

SOLDIER

THE BRITISH  ARMY MAGAZINE

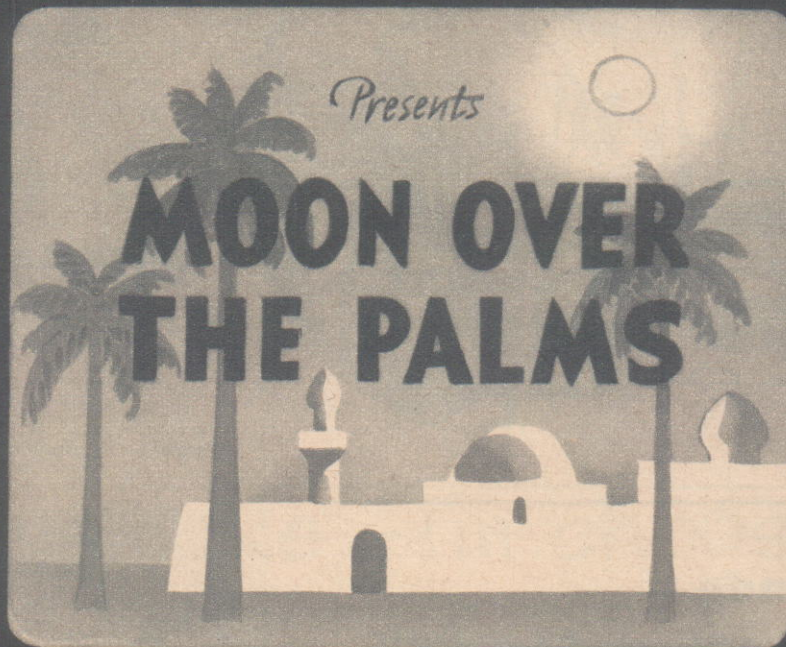
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EXIT



RUNNING THE ARMY'S CINEMAS
(See page 14)



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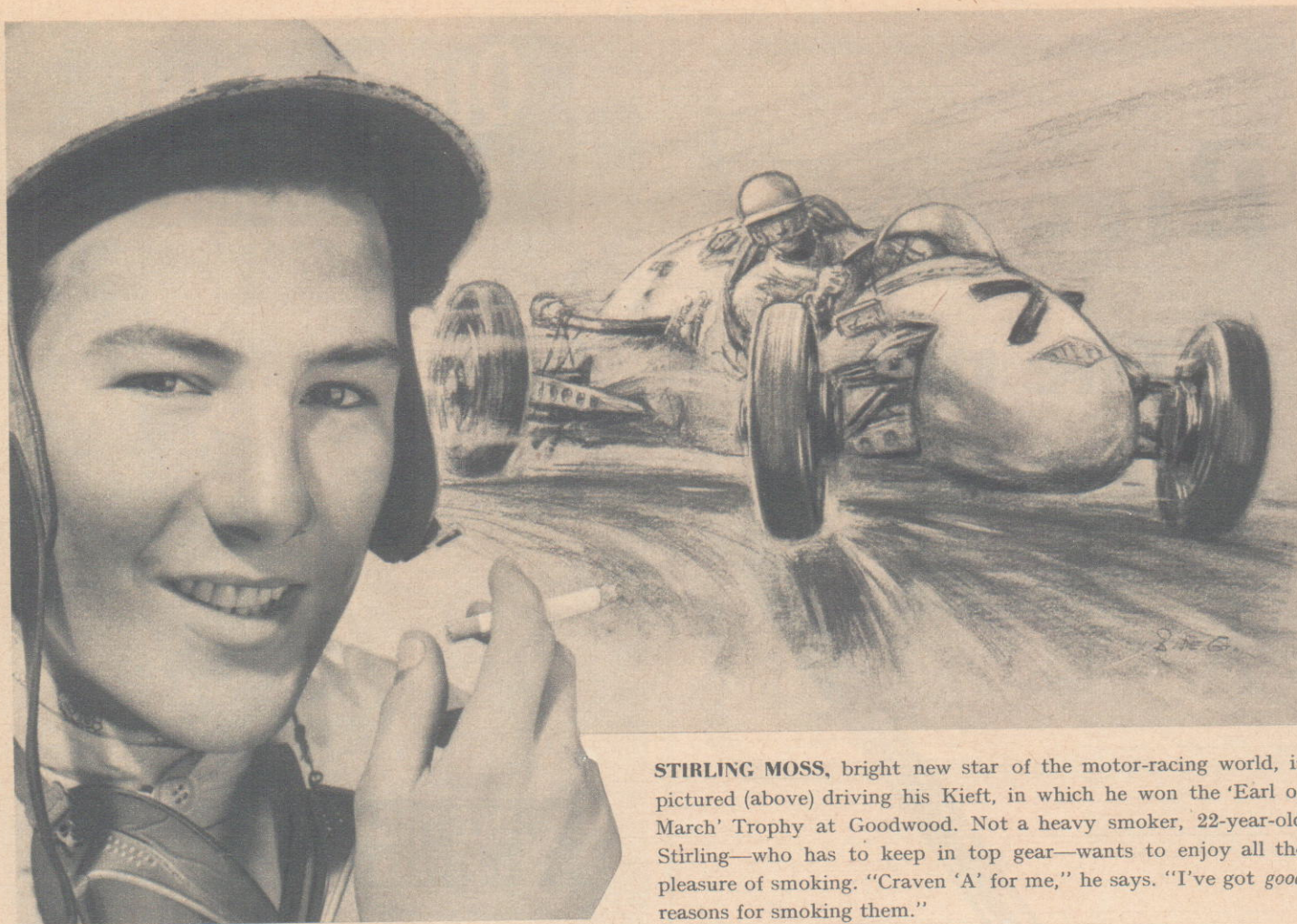
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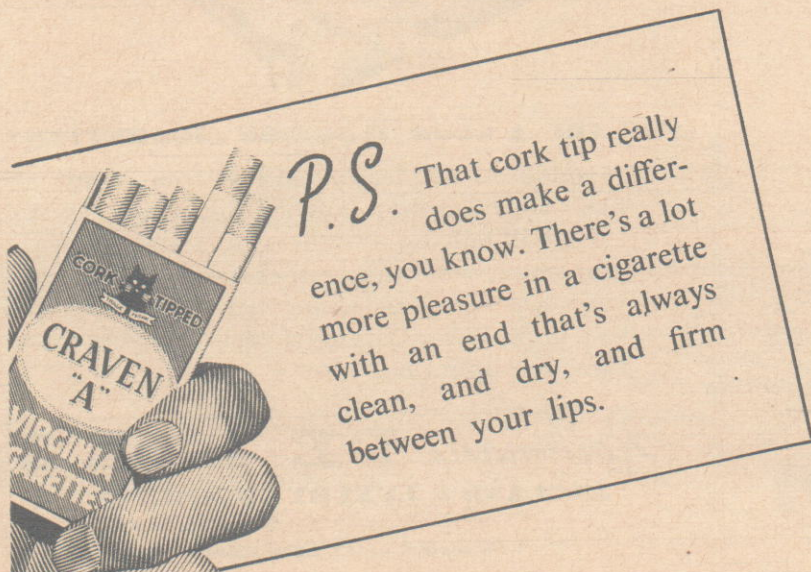
STIRLING MOSS, bright new star of the motor-racing world, is pictured (above) driving his Kieft, in which he won the 'Earl of March' Trophy at Goodwood. Not a heavy smoker, 22-year-old Stirling—who has to keep in top gear—wants to enjoy all the pleasure of smoking. "Craven 'A' for me," he says. "I've got good reasons for smoking them."

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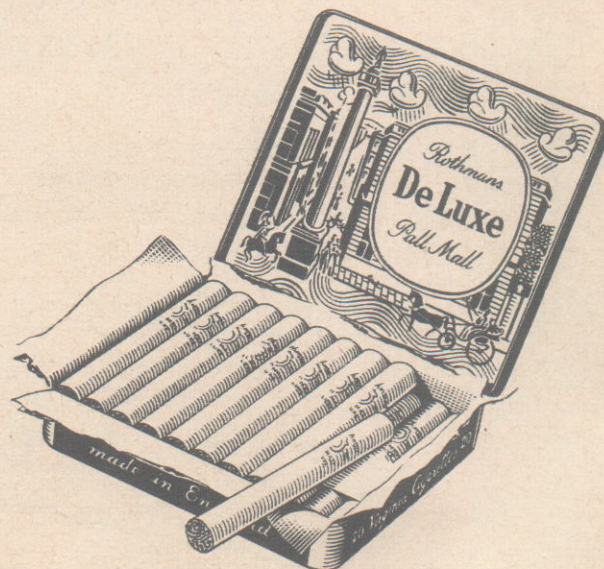
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Manxmen on the Guns

"Anybody here seen Kelly, Kelly from the Isle of Man?" asked the old song. Today you can find the Kellys on their Bofors guns, along with the Cains, Kaighens, Cools, Faraghers and Kennaughs

ON a cold, bleak Sunday afternoon, two pairs of Vampire jet fighters swooped back and to "beating up" a disused airfield at Andreas, on the plain at the northern end of the Isle of Man.

Then they flew back to Belfast. Soon afterwards, a wireless message brought cheer to the headquarters of 515 (Isle of Man) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, Territorial Army, temporarily established in the stripped and almost windowless control tower of the airfield. The pilots reported that they had not seen a single gun during the "beat-up."

There had been, in fact, three camouflaged Bofors around the

perimeter, keeping their sights trained on the aircraft as they swished over the airfield at 500 miles an hour or more. The report showed an improvement on the last time the Vampire pilots — week-end fliers of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve — had "beaten-up" the Regiment; on that occasion they had reported not only the three guns which were on the airfield but two non-existent ones as well.

For the Gunners, limbering-up their Bofors ready to go home, the message from Belfast was a

satisfactory climax to a week-end exercise which had had one disappointment. The sea had been too rough for a Royal Army Service Corps launch to put out and drop barrels for them to sink.

It had been an uncomfortably cold week-end exercise, but the men of 515 Regiment are used to that. In the summer, when the training programme is stepped up in most Territorial units, the Manxmen are too busy looking after the island's holiday-makers to spare much time for soldiering. So it is in the winter, when cold winds sweep down the Irish Sea, that their guns are taken out for training. Their annual camp, too, must take place before or after the holiday season.

The Manx Territorial Gunners are the only soldiers on the island, apart from a few Territorial members of Field Security and a Territorial platoon of the Women's Royal Army Corps.

They inherit a long tradition of part-time service which first went into the records of the island in 1417 with an Act of Tynwald, the Manx Parliament:

"First, that Watch and Ward be kept through your land as it ought, upon pain of lye and lyme; for whosoever fails any night in his ward forfeiteth a wether to the warden; and to the warden the second night a cow; and the third night lye and lyme to the Lord."

The forfeits of animals and life and limb were dropped in the following centuries, but the watch and ward still went on, kept by Militia, Fencibles, Volunteers, and occasionally Regulars. The Volunteers persisted in the Isle of Man long after 1908, when they were absorbed into the Territorial



The regimental flash consists of the three legs of Man, displayed here on Sgt. D. Telford's motor-cycling helmet.



On Andreas airfield, a camouflaged Bofors in "action." Vampire jet fighters were the target. (Photographs: W. J. Stirling)

Force in the United Kingdom. Isle of Man Volunteers went to war in 1914 and provided a Manx Company of the Cheshire Regiment for overseas service. Meanwhile other Manx Volunteers helped to guard prisoners-of-war on the island, which then had a garrison of 2000 guards and a training battalion, commanded by a Brigadier-General. The last Volunteers in the island were not disbanded until 1918.

The Territorial Army did not reach the Isle of Man until 1938, when 15 (Isle of Man) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment was formed. It took part in the Battle of Britain and then sailed for the Middle East at the end of 1940. One battery fought in East Africa, a second in Crete (where it was the last battery in action and nearly every man was taken prisoner), and the third defended the Suez Canal. Early in 1942, with a Regular battery to replace the one lost in Crete, the Regiment joined the 7th Armoured Division, with which it stayed until the end of the war, serving in North Africa, Italy and North-West Europe. Then, with a total of more than 200 enemy aircraft shot down, it went back to the Isle of Man to be disbanded. A framed picture of the 7th Armoured Division's desert rat flash hangs in the Douglas drill hall today, to testify to the Manxmen's pride in their service with the Division.

Meanwhile, the island had produced two Home Guard battalions

OVER



Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. D. Galloway, Commanding Officer of 515 Regiment, is a Regular. Left: Tromode Drill Hall, Douglas, regimental headquarters, was completed in 1940.

Manxmen on the Guns (Continued)

and a Home Guard Artillery troop to defend itself in case of attack, and a lieutenant-colonel's command guarded the civilian internees who were housed there. The Army also had training establishments in the island.

In 1947, 15 Regiment was reformed as 515 Regiment. It has a hard core of former members of 15 Regiment, some of whom served with it right through World War Two. One of these is the second-in-command, Major D. D. Lay, who is the Legal Assistant to the island's Attorney-General. Another is Serjeant W. Titterington, who has now taken a type "T" Regular engagement and serves the unit as a permanent staff instructor.

The Regiment has a Regular commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. D. Galloway. His only connection with it until a year ago was that he was second-

in-command of 2 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment which relieved 15 Regiment in Germany when it went back to the island to disband.

All the Manx National Servicemen who are posted to the Territorial Army for part-time service go to 515 Regiment, but no Manx "Z" Reservists. The reason is that the "Z" Reserve call-up does not apply to the Isle of Man, and for annual camp the Regiment is brought up to strength with "Z" men from the mainland.

This worries both the Regiment and the island's authorities, who foresee that the Regiment will lose its Manx connection. As a result, a Bill is to be put before Tynwald to extend "Z" call-up to Manxmen, and meanwhile there is a drive to raise more volunteer recruits for the Regiment.

The nominal roll of Territorials and National Servicemen shows

a gratifying proportion of good Manx names. Kelly is there, of course, and so are Christian, Faragher, Cain, Callow, Corlett, Shimmin, Quayle, Kissack, Clucas, Crellin, Cooil, Kaighen and Kennaugh — some of them several times over. It was like that in the war years. One officer recalls a troop of 60 men which had six named Kelly.

Appropriately for a unit which has its being in the world's most famous motor-cycling centre, the Regiment has plenty of motor-cycling enthusiasts. On a winter's Sunday, when the mountain road which climbs 1400 feet up Snaefell, the island's highest hill, is almost deserted, the unit's despatch-riders bring back echoes of the summer's glory. On their issue motor-cycles, their uniforms topped with white helmets bearing the three-legged crest of the Isle of Man, they whip past the Jimmy Guthrie memorial, corner expertly by the Bungalow and at Creg Ny Baa, and shoot off to

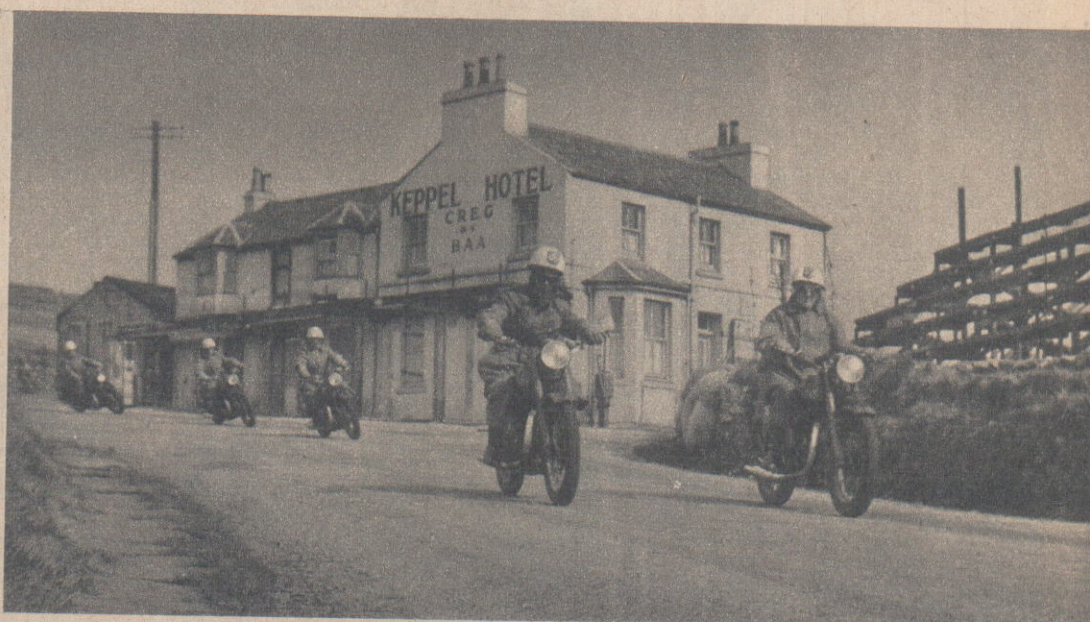
Governor's Bridge, over a course which tens of thousands of motorcyclists yearn to tackle.

With this background, it is not surprising that the Regiment has done well in Army motor-cycle trials. It has won the 4th Anti-Aircraft Group cup for the past three years and the West Lancashire Territorial Association cup for the past two years.

Two of the Regiment's young riders are already making names for themselves in the motor-cycling world. One is Craftsman D. Christian, who flew home from Egypt for the Manx Grand Prix meeting while he was on National Service. Wearing Royal Artillery flashes, he came seventh in the Senior Manx Grand Prix in 1950 and was in the winning team; last year he withdrew from the Senior Grand Prix with a seized engine but came 10th in the Junior. Craftsman Christian served with the Regiment as a Gunner before being called up and was the first member of the



Craftsman D. Christian (left) and Gunner J. Wood are racing motorcyclists as well as despatch-riders.



The despatch-riders take the famous Creg Ny Baa corner more sedately than the TT racers.



Serjeant W. Titterington served with the Regiment all through World War Two. He is now a permanent staff instructor.

Regiment to return to it after National Service. He has been rebadged, in the course of Phase Two of the formation of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and belongs to a Light Aid Detachment which is being formed for 515 Regiment.

The other rising young motorcyclist is Gunner J. J. Wood, who was 7th in last year's Senior Grand Prix and 6th in the Senior Clubman's Tourist Trophy race.

While Craftsman Christian and Gunner Wood are racing round the TT track, other members of the Regiment are giving less spectacular service at the Tourist Trophy meetings. Telephones link most of the police round the course with their controllers, but some of the more desolate parts of the mountain road have no telephone. So the Gunners step in with their wireless sets.

They have one other peculiarly Manx duty. On 5 July each year they join other men in uniform (the Royal Air Force has a

Regular unit in the island and there are Cadets and Scouts) in lining the rush-strewn path along which passes the Tynwald Day procession. Here the dignitaries range from the Lieutenant-Governor downwards, among them the Deemsters ("law-men"), members of the House of Keys (equivalent to the House of Commons), the Legislative Council (Tynwald's "House of Lords") and the Captains of Parishes. The procession goes from the Church at St. John's to Tynwald Hill, the traditional, but not geographic, centre of the island. There, with great ceremony, the laws passed by Tynwald during the year are read out in English and Manx, so that nobody can claim he did not know about them.

Tynwald is proud of the island's regiment. An officer who retired, on account of age, from its command in 1942 was honoured by this resolution: "Tynwald offers its felicitations to Lieutenant-Colonel G. P. MacClellan, DSO, OBE, on his safe return to the Isle of Man from active service after commanding his Regiment since its birth with distinction and honour." The United Kingdom Parliament rarely does as much for a commander-in-chief.

The island's towns are equally interested in the Regiment. Douglas, the capital, has "adopted" the regimental headquarters and two batteries which have their home there in a fine modern drill hall, which was finished in 1940. Ramsey is in process of "adopting" the third battery, which is recruited in the town.

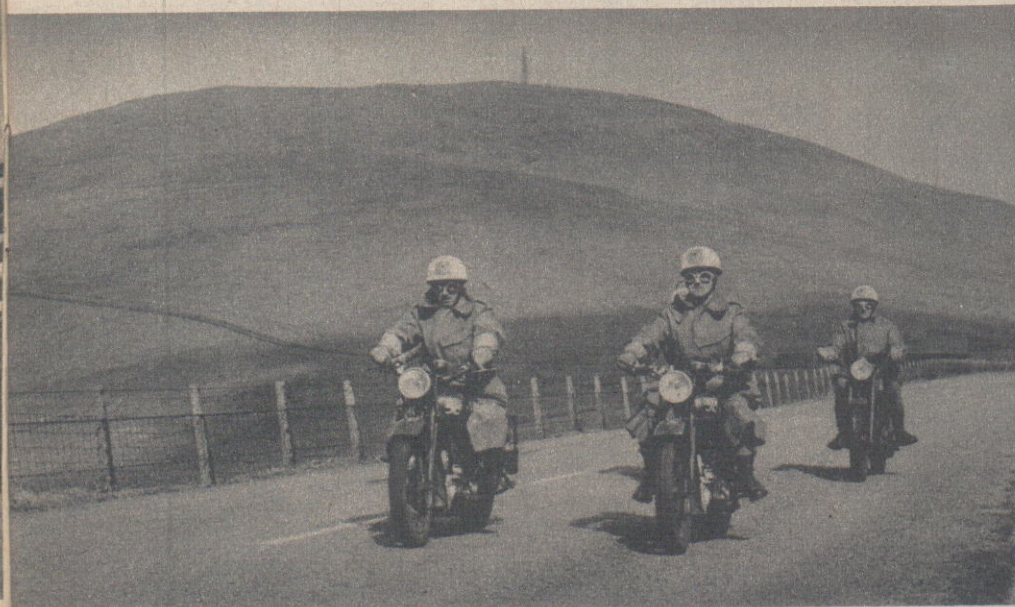
The Ramsey battery at present is using a temporary drill hall at Andreas, a few miles away, but a new drill hall is planned for Ramsey and another, to accommodate a troop, for Castletown.

