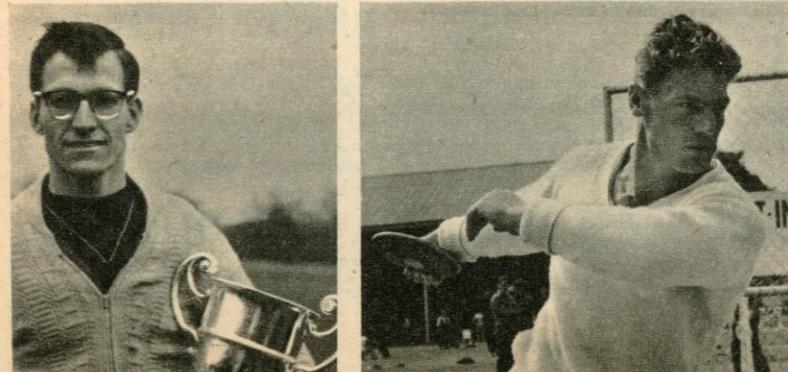
Lieut M. Howard, Army Champion-at-Arms last year, was in Britain's fencing team in the 1956 Games. He may be selected again.



Have a Capstan



Below (left): L/Cpl B. Grubb may be chosen for the cross-country event. Right: CSM Eric Cleaver, Army champion, who is short-listed for the discus event.



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L * E * T * T * E * R * S

"USE THE TROOPS"

The news that, despite the recent pay rise, recruits are still not joining up in sufficient numbers prompts me to wonder where the idea arose that a weekly increase in pay giving an extra seven shillings a week to privates and nearly £11 to generals would attract recruits, especially as it seems to be getting increasingly difficult for men to gain commissions from the ranks.

I would suggest that the best way to attract recruits is to use the troops we already have as an advertisement. But this cannot be done until a really genuine attempt is made to find out why some troops are discontented.

I have always regarded the battle-dress, for instance, as both uncomfortable and unsightly, and I breathed a sigh of relief when I saw the announcement that new uniforms are to be issued soon. And then we find that a blue No. 1 dress hat is to be worn with a khaki uniform! Who is voluntarily going to walk out in such a combination?

The issue of raincoats is still only "under consideration" and, if approved, the question of whether the greatcoat is to be retained is to be considered. Surely the time has come to admit that the weather varies equally between wet and dry, or hot and cold, for both officers and other ranks.—"Sergeant," London.

TA AIDES-DE-CAMP

How many Territorial aides-de-camp to The Queen are there and how are they selected?—G. W. Noakes, Halfway House, The Avenue, Hale, Cheshire.

★ There are 24 Aides-de-Camp to The Queen, appointed from either the Army Emergency Reserve or the Territorial Army. Vacancies are allocated to Commands for nomination by the GOCs-in-C.

FOUR-IN-ONE

Four brothers were on parade recently when the Queen's and Regimental Colours of our Battalion were laid-up at the Garrison Church, North Sydney.

The Battalion Commander, Lieut-Col. D. H. Wade-Ferrell MC, was the eldest, No. 1 Company was commanded by Major T. F. Wade-Ferrell with Major R. M. Wade-Ferrell as his 2 i/c and the youngest, Captain E. J. C. Wade-Ferrell, was a No. 1 Company Guard Officer.

This family representation in the one Battalion is considered a record in Australian military circles and we are wondering how it stands with the British Army.—Major R. M. Wade-Ferrell, 17/18 Infantry Battalion, North Shore Regiment, Sydney, Australia.

★ Any advance on four?

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● **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.

STEEL HELMETS

No steel helmets are shown in early action pictures of any of the Allied or Central Powers armies in World War One, yet by 1917 or 1918 their use seems to have been fairly general on all fronts.

When, and by whom, was the steel helmet, as we know it today, first used?—"Diehard," Highgate.

★ The modern type of steel helmet came into use chiefly due to the efforts of the French General Adrian. In December, 1914, after being told by a wounded man: "I had my metal mess-bowl in my hat and it saved my life," General Adrian had a steel calotte (skull-cap) made to put inside his own cap and from this he developed a steel helmet.

In May, 1915, a complete helmet was issued to the French Army made from dies used for firemen's helmets. The British Army adopted the steel helmet in late 1915, the German Army at about the same time and the Belgians and Italians in 1916.

