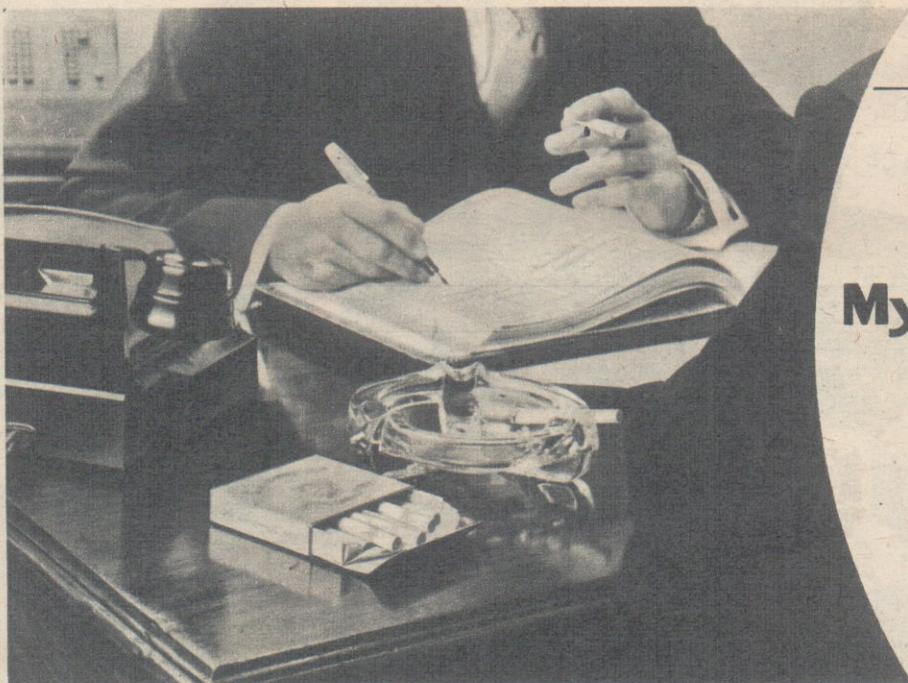


SOLDIER
THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE
FEBRUARY 1958  NINEPENCE



KNELLER HALL TRUMPETERS
(See page 38)



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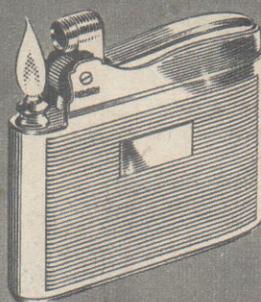
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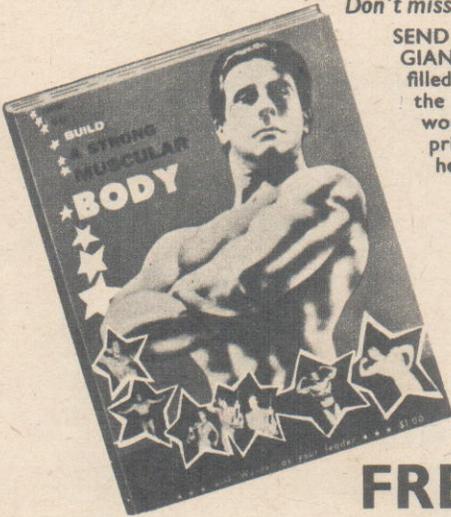
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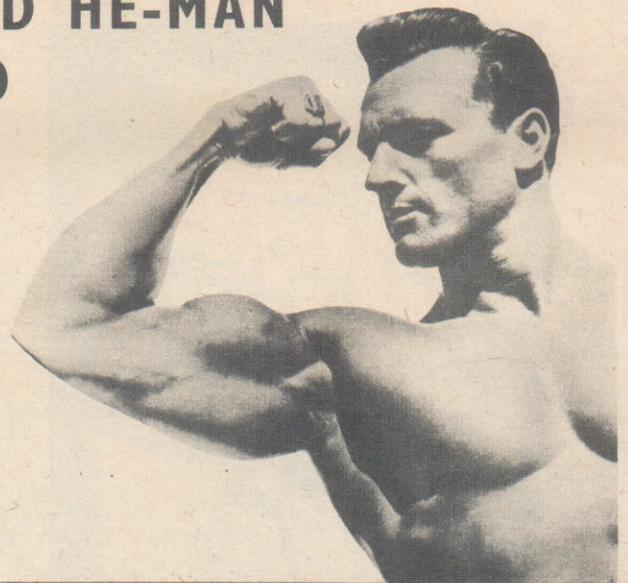


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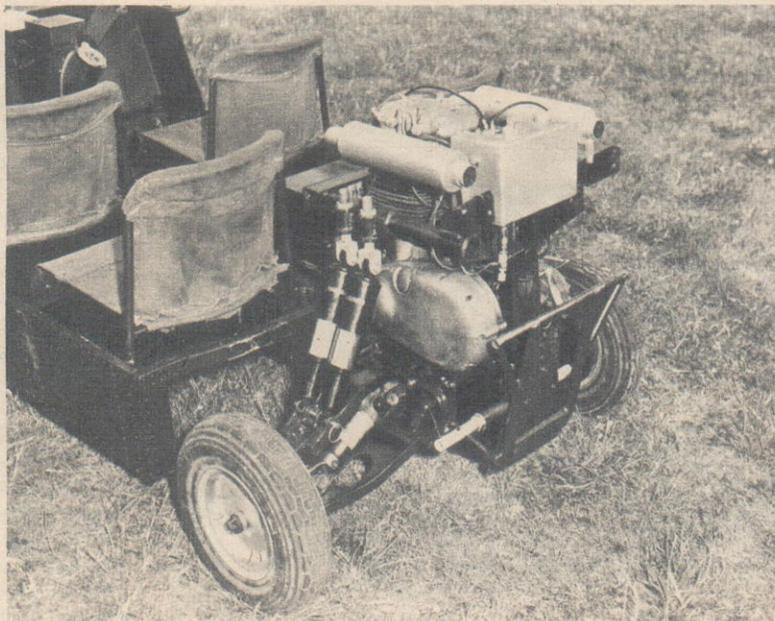
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In less than a minute after being landed from a Pembroke light trainer aircraft, the Harrier is ready for action. Despite its low slung look it has a good cross-country performance.

INTRODUCING **THE COFFIN CAR**

The twin-cylinder motorcycle engine is a removable unit, attached to retractable wheels by telescopic suspension bars.



ON an airfield in Southern England a group of senior Army officers watched a light aircraft taxi to a halt.

From the plane leapt four men, carrying what appeared to be a large coffin. With a few deft movements they let down the sides and ends of the coffin and in 45 seconds had transformed it into a light-weight, four-seater car in which, two minutes later, they were racing down the runway at 70 miles an hour.

The spectators from the War Office were being given a demonstration of a startling new idea—the Harrier Folding Car which, the makers claim, may be the ultimate answer to the Army's need for an all-purpose, speedy, robust, cheap to produce and easily air-transportable vehicle for airborne forces.

At present, the weight and size of standard military vehicles impose severe restrictions on the numbers that can be air-lifted and large aircraft have to be employed for the purpose. The loading bay of the Blackburn Beverley, for instance,

OVER . . .

THE COFFIN CAR

continued from previous page

accommodates only two Saracen armoured cars and their crews, or a 25-pounder gun with its towing vehicle or two one-ton lorries.

The Harrier, weighs only six and a quarter hundredweight (less than one-quarter the weight of a Land-rover) and is contained in a box only eight feet eight inches long, two feet four inches wide and one foot eight inches high. Ten Harriers can be packed into the same space required by a Land-rover.

It can also be carried, with a crew of four, in a light aircraft (even a Land-rover needs a heavy machine to transport it) or in a large helicopter like the Westland Whirlwind. It has already been flown in a two-engine Pembroke (a light trainer plane) and landed on a grass strip less than 800 yards long.

As well as effecting a considerable saving in aircraft requirements, say the makers, Hunting Percival Aircraft, the Harrier may well be able to do certain jobs better than a larger vehicle. For instance, a commander could fly to an advanced landing ground, carry out a reconnaissance in the folding car and be on his way back to headquarters in much less time than it would take at present.

The Harrier could also be used as a stores truck, carrying loads of up to five hundredweight, as a mortar carrier, a light-weight radio car and, if fitted with a stretcher in place of the seats, as an emergency one-man ambulance. Experiments are now being carried out to adapt it for parachuting.

The Harrier is powered by a 650 c.c. twin-cylinder motor-cycle engine, mounted at the rear on a tubular frame, and is chain driven. The two sides of the box, made of light-weight metal, let down to form seating room for the crew. The wheels, which are independently sprung, swing up and down on hinged links.

When the car is folded, its weight is borne on two spring-loaded supports which themselves fold back into the box. The steering wheel is adjustable to suit the individual driver and brakes are of the cable type which automatically engage when the box is opened. The clutch is incorporated with the gear lever.

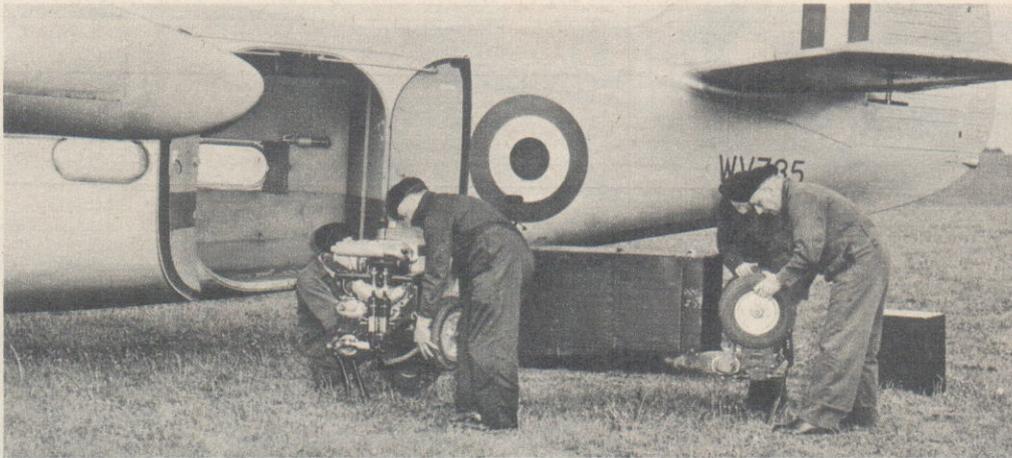
Will the Harrier be taken over by the Army? No decision has yet been made but experts who have watched it in action are convinced that the Harrier, or a similar type of vehicle, would help to increase the mobility and flexibility of troops carried into action by air.

1



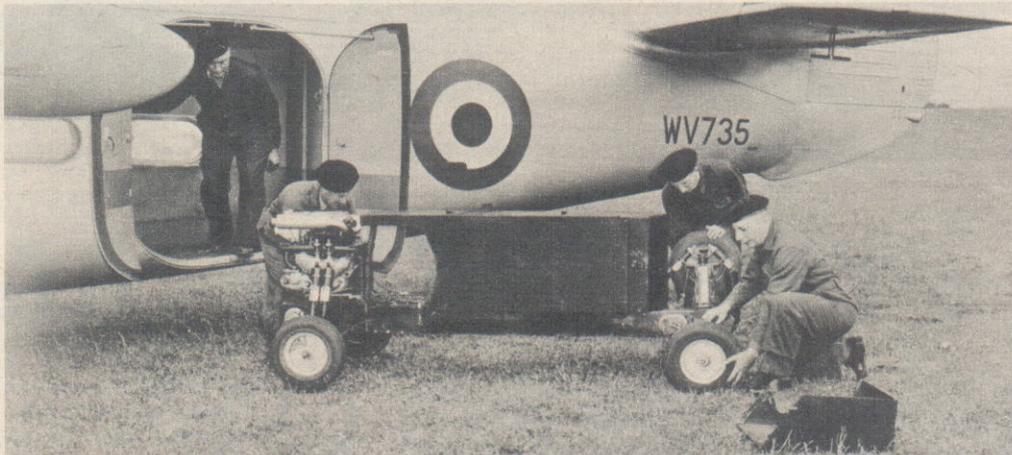
As soon as the plane halts the Harrier is manhandled to the ground by its own crew. No unloading tackle is needed as the coffin car weighs only $6\frac{1}{4}$ cwt.

2



While one man fixes the engine into place the other three prepare to let down the wheels. Note how the weight of the vehicle is supported on hinged rests.

3



Final adjustments are made to the wheels and engine before the sides of the coffin are opened out. The two end plates act as front mudguards.

4



Only 45 seconds after touch-down, the Harrier is ready to move off. It has a top speed of 70 m.p.h. Note the driver's sub-machine-gun in its holder.

SOLDIER to Soldier

DECISIONS that may have far-reaching effects on the character and composition of the British Army in the near future were taken at the recent meeting in Paris of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation powers.

The new watchword for NATO is "Interdependence," not only in the political and economic fields, but in all military matters as well. The fighting forces of the member nations will henceforth become more closely integrated to ensure that each country contributes its full and fair share to the defence of the free world and plays its part in producing a better-balanced and more efficient alliance.

How will this be done? Mainly through a much greater degree of standardisation of weapons, ammunition and equipment and closer co-operation in research, development and manufacture of modern weapons.

The problems of standardisation are prodigious but not new. Since NATO was set up in 1949 considerable (although in the opinion of many experts not enough by half) headway has been made. The FN rifle and the .300 round have been adopted by a number of member countries and a more recent and outstanding example was the formation in the Royal Artillery of two guided weapons regiments equipped with the United States Corporal. More recently still, Belgium has decided to place her faith in air defence on the American guided missile "Niko."

Now, NATO will go ahead rapidly to achieve its aim of making the men and weapons of each national force interchangeable and the latest weapons of any one country available to all.

To this end, stocks of nuclear warheads for guided weapons have been placed at the disposal of any NATO country that wants them and intermediate range ballistic missile bases are to be set up in Europe. Four bases will be built, and manned by British crews, in Britain (see pages 16-17).

☆ ☆ ☆

THE needs of NATO are not the only reason why the British Army may soon be undergoing violent changes. Economy is another.

As SOLDIER went to press, a committee representing all three Armed Services was investigating the possibility of cutting administrative costs by reducing headquarters staffs and amalgamating departments common to the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force.

One result may be the integration of the chaplains, medical, dental and pay departments, each into one body. Another is likely to be the setting up of supply depots for use by all three

Services and a third the establishment of a common communications system.

An inter-Services working party is also seeking to bring about substantial improvements and economies by co-ordinating the three Services' food supply organisations, although the original plan to merge them into one supply service has been rejected.

Suggestions have also been made that the three police and special investigation branches should be amalgamated.

☆ ☆ ☆

THE first big step on the road to civilianisation in the Army is the decision to hand over to a civilian organisation the Royal Engineers' traditional job of constructing and maintaining Army buildings at home and overseas. As a result the Corps is left free to deal with purely military operations.

The Royal Engineers will be the first to offer the new organisation their good wishes—and sympathy, for the task has more often than not been a frustrating one, largely through the unwillingness of a succession of pinchbeck Treasuries to provide sufficient money to finance rebuilding schemes. It is no fault of the Corps that a vast amount of Army accommodation today is sadly out-of-date and unsatis-

factory. No-one would have been happier than the Sappers if they had been told to pull down all the Victorian barrack blocks and married quarters that still disfigure the countryside.

Yet the job had its compensations. The fine, modern barracks and quarters in Germany, Cyprus and (alas, all too few) in Britain, are a fitting testimony to the Corps' skill and energy.

The new civilian organisation has a formidable challenge to meet, for the scope of its task is virtually to rehouse the Regular Army. Only one-third of the barracks in Britain are permanent and half of them were built more than 50 years ago!

☆ ☆ ☆

TRADITIONALLY, soldiers are supposed to march on their stomachs. If that is so, the Gunners who feed at the Royal Artillery Depot Mess in Woolwich ought to be able to outmarch anyone.

When they sit down to lunch they have a choice of 12 different meat dishes (including chicken Maryland, grilled pork chops, porter-house steak and *vol-au-vent*), eight or nine different vegetables (with potatoes prepared in six different ways) and a dozen puddings ranging from lemon pancakes to Peach Melba. They are the best-fed soldiers in the Army.

How, in the name of bully-beef stew and biscuits, is it done? Captain Hugh Cook, the appropriately named depot messing

officer, says "imagination and careful planning." The mess feeds about 1200 every day and rations of meat arrive as whole sides of beef, pork and lamb, which enables the butchers to select their cuts. To supplement these rations each man is allowed an extra 6d. a day which gives Captain Cook about £30 a day to buy chickens and other delicacies. Discount on bulk buying from NAAFI produces another £21 a day for extra food.

In case Private Snooks on detachment with his section in Upper Hogsorton is wondering why he doesn't get a choice of so many dishes, SOLDIER hastens to point out that meals like those available at Woolwich can only be produced in large depots blessed with good cooks and cooking equipment and an imaginative catering officer.

☆ ☆ ☆

SOLDIER does not propose to enter into the argument raging between the Royal Scots Fusiliers and the Highland Light Infantry, on the one hand, and the War Office, on the other, over the decision that the amalgamated regiment must wear trews and not the kilt.

The fate of two distinguished regiments is at stake. Unless agreement can be reached on this one outstanding issue there is only one alternative: disbandment. SOLDIER offers its good wishes to the new colonels of the two regiments in their efforts to avert this catastrophe.



A Gunner takes his pick of 12 different meat dishes in the Depot mess at Woolwich. If he doesn't fancy a grilled pork chop then chicken Maryland is on the menu, too. It's all done by planning and imagination.



Troops and security police run the gauntlet under a hail of stones and iron bars hurled by students who barricaded themselves in a Nicosia school.

BATONS OUT IN RIOT ISLAND



Two Military Policemen march off a youthful demonstrator during the riots in the island's capital. Note the tear gas bombs attached to one Military Policeman's belt.

B RITISH troops went into action with tear-gas bombs and batons when the first serious disorders for more than a year broke out in the riot-torn island of Cyprus.

In Nicosia, the capital, Military Police riot squads, wearing goggles to protect them from flying debris, broke up demonstrations and made many arrests after a group of students had barricaded themselves into a school and bombarded the security forces with stones, bottles, bricks and iron bars. A platoon of the 1st Battalion, The Gloucester Regiment then moved in to take over the school and armoured cars were called in to ring the city walls.

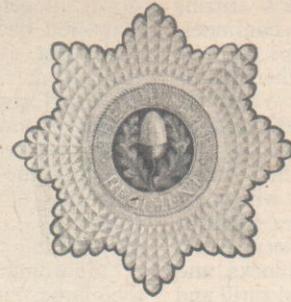


One of the many casualties suffered by the troops. Military Policemen carry off a comrade injured during the student demonstrations in Nicosia.

