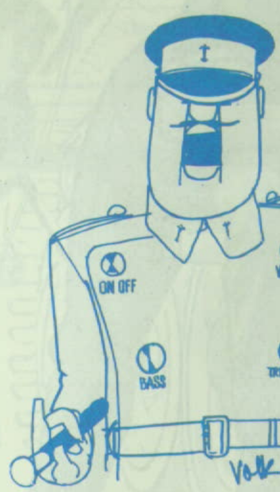
JANUARY 1965 ★ One Shilling

SOLDIER

SOLDIER

JANUARY 1965 Volume 21, No. 1

Contents



Next month's SOLDIER will include features on patrolling the Iron Curtain and the last of the *Churchill* tanks. Featured in the "Your Regiment" series will be the Welsh Guards.

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IN A POLITICALLY-INSPIRED TERRORIST WAR ONE MAN, ABOVE ALL OTHERS, IS INVALUABLE TO HELP FIGHT IT. HE IS THE BRITISH SOLDIER

THE PROTECTORS

Alert and ever-watchful, soldiers on round-the-clock patrols guard "targets" ranging from a factory to a sleeping child.

PIERCING screams rent the humid night air in a tiny palm-fringed village in British Guiana. Nearby a patrol of The Queen's Own Buffs swung into action. Bursting into a house the Buffs found a terrorist slashing a terrified 16-year-old girl and her three-month-old baby sister with a sugar-cane cutlass.

The soldiers jumped on the man, tore the cutlass from his hand and dragged him off to the police while the girl and baby were rushed to a hospital where their lives were saved.

It was a sickening, heart-searing incident—but a routine job for "The Protectors," the 1200-strong force of British soldiers who are keeping the peace in the turbulent sugar colony on the north-east coast of South America.

Gritting his teeth and smothering his personal emotions like no other soldier in the world can, the British soldier is helping local police in their war against political extremists who have killed nearly 200 people, injured 1000 and burned 1500 homes and other buildings in a wave of terror that has gripped the colony for nearly a year.

It is not a pleasant job and British Guiana is no tropical paradise—it is flat, hot and hostile. The colony's uneasy peace crumbled early last year when politically-contrived racial violence between

the Indian and African residents resulted in wide-spread brutal murders of civilians and burning down of property.

Only the urgent arrival of British troops restored calm and now it is their unbending vigilance, tact and perserverance which keep the place calm.

Last month the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Buffs, finished its tour of duty in the colony and returned home in time for Christmas. The Buffs were replaced by 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, who flew out to join 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

With 43 (Lloyd's Company) Medium Battery, Royal Artillery, serving in an Infantry role, the two Infantry battalions are dovetailed with other minor units into a security force, under the command of Colonel Robert de Lisle King, which includes the colony's armed civilian police and the baton-carrying Home Guard, recruited and trained by the Army.

In humid temperatures which seldom fall below 80 degrees Fahrenheit, round-the-clock patrols keep constant vigil in the streets of the capital, Georgetown, in wood hut villages and over fields of rice and sugar cane dotted along the 500-mile palm-fringed seaboard. They guard "targets" ranging from a sprawling factory to a sleeping child.

It is at night that the real danger exists. Steel-helmeted, their bared bayonets glinting in the moonlight, the patrols watch and wait for the spark that could flare into another outbreak of killings similar to recent incidents when two Africans were machined-gunned and an Indian family of four was wiped out by a political fanatic with a rifle.

Last year arsonists, as well as burning homes, destroyed a church, cinema and hospital and within a few weeks damaged £400,000 worth of sugar cane—the colony's main export.

The kind of nerve-racking task the

THE PROTECTORS

continued

soldiers face is typified by an incident when Gunners of 43 Battery were rushed by helicopter to deal with a house set on fire by terrorists.

They put out the blaze, but as soon as their backs were turned it was lit again. Three times in one night they returned to put out fires in the same house before the arsonist gave up. A week later they returned to the same area and found the house was just a pile of ashes—the terrorist had finally won.

One of the main problems is communication. Roads from Georgetown leading to potential trouble spots peter out into dusty, red earth tracks and in many cases the only route is by helicopter, or boat along the winding inland waterways.

In an effort to beat the fast-moving extremists at their own game, The Queen's Own Buffs formed a mounted troop with horses hired at 2s 1d a day. On mounts with exotic names like Indian Rose and Brown Ruby, the troop, armed with submachine-guns and rifles, penetrated deep into interior swampland impassable to vehicles.

Other units also have to extemporise. Gunners of C Troop, 43 Battery, dropped their Infantry role for a while to become Sappers! They dug and hacked their way for 40 miles along a one-time cattle trail, through jungle swamps and across parched plains, to open it up for heavy Army transport.

Stripped to the waist, they shifted hundreds of tons of white sand, cut back the creeping jungle vegetation and felled

Left: Lieut J Gerrelli leads a Queen's Own Buffs mounted patrol deep into the jungle.

Right: Arrested by soldiers winched down from a helicopter, two murder suspects are taken for questioning.

Below right: Stripped to the waist a soldier guards suspects picked up after a surprise heliborne raid at dawn.

Below left: Patrolling helicopters of the Royal Navy over the sprawling quayside of the capital Georgetown.

A tragically familiar sight in Georgetown—a father and his seven children died in this house at the hands of an arsonist.

giant coconut palms to re-build rotting bridges over alligator and snake-infested rivers and swamps. The whole job was done with spades, axes, cutlasses, hammers and six-inch nails.

Continuing ceaselessly is the search for illegal arms, ammunition and explosives. Home-made shotguns have been discovered in hollow trees or beneath the water of dykes—even the tops of the swaying palms are searched.

One operation was a raid on a house being used as an "arms factory" where rifles were made with crudely carved butts and barrels of old bicycle frames. The spring action of one gun was a mousetrap and the hammer and trigger of another had been taken from a toy revolver.

Much of the Protectors' work is routine. Platoons are scattered as far as 70 miles apart to take charge of selected trouble spots, showing the flag with constant patrols and snap searches of houses, vehicles and river ferries.

One of the Army's great deterrents is the surprise heliborne assault. In one dawn swoop along a 15-mile stretch of riverside settlements, more than 40 murder and arson suspects were captured.

Patrols landed from Royal Air Force and Royal Navy helicopters while *Alouettes* of 24 Recce Flight, Army Air Corps, hovered overhead ready to chase any suspects who made a run for it.

At the same time, more patrols blocked the river, searched all river traffic and commandeered small craft to ferry suspects to a rice mill for interrogation. The skipper of one boat who failed to stop when challenged hurriedly changed his mind after a burst from a *Bren* across his bows. Inland, mounted patrols rounded up suspects in the denser parts of the operational area.

Helicopters can have a hypnotic effect on the locals. Two murder suspects stood transfixed outside a small wood burner's hut in a jungle clearing while six assault pioneers of The Queen's Own Buffs were winched down from a hovering helicopter. The suspects were hooked on to the end of the winch cable, hauled up and flown off for questioning.

As part of toughening up training, many soldiers make the three-day expedition to the wonderful waterfall at Kaieteur where the river thunderously cascades

THE PROTECTORS

concluded

Above: Colonel Robert King, commander of the British forces in British Guiana.

Right: Bomb disposal expert Sgt Mick Coldrick was flown out to dismantle and examine terrorists' home-made bombs.

Below: Gunner Terry Mills working on one of the bridges on the trail opened up by C Troop of 43 Medium Battery.

down a sheer drop of 741 feet—nearly five times the height of Niagara. Millions of pounds worth of diamonds are reputed to be trapped, unattainable, in the basin of the falls.

A break from duty is available at an adventure camp, run by a handful of Devon and Dorsets on the bank of the giant Essequibo river, where soldiers can borrow shot-guns to hunt puma, wild pigs or alligators. They can, too, shoot nearby rapids, swim, fish for flesh-eating pirhana or even hunt vivid butterflies with five-inch wingspans.

Now it is the rainy season in British Guiana. But whatever the climatic conditions, the ever-watchful British soldier still has a vital job to do. Only when the political climate brightens will he be able to relax.

"Handsome", a three-fingered sloth found sleeping in a tree by a patrol, has been adopted as unofficial mascot of H Troop of 43 Battery in British Guiana. The Gunners carried him—still sleeping—back to the sugar plantation housing estate where they are based. "Handsome" is pictured here during a rare moment of wakefulness with Gunner Harry Clarke. And while the Gunners carry on their battle against political extremists, "Handsome" carries on sleeping!

SCOUTS OVER BORNEO

A NEW and menacing bird appeared in the jungles of Borneo early last year. It was the *Scout*, the Army's latest and most successful helicopter and the first to be designed with the Army specifically in mind.

In the battle against Indonesian terrorists, the *Scout* is proving invaluable. Highly manoeuvrable, it can land in tiny jungle clearings or on river sandbanks once marked only by the paw prints of animals.

To a lonely patrol sweating and hacking through the *ulu*, the *Scout* is a reassuring lifeline. The patrol leader can talk a *Scout* down to his position if he needs help or supplies or has a casualty to be evacuated.

The *Scout's* great advantage is that it is tailor-made for the Army. Its jet engine, mounted to the rear of the cabin, is left exposed for easier maintenance and can be replaced in a couple of hours.

With a top speed of 132 miles an hour and a range of 330 miles, it can carry five passengers in comfort, 1000 pounds of cargo internally or 1400 pounds underslung. Fears that in the heat of Borneo the *Scout* would suffer a fall off in power have proved groundless.

It was 656 Squadron, Army Air Corps, based in South Malaya, which was first issued with *Scouts* last year. The Squadron's operational area is vast—if it were based in England it would stretch from Iceland well into Russia with occasional exercises at the North Pole!

Army pilots of the Squadron—irreverently nicknamed "Teenie-Weenie Airways"—have had some hair-raising adventures with their *Scouts*.

Here SOLDIER presents the story of a few weeks in the lives of two flights of Teenie-Weenie Airways . . .

On a wet and misty morning off the coast of Sarawak, 14 Flight took off from the deck of a tank landing craft and made history as the first Army Air Corps Flight to be launched at sea as a unit.

The five *Scouts* flew up-river to their new home at Kuching and to a new job to help keep order against bands of Indonesian infiltrators and the Chinese CCO—Clandestine Communist Organisation.

Their territory ranged from rubber tree plantations to dense vegetation with trees

An Army Air Corps *Scout* helicopter hovers over a jungle clearing. This is typical of the terrain in which the *Scouts* operate in Johore, Borneo or Sarawak.

up to 200 feet high, their missions from artillery spotting to photo reconnaissance to casualty evacuation.

Pages of the Flight diary tell the story: ". . . five Gurkhas of 1st/6th Gurkha Rifles were killed in a night attack . . . two *Scouts* flew into the area and landed on grass covered with little red flags—unexploded Indonesian mortar bombs."

Three days later—"About 100 Indonesians were terrorising a *kampong* at Tepoi and burned down the schoolmaster's house. A *Scout* was quickly in the air, picked up the colonel of a Malay battalion and shot off to investigate, but the raiders had disappeared."

During the following month Indonesian raids in border areas continued. They attacked forward platoon bases and unprotected *kampongs*, always withdrawing across the border before dawn.

"A casualty from a Green Jackets border patrol was evacuated today. The *Scout* landed on a steep ridge hastily cleared of jungle and the wounded rifleman was back in his base in ten minutes."

Thirty-seven days after arrival the diary proudly records "200 hours flown on operations to date" and a few days later records that, after an incident, a *Scout* pilot flew in "in time to see three Indonesian bodies brought in slung under bamboo poles—they had been killed by a section of Royal Ulster Rifles."

Then a *Scout* was fired at for the first time and the diary records: "Every time we are operating near the border now we establish contact with the ground and they warn the pilot if any firing is heard from over the border. The pilot would otherwise not know he was being fired at until he was hit. And then," adds the laconic diarist, "it may be too late."

During the Flight's first four months in Sarawak its *Scouts* were used in virtually every role for which they were designed and the Army pilots had a unique opportunity of seeing longhouse village life.

The dubious honour of being the first

It happened in JANUARY

Day		Year
1	Labour Exchanges Act came into operation	1910
8	Battle of New Orleans	1815
10	Penny Post introduced in Britain	1840
10	Treaty of Versailles ratified in Paris	1920
19	Captain Wilkes discovered Antarctic coast	1840
20	First assembly of the House of Commons	1265
24	Naval Battle of the Dogger Bank	1915
26	General Gordon assassinated at Khartoum	1885
26	India proclaimed a Republic within the Commonwealth	1950
29	King George III died	1820

unit to occupy Long Pa Sia, a remote jungle fortress in Borneo only eight miles from the Indonesian border, fell to 10 Flight, Army Air Corps. It arrived after Sappers of 68 Independent Gurkha Field Squadron had toiled for six months to clear the area with equipment dropped to them by the Royal Air Force.

Long Pa Sia is in the middle of dense jungle and three weeks' trek from the nearest civilisation. The Flight's main task involves movement of supplies and soldiers and supporting the Central Brigade.

The pilots flew out to their jungle home without accurate maps or radio facilities and much of their subsequent navigation had to be done on memory and good luck! Things became a little tricky at times as Staff-Sergeant Purcell discovered when flying three Gurkha platoon commanders on a recce for a patrol.

At a village clearly marked on his map as being a half a mile "our" side of the border he discovered that its ownership was disputed, a fact emphasised by the sudden appearance of several bullet holes in his helicopter. He executed a quick about-turn and landed safely in the nearest clearing, escaping with nothing worse than facial cuts from splintered glass.

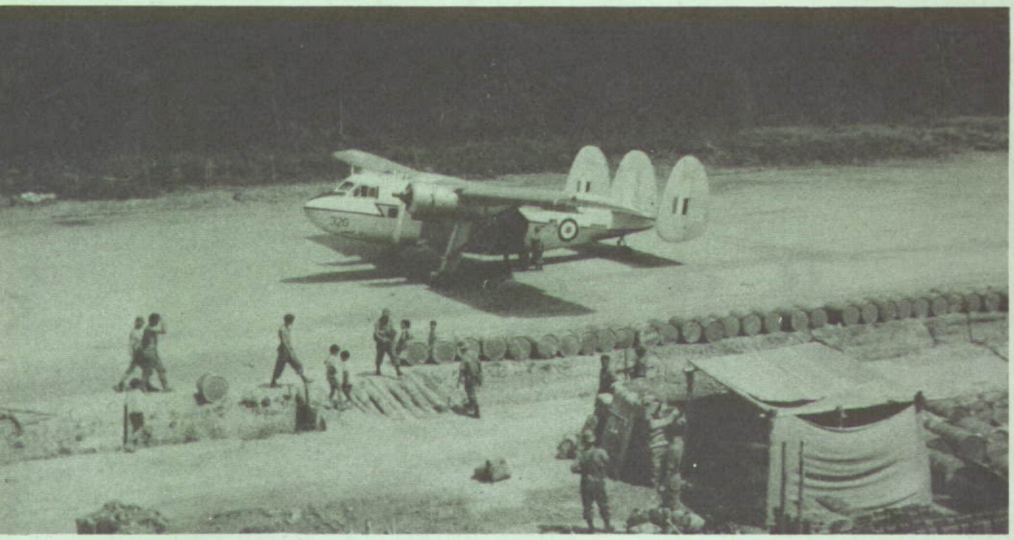
While the daily flying tasks are being carried out the remainder of the Flight spend their time improving the defences of the fortress, built entirely of wood, bamboo, tarpaulin and sandbags. All supplies are dropped by parachute and the accuracy of the Royal Air Force comes in for plenty of praise—not only have they to hit the airstrip but miss the camp and parked aircraft. The only real tragedy was the week when the NAAFI supplies disappeared into the jungle!