ICH DIEN

The motto "Ich Dien" (SOLDIER, June) is Flemish and the Black Prince derived it from his mother, Philippa of Hainault. The complete wording, as can be seen over his tomb in Canterbury Cathedral, is "Houmout Ich Dien" (I Serve Honour).

The ostrich plumes were borne heraldically by all the male Plantagenets, but the tincture is according to rank.—G. E. Bass, 18 Richborne Terrace, London, S.W.8.

F-M ROSS

In the old Galeras Fort that guards the entrance to Cartagena harbour is a white marble tombstone carrying the inscription: "Here lies the body of Andres Ross, Field-Marshal of the Armies of His Britannic Majesty. He died in this castle on 28th November, 1812, at the age of 42 years."

Who was Field-Marshal Ross?—Brigadier P. H. Graves-Morris, Military Attaché, British Embassy, Madrid.

★ The tombstone is almost certainly that of Major-General Andrew Ross, who died of fever at Cartagena in 1812. He was born in 1773, which would make him 39 at the time of his death and not 42 as inscribed on the tombstone.

CADETS

As a former member of the 1st Cadet Battalion, The Royal Berkshire Regiment, I was very glad to read the article on Army Cadets in your May issue. I count my years as a cadet among the happiest of my youth (I am now 32), and over the years the training has stood me in good stead. I hope to go abroad this summer, and would like to know if I am entitled to wear the Army Cadet Force crest on my blazer?—G. Gardiner, 4 Silver Street, Reading.

★ There is no objection to your wearing the Army Cadet Force crest on your blazer, at home or abroad.

CADET COLOURS

In the article "The Army's Boys are 100 years old" (SOLDIER, May) you say that Eton College Combined Cadet Force is the only cadet unit to have official Colours.

Here, at the Duke of York's Royal Military School, we have both Queen's and School Colours. We troop the Colour at the end of every summer term.—Anthony Shipley, Roberts House, DYRMS, Dover.

★ The Duke of York's Royal Military School appears in the Army List, and is not a member of the Combined Cadet Force.

SCHOOL

I have been told that there is an Army boarding school for the daughters of serving soldiers. Is this correct and where can I obtain further information?—WO II H. F. Pay, 4th/6th Bn. The Royal Berkshire Regt, Newbury.

★ You should write to: The Secretary, Royal Soldiers' Daughters' School, 65/67 Rosslyn Hill, Hampstead, NW3.

BOOTS IN USA

In your excellent magazine (June) you say that the two sergeants walking across the United States from San Francisco to New York were wearing ammunition boots where the going was rough and lightweight Commando boots where the roads were smooth.

In fact, they wore Commando soled and heeled boots for the entire walk. Three pairs were worn alternately and at the end each sole covered more than

LETTERS CONTINUED OVERLEAF

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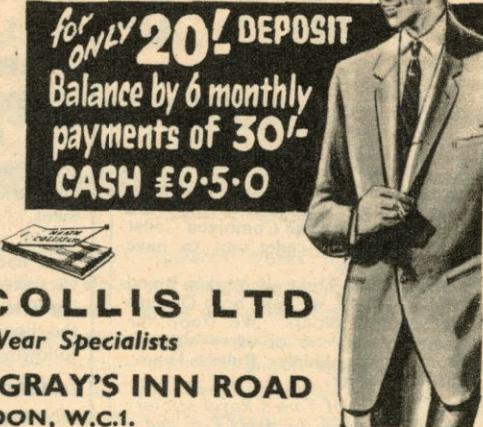
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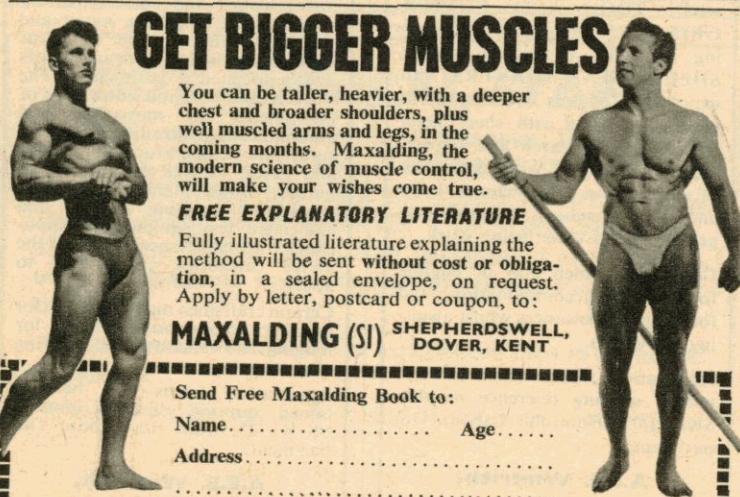


Photo: ROYALE

Photo: WHITE

more letters

1000 miles.—D. J. Brewster, Group Press Officer, ITS Rubber Ltd., London, W.1.

★ Staff-Sergeant Instructor Mervyn Evans, aged 33, Army Physical Training Corps, and Flt-Sgt. Patrick Maloney, RAF (34), both instructors at the Airborne Forces Depot, Aldershot, marched 3050 miles across the United States in 67 days, breaking the 34-year-old record by 12 days.

CROSSING RIVERS

In SOLDIER (March) you told how a vehicle was floated across a river by a new method.

Readers may like to know that as long ago as 1935 the 51st Battery of 10th Field Brigade, Royal Artillery, floated an Austin Seven across the Basingstoke Canal during the making of a training film—J. S. Gordine, 140 New Road, Bedfont, Middlesex.

SPECIAL WOS

I am puzzled over Queen's Regulations 1955 paragraph 393(b), which states that a Staff Sergeant-Major 1st Class, RASC; a Staff Sergeant-Major, RASC; a Conductor, RAOC, or a Sub-Conductor, RAOC, will do duty as a subaltern when required, may sit on such inquiries or boards as may be authorised and on parade will take post as an officer. What is there special about these warrant officers?—WO I D. Goddard (SMAC), HQ Northern Command, York.

★ One of the major responsibilities of the RASC and RAOC is store-accounting, and it was found necessary many years ago to employ their most senior warrant officers on such duties in lieu of officers. This also served to prepare them (or test their fitness) for appointment as Regular Quartermasters. It is not unlikely that this practice may be revived. The employment of such warrant officers on other (part time) officer duties would, therefore, be a natural development of this arrangement.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

The two pictures vary in the following respects: 1. Ear cover of No. 3 driver. 2. Lines on marker drum, top right. 3. Rear wheel hub of No. 6. 4. Left foot rest of No. 17. 5. Shape of No. 4's number plate. 6. Height of No. 3's seat. 7. Chimney on right-hand hut. 8. Cloud above mountain. 9. Collar of No. 4 driver. 10. Badge above goggles of No. 17.

PRIZEWINNERS

The winners of SOLDIER's "Who Are They?" competition in June were:

1. Capt. R. McLelland, Royal Hamilton Light Inf. (WR) (Militia), Hess St. South, Hamilton, Ontario.
2. WO II D. Duff, HQ Adv. Base Ord. Depot, BFPO 40.
3. WO II G. K. Lawson, 152 (Inkerman) Loc. Bty., RA, BFPO 24.
4. Sgt. D. Thom, 2 RTR, BFPO 57.
5. Lt. R. A. Maine, 3 Alexandra Rd., Clevedon, Somerset.
6. WO II M. Giles, 230 Signal Sqn., Seremban, Malaya.

The correct answers were: 1. General Sir Richard Gale. 2. F-M Sir Claude Auchinleck. 3. Marshal of the RAF Lord Tedder. 4. F-M Lord Alexander. 5. Earl Attlee. 6. F-M Lord Montgomery. 7. F-M Lord Alanbrooke. 8. Lord Beaverbrook.

IT'S A GASSER!

We of the Public Information Division, Southern European Task Force, read SOLDIER with great interest.

I particularly enjoyed the Tombstone hanging story in the February issue as I was assigned there at the time.

Before D-Day I spent a year in England and have the utmost respect and admiration for the people of your country.

Keep up the good work with your splendid magazine. It's a gasser!—SFC C. J. Lambert, HQ SETAF, US Forces APO 168.

★ Gee, thanks! (A "gasser" is a highly complimentary term meaning "smasher.")

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS

Executive Class examination for ex-Forces candidates, June 1961 (Basic grade rises to £1,140); good promotion opportunities. Clerical Class examination for ex-Forces candidates, October 1960 and October 1961. Officer of Customs and Excise, 18-22, with allowance for Forces service (Basic grade rises to £1,285)—examination in March 1961; also Assistant Preventive Officer (Customs and Excise), 19-21, with allowance for Forces service—examination in February 1961. Write to:

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