This month the Cheshire Regiment celebrate Meeanee Day in honour of the men who, outnumbered by eight to one, helped to rout an army of Baluchis in India 115 years ago

HOURS OF GLORY 2

THE CHESHIRE WERE ALL GENTLEMEN



The Regimental badge is an acorn and oak leaves set inside a star of the Order of the Garter.

THE battle of Meeanee in 1843 has been described as the most brilliant feat of arms in Indian history.

It was a soldiers' battle, involving a three-hour hand-to-hand struggle against a seemingly overwhelming force of tribesmen, in which the 22nd or Cheshire Regiment of Foot were the only European troops to take part. The odds against victory were remote—but the day was won by a display of audacity and tactical skill probably unequalled in the annals of British military history.

The events leading up to the battle of Meeanee, which was fought near the village of that name in the province of Sind close by the Afghanistan border, made a sad and discreditable chapter in British history in India. Sind had been conquered in a remarkably efficient campaign but high-handed action by the British authorities alienated the Baluchi Amirs (or Chiefs) of Sind and

provoked them to take the field against General Sir Charles Napier's forces.

Napier's first counter-measure, in January, 1843, was to send a flying column to destroy the Baluchi desert fort at Emaan Ghur. In that column were 350 officers and men of the 22nd Foot, mounted on camels—probably the first organized mounted Infantry in the history of the British Army—with 250 of the Sind Horse and two 24-pounder howitzers. The seven-day march of the column across the trackless and waterless desert was an extra-

ordinary effort of endurance and determination; but the fortress yielded without a fight.

The British commander followed up this success by taking military possession of all Upper Sind and then moving down the line of the River Indus to a point within 50 miles of the capital of the province, Hyderabad. In Hyderabad early in February the Light Company of the 22nd defended the Residency against an attack by about 8000 Baluchis. After that, Napier moved with his whole force (numbering only about 2800 and composed of the 22nd Foot, some Bombay Infantry and a unit of Bengal Cavalry) to meet about 22,000 Baluchis reported to be concentrated in the dry bed of the Fulaillee river near Meeanee.

The outstanding tactical feature of the battle which developed on 17 February was the protection of the British right flank by 80 men of the Grenadier Company of the 22nd, guarding unshakenly all day a gap in a wall surrounding a hunting preserve. Through that gap the enemy's left flank troops might have infiltrated to the rear of the British line. Sir Charles Napier himself placed Captain Tew and his Company at the opening with orders to stand there, and die if need be, to prevent the enemy from breaking through.

In his book, "The Conquest of Scinde," Sir William Napier, the famous historian of the Peninsular War, and brother of Sir Charles, wrote of Captain Tew: "Well did the gallant fellow obey his orders.

OVER . . .

The action at Meeanee is commemorated in this painting which hangs in the Depot officers' mess.



THE CHESHIRE continued

He died there, but the opening was defended. The great disparity of numbers was thus abated and the action of 6000 men paralysed by the more skilful action of only 80."

Sir William Napier's stirring account of the action continues: "The advancing troops were in echelon of regiments, the 22nd on the right, leading. When the 22nd had got within 100 yards of the high sloping bank of the Fulaille they threw their fire at the top of the bank, where the heads of the Beloochees could be just seen bending with fiery glances over the levelled matchlocks, and the voice of the General shrill and clear was heard along the line commanding the 'Charge.' Then rose the British shout; the English guns were run forward into position; the infantry closed upon the Fulaille with a run and rushed up the sloping bank.

"The Beloochees, having their muskets laid ready in rest along the summit, waited until the assailants were within 15 yards ere their volley was delivered.

The rapid pace of the British and the steepness of the slope on the inside deceived their aim, and the execution was not great. The next moment the 22nd were on top of the bank, thinking to bear down all before them; but they staggered back in amazement at the forest of swords waving in their front. Thick as standing corn and gorgeous as a field of flowers stood the Beloochees in their many-coloured garments and turbans; they filled the broad, deep bed of the Fulaille; they clustered on both banks and covered the plain beyond.

"Guarding their heads with their large, dark shields they shook their sharp swords, gleaming in the sun; their shouts rolled like a peal of thunder as with frantic gestures they rushed forward, and full against the front of the 22nd dashed with demoniac strength and ferocity. But with shouts as loud and shrieks as wild and fierce as theirs, and hearts as big and arms as strong, the Irish soldiers met them with that queen of weapons, the musket, and sent



Left: A private in the 22nd Regiment of Foot in 1843, the year Meeanee was fought.

Right: A private of the Cheshire Regiment during an exercise in the Canal Zone in 1954.

their foremost masses rolling back in blood." (The 22nd had served for some years in Ireland before going to India in 1841, and the ranks were full of Irishmen).

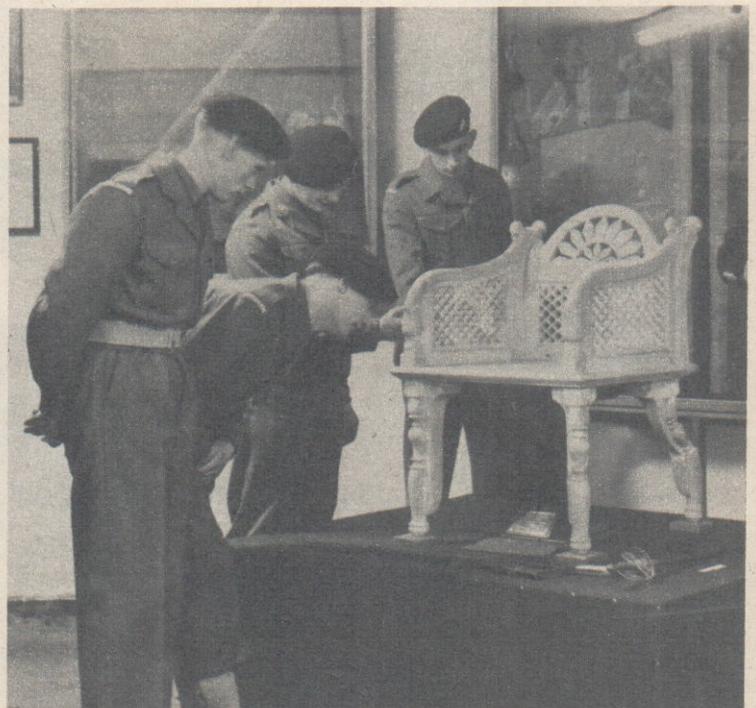
Major Poole, who took command of the Battalion after the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Pennefather was wounded early in the action, reported afterwards: "The officers . . . feel difficulty in making selections where the conduct of every man of their companies was so satisfactory; but it may be proper to mention the names of Private James O'Neill, of the Light Company, who took a standard whilst we were actively engaged with the enemy; and Drummer Martin Delaney, who shot, bayoneted, and captured the arms of Meer Whullee Mahomed Khan, who was mounted and directing the enemy in the hottest part of the engagement." (The standard captured by Private O'Neill is now in the Regimental museum in Chester.)

The Baluchis, brave and fierce and in overwhelming numbers, lost the day mainly because they were too solidly packed down in the dry watercourse and had given themselves no room for manoeuvre. Their opponents kept on alternately firing volleys and charging with the bayonet into the dense mass of them, and the British company holding the gap in the wall stopped every attempt to get round the British right flank.

The losses of the 22nd were lighter than might have been

Left: General Sir Charles Napier with his charger "Red Rover." General Napier, who later became Colonel of the Regiment, commanded the British and Indian forces at Meeanee.

Below: Recruits of 1958 inspect the marble chair which Napier used when he was Governor of Sind. The chair is kept in the Regimental museum in Chester.





expected: Captain Tew, one sergeant and 22 of the rank-and-file were killed, and six officers, two NCOs, and 50 privates were wounded. The Baluchis lost about 5000, and when, after hours of close fighting, they slowly retreated, all their guns and ammunition, treasure and standards, with their whole camp, fell into the victors' hands.

Napier afterwards proudly declared: "The 22nd gave me three cheers after the fight, and one during it! Her Majesty has no honour to give that can equal that!"

Colonel Pennefather, who seems to have been a fine "bull-at-a-gate" leader but a poor orator, told his soldiers on the evening after the battle: "I can't make a speech, lads, but, by God, you are all gentlemen!"

Hyderabad fell to Napier as a result of Meeanee, but another army of Sindians challenged him further, only to be attacked and crushed at Dubba, near the capital. There the 22nd again led a charge made in echelon of regiments, and suffered more than

OVER . . .



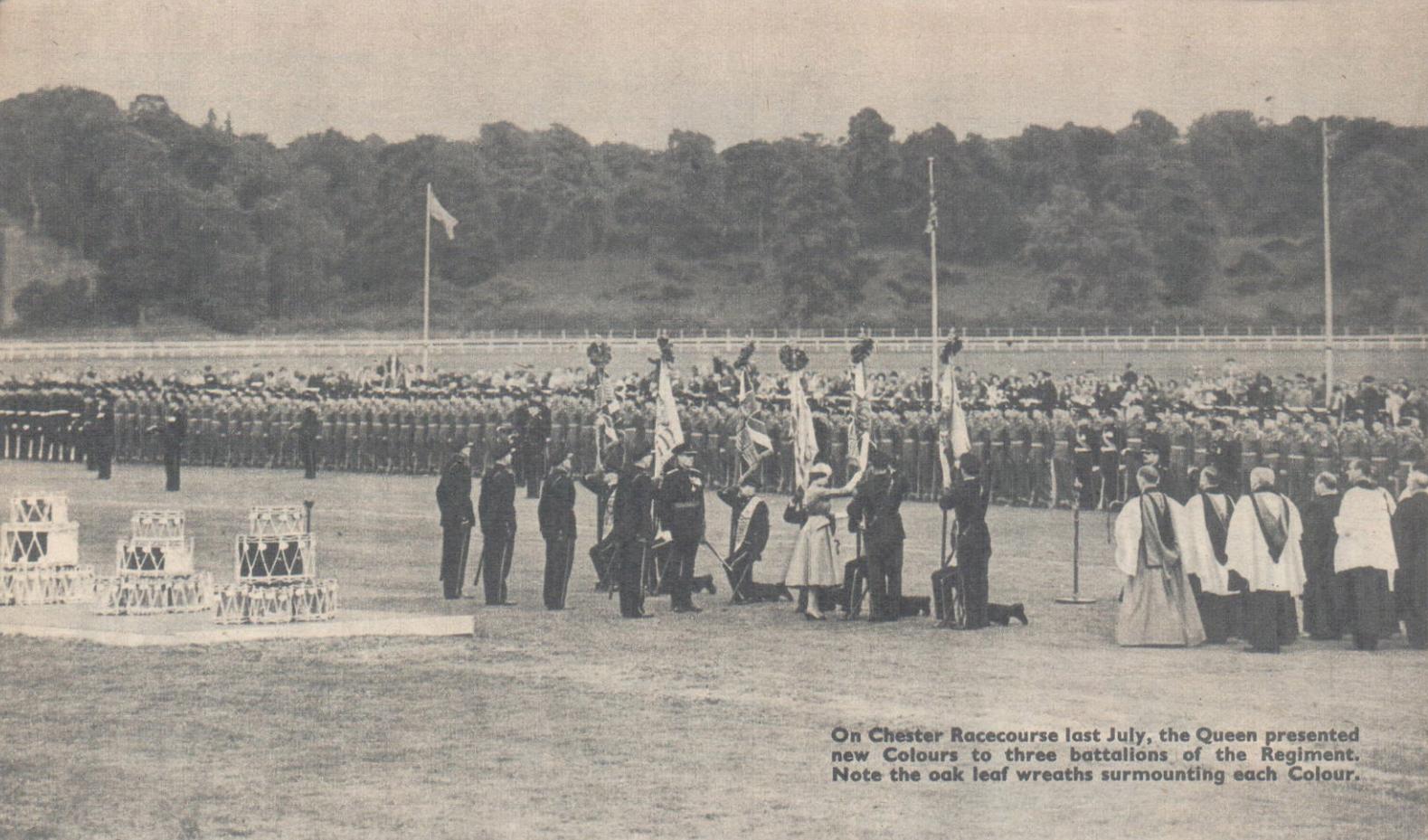
The Cheshires, here seen on postwar manoeuvres in Egypt, know the desert well. In World War Two a battalion fought with Eighth Army.



Left: A unique ceremony. The Regiment provide a guard of honour three times a year at Chester Assizes, when the senior judge inspects the guard and becomes Garrison Commander of the Castle.

Drum-Major Charles Atkins leads the Corps of Drums on parade at Colchester.





On Chester Racecourse last July, the Queen presented new Colours to three battalions of the Regiment. Note the oak leaf wreaths surmounting each Colour.

THE CHESHIREs *concluded*

twice as many casualties as at Meeanee. After the battle of Dubba it was found that ten wounded men of the 22nd had marched till they dropped, having concealed their wounds because they expected another battle.

For their services in the campaign the 22nd received the thanks of Parliament and three battle honours—"Meeanee," "Hyderabad," and "Scinde." Further honorary distinctions offered to the Regiment were declined on account of the less generous recognition accorded to Sir

Charles Napier, whose brilliant victories had not entirely atoned for his earlier mistakes in the eyes of his superiors. Napier is said to have been responsible for the laconic punning message, *Peccavi* (I have sinned) to the Government of India at the end of the campaign.

However, after the annexation of Sind, Napier was allowed to remain as Governor and he ruled wisely and well.

Napier, who became Colonel of the 22nd Foot in the autumn of 1843, was among the first British

generals to mention in despatches the names of NCOs and men who had distinguished themselves on the field. He was the first commander to have special quarters built for married soldiers, who, until then, lived with their families in barrackrooms, separated from other families and single soldiers only by a screen of blankets. He was also the first British general to allow Roman Catholic soldiers to hold their own separate parade services.

Exactly 100 years before the battle of Meeanee, the 22nd won the right to wear the famous acorn and oakleaf badge. The story goes

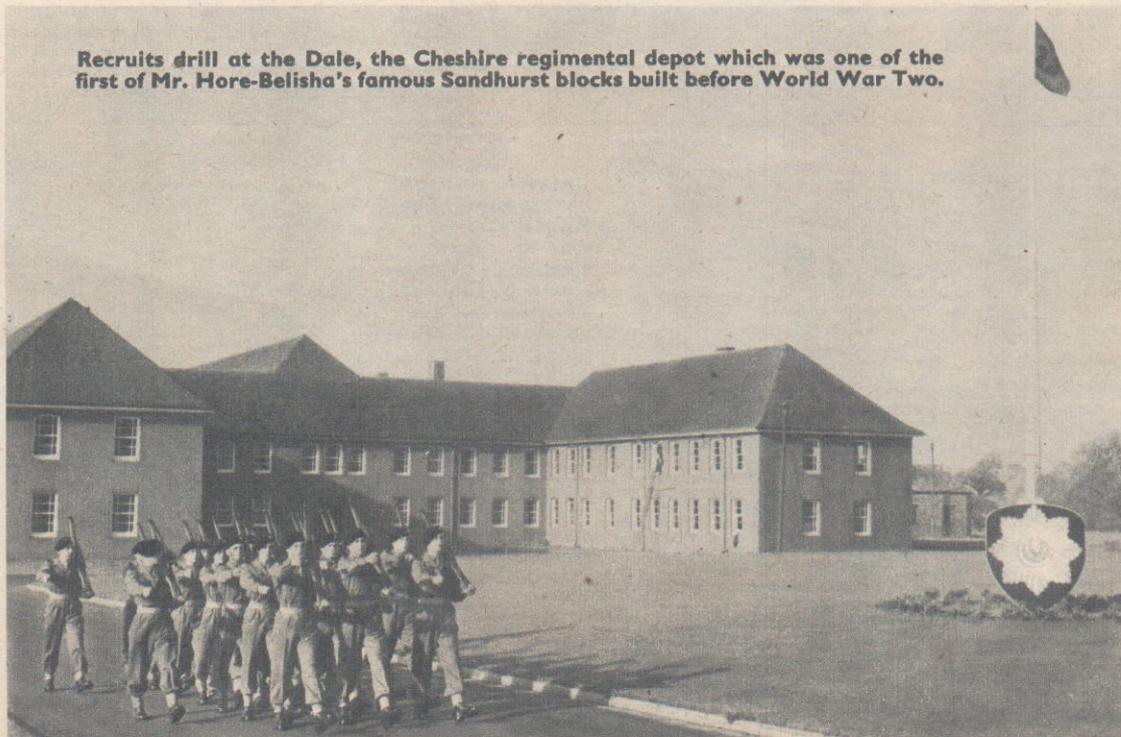
that at the battle of Dettingen King George II (the last British monarch to command troops in battle) rode along the line to encourage his men. His horse took fright and bolted towards the enemy, but a soldier of the 22nd stopped the runaway and with the rest of his detachment formed a square round the King under an oak tree. After the guard had beaten off a French cavalry attack, the King plucked a leaf from the tree and gave it to the leader of the detachment, telling him that the Regiment must in future wear the emblem to commemorate their gallant conduct.

Thirty-eight battalions of The Cheshire Regiment were raised in World War One, and those that went on active service gained battle honours on five different fronts. In World War Two a battalion of the Cheshires went to France in 1939 as a medium machine-gun unit. Another battalion served with the garrison of Malta during the siege. In North Africa a battalion with Eighth Army took part in the assault on the Mareth Line and the crossing of the Wadi Akarit. Later, in Sicily the Regiment were represented at the capture of Syracuse and in the fierce fighting at the Primosole Bridge, and in Italy at Salerno and the battle against the Gothic Line. A machine-gun battalion of the Cheshires landed in Normandy with an assault division on D Day, 1944. The 1st Battalion is at present in Malaya.

ERIC PHILLIPS

NEXT MONTH: The Gloucester Regiment at the Battle of Alexandria.

Recruits drill at the Dale, the Cheshire regimental depot which was one of the first of Mr. Hore-Belisha's famous Sandhurst blocks built before World War Two.



The Prize is a Pint

FAIRGROUND shooting-galleries go into hibernation, but the young men of East Cheshire can still take a crack at a target with a chance of winning a prize during the winter.

It is all part of a recruiting idea adopted by the 7th Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment (TA) and known as "Shooting for Pints."

"I don't know who first thought of it, it just came," says the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. Lees, whose civilian occupation lays him open to a good deal of chaffing from Regular officers: he is a manufacturer of bowler hats.

"Shooting for Pints" is just that. About once every six months, each of the Battalion's drill halls is declared open for a

couple of hours a night for a whole week, to all the young men of the neighbourhood over 17½ years of age. They may come in and fire at targets on the miniature range (under the supervision of firing point instructors). If they make 18 out of a possible 20, they receive a pint of beer or, if they do not drink, a packet of cigarettes.