The average day's flying tasks see perhaps three of the five *Scouts* in use. One may have been involved in a trooplift of 40 soldiers up to 30 miles; another in flying a company commander and his platoon commanders on recces for forthcoming patrols; while a third perhaps resupplied three platoons.

Once after an Indonesian raid, two *Scouts* were called on to lift Gurkhas into an area between the raiders and the border. The operation started in the evening and meant the pilots flying to a clearing at the bottom of a very steep valley. It was a one-way low, snaking approach culminating in a deep hole in the trees.

By the time the second lift had started it was dark and the two pilots had a hair-raising trip home, landing safely with the help of a hastily-laid flarepath. In the lonely black jungle behind them they had left 16 men, armed to the teeth, to search out the raiders.

This month the Flight is finishing its second spell at Long Pia Sia—a three-month tour of boredom through loneliness and excitement through the thrill of scooting in and out of the jungle at the controls of a *Scout*.



Above: A *Twin Pioneer* brings in Gurkha reinforcements to Long Pa Sia after a nearby Indonesian raid.

Top, left: A Royal Air Force *Beverley* parachutes supplies down to the Army Air Corps, Long Pa Sia.

Left: The airstrip, seen here from a bunker, was built by 68 Independent Gurkha Field Squadron.

Below: The sandbagged ops room at Long Pa Sia and, behind, the sentry tower manned during daytime.

COVER PICTURE

In a bunkhouse in Borneo near the border with Indonesia, a Gurkha soldier waits and watches. His eyes are fixed on the dense green jungle and his finger rests on the trigger guard of his Bren gun—at any second he could be fighting for his life and blazing at terrorists raiding from over the border.

On tour in Germany, Feature Writer Russell Miller and Cameraman Frank Tompsett take a look at 15 Advanced Base Ordnance Depot, Rhine Army's vast equipment storehouse which supplies 50,000 soldiers with almost everything they need . . .

From a button to a Bren gun

EVERY day tons of supplies for British Army of the Rhine are carried by sea and air across the English Channel. This vast two-way traffic—unwanted supplies going home and urgently needed supplies going out—is reaching staggering, record-breaking proportions.

Supplying 50,000 soldiers in today's modern Army with everything they need is a job too enormous for most people to even envisage, let alone tackle.

Yet most of this giant's task is carried out by one unit which spreads its tentacles throughout Rhine Army and jealously guards its hard-won reputation for super-efficiency.

It is 15 Advance Base Ordnance Depot, Royal Army Ordnance Corps. It employs nearly 4000 people to supply British soldiers in Germany with virtually everything they need. Its many storehouses throughout Germany are veritable treasure chests that would even make Aladdin blink.

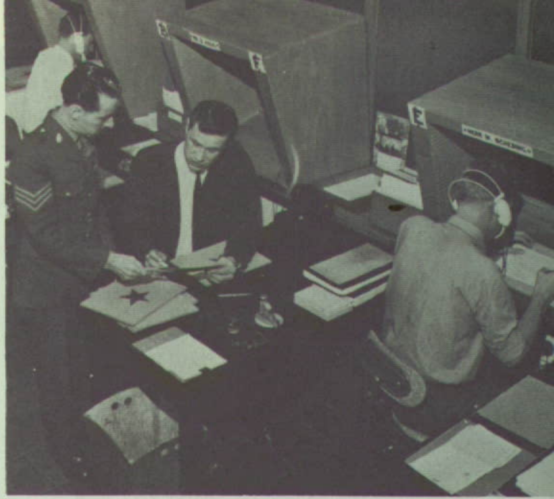
With branches spread over hundreds of miles, the Depot supplies Rhine Army with everything except vehicles and fuel, ammunition, food and medical stores. That means everything from a button to a *Bren* gun.

The Depot is scaled for about 140,000 different items, 85 per cent of which are always in stock. If urgently required, any of these items can be on their way in less than 24 hours—an astonishing tribute to the efficiency of the system.

The nerve centre of the organisation is a vast office, the size of a football pitch, at the headquarters where a small army of civilian clerks work behind desks in serried rows.

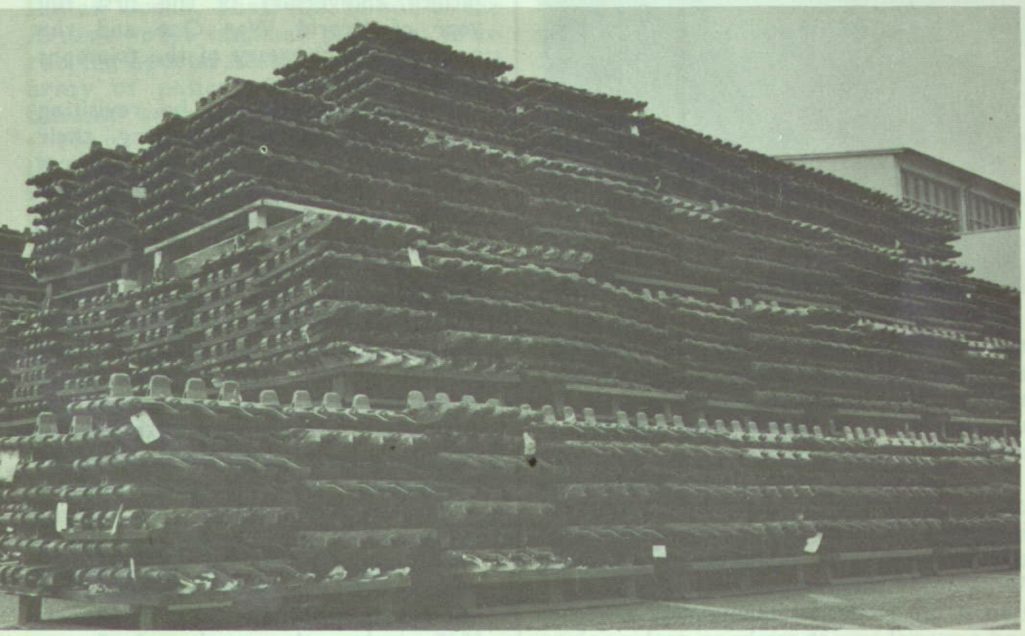
In an atmosphere of ordered calm their job is to deal with all receipts and issues and to keep stock. Key man in this set-up is the senior provision officer, Lieutenant-Colonel E Richardson whose job it is to ensure that all the 140,000 items are both necessary and available.

With a rapidly changing Army, the bits and pieces it needs change just as rapidly and in one month alone the stock of the



Above, left: Unloading generators shipped from Donnington. Above, top: In the Red Star office Sgt L McCrea talks to Mr B Pegg while Mr H Galley and Herr W Scheding receive priority calls. Above: Transmitting demands to the home depots.

Opposite: Staff Quartermaster-Sergeant Raymond Jupp, 1 (Mechanical Transport) Sub-Depot, seen through the centre of 18 three-ton lorry tyres.



Left: A massive stack of palleted tank tracks. Below: Method Two packing. The gadget on the left extracts air from a sealed parcel which is then finally sealed by applying a domestic hot iron.

Depot probably changes by about 500 items.

The time taken to issue a piece of equipment to a unit—whether it is a tiny crystal for a radio set or a huge engine for a tank—is drastically cut down for urgently-required items under the "Red Star" system. Behind a door labelled mysteriously the "Red Star Cell" four clerks working in sound-proof booths spend their day taking orders by telephone.

Items in stock are on their way in an average of 21 hours but the more unusual demands are transmitted to England by teleprinter to one of the ordnance depots in the United Kingdom, where they receive priority treatment.

Most of the urgently needed stores are collected by units from the Depot—during exercises helicopters often land on the square and whisk away supplies.

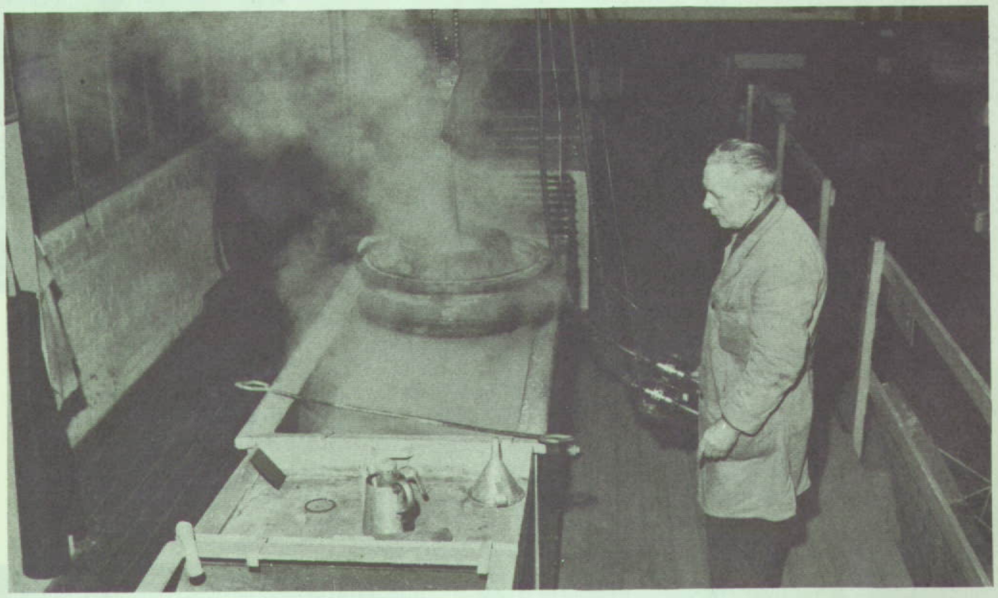
Only about 500 soldiers are employed by the Depot, the remainder are nearly all German civilians. Only a few of these speak good English and ingenious systems have been specially devised to break down language barriers.

From the headquarters the Depot's tentacles stretch far and wide. A rear headquarters in Belgium handles most of the general stores like tables and chairs and holds certain reserves.

At the forward headquarters aircraft spares are held in addition to usual stores.

Above: Cpl B Glen instructing Trade Training Wing students on the layout of a detail stores house.

Below: Treating a *Centurion* idler wheel in the preservation plant of 4 (Returned Stores) Sub-Depot.



Under its wing are the BAOR Printing Unit, which handles all Rhine Army's printing, and two accommodation stores sub-depots.

Final link in the chain is another sub-depot which looks after all the camp stores such as tents and exercise equipment.

The whole organisation is under the command of Colonel C G S Bennett and he has four lieutenant-colonels under him.

Most of the action is, of course, at headquarters. Everything arriving there passes through the bustling traffic branch before being diverted to the appropriate sub-depot.

Stores arrive by road, rail, sea and air. A typical journey is by rail from an ordnance depot in England to the coast, then by ship across the Channel and up the Rhine to Krefeld where trains pick it up once again and shunt it right into the traffic branch's shed.

Two huge sub-depots—1 (Mechanical Transport Spares) Sub-Depot and 3 (Technical Stores) Sub-Depot each deal with the receipt and issue of mechanical transport spares and technical stores and in addition there is a further vast warehouse to receive returned stores.

This is 4 (Returned Stores) Sub-Depot which receives all Rhine Army's unwanted stores. Thousands of tons of unwanted supplies—obsolete equipment, stores made unnecessary through a change of role, a unit move or a dozen other reasons—arrive there every year.

A concentrated work study programme carried out in the sub-depot has resulted in increased efficiency and an annual saving to the Army—and the taxpayer—of £87,000. Work study programmes will be in operation at the Depot for many years to come and a special branch works on nothing else.

Returned stores are either sent back to England, repaired, re-conditioned and put into stock, destroyed or sold locally. Mousetraps, 5.5 inch howitzers, handcuffs or radar equipment—the sub-depot is used to dealing with them all.

Recently two bright red leather slippers issued to the Women's Royal Army Corps were returned and caused much head scratching—they were both right footed!

In addition to the thousand-and-one jobs performed by 15 Advanced Base Ordnance Depot—as if that were not enough—the Depot also runs all the trade training for Royal Army Ordnance Corps clerks and storemen in Rhine Army! But the Depot cannot guarantee taking on anything else.

SOLDIER

TO SOLDIER

THE British soldier's stock has probably never stood higher than today. Last year the Army was constantly in the news, earning a tremendous amount of respect and goodwill, particularly for the part it played abroad—standing between Greek and Turk in Cyprus, guarding the Malaysian border against Indonesian raiders, moving swiftly to prevent the spread of mutinies in East Africa, taming dissidents in the Radfan and winkling out arsonists in British Guiana.

As always the British soldier acted with unflurried impartiality and, often under trying conditions, with more good humour than could reasonably be expected. In a more peaceful role he was there, on the spot, ready to assuage the effects of a natural disaster or give a willing helping hand in many a project to benefit the local population.

Never before can the time have been more propitious than the coming twelve months for attracting recruits.

And the Army will be much closer to the civilian for this is to be a year of nostalgia for millions of ex-Servicemen as ceremonies and reunions mark the fiftieth anniversary of the first full year of World War One and the twentieth anniversary of the triumphs of World War Two.

The old sweats will be revisiting the battlefields and re-living their memories. Today's generation of soldiers will be proudly showing off today's equipment at innumerable displays with a sneaking sympathy for the dads and their two wars and a polite ear for the inevitable "in my day..." gambit.

And the soldier of today will prove that he at least of his much-criticised generation lacks neither moral fibre, alertness, sheer guts nor any of the attributes which have earned the British soldier his place in the history of the world.