The Regiment had one other distinction. As 15 Regiment it had a sailor as its honorary colonel, Vice-Admiral Earl Granville, who was Lieutenant-Governor of the Isle of Man from 1937 to 1945.

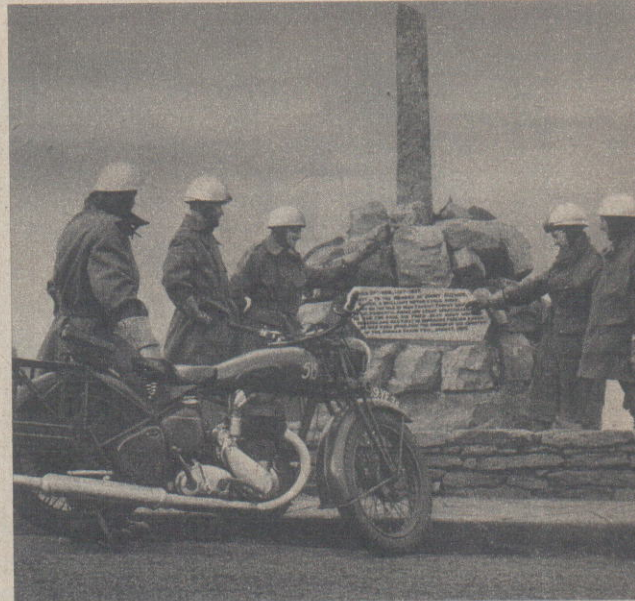
RICHARD ELLY



A tourist attraction on the island is the giant Laxey Wheel, which used to power water-pumps in the Manx lead-mines. The mines closed some 70 years ago.



High spot on the TT circuit. In the background is the top of Snaefell, the island's highest hill.



Despatch-riders take a breather by the Jimmy Guthrie memorial. Guthrie won the Isle of Man TT six times, was killed in a German race in 1937.



Cave men: a general view of the three-inch mortar platoon's bunkers and dug-outs on the reverse slope of a hill on Korea's western front.

A Battalion Goes To Ground

IN an "underground village" of their own construction, the 1st Battalion The Royal Norfolk Regiment have held, for six months and more, a section of the United Nations line facing the Chinese.

The Royal Norfolks (five Victoria Crosses in World War Two) arrived amid these inhospitable hills in October 1951. As big-scale fighting had been halted for the armistice talks, the Infantrymen were able to set about making

How does an Infantry battalion live, month in, month out, on a bare Korean hillside? This article describes the subterranean "home from home" excavated by men of the Royal Norfolk Regiment

From reports by Lieutenant T. H. S. Jenkinson, Military Observer in Korea

themselves warm and comfortable behind the business-like forward communication trenches.

The Battalion "village" has underground messes and shower baths, electric light, a wireless broadcast system, and a telephone exchange connecting with any

unit in the 1st Commonwealth Division. All this has meant much hard digging and the exercise of the British soldier's well-known genius for improvisation.

Above ground all that Lieutenant Colonel J. H. R. Orlebar can see of his battalion are neat humps and bumps — sandbags, straw thatching and metal chimneys, all blending in well with the scars of a Korean hillside.

The roofs of most country dwellings in Korea are thatched with rice straw, so it was not difficult to find expert local thatchers willing to thatch the inner walls of dug-outs for insulation against the cold, and also the roofs of such places as the cinema and the barber's shop.

The officers' mess has come a long way from the dug-outs of "Journey's End." It has an ante-room with an open fireplace cut out of the subterranean stone, chiselled smooth to give an appearance which would not be out of place in a country cottage in England. The large dining-room opens off the ante-room at right angles, and has a very creditable bar at one end.

The sergeants' mess consists of one large room with an even bigger and better open fireplace, plus mantelpiece. At the side is a fine colour portrait of Queen Elizabeth. The sergeants also have

their bar, well carpentered, well stocked.

An innocent-looking long thatched building in the middle of nowhere is the battalion cinema. A little conical thatched hut, with a painted sign in front, is the barber's shop, frequented by all ranks.

One "showplace," carved in a steep slope, is a water closet complete with "pull" chain. Above it is the water storage tank, and below the drainage; when the chain is pulled the Law of Gravity goes into action. The principle of gravitation is also employed to work the men's shower bath. Water is heated by an improvised petrol vapour stove, made from non-returnable metal boxes; a man luxuriates in hot water and steam inside the bath house, and the temperature is controlled from outside as required, by one of his comrades.

Several petrol-driven generators known as "chore horses" recharge the many wireless batteries required in modern warfare; but besides the operational batteries, old faulty ones which yield only ten volts instead of 12, are linked together to supply electric light to the men's dug-outs.

There is an improvised stove in each man's sleeping dug-out. Fuel is in a reservoir container outside, and is piped into the stove, via a carburettor.

The forward defence line runs along the hill tops, which give good observation of the paddy fields in the valley below, and of the hills held by the Chinese. At night there is patrolling of the



Private Ramon Pantrini (left) and Corporal Joe Ashlin, Royal Norfolks, were captured by the Chinese. But 25-pounders came to the rescue (see story).

paddy fields and hamlets, and often contact with the enemy is made in this soggy no-man's-land. An occasional tank perched at the top of a hill can add weight to rifle and machine-gun fire when needed.

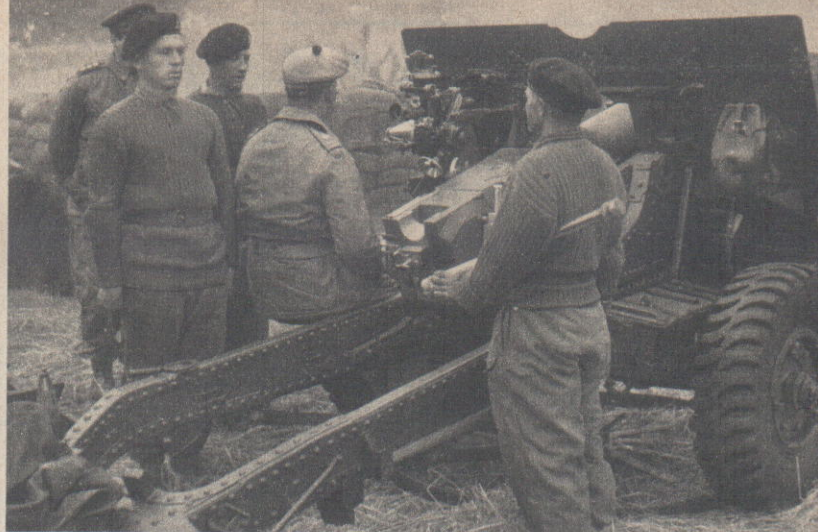
The Royal Norfolks are grateful for the splendid support given them by 14th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery throughout their occupation of the hillside. If a patrol sends back a radio message for 25-pounder fire on a pre-arranged target with a code name, or even on a new target for which a map reference is given, that patrol has implicit confidence in the Gunners, who have not failed them yet.

Though fighting is on a minor scale, there are still opportunities for a display of the offensive spirit. There was, for example, the occasion when Second-Lieutenant T. J. B. Henson and a patrol of 12 men put to flight a numerically much superior enemy after a clash with bayonets, weapon butts and even fists. The Royal Norfolks gathered in their wounded and made a three-quarter circle round them, and then as the

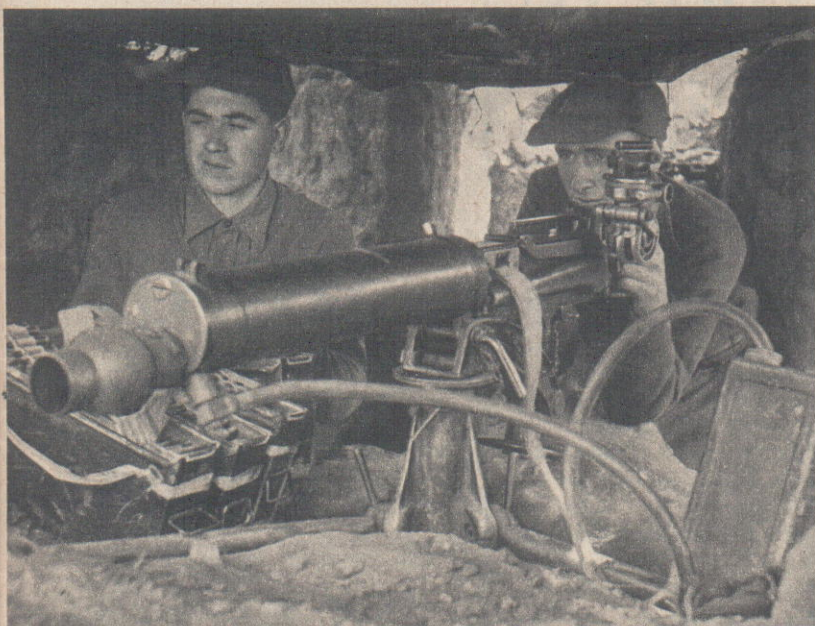
enemy re-formed they fought him with Bren gun and grenades. Although the patrol had suffered sharp losses, they bravely carried on the fight, at the same time sending a radio message for artillery and machine-gun support. They also asked for a rescue patrol, for they were running out of ammunition, and the metal of their Bren was so hot that it was beginning to soften.

The rescue patrol arrived and evacuated the casualties, three men killed and six wounded. Of the enemy, six killed were afterwards counted and a reasonable estimate of their wounded would be 12. Second-Lieutenant Henson, who reported that every man in the patrol behaved magnificently, was awarded the Military Cross.

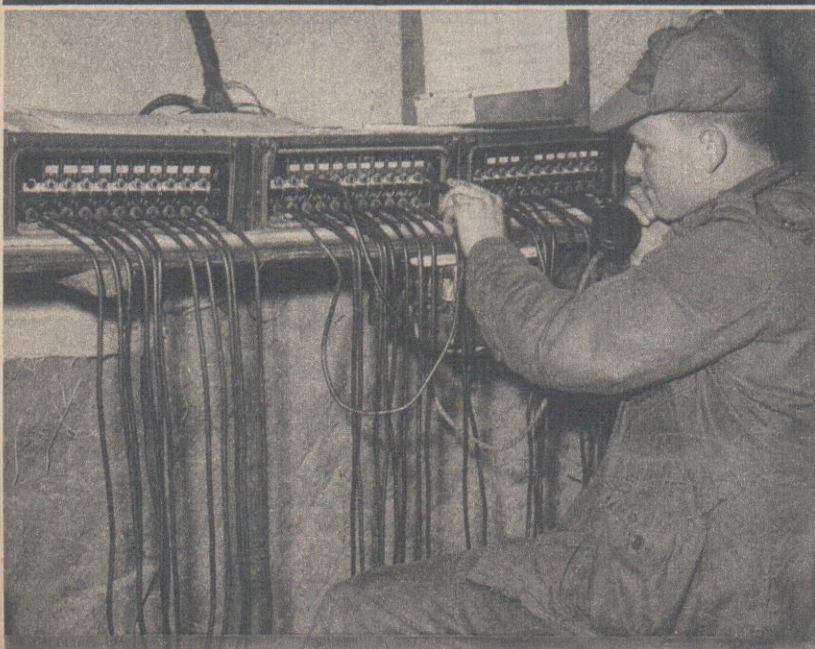
In another action a Military Medal went to Private Reginald (now Corporal) Critcher. He was a member of a patrol which was suddenly attacked at a range of ten yards. His patrol commander was wounded, but Private Critcher, although badly wounded himself, stood up and fired his Bren from the hip to give the patrol time to reorganise and



Like their predecessors (45th Field Regt.), the Gunners of 14th Field Regiment have now sent up their 100,000th round. Major-Gen. A. J. H. Cassels fired it (above). He congratulates the gun commander, Sjt. J. Rudge (right). The historic round, on its tasselled cushion (below) was ceremonially delivered by a Canadian lorry.



Looking out over no-man's-land in the valley below: Corporal Alec Southall (right) and Private Derek Adams. Below: Private G. Wright, telephone operator at Battalion Headquarters, can pass calls to any unit in the Commonwealth Division.



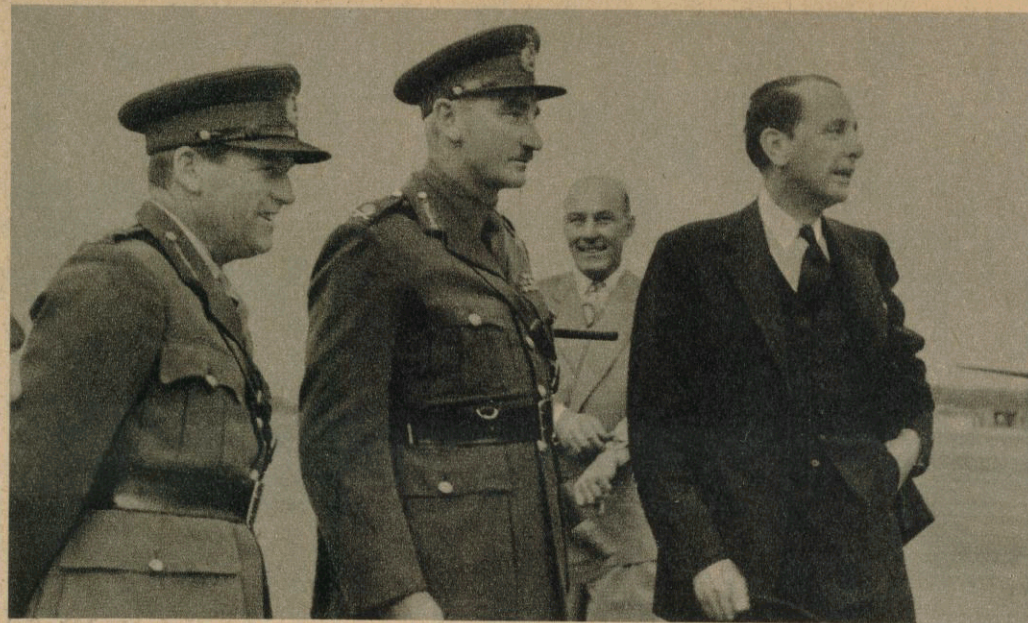
deploy. His complete disregard for his own safety averted a more serious situation.

In broad daylight, Corporal Joe Ashlin and Private Ramon Pantrini had an alarming adventure in no-man's-land. Ambushed in an apparently deserted hamlet, they became separated from the other members of the patrol and were taken captive. One of the wounded enemy, profusely bleeding, made to attack the unarmed Private Pantrini, but a Chinese officer prevented what might well have been a murderous assault. The two men were pushed and prodded towards the Chinese lands.

Again it was the Gunners who came to the rescue. Through

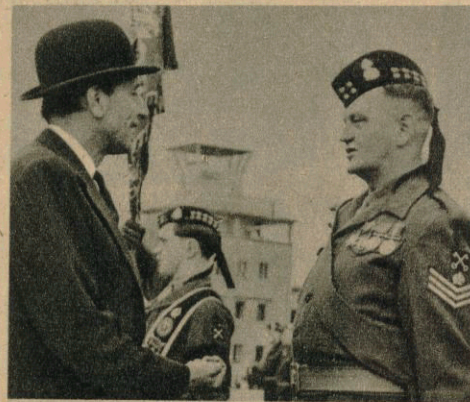
binoculars, a Royal Artillery officer in an observation post saw the two men being abducted and promptly signalled to his 25-pounders. As soon as the shells began to fall in the vicinity, the Chinese spread out and ducked to the ground. This was our men's chance and they took it, slithering and plunging wildly through the paddy fields amid the exploding 25-pounder shells. The enemy fired at the fugitives, who may owe their lives to the fact that they floundered and fell so often. They regained their hamlet and returned, shaken, to their own lines.

No wonder the Royal Norfolks think highly of the Royal Artillery!

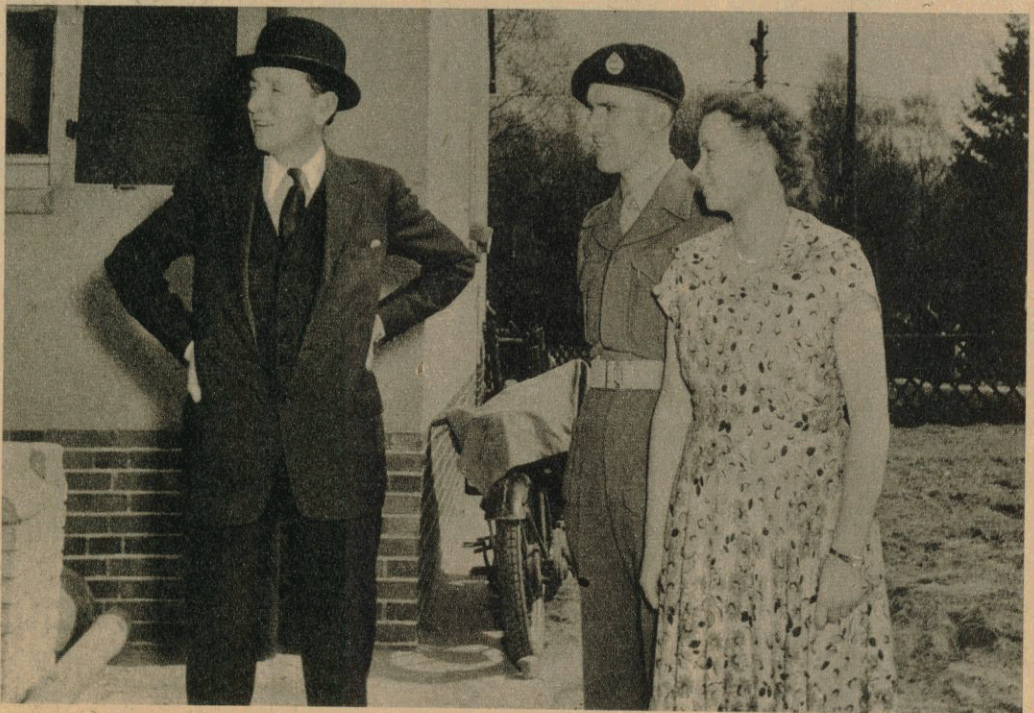


Eighty-five years service between them: General Sir John Harding (left), Commander-in-Chief Rhine Army; Major-General B. A. Coad, commanding 2nd Infantry Division; and Brigadier Antony Head, Minister for War, formerly of the Life Guards. (Photographs: Public Relations, Rhine Army).

THE MINISTER LOOKS IN



At Dusseldorf the War Minister chats to C/Sjt. A. McEwan, Royal Scots Fusiliers; and (below) visits the home of Sjt. G. Haile, Queen's Bays.



ALTHOUGH some amenities may have to go, the British Zone of Germany will remain a "good" station. That assurance was given by the Secretary for War, Brigadier Antony Head, in the course of a crowded six-day tour of the British Army of the Rhine.

Brigadier Head saw most aspects of life in Rhine Army, from resplendent guards of honour to camouflaged troops in the field, from base depots to married quarters.

Standing on the top of a forestry watch-tower he saw a company of Infantrymen assaulting a strongly-held hill position, in the Soltau training area. He watched an impressive divisional artillery concentration on the Royal Artillery ranges.

And he paid one visit which was not on the programme of previous War Ministers: he flew to inspect progress at the new British military base in Belgium, of which little has yet been heard. He reported: build-up proceeding quite satisfactorily.



General Eisenhower takes Rhine Army's general salute at Minden.

IN HIS

A good regimental officer should know the names of all his men. How many names of subordinates should the commander of a division know?

They say that on the eve of the invasion of Sicily Major-General Matthew Bunker Ridgway, then commanding the 82nd Airborne Division, personally introduced 130 of his junior officers to General Patton — and was never at a loss for a name.

His memory is one of General Ridgway's conspicuous assets. His energy is another. His aides need to be athletes, trained to use a minimum of sleep. America's "jumping general" is the kind of man who likes to inspect half a dozen units before breakfast, and climb peaks after the day's work is done.

Six-foot General Ridgway was born in a fort to the sound of bugles, 57 years ago. During World War One he served at West Point with three future headline generals — Eisenhower, Bradley and Gruenther. After the war came 20 years of military inaction. The American Army had no fretful North-West Frontier to subdue. Yet the leaders were there, and they kept their wits supple. General Ridgway saw the infinite possibilities in airborne assault. His first operational jump was into Sicily. When Mussolini

A GREAT SOLDIER GOES

General Dwight D. Eisenhower took his leave of the British troops under his command at a special parade at Minden

NOT for the first time, the British Army stood at Minden — and cheered.

The Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force were there too, and the Canadian Army. They had turned out to honour General Dwight D. Eisenhower, paying his farewell visit to the British Army of the Rhine as Supreme Commander Allied Powers in Europe.