When SOLDIER saw the shooting in progress in "B" Company headquarters at Congleton (pop. 15,800) a score of young civilians were there to have a go. Two or three looked a lot younger than the age limit. "If they won, we should have to offer them a bag of sweets," said the Company Commander, Major A. J. Bradley. "Anyway, they are potential recruits for later on."

The members of the unit are generous in interpreting the scores made by their guests. They want them to win their pints or cigarettes to show young men that

there is a welcome for them in the Territorial Army.

How many recruits does this bright idea yield? "We cannot say definitely," says Major Bradley, "but we know it helps. Our recruiting was going badly until we started the scheme, now it is doing very nicely. We expect to go to camp this year 350 strong—and they are all volunteers, of course."

Each "Shooting for Pints" contest follows an "at home." Young men who have shown an interest at an "at home" have turned up again at the shooting, and joined the unit. Others, who have shown their first interest in the unit at the shooting have put in an appearance again at an "at home" and then decided to join.

"B" Company has several obstacles to overcome in recruiting. One is that many local factories are working overtime and the young men have little opportunity to discover the attractions of the Territorial Army. Another is that many of them work outside Congleton and travelling keeps their evenings short. This last difficulty, however, is one that older members of the Company have learned to overcome. Major Bradley works for a tyre company at Stoke-on-Trent, 14 miles from Congleton; his second-in-command, Captain G. P. Cave is employed by an insurance company in the Potteries, six miles from Congleton, and his home is six miles away in another direction. Colour-Sergeant D. Jackson works at Crewe, 13 miles from Congleton. All three, however, manage to get to drill nights, and they are prepared to tell recruits how to do it, too.



Under the watchful eyes of Corporal F. Warrall (left) and Corporal W. Donovan (right) two would-be pint winners take aim. At the telescope is Corporal W. Jackson.



Right: Free pints for three winners. Major A. J. Bradley congratulates the highest scorer of the evening, Mr. J. Wood.





1



2



3

1 How would you set about rescuing an agent stranded in an unfriendly desert? The President, Maj.-Gen. G.E. Prior-Palmer DSO, conducts the exercise.

2 A test of mental and physical agility. Candidates must cross an imaginary minefield by squirming through a series of tyres without touching the ground.

3 Their problem is to get an unexploded mine across acid-strewn ground, using only two small planks and three wooden boxes. Good ideas earn high marks.

Four Days Hard at Leighton House



Left: Leighton House, where hundreds of applicants for Regular Commissions are put through their paces each year.

LEIGHTON HOUSE, Westbury, a country mansion in Wiltshire, is a place of great trial—but not of error. For here is the Regular Commissions Board through which every candidate for a permanent combatant commission, except those entering Sandhurst through Welbeck College, must pass.

This stretch of the road to a Regular Commission is no easy one. Many obstacles, literal and metaphorical, have to be surmounted in an intensive four-day course. Failure is more frequent than success, but if there is a field-marshal's baton in any soldier's knapsack the Regular Commissions Board will spare no effort to find it.

When SOLDIER visited Leighton House recently the candidates were serving other ranks, called Army Entrants, recommended by their commanding officers as fit to undergo the exacting physical and mental tests set by the Board. In four days they were assessed by means of written and oral examinations and impressions gained by the staff at interviews



4 It's not so much what you do but how you do it. Each pole must be traversed without touching the ground or another pole, which is more difficult than it looks.

5 Brigadier I. H. Good DSO (centre) and Brigadier F. P. Barclay DSO, MC, the two vice-presidents, discuss candidates' prospects with Major-General G. E. Prior-Palmer DSO.



6 Using two steel poles for "props," they have to carry a demolition charge over an obstacle and plant it in an enemy radar station.



and during practical outdoor tests. Although none of these methods by itself gives an absolutely true picture of a candidate, a combination of them all does.

Written tests are designed to provide a basic idea of the candidate's intelligence and education and of his ability to express himself logically on paper. Verbal expression is tested during discussion and lecturettes. Interviews are carried out in such a way that the Board has a complete character picture of each man. "After four days at the 'R.C.B.," claims one of the vice-presidents, "we know the candidate better than he knows himself."

By far the most testing time is spent out of doors on obstacle courses where candidates are given practical problems based on real situations that have confronted officers in war. These include such hazards as escaping from prison camps, conveying ammunition across a minefield, placing a demolition charge in an enemy radar station, taking an unexploded mine across ground covered with acid and swinging

a wounded man over a crocodile-infested river.

The obstacles are stiff, the time allotted not over-generous and the material aids few. To convey the unexploded mine across 22 feet of acid-strewn ground, three small wooden boxes and two planks (five and two-and-a-half feet long respectively) are the sum total of the equipment provided.

"We are looking for mental rather than physical agility," said Major-General G. E. Prior-Palmer DSO, the President of the Board when SOLDIER visited Westbury. "It is not the physical strength with which a man crosses an obstacle that impresses us, but his mental approach to problems."

As a test of mental ingenuity the candidates were confronted with the problem of finding a solution to an indoor exercise called "Secret Agent." This involved the rescue of a British agent in possession of vital secret documents who is lying wounded in the middle of a practically trackless desert. The tribesmen are hostile to strangers. With only a few camels and a crudely drawn

map to help them, the candidates were charged with the agent's rescue. Each prepared a written appreciation and after a group discussion lasting 45 minutes one was selected to expound his plan of action to the others.

The five-minute lecturette which each candidate has to deliver to other members of his Group may be on any subject.

Throughout the four days informality is the keynote. This is a deliberate policy, designed to conquer "examination nerves." All the tests are straightforward. There are no hidden microphones or "eavesdropping" novelties to catch a man off guard. Candidates take their meals in their own dining hall and, when off duty, need not go in fear of being trapped into error.

There are no psychologists attached to the Board. A man in need of specialist investigation is unlikely to have been recommended by his commanding officer in the first place.

No candidate is lightly discarded; the final Board never spends less than half an hour over

any man, however slim his chances of success appear to be. Sometimes, the assessment may take two hours.

Seven types of candidates go to Leighton House. They are school entrants, who have passed the Civil Service Commissioners examination for entry to Sandhurst; serving other ranks; National Service and Short Service commissioned officers seeking permanent commissions; non-Regular ex-officers; University candidates; technically qualified civilians wanting commissions in the specialist Corps and members of the Women's Royal Army Corps. Unsuccessful school entrants are allowed a second attempt and either the Board or a commanding officer can recommend that an unsuccessful Army Entrant should try again.

Since SOLDIER's visit Major-General Prior-Palmer has been replaced as President of the Board by Major-General R. C. Cottrell-Hill, a former Infantryman who has served in Sudan, Malta, Singapore, India and Palestine and more recently commanded British troops in Berlin.

WILL

GUNNERS MAN THE MISSILE BASES?

AS SOLDIER went to press no decision had been announced as to who will man the intermediate range ballistic missile bases which are to be set up in Britain: soldiers or airmen?

The Army can make out a good case for taking over the task. Already two Gunner regiments are equipped to fire the Corporal guided weapon and anti-aircraft units of the Royal Artillery are training on the ground-to-air missile Thunderbird. Firing intermediate range rockets which can hit targets up to 1500 miles away would seem to be a logical role for the Royal Artillery to assume.

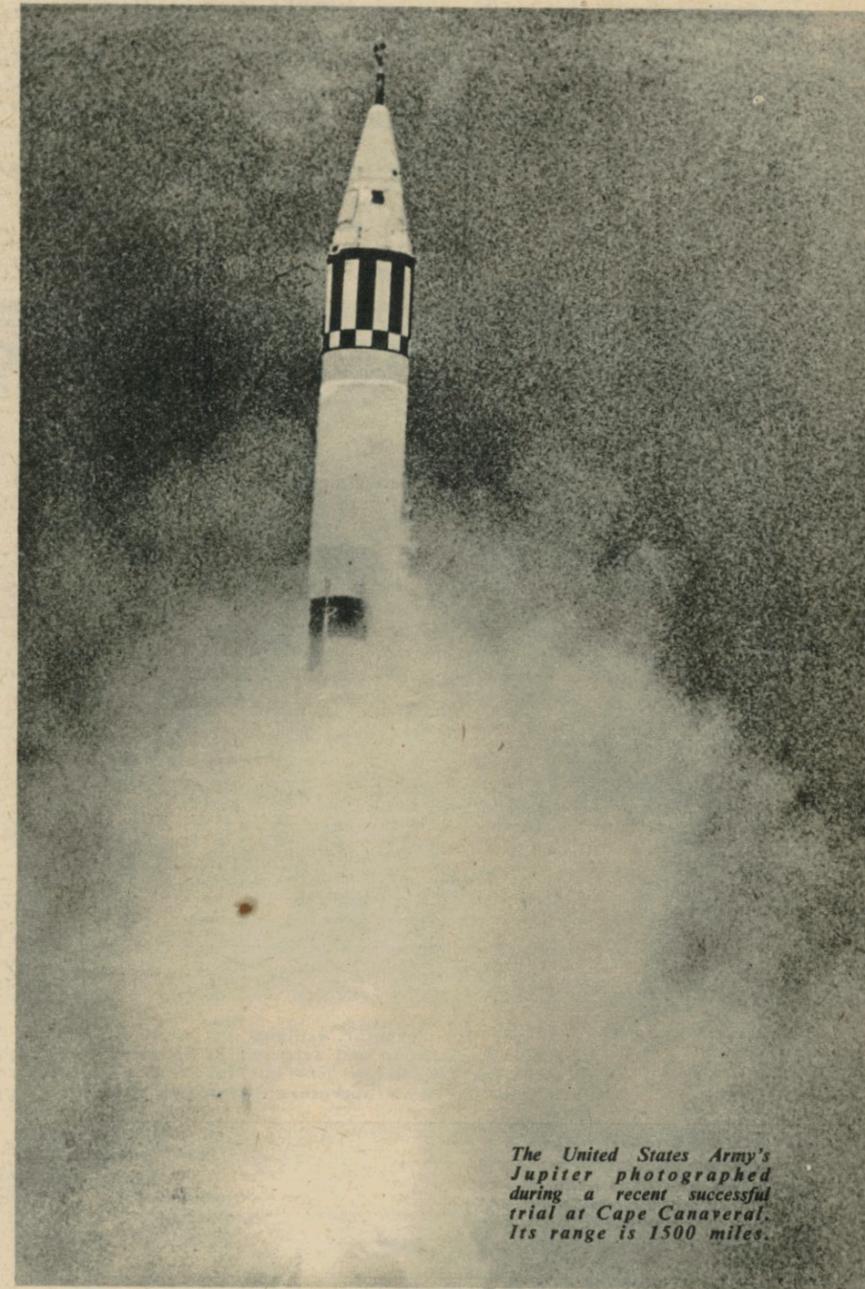
On the other hand, the Army must continue to provide conventional forces to meet its commitments throughout the world and may not be able to provide enough technicians to operate the bases. In this case, the Royal Air Force, whose future is becoming more and more bound up with guided missiles, may be called in to do the job.

Alternatively, the IRBMs may be manned by joint Army and Royal Air Force teams. According to a report in one American newspaper both soldiers and airmen are at present in the United States undergoing training on these missiles.

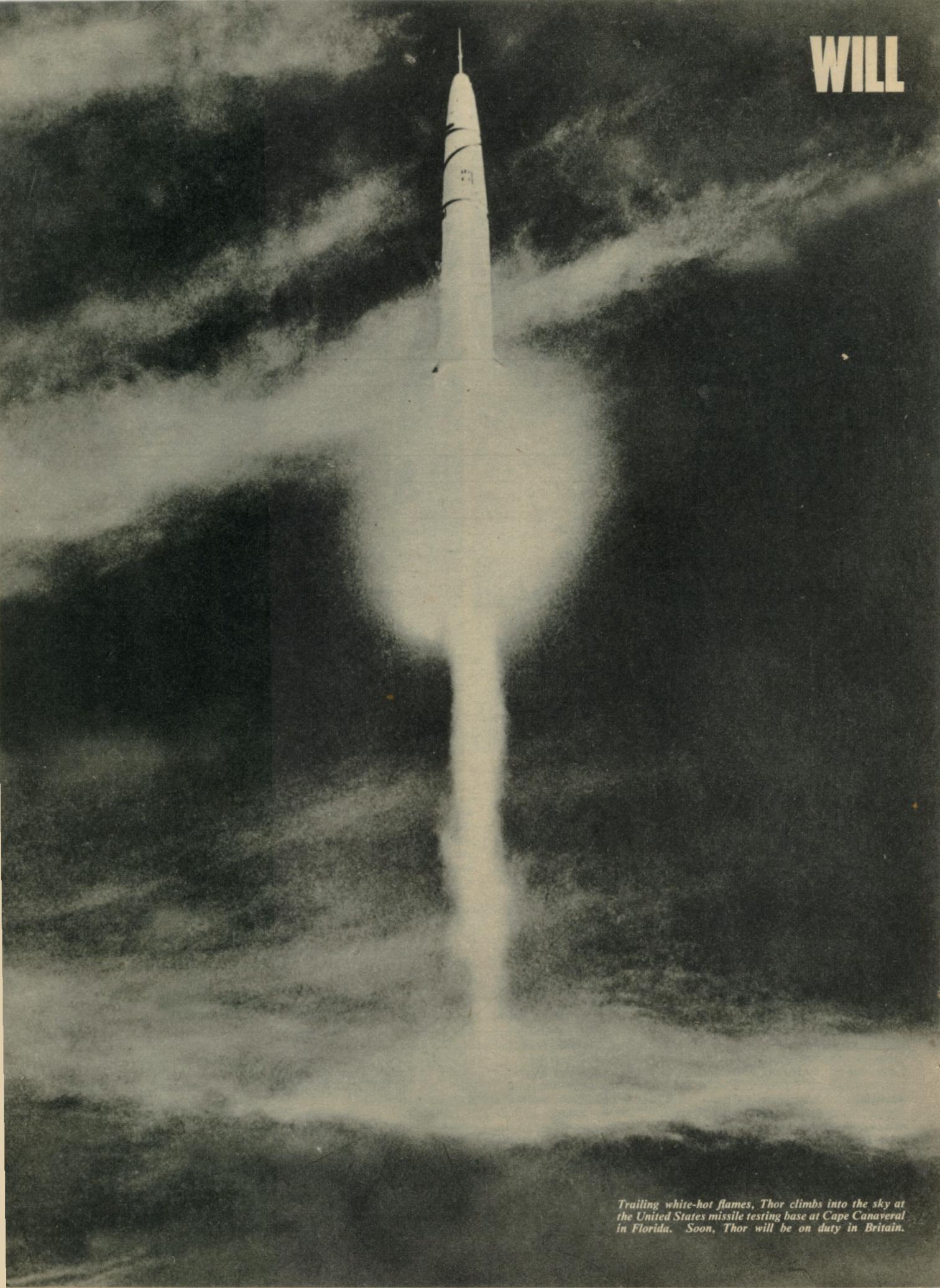
As part of the new North Atlantic Treaty Organisation defence plan, Britain will build four intermediate range ballistic missile bases—probably on the east coast of Scotland—at a cost of some £30,000,000. When these are complete, at the end of this year or early in 1959, the United States will equip them with the Thor and Jupiter intermediate range missiles which will be operated and maintained by British forces, although the nuclear warheads will be controlled by the Americans.

Both missiles have a maximum range of 1500 miles. Thor has been developed for the United States Air Force by the Douglas Aircraft Company and Jupiter for the United States Army by the Chrysler Corporation. It is believed that each of the four bases will be equipped with 15 missiles.

FOOTNOTE: A British-made intermediate range ballistic missile able to hit a target 2000 miles away is in the final stages of development and may later replace the Thor and Jupiter at the British bases. It is thought to be similar to the Skylark rocket which was recently fired to a height of 83 miles at Woomera Ranges in Australia in a series of tests of the upper atmosphere. Skylark has a solid propellant motor.

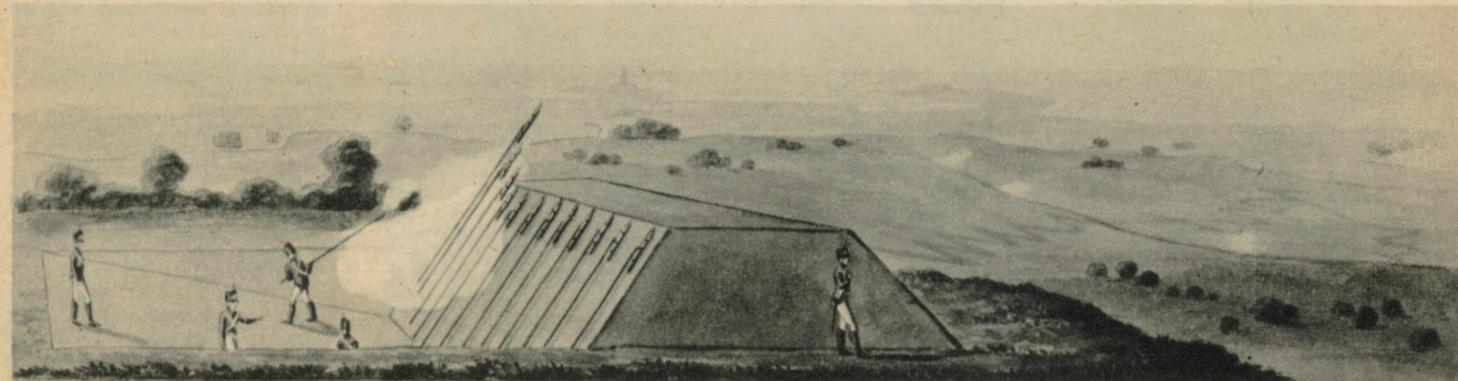


The United States Army's Jupiter photographed during a recent successful trial at Cape Canaveral. Its range is 1500 miles.



Trailing white-hot flames, Thor climbs into the sky at the United States missile testing base at Cape Canaveral in Florida. Soon, Thor will be on duty in Britain.

Rocket launching site old-style. The Congreve Rocket, used by the Royal Artillery at the Battle of Leipzig in 1813, being fired from behind earthworks.



HE'S A BOFFIN—AT THE

A Territorial Army Gunner officer with a flair for invention has won the Royal Artillery Institution's gold medal for advancing the science of gunnery. His workshop is a shed in the garden

Major G. T. W. Hall at work on one of his inventions. In ten years he has designed more than a score of Gunner training devices.



Above: The inventor explains his spotlight trainer to Battery Sergeant-Major A. Attwood and Sergeant K. Roberts, of 265 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, RA (TA). Below: The Hall Plan Position Indicator which simulates aircraft targets for radar operators. Several of these have appeared on television.



A TERRITORIAL Army officer whose bright ideas are helping to speed up and improve the training of Gunners and at the same time are saving the taxpayer many thousands of pounds, has been awarded the Royal Artillery Institution's highest prize: the gold medal for "furthering the science and application of artillery."