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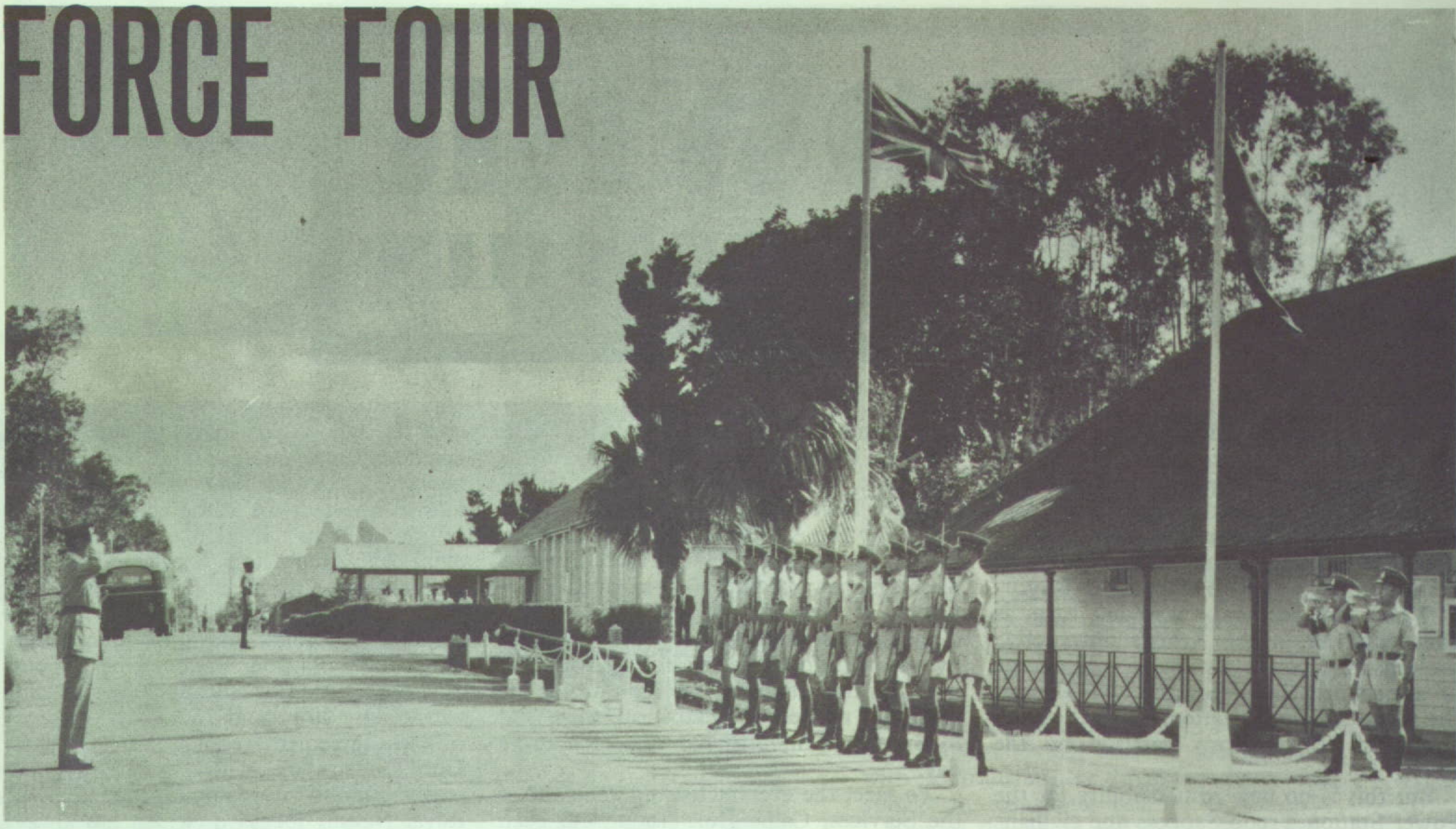
This year, too, is SOLDIER'S own twentieth birthday—the first issue was published on 19 March 1945 under the aegis of Army Welfare Services.

Its sponsorship later passed to the Royal Army Educational Corps and now, after fourteen years, this link has been broken and the magazine has become a part of Army Public Relations.

SOLDIER thanks the Corps for all the collective help it has given and records its appreciation of the countless individuals who, all over the world, have gone out of their way, and out of their sphere, to wrestle with technicalities, or temporarily forsake the classroom for the sales field.

And in saying goodbye, SOLDIER hopes that it will continue to enjoy the Corps' active goodwill and interest.

FORCE FOUR



FOUR British soldiers work for the police force on a remote French-speaking island in the Indian Ocean. Their job, in one of the Army's most unusual postings, is to run the Special Mobile Force, a small army of policemen responsible for internal security on Mauritius.

The government of the island established the Force in 1960 when the British garrison was withdrawn after 150 years. It moved into the former British barracks at Vacoas with seconded British soldiers as commandant and deputy, regimental sergeant-major and weapon training instructor.

The remainder of the Force—three officers and 150 men—are all policemen who serve a tour with the little army and then resume their normal careers with the island's police force.

The beautiful mountainous island of Mauritius is about 1250 miles off the coast of East Africa and has one of the densest populations in the world—717,000 inhabitants for its 720 square miles.

On operations the Special Mobile Force comes under the control of the Commissioner of Police, but the commandant, Major R B Harward, The Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers, is responsible for day-to-day training, discipline and administration.

Organised into a headquarters and two rifle companies, the Force draws its recruits from the police training school. They serve two years—the first six months is basic military training and the remainder is spent on weapon training (under Company Sergeant-Major J Wallder, Grenadier Guards), range work and internal security procedures like ambush drill or cordon-and-sweep.

One of the Force's unusual tasks is to fire ceremonial salutes for visiting ships and on the Queen's birthday. A troop of 25-pounder guns, manned by non-commissioned officers and drivers, does the job.

There is plenty of sport for the policemen-cum-soldiers. They play football, hockey, basketball and volleyball and in addition the Force has its own 20-foot fishing boat fully equipped with sails and outboard motor.

The economy of the island is largely based on sugar production which accounts for 80 per cent of the employment. This is the cyclone season and the whole population is currently praying to be spared another visit this year—in 1960 a cyclone caused millions of rupees worth of damage.

Mainly French speaking, the population comprises many different races and religions, the majority being Crçole, of mixed African and European descent.

Captain M Adkin, The Royal Anglian Regiment, and Regimental Sergeant-Major C E Harthill, 2nd Green Jackets, complete the four-man British contingent, which is administered from Headquarters Middle East at Aden.

Excellent facilities for swimming, fishing and golf and a variable climate make Mauritius a pleasant spot in addition to being an interesting and unusual posting for four British soldiers.

Top: Commander-in-Chief Middle East Land Forces, Lieut-Gen Sir Charles Harington DSO MC, takes a salute from the S(M)F Quarter Guard.

Left: Down on the beach the Force's own saluting troop of 25-pounders, manned by NCOs and drivers, fires a ceremonial salute to a visiting warship.

POWER FROM WITHIN

BY the mere flick of a switch a Sapper corporal can black out Gibraltar's airport and douse the lights on the slightly terrifying and so short-looking runway that crosses the neck of land between the Rock and Spain to jut out into Algeciras Bay.

When the corporal takes his turn as shift engineer in the Army's only active underground power station he is in charge of a network that feeds the civil airport, the Royal Air Force station, a large hospital and most of the Army garrison on the Rock.

But this is no new responsibility for the Power Station Troop Sappers and civilians of 1st Fortress Squadron, Royal Engineers. They have been doing this now for six years and, in emergencies, have even supplied power from within the Rock to the civilian population.

Like their troglodyte brothers of the Squadron's Tunnelling Troop (SOLDIER, October 1964) these Sappers work inside the Rock, in Calpe Hole Power Station.

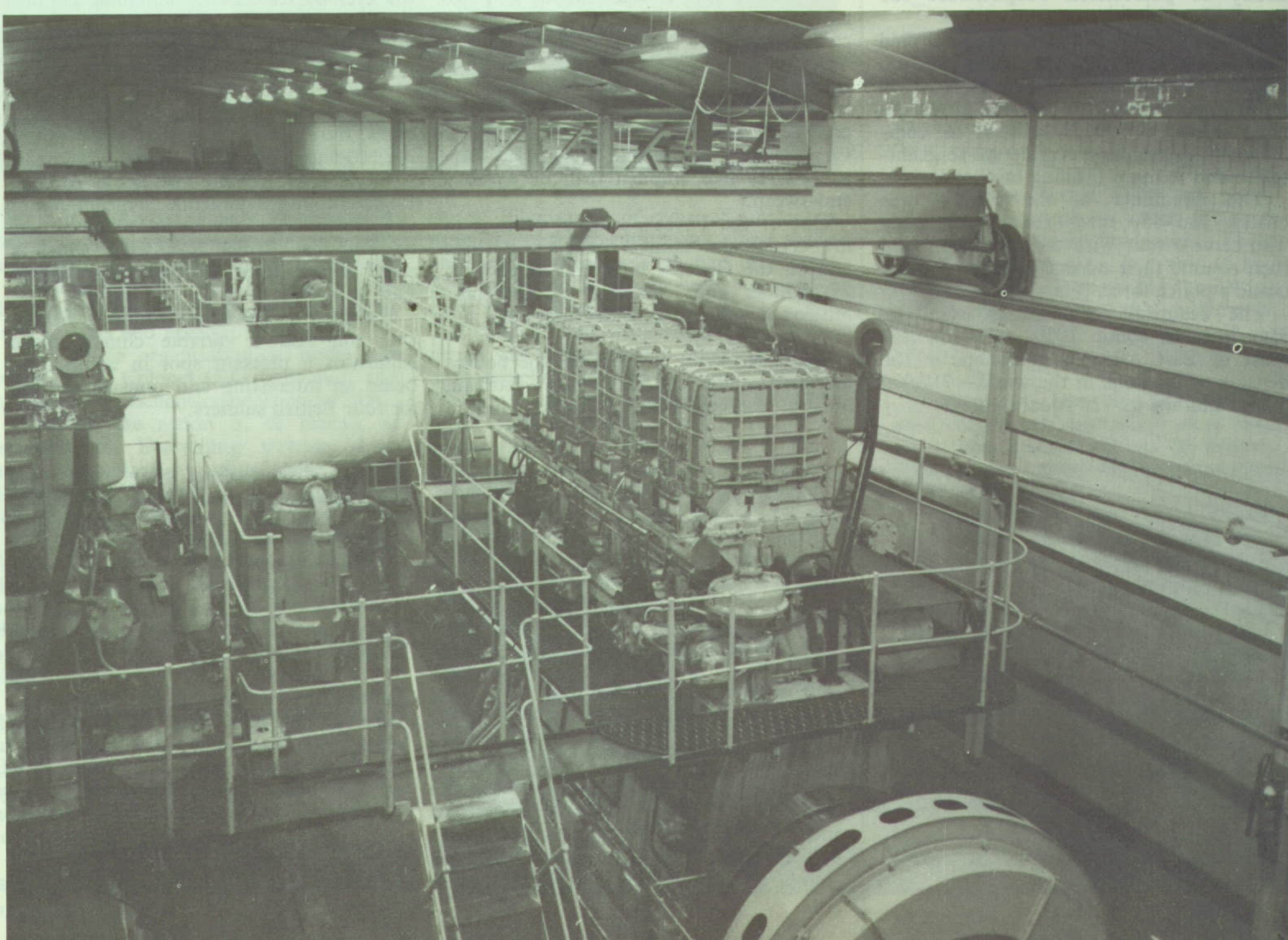
Calpe Hole was installed and commissioned by the Air Ministry Works Department in November 1955 with three Fullagar diesel engines driving 1030-kilowatt alternators at 6600 volts. A year later the capacity was increased to 4000 kilowatts by the addition of a Ruston gas turbine which in the summer has run during the mornings to meet the extra load then, and in the winter months has run 24 hours a day.

To meet the ever-increasing demands of the Services, Calpe Hole has always been continuously manned by the half-military, half-civilian Power Station Troop.

The Calpe Hole station has a lieutenant as its superintendent engineer, a warrant officer is the electrical engineer, a staff-sergeant the electrical foreman, and a civilian holds the post of mechanical engineer. Calpe's output more than doubled between 1955 and 1962 when it was then inter-connected to the civilian power station at King's Bastion under an agreement by which the Services imported power from Gibraltar City Council.

In reverse the Army has in emergencies helped the civilian authority—once when the King's Bastion station blacked out, a supply was put through from Calpe within only 90 seconds.

The agreement ended last October. Until May 1965, when a new Services power station is commissioned in the Royal Navy's dockyard (which has always been supplied by its own powerhouse), Calpe Hole and a temporary power station at Windmill Hill will meet the Army and Royal Air Force demand for electricity. Thereafter, Calpe will be retained as an emergency and training station, though



Right: Another task for Gibraltar's Sappers is running the boat sheds at the naval dockyard. Here two Sappers test repaired canoes while a third works in the *RE Optimist,* once a steel lifeboat and now used as a deep-sea fishing launch. There is also a whaler and sea skiff.

some men of the Power Station Troop will train at the new dockyard station.

Windmill Hill, manned only by soldiers, came into being as a temporary generating station because of a winter load crisis and to feed the growing demand in an area where the Army is largely being rehoused in new barracks and quarters. This station had originally four portable sets to which two were later added.

The Power Station Troop, apart from generating electricity, also has to maintain its distribution network through a 6600-volt high tension system and 14 sub-stations, with 33 transformers breaking down the voltage for consumer use.

Besides the Army and Royal Air Force, the system's consumers include naval installations—the hospital, old distillery and laundry—and the lighthouse at Europa Point, the southernmost tip of Europe.

Whether you travel to Gibraltar by sea or air, the Royal Engineers light the way!

Left: A general view of part of Calpe Hole—the power station in the Rock. Top: Warrant Officer (I) N T Smith, the station's electrical engineer. Above: Corporal Crooke operating a feeder board linking the installations.

Servicemen arriving in Gibraltar are shown this magnificent scale model of the Rock to which Lance-Corporal George Clarke, Royal Engineers, is making the latest amendment. Every building and road are shown. Prominent in the foreground is the runway. The Sapper-maintained model is in Engineer House, Engineer Lane. Tourists can see an older model in the Gibraltar Museum.

– AND SEE THE WORLD !

WHEN 1st Battalion, The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, was due to return home from Malaya, Lieutenant Robin Preston decided he would take a rather different route from everyone else. "It seemed a good time, both economically and politically, to see a bit of the world," he said.

And that is just what he did. His trip of a lifetime took in Thailand, the Olympic Games in Tokyo, Korea and crossing the United States from coast to coast at the height of the Presidential election campaign.

Above: A street in Seoul pictured by Lieutenant Preston during his stay in Korea. Below: Off on another stage, he prepares to board an aircraft.

The whole journey cost him £160 all in—and by far the largest single expenditure was in crossing the Atlantic from New York to London by jet airliner.

He had been planning the trip ever since getting permission to use his entitlement of disembarkation leave for returning home under his own steam. "I did not have any special plans on what route I would take," he said. "I just grabbed opportunities as they arose. The only place I really wanted to see was America."

From Malaya, where Lieutenant Preston served with his Battalion for two years, he travelled by Malaysian Airways to Thailand where the beautiful girls in Bangkok apparently left a far bigger impression than anything else.

Then he moved on to Korea where he spent a few unforgettable days with the United States Army in Seoul and in a town on the border between North and South Korea.

More help from the Services got him a lift to Tokyo where an American friend he had met on his travels wangled an Olympic Games ticket for him. With this he saw the spectacular opening parade and the swimming on the second day.

He crossed the Pacific, stopping only at Midway, the tiny island base through which the International Date Line passes. Arriving in Hawaii he stayed at the American forces rest centre on the famous Waikiki beach. Only a thin white-painted fence separates the centre (costing three dollars a day) from the millionaires' hotels which charge 30 dollars a day. From there he moved on to Los Angeles and then to San Francisco, staying with people whose addresses he had been given.

Someone who lent him a car almost had good cause to regret it! Full of the joys of life, Lieutenant Preston was driving down a steep winding road in San Francisco admiring the view when round the corner came another car—in his lane. They stopped with a squeal of brakes and just inches between the two bumpers with a red-faced British officer wondering how he was going to explain away his driving on the left side of the road. "The other driver was rather cross," Lieutenant Preston sadly recalls.

Hitch-hiking from coast to coast proved no problem and after a look at Washington he went to New York, unfortunately just missing the World Fair.

"It was impossible not to get mixed up in the election fever," he said. "In Times Square one evening I got mixed up in a Goldwater rally and I also managed to see President Johnson and his wife when they were boarding a plane."

Exactly five weeks after leaving Malaya, Lieutenant Preston flew in to London Airport to prepare to join his Battalion at its new home in Tidworth, Hampshire. His trip of a lifetime left him with a wealth of memories—but no money.

JANUARY 1915

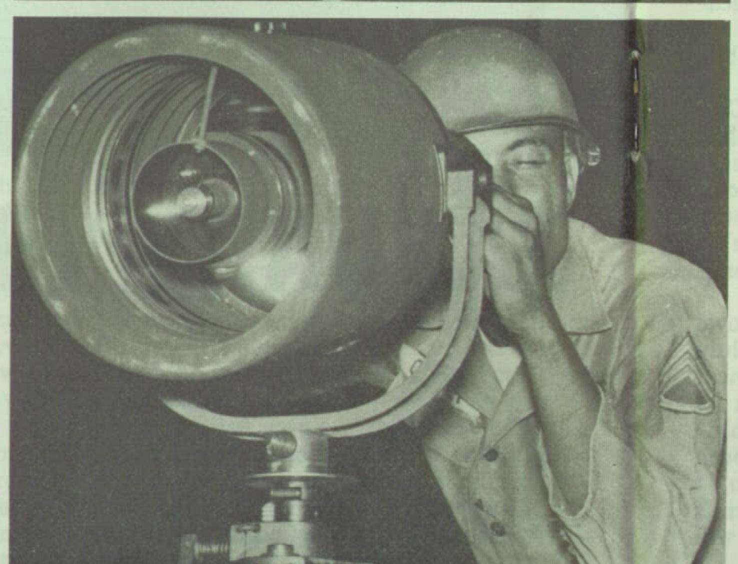
As people at home began to realise that World War One was not going to be over in mere months, 1915 opened with apparent inactivity on the Western Front. There were no big attacks imminent on either side and in their trenches the British stood fast but watchful, wrapping themselves up against the winter. This picture shows men of D Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots Fusiliers, in a front-line trench in Belgium. The colour-sergeant is using a crude periscope to observe enemy movement. He wears a woollen cap, the man behind him a balaclava—this was before the advent of the steel helmet.

LEFT, RIGHT *and* CENTRE

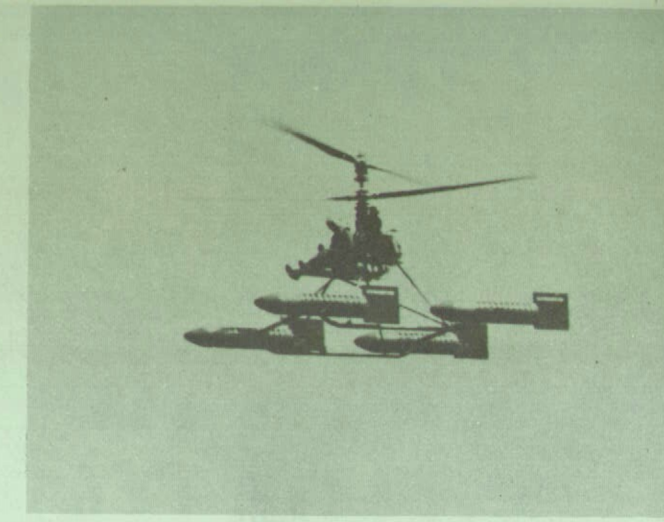
This one-man amphibious helicopter is a research prototype developed by the United States Navy and the Gyrodyne Company. The tilting floats are designed to enable helicopters and other vertical take-off aircraft to operate in very rough seas. Top picture shows the floats in a horizontal position for land take-off and forward flight; in the second the floats are being tilted ready to land on water; next they are vertical for landing and the bottom picture shows the helicopter in the landing position.

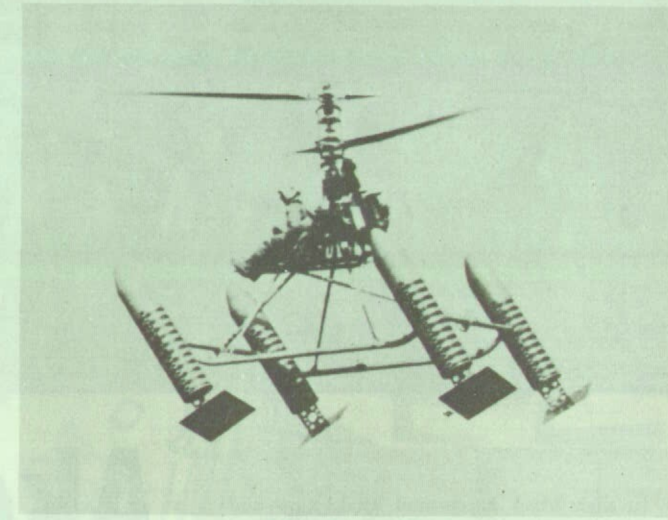
features this month new ideas from across the Atlantic

A walnut-shaped trolley-cum-boat is one of the new ideas being tested for the Infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia. Mounted on a single, 12-inch wide wheel, it can be pulled along narrow jungle trails or up mountain tracks. Swamps or open water do not defeat it—closed it can be floated across rice paddies or marshland, and opened up it becomes a twin-hulled boat which can be paddled across deep water. Made mostly of fibreglass and with a maximum capacity of 250 pounds, the " walnut " is designed to increase the load-carrying capacity of small units in areas inaccessible to ground vehicles.



The age-old dream of man to be able to see in the dark will soon come true for American soldiers. Boffins at the Army's Engineer Research and Development Laboratories in Virginia have developed an " image intensifier " which picks up the faint light from the moon or stars and intensifies it thousands of times to produce a visible image. Now in production, the equipment has many uses and can be fitted as a night sight to a rifle (left, above) or bigger guns (above), or mounted on a tripod and used for night observation (left).





In their black berets and khaki caps and with their Guidon, the New Zealand troops mount guard on Buckingham Palace.

Drill Sergeant Idris Jones, Welsh Guards, rehearses the Kiwis at Woolwich—he flew out to New Zealand to drill the contingent.

Ake, ake, kia kaha

BACK across the world after 25 days in Britain, 150 men of the New Zealand Army are now enjoying more than a little one-upmanship.

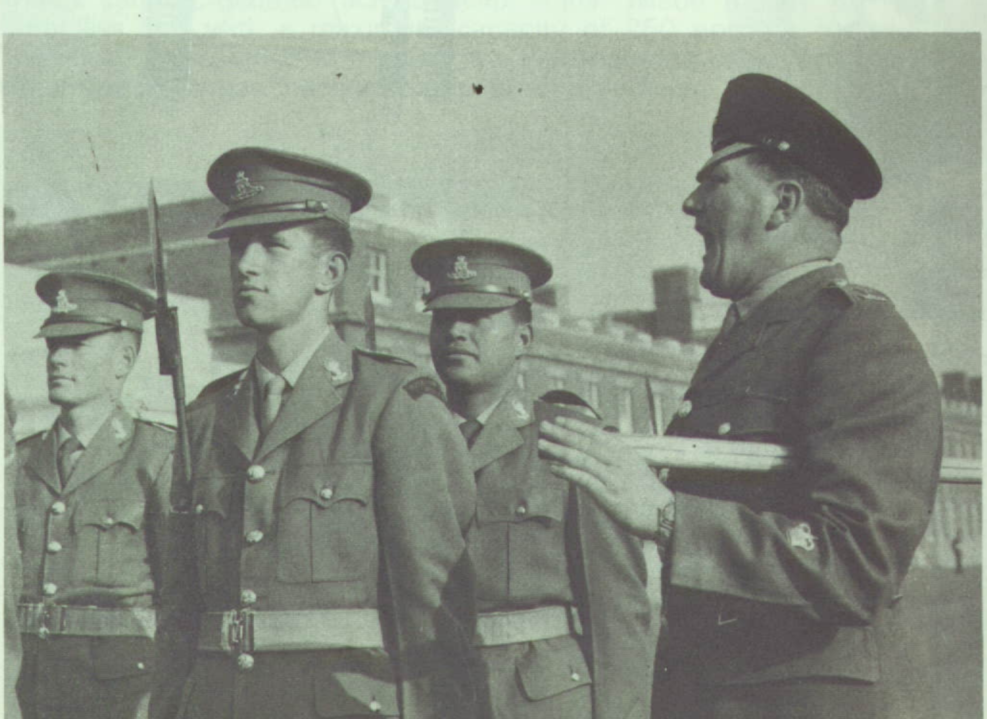
The 42 men from 1 Armoured Squadron, Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps, and 84 Gunners of 16 Field Regiment, Royal New Zealand Artillery, with their seven-strong and nine-strong detachments of the Royal New Zealand Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, had on six occasions mounted guard on Buckingham Palace.

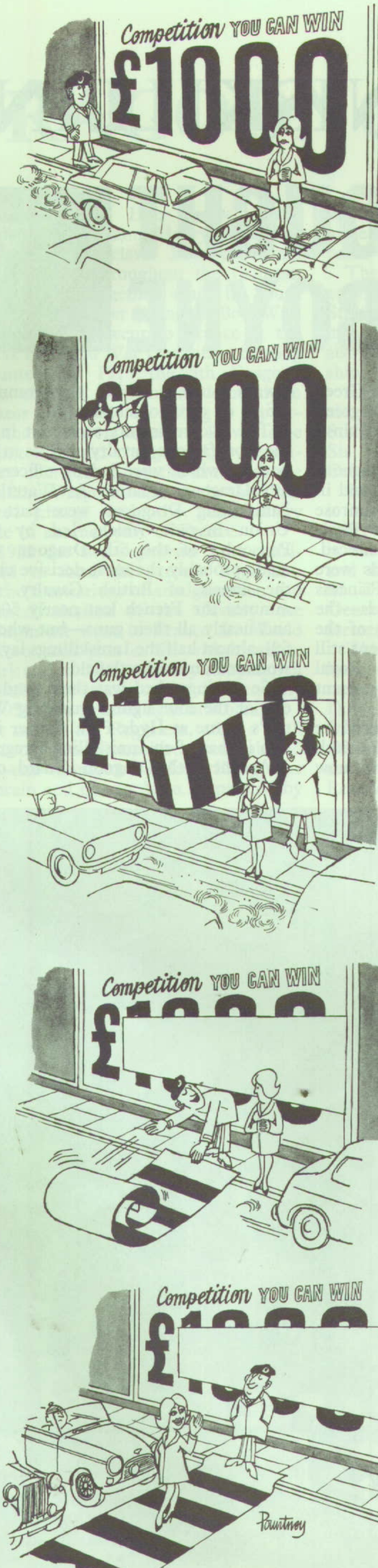
They were also the first Commonwealth soldiers to carry out full public duties in London, mounting guards on the Palace, Tower of London, St James's Palace and the Bank of England, and the first New Zealanders to train in Britain in peacetime.

The Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace was unique in having no Infantry element and, instead of a Colour, carried the Armoured Squadron's gold and black Guidon, presented in 1929 to Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles.

Before moving to London for public duties, the New Zealanders divided, the Armoured Squadron training with *Centurion* tanks of The Royal Dragoons while the Gunners took over the 105mm pack-howitzers of H Battery, 6 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, firing them on Salisbury Plain. There was time, too, for visits to Stonehenge, Salisbury Cathedral and Longleat House, and to look up relatives.

When the contingent flew home in Royal Air Force *Britannias*, via Canada, Honolulu and Fiji, its commander, Major Spencer Cocks, commented: "This visit, with its ceremony and friendliness, is something none of us will ever forget. I have been proud to command these troops who, I feel, have lived up to the contingent's motto of 'Ake, ake, kia kaha'—'We will try our hardest for ever and ever.'"





"I hear your lot appears to be winning."

5TH ROYAL INNISKILLING DRAGOON GUARDS

THEY FOUGHT AT THE BOYNE

AT the head of the Cavalry, King William led the way through a heavy bog and into the River Boyne. Horses were floundering and a stray bullet hit one of the King's pistols. But the soldiers followed their King across the river and, turning to the Inniskillings, he roared: "Gentlemen, I have heard much of your exploits, now I shall witness them."

The Inniskilling Dragoons, with the 5th Dragoon Guards at their side, charged the army of James II and put it to flight "in great disorder." It was the Battle of the Boyne in 1690—the first great battle for two great Cavalry regiments which earlier this century amalgamated to form the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards.

The 5th Dragoon Guards were raised in 1685 at Hounslow under the Earl of Shrewsbury and four years later the besieged citizens of Enniskillen raised the Inniskilling Dragoons to defend the town against James II.

After Boyne the 5th Dragoon Guards served under Marlborough throughout his famous campaigns in the Low Countries and at Elixem in 1705 they captured four enemy standards when they charged the Bavarian Horse Grenadiers. Around this time the Regiment was named The Green Horse, because of their distinctive green facings and breeches—today the "Skins" still wear green trousers.

Meanwhile the Inniskilling Dragoons were also fighting on the continent and in the middle of the 18th century primrose facings—today perpetuated on the Regiment's cap and overalls—were introduced.

In 1804 the 5th Dragoon Guards were granted the additional title of Princess Charlotte of Wales' Dragoon Guards—the Princess married the future King of the Belgians and even today the Regiment still has close ties with the Belgian Royal Family, King Leopold III being the present Colonel-in-Chief.

At Salamanca in 1812 the 5th captured the staff of the drum-major of the French 66th Infantry Regiment; this trophy is now always carried behind the commanding officer on ceremonial parades.

The two regiments took part in two of the most famous Cavalry charges in history, both of which were led by officers of the 5th Dragoon Guards. At Waterloo, the Inniskilling Dragoons were part of the Union Brigade which, led by General Ponsonby of the 5th Dragoon Guards, made probably the most decisive charge in the annals of British Cavalry. In five minutes the French lost nearly 5000 men and nearly all their guns—but when night fell, almost half the Inniskillings lay dead or wounded on the battlefield.

So distinguished was their conduct that one of the four figures guarding Wellington's statue at Hyde Park Corner in London is that of an Inniskilling Dragoon.

Another 5th Dragoon Guard officer—Major-General the Hon James Yorke Scarlett—led the famous Heavy Brigade in the charge at Balaclava. Both regiments fought together throughout the Crimean War and were together again in South Africa a few years later during the Boer War.

Both regiments went to France at the outbreak of World War One, often fighting dismounted. In 1918 the 5th Dragoon Guards charged a German ammunition train near Harbonnieres, killing or capturing all the enemy on the train. It was to be their last mounted charge and, by extraordinary coincidence, on the same day the Inniskilling Dragoons also made their last mounted charge with the 7th Cavalry Brigade in another part of France.

In 1922 the two regiments were amalgamated to form the present Regiment. After the frustrations of amalgamation and later mechanisation of the Cavalry, the new Regiment went to France for World War Two, took part in the withdrawal to Dunkirk and in the Normandy campaign in 1944. After the war it stayed in Germany until 1951 then went to fight in Korea.

Last month the Regiment, after a spell at Tidworth in Hampshire, went abroad again—one squadron to Hong Kong, one to Bahrain and one to Aden. Separated by thousands of miles, the Skins are probably more scattered now than they have ever been.

The last two years have been full of activity and excitement. As part of the Strategic Reserve, the Regiment took part in several exercises in North Africa and also in the trials of *Sir Lancelot*, the logistics ship.

In June last year the Regiment laid up its old Standard in Enniskillen. The present Standard was presented in 1961 by General Sir Charles Keightley DSO, a former Colonel and member of the Regiment.

It is the Regiment's proud boast that it has produced more generals than any other Cavalry regiment and in fact, while it was stationed at Tidworth, the brigade and divisional commanders—Brigadier J M D Ward-Harrison MC and Major-General C H Blacker MC—were both former members of the Regiment.

The Skins' current overseas tour will last for only one year. They will be back in time for Christmas and will go to Perham Down where, after 25 years in tanks, they will give them up and be re-equipped with *Saladins* and *Ferrets* as an armoured reconnaissance regiment in the Strategic Reserve.

Left: Fortunino Matania depicts the scene near Harbonnieres on 8 August 1918 when the 5th Dragoon Guards overran an enemy train in the path of their advance and killed or captured all the men in it. Above: The 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards south of Caumont during the Normandy operations.

"I am just going outside and may be some time." Dollman's famous drawing showing Capt Lawrence Oates walking out from a tent into the blizzard.

AN ENGLISH GENTLEMAN

Undoubtedly that "gallant English gentleman" Captain Lawrence Oates is the most famous man ever to have served in the ranks of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards.

By the time he joined Scott's Antarctic Expedition he had already distinguished himself with the Regiment in the South African War and had been mentioned in despatches for his part in an engagement when on his way to the Regiment with a draft of recruits.

On St Patrick's Day, 1912, his 32nd birthday, crippled by terrible frostbite, Oates walked to his death in a blizzard to improve his comrades' chances of survival. He told Captain Scott: "I am just going outside and may be some time." Quietly he turned and painfully limped out of the tent into the fury of the blizzard. "We knew that poor Oates was walking to his death," wrote Captain Scott, "but though we tried to dissuade him we knew it was the act of a brave man and an English gentleman."

One of Oate's last wishes was that his Regiment should think well of the manner of his death. He had no cause to fear—the Regiment honours his memory every year by observing the Sunday nearest St Patrick's Day as "Oates Sunday."

The 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards have a fine sporting reputation in cricket, football and, of course, riding. Last year they won the Command cricket championships for the third year running. In football they are the current holders of the much-prized Cavalry Cup; they were runners-up in the Southern Command championships and won the East Wiltshire Services League. Last year at Sandown Captain Nicholas Ansell won the Grand Military Gold Cup and in the Military Hunter Chase at Sandown the first five horses were all owned and ridden by Inniskilling officers.

JUMPING PADRE

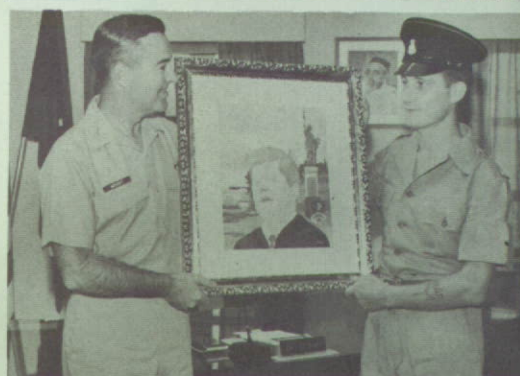
Invite a padre in Bahrain to drop in for tea and there is a good chance that is just what he will do. For the **Reverend Fred Preston** is the parachute-jumping padre of 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. Pictured here climbing aboard a Royal Air Force *Beverley* for a training jump, Padre Preston flew into action with the Battalion during the Radfan operations in Aden last year.

At the end of his last tour in Bahrain, he drove home in a *Land-Rover*. So having made the journey by air and land, he is choosing the final alternative when he returns home—he has completely refitted an Arab dhow in which he will sail back to England.

SOLDIER introduces this month a new feature with the human touch. It is simply about Army people; their adventures, their joys, their woes

Purely Personal

Man or woman, private or field-marshal, this is the page for potential, present and past soldiers throughout the world to read about . . . themselves



SMALL BOY . . .

See the small boy with the immaculate uniform and worried expression? It's five-year-old **Paul Kenworthy** of Mansfield, Notts, looking just like his Dad —**Company Sergeant-Major Ted Kenworthy**, The Sherwood Foresters.

The uniform is a perfect replica and Paul often wears it when he goes on Territorial Army parades with his Dad. But although it is the kind of outfit that would make any small boy's eyes light up, Paul has good reason to look worried—he wants to be a fireman.

SMALL WORLD

It's a small world, as **Corporal Sam Spowart,** euphonium player in the Band of The Royal Scots, will tell you any day of the week.

When the Band went to Nairobi to play during the Royal Agricultural Show in Kenya, two of the first people he met were Kenya Army bandsmen who had been on a year-long course with him at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall.

Even their spectacular colobus monkey skin headdress did not prevent Corporal Spowart from straight away recognising his old friends **Bandsmen David Mukutu** (left) and **John Ouko.**

"WING TIPS"

Flying from rough airstrips in the desert and mountains of Arabia, **Sergeant David "Wingtips" Jackson,** 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, has logged more than 1000 flying hours as an Army pilot.

Attached to 653 Squadron, Army Air Corps, in Aden, "Wingtips" got his name from 4th Royal Tank Regiment in recognition of his low flying on their behalf. He has flown every type of sortie, often in the face of direct enemy fire.

IN THE GROOVE

Hitting the high life in the night life of Berlin are the Hi-Five, a beat group of five bandsmen from 1st Battalion, The Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry.

They are pictured here at a nightspot on the Kurfurstendamm—in the very heart of the divided city's sizzling night-life belt. **Bandsman Michael Heanly** is the vocalist and lead guitar, **Lance-Corporal Nigel Borlase** is on the drums, **Bandsman David Marshall** plays the organ, **Bandsman Victor Souter** is rhythm guitar and the saxophonist is **Lance-Corporal Brian Ferrier.**

Obviously handicapped by not having shoulder-length hair, the Hi-Five are nevertheless carving a reputation for themselves as a beat group—even **Lieutenant-Colonel Basil Brown,** chief instructor at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, has described them as "well in the groove."

PILGRIMAGE

A solemn pilgrimage ended for a young soldier recently posted to Cyprus when he stood in the sun before the grave of an elder brother, killed in an EOKA ambush nearly nine years ago.

For years **Private Trevor Yates** had carried a tattered photograph of the grave in his wallet and when he joined the Army he constantly applied for a posting to Cyprus.

At last his patience was rewarded and he was posted to the Vehicle Sub-Depot, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, to work on vehicle maintenance. Within a few days he had found the cemetery and was laying a wreath at his brother's grave.

"Mum and Dad have never been keen for me to come out here, particularly in the wake of another troubled spell," he said, "but I am glad I persisted and I feel content now I've seen Colin's grave."

KENNEDY TRIBUTE

A portrait of President Kennedy painted by a British private soldier has the place of honour in a United States air base near Tripoli, Libya.

Former art student **Private Peter Turner,** serving in 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, painted the portrait, using oils for the first time, with the White House and Statue of Liberty in the background. He is seen here presenting his work to **Colonel Joe Moody,** commander of the base, who described it as a "wonderful gesture."

SULTAN'S GUESTS

Holding a Russian tommy-gun and sitting shoeless among luxurious cushions and rugs in an Arabian palace is **Sergeant George Jackson,** a former London bus driver.

He is being entertained by **Sultan Nasser bin Aidrus,** ruler of Lower Aulaqi, as a token of thanks for the help given by 6 Field Park Squadron, Royal Engineers, when floods devasted the area.

Sergeant Jackson was the leader of the small advance party which was royally entertained in the Sultan's palace. They were presented with natty Arab clothes, given a sumptuous dinner and compared notes about their respective guns, tactfully accepting as commonplace that a Sultan in South-East Arabia should own a Russian tommy-gun.

THE ARMY'S MEDALS

by MAJOR JOHN LAFFIN

37 GENERAL SERVICE 1918

THIS medal is still current and the medal (and its ribbon) is often seen on uniforms although it was first instituted in 1918.

It is fitting that the Army shares the medal with the Royal Air Force as both arms co-operated in many actions for which bars were awarded.

The Kurdistan campaign of 1923 was an outstandingly successful example of combined operations. This was the first occasion on which aircraft were used as troop carriers in military operations.

The medal has been awarded during the reigns of three sovereigns so three obverses exist: The coinage head of George V looking left; the coinage head of George VI wearing a crown, also looking left; the crowned head of Elizabeth II facing right. The reverse has been the same in all cases —the standing and winged figure of Victory placing a wreath on the emblems of both services. The medal hangs by a unique ornamental suspender which does not swivel in the first two issues. The George V medal has no raised rim.

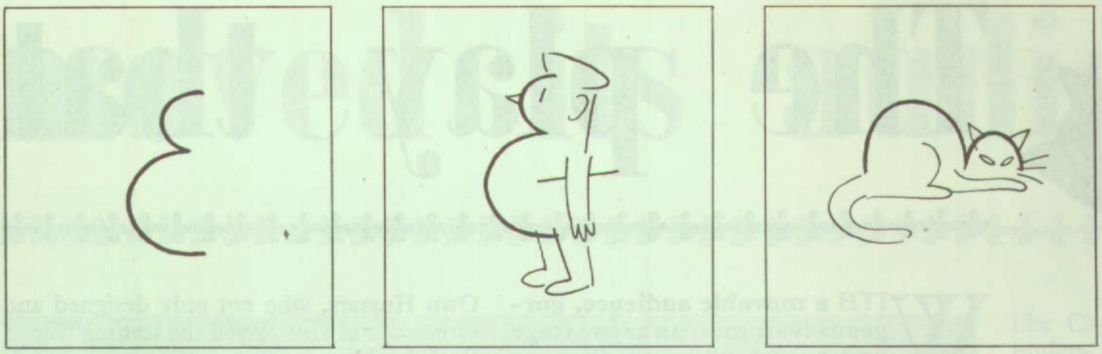
Six, five and three bars have been awarded with the respective issues. They are: George V—S Persia; Kurdistan; Iraq; NW Persia; Southern Desert: Iraq (both names on the one bar); Northern Kurdistan. George VI—Palestine; SE Asia 1945-46; Bomb and Mine Clearance 1945-49; Palestine 1945-48; Malaya. Elizabeth II—Malaya; Cyprus; Near East (for the Egyptian campaign).

Some of these bars, such as Southern Desert: Iraq and Northern Kurdistan are very rare, but some are far too common. The bar for Malaya, for example, was awarded to any soldier or airman who spent as little as one day on the strength of a unit. It would be possible these days for a man to be landed, wounded and evacuated in a matter of hours, but the medal seems to have been awarded too freely to non-combatants. Many civilians attached to the services qualified in a day while the Regular Malayan Police, the Special Constables and the North Borneo Constabulary had to serve 91 days although they saw much more action.

In sharp contrast to the one-day qualification the Bomb and Mine Clearance 1945-49 bar was awarded originally for an aggregate of 180 days' active engagement —and "active" was interpreted severely.

There seems to be dispute as to whether a Mention-in-Dispatches oak leaf may be worn on the General Service Medal ribbon. This is permissible if it was awarded during any campaign or expedition after 11 August 1920.

The ribbon is purple with a .35-in green stripe down the centre and the medal is named in thin, impressed block capitals.



COMPETITION 80

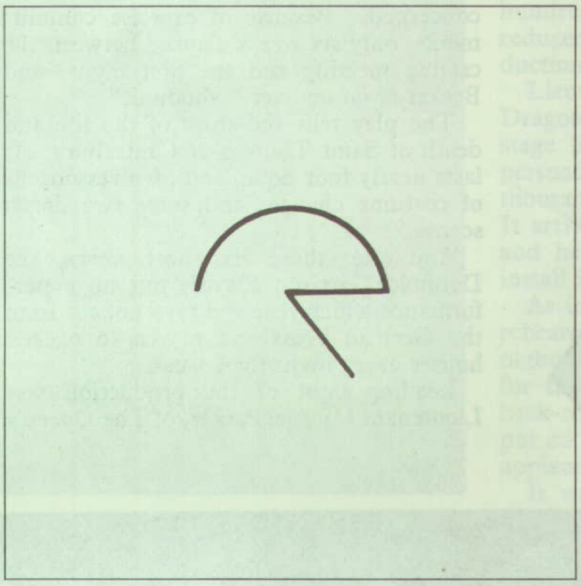
Doodle-it-yourself!

ASKED to produce yet another brain-teaser, SOLDIER'S competition compiler says he draws the line at this. Which prompted Art Editor Frank Finch to suggest that you, the reader, should draw the line instead.

So here is your own artist's do-it-yourself kit, less pencil and rubber. In the square (right) is a doodle—can you turn this into a drawing? Originality and simplicity will be the prize-winning factors. Complicated drawings are not required, nor is artistic ability needed for this competition—and the subject need not be military.

The doodle can be used anyway up—as in the examples above—but must not be reversed. The drawing can be any size and is not restricted to the confines of the square.

You can either cut out the doodle and your completed drawing, and the "Competition 80" label from this page or, if you wish to avoid mutilating your copy, you can trace the doodle.



RULES

Send your drawing, with your name and address and the "Competition 80" label, by letter or postcard to:

The Editor (Comp 80)
SOLDIER
433 Holloway Road
London N7.

Closing date for this competition is Monday, 22 February 1965. Winners' names will appear in SOLDIER'S April issue.

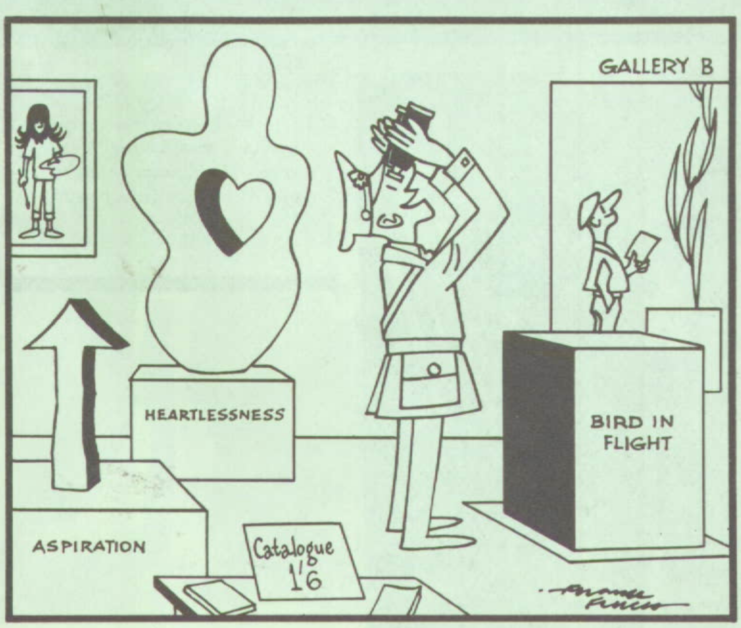
The competition is open to all readers at home or overseas. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 80" label.

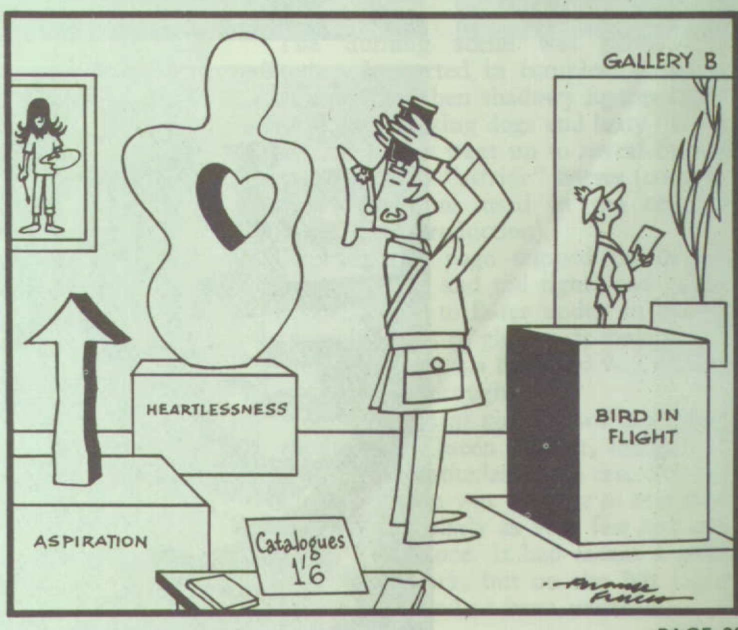
PRIZES

1. **£10 in cash**
2. **£5 in cash**
3. **£3 in cash**
4. **£2 in cash**
5. **Three recently published books and a 12 months' free subscription to SOLDIER**
6. **A 12 months' free subscription to SOLDIER or a SOLDIER Easibinder.**

How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike, but they vary in ten minor details. If you cannot detect all the differences, turn to page 36.





The play that moved its audience

WITH a movable audience, gorgeous costumes, an arena stage and a cast of more than 30 players, "Becket," a play by Jean Anouilh staged by Detmold Garrison Players in Germany, was probably one of the most adventurous productions ever undertaken by Army amateur theatricals.

It was a staggering undertaking by all concerned. Because of exercise commitments, only six weeks elapsed between the casting meeting and the first night—and Becket is no one-act "whodunit".

The play tells the story of the life and death of Saint Thomas of Canterbury. It lasts nearly four hours and involves dozens of costume changes and some two dozen scenes.

And after those six short weeks, the Detmold Garrison Players put up a performance which received rave notices from the German Press and played to packed houses every night for a week.

Leading light of the production was Lieutenant Michael Parker, of The Queen's Own Hussars, who not only designed and directed, but also played the leading role of Becket. His previous stage experience amounted to acting in a small Nativity play a year ago.

With the gymnasium at Hobart Barracks, Detmold, converted into an arena stage, an early problem was how to construct sufficient sets in the limited space available. It was solved by literally moving the audience for each scene. Two huge banks of scaffolding seats were mounted on bogey wheels (constructed by local Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers fitters) and heaving soldiers shoved these great trolleys around every night so that the audience faced in the appropriate direction.

The six weeks were crammed with action. Rehearsals were held every night while countless back-room boys constructed everything from Becket's coffin to a woodland glade—with real trees.

Lieutenant Parker flew to London to hire costumes and triumphantly returned with many of the gorgeous robes used in the recent film production of Becket. For people like Captain Paddy Kennedy, 3rd Carabiniers, it was an especially hectic time—not only was he studying for a staff examination, but he was also learning the mammoth part of King Henry II.

Organising the business side was Major Douglas Davidson, Royal Army Educational Corps. He made sure there was a packed house every night by inviting hundreds of German students at slightly reduced rates—about 800 saw the production.

Lieutenant Simon Loman, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, was put in charge of the stage lighting and somehow managed to persuade a German firm to lend him thousands of pounds worth of equipment. It arrived with only a few hours to spare and he worked all through one night to install it in time.

As in most good productions, the dress rehearsal was chaos. But on the opening night, the players—nearly all of them acting for the first time in their lives—and the back-room boys overcame their nerves and put on a show that ended with tumultuous applause.

It was perhaps surprising, in an Army production, that some of the more risqué scenes of Becket had not invited a little tactful censorship.

When, in one scene, a tent flap was drawn to reveal King Henry locked in the arms of an apparently naked redhead, it was greeted at every performance with a kind of stunned silence. But the King always broke the ice by kicking her out of bed and then ecstatically cavorting round in his suspiciously modern underpants.

During one performance the boisterous barons—all played by Cavalry officers—became a little too boisterous in the banquet scene and with much burping and roaring scattered the unwanted contents of their meal all over the stage—and the audience.

The hunting scene was particularly effective. It started in complete darkness with a fanfare, then shadowy figures raced around with barking dogs and lusty "tally-hos." The lights went up to reveal Becket and King Henry "astride" horses (complicated contraptions used in the original London stage production).

One night a page tripped on in his brocade doublet and red tights and began his speech only to falter under an almost uncontrollable fit of giggles. It looked as if he might turn on his heel and flee, but he bravely saw it through.

From the peasant girl dressed in sacking to the haughty Queen Mother, the girls in the play were particularly well cast. But the whole production was a credit to everyone involved, particularly as very few had any previous experience. It had meant a great deal of hard work, but on the last night everyone knew it had been worth it.

Above: King Henry II of England, played by Capt Paddy Kennedy, 3rd Carabiniers, becomes angry with one of his bishops.

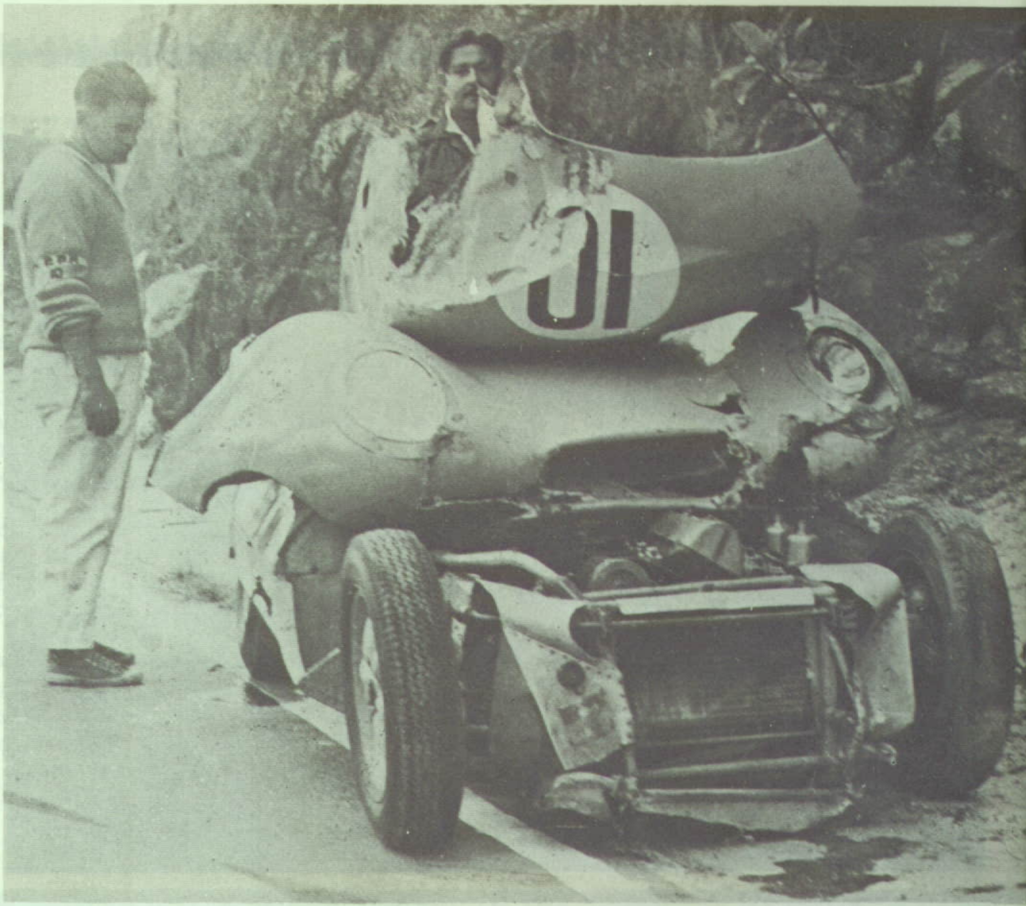
Right: The King admonishing his wife during the banquet—a scene boisterously played by four Cavalry officers.

The back-stage staff even included an "Animal Manager." Here, actors making up—Queen in foreground.

Above: To the right of King Henry, who is upbraiding Becket, can be seen the wheels of one of the two movable stands.

Below: The finale, with Henry (centre) and Becket. Many of the gorgeous robes were those used in a film production.

The classic CRASH



The wrecked *Lotus* after hitting the cliff face. Staff-Sergeant Collins walked from it unscathed.

A SPECTACULAR collision with an E-type *Jaguar* wrecked a Hong Kong Army team's chances in the 1964 Far East motor-racing classic, the Macau Grand Prix. The crash came in the 45th lap of the 60-lap race just as the Army's *Lotus* XI clinched the "first-in-class" issue against an American *Elva*.

It was the first time in the race's history that a complete Army team—drivers, mechanics, timekeepers and manager—had taken part. The *Lotus*, a Le Mans veteran powered by a Coventry-Climax engine, is owned by Major Jim Atkinson, a retired officer living in Hong Kong. It was driven by Staff-Sergeant Arthur Collins of the Royal Military Police Special Investigation Branch.

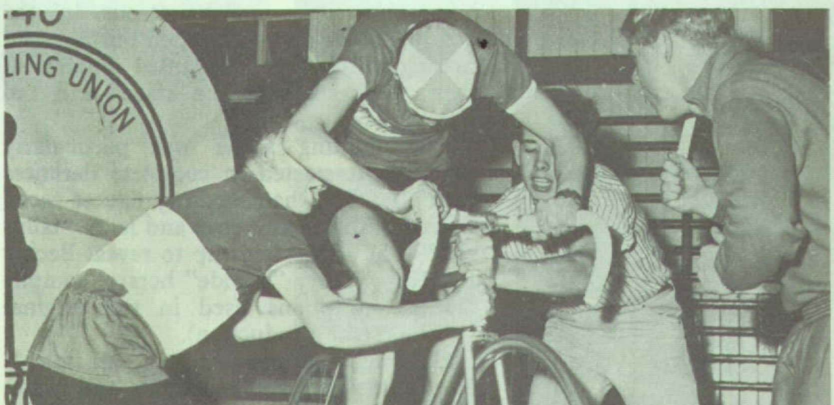
First the *Lotus* blew a front tyre and spun into the crowd. No one was injured, Collins drove back to the pits on a flat and his pit team of Sergeant John Brown, Corporal Ron Mason and Lance-Corporal Jim Green, all of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, made a quick wheel change.

Then dirt in the carburettor slowed the pace for 20 laps before it cleared. Its driver coaxed the *Lotus* back to its previous lapping speed and all seemed set for a class award. But as he pulled over to let three of the bigger cars, battling for top places, overtake him, the E-type *Jaguar* hit him from behind.

The impact hurled the *Lotus* across the road into a cliff face. The *Jaguar*, said Staff-Sergeant Collins, "literally took off, screamed over my bonnet about six feet in the air, hit the track on all four wheels and rolled over on its side." Neither driver was injured but the Army's *Lotus* was a complete wreck.

Staff-Sergeant Collins will not be in the Far East for next year's race, but it is almost certain that another Army team will compete. The *Lotus* has been stripped down and a rebuild job is planned. In the meantime a second racing car has been bought so that prospective Army racing drivers can "get the hang of it."

Pedalling nowhere—fast



Apprentice Tradesman Corporal A Crittenden, individual champion, pedals for a title.

CLOSE finishes were the order of the day at the Army Roller Racing Championships, held at Arborfield.

The individual champion, in the face of tough competition, was Apprentice Tradesman Corporal A Crittenden, Army Apprentices School, Harrogate, who won both the senior one-mile time trial and the senior 440 sprint.

The latter contest provided the highlight of the two-day meeting with a dead-heat between A/T Cpl Crittenden and A/T C D Hare, of AAS Chepstow. In the run-off Crittenden pipped Hare by a narrow margin. Winners of the inter-unit team title and SOLDIER Cup were AAS Chepstow (A/T Cpl S J Pike, A/T Cpl T Cook and A/T C D Hare).

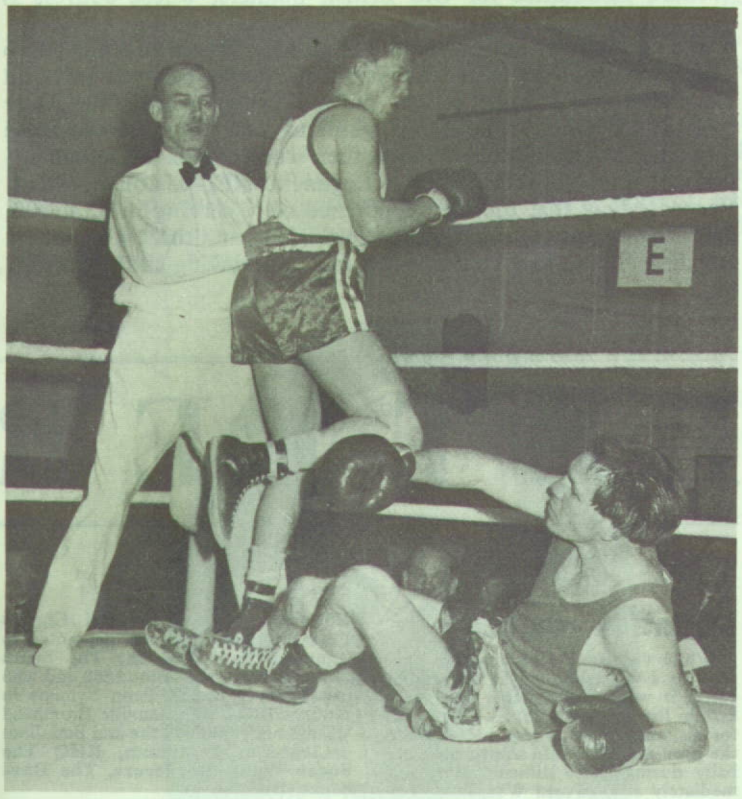
RESULTS

One-mile time trial—Individual, junior: 1 A/T M Fell, AAS Chepstow; 2 A/T C McNeilly, AAS Harrogate; 3 A/T B Charman, AAS Arborfield. Individual, senior: 1 A/T Cpl A Crittenden, AAS Harrogate; 2 A/T Cpl T Cook, AAS Chepstow. Team, junior: 1 Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion; 2 AAS Chepstow. Team, senior: 1 AAS Chepstow; 2 AAS Arborfield.

440 sprint—Individual, junior: 1 A/T T Stringer, AAS Chepstow; 2 A/T P Lewis, AAS Chepstow; 3 A/T P D Ballard, AAS Arborfield. Individual, senior: 1 A/T Cpl A Crittenden, AAS Harrogate; 2 A/T C D Hare, AAS Chepstow; 3 A/T Cpl T Cook, AAS Chepstow. Team, junior: 1 AAS Chepstow; 2 (tied) AAS Arborfield A and AAS Harrogate. Team, senior: 1 AAS Arborfield A; 2 AAS Chepstow.

Inter-unit Junior Challenge Shield: 1 Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion; 2 AAS Arborfield.

Inter-unit team (SOLDIER Cup): 1 AAS Chepstow; 2 AAS Arborfield A.



Sapper Bill Sutherley knocks out Territorial Lance-Corporal Jackie Woods.

Ten to three

FOR the 11th time out of 12 tournaments the Army's boxers have defeated the Territorial Army, whose only success was in 1962. The latest Army victory, at Nottingham, was by ten bouts to three.

The Territorials were without Sergeant Dick McTaggart, who had weight troubles, and lost Ian Lawther, Peter Young and Chuck Henderson to the England v Poland match to which Army boxers Guardsman Brendan O'Sullivan and Corporal Freddie Rea were also called.

The outstanding bout was between Sapper Bill Sutherley, Imperial Services middleweight champion and twice Scottish heavyweight champion, who outpointed the outstanding Territorial, Lance-Corporal Jackie Woods, an English international and ABA finalist. Middleweight Gabriel, of the three fighting O'Sullivans, scored the only knock-out, putting his opponent down four times.

RESULTS

Featherweight: Pte M Rutter (6 Bn, RASC) outpointed Pte P Salt (5/6 Bn, North Staffordshire Regt). **Lightweight:** L/Cpl P Taylor (16 Bn, RAOC) beat Fus P Crawford (5 Bn, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers) (stopped, second round); L/Cpl C Booth (6 Bn, RASC) outpointed Pte J Carroll (12/13 Bn, Parachute Regt). **Light welterweight:** Pte C Bebbington (1 Bn, Parachute Regt) outpointed by Tpr J Neill (North Irish Horse); L/Cpl J Welsh (3 Bn, Parachute Regt) beaten by Tpr A McDonald (North Irish Horse) (stopped, second round). **Welterweight:** L/Cpl A Tibbs (16/5 Queen's Royal Lancers) outpointed Pte J Clarke (1 Bn, Glasgow Highlanders). **Light-middleweight:** Pte P Lloyd (1 Bn, Parachute Regt) outpointed Gnr G Nicholls (289 Parachute Light Regt, RHA); Sgmn J Paxton (6 Signal Regt) beaten by Pte J Liddle (5/6 Bn, North Staffordshire Regt) (stopped, first round). **Middleweight:** Spt W Sutherley (3 Map Depot, RE) outpointed L/Cpl J Woods (5/6 Bn, North Staffordshire Regiment); Gdsm G O'Sullivan (1 Bn, Irish Guards) knocked out Pte A Bates (5/6 Bn, North Staffordshire Regt) (first round); Sgt J Napper (1 Bn, Parachute Regt) bt Pte R Pugh (3 Bn, Prince of Wales's Own Regt of Yorkshire). **Light-heavyweight:** L/Cpl B White (17 Repair Vehicle Depot, RAOC) outpointed L/Cpl J McCormack (15 Bn, Parachute Regt); Cpl R Priestley (Depot Bn, RAOC) outpointed Cpl G Kay (1 Bn, Liverpool Scottish).

Undeterred by a flooded road, a *Consul* and *Citroen* drive through a village.

"Tulip" time in Libya

THE Tripoli Services Car Club, founded nearly four years ago, is the club with a difference—more than 90 per cent of its 200 soldier and airman members own brand-new cars, bought of course without home purchase tax.

And the club has its own ramp, tools and equipment provided from a £250 Nuffield Trust grant. Recently the club held its first "tulip" rally, attracting 25 entries from military and civilian personnel in Libya. After a week of torrential rain the sun came out on rally day to dry out most of the 58-mile course, and only three cars failed to finish. From Miani Barracks, near Tripoli, the route wound along country roads lined with date trees and past small Arab villages.

Men of 219 Signal Squadron, Royal Signals, manned checkpoints and provided radio communications.

Winner was Mr John Wallis (Tripoli Elizabethan Club), second Mr Michael Burstow (Army Command Secretariat) and third Mr R J Bell (Elizabethan Club). The team prize went to Mr Mike Archer and his team.

Right: This *Rover* 3-litre driven by Major Charles Wyndham, RA, and Warrant Officer II John Rhodes, 1 Black Watch, won the Duke of York's Trophy as highest placed Services finisher in the RAC International Rally of Great Britain.

Left: Action picture from the Army Judo Association annual championships held at Aldershot. The new SOLDIER Cup awarded for junior soldiers teams went to AAS, Chepstow.

They built a bridge

From Deventer in Holland I have received a heart-warming letter. It comes from Mr Dick Haas, Secretary of the Dutch Welfare Committee for Old British Soldiers, whose address is Merwedestraat 3, Deventer.

His committee wants to hold a reunion in Deventer from 1 to 6 May 1965 of all the British ex-Servicemen who, between July and December 1945, built a new railway bridge across the River Ijssel at Deventer. The Army is able to trace only a few of these men and others are asked to report their whereabouts to Lieutenant-Colonel J A Coombs, Depot Regiment RE, Chatham, Kent. Records show that the men concerned were serving in 3, 8, 600, 607 and 608 railway construction companies, and there were others attached. This was a very considerable undertaking and the bridge is understood to be still in full service. The Lord Mayor of Deventer wants the "boys" to take their wives as guests of the town. Says the Committee: "We will never forget our British friends and we can never pay in return what they did for us. The years between and the distance do not matter. The only thing is to have the boys over here again in much better circumstances because they still belong to us."

Anything SOLDIER can do to help find these ex-Sappers and bring them together again with these still-grateful Dutch people would be a splendid thing and would no doubt lead to quite a party for the fortunate participants.—**Lieut-Col R Martin, PRO Home Counties District, Risborough Barracks, Shorncliffe, Folkestone, Kent.**

LETTERS

Invitation awaits

While visiting a German ship here recently I was asked by the first engineer if it would be possible to trace a certain British Army officer. The reason for his wishing to do this goes back to the time when his wife was nursing her baby during those difficult years immediately after World War Two. The British officer's wife then was helping by taking food parcels to the engineer's wife.

Now that conditions are better they would like to show their gratitude by inviting the Samaritans of those bygone days over to spend some time with them in their home. The only information available is that the officer was a Captain Carr, believed to be a Londoner, stationed at Lübeck, Travemünde, Germany, in 1946-1947. His wife, Rena Carr, believed to come from Edinburgh, would now be about 45 and their daughter, Janet, 22 or 23.

If any SOLDIER reader can help I would be very much obliged.—**H Siedler, The German Seamens Mission, 188 Borough Road, Middlesbrough.**

24th Foot

The letter written by Sgt H N Sanders (SOLDIER, October) was very interesting, particularly regarding Maj-Gen Sir William Penn Symons.

However, it was Lieut-Col Charles John Bromhead who was appointed to command 2nd Battalion, The South Wales Borderers, in June 1888 and who handed over to Col Penn Symons in January 1891. Maj Gonville Bromhead VC did not command the 2nd Battalion.—**Lieut-Col I Jarman, RHQ The South Wales Borderers, The Barracks, Brecon.**

The Royal Marines

As a peace-time soldier (having served in two Territorial Army regiments before World War Two and three Army units since) and a war-time Royal Marine officer, may I express my appreciation of the tribute paid to the Royal Marines in the October issue of SOLDIER?

Although the Royal Marines are steeped in the proud history and traditions of the Royal Navy it is the soldierly outlook and military smartness of all ranks which make them an élite corps—a body of men of whom the Duke of Edinburgh has declared that to them nothing is impossible. I cannot but help link his words to the remark of a Royal Marine staff sergeant-major made to me regarding the intake of men from civvy street. "Sir," he said, "we can tame lions and make men out of monkeys."—**Maj R J Searl, 19 Lewes Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex.**

Recruits of the King's Squad, Royal Marines, passing the saluting base.

Knocking the naggers

Of course R J C Holmes is right in his statement (SOLDIER, November) that the 3.7in anti-aircraft gun was on a fixed mounting, and apparently everybody concerned made sure that it stayed that way. The Germans obviously did not have the same difficulty with the 88mm gun, and the tank men of Eighth Army wondered why.

During the second phase of the last El Alamein battle I personally engaged a German 88mm from a *Sherman* and at one time it broke off the engagement with me to fire at some *Bostons* overhead. At the Tobruk perimeter soon afterwards, 88mms also engaged with British light naval forces lying offshore.

I have read "Desert Generals" and, as a not inactive member of the Desert Army, I agree entirely with Correlli Barnett. From the time Barnett published his book it seems to me to be a case of the nagger being knocked. Correlli Barnet is a most accurate nagger, and more power to his elbow say I.—**F A Lewis, 100 Clayburn Circle, Basildon, Essex.**

The large regiment

I would like to say that I agree fully with the letter written by D C Howells (SOLDIER, October) dealing with the naming of new regiments. The name Home Counties Regiment sounds like an extension of the war-time Home Guard, for whom I have the greatest respect and may God bless these old soldiers wherever they are.

I regret very much the passing of the old regimental names but, if they must be replaced, let us give the new regiments names appropriate to the British Army with all its proud history and glory.—**C Shackley, (WWI R Norfolks and REs; WWII 48th Highlanders of Canada and Canadian Provost Corps), Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania, USA.**

Home Guard again?

I read with interest the article on the lowering of the age limit to 17 for recruits into both the Regular and Territorial Armies. But I disagree with the present general upper age limits of 25 and 40 respectively and would suggest limits of 17-35 for the Regulars and 17-50 for the Territorials.

In the case of the TA the younger men of 17-25 should form a front-line reserve and reinforce the Regular Army, the remainder forming a big reserve cadre for internal security and home defence, being integrated with the police, Civil Defence, RNXS and ROC.

In short, the Home Guard should be re-raised and placed on a similar

● **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.**

more letters

basis to the TA; in fact it should be part of it, ie TAHG and TAER respectively.—**P T Stevenson, Crosthwaite, 6 Cherry Tree Way, Bradshaw, Bolton, Lancs.**

Keeping in touch

I was a foreman of signals from 1932 until my discharge in 1949 and was very pleased to read your account of the work the Corps is doing in the deserts of Arabia (SOLDIER, November). The Royal Corps of Signals does a vital job of work but seldom gets a mention; I have several books written by famous generals but they never mention the Signals.

By the way, I am anxious to obtain a copy of the small handbook issued to troops proceeding to India (pre-Independence); perhaps one of SOLDIER's readers has a spare copy?—**A Wells, 27 Goldcroft Avenue, Weymouth, Dorset.**

Tropical uniform

As one with a personal interest in the subject, I read with interest S/Sgt H Eaton's letter on tropical uniforms (SOLDIER, October). Much of what he says is correct but I must disagree with his idea that troops on operations would rather wear khaki flannel shirts than olive green issue. The only reason the latter are "so rarely seen" is because we do not get issued with them! I do not think anybody who has ever done jungle patrols etc in a khaki flannel "horse-blanket" could ever again prefer them to the lighter, quicker-drying olive green shirt.

Congratulations on a fine magazine, but let us have a little less Middle East and a bit more Far East please!—**Rfn R Muskett, Recce Pln, 1st Green Jackets, Minden Barracks, c/o GPO Penang, Malaysia.**

Unit history

An official history of 905 Company, Royal Army Service Corps (GT) (TA), stationed at Nottingham, is being written. Any information about the Company that readers of SOLDIER may be able to supply will be appreciated.—**Maj R G Mason, OC 905 Coy RASC (GT), TA Centre, Triumph Road, Lenton, Nottingham.**

13-pounder at Mons

The photograph of an old 13-pounder being fired at Bray, near Mons (SOLDIER, October), has aroused the wrath of my father, a former trumpeter in the Royal Field Artillery, who served at Mons as a 16-year-old. He maintains that no self-respecting Number One would permit even a posed photograph of a 13-pounder to appear in a firing position with the trail handle in the horizontal plane. Apparently it had to be vertical to permit fast re-alignment and, more important, to avoid being struck on recoil.

I wonder whether my father is correct or not, and if any other 1914 vintage Gunners feel as strongly about it as he does?—**A W Bacon, 6 The South Glade, Bexley, Kent.**

Ex-Bombardier John Osborn (73) fires the blank round from the 13-pounder.

Rhine record?

13 Signals Regiment ask whether their paddle by canoe (above) from Basle to Krefeld in ten days is a record (SOLDIER, September).

In 1962 more than 50 soldiers of 1st Battalion, The South Wales Borderers, paddled down the Rhine from Basle to Arnhem (702 kilometres) in 11 days and generally passed through Krefeld on the 8th or 9th day. However, the real test is to paddle from the Rhine's source at Chur in Switzerland to Wilhelmstadt on the Dutch coast. This is a distance of 1170 kilometres and I believe the record of 12 days 7 hours by a subaltern and corporal of The South Wales Borderers remains unbeaten.—**"Paddler."**

Queen's Royal

The photograph of Maj David Walder in Sarawak (SOLDIER, October) described him as spending part of his Reservist training there with The Queen's Own Irish Hussars. The correct title of the Regiment is The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars.—**Cpl J McGuirk, Duke of Edinburgh's Sqn, The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, BFPO 33.**

★ *Sorry! SOLDIER'S mistake.*

COLLECTORS' CORNER

A Hunt, 81 Marion Road, Cowandilla, South Australia.—*Requires cap badges of 4th and 8th Hussars, both with St Edward's crown, and arm badge of 9th RTC/RTR.*

C J Blankenstyn, Haydnstraat 38c, Amersfoort, Holland.—*Requires British cap badges and shoulder flashes in exchange for Dutch similar.*

A E Wright, Ivy House, Parsons Street, Woodford Halse, Rugby, Warwickshire—*Unique collection of military, police and railway badges to be broken up, lists available, please state interests.*

J Donaldson, The Springs, Watlington, Oxford.—*Requires bowls club lapel badges, will exchange.*

Miss H V Brens, 1109 Catherine Street, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.—*Collects stamps; correspondence welcomed from other collectors.*

T Hall, Netherfield, Eaton Road, Chester.—*Wishes to exchange shoulder flashes, titles and cap badges. Will also exchange buttons for flashes and titles.*

Dr A York, 35 Main Street, East Hampton, New York 11937, USA.—*Requires flags, ensigns and banners of all countries, colonies, regiments etc. Purchase or exchange.*

Sgt Andre Deylgat, Astridlaan 96, Assebroek, Belgium.—*Requires worldwide military and police cap badges, decorations and headdress, in exchange can send similar from Belgium and other European countries.*

Gerard Roche, Prefecture, Privas, Ardeche, France.—*Collects military type Dinky toys, exchanges welcome.*

Maj N Fishel, AP 2829, Israel.—*Requires cap badges, will exchange for Israeli badges.*

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(*See page 29*)

The two pictures vary in the following respects: 1 Right trouser turn-up of artist. 2 Right side of sculpture in Gallery B. 3 Officer's cuff link. 4 "Neck" of biggest sculpture. 6 Hackle on soldier's beret. 7 Height of sculpture base in Gallery B. 8 Officer's left cuff. 9 Officer's tie. 10 Fingers of officer's left hand.

CODE IN THE HEAD?

Competition 76 brought in a deluge of correct answers, many pleas for more competitions of this kind, and some scathing criticisms of James Bond. It did not, of course, take James Bond 80 minutes to solve what was a simple code with a give-away final line. As many readers suggested he was at the time simultaneously engaged with other problems.

Some readers ingeniously used the same code to comment in their replies; more than 200 gave their own times for breaking the code. The majority of these took under the half hour, the quickest claimant was a Bury St Edmunds housewife in three minutes flat, and at the other end of the scale a grammar school boy admitted to three days!

The answer was, of course: "The person who breaks this code the quickest does not necessarily win one of the prizes awarded for this newest SOLDIER competition. Have a go!"

Prizewinners were:

1 Mrs V J Hood, 24 Sandringham Drive, Preston, Paignton, Devon.

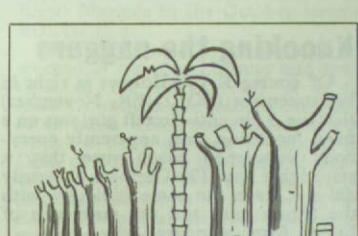
2 WOI G Jupp, 26 Comd Wksp REME, Stirling.

3 J R Longstaff, 75 Raymede Drive, Bestwood Estate, Nottingham.

4 L/Cpl B A Foord, 42 Wemyss Road, Ripon, Yorks.

5 L/Cpl Drew, 14 Pl, D Coy, 1 Glosters, BFPO 53.

6 D Turner, 15 Beeches Road, Chelmsford, Essex.



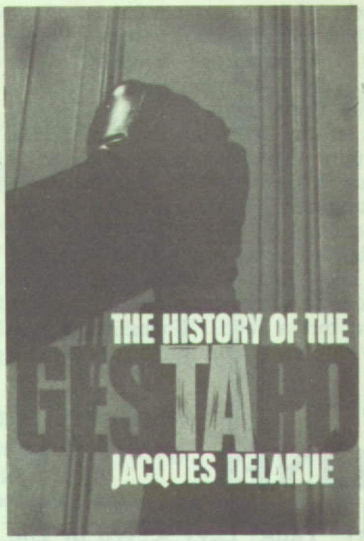
"I see Fenton's managed his posting at long last."

REUNIONS

The York and Lancaster Regiment. Sergeants Dinner Club 51st annual dinner, Saturday 20 February, Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield 10. Please apply RHQ before 12 February.

Women's Royal Army Corps Association. (Incorporating QMAAC & ATS). Grand reunion, Rainbow Room, Derry & Toms, High Street, Kensington, Saturday 13 March, 7-10.30pm. Tickets 10s (including refreshments) from Secretary, WRAC Association, Block E, Duke of York's HQ, London SW3. QMAAC Reunion, Central Mess, Duke of York's HQ, Friday 12 March, 7-10pm. Tickets 4s (including refreshments) from Secretary at above address.

BOOKS



LIMITS OF INHUMANITY

"IN all confidence," wrote Adolf Hitler, "we can go to the limits of inhumanity if we bring happiness to the German people." An organisation that went to the limits—and brought misery to the Germans and many other people—was the dreaded secret police whose bloodstained story Jacques Delarue tells in "The History of the Gestapo."

It is a difficult tale to tell, partly because of the complicated interlocking of the Gestapo's functions with those of other bodies, partly because the Gestapo was heavily involved in the murderous intrigues for power that characterised the Nazi regime. The author tells it clearly.

The Gestapo was created by Hermann Goering in 1933 as Die Geheime Staatspolizei (postal abbreviation Gestapo), the private secret police force of Goering and the party in Prussia. At the same time, in the other states, Heinrich Himmler gathered control of the police forces and in 1934 Goering handed over nominal overlordship of the Gestapo to Himmler.

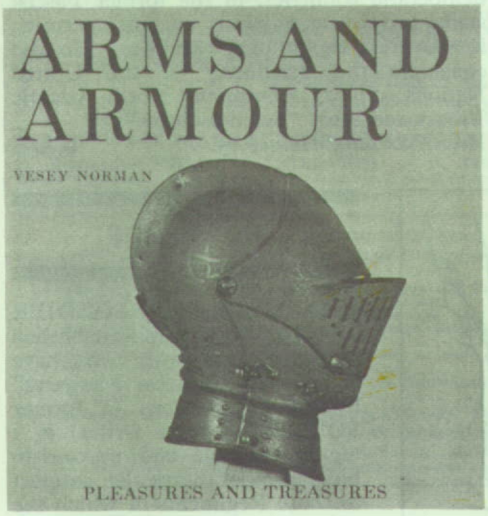
The Gestapo's mission was to prevent all criticism of the Nazi doctrine and eliminate those who merely doubted the regime. Its espionage network covered the Reich in a very short time. The Gestapo played a typical role in eliminating the Army's two principal leaders who did not enjoy Hitler's confidence. Field-Marshal von Blomberg, the War Minister, obligingly married a whore whose dossier the conspirators kept up their sleeves until a fortnight after the wedding. The Commander-in-Chief, Colonel-General von Fritsch, fell to a trumped-up charge.

The Army crossed swords with the Gestapo again when police commandos arrived with the first troops during the invasion of Poland. Some generals were shocked by the behaviour of the SS and Gestapo in Poland. Their protests bore fruit; when the invasion of France was planned, police powers were entrusted to the military administration. But the Gestapo's power gradually increased.

The Gestapo was also represented in those infamous Einsatzgruppen (combat groups) set up in occupied Russian territory to exterminate Jews and others.

The Gestapo crumbled with the Reich. One of the last senior Gestapo officers to die was Adolf Eichmann, hanged in Israel.

Macdonald 38s. **RLE**



BASCINET AND BESAGEW

IN "Arms and Armour," a richly illustrated work, Vesey Norman traces the history of armour from the 11th century until its decline, when firearms made effective body armour so heavy that soldiers refused to wear it on the march.

He describes and explains the variations and developments of such splendidly-named items as the bascinet, besagew, pauldron and vambrace, and how they were made.

The author also writes of jousting, a form of war-game which aroused so much enthusiasm that it cost many lives and was banned by a number of rulers.

There is a section on the arms which went with armour, among them those formidable elm bows of South Wales which could shoot an arrow through a four-inch oak door, and the English long-bows with a range of 400 yards.

Armour, in the form of the cuirass, survived into the 20th century in the Cavalry. So the gap before the nylon body-armour now being developed is not so very great.

Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 30s. **RLE**

"COME AND DIE"

"COME and die. It'll be great fun. And there's great health in the preparation," wrote Rupert Brooke, the poet, when training in Dorset in 1915.

Brooke remains the best-known and the symbol of the thousands of young men whose lives were cut short by World War One. Reginald Pound's "The Lost Generation" is a memorial to them. It was, of course, the best of the young men who went first and were in the front of battle.

The author, who himself served in this war, describes many of these young men who had shown great promise and who died magnificently. They went to war in strange units—the Pals battalions, where they were sure of serving with their friends; the Sportsmen's Battalion of The Royal Fusiliers, "upper and middle class only," entrance fee three guineas.

The young officers from civilian life shocked the Regulars by removing the wire stiffeners from their caps, wearing uniform on leave and putting up their pips immediately on promotion.

Many were the obituary notices, One that fitted many of the dead was that written for Charles Darwin's grandson: "Whatever he might have achieved, he could never have left a more honourable memory."

Constable, 30s. **RLE**

LEGENDARY LEGIONAIRES

"HERE, sixty men fought an army. Its weight of numbers crushed them. These soldiers of France lost their lives, but not their courage. April 30th, 1863."

This is a translation of the inscription on a monument in a little Mexican village called Camerone. To thousands of men of the French Foreign Legion, Camerone has been the inspiration which has turned many a near defeat into a convincing victory.

Camerone was a minor action in the disastrous bid to set the Austrian Archduke Maximilian on the Mexican throne. The 60 legionaries under Captain Danjou—he had a wooden arm—were the escort of a bullion convoy. Attacked by 1500 well-armed Mexicans, Danjou sent the convoy to safety and took up a position in a farm.

All day the legionaries fought back. Danjou and his second-in-command were killed. As dusk fell, Second Lieutenant

SOLDIER PICTURES

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Picture Editor
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Maudet and five legionaries were still fighting but were down to their last rounds. They fired them, fixed bayonets and charged to death and immortality.

Camerone is but one instance of the heroism which runs like a golden thread through Patrick Turnbull's "The Foreign Legion." Today, Danjou's wooden arm is the Legion's most sacred relic.

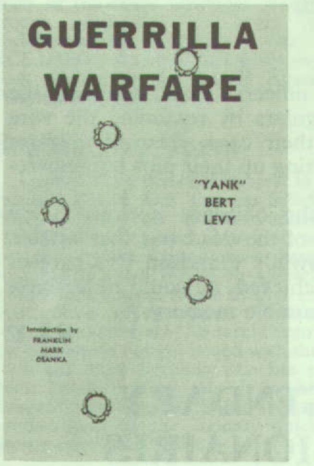
The Legion officer was always ahead of his men—General Conrad charging the Spanish Carlists with his helmet on the end of his cane; the Duc d'Aumale, fourth son of the Legion's founder, King Louis Philippe, racing at the head of 500 legionaries to rout the 30,000 of Abd-el-Kader; Colonel Vienot, killed before Sebastopol, whose courage was honoured when his name was bestowed on the Legion barracks at Sidi-bel-Abbes.

There is the legendary Sergeant-Major Mader who, with ten legionaries, captured a battery of six heavy guns from his German compatriots at the point of the bayonet in 1916; Captain Gaucher, who survived a 700-mile march through the Tonkin jungle to avoid slaughter by the Japanese, to die later as a colonel in Dien Bien Phu; and Colonel Lalande, commander of the Isabelle outpost of Dien Bien Phu, who refused to obey the order to surrender.

These are but a few. There are scores more, every one an inspiration to those who follow.

Heinemann, 35s. **J C W**

BEHIND THE LINES



CANADIAN-BORN Bert "Yank" Levy served in The Royal Fusiliers in World War One and afterwards with a couple of Latin-American revolutionary armies and the International Brigade in Spain.

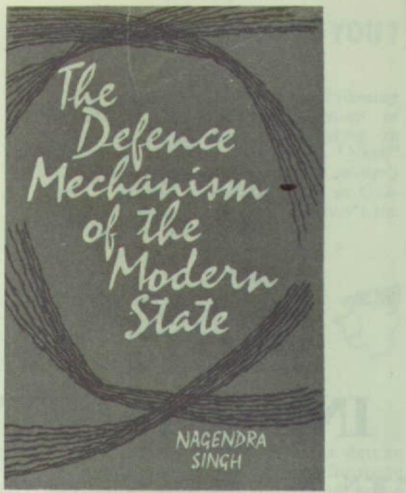
In 1940 he became an instructor in guerilla warfare at the British Home Guard School at Osterley. Two years later he went back to lecture on the same subject in Canada and the USA.

His lectures to the Home Guard were summarised in a paper-back which influenced the formation of guerilla forces in the United States. This is now republished as "Guerilla Warfare."

Some of Levy's examples of guerilla improvisation are colourful—a mouse-trap on a cat's tail, to divert the attention of a sentry, and a goat smeared with phosphorus paint to delay pursuers, are two from his own experience.

There are some interesting historical notes. When reports were received of Russian Boy Scouts killing Nazi motor-cyclists with a wire across the road, British Boy Scouts were demonstrating the same technique at Osterley. When Osterley was advocating improvising grenades with cocoa-tins, the more opulent defenders of Odessa were doing this with caviare-tins.

Panther Publications, $4.50 **R L E**



DEFENCE ORGANISATIONS

In recent history the Chiefs of Staffs Committee has developed as the focus of politico-military affairs. It is with special reference to this type of organisation that Dr. Nagendra Singh, Indian student of international affairs and graduate of the Imperial Defence College, has written "The Defence Mechanism of the Modern State."

He examines defence organisations in democratic countries, in the former Fascist states and, so far as scanty evidence permits, in the great Communist republics. He also considers the machinery of the United Nations military set-up, the North Atlantic Treaty and other "defence clubs."

Asia Publishing House, $5. **R L E**

IN BRIEF

Two new books by SOLDIER contributors, both well-established authors in their own right, have appeared. "Princess Margaret" by Dennis Bardens (a former SOLDIER feature writer) is a highly readable and up-to-date biography of particular interest to those Regiments of which the Princess is Colonel-in-Chief.

Hale, 21s. **D H C**

"Swifter than Eagles" by John Laffin (who writes SOLDIER's medals feature) tells the fascinating story of Sir John Maitland Salmond who was commissioned into The King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment more than 60 years ago, flew as an Army major with the Royal Flying Corps during World War One, became a major-general at 36 and is now senior RAF Marshal.

Blackwood, 30s. **D H C**

First issue of "The Gun Illustrated," an American magazine for the small-arms enthusiast, contains items for collectors and on buying and restoring old guns. Hunters are also well catered for with five articles. The issue does not say how often this magazine is to be published.

Muller, 2s. 6d. **R L E**