This was the man whose name, only 10 years before, had been so unfamiliar that an American newspaper printed it in the caption to a picture as "Lieutenant-Colonel D. D. Ersenbeing"; yet who, less than two years after the date of the misprint, was ruefully complaining that Staff College had never taught him what to do with a quarter of a million prisoners at the wrong end of a rickety, single-line railway.

This was the man who, in breach of centuries of tradition, had been appointed to command British troops on the Continent in peacetime; and how proudly Britain had broken her traditions!

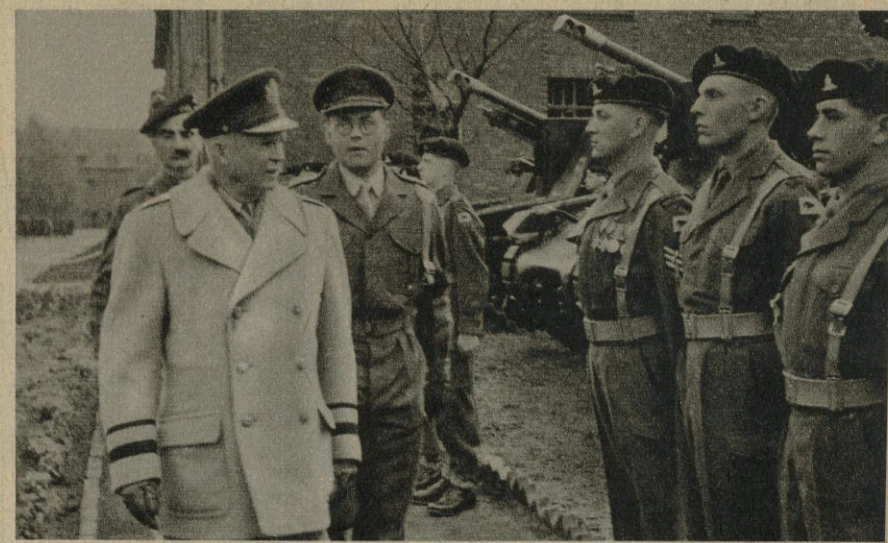
When General Eisenhower's aircraft put down at Buckeburg there were to greet him a distinguished sailor, a distinguished airman. They were General Sir John Hard-

ing, Commander-in-Chief British Army of the Rhine; Rear Admiral R. St. V. Sherbrooke, Flag Officer, Germany; and Air Marshal Sir Robert Forster, commanding 2nd Tactical Air Force.

The three Services put on an impressive parade at Minden. Gunners of 10th Field Regiment fired a 25-pounder salute in the General's honour and five squadrons of Vampire jet aircraft from 2nd Tactical Air Force — which is the spearhead of the Northern Air Force — ripped overhead.

General Eisenhower told the soldiers, the sailors, the airmen and the marines of his pride in having commanded forces of the Queen.

"You are really the outpost of a civilisation," he assured them. "You are a part of its bulwark, of its shield; you are part of the mechanism that civilisation sets



The departing Supreme Commander inspects the Gunners who fired the salute in his honour.

up in order that it may proceed to carry out those great and humanitarian purposes for which it was designed.

"As such you are not only armed men guarding that kind of civilisation against possible attack; you are also its representative, an ambassador of that kind of civilisation."

Before the final march-past,

General Sir John Harding called for three cheers for General Eisenhower. Among those who cheered the loudest were men who served on the battlefields of World War Two under General Eisenhower's command.

So a great soldier took his leave... wherever he was going it was not along the path to obscurity.

PLACE — THE JUMPING GENERAL

To Europe comes the man who turned the tide of battle in Korea and succeeded General Douglas MacArthur as Far East "Supremo"

was tottering, General Ridgway's 82nd Division was briefed to drop on Rome — but the plan was scrapped at the eleventh hour. Instead the Division lent timely aid in the Salerno beachhead.

When the airborne drop on the Normandy beaches was projected, General Ridgway stoutly opposed those who wanted to call off the operation as potentially too costly. After the drop (again he jumped with his men), it was his headquarters which signalled:

"SHORT 60 PER CENT INFANTRY, 90 PER CENT ARTILLERY, COMBAT EFFICIENCY EXCELLENT."

At a later stage General Ridgway, as commander of a United States airborne corps, had the British 6th Airborne Division serving under him — with Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery temporarily as his commander. When the Field-Marshal gave orders that the 82nd Division should make a tactical withdrawal there were long faces, for the Division had never before withdrawn in its combat history. But General Ridgway gave the order.

After the battle of the Ardennes bulge, Field-Marshal Montgomery described General Ridgway's work as "magnificent."

In 1945 General Ridgway became General Eisenhower's re-

presentative on the Military Staff Committee of the United Nations. In this capacity he saw post-war diplomacy at work.

It was in Korea that General Ridgway came dramatically into the news again. The United Nations forces were threatened with a "Dunkirk." Taking over from General Walton Walker, who was killed in a jeep crash, General Ridgway faced a situation not unlike that which confronted General Montgomery when he first went out to the Western Desert. "I aim to stay in Korea," said the General. He jerked and jollied the dis-spirited forces into action, gave them a new inspiration; and the tide of battle changed.

In Korea the General liked to wear his airborne uniform. He was soon famous as the general who carried live grenades on his person; the only times he was not seen wearing them (so the story goes) were when he was returning from the front line. Much airborne history has been written in Korea. Though the General has had no occasion to jump again, his hoverplane has flitted over most of the peninsula. That is the ideal way for a field commander to inspect the forward areas, General Ridgway thinks.

General Omar Bradley has said

this about General Ridgway: "One of those tremendously valuable Army officers who are both outstanding commanders and amazingly competent staff officers. He can plan an action and he can execute it."

And here is a human note: on 1 May Mr. R. A. Angier wrote to *The Times* to support the view expressed in that newspaper that General Ridgway was "always careful to devote as much care

and attention to the troops of other nations as to the American troops under his command."

Mr. Angier said: "When my son, Major P. A. Angier, was killed in action with his regiment, the Gloucesters, at the Battle of the Imjin River last year, General Ridgway wrote a personal letter signed with his own hand to my son's widow. I understand he makes time to write to the next of kin of other, if not all, casualties."



General Matthew B. Ridgway, the new Supreme Commander in Europe.



NATO TANK?

A Centurion on the Hohn ranges shows how, when in difficulties, it can surround itself with a smoke screen. Smoke bombs from the ejectors visible on right of turret are seen exploding.

THESE striking photographs of Centurions of 11th Armoured Division were taken on the Hohn ranges in Germany.

A plan is reported to be under consideration to make the Centurion the No. 1 tank for European armies, under the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Battle-tested in Korea, Arctic-tested in Canada, desert-tested in Egypt, the Centurion is now being tropic-tested in a Pacific isle.

The optical equipment of the gun is so good that "you do not just see the target, you see the enemy scratching his ear" — to quote an officer of the 8th Hussars. The 20-pounder gun keeps itself aimed steadily at the target even when the tank is in motion. Thanks to its stabiliser (the existence of which was long kept secret), a Centurion in motion can confidently lob shells over the heads of forward Infantry — a risky feat when attempted by moving tanks during the late war. The gun control equipment costs £1600, and the actual gadget that works the stabiliser only £100. Two initial snags of the Centurion — limited mileage and lack of a Besa gun on the turret — have now been overcome. An auxiliary fuel tank is seen on the tank illustrated at the top of this page.

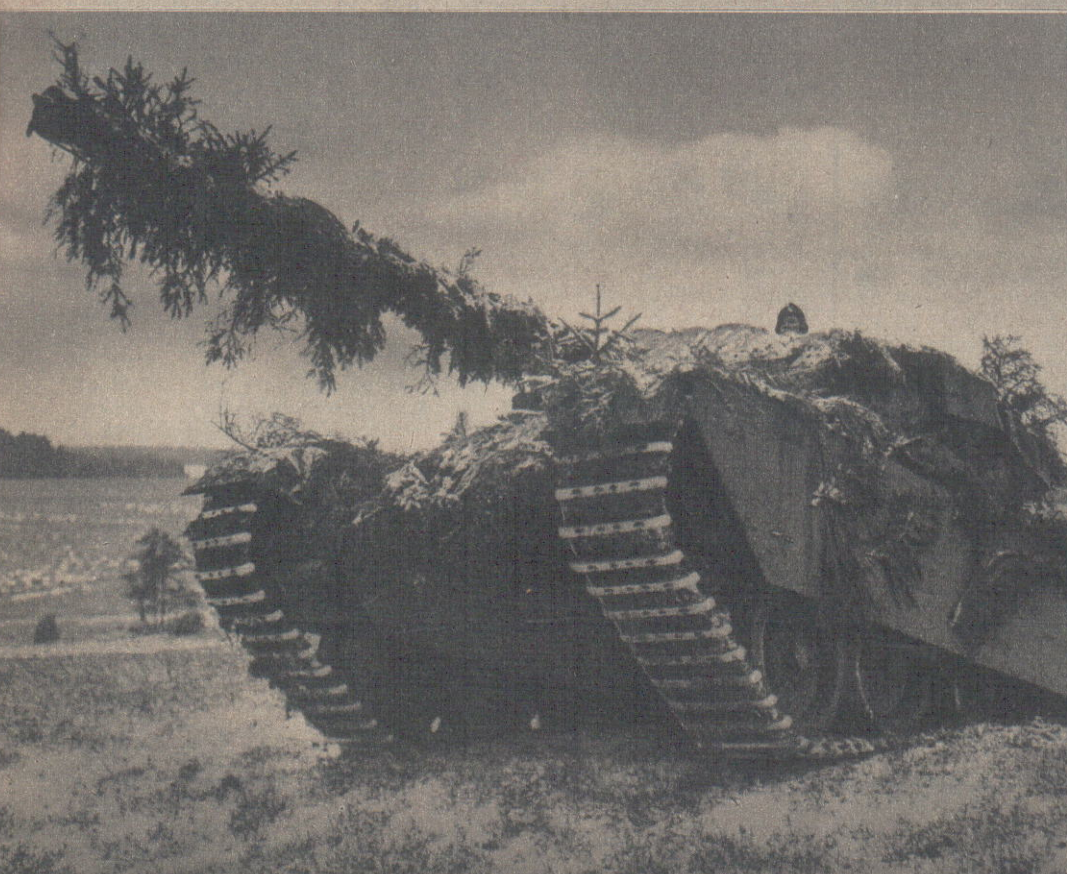
Centurions are built in Leeds. They cost the taxpayer £38,000 each.

Two-dimensional war: an Auster "poses" over a row of tanks poised on a ridge during exercises.





Above: Here you can count some of the 56 Infantrymen a Centurion can carry on its back — and there's still room for one or two more. Below: A tastefully camouflaged Centurion tops a ridge. Right: Troopers of 5th Royal Tank Regiment load 20-pounder rounds into their tank. The gun is a weapon of uncanny precision.



SOLDIER to Soldier

SOME rosy day, perhaps, the armies of the Atlantic Powers may find themselves handling standardised arms and ammunition.

But let nobody try to standardise food!

Readers of SOLDIER may have noticed a report from Washington on the food tastes of American soldiers. A survey showed that the favourite meat dish was roast turkey; at the other end of the scale, grilled liver with smothered onions was "disliked extremely." The favourite vegetables were fresh sliced tomatoes and buttered corn on the cob; unpopular were asparagus and candied parsnips. Banana cream pie was approved for dessert; stewed apricots were spurned. Milk was the favourite drink.

"There are certain things soldiers like," Quartermaster General George A. Hokan was quoted as saying. "There are other things it is impossible to put down their throats. Strawberries are very popular; fish they do not particularly care for."

It is no secret that many British soldiers, in the early days in Korea, hankered for their own plain fare rather than the more exotic food supplied, and generously supplied, by the Americans. Contrasting national backgrounds and standards of living have to be taken into account. The British soldier is traditionally and incurably suspicious of a dish which he suspects to be honest food "mucked about" or "tarted up." He is nervous in the presence of the unknown; only a Giles could do justice to a scene of British Army recruits being offered buttered corn on the cob as their first Army meal.

In the British Army no food surveys are contemplated. The supply experts learn most of what they want to know about soldiers' tastes by a study of units' "underdrawals."

The other day a Member of Parliament asked why British soldiers could not buy apple juice in their canteens. He was told there was no demand for it. When he insisted that troops in Germany were partial to locally manufactured apple juice, a shocked Member exclaimed, "What is the Army coming to?"

AS a footnote to all this, comes a report from an American Army base in Hawaii telling how all soldiers undergoing basic training spend one day on Soviet Army food.

The menu ranges from boiled beets, rice porridge, pea soup and black bread to borscht, boiled potatoes with sour cream sauce, fish stew and boiled cabbage. In case any soldier contemplates fasting for a day, there is a 20-mile route march soon after dinner. This gastronomic ordeal is said to give the

men "a pretty good idea of what they are fighting for."

ALTHOUGH the last member of the Auxiliary Territorial Service is about to be released (see page 18) it will be a long time before the general public, obstinately slow to learn new initials, ceases to refer to women in Army uniform as "A's" (to rhyme with bats).

The ATS established a firm niche in the popular affection during the war. Against all the prejudices of those who thought that women in uniform were essentially comical, undesirable, inefficient or incapable of discipline, they showed that they could tackle a big job with a will and a smile. Most of the 350,000, probably, are housewives now; and no doubt their military memories (like those of all old soldiers) are growing ever rosier from year to year. Undoubtedly they have much cause for pride.

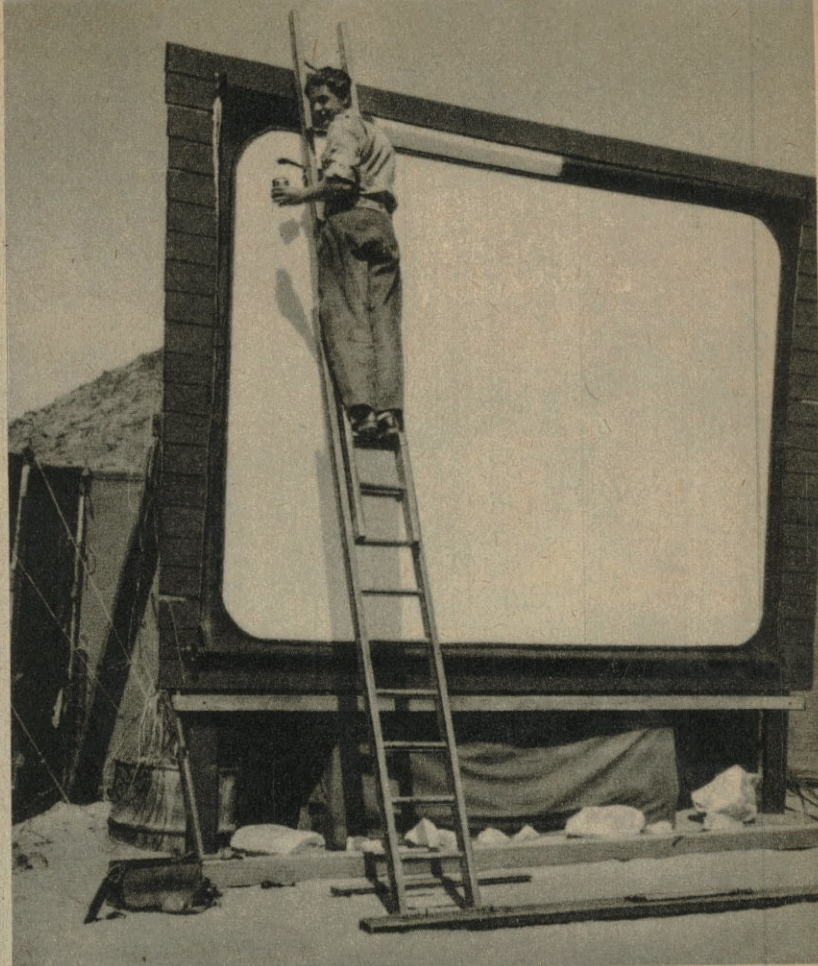
HOW many soldiers would like to have the padre sleeping in the next bed?

Certain Members of Parliament recently urged changes in the status of Army chaplains. One view appeared to be that the padre should become an "Other Rank," another that he should be, in effect, an officer but not wear officers' badges of rank, another that he should enjoy the freedom of all the messes but have a private billet of his own. Brigadier O. L. Prior-Palmer said he thought that "a chaplain in the barrack-room might be a great embarrassment to the soldiers in that barracks," and the War Minister (Brigadier Antony Head) agreed. Which is no reflection on the esteem in which padres are held in the ranks.

A soldier wants a padre who is always friendly and accessible, who mixes with him and his comrades on informal occasions; but he does not want him in the barrack-room any more than he wants his own father there.

One Member recalled that when he served with 50th Division in France in 1939-40 there was a direct order from the Commander, General Sir Giffard Martel, that "the best accommodation in any village wherever the unit might find itself should immediately be earmarked for the unit chaplain, and that a sign like an inn sign, bearing the cross of St. George, had to be hung outside the building." The Member said he had never served in a formation with a better morale.

RADIO script-writers have a most unenviable task hatching new Army jokes each week. We appreciate their labours, but do we want quite so many jokes about creeping and crawling, and similes like "as black as the polish on a corporal's tongue"?



Running The

TO own a circuit of cinemas, even in these days of television, is still many a man's dream of bliss.

Think of those long suburban queues on Saturday nights... Nothing to do but send a man round to collect the takings... or to goad the managers now and then into organising kissing contests, or hiring Lady Godivas.

It is one thing to own a circuit of cinemas in the suburbs of London. It is another to own (or rent, or requisition) a circuit of cinemas from Catterick to Hong-Kong; cinemas which range from those echoing barns to be found in home garrisons to the moonlit, roofless enclosures of Cyprus and West Africa, from the plushy cinemas of Germany to the roofless, wall-less, seatless "cinemas" of the Malayan jungle.

Such is the "circuit" of the Army Kinema Corporation. It is the kind of business proposition which any shrewd financier could be expected to consider, admire and turn down all in about sixty seconds. Yet the Army Kinema Corporation carries on the business from year to year. Under its charter, it must not make a profit, which (where some of its cinemas are concerned) is rather like saying that your grandmother must not ride a push-bike at sixty miles an hour.

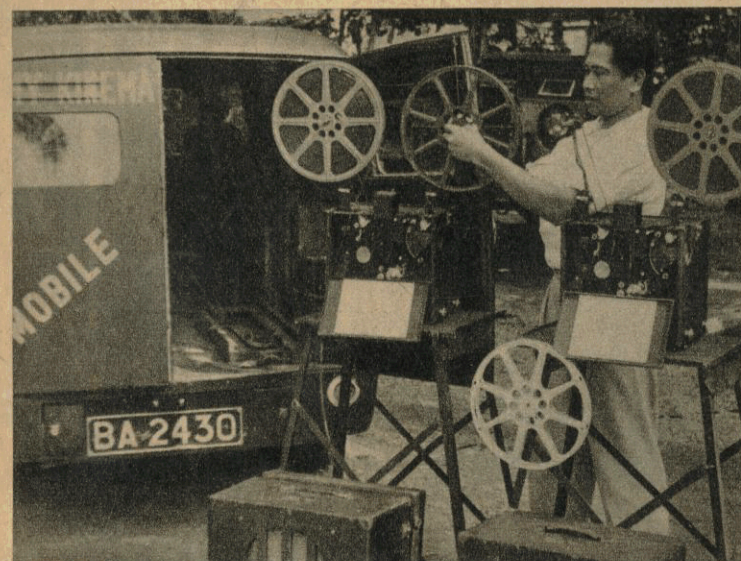
Although there may be (and may always be) a few soldiers who are convinced that the purpose of the Army Kinema Corporation is to extract the maximum amount of money for showing the oldest discoverable films, the average man in uniform seems to appreciate the job that is being done for him. He certainly has little idea of the headaches involved.

The Corporation controls some 154 static cinemas (121 of them overseas), and a great many more which are always moving from A to B. At least Mr. J. Arthur Rank knows where his Odeons are from day to day; he does not have to keep moving pins in maps. He can also be fairly sure that the population of, say, Lower Clapham will be there next week, and not on its way to the Far East (still expecting to be entertained by him en voyage).

It will be gathered that, financially, the problem of the Army Kinema Corporation is to pick up on the swings what it loses on the roundabouts. The swings are the big garrison cinemas, which are always assured of support; the roundabouts are the little mobile cinemas which dare Malayan ambushes in order to give an *al fresco* show to soldiers, aborigines (and, so the tale goes, even bandits) in some damp jungle clearing.

On its payroll the Army Kinema Corporation has men of many nationalities. Some of them signed off recently in the Canal Zone of

Cinemas with roofs, cinemas without roofs, cinemas without walls, cinemas on wheels, cinemas on the high seas — the Army Kinema Corporation operates them all. It knows by now the kind of films that soldier audiences like



Left: A hundred miles from Mecca, in the Arabian Desert, this soldier (trained on an AKC projectionist course) built his own 16mm open-air cinema, the "Granada," for benefit of his comrades on a British Military Mission. Above: Risking ambushes, drivers of mobile cinemas in Malaya bring film-shows into the jungle clearings. In their audiences may be aborigines seeing their first films.