He is Major G. T. W. Hall, an instructor in gunnery to 30 Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Territorial Army, attached to No. 265 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, RA (TA)—the first Territorial to receive the award.

In the past ten years he has designed (and in most cases built himself in his garden workshop in Eltham, Kent), 20 training devices and six operational aid equipments for the Royal Artillery. They include a spotlight target trainer which may eventually replace the dome-trainer equipment, sleeves for pilotless target aircraft, radar target simulators for anti-aircraft Gunners and modified equipment for field and coast artillery.

His spotlight trainer, which has been accepted by the Regular and Territorial armies to supplement, and in some cases to take the place of, dome trainers, is a simple device, no bigger than a hat box, which can simulate targets travelling at up to 700 miles an hour.

It consists of an electrically-operated mechanical arm from which a bulb shines a blob of light in any direction so that the gun layer is kept constantly on

BOTTOM OF HIS GARDEN

the alert, never sure where the target is heading. It need not be used in a dome trainer (any blacked-out room will do) and no specialist operator is required. It can also be built by units at a cost of only £4 18s 2d.

Some Territorial Army units in remote parts of Britain where dome trainers are not available have equipped themselves with the Hall spotlight trainer and achieved a remarkably high standard of accuracy at practice camps. Major Hall's own unit recently "shot down" 16 aircraft at Weybourne ranges, twice as many as ever before and a record for the camp.

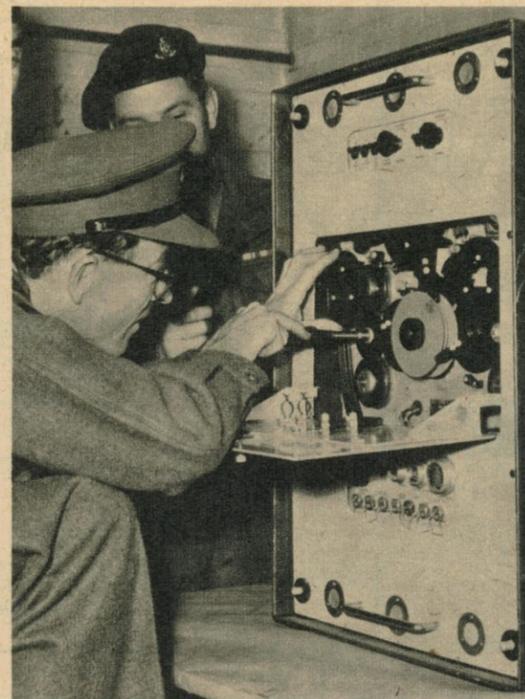
Major Hall began work on the spotlight trainer early last year and his idea was accepted by the War Office which then found itself unable to meet the demand for the new equipment. So Major Hall worked every evening and most week-ends for several months, building spotlight trainers for the School of Anti-Aircraft Artillery at Manorbier and many training units.

Another of Major Hall's brilliantly successful inventions which is now in use in the Territorial Army, although it has not yet been officially adopted by the War Office, is the Plan Position Indicator which simulates targets for radar operators. Normally, radar sets cannot be used for aircraft tracking in large towns (where most Territorial Army units are stationed) because of interference from other objects. So Major Hall produced a simple piece of equipment, operated by an electric motor which pulls globules of phosphorescent material on a nylon cord across a screen marked off for range, bearing and height. For added realism a transparent map of the area, with the radar station at its centre, is placed over the screen.

Major Hall's plan position indicators have also appeared on television. They were used in the recent "Quatermass II" serial "to track asteroids in outer space."

More recently, Major Hall improved the performance of the Army's official radar target simulator by inventing an extra cam to give a greater variety of targets. To perfect this idea he worked for a year, filing the edges of cams. This modification has been introduced to all radar target simulators used by light anti-aircraft units in the Regular and Territorial armies.

Two years ago, Major Hall solved the problem of finding a lightweight target sleeve to replace the unsafe (because it made the plane difficult to manoeuvre), expensive and heavy sleeve on the pilotless target aircraft. He designed a red plastic tube, with the towing lines wired and taped inside it, and made the first 50 (paying



Major Hall adjusts the radar target simulator for which he invented a special cam to obtain an almost infinite variety of targets.



Some of the Gunners of 265 Light Anti-Aircraft Regt., RA (TA) who scored a record number of hits at camp. They trained on Major Hall's inventions.

for them out of his own pocket) in his garden workshop. Later, the War Office gave him material to make another 100, so he called in his wife and six sergeants of 265 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment to help. Then a civilian contractor took over and the new target sleeve was soon in use at anti-aircraft ranges in Britain, Malta and Germany.

Many of Major Hall's ideas have also been incorporated into existing anti-aircraft equipment, among them a new magnetic plotting board, an automatic target speed calculator and a cable fault locator.

But not all his inventions have

been for anti-aircraft Gunners. He also thought up a clever modification to an anti-aircraft radar trainer to track the flight of mortar bombs. This equipment is now used by locating batteries. Another idea was a radar trainer for coast artillery to simulate any craft from a motor torpedo boat to a battleship.

Ironically, Major Hall has never been in the Regular Army. Because he was a research and development engineer he was not allowed to join up in World War Two, but he went into the Territorial Army in 1947 and became an instructor in Gunnery (TA) at the School of Anti-Aircraft

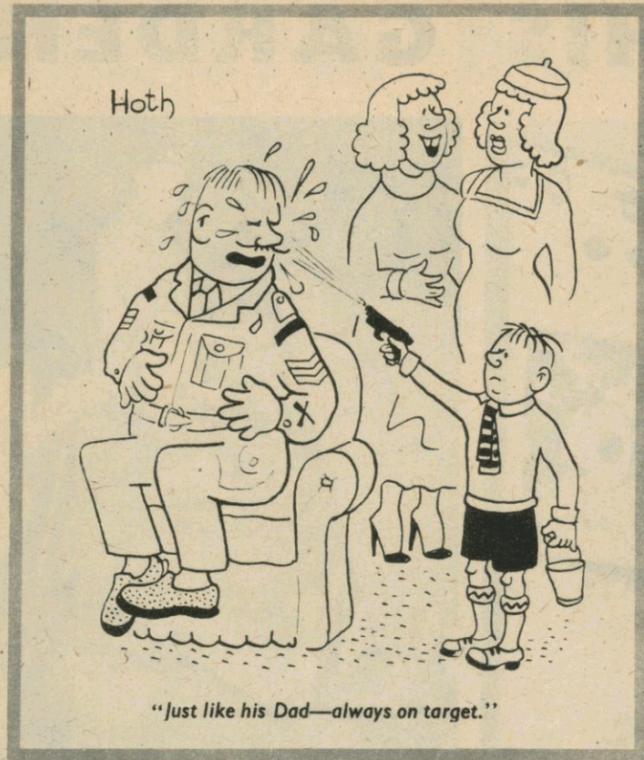
Artillery at Manorbier in 1954. One of his first inventions was a device for training tracker numbers on anti-aircraft guns which is still in general use.

In the last ten years he has spent most of his week-ends and several evenings each week working out his ideas in his garden workshop, often helped by his wife who, he says, "puts in more time than most Territorials spend at their drill halls."

At present, Major Hall is working on another idea—a remote radar equipment—which he has christened "Empress" after its full name, The Electro-Mechanical Presentation System.



Another of Major Hall's ideas is this modified projector, fitted to the gun, which enables instructors to check gun-laying errors.



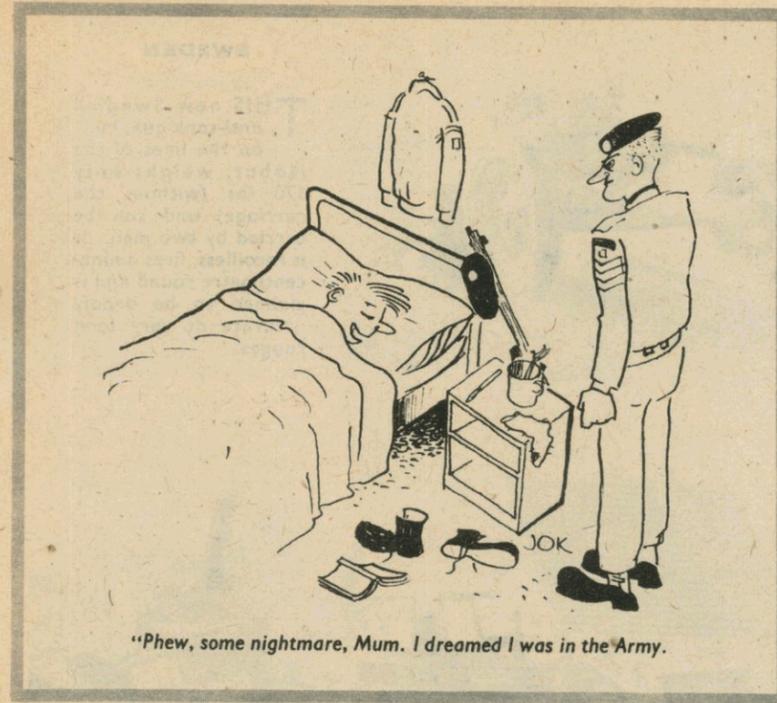
Hoth

"Just like his Dad—always on target."



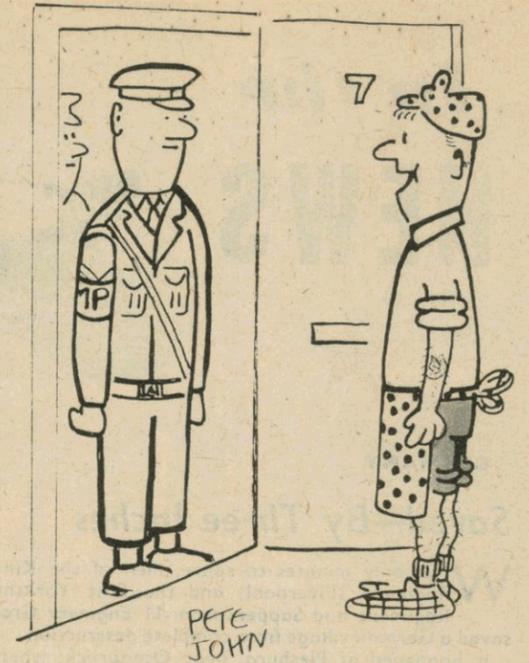
FRANK FINCH

"This is Sergeant J. G. Hopsard—J for Jankers, G for Glasshouse, H for Halt, O for Orderly room, P for Parade, S for Squad, A for Attention, R for Reveille and D for Double up."



JOK

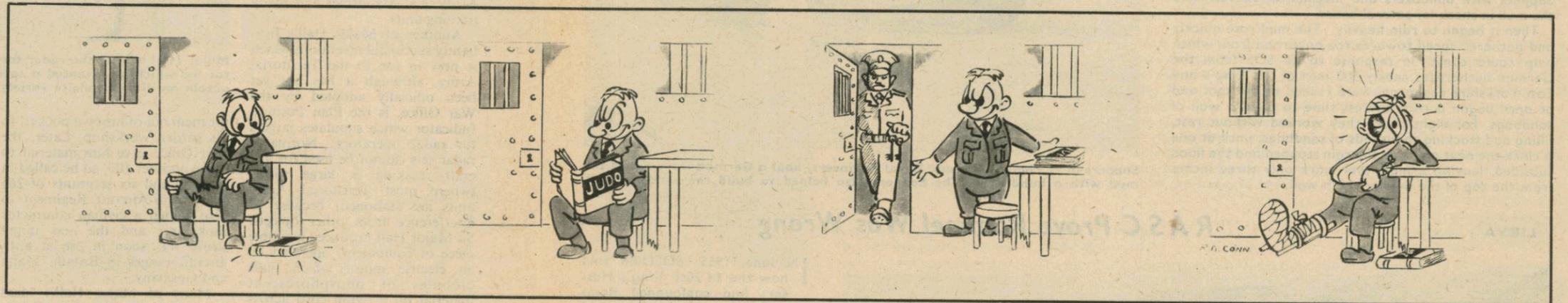
"Phew, some nightmare, Mum. I dreamed I was in the Army."



PETE JOHN

"No, sorry, there's no soldier at this address."

SOLDIER HUMOUR

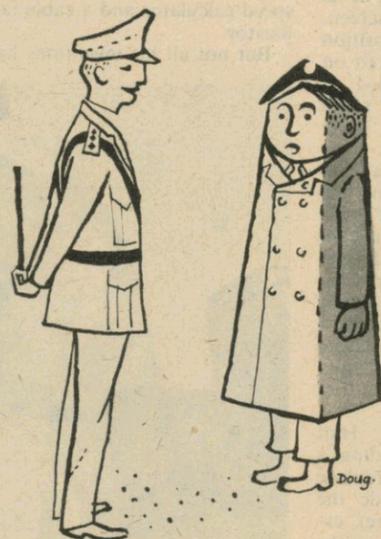


G. CONN



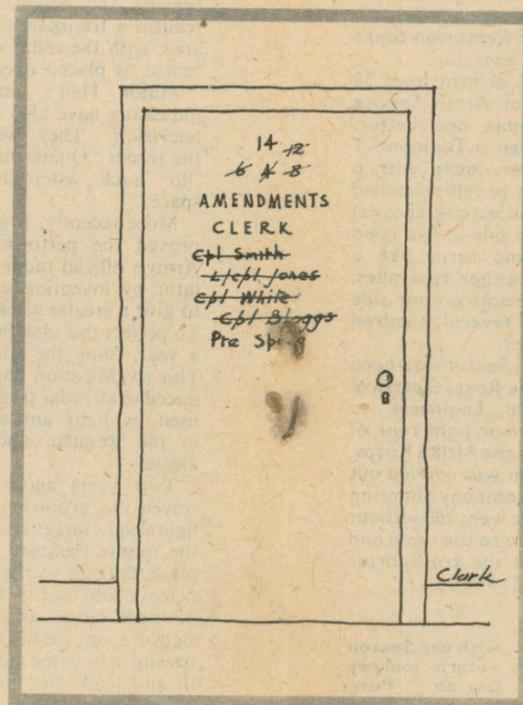
KoMIK

"Outside for P.T."



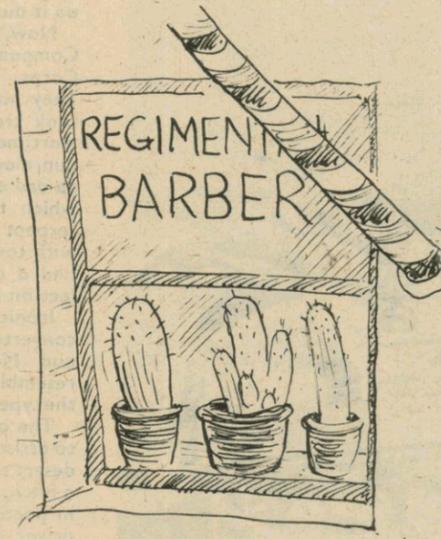
Doug

"And what makes you think you are doing too many guards, Smithson?"

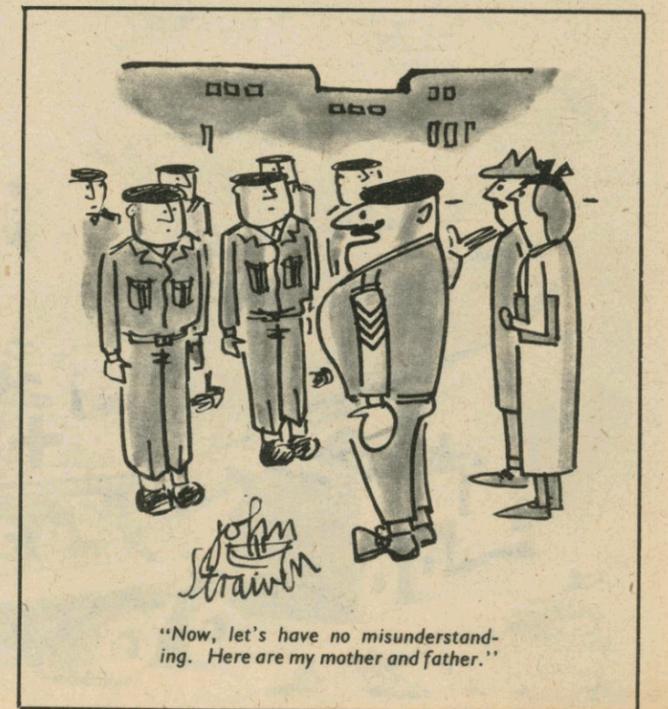


Clark

14-12
6-4-8
AMENDMENTS
CLERK
Cpl Smith
Cpl Jones
Cpl White
Cpl Briggs
Pre Sp



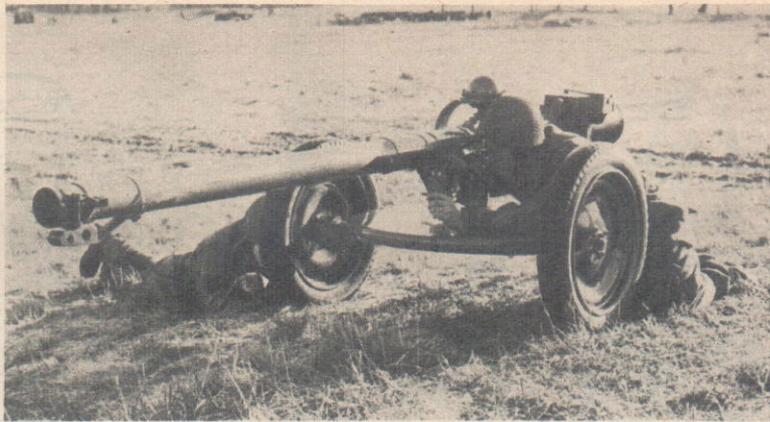
Not



John Strawn

"Now, let's have no misunderstanding. Here are my mother and father."

In the NEWS



SWEDEN

THIS new Swedish anti-tank gun, built on the lines of the Mobat, weighs only 170 lbs (without the carriage) and can be carried by two men. It is recoilless, fires a nine-centimetre round and is claimed to be deadly accurate at very long ranges.

GERMANY

Saved—By Three Inches

WITH only minutes to spare, men of the King's Regiment (Liverpool) and the East Yorkshire Regiment and Sappers from 11 Engineer Group saved a German village from complete destruction.

It happened at Piesburg, near Osnabruck, when a dam holding back hundreds of thousands of tons of mud burst. Many houses were destroyed, some of them completely engulfed, as the mud swept into the village. Sappers with bulldozers and mechanical shovels held the mud in check for several hours.

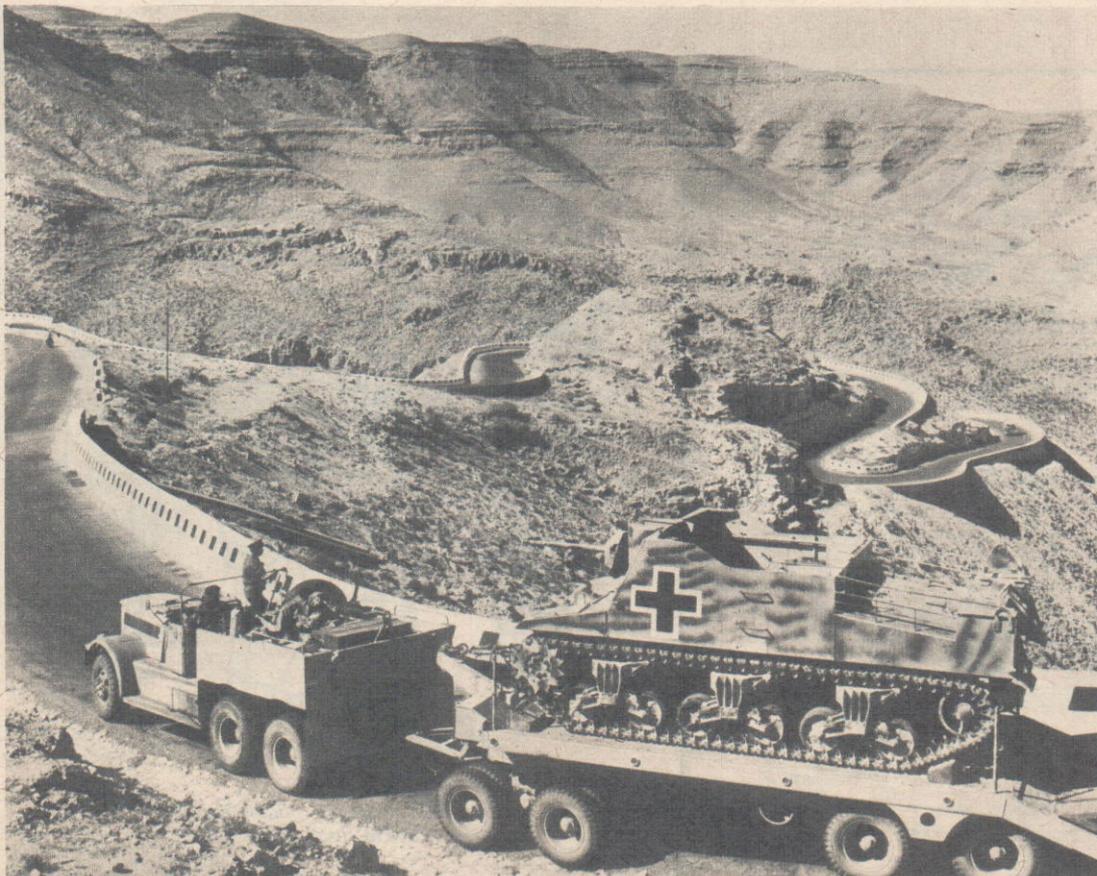
Then it began to rain heavily. The mud rose quickly and gathered speed towards the only road from which help could come. In response to an SOS from the German authorities nearly 300 men of the King's and East Yorkshire regiments were rushed to the spot and at once began a race against time to build a wall of sandbags. For eight hours they worked without rest, filling and stacking thousands of sandbags, until at one o'clock the next morning the rain stopped and the flood subsided, leaving a high-level mark only three inches from the top of the five-foot high wall.



Sappers of 11 Engineer Group, Royal Engineers, haul a German lorry out of the mud with a bulldozer. The Sappers also helped to build the sandbag wall.

LIBYA

RASC Prove Rommel Was Wrong



IN June, 1955, SOLDIER told how the 14/20th King's Hussars had confounded Rommel's prophecy that tanks would never be able to negotiate the famous Garian Pass near Tripoli, by driving their Centurion tanks up it during an exercise.

Now, a team of men from 38 Company, Royal Army Service Corps, have gone one better. They have driven a Diamond T tank transporter, laden with a wartime Sexton (a self-propelled gun mounted on a tank chassis) up and down the one-in-five road which twists and turns like a serpent for more than two miles, with towering rocks on one side and a drop of several hundred feet on the other.

Ironically, the Sexton had been converted by the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers to resemble a German light tank of the type used by the Afrika Korps.

The operation was carried out to assist a film company shooting desert scenes. It went off without a hitch, a tribute to the team and in particular to the transporter driver, Driver E. Smith.

The Diamond T, with the Sexton aboard, on its return journey down the Garian Pass.

EAST GERMANY

IN this first Soviet Army official photograph ever to be published in *SOLDIER*, General Sir Dudley Ward, Commander-in-Chief, Rhine Army, is seen inspecting the Russian Guard of Honour when he recently paid a courtesy call on his Russian opposite number, Marshal Gretchko, at Zossen-Wuensdorf in Eastern Germany. Marshal Gretchko is on General Ward's immediate right.

It would seem to be the rule in the Russian Army that all ranks look at the inspecting officer—or perhaps it was just curiosity.



BRITAIN

TO Buckingham Palace recently went Sergeant Charles Le Feuvre, of the 1st Special Communications Troop, Royal Corps of Signals, to receive the Polar Medal from the Queen.

Sergeant Le Feuvre was the radio operator of the ten-man advance party which in 1955

Frozen Assets

went with the Royal Society's expedition to Halley Bay base, an island of ice over 1000-ft. thick, 800 miles from the South Pole. Often operating in temperatures of minus 60 degrees Fahrenheit, he was responsible for wireless communication with the Falkland Islands, London and Russian and American bases in the Ant-

arctic. Before the Royal Society's base hut was completed the advance party lived almost entirely on pemmican for several months and slept in tents.

On his return to Britain recently, Sergeant Le Feuvre collected 16 months back pay for the time he had been in the Antarctic. His expenses amounted only to about £10, spent on telegrams and stamps. Moral: If you want to save money go to the Antarctic.

Sergeant Charles Le Feuvre displays his Polar Medal. He spent 16 months in the Antarctic.

BRITAIN

Grenadiers On Stage

IN 1882 when Gilbert and Sullivan's opera "Iolanthe" was first performed at the Savoy theatre in London, the band of the Grenadier Guards marched on to the stage to lead the Peers' Chorus. The reason? One of the characters is cast as Private Willis, of the Grenadier Guards.

Recently, at the 75th birthday performance of the opera by the D'Oyly Carte company at Streat-ham Hill theatre, 12 members of the Grenadier Guards Band re-enacted the occasion. Half way through the first act the 12 Bandsmen (four cornet, three trombone, two French horn, a euphonium and a bass tuba player and a side drummer) appeared from the wings, marched across the stage and took up position on a rostrum, playing all the while. They appeared again later in the opera and at the final curtain.



The Grenadier Guards march on to lead the Peers' Chorus.

STERLING



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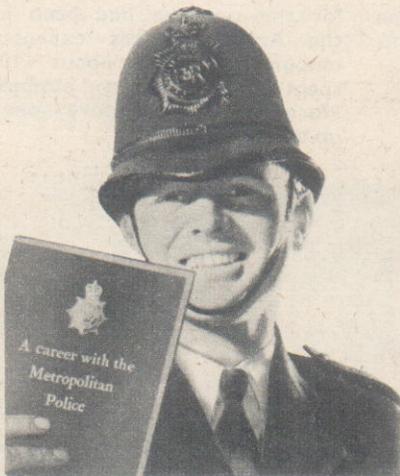
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A FAMILY HAT-TRICK

A warrant officer whose father and grandfather also received the award, has been presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Their combined Army service totals 83 years



Above: Warrant Officer Edward Andrews, RAOC. Left: His grandfather and father (then on boy's service in the Army Ordnance Corps) in 1910. They both became officers and between them served for 65 years.



General Sir George Erskine presents the first Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to a member of the Women's Services: Sergeant Joy Vaile, WRAC.

THE award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to Warrant Officer (Sub-Conductor) Edward Andrews, of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, marks an event probably without parallel in the Army.

He is the third member of his family to gain the coveted award, his father and grandfather also having obtained it. So far their combined total of service is 83 years.

Warrant Officer Andrews' grandfather, Captain C. Andrews, received the medal after 18 years service in 1905. Twenty-three years later Major E. N. C. Andrews (the warrant officer's father) was also granted it.

All three joined the ranks as boys. Captain Andrews went into the Royal Artillery and was a master gunner when he transferred to the Army Ordnance Corps, which his son, Major Andrews, joined in 1910. Captain Andrews died on active service in 1919.

Major Andrews soldiered on until 1952 (until

recently he was employed at Headquarters, Southern Command as a civilian) so that he and his father had 65 years Army service between them.

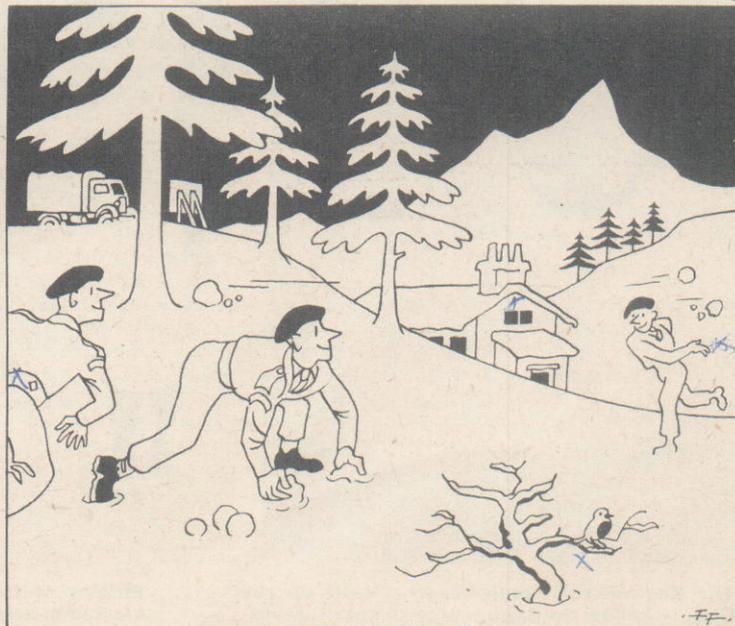
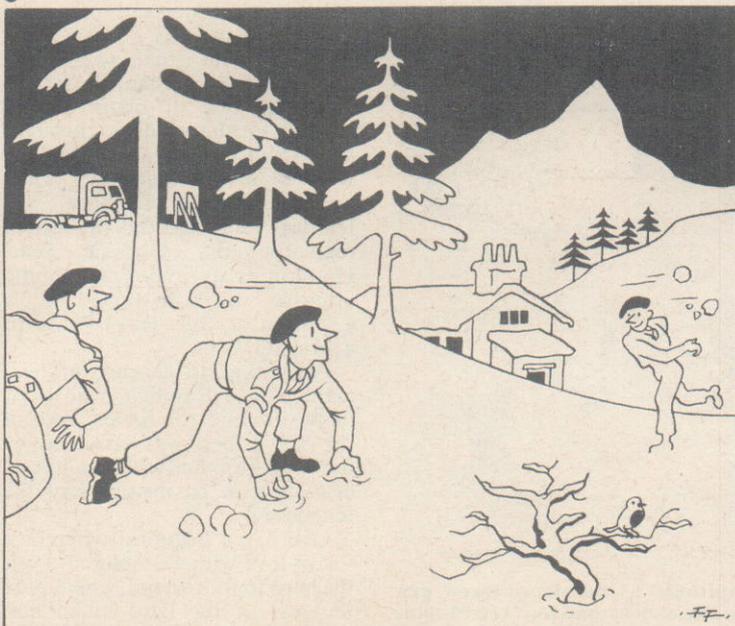
Major Andrews was Adjutant of 3 Training Battalion, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, when his son, the present warrant officer, became a boy bugler in the same Corps.

The presentation to Warrant Officer Andrews at Headquarters, Southern Command, recently was notable for another reason. On the same occasion General Sir George Erskine, commanding Southern Command, also presented the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to the first woman to receive it: Sergeant Joy Vaile, of the Women's Royal Army Corps. She enlisted in the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1939 at Devonport where her father was a chief petty officer in the Royal Navy. He was also awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Warrant Officer Andrews and Sergeant Vaile, who joined up within four days of each other, both work at Headquarters, Southern Command.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

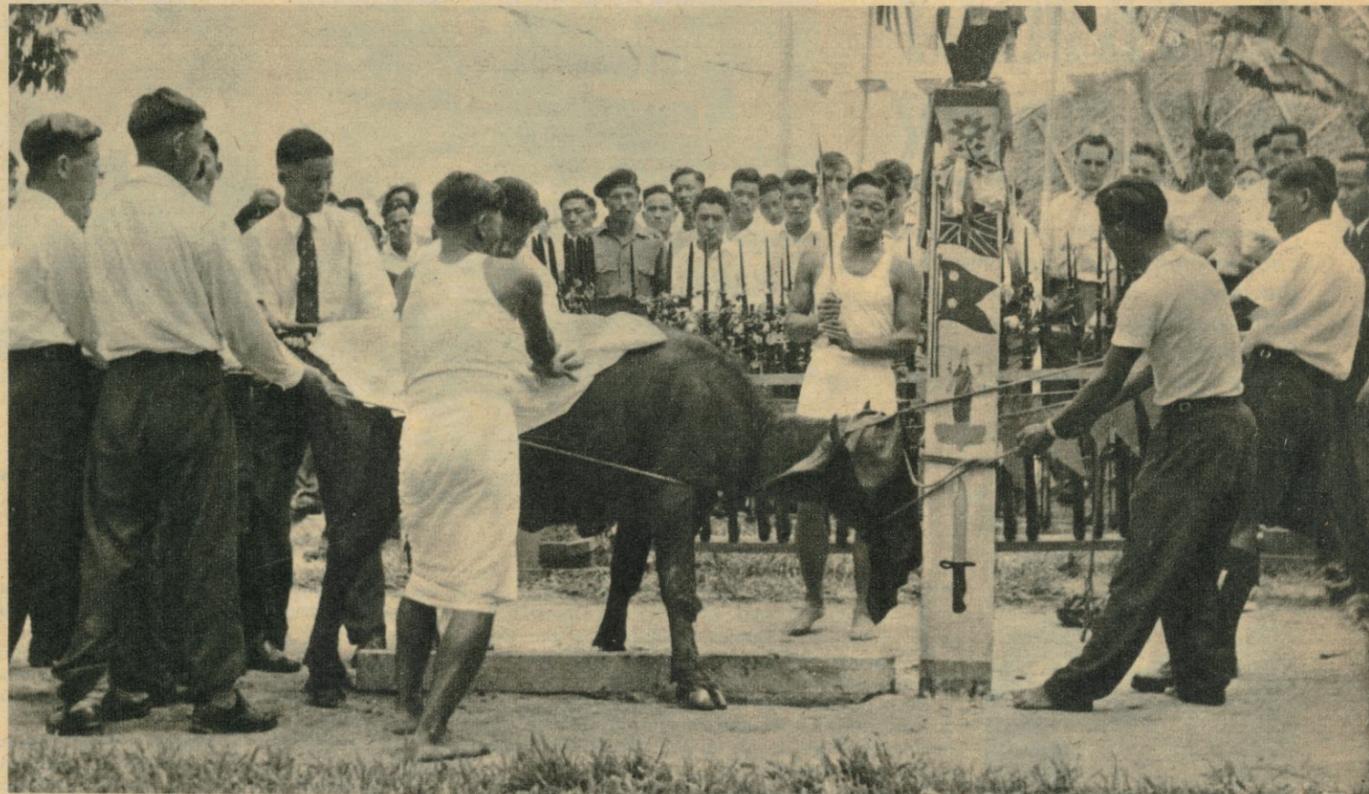
These two pictures look alike, but they vary in ten minor details. Study them carefully. If you cannot detect the differences turn to page 37 for the answers.



Dasahra, the Gurkha's ten-day religious festival, has its roots in a legendary fight between a Goddess with three eyes and 18 arms, and a buffalo-headed monster.

THE GURKHAS

HONOUR A GODDESS



Right: Men of the Regiment, dressed in women's clothes dance round the sacrificial stake. Nepalese women never dance in public.

Left: The buffalo is tied to the Maula and the strongest man in the Regiment steps forward with his kukri to strike off its head in one blow.

After the beheading ceremony, the buffalo's head is sprinkled with flowers and blessed in the name of Durga, Goddess of Victory.



The Regimental Pundit (centre) calls on the Gods to endow the Regiment with good fortune.



Effigies of the animals to be slaughtered are blessed in front of the carved and painted Maula.

SIGNALMAN Nar Bahadur Limbu raised his massive kukri high above his head and struck with all his strength at the neck of a full-grown buffalo tethered to a sacrificial stake.

A great shout of joy went up from the officers and men of the Gurkha Signals Regiment, bugles blared a victory fanfare and rifles fired a *feu-de-joie*. Signalman Nar Bahadur Limbu had severed the animal's head with one stroke, a sure sign from the Goddess Durga that his Regiment would enjoy good fortune and success for the next 12 months.

This age-old ritual, which took place at Sikamat Camp in Seremban, was one of many similar which Gurkha soldiers throughout Singapore and Malaya were observing that day. They were celebrating Dasahra, the ten-day religious festival which regulates the Gurkha year. Dasahra is as important to the Gurkha as Christmas to a Christian or Hari Raya Puasa to a Muslim.

According to legend, an evil giant named Rambha, who lived in the Second (or Silver) Age of the Sun tribes, was endowed by the God Brahma with the gift of attraction to all members of the female sex.

One day a beautiful white cow fell in love with Rambha and left the herd to follow him, whereupon the rest of the herd killed him



and placed his body on a funeral pyre. When the flames were at their height, the white cow jumped into them and perished.

From the ashes rose a gigantic buffalo-headed demon called Mahishashura who received from the Gods the gift of immunity from death at the hands of a male. The demon then attacked the Gods who appealed to the Hindu Holy Trinity—Brahma, Shiva and Vishnu—for assistance. It came in the form of Durga, a beautiful maiden with three eyes and 18 arms, whom the Gods commanded to kill Mahishashura. Shiva gave her his trident, Vishnu his wheel, Indra his thunder and lightning, Agni (the God of Fire) his bows and arrows and Biswakarna his sword, axe and kukri.

Armed with these weapons and riding astride a lion, Durga set off to do battle. For eight days she and Mahishashura, who was mounted on a huge bull, fought without a decision, but on the ninth day Durga administered the *coup de grace*, cutting off the demon's head with her kukri. As a reward from the grateful Gods Durga was appointed the Goddess of Victory.

It is in Durga's honour that the Gurkhas celebrate each year Dasahra, or the Warriors Festival, which varies slightly in each Gurkha unit.

Normally, the first six days of the celebration are spent in

dancing and merrymaking. On the seventh day the officers and men, led by the Regimental Pundit (religious teacher) and carrying an effigy of Durga, go into the woods and fields collecting flowers and calling on their Gods to grant them happiness and success. The flowers are later placed on the Maula, a carved and painted post at which, on the stroke of midnight on the eighth day, a goat is sacrificed.