Army's Cinemas

Egypt, under terrorist threats. That meant that British soldiers had to take over the working of certain cinemas. Happily, for some years the AKC had been training soldiers to work projectors. (In lieutenant-colonels' commands, the 16mm projectors installed for training and educational purposes are operated by soldiers. Soldier-projectionists also show entertainment films in those units which are a long way from static cinemas and are out of economic range of "mobiles" — the garrison at Akaba, in Jordan, is a good illustration).

The difficulties of the Army Kinema Corporation, not surprisingly, tend to increase in the more restless parts of the world.

When the war ended the Army in Egypt had to take over the existing circuit or do without cinemas. The emergency in the Zone scotched any immediate chances of improving standards there.

In Malaya recently there has been a doubling up of mobile cinemas, and there are now more "mobiles" in that country than anywhere else. The aim is to give two performances a week over the whole of Malaya.

The Army Kinema Corporation was born in January 1946, taking over from ENSA and the old Army Kinema Service. It had been ruled that the cinema, like the radio, was something to which the British soldier was entitled, wherever he was. The Corpo-

ration is a civilian body controlled by a board, part civilian, part military, under the Quartermaster-General to the Forces. Its recently appointed general manager is Major-General N. V. Watson, who had spent three years on the board and had studied the Corporation's problems as Deputy Quartermaster-General.

Under its charter, the Corporation must arrange for the production of film strips and educational films as required. The supply of entertainment films, however, is its biggest commitment. As everyone knows by now, films cost dollars. The soldier who complains about old films tends to forget that there are plenty of old films going round the cinemas of Britain. If the conditions under which soldiers see films are not always of the highest, at least the prices compare favourably with those in home cinemas: from fourpence for enlisted boys to a maximum of 2s 6d.

The Corporation has to observe the numerous restrictions of trade with which the film industry abounds. It may not exhibit within two miles of a commercial cinema in Britain, or within three miles of a commercial cinema overseas.

The showing of certain films has to be delayed until release is agreed with the local exhibitor. Yet the Corporation can point out to Wardour Street that, if it ceased to operate, the money of 12,000,000 persons a year would be lost to the film trade. Many thousands of soldiers are stationed where ordinary civilian cinemas do not exist, or where, if cinemas do exist, the films shown are unintelligible, unexciting or undesirable.

Records show that the films preferred by soldiers are, firstly, comedies, and secondly, Westerns. Among those which have proved, or are proving popular are: "Annie Get Your Gun," "The Inspector-General," "The Flame and the Arrow," "Abbott and Costello in the Foreign Legion," "Broken Arrow," "Reluctant Heroes" (a comedy of Army life), "Happy-go-Lovely," "Worm's Eye View" (a comedy of airmen in billets), "Scrooge" and "Winchester '73." Any Abbott and Costello films are popular. Favoured stars include: Doris Day, Jane Russell, Ava Gardner, Susan Hayward; and John Wayne, Bob Hope, Martin and Lewis, Burt Lancaster and Bing Crosby.

Although such a high proportion of soldiers are still in their 'teens, it does not follow that the Army's tastes are completely uncritical. "Red Shoes," which featured ballet, was tried out nervously in selected cinemas and proved a hit. Where it had been booked for one night only,

Films in KOREA

THERE have been press criticisms and questions in Parliament about entertainment for British troops in Korea.

These are the facts on films: When the first British troops went to Korea all third-line services were given by the Americans; these included cinema entertainment.

As the Commonwealth forces reached divisional strength it was thought that there should be a separate source of film entertainment. The Army Kinema Corporation was asked to send out a representative to make a "reconnaissance" of Korea on behalf of the War Office; he recommended a complete mobile film service.

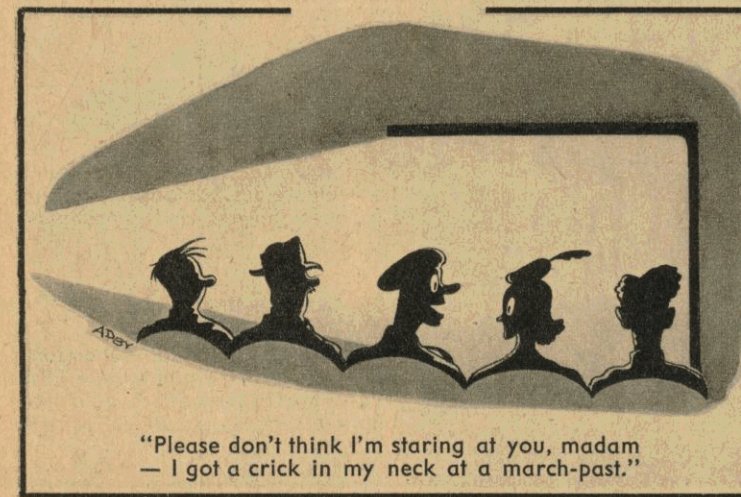
The problem was now a financial one. The Americans were showing their films free; if the Army Kinema Corporation were to operate under its charter, a charge for admission would have to be levied on British troops. The Treasury decided that such an anomaly could not be justified; they agreed that the Corporation should provide an admission-free service in two phases, the cost to be borne from public funds. The first phase covered the provision and routing of films, the training of soldier projectionists and maintenance of equipments; the second provided also for the operation of mobile and static cinemas.

It was decided that all men in this service should be recruited by the Corporation, but commissioned or enlisted into the Army, which would provide equipment and vehicles. The result was the creation of No. 1 Army Kinema Detachment, Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

The War Minister has told Parliament that every soldier should now be able to see at least two cinema shows a week, so far as operations allow, and that there are enough films to enable most of the cinemas to make four changes of programme each week.

It had to be brought back again. "Hamlet" was regarded dubiously in North Africa but in Germany soldier-audiences wanted to retain it for a longer run. Good war films are enjoyed, bad ones are not. "They Were Not Divided" and "Sands of Iwo-Jima" came in the former category.

National Servicemen are not alone in relishing Westerns; so do Gurkhas. Gurkhas also like films made in India, so the Corporation has to hire some of those for their benefit. Then there are African troops, to whom a colour film of, say, the last Coronation is a notable tit-bit. What pleases an audience of native pioneers is unlikely to commend itself to an audience at the Staff College. That is just one of the Army Kinema Corporation's problems.



Somaliland

Scouts

IN the Horn of Africa, where British soldiers of an earlier generation harried the "Mad Mullah," is a small but important link in the chain of Middle East Command: the force known as the Somaliland Scouts.

This is a unit of which the world at large hears little, yet it is a source of legitimate pride to its British officers and NCO's.

It was during the late war that the Somaliland Scouts came into being. British Somaliland was invaded by the Italians in 1940; after resisting odds of seven to one, the defending forces were evacuated. Within less than a year British sovereignty was restored. Then Brigadier (now Major-General) A. R. Chater, Military Governor of the Protectorate, formed Somali companies under British officers and NCO's. Their first task was to guard thousands of Italian prisoners-of-war housed in hastily erected camps (other Somalis later served in Ceylon, India and Burma). In 1942 the name Somaliland Scouts was introduced.

The Scouts of those days would hardly have recognised the well-equipped unit of today; so scarce was clothing and equipment that ex-enemy material had to be used. But the unit turned down with *hauteur* clothing which bore the distinctive black triangle of the prisoner-of-war.

The duties of the Somaliland Scouts, who are under the direct command of Headquarters British Forces, Aden, include internal security and defence of the Protectorate in war. Today the main task is keeping the peace in the region known as the Haud. Here the grazing is good and there are water holes, but from time to time tribes clash and loot each other's stock.

During the past 11 years the native Scouts, who are all volunteers, have learned to be signallers, drivers and mechanics, and they are growing proficient in those subsidiary trades which will make the unit self-sufficient.

ing. Some 14 per cent speak good English and that proportion is increasing.

Transforming the bush men into efficient soldiers requires patience and understanding: a task not without its attraction for the right type of junior officer and NCO. Among the British soldier-specialists serving with the Scouts are senior NCO's of the Royal Engineers, Royal Signals, Royal Army Service Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and Royal Army Educational Corps. They act as instructors and supervisors.

For the British soldier, recreations include riding, polo and shooting game — anything from lion and gazelle to partridge and guinea fowl. There is no NAAFI club in Somaliland, but up-to-date films are flown in by the Royal Air Force.

Hargeisa, the capital, on the interior plateau, is generally cool and healthy, which is more than

can be said for the old capital, Berbera, on the coast.

Major-General Chater, who became Colonel Commandant of the Scouts in 1948, takes a keen paternal interest in the force. He is a Somaliland "old hand," having commanded the Somaliland Camel Corps before the war — an unusual role for a Royal Marine.

Historical note: The "Mad Mullah," inspired by the example of the Mahdi in the Sudan, kept Somaliland in ferment from 1900 to 1920. In 1910 he forced the British authorities to withdraw to the coast. Seven British expeditions of varying size were sent against him and his "dervishes." Lieut-General Sir Adrian Carton de Wiart has told how an impecunious officer of those days could always re-establish his finances by shaking off civilisation and going to fight the Mullah. — *Based on a report by Serjeant W. M. M. C. Oliver, Royal Signals.*



The watcher on the plateau. His job is to check tribal quarrels.

In a once-troublesome land beside the Gulf of Aden serves this little-known force of Scouts. It has British officers and NCO's



A Somali sentry. Besides making smart soldiers, Somalis are taught to be signallers and mechanics.



Left: General Sir Brian Robertson, Commander-in-Chief Middle East Land Forces, inspects a guard of honour. (Picture: Sjt. W. J. Bedford)



With his grenade-firing rifle — which serves as a light mortar — a soldier of the King's African Rifles crouches at the ready.

From the Bush to the Ulu

THE newspapers have been telling the day-to-day story of General Sir Gerald Templer's vigorous new drive by land, air and water against terrorists in Malaya.

One novel feature has been a "river war" in which assault landing craft fitted out as gunboats penetrated 100 miles up the Pahang River, and operated in uncharted tributaries.

On the ground, security forces have been reinforced by *askari* of the King's African Rifles, and also by a force from Fiji. With their long-bladed *pangas*, the *askari* quickly made themselves at home in the jungle — and learned to look to the skies for their food, as they once did in Burma.



About every three days comes food from the skies. It may hang suspended in the branches 130 feet high — as in this picture. Shinning from tree to tree an *askari* cut this load free.



Left: watching for manna. Above: Just a few slashes with the *panga* and the skeleton of a hut is ready for clothing. The jungle vine will lash it firm.

She's The Last of the ATS

ONE evening this month Corporal Gladys Main of Avondale Road, South Croydon, will put the cover on her typewriter at the War Office for the last time and go off on 28 days release leave.

When it is over Corporal Main will be Miss Main, and the last of the 350,000 names on the roll of the Auxiliary Territorial Service will be crossed out.

In Brief...

THE Auxiliary Territorial Service was formed on 9 September 1938 — in long skirts.

Privates were called "volunteers," corporals "sub-leaders," junior officers "company assistants" (abbreviation: coy. ass.) Uncommissioned women soon took on ranks of private, corporal, serjeant; officers became subalterns, junior commanders and so on.

In 1940 the first ATS went overseas, some to France as telephonists, others to the Middle East. In April 1941 the ATS became subject to military law. In August 1941 the first mixed battery was deployed in Richmond Park. Skirts were now short; wearing of slacks was authorised on duty. Before the war ended, there were ATS serving in North-West Europe, East Africa, Egypt, the Caribbean and in Washington.

In February 1949 the Women's Royal Army Corps was formed, as part of the permanent Army. Soon afterwards women officers were given ranks of lieutenant, captain, major, colonel. The WRAC now awaits general issue of its new Norman Hartnell uniform in bottle-green.

All the women who remain in the Army will be Regulars — members of the Women's Royal Army Corps or of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

Fate played an odd trick in making Corporal Main the last of the ATS. Originally she intended to join the Volunteer Nursing Service; but in November 1939 she walked through the wrong door of a volunteer centre for women in Wellesley Road, Croydon, and found herself being encouraged to join the Army. The charm of the woman interviewer and her talk of tennis, riding and golf (none of which materialised) won her over to be an Auxiliary, the 27,065th to be enlisted. Her pay was 11s a week.

On reporting for duty at a pay office in Woking she was sent to find her own civilian billet, which she did by knocking at every house up and down two streets until she found one. Who said the Army does everything for you?

She had to work in civilian clothes for six months because, owing to supply shortages, her initial issue of uniform consisted of a hat, raincoat, two pairs of stockings and one of shoes.

Corporal Main served at Folkestone, Kidderminster and Sidcup. At Sidcup the office had a large glass roof over which the V1's buzzed. Periodically the office staff took cover beneath their tables, which were too small to protect every part of every clerk



Corporal Gladys Main walked through the wrong door in 1939, but has never regretted it

The 27,065th to join the ATS, the last to leave: Corporal Main at her typewriter in the War Office.

(among whom were some elderly civilians). On occasions the order to take cover was repeated as often as four times in ten minutes and there was much confusion among the acquittance rolls.

As a clerk Corporal Main escaped the publicity which fell on those girls who worked on the gun sites or who went overseas. She was just one of the unsung thousands who enabled men to be released from office duties for more active roles.

She remembers the mixed reaction which greeted the announcement in April 1941 that the Auxiliary Territorial Service was to be brought under military law and recognised as part of the Armed Forces. Then there was the ruling under which women

could be posted abroad compulsorily. Corporal Main had an invalid mother to look after and therefore was not sent overseas. Instead she was given a compassionate posting to London and for this reason did not join the Women's Royal Army Corps when it was formed in 1949. Those women who did not become Regulars were allowed to finish their existing engagement.

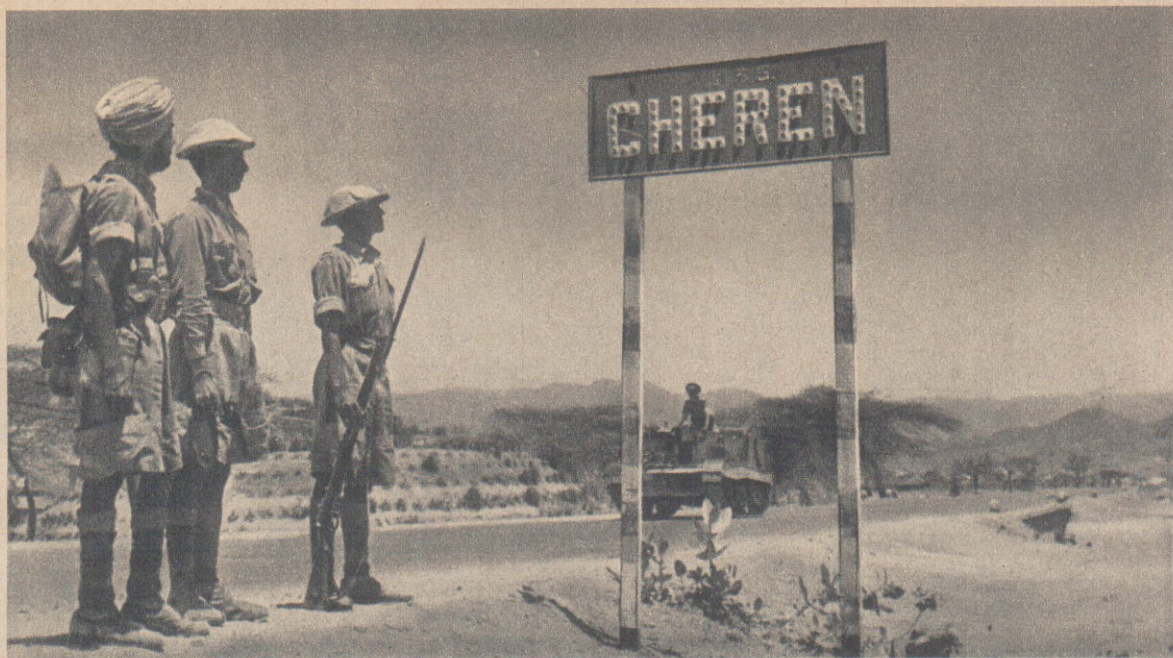
Her friends in the service have always teased her as being the recruit who took the wrong turning.

She does not regret taking it: she says Service life teaches the real meaning of *esprit de corps*, corrects a faulty sense of values and gives a broader outlook on life.

FLASHBACK:

Recalling the jobs the ATS did during the war, while the men went overseas. Left: A plotting officer on duty in an anti-aircraft command post; it was her responsibility to give the initial order "Fire." Right: girls putting in care and maintenance on light armoured cars, in Rouken Glen, Glasgow.





After the battle, 1941: Indian troops at the entrance to the bloodily contested town.

SOLDIER REVISITS THE BATTLEFIELD OF KEREN

It Was a Famous Victory

Fought amid impossible peaks, the Battle of Keren was one of the decisive battles of World War Two. The campaign was a forcing-ground of generals

Two men of the South Wales Borderers look down on a defiant slogan on the boulders at the foot of the Dongolaas Gorge. The inscription has been renewed from time to time. (Pictures: *SOLDIER* Cameraman *LESLIE LEE*)

SOMETIMES, old battlefields fail to stir the imagination. Perhaps man and Nature have wrought changes which make it hard to re-create, in the mind's eye, the armies of yesterday.

But no one can visit the battlefield of Keren — scene of the first decisive victory in World War Two — and come away unmoved.

Unfortunately Keren is "off the map." Since the war, only those soldiers whose tour of duty has taken them to Eritrea or the Sudan have been able to re-live this battle. When the British Army leaves Eritrea in September, it will have one inspiration the fewer.

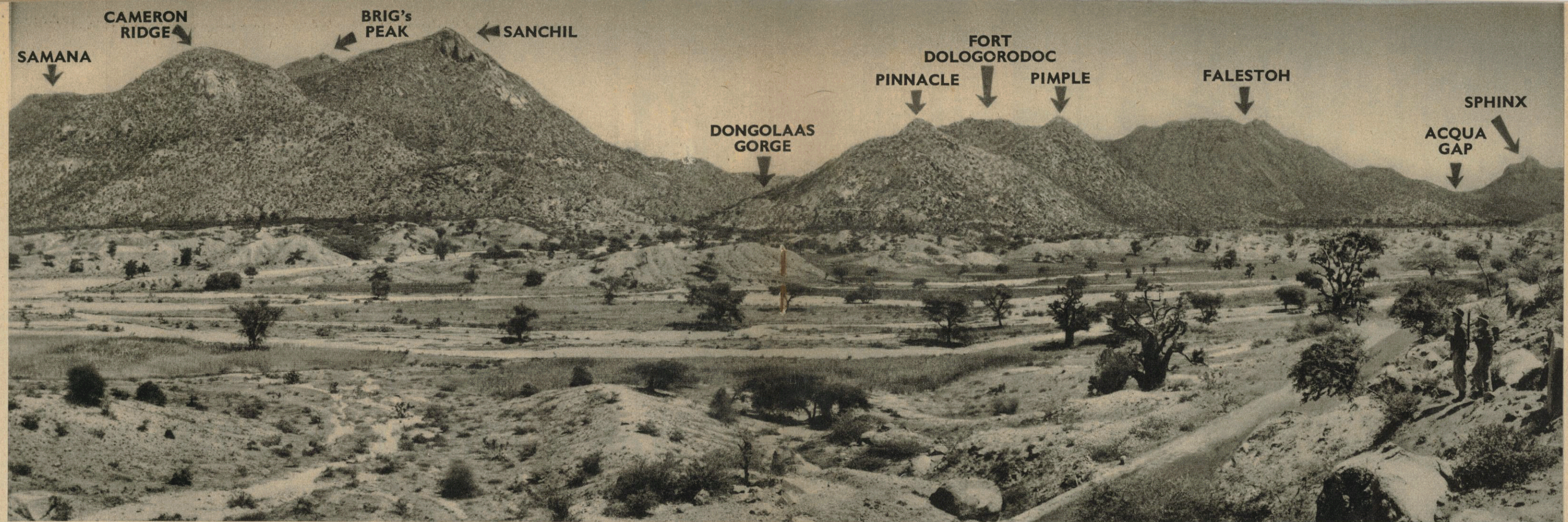
The men who died at Keren lie in a bright-flowering cemetery within sight of the ferocious peaks for which they fought. There is a simple monument amid the crosses. But their greatest monument is the battlefield itself.

Keren did not fall as the result of a single plan; it fell after many plans had been tried, some successful, some not. Never in the history of war, it must seem, were there stronger defensive positions. Never were there more opportunities for destructive ambush.

The loss of Keren spelled the end of Italy's colonial empire. It freed the British Army in the Middle East from the threat of a stab from behind. It left the Red Sea unimpaired as a supply route to the great armies in North Africa. And it had another notable effect: it flung into fame

OVER





KEREN (Continued)



On the road up to Keren — an ambusher's dream. This was the last road to be freed of bandits in 1951.

many brilliant leaders. It was a forcing-ground of generals. "Has any campaign lasting two months produced from two divisions a fighting army commander, two fighting corps commanders and seven fighting divisional commanders within four years?" asks Mr. Compton Mackenzie in his "Eastern Epic."

When Mussolini declared war in 1940, an Italian force of 100,000 men, including Eritrean levies, threatened the Sudan. Against them stood three British battalions and the Sudan Defence Force. When the Italians crossed the frontier and took Kassala, the 4th and 5th Indian Divisions were switched to the Sudan. In the battle of Agordat, in late January 1941, the Italians were thrown back by the 4th Indian Division and withdrew to Keren, more than 4000 feet up on the Eritrean plateau, behind a forbidding mountain rampart. The only way to Keren was through the winding Dongolaas Gorge — and the Italians had blown down the cliff on to the highway.

The Italians had everything: plenty of men, plenty of mules, plenty of food, plenty of guns, plenty of observation posts. And, lest there be any doubt, plenty of courage.

Under General Wavell's orders, Lieut-Gen. W. Platt planned the assault. His two divisional commanders, Major-General N. M. de la P. Beresford-Peirse (4th Division) and Major-General L. M. Heath (5th Division) were men who, as boys, had shared the same dormitory at school. In 4th Division were the 1st Battalion

The Royal Fusiliers and the 2nd Battalion The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders; in the 5th were the 2nd Battalion The West Yorkshire Regiment, the 2nd Battalion The Highland Light Infantry and the 1st Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment. Also, there was Gazelle Force, under Colonel Frank Messervy, with Skinner's Horse, 390 Field Battery and armour of 4th Royal Tank Regiment.

It was 4th Division that opened the battle. On 2 February tanks of Gazelle Force penetrated the gorge as far as the road block. This stretched for 200 yards — it might as well have been 200 miles. It was known that the railway tunnel on the line which follows the gorge to Keren was blocked with wrecked trucks.

Next day the Camerons seized the ridge dominating the entrance to the gorge — a ridge which now bears their name. These were "impossible" hills in which to fight. Rocks fell away at a touch, the ground powdered underfoot, vegetation was sharp-fanged. When a man reached the top he was physically exhausted. That was when he had to fight — and he did.

The 3/14 Punjab Regiment moved through the Camerons and occupied Brig's Peak, a cluster of small peaks shaped roughly like a brigadier's insignia. From this point they could see their goal — the roofs of Keren. Soon, however, they were driven from their positions by the Savoia Grenadiers. Brig's Peak was to prove a hot seat.

There was a parallel plan to

The heights before Keren — as they appeared to the attackers. Through the Dongolaas Gorge lay the objective. Right: an aerial view of the battlefield, looking up the gorge (War-time photograph).

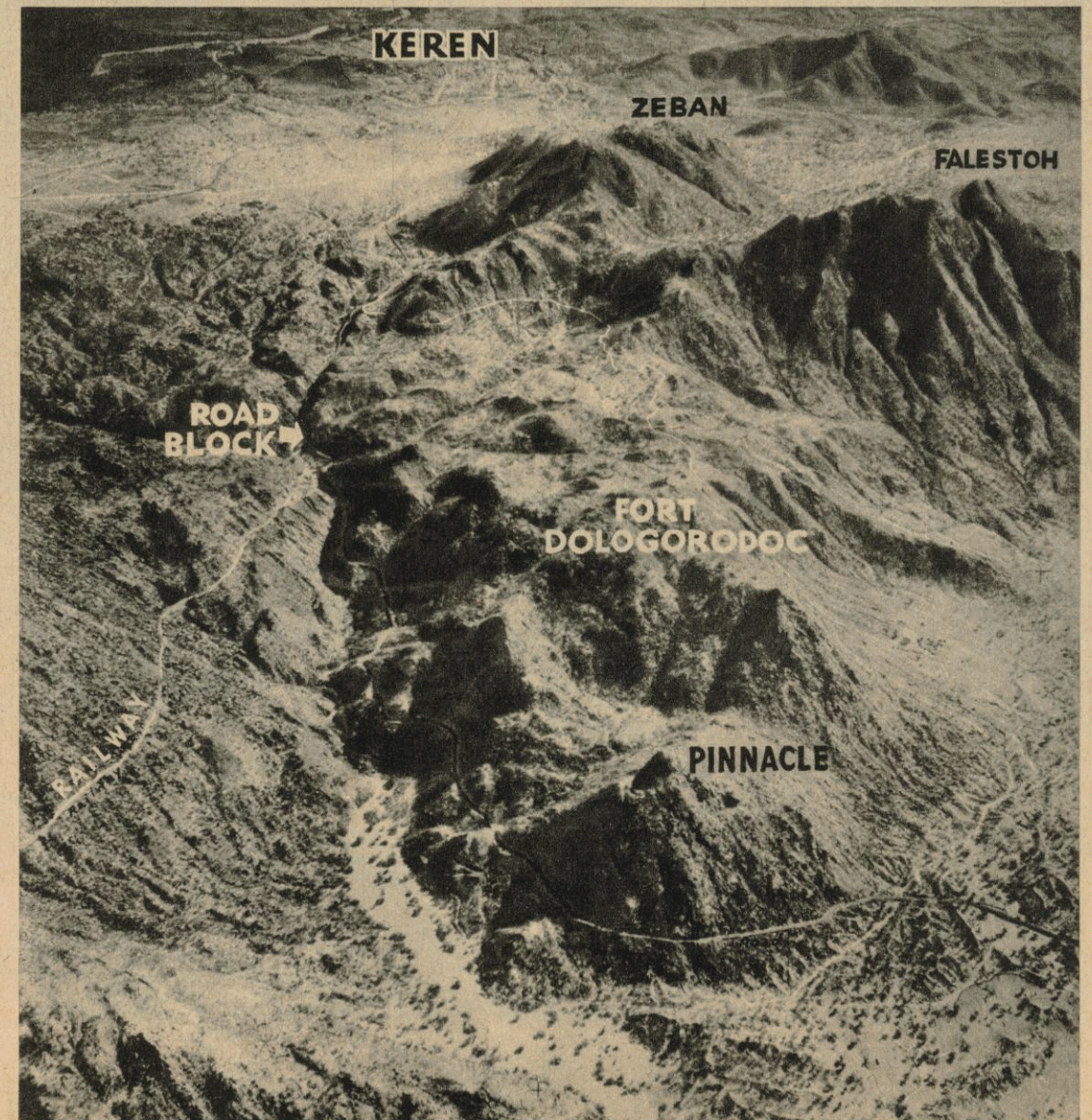
storm the Acqua Gap, via "Happy Valley." The feat was first attempted by 5th Brigade (of 4th Division); it failed. A new and successful onslaught was made by 11 Brigade on Brig's Peak, but again the Italians retook it.

Then a fresh attack was made on the Acqua Gap. Again it failed. In the fighting Subadar Richpal Ram, of the 4th Rajputana Rifles, won the Victoria Cross, posthumously. Except on Cameron Ridge, where all supplies had to be manhandled up the steep, open hillside under fire, the Italians were victorious.

The attackers paused for a breather. Keren would have to be a two-division operation. While the plans were worked out, 5th Division underwent intensive training in mountain warfare.

Finally, the attempt on the Acqua Gap was abandoned, because the 4th's covering artillery had been dislodged. The new plan was for 5th Division to assault Fort Dologorodoc, which seemed to be the key to Keren, but which was dominated by hostile heights. If this were seized, the attackers could exploit to Falestoh and Zeban. To occupy the enemy on Sanchil, the 4th Division would advance along the left of the gorge.

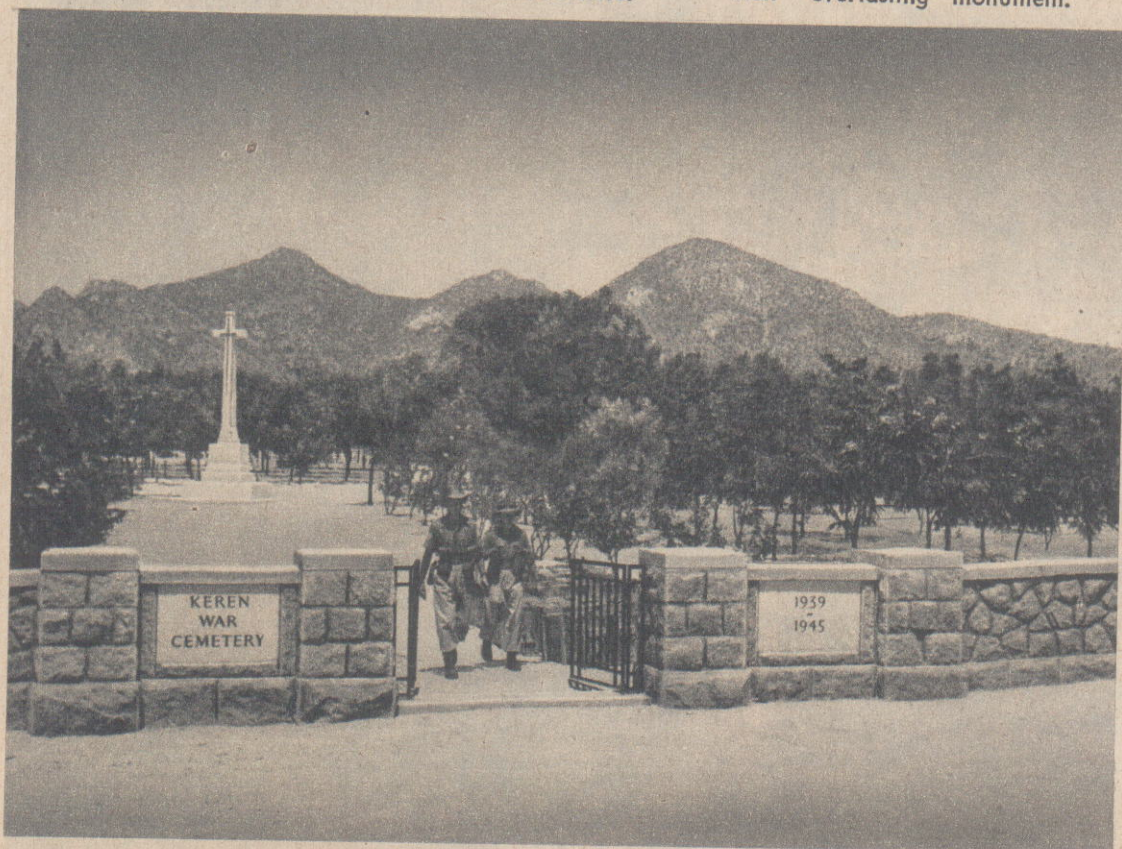
"It is going to be a bloody battle," said General Platt the night





Above: In Keren's war cemetery the wooden crosses are being replaced by stone ones. Many of the graves mark the bones of unidentified soldiers.

A simple cross honours the dead, but the peaks of Keren are their everlasting monument.



Keren (Continued)

before the new assault was opened. It was all that. On 15 February the Highland Light Infantry fought up to the Pinnacle, the half-way bump to Dologorodoc. There they were pinned down by pitiless fire, much of it coming from Sanchil, where 4th Division had been rebuffed. At nightfall the Scots were withdrawn.

The assault on Dologorodoc was now tried by another route, under cover of dusk. The 3/5 Mahratta Light Infantry, fighting brilliantly, scaled the Pinnacle, the Frontier Force carried on the impetus, and finally the West Yorkshires went through and carried the fort. It proved to be little more than a trench running round the crown of the hill. Now it had to be held in face of bitter counter-attacks; for a week artillery growled and thundered on the peaks. The Worcestershires and the 3/2 Punjab tried to thrust on towards Falestoh and Zeban, but were so heavily mauled that they had to be pulled back.

Meanwhile, across the gorge, Sanchil and Brig's Peak had been the scene of bloody fighting. The Camerons and the Royal Fusiliers, the 4/10 Baluch and the 3/18 Royal Garhwal Rifles fought a wasting, back-and-to battle for the summits. At one time the Royal Fusiliers were within 100 yards of the top of Sanchil.

It was decided that better progress could be made by clearing the blocked railway tunnel overlooking the road block. While the Italians were engaged by feint attacks, the Highland Light Infantry and the 4/10 Baluch burst from the tunnel one dawn to take the enemy by surprise. Now it was possible for the Sappers to tackle the road block. Originally it had been calculated that the obstacle would take ten days to free. It was done in less than two days, still under fire. By 27 March tanks and carriers were moving through along the road to Keren. Simultaneously the stubborn peaks beyond Dologorodoc were falling and there was now no holding back the Worcestershires.

This was, in effect, the end. Because Dologorodoc had been made the key to the Italian defences, hardly any delaying troops had been left to dispute the road between Keren and Asmara, the capital. Soon a white flag flew on Sanchil, where the Royal Fusiliers took the surrender of the Bersaglieri. White flags flew, too, on Brig's Peak, and the other uncaptured heights.

The siege had lasted 53 days. It was estimated that between 9 January and 8 April 65 Italian battalions ceased to exist. Twenty thousand prisoners were taken, and tens of thousands of native levies went home. Sixty-two-year-old General Luigi Frusci left 3000 dead at Keren, including General Lorenzini, whose head was blown off. The British forces suffered more than 4000 casualties. So ended one of the decisive battles of the world.

E. S. TURNER

NOTE: More detailed descriptions of the battle of Keren are to be found in Antony Brett-James's "Ball Of Fire" (Gale and Polden) and Compton Mackenzie's "Eastern Epic" (Chatto and Windus).

Here is the story of a British officer who goes alone into the Austrian Alps to live and sleep in the snows — sometimes for as long as three weeks — all in the line of duty

The Lone Man of The Mountains



With a 65-pound box of rations strapped to a manpack carrier, Captain Alec Baines sets off on his skis. After 20 miles he will have a good idea whether the carrier is comfortable or not.

Right: For several nights in the deep snow, Captain Baines tried out a new-type sleeping bag in a new-type tent. He works even when he sleeps.

IT is a bad day when the British Army cannot find the right man for an unusual job.

In the British Zone of Austria, SOLDIER discovered an officer of the Royal Armoured Corps, Captain Alec Baines, who makes one-man expeditions into the mountain snows in order to test clothing, equipment and sometimes rations which might be required by the Army in mountain warfare.

An experienced ski-er and mountaineer, Captain Baines has been doing this task since the closing of Number One War Office Mountain Training School, in Austria, in the spring of 1948. He spends much of his time in the mountains by himself and may be away from the unit to which he is attached for as long as three weeks at a time. On returning, he writes his reports for submission to Headquarters, British Army of the Rhine (to which he belongs). Then he prepares for the next trip.

In bitterly cold weather, with the thermometer reading perhaps 40 degrees below freezing-point, he has stood for several hours on a windswept mountain, dressed in winter clothing, to satisfy himself that a soldier in such conditions could keep warm and do his job efficiently. Wearing special equipment, he has travelled over barren rock and deep snow to make sure that a soldier in action could operate effectively. Then he has slept the night in a snow hole or a wind-proof tent, snuggled up in a new-type sleeping bag, to test the efficiency of equipment even when asleep.

He has worn out numerous pairs of boots and carried heavy loads over scores of back-breaking miles, either rock-climbing or ski-ing. He has worn specially manufactured socks, underwear, and headgear as well as outer-clothing until they are no longer

serviceable, just to prove how long they will last and in what weathers they are most efficient. The equipment he has tested includes rucksacks, sledges, skis and snow-shoes, sun-goggles, ice-picks, tents, sleeping bags, climbing ropes, stretchers, snow shovels, crampons and pitons (metal implements for inserting into rock fissures and holding ropes).

Captain Baines treats his work in a very matter-of-fact way. "Dangerous? Far less dangerous than crossing Piccadilly Circus or Oxford Street. As long as you take the proper precautions it's quite safe. I have not had one accident — yet. Cold? Of course, but then I generally know what the weather will be before I set out, and I take suitable clothing. It is difficult sometimes, I agree, when the temperature on one part of a mountain in the sunshine is perhaps 60 or 70 degrees and yet a few hundred yards away in the shadow it is well below freezing point. Unhealthy? By no means. I have never been healthier and I probably suffer less from colds than most people. Lonely? Oh, I occasionally meet the old Austrian mountain guide or the amateur climbing or ski-ing enthusiast and have a chat. I have made many friends up in the mountains in the past four years."

Captain Baines takes his rations with him and makes his headquarters in an Austrian ski-hut

OVER ➔



Lone Man of the Mountains (Cont'd)

Normally he does his own cooking. He also takes a liberal supply of pencils and several notebooks. Often hour by hour reports must be logged. He must always bear in mind that his reactions will probably be exactly the same as those of soldiers who later may have to wear identical clothing, use the same equipment and eat the same food. He is careful, however, to avoid being prejudiced by his own personal likes and dislikes ("I don't smoke, but the man who does would certainly grumble if I suggested doing away with a pocket in which he would keep his cigarettes.")

Generally, he looks for ways in which comfort and freedom of movement can be improved to heighten a soldier's fighting efficiency and to help him live in mountainous conditions.

"A mountain soldier is very much an individual and he must be taught first of all how to live in the mountains before he can expect to fight," says Captain Baines. "Little things like the size of buttons, the position of pockets, the lack of a zip-fastener make all the difference between a good and a bad garment. The same kind of thing applies to most equipment."

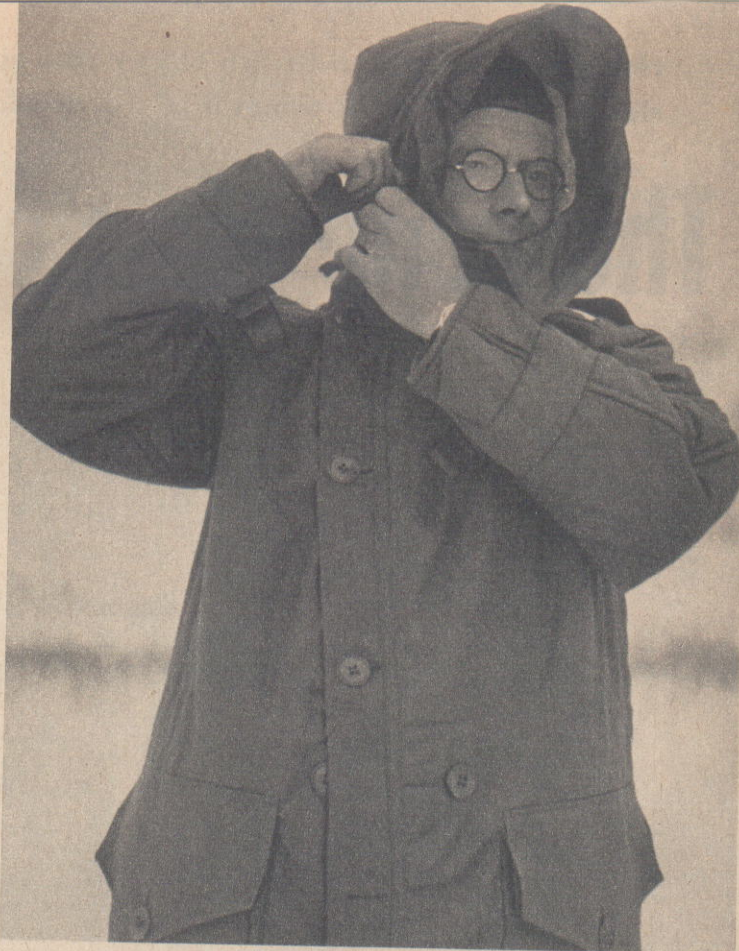
Captain Baines has a very simple method of testing ropes.

He gathers some large boulders in a sack until they represent the weight of the average man. Then he ties the sack to an "anchored" rope and pitches it over a high bridge or a steep rock face. If the rope does not break under the strain he hauls the sack up and puts in more rocks until breaking-point is reached. Then he has the rocks weighed.

Sometimes Captain Baines carries out the more elementary tests with a squad of soldiers, but most of his work is done single-handed. He acts as his own storeman, looking after scores of items of special equipment and a great deal of clothing.

Captain Baines first started mountaineering before the war in Switzerland and climbed some of the highest peaks in mid-winter. During the last winter before the war he spent three weeks skiing and climbing in the Alps with the late Mr. F. S. Smythe.

Early in the war he volunteered to go to Norway with the Special Service Battalion. When this operation was cancelled he was sent to North Africa to fight in tanks in the desert. The next time he saw a mountain was in 1943, when with 44th Reconnaissance Regiment he landed in Italy and served up to the Austrian border. Since then he has had his fair share of mountains and snow.



Wearing his parka, Captain Baines goes through the motions of sentry duty in the high snows. He has made many useful suggestions for modification of equipment.

Charles II Introduced 'The Word'

ONCE every three months, a War Office courier carries three sheets of parchment-like paper to Buckingham Palace.

Each sheet bears two columns of about 90 short words. One column is headed "Court," the other "City."

These lists are of the different passwords for the guards on Royal palaces and fortresses during the next quarter. The "Court" list is for the Royal homes in London and Windsor, the "City" list for the Tower of London.

The Sovereign initials each sheet. Then they are sent under secret cover, one to the Tower of London, one to the Equerry-in-Waiting and the third to Hyde Park Barracks for Silver Stick-in-Waiting (a commanding officer of the Household Cavalry in attendance on the Sovereign on ceremonial occasions). Two more lists, not initialled, also go out, one to the Commander of London District, the other to the Lord Mayor of London. By tradition, the Lord Mayor is the only civilian entrusted with The Word.

The Word has been changed each night since 1660, when it was instituted by Charles II, who was by no means certain of the loyalty of all his subjects. It is imparted to sentries on duty at Buckingham Palace, St. James's Palace, Marlborough House, Clarence House, the Horse Guards (once an entrance to the Palace of Whitehall) and the Tower.

The Word is a simple one, often the name of a place or

Sentries guarding Royal palaces learn a different password each night.



person, and in theory no one can enter a Royal palace or fortress without knowing it. A distinguished ex-officer of the Coldstream Guards, however, once revealed that twice in 1933 he forgot the password when visiting the Tower on

duty. Once he said "Rissolle" when the password was "Rifle." The sentry recognised him, however, and let him in.

Major Legge-Bourke, MP, in his book, "The King's Guards," says the officer of the Life Guard, at the Horse Guards, is challenged by the sentry to give the password when he returns from dinner, and adds, "He is an unwise man who forgets it, if he wishes for a quiet night."

The practical use of The Word has much diminished in recent years, although there are still veterans who remember it being seriously enforced during the General Strike of 1926.

In 1922 the Resident Governor and Major of the Tower of London told the War Office that although the password was issued from his office each night, no one used it and it seemed to have no practical value. Further, no instructions showing who might use The Word, and on what

occasions, had been received since 13 October 1686 when it was laid down that "The liberty of the Tower of London be from henceforth for ever totally taken away, divided and exempt from our ... City of London and County of Middlesex."

The War Office replied that there was no trace of any original authority for the use of The Word by anyone in particular, but it was anxious that the custom of issuing passwords should continue. The War Office probably reflected that the custom costs little or nothing to keep up.

At one time, the password was changed at midnight, but in 1931 the Commander of London District pointed out that it was inconvenient for night sentries to have to cope with two passwords in one night. The Army Council agreed that the change-over time should coincide with guard-mounting at 11 o'clock each morning.

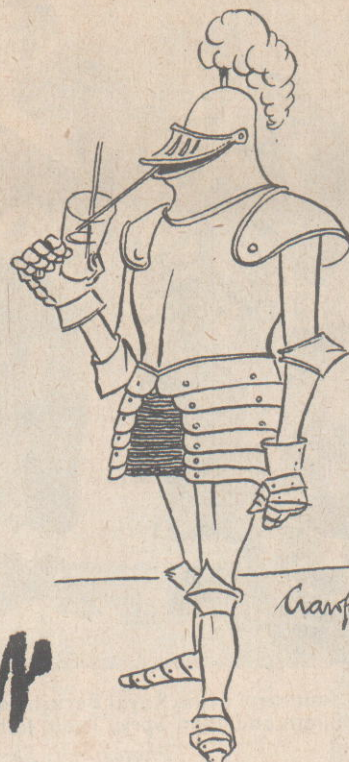
London and Windsor are not the only places to have The Word. Queen's Regulations lay down that the Governor of a Colony, Protectorate or mandated territory "as the Queen's representative will give the 'word' (parole) in all places within his government."



"Yes, this is Supreme Headquarters here, but this is not the Supreme Commander speaking."



"I know you're in the Army, but what do you do for a living?"



SOLDIER

Humour



"Look at this lot, sir — little wiggly things waving placards 'Down with Penicillin!'"



"... and Divisional Headquarters will be set up here, in Wendy's Pixie Tea Shoppe..."



"I still think Housey-Housey was more fun when we ran it ourselves."



A family foursome in the Royal Berkshire Regiment: Left to right: the brothers Ronald, Alan, William and John Spry. Their father was also a bandsman with the Regiment.
(Photograph: Serjeant Ralph Humble)

BROTHERS IN THE BAND

IF you want to find brothers serving side by side in the Army, start looking in the ranks of bandsmen.

There are four brothers in the band of the 1st Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment, and four in the band of the 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Fusiliers.

The Royal Berkshires' four are the Spry brothers: Ronald, aged 22; Alan, 21; and the 17-year-old twins, William and John. Their father served 14 years as a bandsman in the same regiment; he is now in the RAF band at Cranwell.

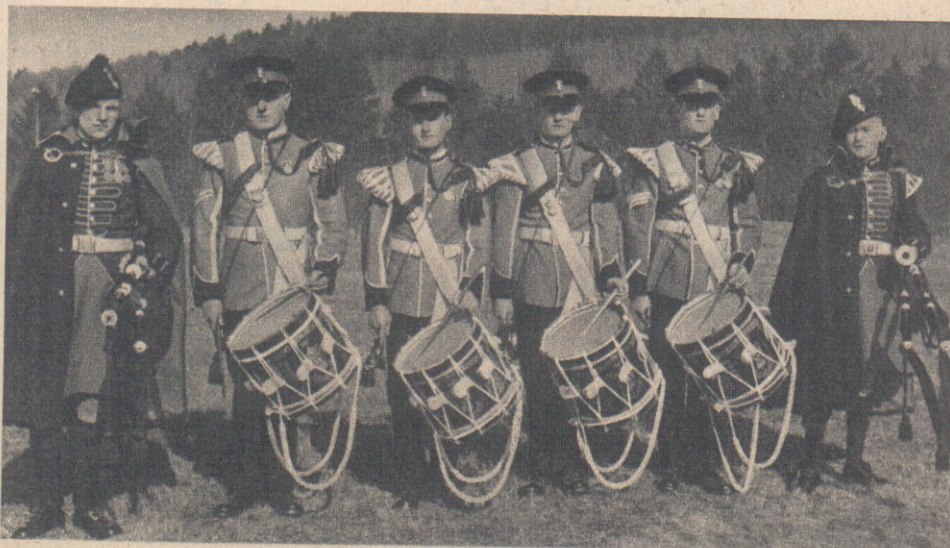
Ronald Spry, who served as a boy for 10 months before his instrumentalist's course at Kneller Hall, plays the big drum, oboe, clarinet and saxophone. Alan, the only married member of the four, has played in the Royal Tournament and in the

South Bank Concert Hall during the Festival of Britain. The twins, William and John, enlisted together in 1950.

In the Royal Irish Fusiliers are the four Ritchie brothers, from Magherafelt, County Londonderry. Serjeant John James Ritchie joined the Regiment in 1944 and has been with it since; he is an expert side drummer. Drummers John and Norman joined in 1946 and 1951, and Piper Donald McDougal also arrived in 1951.

In the same band are two brothers, Serjeant Alexander Rutherford and Piper John Rutherford, sons of an old soldier who served with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in the first world war, and the Welch Regiment in the second. Both his sons joined the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in 1945 and transferred to their present regiment in 1947.

A foursome and a twosome in the Royal Irish Fusiliers: Left to right: Piper J. Rutherford, Serjeant A. Rutherford, Drummer J. Ritchie, Drummer N. Ritchie, Serjeant J. Ritchie, Piper D. Ritchie.



Foxtrot, Juliett-Tango, Oscar!

THERE ought to be a prize for the man who can produce a foolproof phonetic alphabet; that is, an alphabet on the lines of "A for Able, B for Baker" which can be used without risk of misunderstanding by soldiers born in Stockport or Stockholm, in Paris (France) or Paris (Illinois).

An alphabet agreeable to all the members of the North Atlantic Pact would be useful for a start.

At the outset of World War Two, British Signallers memorised an alphabet which went:

Ack	Johnnie	Sugar
Beer	King	Toc
Charlie	London	Uncle
Don	Monkey	Vic
Edward	Nuts	William
Freddie	Orange	X-Ray
George	Pip	Yorker
Harry	Queen	Zebra
Ink	Robert	

For British soldiers, this was a good working alphabet. Some of Britain's allies found the words came awkwardly from their tongues, however; and the Americans were critical. So the alphabet was discarded in favour of the following:

Able	Jig	Sugar
Baker	King	Tare
Charlie	Love	Uncle
Dog	Mike	Victor
Easy	Nan	William
Fox	Oboe	X-Ray
George	Peter	Yoke
How	Queen	Zebra
Item	Roger	

The only words retained were Charlie, George, King, Queen, Sugar, Uncle, William, X-Ray and Zebra. It did not seem quite right to call a despatch-rider a "Dog R," so the British Army still called him a "Don R." Nobody thought of referring to anti-aircraft as "able-able."

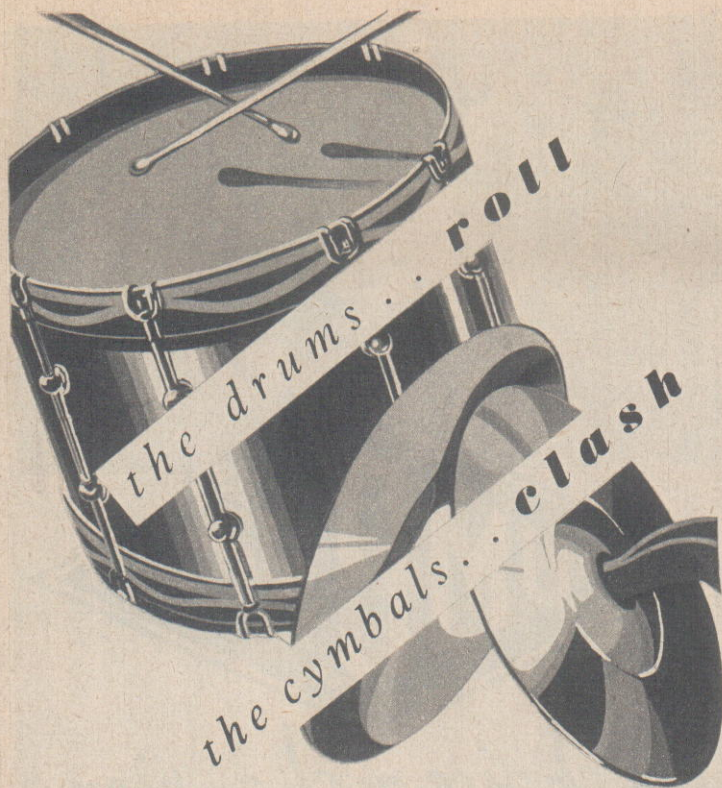
The British and Americans got along reasonably well with this alphabet, but aircraft pilots of other countries did not like it at all. As a result the International Civil Aviation Organisation recently introduced yet another alphabet:

Alfa	Juliett	Sierra
Bravo	Kilo	Tango
Coca	Lima	Union
Delta	Metro	Victor
Echo	Nectar	Whisky
Foxtrot	Oscar	eXtra
Golf	Papa	Yankee
Hotel	Quebec	Zulu
India	Romeo	

The sole word retained from the previous alphabet is Victor. Only one single-syllable word remains: Golf. This no doubt is in pursuance of the theory that the longer the word the less likelihood of confusion.

When this alphabet was reproduced in the American magazine *Time*, readers professed themselves still dissatisfied. "How can a pilot pronounce Foxtrot under the new alphabet if he cannot pronounce Fox under the old?" asked one. A Viennese said that he personally would have trouble with some of the L's and R's in the new list.

Cartoonists, no doubt, will still show soldiers saying into the telephone: "O for 'orrible, H for Himpertinent" and so on. Meanwhile the British Postmaster-General continues to print his own phonetic alphabet in the telephone directory. It runs: Andrew, Benjamin, Charlie, David, Edward, Frederick, George, Harry, Isaac, Jack, King, Lucy, Mary, Nellie, Oliver, Peter, Queenie, Robert, Sugar, Tommy, Uncle, Victory, William, Xmas, Yellow, Zebra.



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for a parade ground polish.



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

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royds 60/106

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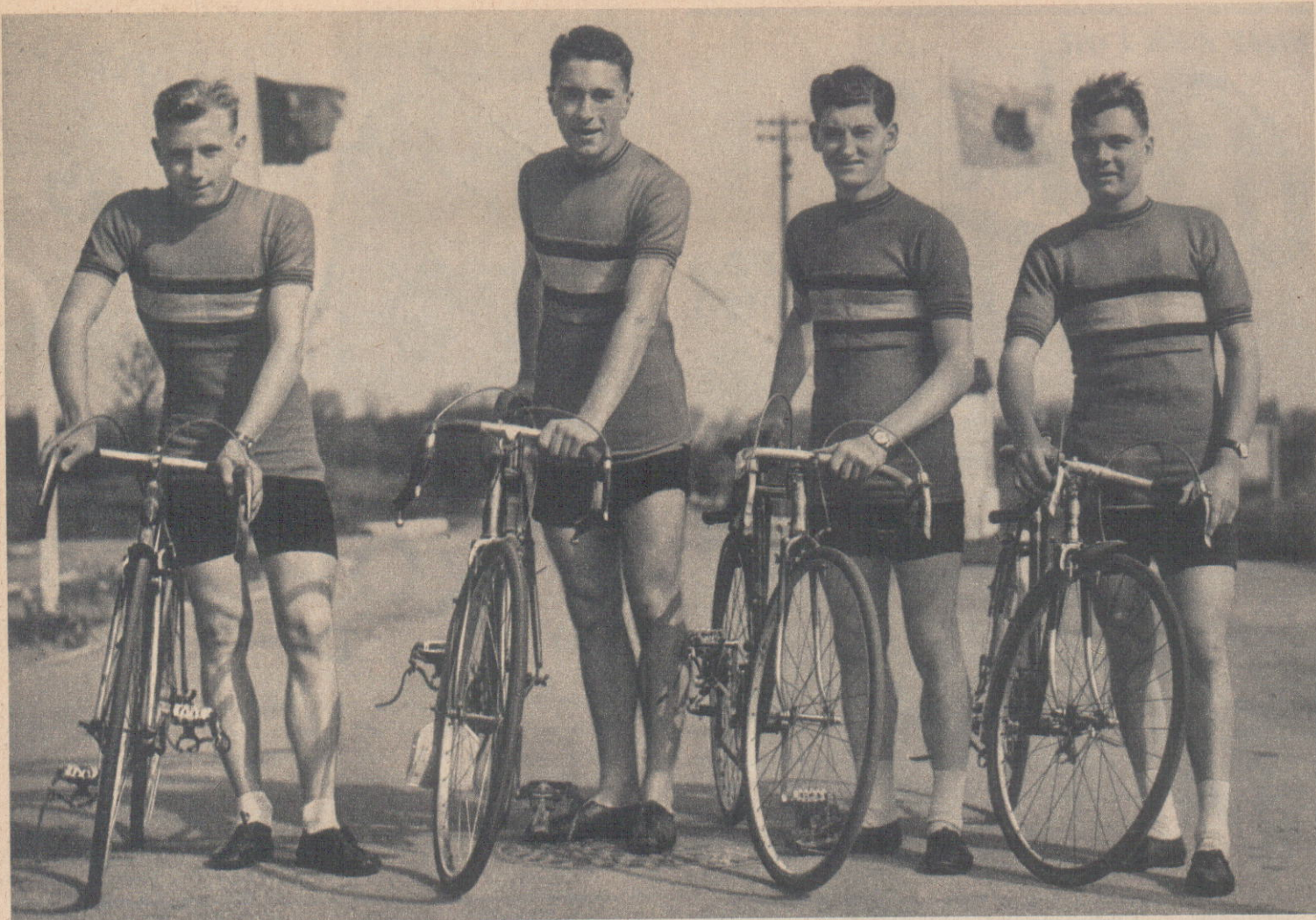
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These four riders — the Army's Massed Start Road Race Team — competed recently in the 14-day "Route de France." They are (left to right) Private B. C. Pussey, Craftsman L. V. Willmott, Gunner P. R. Procter and Private B. Robinson. (Photographs: SOLDIER Cameraman A. BLUNDELL).

SPORT

The Goal is Helsinki

FOR the last few months six top-rank Army racing cyclists (all with national reputations) have been training together as a team, in their off-duty and recreation periods, at Harrington Barracks, Freshfield, Lancashire.

All six are "possibles" for the Olympic Games to be held in Helsinki, Finland this summer.

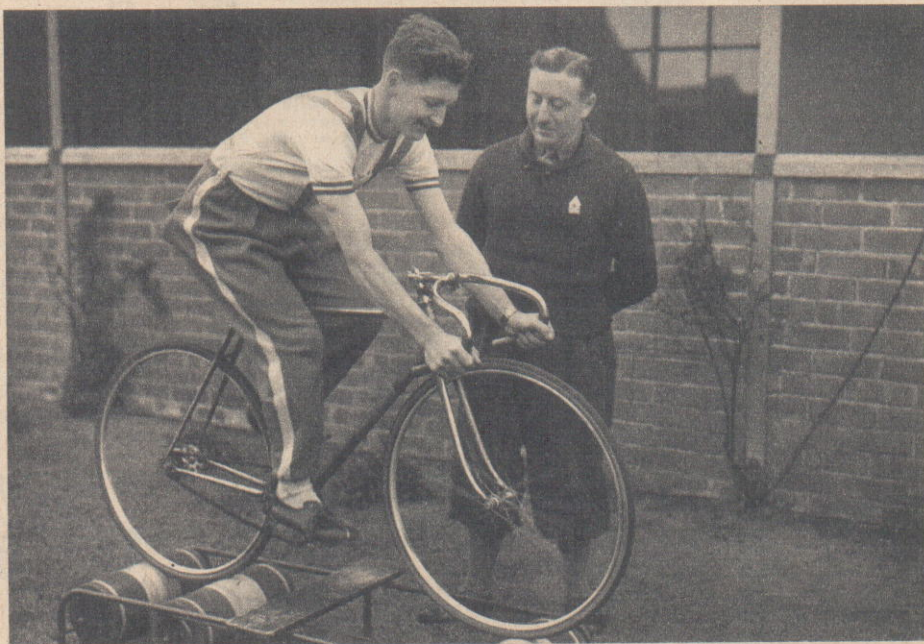
Four of them are the members of the Army Massed Start Road Racing Team: Gunner P. R. Procter, Craftsman L. V. Willmott, Private Brian Robinson and Private B. C. Pussey. The other two are track specialists: Signalman K. Mitchell and his team mate in the National Pursuit Championship, Private J. Broadbent.

The Army riders have been training under the care of Captain H. C. Baughan, Army Catering Corps, who is the Army Massed Start and Track Racing Honorary Secretary. Captain Baughan is himself a racing cyclist of 20 years experience and winner of the Army 25-mile handicap in 1950; on that occasion he clocked a time five minutes faster than he put up when riding for the Comet CC many years ago. He believes that plenty of racing is the best way to keep his men fit and in form. He keeps them at it on at least three days a week over the good racing roads around the barracks; and he encourages them to enter as many open racing fixtures as possible.

This sort of training is on very similar lines to that enjoyed by the best Continental riders, who are sponsored and able to spend most of the season at a training

OVER

Six top-rank soldier cyclists, all "possibles" for the Olympic Games at Helsinki, are training together in Lancashire



You can cover miles this way without getting lost — and you won't fall off unless you stop. With Gunner Procter is Captain H. C. Baughan, coach to the Army riders. He is a racing cyclist of 20 years experience.

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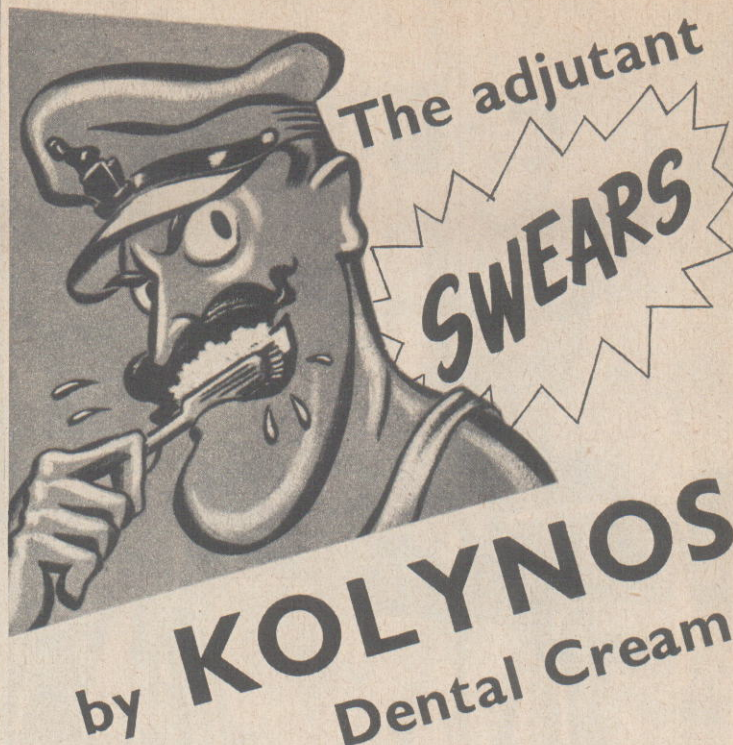


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ADDRESS

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Two Army riders of promise are Lance-Corporal D. Kirton, 30-miles record holder, and—



— Gunner J. A. Coward, Manx record-holder for 25 and 50 miles on the Tourist Trophy course.

The Goal is Helsinki (Continued)

camp. The Army cyclists are lucky to be able to take advantage of an Army Sports Control Board instruction which allows convenient postings so that men can train for Olympic honours.

Gunner P. R. Procter, 21 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, is a 22-year-old National Serviceman and the most outstanding personality to enter for massed start events in post-war years. He is British Mass Start Champion and rode in the British World Championship teams of 1950 and 1951. In the Isle of Man Mountain Trial 1951 he ended R. J. Maitland's series of wins and set up a new record of 1 hr. 40 mins 14 secs for the 37¼ miles (one lap of the island circuit).

Gunner Procter's three teammates are all 21-year-old National Servicemen. Craftsman L. V. Willmott, of 4 Group Anti-Aircraft Workshops REME, is probably one of the best time trial men in the world. He is British National Champion and record-holder over 100 miles and has beaten two hours for the 50 miles. He is all set to make an attempt on the London-to-Brighton individual time trial record later this season.

Private Brian Robinson, from the Depot of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, is a much improved rider this season and is likely to be a first-class contender for world championship honours. He was a reserve in the British World Championship team of 1951, was placed third in the British Massed Start Championships and was winner of the Dublin-to-Galway-and-back two-day race. Recently he won the Yorkshire Road Club 100 kms (62¼ miles) for the Western Command team.

Private B. C. Pussey, who, like Craftsman Willmott, belongs to 4 Group Anti-Aircraft Workshops REME, is Southern Counties Massed Start Champion and Surrey Centre Pursuit Champion. He was placed in the 1951 British Massed Start Championships.

These four men competed in the recent 14-day "Route de France" as part of their training. In this first-class Continental event the Army competitors gained useful experience against some of the best European riders. The

circuit is raced in 14 stages with one rest day, starting at Caen and finishing at Aurillac, with three stages in the Pyrenees. All four Army riders are likely to be included in one of the three British teams entered for the Isle of Man International this month.

Of the two track men, Signalmen K. Mitchell, stationed at Chester, is a track pursuit specialist. He has just returned from a three months tour of South Africa with the British track team. He was a member of the British World Championship track team in 1950 and runner-up in the National Individual Pursuit Championship. He is 4000 metres and five-mile Army and Inter-Services Pursuit Champion and at one time held the 4000 metres record at 5 mins 17 secs.

Private J. Broadbent, Royal Army Service Corps, Mitchell's team mate in the Army team for the National Pursuit Championship, is also a motor-paced expert. He has clocked one hour for 25 miles. At present he is in hospital with a racing injury but he hopes to be fit soon.

The records of these men show the high standards reached by the Army Cycling Union in its short life. Finding "stars" is, however, only secondary to the Union's main job of encouraging soldiers to take up cycling as a sport and healthy recreation. The Union has 500 paid-up members; but there is room for all grades of riders, from the beginner to the clubman who is in the Army for his National Service. Twenty-two Army Cycling Clubs have already been formed and the Union is ready to assist in the formation of others.

Last year the Army staged 31 events, including three time trial championships, one massed start championship and one track championship. There were also similar inter-Services Championships, all of which the Army won.

For the first time, too, the Army promoted a national event, when it staged the National Massed Start Championship at Blandford, won by Gunner Procter. The programme for 1952 is similar to last year's but the total of events has increased to 39.

W. H. PEARSON



Captain Baughan hands a drink at speed to Private Brian Robinson. Below: Signalman K. Mitchell, track pursuits specialist, seen winning an event at the Inter-Services Track Championships at Herne Hill, 1951.



"Charge Them Down The Gallowgate!"

THE Highland Light Infantry, as everybody knows, draws its recruits from the Lowlands: from the city of Glasgow, to be exact. Yet a sure way to offend the Regiment is to describe it as a Lowland regiment.

The fact that until recently the Regiment wore trews, and not the kilt, gave many people the wrong idea about its status.

It was in 1881 that the decision to adhere to trews was taken, even though other Highland regiments were then reverting to the kilt; but in those days tartan trews were just as much a Highland garment, and no one foresaw the day when all Lowland regiments would put on trews.

However, much of the confusion has now been cleared up. The Highland Light Infantry once more wears "the garb of Old Gaul."

The first volume of a history of the Highland Light Infantry has just been published under the title "Proud Heritage" (Nelson, 30s), by Lieut-Col. L. B. Oatts,

Maulers and Minicabs

SHERLOCK Holmes said to Dr Watson: "I see no more than you, but I have trained myself to notice what I see."

Thus, if an aeroplane had screamed over their heads, Watson would have seen nothing more than one of those new-fangled flying machines, whereas Holmes would have instinctively recognised it as a Republic Thunderjet (F-84) or (more alarmingly) as a YAK-15.

The saying of Holmes is quoted by Mr. C. H. Gibbs-Smith in his foreword to "The Air League Recognition Manual" (Putnam, 10s 6d), the latest "spotters' bible."

Mr. Gibbs-Smith is an outstanding authority on aircraft recognition. He compiled two well-remembered war-time "Penguins" on the subject, and his latest volume brings everything up-to-date (insofar as it can ever be up-to-date).

Today a number of Infantrymen as well as Gunners are taught aircraft recognition. Quite apart from its extreme importance in war, the subject has immense value as a brain-sharpener. Mr Gibbs-Smith goes so far as to say that an aircraft can be recognised in one-hundredth of a second. There is a special instrument to help students to attain this standard. It is called a tachistoscopic trainer (from the Greek *tachistos*; most rapid). Mr. Gibbs-Smith obligingly tells the enthusiast how to make one.

The book contains photographs, "sillographs" and caricatures. In its pages are such exotically named aircraft as the Voodoo, the Twin Bonanza, the Piasecki Retriever, the Mystère, the Mauler, the Minicab and the Banshee.

who served 27 years in the Regiment. It is an excellently written record, full of colour and entertaining detail about soldiering in past days.

This volume deals primarily with the achievements of the 71st, raised in 1777 as the 73rd. When the number was changed to the 71st, in 1786, there was much muttering in the ranks, for the 73rd already had a proud heritage. The Colonel walked down the ranks with a drawn pistol, followed by a drummer carrying the new numbers in a helmet. There was no further argument.

The 71st soon became a number to reckon with. The Regiment fought in the Carnatic; it unseated Tippoo Sahib, a gentleman destined always to be described as "the infamous"; it formed part of the first Highland Brigade to fight as such — at the Cape of Good Hope; it sailed to Walcheren; it underwent the long grueling campaigns in the Peninsula; and it fought doughtily at Waterloo. One of its most dashing exploits was a charge, undertaken on empty bellies, at Fuentes d'Onor. Colonel Cadogan, searching for a phrase to spur his men, hit upon a "particularly happy cue," destined to be repeated by the soldiers' sons and grandsons in moments of crisis. "Forward, 71st!" he cried, "Charge them down the Gallowgate!" Says Colonel Oatts: "The words struck home, and the men's impetuosity and determination were such that nothing could stop them." (The



A soldier of the 71st Highland Light Infantry: from the jacket of "Proud Heritage."

Gallowgate is a well-known Glasgow thoroughfare).

Perhaps the 71st's unkindest cut was when it found that its Colours, laid up in the Tower before the Peninsular campaign began, had been removed to embellish some banquet in honour of Waterloo — after which they were never seen again!

The 71st had some curious assignments. In 1806 there was the descent on Buenos Aires, in which a party of three officers and 30 men, mounted on captured horses, covered 60 miles over terrible roads in three days and returned with 600,000 dollars in coin and specie from the Argentine Treasury. Sir John Fortescue, the historian, thinks it a pity that the

Argentines did not capture and hang Sir Home Popham, who inspired this unfortunate campaign. But it says much for the men of the 71st, who were rounded up and held as prisoners-of-war, that they were given every possible inducement by the Argentines to remain in the country.

The author is perhaps at his best when he describes the life of the 71st in India — the long marches over the Grand Trunk Road (contrary to Kipling, he says, the men *enjoyed* these long marches), and the grim game of "cholera dodging."

This first volume ends at the point where the 71st was linked with the 74th to make the present regiment.

Private War of a Coldstreamer



Publisher's picture of W. Stanley Moss, late Coldstream Guards, kidnapper, secret agent—now author.

REMEMBER the story of the two young officers who kidnapped the German General Kreipe on Crete?

That redoubtable exploit was described in "I'll Met by Moonlight," by W. Stanley Moss, late Coldstream Guards, one of the two conspirators.

He has now written a sequel "A War of Shadows" (Boardman, 12s 6d) which he describes as "a story of war on a low level." It is less exciting, perhaps, than the first book but full of fascinating detail about the "cloak and dagger" life.

Not content with kidnapping one German general, Major Moss (he was a major at 22) set out to try to kidnap that general's successor. There is an entertaining glimpse of him "laying-on" some of the necessary equipment in Cairo — a barrel of Hawkins grenades, a pair of silencer auto-

matics and a crate of false cowpats for mining roads. Next he called on Jasper Maskelyne, then an organiser of military magic, and filled his pockets with "concealed compasses, false braces, trick pistols and silk maps."

Alas, the second abduction did not come off. With his Cretan supporters, Major Moss spent some alarming days and nights hiding in holes on Mount Ida. He was reinforced by Russian soldiers who had escaped from German captivity and one day, with these irregulars, he contrived a successful, and sticky, am-

bush of German troops on the island.

The author's next assignment — in September 1944 — was to Macedonia, where he joined up with officers of the "Royal Support Regiment" and entered town after town on the heels of the retreating Germans. A figure of high comedy was General Melas, an *andarte* leader, with a profane vocabulary. One of the author's tasks was to stave off demands for money by the forces of ELAS, soon to disrupt still further the life of Greece. He was with the first land forces to enter Salonika; but these were not the first Allied troops in the city. One man who greeted him there was the famous Andy Lassen, triple MC and future VC (posthumous).

The war in Europe was ending, so the author had himself parachuted with a fellow officer into Siam, where the Japanese were in retreat. The situation was a ticklish one, for Siam was "still in theory an ally of Japan's." But both Japanese and Siamese were friendly — suspiciously so. The British agents were soon engulfed in intrigue and equivocation on all sides. Even so, time often hung on their hands; so the author hunted enormous butterflies, went into the ring with a Siamese boxer (kicking permitted), and began to write a novel. Monkeys became a nuisance, so they began to organise monkey shoots; whereupon they were invited to take part in a "better sport" — shooting Siamese deserters. They declined.

There is a delightful glimpse of a Japanese military policeman in action. A Japanese officer was lolling drunkenly in a restaurant. Marching up to the table where the officer was seated, the policeman saluted smartly, removed his cap, smote the officer so hard on the jaw that he fell to the ground, replaced his cap, saluted again and strode out.

On page 214 is a curiosity-rousing reference to "our own commanding officer, Brigadier Jaques, who had actually lived and operated in Bangkok during the Japanese occupation." It would be interesting to hear more about Brigadier Jaques.

Can The Army Shoot?

AN officer with more than 20 years unbroken service as a weapon training officer, Lieutenant-Colonel G. E. Thornton, late of the Royal Sussex Regiment, has concentrated his experience in the 300 pages of "A Handbook of Weapon Training" (Gale and Polden, 15s). During the late war the author was Chief Instructor at the Small Arms Schools at Hythe and in India.

As he is now retired, he can afford to "criticise policy, doctrine, methods and even weapons," where he believes criticism justifiable. But he remains a great admirer of the work of the Small Arms Schools.

Writing of the .280 rifle, Lieutenant-Colonel Thornton says he suspects that the General Staff wanted a "maid of all work," a rifle, a Bren, a machine carbine all rolled into one. "I do not believe that is a possibility. I believe there is a place and a need for all three weapons, separately and distinctly."

It would be better, he thinks,

Late of The Dorsets...

"**WHAT'S** in the bucket?" asked the Wing Commander. The officer replied, "Water, sir."

But the Wing Commander had a good idea the bucket contained official petrol for the officer's private car. He stood and chatted with the suspect, striking match after match as if to light his pipe, and throwing the dead matches down beside the bucket, till it was ringed with them. It was an unnerving reprimand.

That Wing Commander is now Marshal of the Royal Air Force Baron Tedder. The story about him is told by Roderic Owen in "Tedder" (Collins, 18s), the biography of an unflamboyant but gifted and pertinacious man who rose to become Britain's No. 1 airman, and to exchange chaff with Stalin.

Lord Tedder's military zeal was apparent in 1911 when, as a Cambridge cadet, he reported of the Kaiser's Imperial Guard: "They may look splendidly impassive, but the insides of their rifle barrels are rusty."

In 1914 he paid his fare home from Fiji to join the Army and was commissioned into the Dorset Regiment. Because of a knee injury, he was made quartermaster at a base camp in France. This was not good enough, so Second-Lieutenant Tedder "wangled" into the Royal Flying Corps.

One of his comrades between the world wars said "we thought Tedder very quiet and most unimpressive." He had a "dim" habit of holding his pipe in the middle of his mouth and wearing his "fore-and-aft" on the middle of his head. The picture of Lord Tedder on the cover of this book shows him doing just those two things — as Marshal of the Royal Air Force. SOLDIER's numerous airmen readers may care to take the tip!

An American general summed up Lord Tedder's secret as follows: "He tried to influence people's minds and have them think straight rather than order their actions."



The Major

makes tracks for a good book after manoeuvres. He obtains his reading matter from the Forces' Bookshops or from S.C.B.D.

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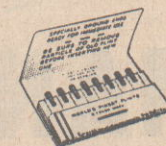
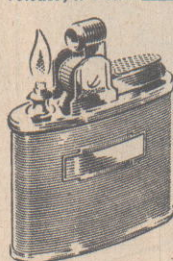
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1. You've had a chance to get used to them by now: what colours are the British half-penny, penny, three-halfpenny, twopenny and twopence-half-penny stamps?

2. The French village of Tignes was recently in the news. Why?

3. He was a Carthaginian general who marched his army through Spain, into France and over the Alps into Italy, where he waged war against Rome for 15 years. At last he was compelled to return to Carthage and was finally beaten at the battle of Zama. Who was he?

4. A great man was born in the town of Abilene. Who is he?

5. An avocet — is it animal, vegetable or mineral?

6. If you saw a painter mix lamp black and indigo paints, what colour would the result be?

7. Would you expect a hierophant to carry you on a tiger-hunt, expound sacred mysteries, enable you to buy goods on the "never-never," operate

a lift, or talk learnedly about the past?

8. Mr. E. A. Shackleton, MP for Preston South, had the lowest majority at the last General Election? How many votes was it?

9. Dip a piece of iron into a bath of molten zinc, and you will protect it against rust. It can then be termed — what?

10. BATTER BY LEG is a reshuffle of this lady's name. Who is she?



11. Do they really exist in Britain:

- (a) Office of the Master in Lunacy;
- (b) Society for the Discouragement of Sunday Drinking;
- (c) National Smoke Abatement Society;
- (d) Court of Arches.

12. If you saw cars with these international letters, what would be their countries of origin: GR, CH, Y, I, GBM, ZA?

13. What does "Oxon" mean?

14. When it is noon at Greenwich, what time is it in New York?

15. When couples "bundled" in olden times, they:

- (a) lay courting in a double bed;
- (b) chased each other with bundles of faggots;
- (c) rolled down hillsides in sacks;
- (d) danced a kind of square dance.

Which?

16. How many Kings called William have sat on the British throne? How many called Charles?

17. What are the Royal Air Force ranks above Wing-Commander?

18. "I lift my lamp beside the Golden Door." Who does it?

(Answers on Page 36)

FILMS

COMING YOUR WAY

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

I BELIEVE IN YOU

It wasn't really the fact of meeting naughty-but-nice Norma (played by 18-year-old Joan Collins) that inspired 40-year-old bachelor Phipps (Cecil Parker) to become a probation officer. She was already under the care of Matty (Celia Johnson). But Norma comes into Phipps' life when she falls in love with one of his own probationers, who backslides. A warm-hearted picture about an unfamiliar backwater of life.

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

Hollywood in the roaring twenties (and how they roared!) To be more explicit, it is the period when the talking film is on its way in ("the public won't stand for it.") There is a high-spirited, complex plot, involving voice substitution. This colour musical includes such period songs as the one in the title, "You were meant for me" and "You are my lucky star." With Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor and Debbie Reynolds.

DISTANT DRUMS

The Seminole Indians are still, legally, at war with the United States; they never signed a peace treaty. Here is an exciting version of an 1840 expedition against them in the Florida Everglades, "where cameras never penetrated before." Gary Cooper is tough Captain Quincy Wyatt, United States Army, a specialist in handling grass fires, panthers, snakes, alligators, quicksands — and Seminoles.

WHERE THE RIVER BENDS

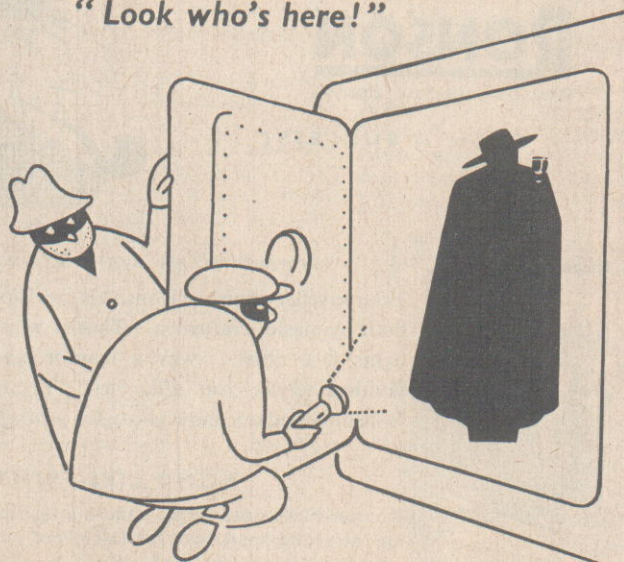
This time it's Shoshone Indians, out Oregon way in the 'eighties. James Stewart, playing a reformed raider, averts a lynching, frustrates the Shoshones and leads a party on a troubled trip to the goldfields. James Stewart admits he felt pretty tired at the end of it. It was strenuous, too, for Arthur Kennedy, Julia Adams and Rock Hudson.

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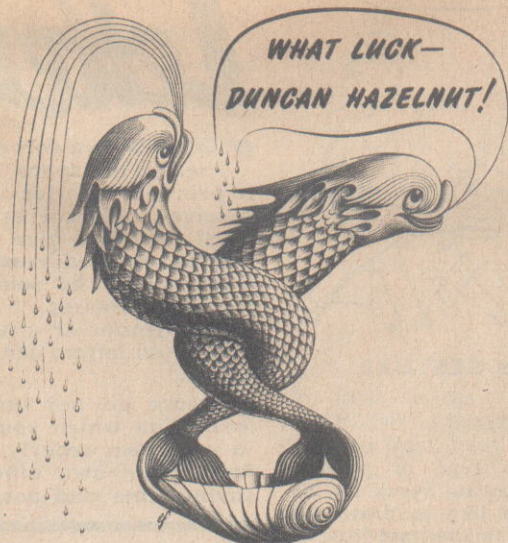
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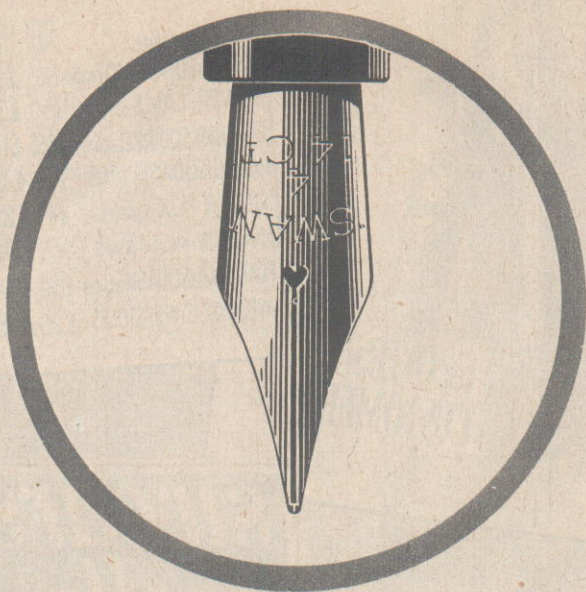
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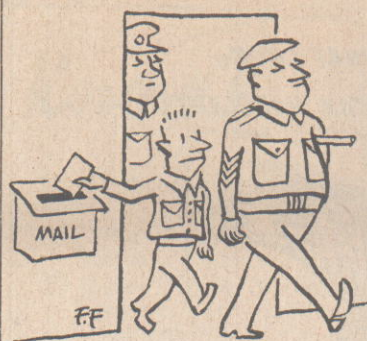


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VC'S GESTURE

I entirely agree with the opinion expressed in "SOLDIER to Soldier" in your April issue regarding the type of publicity offered to Private Speakman VC, but I would like to draw your attention to this extract from the *Sunday Pictorial* on 24 February:

"In common with the rest of the country, we are full of admiration for Korea VC Bill Speakman. And at first, like others, we thought it outrageous that a football pool firm should seem to cash in on his gallantry. Barbara Kelly, a £5-10s-a-week shorthand typist, won £75,000 from Vernons. Speakman presented the cheque ... but insisted on one condition — that a fee of £100 be paid Stewart Craig, a blind New Zealander he met on the plane from Korea. Craig is now at St. Dunstons." — Major J. E. Merryweather, RA, No 2 (GS) Ordnance Depot RAOC, BAOR.

A LEADER'S LETTER

Your article on Field-Marshal Lord Alexander interested me (SOLDIER, March). Typical of the great soldier who led the Allied Armies to victory in Africa and the Central Mediterranean was his interest in "the little man." It was the Infantry who held his respect and I can quote from a letter which I received from him during the Italian campaign in 1944: "It is one thing to plan and stage a battle but it is far more difficult to win it and it is you fellows to whom the honour and glory must go."

I could fight anywhere and against anyone with a leader like that. — Cpl. H. Warren, Queen's Royal Regiment, Guildford.

★ Corporal Warren was serving with the 2nd Battalion The Somerset Light Infantry at the time (his name then was English). He wrote to the Field-Marshal to thank him for the artillery support given to the Battalion during an attack and the Field-Marshal's reply is now in the Somerset Light Infantry's museum. It runs:

"My dear Pte. English. — I am very glad to get your nice letter of July 18th ... I appreciate it very much. As you perhaps know, I am an old Infantry soldier myself and spent the whole of the last war for four years in the front line with my battalion. I started in 1914 as a platoon commander and ended the war in 1918 as a battalion commander, and I am proud to say that I went through nearly every battle Guards Division fought and was wounded three times, so I know what a soldier has to go through on the battlefield, his thoughts, his discomforts and his fears. So it is particularly gratifying to me to hear from you that the Infantry feel they have been well supported with all that we can give them."

"Nothing is too good for you chaps because I know from past experience what you bear and have to go through. It is one thing to plan and stage a battle — but it is far more difficult to fight and win it —

Letters

●SOLDIER welcomes letters.

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

Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published.

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

and in this great hour of victory it is you fellows to whom the honour and glory must go. You have done a wonderful job and I am very proud of you all and deeply grateful. I hope that you are fit and well and I hope also that all goes well with your family at home. With every good wish to you and your comrades, Yours sincerely — H. R. Alexander, Headquarters, Allied Armies in Italy, CMF, 22 July 1944."

SERGEANT AUTHORS

You had an article in *SOLDIER* in March about an Army sergeant who was the author of five books.

In the current issue of your contemporary, *THE ROYAL AIR FORCE REVIEW* is an article about Sergeant Islwyn Williams, Royal Air Force, who has achieved the astonishing feat of having five novels accepted at once by the same firm. Up the Royal Air Force! — "Blue Type" (name and address supplied).

★ *Sergeant Williams' first novel, "Dangerous Waters"* (Gryphon Books, 8s 6d) has just been published. It is a fantasy thriller about an underwater kingdom. One of his forthcoming novels introduces flying saucers, another features aerial pirates in Libya. Sergeant Williams who is 36, is currently a script writer and announcer with the British Forces Network in Germany.

The *SOLDIER* article referred to was about Sergeant (now Warrant Officer) Ashley Smith. Since it was written, his latest book "A City Stirs" has been published (Cleaver-Hume Press, 12s 6d). It is an evocation of 24 hours in the life of London.

FIRST STRIPE

In reply to the letter by Major A. L. T. Sassoon entitled "First Stripe": the book he is looking for is "The NCO's Pocket Book" by Sergeant P. V. Harris. It was recommended to me by a drill sergeant when I was doing my first cadre course. — CSM Neil McMurrich, 131 Inf. Wksp. REME (TA), Guildford, Surrey.

★ This book is published by Messrs George Allen and Unwin Ltd at 2s 6d.

Answers

(From Page 34)

How Much Do You Know?

1. Halfpenny, orange; penny, blue; three-halfpenny, green; twopenny, brown; twopence-halfpenny, red.
2. It was evacuated, to be flooded by the waters of a new dam.
3. Hannibal.
4. General Eisenhower.
5. Animal (it is a bird).
6. Silver-grey.
7. Expound sacred mysteries.
8. 16.
9. Galvanised iron.
10. Betty Grable.
11. (a) yes; (b) no; (c) yes; (d) yes.
12. Greece, Switzerland, Yugo-Slavia, Italy, Isle of Man, South Africa.
13. Of Oxford.
14. 7 a.m.
15. (a).
16. Four Williams, two Charles.
17. Group captain, air commodore, air vice-marshal, air marshal, air chief marshal, marshal of the Royal Air Force.
18. The Statue of Liberty in New York harbour.

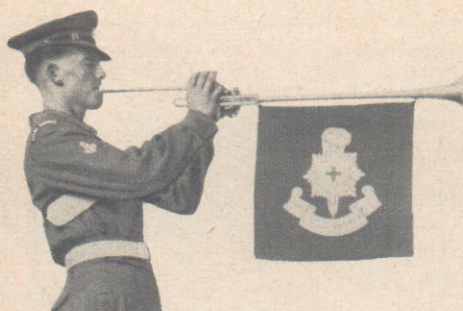
HORSE AND TANK

To settle an argument between an old "donkey wallop" and an "ex-tankie," could you tell me which was the first Cavalry regiment to be mechanised, and when the 11th Hussars and 17/21st Lancers were converted to armour? — A. W. Sawyer, Dorrington, Salisbury.

★ The 12th Lancers were informed in February 1928 that they would be mechanised and they received their first armoured car in January 1929. They were in Egypt at the time. The 11th Hussars were informed of the change in April 1928 and received their first car in January 1929. They were stationed in Britain. The 17/21st Lancers were converted in January 1938 in India.

HERALDIC TRUMPETS

Your correspondent's statement (SOLDIER, March) that the Royal Artillery Band, Woolwich, is the only band, except that of Kneller Hall, to have heraldic trumpets, is inaccurate. The band of the Royal Sussex Regiment has for many years possessed



and used heraldic trumpets (see photograph). — Bandmaster A. E. Kelly, The Royal Sussex Regiment, Ismailia.

CONCESSIONAL PAY

I have been told, although not authoritatively, that on being commissioned from the ranks, my rate of pay as an officer should have exceeded my previous rate of pay by 1s 6d per day.

I was a class one warrant officer receiving 28s 6d a day. My pay on being commissioned was 26s 6d a day (it is now more). Can you quote me any orders which may cover this point? — W. L., RAOC, Boughton, Notts.

★ Army Order 37/48 provides that a soldier on being commissioned may receive his Other Rank's rate of pay, plus 1s 6d a day, if this is more favourable than the rate of pay to which he would ordinarily be entitled as an officer. This concession was made applicable to the quartermaster class from 1 September 1950 (Army Order 130/50). The onus rests on the officer to make the claim.

RELEASE BAN

We have heard over the radio about the release ban finally ending. Would you please give us details? — Gunner N. Marsh, Connaught Barracks, Woolwich.

★ There will be no men serving extra time as a result of the release ban after September 1953. This is the final release programme for retained Regulars:

Release due before ban	Release now due
Oct 51	Sep 52
Nov/Dec 51	Oct 52
Jan/Feb 52	Nov 52
Mar/Apr 52	Dec 52
May/Jun 52	Jan 53
Jul/Aug 52	Feb 53
Sep/Oct 52	Mar 53
Nov/Dec 52	Apr 53
Jan/Feb 53	May 53
Mar/Apr 53	Jun 53
May/Jun 53	Jul 53
Jul/Aug 53	Aug 53
Sep 53	Sep 53

BUYING OUT

Can you please give any news about the purchase of discharge scheme? — Cpl. D. A. Chappel, HQ Signal Regiment, BAOR.

★ This scheme, which stopped (except for new recruits) with the Korean war, is to be re-started in September 1953, but details are not yet known.

WHO GETS SUIT?

One of the topics of conversation in this camp is release clothing — just who gets it and who does not. To ease the tension would you please say whether clothing is given in these three cases:

Soldier ONE volunteers in 1939, takes his release in 1947 and rejoins the same year on a short-service engagement of four years.

Soldier TWO is called up as a Territorial. In 1947 he enters a short-service engagement while still serving and receives re-enlistment leave and a civilian outfit.

Soldier THREE ends his short service in 1950, goes out with a civilian suit and then is immediately recalled because of Korea. — CQMS Walter Jackson, Royal Pioneer Corps, Donnington.

★ Soldier ONE should have had a suit when discharged in 1947 for services rendered. He will receive another (or cash in lieu) on release from his short-service engagement.

Soldier TWO received a civilian suit because he entered a

short-service engagement while still serving. He too will receive another (or cash).

Soldier THREE will not receive another suit (or cash) as he is still serving on the same engagement, having been "retained."

REPAYMENT

I have decided to have my supplemental service included in my pensionable service, which means that my £25 bounty must be repaid. Can I have this deducted from my terminal grant? — "Long Serviceman" (name and address supplied).

★ Present policy is to take the £25 (plus £8 for civilian clothing if this was paid before the soldier entered his fresh engagement) from his pay. If it is not possible to recover the complete sum in this way, authority can be given for the balance to be deducted from the terminal grant.

BY CABLE CAR

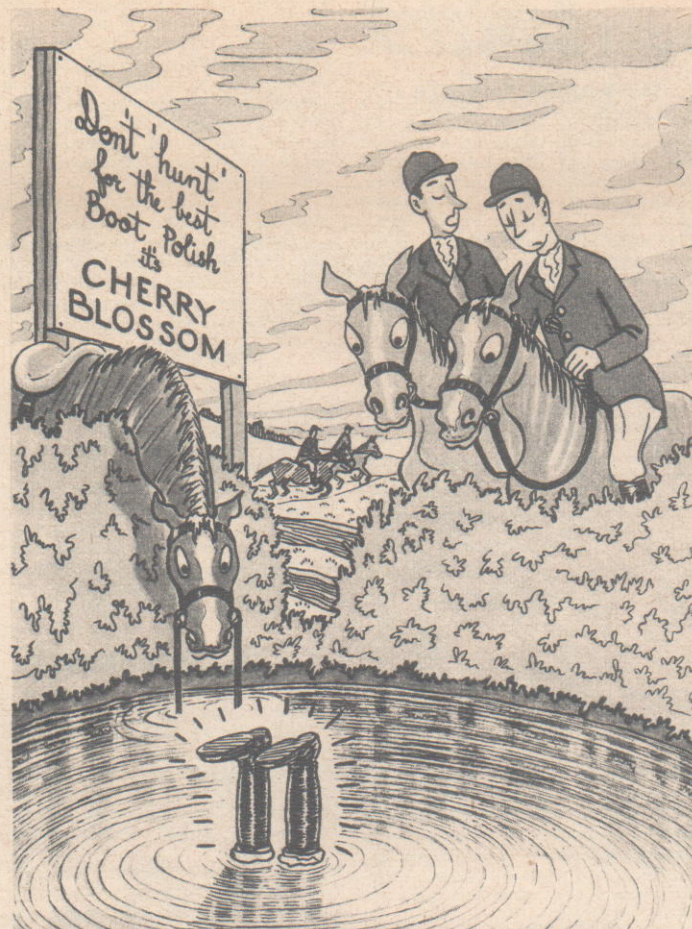
I read with interest your article (SOLDIER, April) on the Schmelz cable railway. There is in Austria another cable mountain railway nearly as high, although only half as long as the Schmelz one. It runs from the Gerlitz Valley, several miles from the garrison town of Villach, to the top of the Kanzel Mountain, more than 5000 feet above sea level. There is an officers' leave hotel up on this mountainside where families can spend their winter holidays skiing, and a NAAFI canteen which provides troops with meals and accommodation at week-ends.

To reach the top soldiers ride in a cable car for nearly two miles, walk half-a-mile along a slippery snow track and then travel the final 600 yards in a ski-lift.

From the top three countries — Italy, Austria and Yugoslavia — can clearly be seen on a fine day.

NAAFI used to have a mule to haul supplies along the snow-track. But the animal died and all stores now have to be man-handled. — "Griff" (name and address supplied).

More Letters Overleaf



"Discriminating type, Johnson — always uses Cherry Blossom Boot Polish."

This could be YOU

EX-PAINTER GETS
£10-£11 a week
in 2½ years Mining

Dennis Gould, 30, of Cannock Chase was doing fairly well at the decorating job he went back to on demob. "But one winter we ran out of coal," he says. "I told my wife 'I'm not going to work week-ends.' Now I'm earning £10-£11, and more when I work week-ends."

"MONEY THERE IF YOU WORK FOR IT"
 I've six children and the money I make means I can look after them well. The money's there for my Fireman's Certificate to improve my prospects still further."

HOW ABOUT YOU?
 A well-paid job that will always be needed; over trainees get £6.1.6, rising to £7.0.6 after 3 weeks on transfer to underground work — Coalmining offers you this, and more. When next on leave talk it over at your Employment Exchange or with the Training Officer at any Colliery — or post the coupon for free booklet.

POST NOW
 in 1ld. stamped unsealed envelope to Coalmining Enquiries, 15 Cumberland Terrace, London, N.W.1. for free booklet. Write in BLOCK letters.

Name Address Age

YY10

Issued by the National Coal Board in conjunction with the Ministry of Labour and National Service

MORE Letters

MISTAKEN SALUTE

Discussion has arisen on the action which should be taken by a warrant officer class one who, because he is dressed in peaked hat and raincoat, is inadvertently saluted by a junior rank.

The popular opinion is that as he is not commissioned he should not acknowledge the salute. However, there is a school of thought which argues that out of courtesy he should



return the salute. We cannot find any official ruling on the subject. — "WOI," Royal Engineers, Colchester.

★ There is no official ruling, although the War Office view is that an individual not holding the Queen's commission should not return salutes intended for holders of a commission. He should therefore ignore them or, if he does not wish to appear rude, give some verbal greeting such as "Good Morning."

SOLDIER remembers a uniformed manager of a canteen who received numerous salutes from recruits, all of which he returned. Eventually the local military authority prevailed upon him to change his tactics, and after that he waved cheerfully at anyone who saluted him.

SOLDIER also remembers a Regimental Sergeant-Major who, on being saluted in error, said, "Don't salute me — I'm as broke as you are!" No doubt most RSM's have their own private "drill" for such occasions.

LEAVING QUARTERS

I am in married quarters. Shortly I shall leave the Army and I want to know what period of grace, if any, is allowed before I move my family out. I have three children and nowhere to go. My name is down with a local housing authority but heaven knows when they will find anything for me. — "Serjeant" (name supplied), Caterick.

★ Officially no period of grace is given but local military headquarters usually allow an ex-soldier a short period in which to find alternative accommodation. They normally treat each case on its merits. If an ex-soldier does not vacate a house in agreement with the undertaking he gave when it was allotted him, the Army can claim legal possession.

CARAVAN HOMES

In the Royal Air Force many families have met the shortage of official married quarters by using caravans. I realise that with so much space available on an airfield it is not difficult to find a corner for a small caravan site. Can you tell me what is the position on caravans in the Army? I know some families do use them. — "Homeless" (name and address supplied).

★ Because of the little space available in many home stations, and because they are not considered on hygienic grounds to be suitable substitutes for permanent accommodation, the Army does not encourage the use of caravans. However, a number are being used by families and permission may be granted by

the GOC of a Command. Owners must obey any local bye-laws and also War Department regulations which prohibit sub-letting (only the owner and his family may occupy the caravan). A caravan must occupy only the defined site allotted by the barrack officer or Command land agent (who determines the rent), and any installation of water or electricity may be made only if the Army approves. No cost of connecting up the supply may fall on public funds and the Royal Engineers are not allowed to undertake this work on a repayment basis. Occupation is on a day-to-day basis.

SOUTH AFRICA

Is it possible for an ex-Regular soldier to join the Army of South Africa? If so, is there a recruiting office in Britain? — Sapper R. Fletcher, Dusseldorf, Germany.

★ The South African Armed Forces, except their Navy, do not recruit ex-Regular Servicemen from Britain. British subjects must live in South Africa for five years before they are considered for Union nationality, which is a necessary qualification for enlistment in their Army and Air Force.

CALL-UP LIABILITY

How long after a National Serviceman has completed his two years with the Colours and three-and-a-half with the Territorials is he still eligible for call-up? My pal says he is not required. I say he is, but I would like to know for how long. — Trooper K. Baker, 17/21st Lancers, BAOR.

★ The National Service Act now in force requires a man to complete a total of five-and-a-half years. There is no regulation making him liable for call-up beyond that period.

TRAINED NURSE

During my 22 years service in the RAMC I qualified as a trained nurse (not to be confused with nursing orderly). I hold the certificate known as Army Form C344. I was also by special recommendation attached to the old Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, with permission to wear their badge.

What is the value of my qualification in civil life and what relation does it bear to the civil qualification of State registered nurse? — "Interested" (name and address supplied).

★ There is no actual equivalent in civil life to the Army certificate. A man who qualified for the award of Army Form C344 can attend the examination for State registration as a nurse. He should apply for application forms to the General Nursing Council, 23 Portland Place, London.

Certain members of the RAMC were attached to the QAIMNS during the war. They still retained their Corps cap badge but wore the nurses' badge and ribbon on their right breast.

LOST DAYS

During my short-service engagement I have undergone several periods of detention amounting to 87 days. Will I forfeit the whole or part of my £75 bounty or do I serve an extra 87 days? — "Cell-Mate" (name and address supplied).

★ There is no regulation by which disallowed service on a short-service engagement can be made good. For every day of forfeited service, a short-service soldier loses 1/365th of his terminal gratuity.

LOST CAVALRY

Are the six Cavalry regiments, 22nd Dragoons to 27th Lancers, now disbanded? And what has happened to the Reconnaissance Corps? — S. G. Megarity, Dromore, Co. Down.

★ The Cavalry regiments were disbanded in June 1948, having been raised in 1940 and 1941 (they had, of course, existed earlier in the Army). The Reconnaissance Corps was disbanded in August 1946.

NO MEDAL — YET

I am a Territorial attached to a unit overseas for training.

On 11 September 1939 I joined the Territorial Army and was on the Reserve until August 1940. In October 1940 I was commissioned. In 1947 I was released in Germany to take a post in the Control Commission and in 1949 I took a commission in the reconstituted Territorial Army. Am I eligible for either the Efficiency Medal (Territorial) or the Efficiency Decoration? — "Captain," General Post Office, Tripoli.

★ This officer lacks the necessary 12 years qualifying service for the Efficiency Medal as his service before 1947 does not count double (he was not a Territorial on 2 September 1939). Commissioned service in the new Territorial Army does not reckon for this medal.

Officers granted emergency commissions in World War Two must have joined the new Territorial Army within certain time limits in order that their service shall count as continuous (one of the qualifications for the Territorial Efficiency Decoration is 12 years continuous voluntary

efficient service). In the case of an officer who went to Germany on his release, the date by which he must have joined the new Territorial Army is 25 December 1948. This reader has no continuity, and his service for the Decoration counts only from 1949.

JERSEY FLASH

I have seen a soldier wearing a flash marked "Jersey." Are soldiers allowed to wear flashes showing the country of origin? I am from Eire. — Private G. J. Allen, No 11 Training Battalion, REME, Ellesmere, Salop.

★ Flashes showing country of origin are no longer allowed.

NO SALE

May a Regular soldier going on release buy the greatcoat and battle-dress in his possession? — "W.H.D." (name and address supplied).

★ No. Items of uniform may not be purchased.

DEAD NUMBER

When a soldier is killed or dies, is his number ever re-allocated? — Sjt. J. A. Taylor, BGRTC, Sungai Patani, Kedah State, Malaya.

★ No.



"The Army must use every ingenuity..." These soldiers did — they made their billets in wine vats in Italy.

Can You Do Better?

FIVE GUINEAS FOR A PHOTOGRAPH

CONDITIONS

ANY soldier with a camera can enter for SOLDIER's photographic competition.

Entries should illustrate the theme: "The Army must use every ingenuity and device." Treatment may be serious or light-hearted. Prints may be of any size or finish, but they must be clear.

Command Education Officers will judge the entries from their Commands and forward the best to SOLDIER for final judging.

FIVE GUINEAS will go to the sender of the best entry, TWO GUINEAS for the next best, ONE GUINEA for every other entry published.

SOLDIER
COUPON PHOTOGRAPHIC
CONTEST

1. The competition is open to serving members of the Army and Territorial Army (including women's corps) and the Army Cadet Force.
2. Photographs must have been taken by the competitors submitting them. They must not have been published or sold for publication.
3. Competitors must submit prints only, but must be prepared to send negatives if SOLDIER asks for them.
4. A competitor may submit any number of entries.
5. On the back of each print must be written the name and address of the competitor submitting it.
6. An entry coupon will be printed in each edition of SOLDIER during the competition and one of these coupons must be stuck on the back of each print submitted.
7. Entries for Command judging must be sent to Command Education Officers at Command Headquarters by 30 September 1952.
8. Competitors not serving within normal Army Commands (e.g. members of Military Attachés' staffs or Military Missions) may send their entries direct to the Editor, SOLDIER, BANU, 58, Eaton Square, London, SW 1, by the same date.
9. Copyright of prints entered will be retained by the Editor of SOLDIER for six months after the close of the contest.
10. Neither the Editor of SOLDIER nor Command Education Officers can enter into correspondence with any competitor on the subject of the competition.



Party....'shun!

On the word

BLUE BIRD
chew, by numbers...One!



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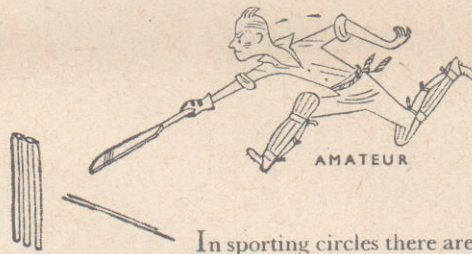
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best sauce
I've ever
tasted"



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ROSE'S
Lime juice

—MAKES THIRST WORTH WHILE

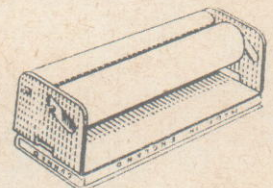


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SOLDIER

THE BRITISH  ARMY MAGAZINE



LORI NELSON

— Universal

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