The climax comes on the ninth day, when after many religious rites have been performed, a full-grown buffalo is tied to the Maula. Armed with a giant kukri, the strongest man in the regiment steps forward and attempts to sever the head in one blow. If he fails, it is a sign that Durga has rejected the prayers and sacrifices and that the regiment will suffer ill-fortune for the next 12 months.

The killing of the buffalo is followed by other sacrifices. In pre-war days it was common for as many as six buffaloes and up to 300 other offerings to be slaughtered.

To the man wielding the kukri falls the honour of being adorned with a white *bugrhi* (turban) by the Commanding Officer if he severs the buffalo's head in one stroke. Afterwards the Regimental Pundit places a sacred mark on the forehead of every officer and man in the unit.

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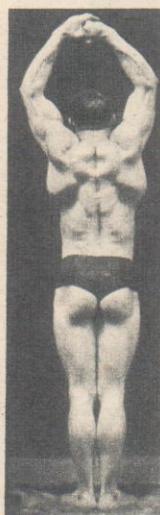
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TWO

British troops prepared for the crossing of the Rhine in 1945 under cover of the biggest smoke screen in the history of war. Here, one of the hundreds of mechanical generators which were used, belches smoke over a shattered Rhine town.



Two Glorious Disasters

WITH a few notable exceptions senior Army officers who write books rarely swell the ranks of the best-sellers, probably because they write only when they feel they must. They have a resounding victory or a crushing defeat to record and they do so, as they conducted their campaigns, with fairness and integrity. They tell the story as they see it and it rarely loses anything in the telling.

Just such a book is "Before The Dawn" (Cassell, 25s.), the story of two historic retreats, both in their way catastrophic, but both memorable for displays of fighting spirit by men who refused to accept defeat and knew that ultimate victory was certain.

Brigadier Sir John Smyth VC, MC, MP, is well qualified to write about such soldiers. He won the Victoria Cross as a very youthful subaltern with the Sikhs in World War One and went to France and Burma in World War Two used to calamity. In a foreword he describes himself as "one who has taken part in all the great disasters of our time."

The outbreak of World War Two found the author in command of a Territorial brigade, which the Inspector of Infantry had described as being "unfit for service." Nevertheless, the brigade was about to leave for France.

Then there was a last-minute change of plan: the brigade was earmarked for Finland to fight the Russians. The troops were to be issued with shorts and topees, and thus equipped were to embark, changing into special Arctic costume in mid-ocean. "Finnforce," as it was hopefully called, was mercifully never committed to action.

In France, Brigadier Smyth tells of the splendid performance put up, against overwhelming

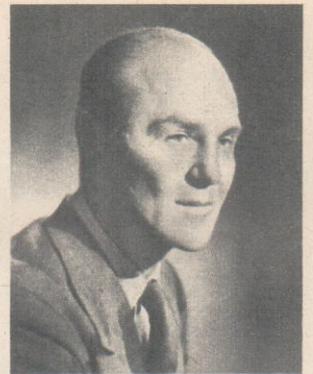
odds, by this scratch brigade. When Dunkirk was over he says: "I felt proud to have been in this... very glorious disaster, which will be remembered as long as British history itself."

In Burma, the author once more found himself a leader of a seemingly lost cause. In command of the 17th Division he saw his men hopelessly outnumbered and fought to a standstill.

He was faced with one of the most difficult decisions any commander has been called upon to make. It was his choice, and his

alone, whether to leave the Sittang Bridge intact or to blow it. If he blew it, two-thirds of a fine fighting division would be left on the far bank; if not, then the Japanese would be able to march unimpeded on Rangoon.

Here, and only here, does the author permit himself a brief excursion into bitter recrimination. In "The Turn Of The Tide," by Sir Arthur Bryant, it is recorded that "three British brigades were trapped and destroyed through the premature destruction of the only bridge over the Sittang." This, says Brigadier Smyth, is not the first time that the higher command has put all the blame for its own shortcomings on to the heads of the fighting commanders. In spite of this—and the



The author, Brigadier Sir John Smyth VC. "He has taken part in all the great disasters of our time."

sentiment illustrates the cheerful philosophy of a very absorbing book—the author considers that senseless and horrible as war is, it has a certain nobility.

The title is a fitting one. When dawn broke, after these two crushing defeats, Britain and her Allies still hoped to be able to struggle on with ever increasing resources until victory was won.

And so it proved to be.

East African Side-Show

EVERY war has its "side-shows"—those nerve-racking and uncomfortable campaigns that rarely make the headlines but often play a big part in ultimate victory. One of these less publicised campaigns is graphically described in "Abyssinian Adventure" by J. F. MacDonald (Cassell, 16s.).

This is the story of the activities of a West African battalion in the protracted operations on the southern sector of the East African front in 1940 and 1941. The battalion was part of the all-African force that struggled through Italian Somaliland to Addis Ababa and eventual victory. Theirs was a war of long periods of boredom and discomfort; of hot, thirsty patrolling in the scrub; of violent little

brushes with the enemy, culminating in the long drawn out battle at Uadara.

The British officers of the battalion were a mixed bag: lawyers, engineers, gold miners, tobacco farmers and merchants. As was often the case when amateurs were suddenly called to the high endeavour of war, they initially earned the wholehearted disapproval of their Regular commanding officer.

This fortunately fictional character compared his officers' conduct of operations to a Cup Tie crowd and a stampede for suburban trains in the rush hour. His criticism of their administrative ability drew from one "temporary gentleman" the explosive theory that "the system of army administration was evolved by

the disillusioned for the unprincipled."

Indeed, it was not until serious fighting started that the hard lesson was learned that professional and amateur soldiers must work together as a team.

There is much sardonic and irreverent fun in this very professionally written book. One's only regret on reading "Abyssinian Adventure" is that neither the foreword nor the book jacket tells us anything about the author, who writes with an engaging sense of both humour and drama and the ease of the born observer.

Pearl Harbour

ON 7 December, 1941 the Japanese caught the American fleet completely by surprise and the pride of the United States Navy lay sunk or burning in the oil-blackened sea.

In "Day Of Infamy" (Longmans, 18s.) Walter Lord reconstructs the blackest and most catastrophic day in the history of the United States.

The author describes the feelings of all ranks ranging from admiral to seaman from both the American and Japanese viewpoints: the suicidal enthusiasm of Japanese pilots and the shocked bewilderment of American soldiers, sailors and civilians. The degree of American unpreparedness is best summed up by the sailor who, on being informed that the Japanese were attacking Pearl Harbour, said: "Hell, I didn't even know they were sore at us."

This masterly story of the transition from a peaceful tropical scene to a hellish cataclysm of death and destruction would have made a superb fiction, were it not true.

Revolts that Shook the World

WHICH was the First World War? According to Sir Winston Churchill, in "The Age of Revolution" (Cassell, 30s.), it was the Seven Years War, fought between 1757 and 1763.

It was a war fought by Britain against France and Spain in three continents and three oceans; in which the elder Pitt conceived it his duty "to call into life and action the depressed and languid spirit of England, to weld all her resources of wealth and manhood into a single instrument of war which should be felt from the Danube to the Mississippi."

This was the war in which Wolfe and Amherst secured Canada and Clive and Coote uprooted the French in India. It was fought on the Great Lakes of North America, in the Mediterranean, in the West Indies and in the Philippines. Among the enemy's allies were Red Indian chiefs and barbaric Oriental princes. And among the parts of the world to be coloured

red at the end was Florida.

This first world war is one of many handled in eloquent and magisterial fashion in the third volume of Sir Winston's History of the English-Speaking Peoples. During the period of the book, from 1688 to 1815, three revolutions had far-reaching influence on mankind: the English Revolution of 1688 (when James II fled), the American and the French. The great soldiers who ride through its pages include Marlborough, Clive, Wolfe, Moore and Wellington.

The scope of the work does not give room for any new details of these campaigns but there are many memorable descriptions,

judgments and characterisations. Among the pictures which linger in the imagination is that of Marlborough, as Gentleman of the Bedchamber, handing the impassive King William his shirt and then, two hours later, receiving an order dismissing him from the Army, from all his public offices and from the Court.

Another is that of the younger Pitt, his health broken in his country's service, organising the Walmer militia in 1803 against the threat of invasion. "Few things in England's history are more remarkable than this picture of an ex-Prime Minister, riding his horse at the head of a motley company of yokels, drilling on the fields of the South Coast, while a bare 20 miles away across the Channel the Grand Army of Napoleon waited only for a fair wind and a clear passage."

A Sinful Regiment of the Line

IN 1711, an Ensign Colville wrote that his military studies had suffered because a billiard table had taken too much of his time and most of his money.

His confession would be too commonplace to appear in most regimental histories, but in the story of the Cameronians at that time it marked a change in character: from the band of religious zealots which had taken up arms against the Stuarts 22 years before to a normal, healthily sinful regiment of the line.

It is the early, zealot days of the Cameronians that make the most unusual part of their history in the period 1689 to 1910, which is covered by Major S. H. F. Johnston in the first volume of "The History of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)" (*Gale and Polden, 25s.*).

Before the Regiment was thought of, the Cameronians were a group of religious societies in Southern Scotland. The idea of raising a proper regiment to fight the Jacobites was mooted when William of Orange landed in England. At first it was turned down by the General Meeting of the societies, who thought the unit would be a "sinful association." Determined action by the lieutenant-colonel elect of the regiment, however, brought it into being, nearly 1300 strong. Its men engaged to "resist Popery, Prelacy and arbitrary power."

Three months later, the new regiment was on the verge of mutiny. The men complained of "profane officers" and of an unnecessary march on the Sabbath, as well as of the more customary hold-up in pay.

A few days after that, raw and ill-equipped, the Cameronians were defending the little town of Dunkeld against superior numbers of Highland troops. The main defences were dykes, and Highlanders inflicted heavy casualties on the Cameronians by firing from houses overlooking them. So Cameronian pikemen fixed burning faggots to their pikes and went forward to set the houses on fire. The battle proceeded to the shrieks of men being burned to death.

The Cameronians ran short of ammunition, and men had to be taken from the firing line to make bullets from the lead roof of the Marquis of Atholl's house. The Highlanders, however, were also

short of ammunition and had been badly mauled. They withdrew, and so the Cameronians' first battle ended gloriously.

In 1691, when the Cameronians went off on their first overseas campaign, they were mocked by the other Scottish regiments who told them there were no hills in Flanders for them to preach and pray upon. But the Regiment held its conventicle and, to the satisfaction of its minister, complaints poured in about his attacks on Popery. Then the Regiment petitioned the King against the wickedness of the Army. All this did not stop the Cameronians from acquitting themselves heroically at the Battle

of Steenkirk.

In the Napoleonic Wars, the Regiment, now known as the 26th, lost half its men in a double shipwreck on the ill-fated expedition to the Elbe. It played its part in the Corunna campaign, and then went to Walcheren. Here many men contracted a fever which left them so unhealthy that the Regiment was unfit for duty in the Peninsula and was shipped off to garrison duty in Gibraltar.

Meanwhile, in 1794, an amateur soldier named Thomas Graham (he received a permanent commission 15 years later—as a major-general) fulfilled his ambition to raise a regiment which would train as Light Infantry. It was born at Perth, in the 90th, and after a couple of almost bloodless expeditions found its first glory at Mandora, in the fight for Alexandria. The 26th also arrived in Egypt, though later in



The Earl of Angus who raised the Cameronians was killed fighting his first battle—Steenkirk.

the campaign, and both regiments received the Egypt battle honour. In 1881 they were to be joined as the 1st and 2nd Battalions The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles).

The Saga of Trooper Southon

THE winter snows of 1944 were settling on the Alps when 29 men set off to cross from German-occupied northern Italy into newly-liberated France.

Twenty-six were escaped British prisoners of war intent on rejoining the Allies. The others were

Italian partisans seeking weapons for their guerrilla war. Only two survived the trip, one Englishman and one Italian.

The Englishman was Trooper Alfred Southon whose story is told by Vivian Milroy in "Alpine Partisan" (*Hammond and Hammond, 12s. 6d.*).

The party had climbed some 6000 feet through blizzards and avalanches when Southon and another Briton collapsed. Their companions had no way of carrying them so, leaving the two men in the shelter of a rock, with two partisans to look after them,

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the main body went on their uncertain way into the blinding snow. Their bodies were later discovered at the bottom of a ravine.

When, three days later, hope of rescue from the main party had gone, the two partisans also went on. They reached safety, but one was already dying. The two Englishmen had been lying in the snow for ten days, with nothing to eat or drink but snow, when Southon's feeble shout brought rescuers to the drift behind which they were hidden.

Southon's companion had already been dead two days. Of Southon, one of his rescuers said, "A bullet . . . It would be kinder to put him out of his misery." Instead, they took him to a hut, only a hundred yards from where he had been lying. He emerged from his ordeal with both legs and some fingers amputated.

This book has a grim start, as well as a grim finish, but there is much in between that is gay. Trooper Southon was captured in the Western Desert, when his armoured car was shot up and his unit overrun.

An enterprising young man, Trooper Southon learned Italian and made the best of life in a prisoner-of-war camp. He and his fellow prisoners also made the most of the confusion in the short period between the Italian change of sides and the German take-over in northern Italy. They escaped, and he and three others were befriended by the inhabitants of a mountain village a few miles from their camp. Before long, the four Britons were joining in the life and work of the village and light-heartedly trampling the grapes for the wine-harvest (without, to their somewhat finicky surprise, washing their feet first).

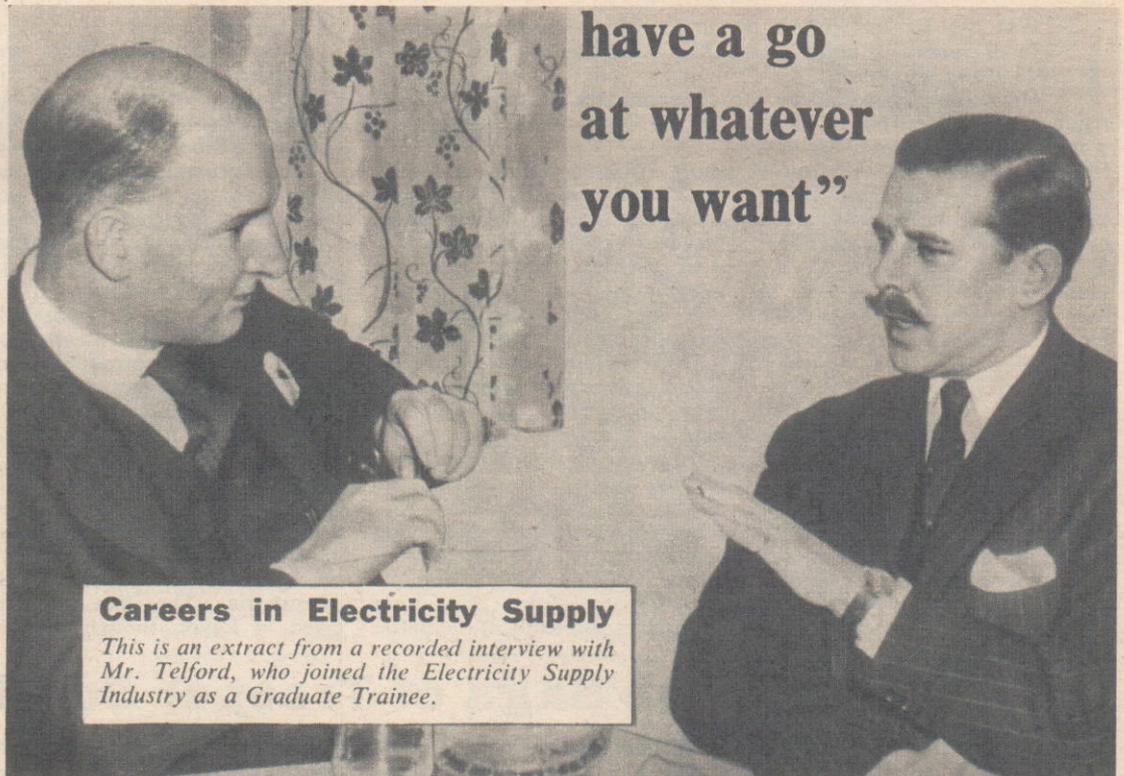
In due course, they joined the partisans whose commander, a young Italian, stocked his unit with pistols by coshing German soldiers in the darker corners of Turin.

With the partisans, the Britons blew up an ammunition train, wiped out a German road-block, made a major assault on a German garrison and generally did their best to earn the credits piling up in their accounts with the paymaster.

They had their uncomfortable moments. Once they left a village dance hurriedly—through a window they neglected to open. For three days the four men hid in a cave six feet long and only tall enough to sit in, unable to move during the day because the boulder hiding the entrance could only be replaced by someone outside.

All these experiences are simply described, and with a sense of humour. Others who escaped in Italy may have had more spectacular adventures than Trooper Southon, but none have been more readably chronicled.

**"...you can
have a go
at whatever
you want"**



Careers in Electricity Supply

This is an extract from a recorded interview with Mr. Telford, who joined the Electricity Supply Industry as a Graduate Trainee.

E.S.I. Question Master

Mr. Telford

Question Master: I think we might begin by asking what was your first job in Electricity Supply after your training was finished?

Mr. Telford: Well, my training was interrupted by the war, and it was only in 1950 that I finished my graduate course in the industry. I was then appointed Shift Charge Engineer at Frome, Somerset—a small station but an excellent training ground. From there I went to Earley—a much bigger station of 120 megawatts—as Boiler House Shift Engineer: later I became Charge Engineer there, and for a while was Efficiency Engineer, as well.

Q.M.: Your next step was London, wasn't it?

Tel.: Yes, I came to London as Second Assistant Engineer on the Divisional Staff, and later I was appointed Deputy Superintendent at Bankside Generating Station—the position which I hold now.

Q.M.: Bankside is a pretty big station, and at 36 you're young, aren't you, to be a Deputy Superintendent? But what made you come to London in the first place?

Tel.: A chance came along to get some administrative experience at H.Q. level, and I thought I'd better take it.

Q.M.: Does the Industry give many opportunities like that?

Tel.: It most certainly does. It gives you a complete

opportunity to have a go at whatever you want, and what you think you're best equipped for. The man who wants to get on is helped in every possible way: I've attended several courses run by the Industry, not only on technical matters, but on subjects like personnel selection and industrial relations.

Q.M.: You find your job gives you scope for managerial ability—dealing with people as well as machines?

Tel.: Yes, indeed. I don't think there are many better opportunities than in a power station, because you have something of everything. You have the mechanical side, the electrical side, the building side—and most of all, a number of people with varied interests and jobs.

Q.M.: Now a word about newcomers to the industry. If you have a chap of ability who is prepared to get down to the task, what would you say his opportunities were like?

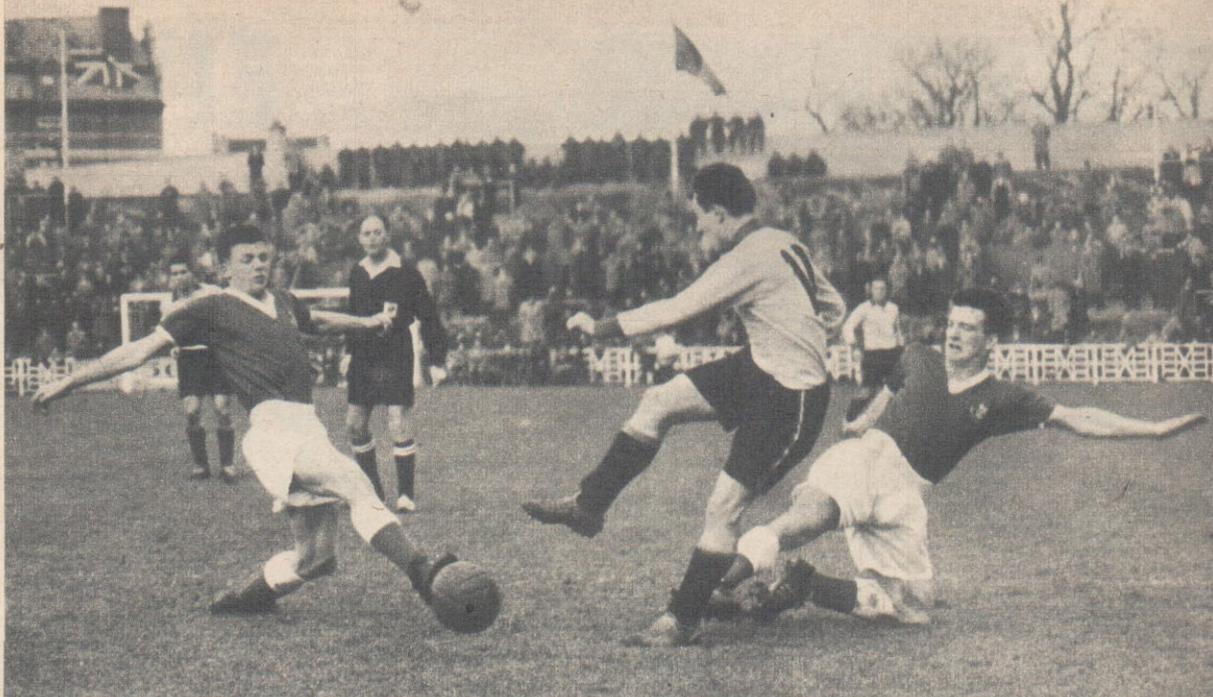
Tel.: I would say that he has really splendid opportunities. For one thing, a career in the industry is established on a very firm footing—you could do without a lot of things, but it's impossible to get on nowadays without electrical energy.

Another point worth remembering is that a man coming into the industry has the choice of the entire country to work in and there's no parochial approach.

We'd like to publish more of this interview, but there isn't space. For full details of the many careers in Electricity, both on the Distribution and Generation sides, and the salaried training schemes available, please write to:

**The Education and Training Officer,
Electricity Supply Industry,
8 Winsley Street, London, W.1**

BRITISH ARMY BEAT THE BELGIANS



Above: Private J. Williams R A M C, and Plymouth Argyle the British Army wing-half, intercepts a pass by Belgium's outside left as Private R. Spiers, the Reading centre-half, misses his tackle.

Right: Private Curry (No. 9) and Private Hitchens (No. 8) in a goalmouth tussle with Belgian defenders.

Left: Gunner W. Duff makes a spectacular save in the last minutes of the game.



WITH a well-earned win over the Belgian Army by the odd goal in three to their credit, the British Army now stand a good chance of winning the Kentish Trophy for the first time since the 1951-2 season.

The Kentish Trophy, a two-foot high cup presented in 1919 by the late Brigadier-General R. J. Kentish, a former secretary of the Army Football Association, is competed for by the armies of Britain, France and Belgium. It is at present held by Belgium who meet the French Army in Paris next month. Later this month the British Army will be playing the French Army in England, a match which the home team is confidently expected to win.

The British victory over the Belgians in Brussels was their first win on Belgian soil for five years. It was an evenly contested game watched by a crowd of some 4000.

The British Army took the lead in the 38th minute when Private Bill Curry (Royal Army Service Corps), the Newcastle United centre-forward, headed home a free kick. Two minutes after half-time the Belgians equalised when

their right-winger, Gorrissen, also headed into the net.

Halfway through the second half the British Army went ahead when Private G. Hitchens (Welch Regiment), the Wales and Aston Villa forward, completed a clever move by Gunner C. Jones (Royal Horse Artillery), the Welsh international outside left, and Lance-Corporal Bobby Charlton (Royal Army Ordnance Corps and Manchester United) and beat the Belgian goalkeeper with a first-time drive.

The Belgians rallied towards the end and bombarded the British goal, but Gunner W. Duff (Royal Horse Artillery), the Charlton 'keeper, kept them out, bringing off several superb saves.

This win brought the total number of British Army victories over the Belgians since 1919 to

11 against the Belgians 15. Four matches have been drawn. The British Army lead the French Army by 14 matches to 12, with five games drawn.

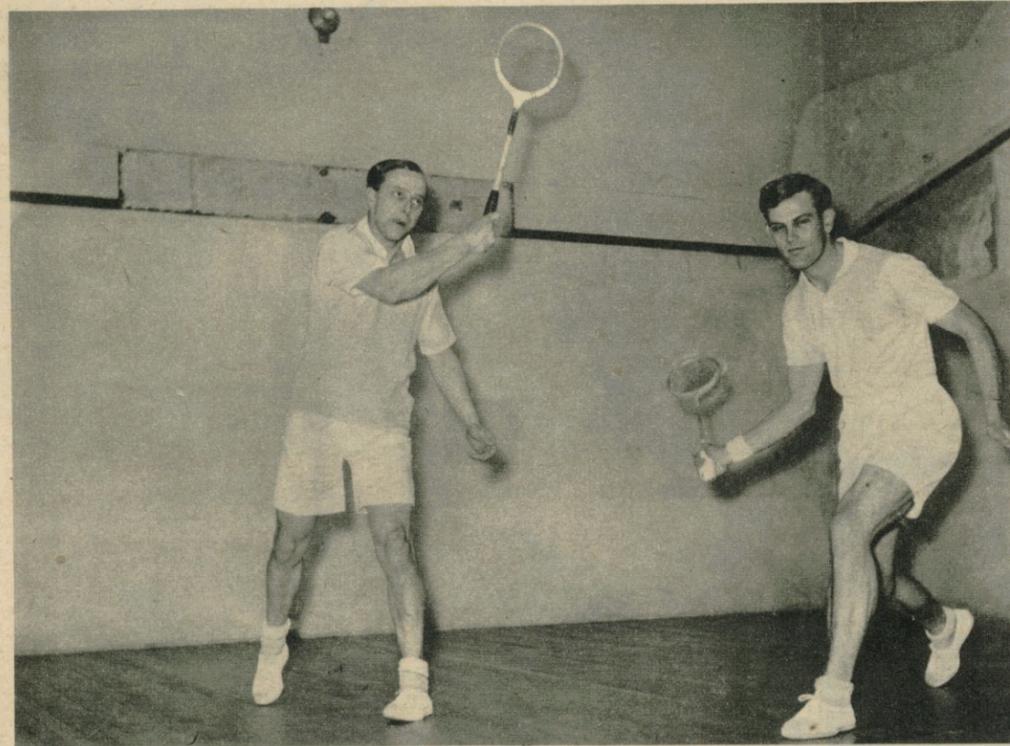
The Kentish Trophy was won outright by the British Army in 1928 after four successive victories and was re-presented by the Army Football Association as a perpetual challenge trophy.



The Kentish Trophy. The British Army are well set to win it again this year.

FIVE TIMES

A CHAMPION



By winning the Army Squash Rackets championship for the fifth successive year, Captain Michael Perkins, of the Royal Horse Artillery, has equalled the record of the first Army title holder, Captain B. N. Scott-Chadd, of the Coldstream Guards, who also won it five times running in the 1920s.

Captain Perkins, 25-year-old instructor at the Mons Officer Cadet School in Aldershot, is one of the outstanding players in the country, being seeded sixth in this year's British Amateur championships.

Immensely fit and playing brilliantly, he won the Army final against Major B. C. Elgood, Royal Engineers, by 9-0, 9-1, 9-5 in a match that lasted only half an hour. He dropped a mere 19 points in four matches and did not lose a game.

Major Elgood, who has twice before fought in the final without winning the title, was unable to match the speed of his younger opponent and relied mainly on cunningly-angled returns to the corners and drop shots. But Captain Perkins was more than his equal in this sphere, too, and

won 16 points before Major Elgood had scored one.

On his way to the final Captain Perkins had an easy win over Second-Lieutenant M. A. McNulty, Royal Artillery, whom he defeated in three straight games without dropping a point. Then he went on to beat Captain G. W. Preston-Jones, Royal Engineers, also by 9-0, 9-0, 9-0. His hardest match was against Officer Cadet J. B. Howcroft, Royal Engineers, who had been in the Army for only 13 weeks. Captain Perkins dropped only four points, however, winning by 9-2, 9-0, 9-2. Officer Cadet Howcroft is squash rackets champion of Lancashire.

In the semi-final, Captain Perkins beat Second-Lieutenant M. Chignell, of the Royal Hampshire Regiment who retired with food poisoning after being 9-3, 9-5, 5-1 down.

This season's championship, in which 53 players, including five from Rhine Army, competed, was notable for the fine performance put up by the Royal Engineers. They provided the runner-up and four of the quarter-finalists.

In addition, the Army Veterans'

event was won by Brigadier G. O. M. Jameson, late of the Royal Engineers, who beat Major Sir J. B. Johnson, Royal Artillery, 9-0, 9-2, 9-2 in the final. Brigadier Jameson won the first of his four Army championship titles in 1931.

His son, Second-Lieutenant T. A. Jameson, Royal Engineers, reached the fourth round of this year's championships.

Captain M. E. Maclagan, staff officer for physical training at Eastern Command headquarters, won the Women's Royal Army Corps title, beating Major M. U. Walker, of 12 Battalion, WRAC, 3-9, 9-7, 9-4, 9-0. She thus added another title to the two she already holds—the WRAC badminton singles and lawn tennis doubles titles.

Captain Maclagan is also a proficient cricketer and was the first woman to score a century in a Test Match (see SOLDIER, August, 1957).

Captain Perkins, who is Secretary of the Army Squash Rackets Association, also led the United Kingdom Army team to victory over British Army of the Rhine by five matches to nil.



Captain M. E. Maclagan, the women's champion, finishes a drive against the runner-up, Major M. U. Walker, 12 Battalion, WRAC.

Have a Capstan...

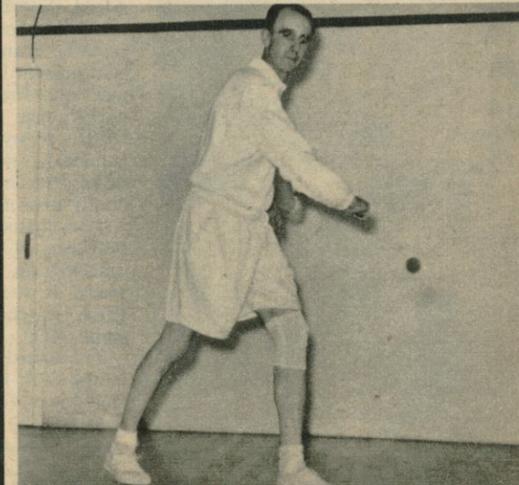
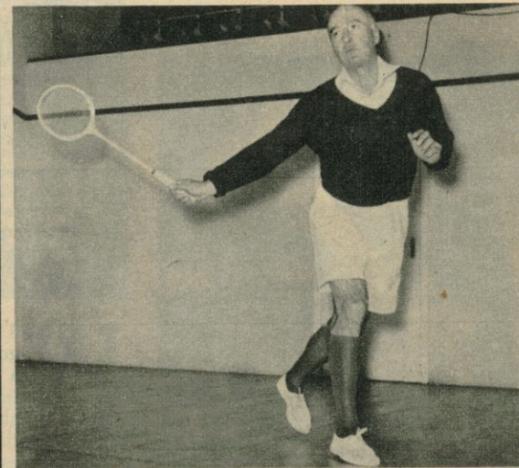
they're made to make friends



Above: Champion and runner-up. Captain M. J. Perkins (right) is perfectly balanced to meet a drive by Major B. Elgood.

Right (top): Major Sir J. P. Johnson who lost the Army Veterans' final to Brigadier G. O. M. Jameson, 9-0, 9-2, 9-2.

Right (bottom): Brigadier Jameson was Army champion four times between 1931 and 1946. He also won the Army lawn tennis title five times.



Above: Smiles for the winner. The Adjutant-General, General Sir Francis Loewen, congratulates Captain Perkins. Lieut-Colonel T. F. R. Bulkeley, Scots Guards, chairman of the Army Squash Rackets Association, looks on.

Right: Captain Perkins, after winning the title for the fifth successive year, to equal a 30-year-old record.



Have a Capstan...

they're made to make friends



RECRUITING

Recent recruiting posters suggest that the Army is concerned at the shortage of technicians in the Army. But what incentive is there for any skilled man? Promotion in the ranks depends entirely on purely "military" qualities, so that a skilled tradesman may be stuck as a private because he is not a good drill instructor. Also there is insufficient difference in pay between a tradesman and an unskilled man. The Army would benefit by the introduction of a technicians' scale of promotion, similar to that in the Royal Air Force.

During my National Service with the Royal Army Service Corps as a clerk, I had a large number of guard duties although I was stationed at Aldershot. Are all these large guards and fire pickets really necessary in Britain? Surely the question of security should be left in the hands of the military or civil police, and fires, at least in this country, should be left to the civilian fire brigade which is nearly always quicker and more efficient than the fire picket. At many camps, fire picket is just a polite name for being on fatigues.

How does the War Office expect men to leave decent homes to join the Army when the accommodation is as bad as at Aldershot—the "Home of the British Army." It is an improvement of these conditions, not more and more money, that will stop men leaving the Army for civilian life, or going into another branch of the Service.—"RAF Type."

The furor which arose some weeks ago when Royal Marines were offered an extra one week of leave for bringing in recruits, reminded me that in the early 1920s the Middlesex Regiment offered a long week-end pass for the same thing. So the Marines' idea was certainly not original. Provided no expense to the public is involved by issuing "free" travel warrants I can see no objection to the practice.—Major F. H. Blackburn (rtd), 53 Devonshire Road, Mill Hill, London.

Forget about offering soft billets and



LETTERS

big pay. Let's appeal to manliness, with a hint of danger. If you say to young men, "Come on in, I dare you! You are not tough enough to be in this man's army!" you might get some surprising results. You would also get a much better Army in the end.—Major, RA.

EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING

Reports on new-style clothing and equipment (SOLDIER, December) appear with almost monotonous regularity, but most units continue to wear the same old denims and use the same old equipment.

The introduction of the FN Rifle and the Sterling sub-machine-gun was given a great deal of publicity—but I am still waiting to see an example of either weapon, let alone handle one.

The new-type web equipment looks very good—on paper. It will certainly provide a solution to the polish-type

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

Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published.

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

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

equipment renovator which appears to be dying a natural death. But while the experts are on the job why cannot they do something about that ridiculous piece of equipment, the web anklet?

The wearing of these embellishments is a constant struggle, until one either acquires the knack or straps them on anyhow and tolerates them as a necessary evil. I think it is safe to assume that the designer of the anklet never attempted to negotiate an assault course wearing this particular brain-child. I think the solution lies in an adoption of the American type of "spat" which covers the laces and has a strap passing under the boot to prevent it riding up the leg.

The instruction forbidding brass fittings on the new webbing to be polished will only serve to encourage the individual with authority, who thinks they should be polished, and the individual without authority who wants to polish them. So, why not have the fittings made of gun-metal, painted black? Repainting would entail no great hardship and prevent a lot of trouble from the "diehards."

I have no doubt that the new equipment will appear in the customary manner, as in the case of anodised buttons and cap badges, new-style great-coats and the new kitbag with carrying handle—invariably being used or worn by someone else.—Cpl Casey, 44 Regt. Wkshp. REME, 44 HAA Regt. RA, BFPO. 25.

BLANKET VEG

The letter "Peas by Parachute" in your November issue reminded me that when the 1st Battalion Seaforth Highlanders were stationed on the North-East Frontier of India in 1942, rations in the early days were very meagre and totally deficient of fresh green vegetables. For a time we were issued with ascorbic acid (frivolously called "anti-aircraft") tablets and then with dal, which was readily available as part of the Indian ration. This was germinated by leaving it in the sun between two wet blankets. When germinated it was eaten raw and was at least "fresh" to the palate, if not wildly appetising. It was issued on retreat parade along with the daily dose of salt water, anti-malarial tablets and rum (when available).—Major I. A. MacLagan, 1st Battalion Seaforth Highlanders.

TOO YOUNG...

I am 16 years old and when I am 18 there will be no National Service for my age group. Do Territorial Army units accept recruits without any previous military experience and, if so, when can I join?—"Londoner."

★ At 17½ years of age.

... TOO OLD

It is my ardent desire to be trained in the British Army and for this reason I would like to be able to attend an Apprentice School in England. I am 17½ years old and I feel that this is the right time to ask.—"Nigerian."

★ 17½ years of age is too old to gain entrance to an Army Apprentice School.

MOUNTED "STEELBACKS"

The Infantry unit shown in your "Scrapbook" (December) was, I believe, the 5th (Huntingdonshire) Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment. The patrol on horseback was the Commanding Officer's reconnaissance party. The horses were procured locally from Tunisian farms and the photograph was taken near Medjez-el-Bab in mid-December 1942. No shoulder titles or divisional signs were worn because the British forces at the time of the initial landings in North Africa were supposed to be "all American forces" to allay the suspicions of the French Vichy army and the French colonists in Algeria.—Major C. S. A. Girdwood, Northamptonshire Regiment, Headquarters 1 (British) Corps.

The ponies were obtained from farms with the help of a Platoon Sergeant-Major Dumais, a Canadian attached to 5th Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment.—RQMS R. G. May, Northamptonshire Regiment, Headquarters 5 Infantry Brigade Group.

The photograph showed a patrol of the 5th Battalion, The Northamptonshire Regiment on Goubelat Plain early in 1943, led by Lieut-Colonel (now Brigadier) A. A. Crook DSO. The second horseman was a warrant officer in the Canadian Army attached to the battalion.—RSM J. H. Ley, 5th Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment (TA) Peterborough.

★ "Steelbacks" is the Regimental nickname.

THE LOW SHAKO

Innovations in Army dress are always interesting. In the decline of the peacock days of war came the low shako to replace the "Old Shako" of song. It was designed by Henry Hoile of the Army Clothing Works at Pimlico.

The body of the new shako was made from two thicknesses of cloth, stitched not by hand as of old, but by sewing machines, the outer piece of cloth being waterproofed. Head ven-



An original engraving of the Low Shako first worn by the Rifle Brigade.

tilation was provided by perforations under the shako plate and under the ornament at the back which gave a current of air through the headgear. There was a great increase in comfort to the wearer in the adoption of this shako and saving in expense to the country of 1s 2d per cap. The 1st and 4th Battalions of the Rifle Brigade were the first to wear it, followed by 1st Battalion 60 Rifles, 1st Battalions 8th Regiment and 53rd Regiment.—Colin J. Robb, Ballynahinch, Co. Down, Ireland.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Vacancies: Male Clerks

To be considered applicants **MUST**

(a) be single, male and under 25;

(b) hold a recognised School Certificate or G.C.E. with not less than four subjects at "O" level (including Maths) obtained at one examination.

Starting Salary: between £420-£740 p.a., dependent upon educational qualifications and previous clerical experience on Scale £420 x £40—£580 x £60—£640 x £100—£840 x £60—£900 x £50—£1,150 p.a. (Allowance is made for National Service if completed within the last 12 months.) Senior posts with salaries up to £3,500 p.a. are filled by promotion from within the Service.

Application forms and further details from

Secretary (R), Rhodesia House, 429 Strand, London, W.C.2

HILGER and WATTS Ltd.

have an interesting vacancy in their

TECHNICAL SALES DEPARTMENT

and invite applications from young men under 25 years of age who have reached at least O.N.C. or G.C.E. standard in Physics and Maths. Some experience or knowledge of Diffraction X-Ray equipment would be an advantage and knowledge of languages, particularly French, German or Spanish, would also be useful. The successful applicant can be assured of an interesting career in a progressive firm with an international reputation. Five-day week, canteen facilities and a superannuation scheme.

Those interested should write in the first instance stating age and giving full details of education qualifications and experience, quoting Ref. B9 to the

PERSONNEL OFFICER, 98 ST. PANCRAS WAY
CAMDEN ROAD, LONDON, N.W.1

SURNAMES

The following list, which by no means exhausts the supply, includes names of men who served with the 1st Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers in Malaya between 1954 and 1957. I consider this beats the previous best (Letters, October).

Broadhurst, Broadfoot, Little, Small, Seaman, Judge, Usher, Clarke, Miller, Smith, Nurse.

James, Derrick, Martin, Gilbert, Morgan, Stewart, Allan, Cuthbert, Andrew, Mortimer, Davie, Alexander, Graham, Godfrey, Dickie, Jack, Laurie, Rae, Thomas, Gordon, Stevens, Malcolm, Duncan, Leslie.

Spiers, Shields, Cheyne.

Welsh, Scott, Brittain.

Queen, King.

Brown, Browning, Goldie, Black, Greenshields, Greenhorne, White, Grey.

Weir, Poole, Spratt, Swan, Drake, Wells, Woods, Fisher, Hawthorne.

Austin, Morris.

Young, Elder.

—Staff-Sergeant W. J. Small, RAEC, Saxon House, St. Edward's Road, Southsea.

Since joining the 14/20th Hussars in 1948 I have come across an Irishman named English, a Scotsman named Welsh and an Englishman named Scott, a Holland and a Wales, two Norths, an East and a West, Black, Brown, Green, Pink, White, three Grays and a Redpath, Smallwood, Oakes, Flowers and Birch. We have Moth, Crabbe, Hogg, Muddell, Scarr, Farthing, Pippen, Lumber, Lack, Flint, Brittle, Strong, Smart, Loud and Sharp as well as Tempest and Fury, MacLean and Gibbs, Holmes and Watson, Bryant and May, High and Jinks, Vernon and Littlewood, Dickens and Shakespeare, Gamble and Knapp, Law and Cort. Our odd-job men include Barber, Baker, Taylor, Miller, Potter, Gardiner, Porter, Slater, Purser, Dresser, Turner, Carter, Colman and Binns and last but not least we have Grubb, Bacon, Cakebread, Niblett and Rumble.—Corporal D. H. Davies, Regimental Headquarters, 14/20th King's Hussars.

MSM

Towards the end of World War One a special issue of the Meritorious Service Medal was made to recognise outstandingly good service other than in the face of the enemy.

The Army Order authorising the grant of the medal implied a degree of merit for which no adequate recognition then existed. The Order of the British Empire had not been created otherwise the British Empire Medal would probably have been awarded to the few who received this special issue of the Meritorious Service Medal.

The medal presumably was an honour and as such should take precedence over campaign medals, but on regimental instructions it was worn on the extreme right of the brooch. When wearing the ribbon in this position recently I was told by a serving warrant officer that I could not be entitled to it since I had not been awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Had the ribbon been worn to the left this misunderstanding would have been avoided and the award would have carried the distinction intended. Can SOLDIER quote the authority giving the position in which this medal should be worn?—“R.J.B.”

★The status of the Meritorious Service Medal as a personal award for outstanding service not in the presence of the enemy was reviewed by the War Office Committee on honours and awards in 1922. It was then decided that there should be no change in the position in which it was worn—on the extreme right of the brooch. The use of the Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding service was discontinued after World War One, its place being taken by the British Empire Medal.

The various authorities governing the position of the medal up to 1922 include Queen's Regulations 1883 and Dress Regulations for 1900-11-12.

SHORNCLIFFE CAMP

In the early months of the Crimean war the British Government raised Legions of Germans, Swiss and Italians. Some 13,000 were recruited, of whom nearly 4000 were sent to the Crimea and did duty at Scutari, while some 3000 Italians garrisoned Malta. Peace being signed in March, 1856, the 1st and 2nd Jaegers, the 4th, 5th and 6th Light Infantry, and dismounted 1st and 2nd Light Dragoons of the British-German Legion were sent to Colchester Camp before being disbanded and repatriated. Some of the Continental states refused to receive those subjects who had served a foreign power, so the British government prepared a scheme of voluntary emigration to the Cape of Good Hope and British California, those accepting to engage for seven years, and to undertake specified military training at varying rates of pay, free passage for the men and their wives being provided.—G. O. Rickwood, member of the Society for Army Historical Research, 15 Crefield Road, Colchester.

KILT AND TREWS?

I cannot understand why, in view of the intensity of feeling engendered by the kilt-or-trews question, a compromise was not decided upon. What I have in mind is an arrangement something like that used by the Canadian Army when it sent a large contingent to Germany a few years ago. If my information is correct, one battalion was Highland, another was a rifle battalion and a third Infantry. Each wore the uniform of the parent unit.

In the case of the Highland Light Infantry and the Royal Scots Fusiliers the division in uniform could be by companies. It is true that on parade the battalion would present a somewhat motley appearance.

The additional costs in the purchase of dress items would probably be minimal and these could be met from sources such as Old Comrades Associations, public subscription in the areas where the feeling for the retention of traditional dress is highest or by occasional tours such as the one which the Black Watch has recently concluded in the United States of America.—Frank E. G. Weil, 247 West 13th Street, New York.

BOUQUET . . .

It may interest you to know that a considerable minority of soldiers now serving in the Special Air Service Regiment first heard of it from reading SOLDIER. This practical benefit from your excellent magazine is much appreciated by all of us in the Regiment.

The Regiment is not well known in the Army, being almost the smallest Corps and having spent seven years of its Regular post-war existence in Malaya where it has played a leading part in successful operations against the terrorists.—“Flamer.”

. . . AND BRICKBAT

I read with great interest the account of “The Queen's Truncheon” (December). Since 1 January, 1948, when four Gurkha Rifle Regiments, including the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Goorkhas, became an integral part of the British Army, the use of the ranks, jemadar, havildar and naick has, however, been discontinued. Warrant officers and NCOs hold exactly the same rank as British soldiers serving in an Infantry regiment, namely sergeant, corporal, and so forth.

In the old Indian Army, a jemadar

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(See page 25)

The drawings are different in the following details: 1. Lorry headlamps. 2. Height of tree immediately left of house. 3. Shape of mountain peak. 4. Window below chimneys. 5. Black tree at far right. 6. Left soldier's belt buckle. 7. Size of left snowball on ground. 8. Right soldier's hand. 9. Position of bird on bush. 10. Position of bush.

was a Viceroy's commissioned officer (VCO) and he usually commanded a platoon or equivalent unit. In the British Army of today he is known as a Queen's Gurkha Officer.—Major-General R. C. O. Hedley (Rtd), 53 Dee Banks, Chester.

“NAKED WARRIORS”

I am expecting to be called up for National Service soon and I hope I shall be allowed to serve with a Highland regiment. I am not a Scot, but the uniform of the Scottish Highland regiments appeals to me as it is so much less drab than ordinary khaki.

When I told my friends at school what I was proposing to do I was immediately dubbed “the naked warrior” as they said that kilted troops were not allowed to wear any slips under their kilts.

I would not be surprised to learn that it is true of the kilt when worn for training purposes, as this has probably been found an effective method of rousing the aggressive instincts and ensuring that an attack is made with dash and spirit.

However, my school friends seem to think that this “no-slips” rule is true not only of training but of walking-out. They insist that the rule is rigidly enforced and that before going on sentry duty or leaving camp soldiers wearing the kilt are subjected to an inspection in the guard room by non-commissioned officers. Is this true or just a leg-pull?—“Schoolboy.”

★SOLDIER understands that no garment is issued for wearing under the kilt but some men do, in fact, wear shorts. No inspection is held.

AMERICAN MAGAZINES

Would any readers of SOLDIER care to exchange periodicals which are published outside the United States of America for some which are published in America? I am a veteran of World War One and like to read everything I

can get, particularly foreign publications.—John J. Wilcox, Box 1403, Zone 17, New York City 17.

OLD SOLDIERS

I am compelled by shortage of space to dispose of copies of SOLDIER dating back to 1953. Rather than destroy them I offer the entire collection to any reader who may be interested.—D. T. Burbidge, 4 Hinto Road, Upper Edmonton, London, N. 18.

TIGERS AND STALINS

I hope SOLDIER will be able to settle an argument of long standing concerning a statement made by the German General, Manteuffel, according to Liddell-Hart in his book “The Other Side of the Hill.” Referring to the battle of Targul Frumos in Rumania in 1944, when the German armour met the Stalin tank for the first time, Manteuffel said, “It was a shock to find that, although my Tigers began to hit them (the Stalins) at a range of 3000 metres, our shells bounced off and did not penetrate until we had closed to half that distance.”

Can SOLDIER say if penetration by the 88-mm. gun carried on the Tigers was possible at 1500 metres?—C. R. Richardson, 87 Drayton Road, Abingdon, Berkshire.

★ There is a slight difference between what General Manteuffel is alleged to have said and what he in fact wrote in an article republished in The Tank, the journal of the Royal Tank Regiment. In this article he stated that shells from the Tigers ricocheted off the armour plating of the Stalins at 3250 yards. When the Tigers got to within 1950-2175 yards and opened fire, four Stalins immediately burst into flames while three others made off at high speed. The Tigers closed to within 1100 yards and engaged the Stalins from the rear. The Stalins were later found burned out.

OVER . . .

“It's
Ovaltine
for me
every time!”



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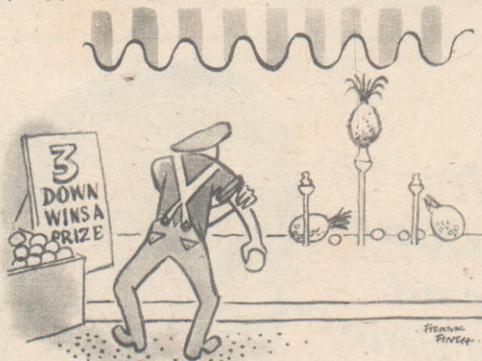
A number of vacancies, offering good career prospects, exist for:—

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Don't Miss It!

If you are a serving soldier, you will be able to buy **SOLDIER** from your canteen. Presidents of Regimental Institutes should enquire of their Chief Education Officer for re-sale terms.

If you are a civilian, you may order **SOLDIER** at any bookstall in the United Kingdom.

Those unable to obtain the magazine through the above channels should fill in the order form below.

To Circulation Department,
SOLDIER, 433 Holloway Road, London N.7

Please send copies of **SOLDIER** each month for months

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more letters

RAIDING SUPPORT REGIMENT

I collect military cap badges and have recently obtained one which was worn by the Raiding Support Regiment. When did this regiment exist?—
H. G. Harper, 5 Craigs Avenue, Edinburgh.

★ The Raiding Support Regiment was part of Raiding Forces Brigade in the Balkans in 1942, and continued to exist until the end of the war. The Brigade in Greece also included Special Air Service, Special Boat Service, Special Raiding Squadron, and Long Range Desert Group.

The motto of Raiding Support Regiment was taken from the biblical injunction "Quit Ye Like Men." The cap badge was a pair of high-crested wings from which descended a mailed fist. The fist grasped a hand reaching upwards from the ramparts of a fortress. It denoted succour from the air for the millions incarcerated in Hitler's European prison.

1000 LASHES

Those who enjoy history will be interested in the punishment awarded by a general court martial held at Secunderabad on 27 June, 1811. The prisoner, Golan Ally, a private in the 3rd Troop, 4th Cavalry Regiment, was charged with "infamous and riotous conduct, in refusing to do any regimental duty and particularly on the morning of 9 May, when sent for and interrogated on the subject and cautioned as to the serious nature of his persisting in such refusal."

The court sentenced Golan Ally to receive "1000 lashes in the usual manner and to be drummed out of the service with a halter round his neck in front of the troops at the station where the sentence may be carried into execution, and further that he be never again received into the service of the Honourable Company, but deemed an object wholly unworthy of it."—
Lieut-Col H. S. Bagnall (retd.), The Wilderness, Northam, Rye, Sussex.

REME ASSOCIATION

The mid-Glamorgan branch of the REME Association has been reformed. It is open to all REME ex-Servicemen in the district, who should contact the secretary at 19 Command Workshops, Litchard Cross, Bridgend.—
W. Smith, honorary secretary.



SOLDIER COVER

The Kneller Hall trumpeters, who appear on this month's front-cover achieved prominence 25 years ago at a World Celebrity concert in London in aid of the Musicians' Benevolent Fund.

Their banners, which were displayed for the first time on that occasion, were designed by the late Mr. George Kruger Gray, an exhibition scholar of the Royal College of Art, who was later responsible for the historical costumes and heraldry used at Aldershot tattoos. Mr. Gray served with the 2nd Battalion Artists Rifles in World War One.

The trumpeters are senior NCOs of military bands attending the three-years student-bandmasters course at Kneller Hall. Some are from the Commonwealth.

Since 1932 Kneller Hall trumpeters have taken part in all big State occasions. Their fanfare was heard at both the Coronation and Silver Wedding of the late King George VI and again at the Wedding and Coronation of the present Queen.

SOLDIER'S cover picture is by Staff-Cameraman ARTHUR BLUNDELL and FRANK TOMPSETT.

This Will Please the Families

FAMILIES of Servicemen living in Rhine Army will soon be able to buy their food wherever they wish.

This is one of the important concessions announced in the first instalment of the Government's plans for making Service life more attractive.

At present, families in Germany receive rations through the Royal Army Service Corps and ration allowance is calculated on this basis, which restricts the housewife's freedom of choice. Increased rates of ration allowance and local overseas allowances (details of which have not yet been announced) will in future enable her to buy what she wants where she likes.

Other concessions which go a long way towards removing anomalies and grievances over allowances are:

1. Disturbance allowance will now be paid each time a family moves for Service reasons instead of only once during a posting.
2. The three free travel warrants allowed each year to Servicemen and women in the United Kingdom may be used for any period of leave.
3. Married men on temporary overseas duty will receive the married unaccompanied rate of local overseas allowance from the beginning of their tour of duty. Hitherto they have drawn only the single rate for the first 61 days.
4. Married men in Aden, the Persian Gulf and Habbaniya who are unable to have their families with them because of lack of quarters, will be given home leave at public expense once during a tour of duty of at least two years. Those serving in Cyprus and Kenya already enjoy this privilege.
5. Widowers with one child will receive the full rate of marriage allowance instead of only half as hitherto.

This new set of concessions will cost about £1 million a year.

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cigarettes
for **3^d**
20
for **8^d**

"RIZLA-ROLLERS"

You can save money and enjoy more smokes with no wasted tobacco.



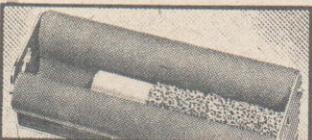
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Crumple a cigarette paper and place on machine as shown. This saves enough tobacco to make 12 extra cigarettes at a cost of only 3d.



20 for 8d.

Use Rizla Filter Tips to make 20 extra cigarettes with every 8d. box of 100 tips. Safeguards health too by reducing nicotine and tobacco tars.



For "short smokes," place the Filter Tip one-third distance from machine end and fill the rest with tobacco.

RIZLA



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START NOW to roll the RIZLA WAY

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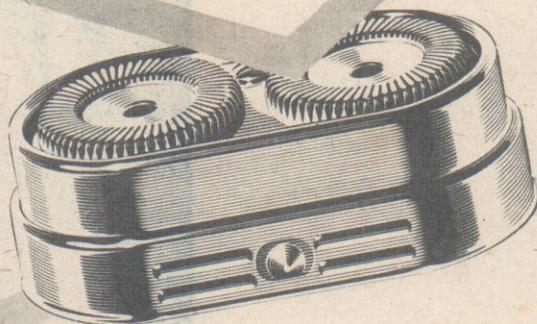
if you can get your boots cleaned for you... but if you can't, you can still get Kiwi. And because it's the best boot polish, Kiwi makes the job much easier. Make sure you use Kiwi... you'll find polishing easier and your boots brighter.



deep shine with
KIWI BLACK



Why 'Philishave'
Rotary Action
gives you a closer shave
—in comfort



The 'Philishave' is the dry shaver with Rotary Action — 12 high-speed blades that rotate to remove the hairs right down close. These diagrams show why only the 'Philishave' can shave so close so comfortably:



1 Here's your skin before shaving—covered with a jungle of hairs growing in every possible direction.



2 These are the slots in the 'Philishave's' skin-guards—set in all directions to catch hairs growing in all directions.



3 At the same time, the raised rim of the shaving head gently stretches the skin so that...



4... those rotating blades can get right down to really close shaving. You really must try it for yourself!

Ask your 'Philishave' dealer for a demonstration—right away!



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THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE



RHONDA FLEMING
— Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer