

FEBRUARY 1960 ★ 9d

SOLDIER



HOOP OF FIRE

(See page 37)



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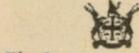
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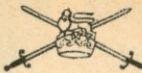


This

Go-ahead

NAAFI

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Symbolising the end of an era, a wall of an Aldershot barracks that for a hundred years echoed the ring of Army boots and bore the orders and the pin-ups of soldiers of four wars, crashes in a dull rumble of crumbling bricks.

A FACE-LIFT FOR ALDERSHOT

**FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY,
MILLIONS OF BRITISH SOLDIERS
HAVE PASSED THROUGH "THE CAMP"
AT ALDERSHOT, MARCHING OFF
IN GREAT HEART TO CRIMEAN, SOUTH
AFRICAN AND WORLD WARS AND
RETURNING IN TRIUMPH TO THOSE
SAME UNCHANGED GAUNT AND
BLEAK BARRACKS. NOW IN A SINGLE
£11 MILLION SWEEP, MILITARY
ALDERSHOT WILL BE REBORN IN ITS
SECOND CENTURY IN UP-TO-THE-
MINUTE BARRACKS AND QUARTERS
WORTHY OF THE NEW REGULAR
ARMY'S TRADITIONAL HOME**

ALDERSHOT, traditional home of the British Army for over a century, is to become the Army's first "new town." Within the next eight years, the uncomfortable and hideous old barrack blocks and the squalid married quarters, known and unloved by millions of soldiers, will all have disappeared.

In their place will rise spacious new barracks, embodying every amenity, large estates of modern houses and maisonettes and of revolutionary patio-type houses which may set a pattern for both military and civilian homes of the future.

"Everything in Aldershot is terribly out of date," says the General Officer Commanding Aldershot District, Major-General R. A. Bramwell Davis DSO, who for five years has nursed the rebuilding plans through innumerable committees and conferences.

Now the General can see the first results in the 200-odd married quarters already rising Phoenix-like on the site of the old Waterloo East Barracks and in the £50,000 sergeants' mess, the first of seven, which he recently opened at Lille Barracks.

The Army is to spend £17½ million on new building and modernisation in Aldershot District, and over £11 million of this will be spent in Aldershot itself.

Appropriately, the first **OVER...**

A FACE-LIFT FOR ALDERSHOT

CONTINUED

slaught on military Aldershot has been made in Wellington Lines where some of the oldest barracks stand next to the town of 40,000 people which has grown up on the Army's doorstep.

Waterloo East Barracks, built in 1855 and the old home of field artillery, have already been demolished, giving way to the first married quarters of the new Waterloo estate.

Talavera and Waterloo West Barracks, now coming down, will become the site of a further 298 maisonettes and patio-type houses and two children's schools, primary and secondary. At a later stage, Badajos and Salamanca Barracks which, with Talavera, were the first permanent

barracks in Aldershot, will almost certainly be demolished, followed by two of the old cavalry barracks, Willems (West Cavalry) and Warburg (East Cavalry).

Beaumont, known as South Cavalry Barracks until the three barracks were renamed just before World War Two, have been used by Territorial Army and other auxiliary units and may not be entirely demolished.

Although not the oldest, Cavalry Barracks are probably the best-known quarters in Aldershot and housed the 1st Cavalry Brigade for 80 years.

The first 222 houses of the Wellington estate, costing £450,000, are due to be completed in June, 1961. Eighty-nine of

£50,000,000 IN SIX YEARS

WITHIN the next six years the Army is to spend over £50 million on new barracks alone in the United Kingdom. Over a hundred modern barrack blocks have already been built.

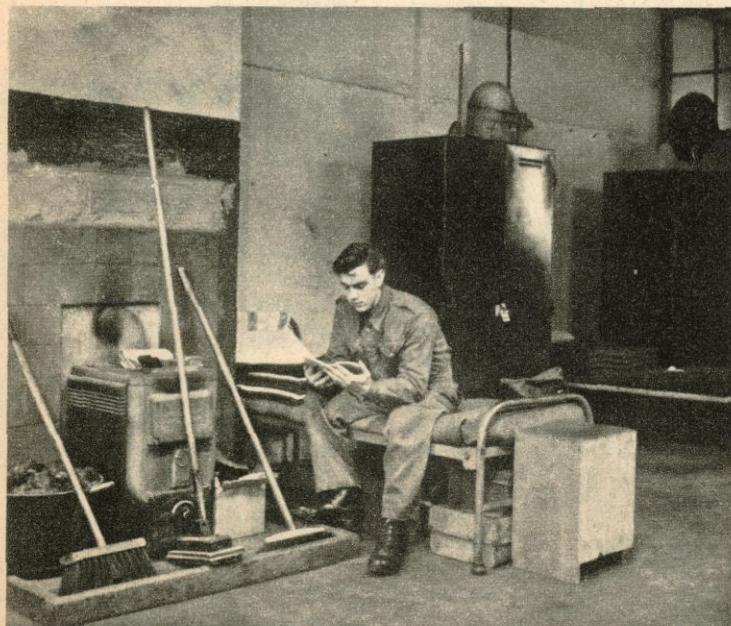
Rebuilding is in an advanced stage at Colchester and Woolwich, while Catterick, largely a World War One camp, is to undergo a face-lift costing over £5 million.

London's Chelsea Barracks are to be rebuilt at a cost of £2,200,000, followed by Knightsbridge and Wellington Barracks.

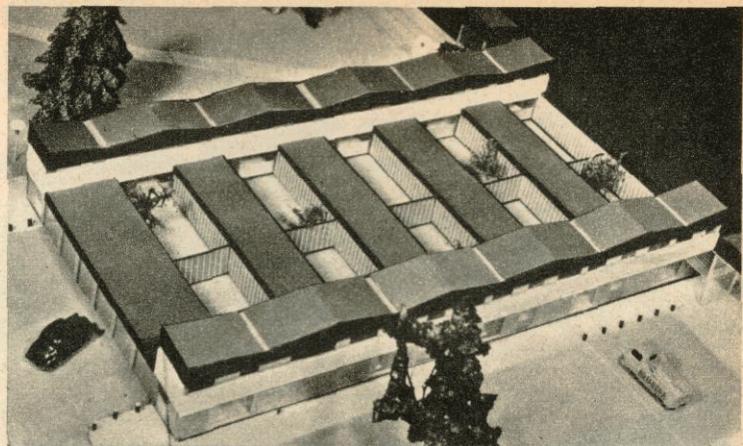
With the reconstruction of barracks well under way, the War Office has now been able to authorise the rebuilding, starting next year, of the Guards' Chapel in Wellington Barracks which was destroyed by a flying bomb during morning service in June, 1944.

The Army also plans to rebuild the Women's Royal Army Corps Depot at Queen Elizabeth Camp, Stoughton, Guildford, by replacing the existing hutt accommodation with permanent buildings.

THE OLD . . .



For years this was the unmarried soldier's home in Aldershot—a cheerless, draughty barrack room where warmth and comfort were to be found only by huddling, Cinderella-like, round a dirty and often petulant stove.



A model of a group of patio-type houses of future Aldershot.

AND NOW THE "PATIO" HOUSE

A REVOLUTIONARY new type of other ranks' married quarters—centrally-heated "patio" houses built in groups and each facing inwards on to its own private walled and paved courtyard, lawn and shrubbery—will be erected in Aldershot if the War Office Works Directorate's ideas are approved.

The plan is to build 170 "patio" homes on the present sites of Talavera and Waterloo West Barracks. Three-bedroomed types will be L-shaped, with part of the accommodation, including the living room, in an adjoining "bungalow." Two-bedroomed types will be of two storeys only. Each group will have built-in garages.

On the same sites will be built 128 maisonettes in four-storey blocks.

The "patio" type house will offer a convenient compromise between maisonette and traditional house for the family that wishes to enjoy the privacy of a small garden without too much work in maintaining it. It is an innovation in civilian as well as Army housing and some "patio" houses of a different design from those planned at Aldershot, will be built by the Army at Catterick Camp and may also be incorporated in some of London's future housing estates.

them will have three bedrooms and the remainder two; some will be semi-detached and others built in terraces stepped to avoid the straight-line appearance of the barrack blocks they displace.

These new homes will have every modern amenity—built-in wardrobes, portable electric fires on bedroom walls, plastic-tiled

ground floor, modern bathroom, immersion heater, electrical ring circuit with ample plugs, and a kitchen with cooker and wash boiler and with space for a refrigerator.

Each house will have its own garden and the estate includes spaces for children's playgrounds and a garage for every two houses.

AND THE NEW



Tomorrow's soldier may live in a "bed-sitter" for four, with this fold-away bed, fitted wardrobes, modern bed light and even an electric razor socket. Note (left) the twin washbasins and mirror cabinets above them.



Modern fireplaces and outside coal bunkers have helped to make the old married quarters a little less squalid, but no self-respecting housewife could ever be happy in such a home. Note the footscraper at the door.

The maisonettes will be in four-storey blocks.

The new estate will act as a "buffer" between town and camp and eventually accommodate all the families of units in South Camp, breaking away from the old tradition of tied-lines within a barracks.

Because the shops of Aldershot are close to the new estate, the community will not be self-contained, but it will eventually have its own NAAFI families' shop and perhaps a launderette.

Aldershot town itself, desperately short of land, is to make its first inroad into the military area with the building of a new civic centre on part of Warburg parade ground, sold recently to the town by the Army. This new centre will be flanked by a thousand new homes on an estate which Aldershot District Headquarters hopes will eventually be completed by the building of married officers' quarters.

To the north of the Wellington estate will stand four new Infantry-type barracks, to be built in Stanhope Lines on the sites of Albuhera, Barrosa, Corunna and Maida Barracks. A private architect has been commissioned to design the new barracks, which will cost almost £2 million. Building will start in the middle of next year. All four barracks will be heated from a central boiler house and each will possibly have only one living block instead of the more usual four or five.

An engineer training regiment will occupy Albuhera, and two parachute battalions will be accommodated in two of the other new barracks. The four new barracks will probably retain their present names which commemorate famous battles of the Napoleonic Wars, as do those of the old barracks in Wellington Lines.

On the site of the present married quarters in Cowie and Macadam Squares, a central barracks, costing £500,000, is to be built for all ranks of the Women's

Royal Army Corps employed in Aldershot's North and South Camps. Gibraltar Barracks, used by the Royal Engineers Training Establishment, are to undergo further modernisation, as are Buller and Mandora Barracks, home of the Royal Army Service Corps Training Establishment.

In North Camp's Marlborough Lines the barracks of Blenheim, Ramillies, Malplaquet and Oudenarde are to be demolished. Probably Malplaquet and Oudenarde only will be rebuilt, to accommodate the Airborne Forces Depot and possibly other units of a parachute brigade. Blenheim was once a wing of the Staff College and all four barracks, built in the 1890s, are mainly single-storey brick buildings.

Early next year work will start on rebuilding Lille Barracks (£480,000), and shortly afterwards Hammersley Barracks, home of the Army Physical Training Corps, will be modernised at a cost of £150,000.

While old barracks are being rebuilt or brought up to date, many units and establishments will be accommodated in "spiders," temporary huts put up for the Militia just before World War Two. They are comfortable and much warmer than the old barracks blocks, but maintenance is expensive and at a later stage in the rebuilding scheme they will, with few exceptions, be demolished.

This will happen, for example, in St. Omer Barracks, headquarters and training centre of the Army Catering Corps, which boasts the last new building of its type in Aldershot—the School of Cookery, completed in 1940.

Clayton Barracks, nearby, were put up less than 30 years ago, but lack amenities and will be modernised or perhaps in part rebuilt. Parsons Barracks, at the south-east corner of Wellington Lines, are only 22 years old, but lack adequate heating and amenities

OVER...



But now the first of Aldershot's houses are nearing completion on the Wellington estate. Here, in terraces and pairs, will stand 222 homes that will have every amenity and compare with the best of good council houses.



First of the new buildings to be completed in Aldershot is the £50,000 sergeants' mess at Lille Barracks. This building has dining accommodation for 65 and single rooms in its upper storeys will sleep 40 sergeants.

Brighter Barracks

BRIGHTESS is the keynote of the Army's new barracks. Gone are the dull stone and red brick and the drab dark green and dark brown paintwork.

New barracks are being built in different types of brick, with colourful panels and painted in pastel shades. Flowering shrubs, window boxes and flower beds will give a further touch of colour to future buildings in Aldershot and elsewhere.

Paths will lead straight from one building to another, planned by the War Office Works Directorate's landscape architect, who is consulted in every new scheme.

New barracks will also have increased garage accommodation, more cover for guns and vehicles and central boiler houses will heat all living areas.

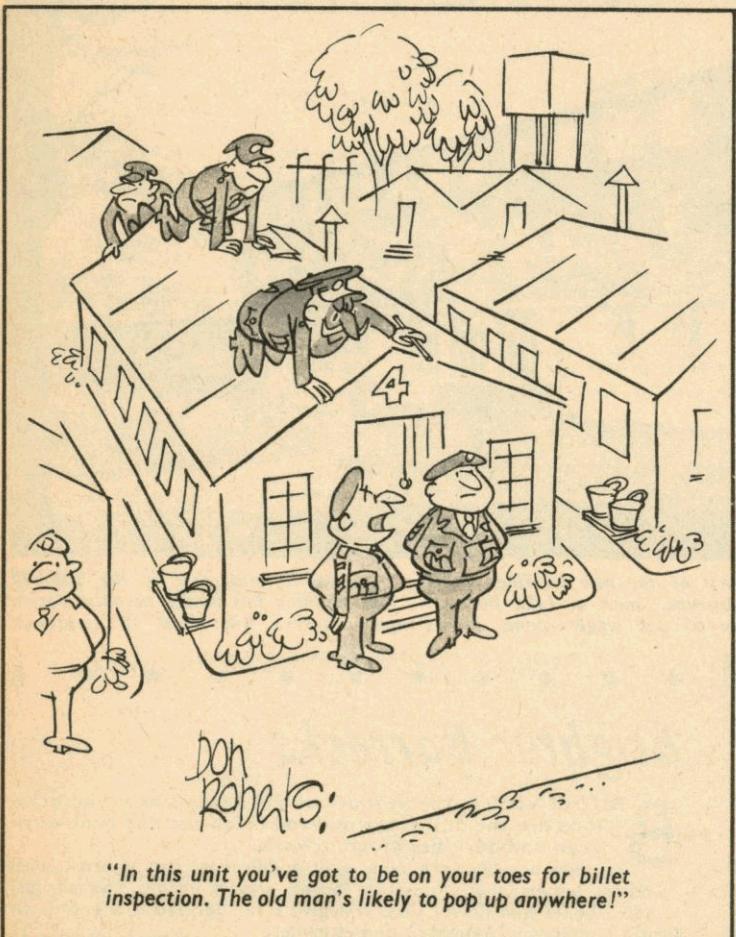
The present modern barrack blocks—Lille, the first of the new Aldershot barracks, will be of these standard designs—are a three-storey building housing 108 men, or two-storey building for 72 men, with eight men to a room, single rooms for corporals and separate ablution areas for each group of 16 men and two corporals.

But even these "new" blocks may be on their way out, for the Works Directorate is now experimenting at Wellington Barracks in London with "bed-sitters" for four men, equipped with built-in wardrobes, fold-away or divan beds, and two washbasins and a combined heating and drying unit in each room.

The Directorate's aim is to make the soldier as comfortable as possible off duty in accommodation equal to what he could expect in civilian life. The "ultimate" in barrack rooms, a private suite for the private, seems to be only just round the corner!



A new sign goes up in the "Home of the British Army"—a sign that anticipates the day when every soldier's family in Aldershot is comfortably housed.



and may be completely demolished to make room for more married quarters.

Cambridge Hospital, built in 1879 for £45,000, may be either rebuilt or modernised at a cost of well over £500,000, starting in 1962-63.

Military and civilian Aldershot alike are interested in the fate of the Cambridge's 109-feet high central tower, a local landmark which, it is claimed, can be seen from faraway Newbury racecourse. Within the tower's clock turret is the famous Sebastopol Bell, one of a pair (the other is in Windsor Castle's Round Tower) brought back from the Crimean War.

General Bramwell Davis would like to see the tower retained and the traditional custom revived of ringing the bell and firing twice daily a gun from the top of nearby Gun Hill.

Patients, doctors and architects may hold other views on the future of tower and bell, but whatever happens, the Sebastopol Bell is assured of an honoured home in military Aldershot.

While Cambridge Hospital is out of commission, patients will be looked after at Connaught Hospital, Hindhead, and at Connaught Barracks, Aldershot, once a hospital and now taken over by the Royal Army Dental Corps. At the same time new or modernised accommodation will be

provided for the Cambridge Hospital staff, now living in McGrigor Barracks.

In most cases the modernisation of buildings in Aldershot means the installation of central heating for living accommodation, the provision of separate corporals' rooms, washbasins and showers, and the improvement of barrack, sitting and cleaning rooms.

A prime need in the two Camps is for sergeants' messes. The new building at Lille, which sleeps 40 and has dining accommodation for 65, will be followed by two more at Albuhera and Barrosa Barracks, two now being built at Corunna and Maida, and another two at Gibraltar and Mons.

Aldershot Town long ago outstripped the Army in its development, but now it may never take the lead again, for the town has reached its limits and there is no more building land available.

But the civilian population is not jealous of the Army's new plans. The town knows that the new married quarters will bring more trade and relieve its own accommodation problem.

"We have looked forward to this rebuilding for years," says the Mayor (Councillor E. A. North). "We are happy that Aldershot will remain the permanent home of the Army, for the Army is our industry."

PETER N. WOOD

Right: Aldershot's trees are to be retained and more are to be planted. This oak is believed to have been brought back from Jerusalem by General Gordon.



THE EIGHT YEAR PLAN

OUTSIDE the town's North and South Camps, these are the main proposals of the eight-year plan for units in Aldershot District:

Arborfield: Army Apprentice School huts to be replaced in 1964 (£1 million); some new married quarters.

Blackdown: Alma and Dettingen Barracks (built 1930) to be modernised for RAOC; some new married quarters.

Bordon: Louisburg and Barbados Barracks (1890) being modernised now (£100,000); St. Lucia (1930) to be rebuilt as Infantry barracks (£460,000), starting April next year; Quebec and Havannah (1930) to be modernised, not before 1963; about 450 married quarters.

Longmoor: Mafeking and Ladysmith Barracks (1937) to be modernised 1963-1965.

Marchwood: New barracks and training accommodation to replace huts and temporary brick buildings; 120 married quarters.

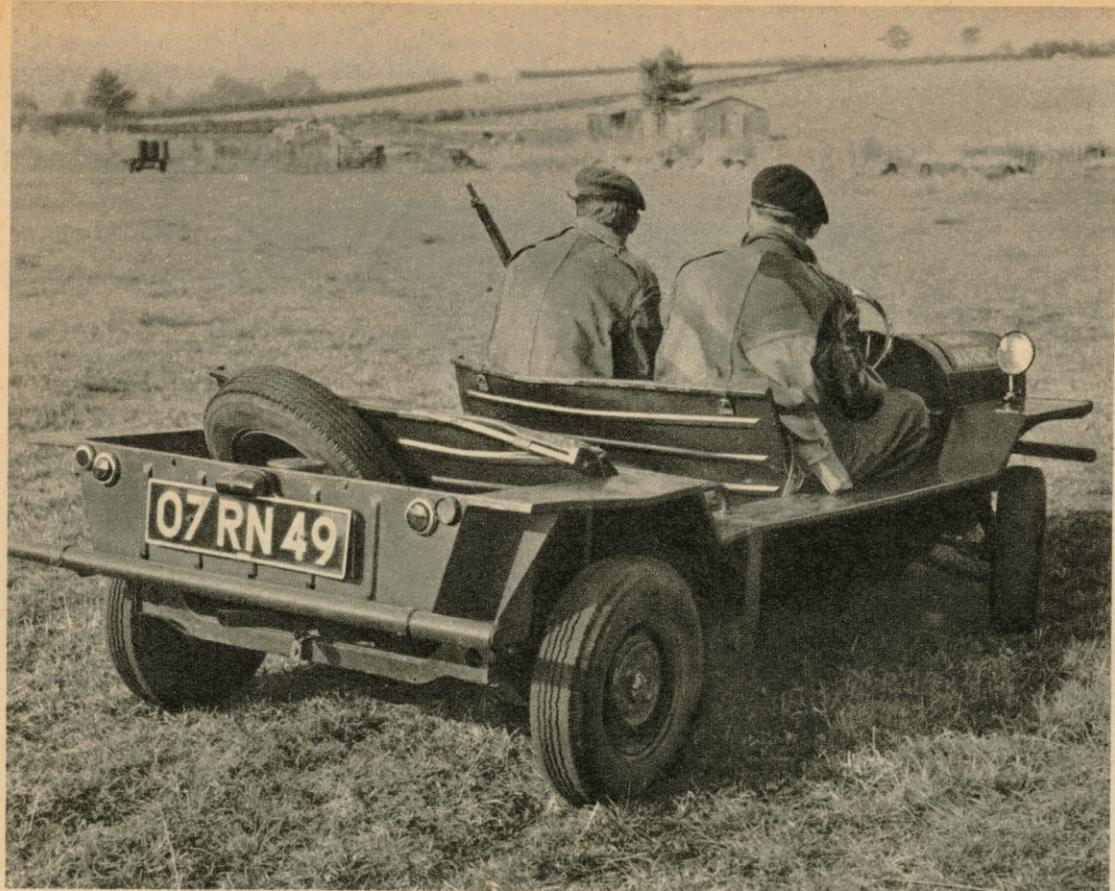
Mytchett: Additional sergeants' mess accommodation in 1964 at Keogh Barracks.

Portsmouth and Isle of Wight: Albany, Haslar, St. George Barracks, and old forts in Portsmouth and Isle of Wight all to be closed.

Winchester: Lower Barracks modernised this year (£24,000); unsafe buildings of Upper Barracks to be demolished, remainder modernised (£335,000) June next year.

Woking: Inkerman Barracks to be sold.

THE MOKE



With a wheel literally at every corner, the Moke has a low centre of gravity. Clearance is only 6½-ins but it can negotiate quite steep banks and obstacles.

The sturdily-built Mule traverses rough country with a full load of five American Marines, their driver and a towed gun.

Troop trials will decide whether a handy airborne runabout, the British-made Moke, and the American Mule, can match general usefulness with ruggedness and durability

A NEW lightweight vehicle, the *Moke*, based on the *Minimor* and *Baby Austin* but designed for Service use, particularly in airborne operations, has been undergoing trials by the Army.

Like its civilian brothers, the *Moke* has a transversely mounted engine driving the front wheels through an integral four-speed gearbox and final drive unit.

Simply designed and without any trimmings, the *Moke* has a completely open body and can carry three passengers or 5 cwt of cargo. Gear speeds are 20-25 miles per hour in first, 35-40 in second, 50-55 in third and a top gear speed between 70 and 75 mph, with an acceleration in the sports car class.

The surprisingly low build of the *Moke*—a passenger's first impression is of sitting on roller-skates—offsets its lightness when cornering, and the front-wheel drive and all-round independent suspension contribute to its remarkable stability.

The suspension is based on rubber compression units operated through transverse linkage at the front and through trailing arms at the rear.

Like its namesake, the *Moke* tends to shy at deep soft sand or a loose surface, but a crew can easily manhandle it. Parking in a confined space is achieved by driving the front end in and lifting the back into line—a one-man job for the driver.

Easily air portable, the *Moke* has been lifted by a *Whirlwind* helicopter. During a recent exercise one *Moke* was "sat on" by a *Whirlwind*. The *Moke* suffered damage to its back seat and suspension but carried on—the helicopter had to be taken out of service.

AND



THE MULE

VERY much the big brother of the *Moke* is the latest American personnel cargo carrier, the *Convertible Mule*, now being tested by the United States Marine Corps.

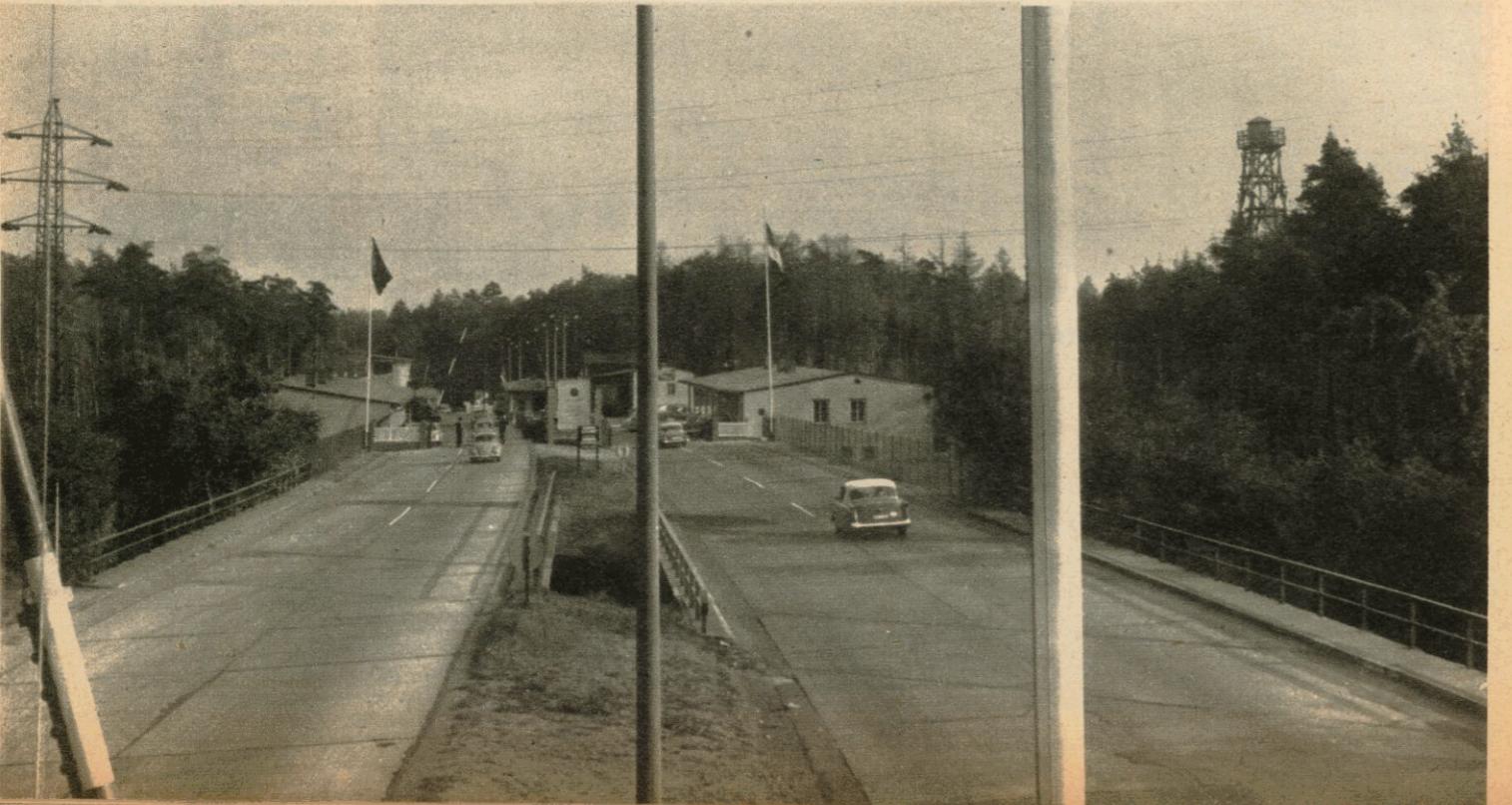
Except for its main frame, the 3-4 ton *Mule* is built entirely of aluminium and can carry or tow a 3000-lb load of equipment over rough country. The *Mule* seats six, including its driver, and can be airlifted by helicopter.



Above: The last outpost. Redcaps at the British Zone border examine the travel papers of an Army driver bound for Berlin, over 100 miles to the east.

REDCAPS GUARD THE GATEWAY TO BERLIN

Below: The Russian checkpoint as seen across the two-hundred yards of "no-man's-land" from the Allied Control Building. Rearing out of the trees (right) is a Russian watch-tower.



RHINE ARMY REPORT: 1



FROM THEIR LONELY POST ON THE HANOVER AUTOBAHN, MEN OF THE CORPS OF ROYAL MILITARY POLICE HAVE SENT A QUARTER OF A MILLION BRITONS SAFELY THROUGH THE RUSSIAN ZONE ON THEIR WAY TO BERLIN

"TWO hundred yards up the autobahn," said the lance-corporal of the Corps of Royal Military Police, "you will come to the Russian check-point. A Russian soldier will step out and halt you. He will give you directions which you must follow—unless you want to get into trouble. I wish you a good journey."

A West German policeman raised the barrier and the British military car moved off from Helmstedt on the three-hour, 100-mile journey through the Soviet Zone of Germany to Berlin.

Since the end of World War Two, men of the Corps of Royal Military Police on duty at Helmstedt—the gateway to Berlin on the Hanover-Berlin autobahn, have checked the papers of a quarter of a million British travellers, sent them on their way and greeted them on their return.

A Four-Power agreement guarantees free access to and from Berlin for Servicemen and civilians authorised by Britain, France and the United States, and it is the responsibility of the Autobahn Control Detachment of No. 247 (Berlin) Provost Company, Royal Military Police, to see that the documents of British travellers are in order and that they are allowed through to Berlin without hindrance.

At the Detachment's headquarters in a fir wood just north of the mining town of Helmstedt, the Detachment Commander, Captain G. Rushby, RMP, directs the activities of his small but important force. The control room staff maintains 24-hour radio communication with British military authorities in Berlin and with the British military train which stops at Helmstedt every night en route to and from Berlin. If there is trouble on the train—for instance, a breakdown or a hold-up at the Soviet Zone border—the Detachment is alerted by radio and takes steps to remedy the situation.

Careful scrutiny by the Detachment before anyone is allowed to move into the "no-man's-land" between the check-points is therefore essential.

Although Russian soldiers on duty at the frontier post can be clearly seen from the British Zone check-point, the only direct contact between British and Russians is through the two commanders. Captain Rushby sometimes finds it necessary to talk things over, with the aid of a British Army interpreter, with his Russian "opposite number," a lieutenant-colonel.

"It is always a strictly military visit," Captain Rushby told SOLDIER. "The Russians are co-operative because they know I am carrying out my orders and that what I am asking is in accordance with agreed policy."

If the two sides fail to agree, Captain Rushby refers the matter to Berlin, where it is taken up at a higher level.



Above: A "three-power conference" at the Allied check-point, where British, French and American soldiers work side by side. Below: Allied travellers stranded in the Russian Zone through breakdown or accident are aided by the British Army recovery service ambulance and Scammel teams seen here leaving the Autobahn Control Detachment's base near the zonal border.



The volume of British traffic through the check-point varies from day to day, but once a week a Soviet military car from the east pulls up at the British check-point and from it steps an officer of the Soviet Commander-in-Chief's Mission to the British Forces in Rhine Army. His papers are checked by the lance-corporal before he is allowed to drive west to Bunde, the Mission's headquarters.

A minor "three-power conference" sits permanently in the small control building at the check-point in the middle of the autobahn, overlooked by a giant watch-tower rearing out of the trees a few hundred yards away in the Soviet Zone.

SOLDIER visited the check-point recently and watched British, United States and French Military Police working side by side. On the road outside, a British Frontier Service official was at his post and nearby were West German police and Customs men.

Lance-Corporal Robert Whitten, RMP, sat at a long desk with Specialist 4 Louis Wojcik, from Detroit, and Corporal René François, from Paris. At another desk opposite was Sergeant Peter Eisner, of the United States Military Police.

Lance-Corporal Whitten's task during his eight hours on duty was to interview all British travellers to and from Berlin. Those driving east were briefed, shown maps and photographs of the route and told exactly what to expect at the Soviet and East German check-points. Those from Berlin were asked if they had had any trouble en route and news of their safe arrival was reported by radio to Berlin.

The Autobahn Control Detachment is one of the most isolated British units in Germany. "There is not much social life," says Captain Rushby, "and the nearest NAAFI shop is 25 miles away."

Despite its small numbers, the Detachment has raised a useful football team which plays frequently against local German teams and sometimes against British Army sides. British, American and French troops have occasional cinema shows and join in social evenings together, play each other at tennis and darts.

Between British and Russians there is no social contact at present. Captain Rushby once challenged the Russians to a game of volleyball to be played over the frontier pole. "But the Russian Commander smiled amiably and gave an evasive answer," he said.

So the troops on either side of the check-point go about their military business, glancing occasionally across the 200-yard stretch of road separating them. As SOLDIER left the check-point the Soviet Military Mission car pulled up and out stepped a lieutenant-colonel. The lance-corporal, well drilled in his duty, emerged from the control room and saluted smartly.

"Good morning, sir," he said. "May I see your papers?"

K. E. HENLY



Left: BAFSVs were introduced in 1946 to combat black market. They were printed in London and ranged through eight denominations from threepence to a pound note.

FEW WILL REGRET THE PASSING OF THE BAFSV, THE SOLDIER'S CURRENCY IN GERMANY FOR A DECADE. ITS DISAPPEARANCE MEANS THE CLOSING OF 17 CASH OFFICES

Goodbye To The BAFSVs



A man with a fortune in his arms: Captain D. F. de Sevin carries bundles of bank notes valued at £35,000 from the vault at Moenchengladbach.

THIS month, Rhine Army says a not very sad farewell to an old friend—the British Armed Forces Special Voucher, which has been the stable currency for troops and their families in Germany for the past 13 years.

In future, every soldier will be paid in German deutschemarks and by 1 March—except in Berlin, where they will continue to be used—the only BAFSVs outside the strong-room in the Command Pay Office at Rhine Army Headquarters will be in the hands of souvenir collectors.

No one will shed any tears at the disappearance of the BAFSV, least of all the Royal Army Pay Corps and unit imprest holders whose accounting systems will be simplified. It will also please the soldier and his family, for they will no longer be encumbered with the wide variety of BAFSV notes—ranging through eight denominations from threepence to a pound—as well as German currency.

Some officers may regret the change, however, for they will not be able to call at the nearest cash office and receive an immediate advance. Instead they will have to apply direct to the Command Cashier and wait for 48 hours for the money to be transferred to their accounts. For foreign currency they will have to deal with a German bank.

But the first and most important effect of the death of the BAFSV will be the closing of 17 cash offices scattered throughout Rhine Army. Units will open their own accounts with local German banks into which the Command Cashier will pay covering amounts of money in deutschemarks each week.

For the 270 members of the Command Pay Office staff at Rhine Army Headquarters, coming off the BAFSV Standard has meant much burning of midnight oil in the past three months. In this time, some £2,000,000 worth of BAFSVs in notes of all denominations has been received from units and cash offices throughout Rhine Army, swelling the total normally held in the strong-room to some £4,000,000, and 24,000,000 marks have been issued in exchange.

Part of this vast hoard of BAFSVs will be destroyed by fire and the rest held in case the vouchers are re-introduced during an emergency.



Once the home of a German shipping magnate, Bredebeck, near ill-famed Belsen, is one of the British Army's finest messes.

SIR WINSTON

TWO miles from the melancholy stretch of heathland that was once Belsen Concentration Camp stands a handsome country house called Bredebeck.

Hitler had a room reserved for him at Bredebeck; Sir Winston Churchill spent a night there and the Duke of Edinburgh dined and danced at the house. Now it accommodates the officers of one of Britain's most famous cavalry regiments—the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, who claim that it is

the finest officers' mess in the British Army overseas.

Set amid stately trees at the edge of a lake, this elegant building once housed the cream of Hitler's Panzer officers. It was built about 50 years ago and for many years was the country home of Dr. Adolf Kuhling, a German shipping magnate, who was killed when he fell down the marble staircase in the early 1930s.

Frau Kuhling had the marble ripped out and the present wooden staircase installed. Then



Major Coyte and Captain de Sevin make a check of the hundreds of parcels that comprise the £2,000,000 hoard in Rhine Army's heavily-guarded vaults.

SOLDIER visited the Command Pay Office recently and took a look inside the strong-room in company with Major C. W. Coyte, the Command Cashier, and his assistant, Captain D. F. de Sevin.

The way in was through a huge, seven-ton, 18-inch thick steel door fitted with two combination locks and getting to the other side was a two-man job. Major Coyte turned the dials of one combination lock and Captain de Sevin operated those on the other, for each knew only his own combination. Neither would have been able to enter without the other.

Inside the main door was another and lighter steel door and behind this a large vault stacked high with boxes and cupboards containing more than £2,000,000 worth of British, German, French, Belgian, Dutch, Italian, Danish, Norwegian, Swedish and Canadian notes as well as £20,000 worth of insurance stamps and coupons for millions of litres of petrol. Each of a score of boxes held £50,000 in BAFSVs.

SOLDIER picked up a brown paper parcel and was told: "You are holding £25,000 in £5 notes." Opening a cupboard, Major Coyte casually remarked: "And this little lot is worth £530,000."

"Come and look at the dirty money," said Major Coyte, and walked to a cupboard at the far end of the vault. "They say this is one of the worst smells in the world."

He opened the door and an indescribable smell wafted out, stale and nauseating. The term "filthy lucre" took on a literal meaning. "Even we never get used to this stench," said the Major.

Once a month this "dirty money"—usually about £80,000 worth of BAFSVs—is ceremonially destroyed by a Command Secretariat representative, a paymaster and three senior NCOs. They break the seals, count the money and consign the lot to a furnace. Then a man can realise the ambition of a lifetime and light his cigarette with a £5 note! Few members of the destruction party let the opportunity go by.

Rhine Army's treasure house would be an unhealthy place for burglars. Each night a prowler guard watches it, the lights are left burning and the burglar alarm on the outer door is set. At the first note of the alarm the camp gates would be shut, the armed guard turned out and, with the Orderly Officer and cashiers, would race to the vault. K. E. HENLY



SLEPT IN HITLER'S BED

she sold house and land to the German government for 1,300,000 Reichmarks.

In 1935, when Hitler ordered the demolition of 17 villages to establish the German tank ranges at Hohne, Bredebeck became an officers' club. Its first important guest was General Freiherr von Fritsch. He was killed in the Polish campaign in 1939 and an imposing memorial to him stands among the trees near the house.

In 1941 officers who had incurred Hitler's displeasure served

periods of open arrest at Bredebeck, and among them was General Heinz Guderian, who later led the Panzer armies on the Russian and Western fronts.

Another chapter in Bredebeck's varied history opened in 1943, when it became a military hospital. The seriously wounded lay in the elegant Lake Room overlooking the water, where now British cavalry officers have breakfast and tea. The Long Room, where only dinner is served, was the operating theatre and the

present ante-room the main ward. In 1945 the British Army recognised its merits as an officers' mess. First it served the Rhine Army Training Centre officers, then those of the 5th Royal Tank Regiment. The 4th Queen's Own Hussars moved in in 1952 and retained possession when the Regiment amalgamated with the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars last year to form the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars.

Herr Siegfried Brockmann, captured by the British in Tunisia and

In the North Carolina sandhills, where thousands of Americans had their first taste of soldiering in two world wars, the United States now trains its flying fire brigade, the hard-hitting force which is ready to fly anywhere to preserve peace

"SKILLED, TOUGH AND READY"



STRAC paratroopers leap from their aircraft over Carolina. In their four-week course at Fort Bragg they have to make five mass jumps. Elements of STRAC are stationed throughout the United States.

WITHIN two hours of the outbreak of war American soldiers could be on their way by air to the battle zone. A full division could be put down inside six days and three divisions within 25 days.

This battle-ready, flying fire brigade is the United States Strategic Army Corps—known simply as STRAC from the initials of its motto; "Skilled, Tough, Ready Around the Clock"—which is equipped to fly anywhere in the world at short notice to deal with limited wars or as the spearhead of a major United States operation.

But its readiness, variety of fire-power and mobility are primarily designed to confine or snuff out any conflict before it can develop into a general war.

STRAC, with its headquarters (18 Airborne Corps) among the North Carolina sandhills at Fort Bragg, is the hardcore of the United States Army's Strategic Army Force which at present consists of seven divisions and supporting units stationed throughout the United States. The Corps is armed with conventional weapons but is ready to fight with nuclear arms at short notice.

The élite of the Corps are the paratroopers who are put through a rigorous four-week training course at Fort Bragg designed to make them the toughest soldiers in the United States Army. At the end of the course they graduate after making five airborne descents in mass jumps. The airborne Infantrymen are also trained at Fort Bragg's immense 30-mile long, 14-mile wide camp, running alongside which is the United States Air Force's Pope Field, where an armada of troop carriers is kept constantly at readiness on the tarmac runways.

STRAC's ability to move men quickly was strikingly demonstrated when rioting broke out in Venezuela in 1958 and President Eisenhower decided to fly troops to positions where they could help the Venezuelan government if necessary.

At 3.55 p.m. on 13 May the Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, was ordered to alert a task force of two companies (about 500 men) for immediate movement to Ramey Air Force Base, Puerto Rico. By 4.05 p.m. all troops had been alerted. At 6.00 p.m. the task force of 23 officers and 456 men arrived at the loading zone and 20 minutes later began to board 22 transport planes which took off at 6.45 p.m. from Fort Campbell.

At 12.05 a.m. the next day, the first elements of the task force arrived in Puerto Rico and by 8.45 a.m. all had been landed.

The total time between receipt of orders to completion of movement was 16 hours 40 minutes. The distance from Fort Campbell to Ramey is 1740 miles, or 200 miles more than that between London and Moscow. With the men in the transport aircraft were all the weapons, ammunition, rations and vehicles they needed for a "fire brigade" mission.

Since then the technique of moving men and equipment quickly has been improved to the point



where the first fully-equipped units begin to move inside two hours.

Major-General Robert Sink, the Commanding General of 18 Airborne Corps and of Fort Bragg, believes that if STRAC had been in existence at the time, it "could have ended the Korean War quickly."

General Sink, a trained parachutist with two combat jumps to his credit, commanded the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division in World War Two and fought in Korea.

Fort Bragg, the STRAC headquarters, played a major part in training U.S. soldiers in both world wars. Named in honour of General Braxton Bragg, military

adviser to Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States, the Fort has a military heritage that goes back to the War of Independence. Francis Marion, the "swamp fox," made it his northern headquarters while harassing the British, and it was also the scene of one of the last battles of the American Civil War in which Confederate troops were defeated.

Today, Fort Bragg is known as the "home of the airborne" and it is fitting that this area with such strong historical military associations should now be the headquarters of one of the most efficient army elements ever organised in America.

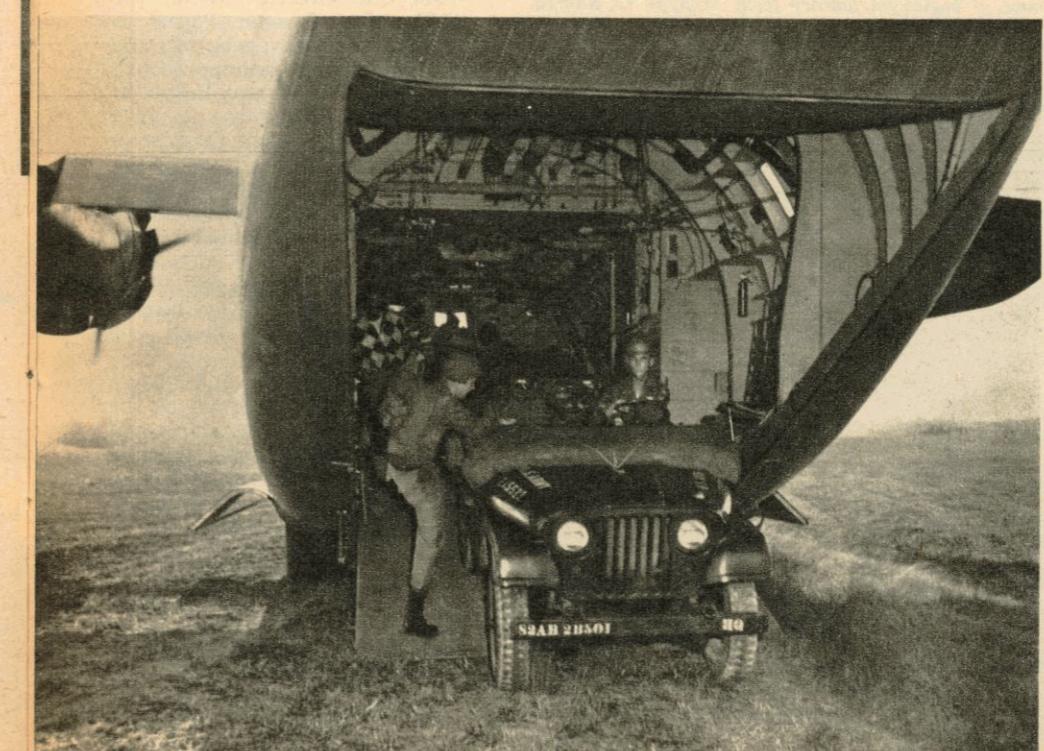
ANDREW EVERARD



Above: Airborne Infantrymen pile out of an H-21C helicopter during training at Fort Bragg. Troop carriers stand by permanently to carry the men of STRAC into real action.

Left: Maj-Gen. Robert Sink, who commands 18 Airborne Corps. He fought in World War Two as a paratrooper.

Below: STRAC is equipped with all the most up-to-date weapons, including this carbine rifle fitted with an infra-red sight for firing at night.



Within seconds of landing, the men of a STRAC battle group are ready to drive off in their Jeep.



Two warrant officers in Singapore decided to come home the hard way on an arduous journey that took them . . .

15,000 MILES BY CAR

BACK in Britain after a nightmare journey by car more than half-way round the world are Warrant Officer William Beaton, of the Royal Army Educational Corps, and Warrant Officer Włodzimierz Watorski, of The Royal Dragoons.

Using only a school atlas for navigation, they drove 15,000 miles from Singapore to Dover, through 16 countries and across hundreds of miles of jungle and desert.

They were arrested twice, attacked by a bullock cart driver, stranded in floods and bogged down in quagmires. "It was rough," they told *SOLDIER*, "but we would do it again."

The journey began when the two friends, having completed a three-year secondment to the Malayan Federation Army, set out from Singapore to Thailand. All went well until, at Mae-Sai, on the Thailand border, they were refused entry into Burma and had to make a 400-mile detour to Maesod, where the entire village turned out to help them hitch the car to two buffalo teams which pulled it across the River Mya. Now in Burma, they were held up by visa difficulties but the Burmese Army came to the rescue and laid on an armed escort to convoy them through Karen territory, where local tribesmen were in revolt.

The warrant officers then pushed on to Monywa, on the Chindwin, where the car was put on to a river boat for the four-day voyage to Kalewa. From Kalewa they drove north to Tamu over roads built by the British Army in

World War Two but since allowed to fall into ruin.

At Tamu they refused to budge when told that the Assam border was closed and "squatted" in the immigration office. After four days they were arrested because their visas had expired, but next day the authorities in Rangoon ordered their release on payment of a fine of 20 rupees each.

The whole village turned out to cheer them on their way as they drove off on a hair-raising journey over 80 miles of crumbling, tortuous track with a 4000-ft sheer drop on one side.

Despite warnings from a police post near Imphal that the Naga tribesmen were in rebellion and might harm them, the two warrant officers pushed on to Kohima, unaware that the Naga capital was banned to foreigners. They strolled round the town, sampled the Naga beer and visited the British military cemetery there.

With the worst of the jungle journey behind them, the two warrant officers thought their troubles were over. But they were only just beginning, for they ran into a monsoon and were delayed by floods in Bengal. After visiting

A four-day trip up the broad Chindwin gave the warrant officers a welcome break. Inquisitive Burmese peer into the car as, roped securely to the deck of a river boat, it begins its journey from Monywa to Kalewa.



Bronzed and bearded, Warrant Officer Beaton (left) and Warrant Officer Watorski arrive in Karachi—having covered 7400 miles of jungle and desert.

Darjeeling and the Holy City of Benares, they made for Agra, where they realised their lifelong ambition to see the Taj Mahal by moonlight.

It was outside Agra that the pair met more trouble when they had an argument with a bullock cart driver who showered them with bricks, badly denting the car.

Near Delhi, they drove through the worst rainstorm in the area for ten years. But there was light relief at Amritsar when they visited the Golden Temple and, conforming to custom, removed

their shoes. "The sun-scorched marble was so hot that we hopped about like overweight ballet dancers," said Mr. Beaton.

After passing through Karachi, the warrant officers were again halted by floods at Jacobabad, so they decided to return to Karachi, sell the car and go home by boat. But they were persuaded to carry on by the local inhabitants, who said the floods would quickly subside, and set off into the swirling waters once more. Before long they were stranded (for 36 hours) in a waterlogged desert and had to be towed out by a rescue party.

Once across the floods, the pair made for Greece, driving the 3100 miles through Persia to Ankara, in Turkey, with only one stop—at Tehran—and approached the Greek border near Edirne in high spirits. But it was not until 33 days later that they were allowed to cross.

As they were exchanging their money with a waiter in a roadside cafe, they were arrested by the Turkish police and taken to Istanbul to stand trial for alleged currency offences. Twice the case was adjourned but finally the court acquitted them.

Next day, Beaton and Watorski were again detained at the border because the judge had failed to sign an order for their release, but on the following morning authority was given for them to leave Turkey.

They left without a penny in their pockets and in three days had only one meal—a slice of dry bread and an onion. They begged petrol in Yugoslavia in exchange for blankets—which Mr. Beaton sent on his return to England. But at Zürich, money was waiting for them and they finished the journey to Dover without further untoward incident. **K. E. HENLY**



Left: The four Sappers set out with their sled across the Gorner Glacier. In the background is Monte Rosa, highest mountain in Switzerland.

SAPPERS IN THE SWISS ALPS

HOW fast does a glacier move?

To help find the answer to this and many other related problems, four Sappers from 14 Field Survey Squadron, Royal Engineers in Germany recently set up camp in an Arctic tent more than 10,000 ft up in the Swiss Alps.

Their job was to take measurements every day, sometimes in 80-mile-an-hour blizzards and from spots where the snow lay 16-ft deep, of the fast-moving Gorner Glacier, which lies in the shadow of the mighty Matterhorn and Monte Rosa, highest mountain in Switzerland.

Often the thermometer recorded more than 40 degrees of frost.

One night the Sappers were buried in their tent under a huge snowdrift and had to dig themselves out.

The four men were the first of a number of Sapper surveyors who will join the Gornergletscher Glaciological Expedition, led by Mr. George Elliston, which will spend a year checking the glacier's movements and making other glaciological research.

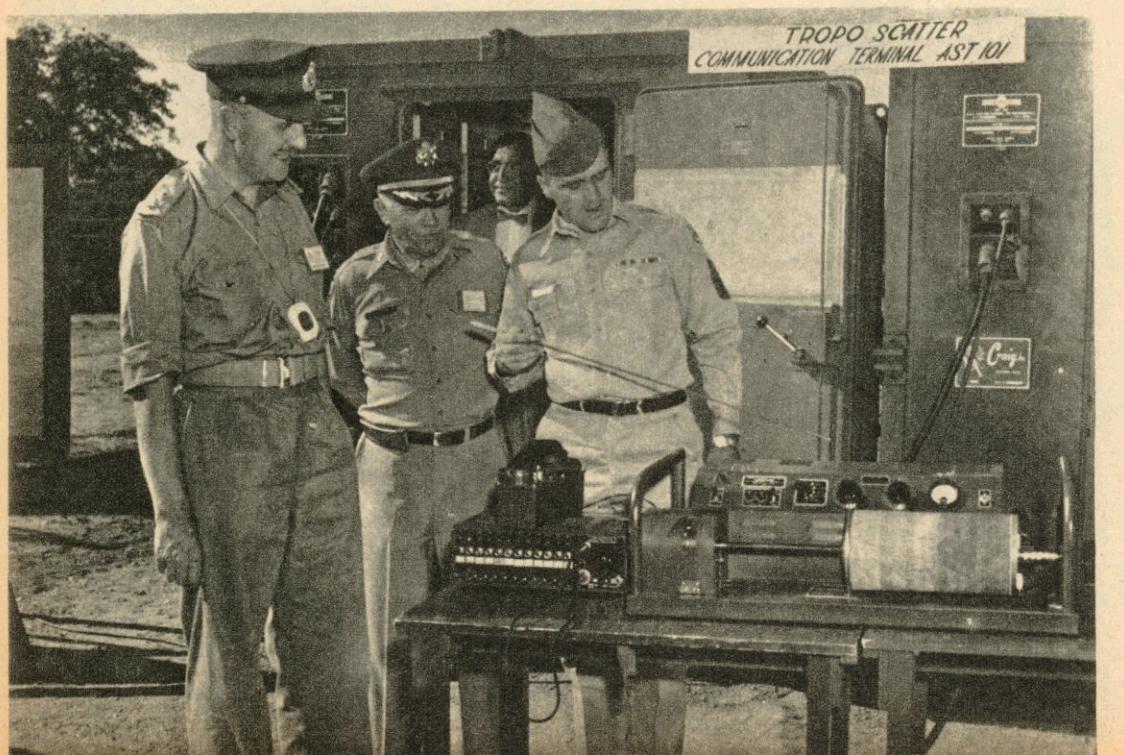


Below: As Lieutenant J. Fullerton takes readings with a theodolite, another Sapper notes the measurements. The team spent ten weeks in the Swiss Alps, living in an Arctic tent.



And The General Was All Strung Up

They "hanged" a British general, made him a deputy-marshal and gave him an estate. It happened, in America (of course), like this . . .



MAJOR-GENERAL R. J. MOBERLY, the British Army's Signal Officer-in-Chief, was sitting down to a meal in the Waggon Wheel Hotel in Tombstone City, Arizona, when a gang of gun-toting roughnecks rushed up and dragged him from the table.

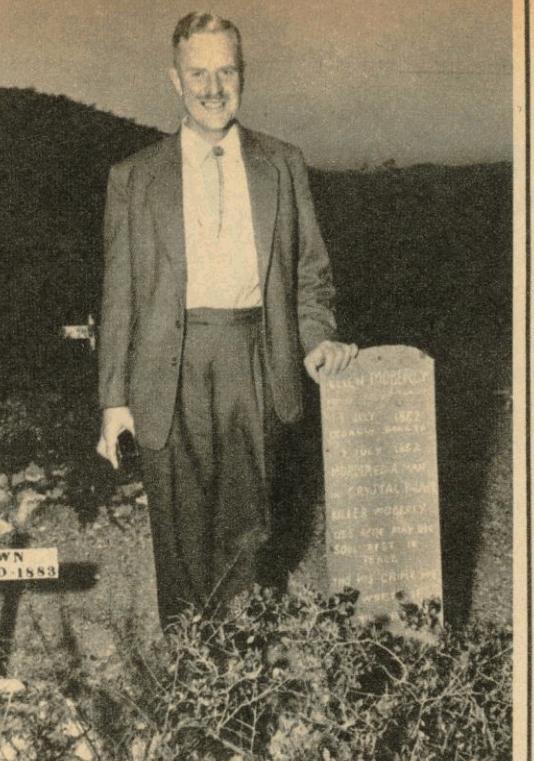
They pinioned his arms, slung a rope across a beam in the roof, slipped the noose over his head and hanged him.

It was just like old times in Tombstone, the notoriously lawless Mexican-border town where gang battles, personal vendettas and lynchings were an almost everyday occurrence until Marshal Wyatt Earp cleaned up the place in 1880 during the famous gun battle in the OK Corral.

But this time the "hanging" was in fun; it was Tombstone's way of paying tribute to a distinguished visitor—and after they had cut the General down they made him an honorary deputy-

Left: Held by Tombstone's desperados, the General prepares to meet his fate with a smile. Symbolic of the noose round his neck is the narrow and somewhat un-English tie he wore for this ceremony.

Right: Gen. Moberly stands in Boot Hill Cemetery, Tombstone, by the "grave" of a supposed ancestor. When the General returned to his desk at the War Office the headboard awaited him, flown back by the US Army.



marshal, gave him a silver badge and the title deeds of an estate in the town. The General's estate is not extensive, consisting of only one square foot of land, given by the Tombstone Restoration Commission, an organisation that keeps alive for the benefit of tourists, the bad old days of the savage Wild West.

Major-General Moberly was ceremonially "hanged" by the Americans during an official visit to the United States Army Signal Corps as the guest of its Chief Signal Officer.

One evening, while visiting the Corps' Electronic Proving Ground at Fort Huachuca, an old military base near the Mexican border, Major-General Moberly was taken round Tombstone, the "Town Too Tough To Die", by the president of its Restoration Commission.

In Boot Hill Cemetery, burial place of many trigger-happy cowboys and their victims, he was startled to see on one grave a

wooden headboard bearing the roughly-carved inscription: *Killer Moberly. Arrived from England 1 July, 1882. Legally hanged 2 July, 1882. Murdered a man in Crystal Palace (a local saloon). "Killer" Moberly lies here, may his soul rest in peace, tho his crime was the worst of the year. His stay was short to say the least.*

It was the grave of a supposed ancestor of the General, placed there by a leg-pulling United States Army which later had the headboard flown to England and delivered to the War Office.

Later, Major-General Moberly was entertained to supper and a Wild West cabaret typical of the days when Wyatt Earp was Marshal of Tombstone. The highlight of the show was the General's own hanging.

During his visit to Arizona, Major-General Moberly was also appointed an honorary deputy sheriff of Pima County and given a *serape* (a Mexican shawl) and a ten gallon hat.

As a direct result of the Signal Officer-in-Chief's visit to the United States, a colonel of the Royal Corps of Signals has been appointed to the Army Electronic Proving Ground at Fort Huachuca.

The two Signal Corps have worked closely together for many years. A colonel of the Royal Signals is on the staff of the British Joint Services Mission in Washington, and a lieutenant-colonel works in the Pentagon, in the office of the United States Chief Signal Officer. An American lieutenant-colonel is serving in Catterick as a member of the Royal Signals planning team.

The United States Signal Corps, which this year celebrates its centenary, covers the whole field of electronics and radar as well as communications, and is responsible for research and the development and supply of electronic equipment in the American Army.

Much of the basic research and development of the minute electronics inside the American satellites was carried out by the United States Signal Corps.

There were many weird and wonderful ideas—on both sides—for the winning of World War Two, but none so strange as that of an American scientist who planned to destroy Japan with millions of bats carrying tiny incendiary bombs

BATS IN THE BOMB-BAYS

WHILE pot-holing in a deep cave in Texas in 1942, Dr. Lyle Adams saw tens of thousands of bats asleep, hanging upside down from the vast roof of rock.

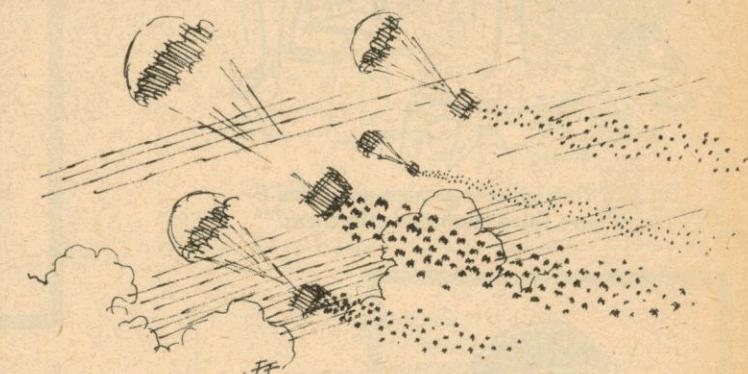
"I've got it!" he told his bewildered companions. "But Heaven knows if the Government will put up the money!"

They looked at him in alarm as he went on excitedly: "Can't you see it? Supposing each of these bats carried an incendiary bomb? What if we let thousands of them loose over Japanese towns and villages? The Jap houses are made of wood—they'd burn like tinderboxes.

"They'd never know what had done it, either. Just masses of fire bombs dropping from a clear sky. A few planes could drop them and get clear away, without the loss of a single life. Dropped in their thousands over ammunition dumps and storage depots, they might create tremendous damage."

Dr. Adams put his extraordinary scheme to the military authorities, who agreed to help financially, and soon he was busy making experiments. With a team of scientists, naturalists and pot-holers he explored more than 1000 caves and 3000 disused mines, studying the bats and collecting specimens.

He found that the small guano bats could fly with a one-ounce load tied to their legs with cord. When released they made straight for the nearest building or ledge, gnawed off the load and flew off. If the loads were tiny incendiary bombs, said the doctor, the bats could destroy whole cities. The bombs would drop like hailstones and the carrier planes would be miles away before the warning could be given.



"When revived, they could be parachuted in crates containing thousands of tiny bombers . . ."

The doctor also found that bats could travel long distances in aircraft refrigerated to ten degrees below zero. When revived they could be parachuted over the target area in egg-crates containing thousands of the tiny bombs in one aircraft.

After collecting hundreds of thousands of bats, Dr Adams decided to test his theories by attacking with them a mock village, built of wood to resemble a Japanese village. It was a complete success.

As the planes flew over the mock village, scores of parachutes floated down and from the crates fluttered hosts of bomb-carrying bats. They alighted on the buildings and within minutes the village was a blazing inferno.

Here was the perfect secret weapon which would strike terror into the heart of a superstitious enemy, burn down his towns and destroy his ammunition dumps without risking the loss of aircraft.

Unfortunately bats, as bombers, have a major disadvantage. They cannot distinguish between friend and foe and Dr Adams' bats brought disrepute on the project when they escaped from a careless handler and gnawed their fire bombs off over an American town! So, for the time being, the idea was shelved.

Then, in 1943, the American Navy took up the scheme. All was set to try out the bat paratroopers in real earnest on Japan when another invention brought the war to an end—the atom bomb was dropped.

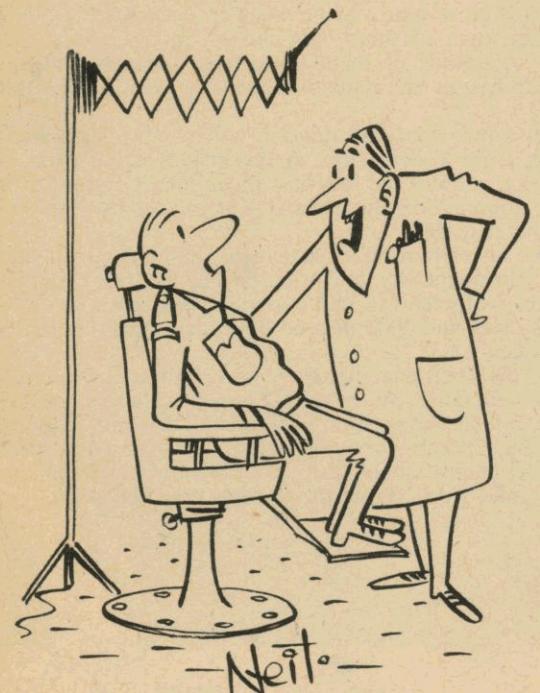
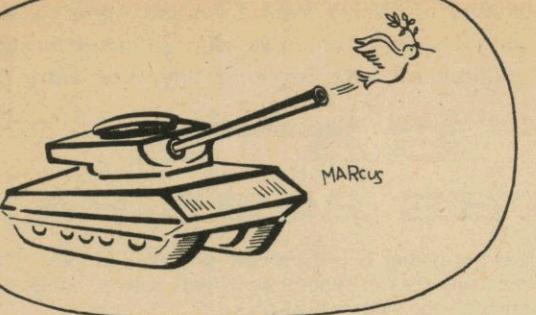
Today, the bats sleep, as they have done for centuries, in the bowels of the earth. At dusk they emerge for food, rising into the air like smoke from a vast volcano, returning to sleep during the day to depths where not even an H-bomb could penetrate.

This was not the first time bats had played a part in war. Their piled-up droppings, called guano, provided nitrate for gunpowder in the Civil War in America in 1812.

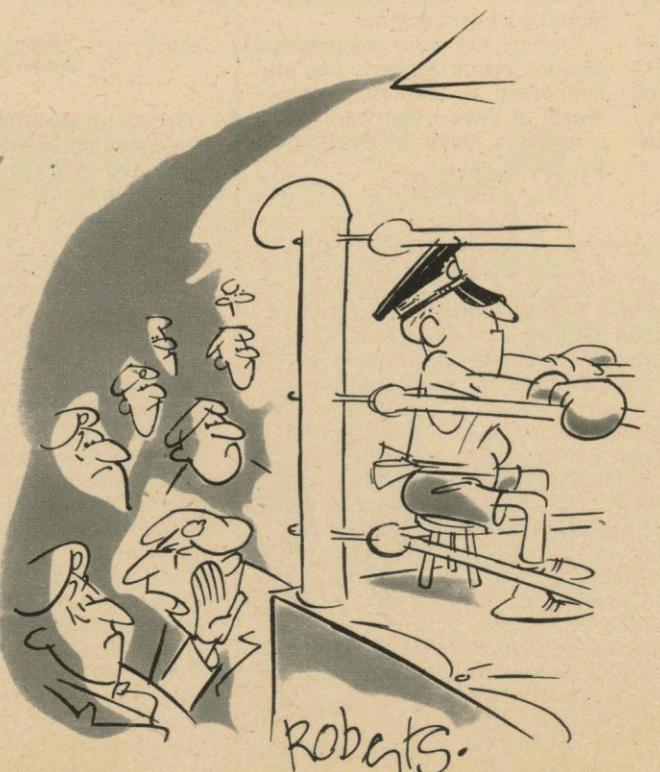
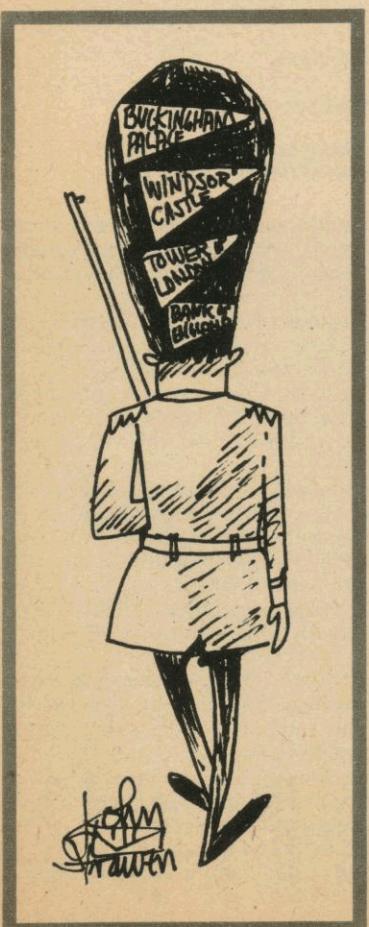
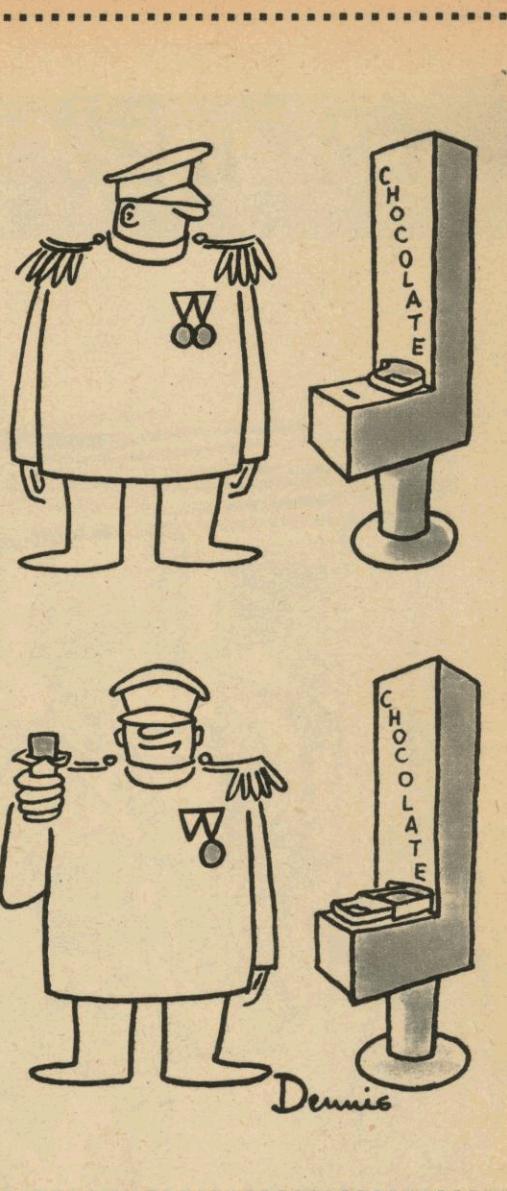
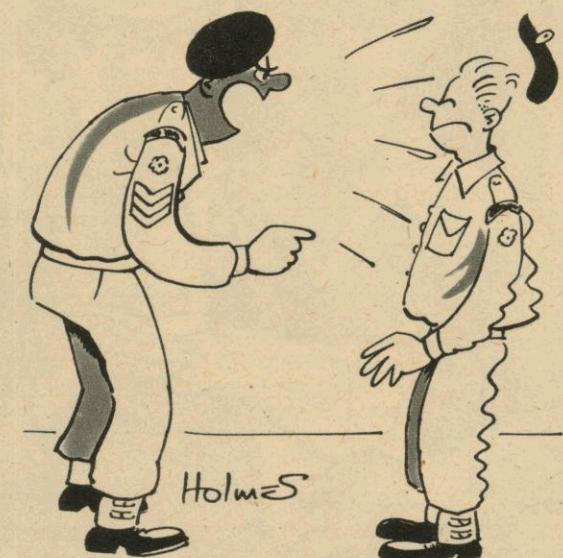
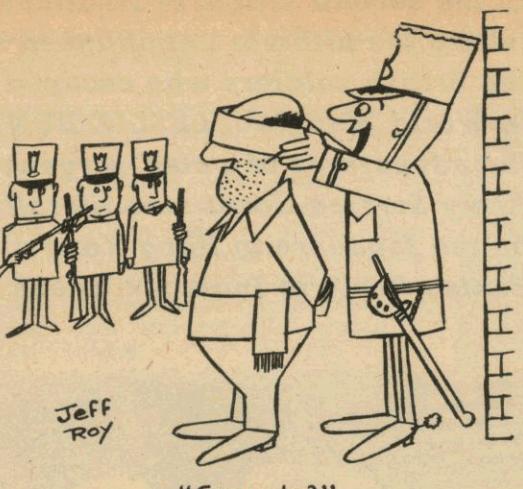
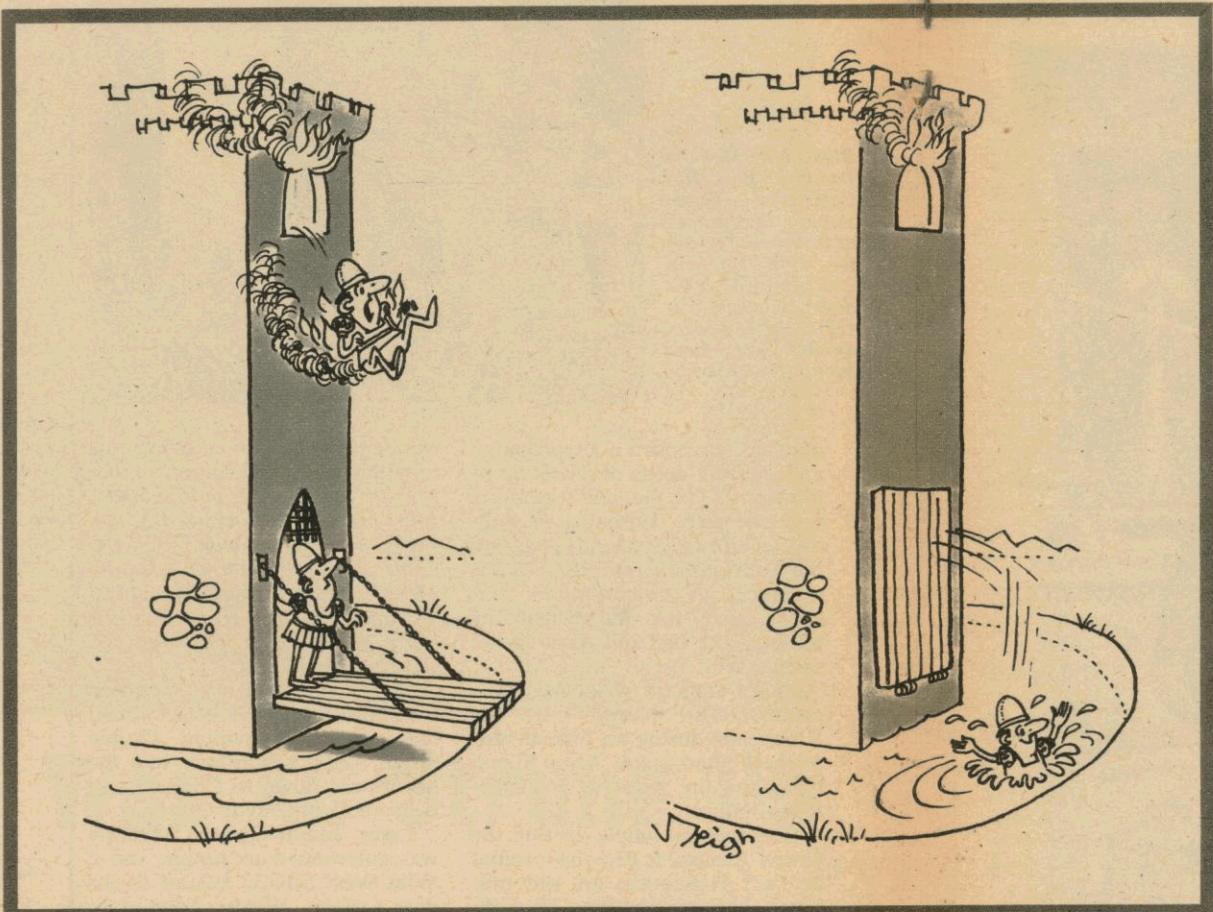
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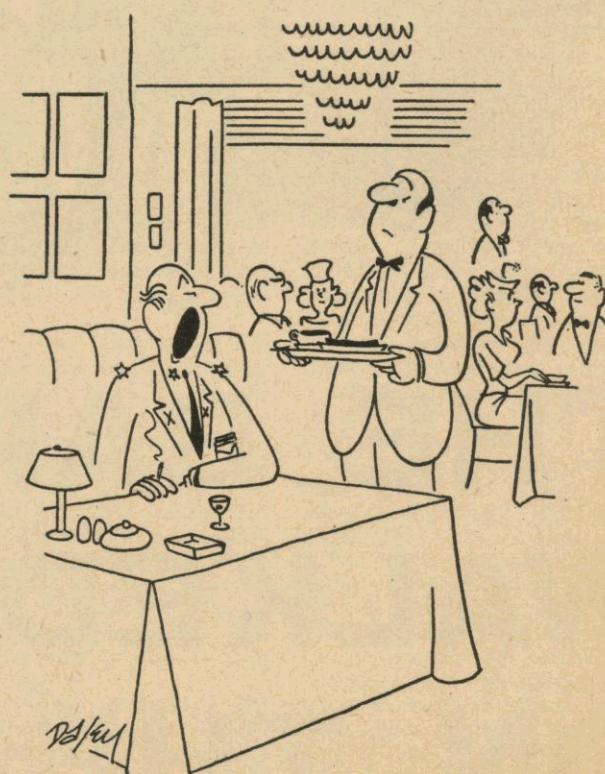
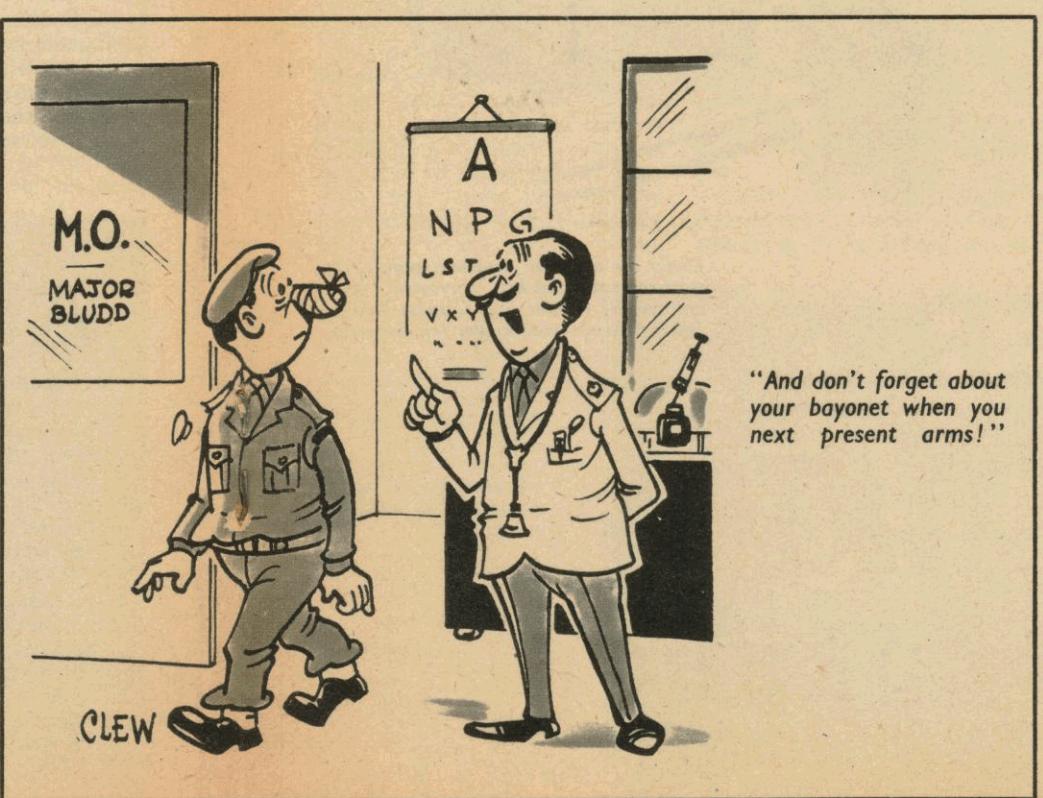
SOLDIER HUMOUR



"Only officers get dentures. You'll have false teeth and like them!"



"I'm told he's very proud of his Regiment."



"In my outfit they'd have hauled you in for desertion before this."

ESCAPE! 2

In the second article of SOLDIER's new series telling the hitherto unpublished stories of some of the British soldiers who escaped from the enemy in World War Two, LESLIE HUNT recounts the adventures of a staff-sergeant of the Royal Army Service Corps who literally walked out on the Japanese in Hong Kong and rejoined the British Army in India six weeks later



Under the noses of Japanese guards, the staff-sergeant sold his "borrowed" yeast and baking powder to a Chinese bakery. Death was the punishment for discovery.

THE BAKER WALKED OUT ON THE JAPS

Illustration by ERIC PARKER

YOU can count on your fingers the number of British soldiers who escaped from the Japanese in World War Two and lived to tell the tale.

Everything was against them—the tremendous distances to friendly territory, the language difficulty, the absence of escape gadgets and shortage of food.

And, biggest deterrent of all, those who failed and were recaptured were executed, along with those who had helped them. As time went on and food became even scarcer the main struggle was just to live. Only the bravest dared to make a break for freedom.

One who succeeded was Staff-Sergeant P. J. Sheridan, of the Royal Army Service Corps, who probably owes his life to the kindness, or stupidity, of a Japanese Army officer as much as to his own courage.

When the Japanese entered Hong Kong in December, 1941, Staff-Sergeant Sheridan, who had joined the Royal Army Service Corps seven years before, was working in a field bakery at Deepwater Bay on Hong Kong Island. On 19 December, when orders were given to evacuate the area, Sheridan was moved to the Exchange Buildings in the city on the Chinese mainland and, with a Sergeant Hammond, was taken prisoner on Boxing Day.

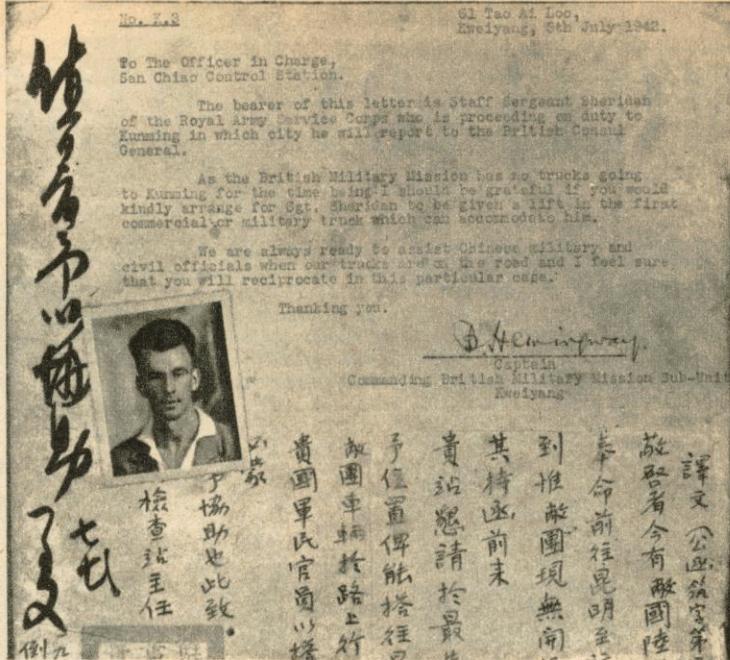
The Japanese officer named Tanaka, who took over the Exchange Buildings, was a civilian in uniform in charge of a team of electricians and telephonists. He omitted to question the two British soldiers and at first treated them as civilians, possibly because they had abandoned their kit and were wearing only slacks and Army sweaters. He put them to work baking bread in a Chinese bakery for local hospitals.

Later, Sheridan and Hammond were convinced that Tanaka, who spoke excellent English, knew they were soldiers, but he continued to treat them as civilians and even billeted them in a café in the city.

In February, 1942, when Sheridan and Hammond were "posted" to the French Hospital in Hong Kong, Tanaka, for a reason known only to himself, arranged for them to leave behind their Army pay books and identity discs so that they would eventually go into civilian prisons, where

Four months later, Sheridan had amassed a small fortune of 500 Hong Kong dollars and had

Staff-sergeant P. Sheridan MM as a lance-corporal in the Royal Army Service Corps in 1938. He retired from the Army in 1954 and is now a security policeman at an atomic energy establishment in the north of England.



At Kweiyang, the staff-sergeant was given this pass, in English and Chinese, to help him on his way to Kunming where he was picked up by plane.

obtained a supply of anti-malaria and anti-dysentery tablets from a British doctor to whom he revealed his intention to escape.

On the night of 4 June, Staff-Sergeant Sheridan set off on the first stage of his long journey to freedom, eluding the Japanese guards and making off on foot towards Kwangchowwan, some 200 miles away.

A few miles out he was stopped

by armed guards at the Kwangtung border and thought the end had come. But the guards took

one look at his "enemy pass,"

read

a letter of introduction a Chinese in Hong Kong had given Sheridan to some French residents in Kwangchowwan and let him pass.

For four days, sleeping and

eating at wayside inns and in farm workers' shelters, Sheridan walked

northwards until he came to the

village of Macheung, where he met

a Norwegian whose name had

been given him by an American

on the medical staff of a hospital

in Hong Kong. The Norwegian

put him up in his house for three

days and gave him £20 in Chinese

money.

On 11 June Sheridan set out

again, this time accompanied by

two Chinese servants of the

Norwegian to act as guides, mak-

ing his way north towards Chung-

king, the headquarters of the

Chinese Army. At Watlam, two

days later, Sheridan decided that

the 700-mile journey to Chung-

king was too great to cover on

foot and with his guides, boarded

a bus for Liuchow—a 200-mile

ride that took three days—and

from there went by train to Kim

Ching Kong.

Here, cholera, brought by the thousands of refugees from Burma and Northern India, was raging and people were dying in their hundreds every day. But there was nothing for it except to wait for transport to Kweiyang, where Sheridan had been told to report to the British Military Mission. They waited for four days while

some damaged bridges were re-paired, carefully avoiding contact with the other inhabitants and drinking no water, and then secured a lift in a lorry.

When he reached Kweiyang, where the guides left him, Sheridan was told by the military mission that Chungking had been told of his escape and were sending an American aircraft to pick him up—but it could land no nearer than at Kunming, more than 400 miles away in Yunnan Province. But fortune smiled on Sheridan once again, for a Chinese postal lorry was going to Kunming and he was given a place among the mail bags. The trip turned out to be the most uncomfortable part of the escape journey, for the way was mostly over primitive roads which bounced the vehicle and its contents incessantly for two days.

At Kunming, an American Dakota landed on 14 July with orders to take Sheridan over the Burma Hump to Calcutta, a dangerous flight along a course frequented by Japanese fighters from Lashio. But the Dakota escaped detection and landed safely at its destination where, to a surprised major, Sheridan reported with the words, "I've escaped from Japs."

Six weeks previously he had been in Japanese hands. Now, after a nightmare journey of almost 2000 miles, he was free.

For his daring exploit, Staff-Sergeant Sheridan, who is now a security constable at the Atomic Energy establishment at Whitehaven, Cumberland, received the Military Medal from King George VI at Buckingham Palace.

As Sheridan stepped on to the dais to receive the award, the Lord Chamberlain introduced him with the words: "This is the man who escaped from Hong Kong."

The King smiled, closely questioned Sheridan about his adventures and congratulated him on his courage and initiative.

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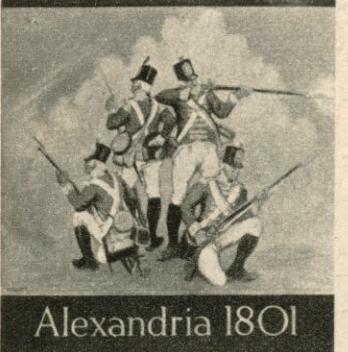
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MILITARY MISCELLANY

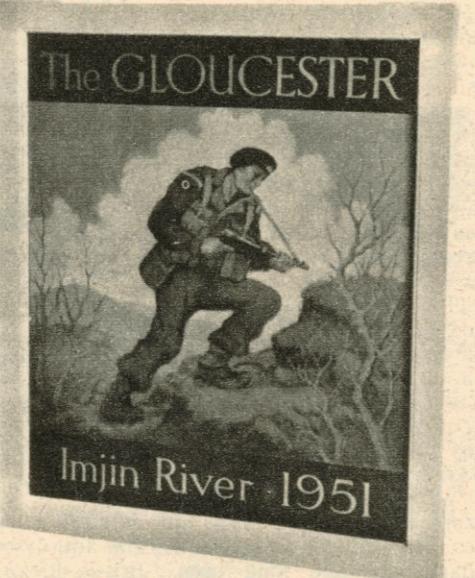
The GLOUCESTER



Alexandria 1801

Left: One side of the inn sign bears Mr C. C. P. Lawson's painting of the Glosers fighting back to back at Alexandria 159 years ago.

Right: And on the other side of the soldier of the Regiment at the Battle of the Imjin.



A REGIMENT ON THE INN SIGN

MEMBERS and ex-members of The Gloucestershire Regiment can be sure of a warm welcome at The Gloucester, a small inn at the Knightsbridge end of London's Sloane Street, which was recently "affiliated" to the Regiment by the unveiling of a sign depicting men of the Glosers in two famous battles.

Although the house dates from 1870, it had not previously been connected with the Regiment nor had it had a sign outside. The owner-brewers, Watney Mann, Limited, decided to put this right and, with the blessing of the Regiment, commissioned Mr. C. C. P. Lawson, the military historian and artist, to paint a sign.

Unveiling the sign, Colonel P. C. S. Heidenstam, a former Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, pointed out that it commemorated two outstanding honours in the British Army—the award to the Regiment of the back badge at Alexandria and the presidential citation in Korea.

Watching the ceremony were Chelsea Pensioner Nicholas Crosier, who was a private in the 61st Foot (2nd Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment) for 23 years, and two directors of the brewery group, Mr. J. G. Durrant and his brother, Mr. Kenneth Durrant, who also served in The Gloucestershire Regiment.

The present manager of The Gloucester, Mr. J. J. Pratt, is also an ex-Gloster who served with

the 10th Battalion in India and commanded a company in Burma in World War Two.

Inn signs were originally devised for those who could not read, and many have a military flavour, with the Duke of Wellington topping the list of famous soldiers (34 pubs in London alone bore his name in 1863). Another distinguished soldier, the Duke of York, runs the Iron Duke a close second.

Battles live on under such signs as Waterloo, Inkerman and Minden, and regiments are remembered by names like The Grenadier, The Rifle Volunteer and The Hussar.

World War Two produced fewer new signs, but The Kentish Rifleman pictures a grey-haired Home Guard, John Brunt VC honours a local hero at Paddock Wood in Kent, and at Hastings The GI pays tribute to our American ally.

The Cadet Who Nearly Wasn't

THIS is the story of "The Best Sandhurst Cadet Who Nearly Wasn't" or "The Lad the Army Almost Missed."

It began in 1956 when John Parkes left school in Warwick and went to work in a chartered accountant's office in Leamington Spa. After a few months he found that totting up figures every day got more and more boring, so he began to look round for a job that would give him more excitement and better prospects.

One day he called on Lieutenant-Colonel R. Wilson DSO, the Recruiting Officer at Coventry, to ask about the prospects of an Army career, and what he learned decided him to become a soldier.

He wanted to become an officer under the scheme open to those who may claim discharge from the Army if they fail to

Tall Order For The Sappers

SEND for the Sappers" seems to have become the accepted answer to knotty engineering problems confronting public authorities.

And whether it's bridging, demolitions, mapping, fighting floods, or the latest venture—replacing the massive flag-pole in Kew Gardens—the Sappers are ever ready to help.

Operation "Kewstaff," carried out for the Ministry of Works by 23 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, was a long, elaborate and, at times, tricky task.

First the new pole, a Douglas fir, 225 feet long, had to be moved a mile from the riverside to the site. Then the Sappers built a 100-feet high metal

tower, using bridging equipment of a new design, and from it gingerly winched down the rotted flag-pole which had stood in Kew Gardens for 40 years.

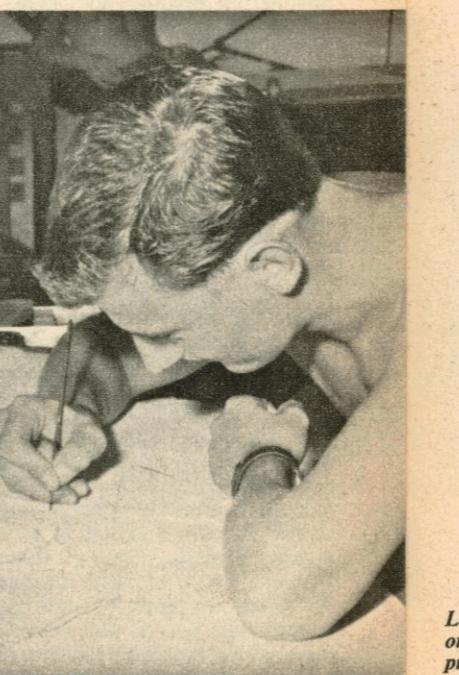
The new pole, given by British Columbia to commemorate the Province's centenary and Kew's bi-centenary, was hoisted into position on supporting piers, fixed on its base pivot, and finally winched slowly to the vertical.

The new flag-pole, the fourth presented to Kew by British Columbia, was shaped from a 300-year-old tree. The first pole, a mere 118 feet high, was cut in two by a tug when being towed up the Thames. After being spliced it was blown over while being erected and broke into three pieces. Pole No. 2, a 159-foot replacement, took its place in 1861, and in turn gave way in 1919 to a still larger stem of over 200 feet. Three years ago, however, it was discovered that the top had been attacked by fungus and 78 feet of it had to be removed.



With steel hawsers attached to a 100-ft steel tower, the Sappers haul the new flag pole into position. The pole, 225-ft high, was shaped out of a 300-year-old Douglas fir shipped from British Columbia.

MAP-MAKERS



OF MALAYA

In a remote jungle clearing in Northern Malaya, a Sapper surveyor peers through a theodolite and takes a bearing on a hill two miles distant. He plots the position, notes other distinctive features in the area and then moves on to take similar readings a mile away.

Six months later, a patrol on anti-terrorist operations stops near the hill. The officer studies his map, checks his position from the hill and confidently leads his men forward.

The two incidents are closely connected, for the map the officer uses is one of 15,000 printed from the information that the surveyor and his team have provided.

The sheets, which bear latitude, longitude and grid lines, are enlarged to the exact size the map is to be made and copies taken for each colour the map

will bear, one to show forest and jungle in green, another for rivers and sea in blue, and so on. Places, rivers, mountains and islands are named and each photographic copy is then taken to a helio room, where a zinc plate is made for each colour.

After careful checking by proof readers, the maps are printed, sometimes passing through a machine seven times to pick up all the colours, and handed over to be stored by 556 Field Survey Depot, the home of millions of maps, some dating back at least 30 years. From this depot Warrant Officer G. W. Young, Royal Engineers, receives and distributes more than 100,000 maps each month.

The depot's biggest worry is not finding space for all its maps, but keeping white ants at bay. Shelves are replaced every few months and constant watch has to be kept to make sure that the ants have not bored into the maps.—From a report by Corporal K. H. Sharp, Army Public Relations, Far East Land Forces.



Sword in hand, Sen. U/Officer Parkes accompanies General Stockwell on his inspection of the Senior Division.

THE TEN-DAY BATTLE ON THE VELDT

At Paardeberg 60 years ago, in what has been called "the last of the gentlemen's wars," a British army under Lord Roberts VC, trapped General Cronje, the Wolf of the Transvaal, in his lair on the Modder River. The Boers held out for ten days and then capitulated. It was the turning point of the South African War



Scrambling up the Kopje Paardeberg, men of the Royal Canadian Regiment on their way to attack Cronje's laager. They got to within a few yards of the Boer entrenchments but were thrown back.

RARELY has a British regiment faced a more hopeless task than that of the 2nd Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, in the heat and dust of the South African veldt on Sunday, 18 February, 1900.

Across nearly a thousand yards of bullet-swept plain unrelieved by any cover, three companies of the Regiment hurled themselves desperately against a Boer stronghold manned by expert riflemen hidden in deep entrenchments.

The Battalion Commander, Colonel Aldworth, was shot dead as he urged his Westcountrymen into a bayonet charge, but they never faltered. They swept up almost to the enemy position before a murderous hail of bullets drove them back, leaving 56 officers and men dead on the field of battle.

On that blazing day at the Battle of Paardeberg, the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry was not the only regiment to learn that bravery alone was of little avail against well-concealed riflemen, for in the first two days' fierce fighting the British Army, under Field-Marshal Lord Roberts VC, suffered 1500 casualties in attempting to storm the *laager* of the Boer General Cronje—"The Wolf of the Transvaal."

So grievous were the losses that Roberts then decided to reduce the Boer stronghold—outnumbered by nearly eight to one—by artillery bombardment and siege. Eight days later Cronje emerged from his *laager* under a white flag. His surrender with 4000 men marked the turn of the tide in the South African War.

For a week before the battle, Roberts, with an army of about 34,000, had been advancing from the Modder River and had driven Cronje out of Magersfontein while General French's cavalry division had relieved Kimberley. French then turned east to cut off Cronje's retreat. On 17 February, Cronje reached the Modder to find French barring his escape and formed *laager* at Vendutie's Drift, gambling on help from Boer commandos under De Wet and Ferreira who were in the neighbourhood.

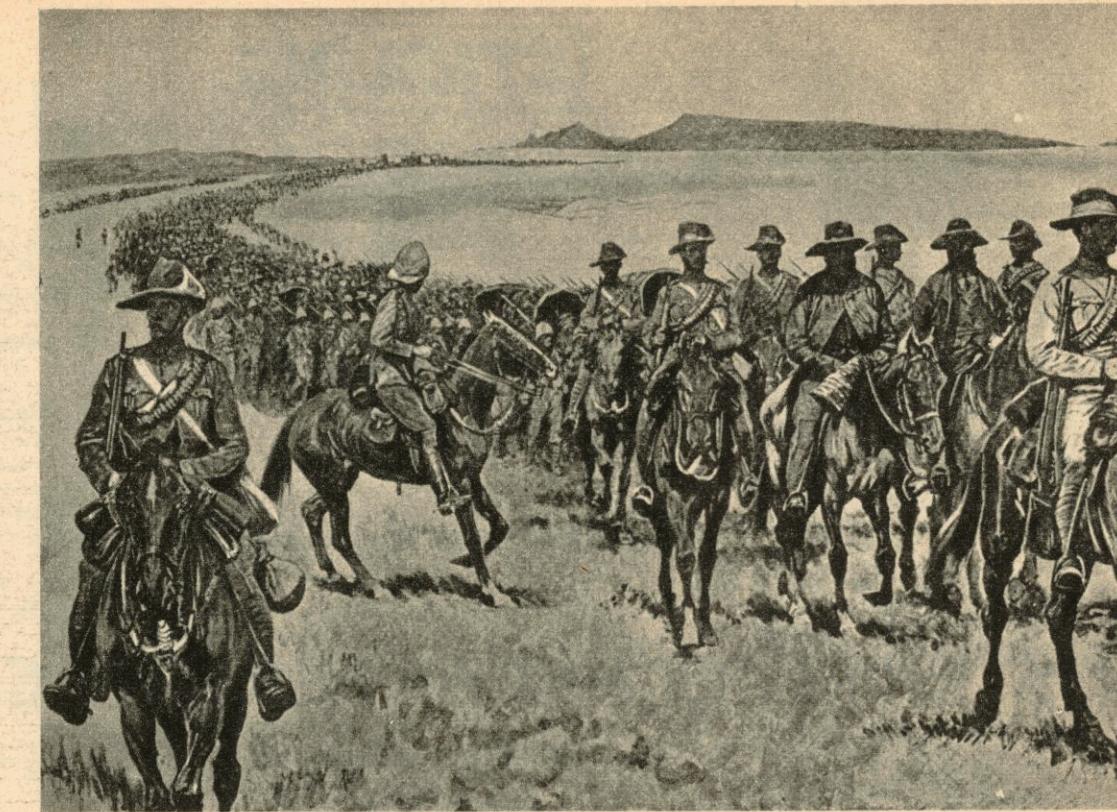
At this time Lord Roberts was ill, so the command of the British force fell on Lord Kitchener, his Chief-of-Staff, who at dawn on 18 February reached Paardeberg Drift, four miles south-west of Cronje's *laager*. He decided to attack at once and ordered Colonel Hannay's Regular Mounted Infantry to cross the river on the far side while a brigade of the 6th Division followed and remained south of the river, cutting off Cronje's escape in that area. The other brigade of 6th Division deployed facing the *laager* from the south while the two brigades of 9th Division advanced eastwards on both sides of the Modder. The plan was for all forces to attack simultaneously under artillery support. Kitchener con-

fidently expected the fight to be over within a few hours. In fact, it lasted for ten days.

The Boer position was a natural fortress and, though set in a hollow encircled by commanding heights, had clear fields of fire in every direction. Trenches dug into the river bank and around the *laager* made the position almost impregnable.

The battle began at 7 o'clock on the morning of 18 February, with French's guns firing from the hilltops to the north and 6th Division's field batteries and heavy naval guns shelling the *laager* from the opposite bank. Thousands of shells dropped into the *laager* and then the Infantry attacks went in, each to be broken in turn by the expert Boer marksmen.

The Highland Brigade—made up of the Black Watch, the Seaforth Highlanders and the Argyll



Battered into submission by shell-fire and starvation, Cronje's 4000 ragged followers march south into captivity. Cronje himself was taken to Cape Town and then to St. Helena.



Above: A photograph of Cronje's surrender to Lord Roberts, who congratulated the Boer leader on his brave stand. Right: A cartoon depicting the scene at London's Stock Exchange when news of the victory at Paardeberg was received. "Members gave ten rousing cheers, and then, at a signal, uncovered and sang 'God Save the Queen', wrote a contemporary."



and Sutherland Highlanders—was thrown back with heavy losses after a brilliant attack on the Boer right flank and Infantry of 6th Division almost succeeded in breaking through when the 1st Yorkshire, the 1st West Riding and the Oxfordshire Light Infantry stormed the river bank and chased some of the enemy from their positions. But the Boers held out and drove them off. Again, General Smith-Dorrien's 19th Brigade was thrown back by a hail of fire as it attempted to force a way into Cronje's *laager*. At dusk the *laager* was still intact and both sides were ex-

hausted.

The British Army had lost 20 officers and 300 men killed and 52 officers and 890 men wounded. Inside the *laager* hundreds of dead oxen and horses littered the ground.

The doctors had been left behind in the retreat and women were tending the wounded. Terrified children cried and could not be comforted. The heart of the defenders had been knocked out of them and they knew they were beaten. But Cronje refused to give in and urged his small force to greater efforts.

For eight days the Boers endur-

ed constant bombardment, hunger and the stench of rotting animals and then, on 27 February Cronje gave in. White flags were raised above the Boer trenches and the bearded Boer leader, wearing a slouch hat, a green overcoat and frieze trousers, rode into the British camp on a decrepit horse.

Field-Marshal Lord Roberts ordered the guard to turn out and present arms to the gallant Cronje. He shook hands with his defeated opponent and said, "I am glad to see you. You have made a gallant defence, Sir."

Then they sat down to breakfast together.

ERIC PHILLIPS

PAGE 27

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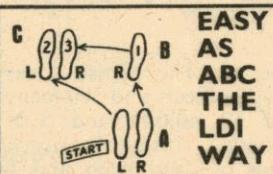
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PICTURE PUZZLE

FEBRUARY is the shortest month in the year—but there's still plenty of time to study SOLDIER's Picture Puzzle Contest and win a prize.

All you have to do is identify the six everyday objects which are shown here photographed from unusual angles.

There are six prizes to be won, by each sender of the first six correct solutions to be opened by the Editor.

The sender of the first correct solution may choose any two of the following recently published books: "Lugard in Africa" by A. A. Thomson and Dorothy Middleton; "Man With a Packet" (autobiography of Pancho Gonzales); "War and Peace in the Space Age" by Lt-Gen. James Gavin; the thriller "Hare Sitting Up" by Michael Innes; "Trial by Battle" by Peter Towry; and the humorous novel "Wake Me When It's Over" by Howard Singer.

The senders of the second and third correct solutions will receive a whole-plate monochrome copy of any two photographs and/or cartoons which have appeared in SOLDIER since January, 1957.

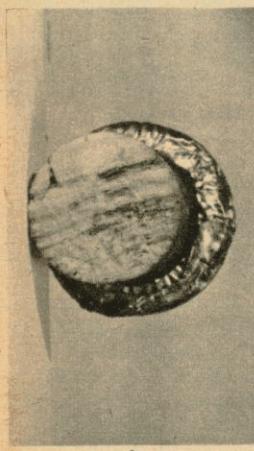
The senders of the fourth, fifth and sixth correct solutions will be sent SOLDIER free for 12 months.

All entries must reach SOLDIER's London editorial offices by Thursday, 25 February.

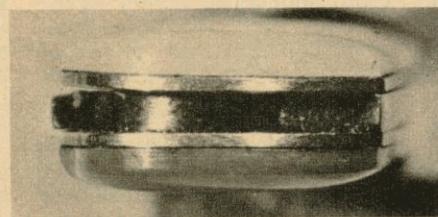
RULES

1. Entries must be sent in a sealed envelope to:
The Editor (Competition), SOLDIER,
433, Holloway Road, London. N.7.
2. Each entry must be accompanied by the "Competition 21" panel printed at the top of this page.
3. Competitors may submit only one entry.
4. Any reader, Serviceman or woman and civilian, may compete.
5. The Editor's decision is final.

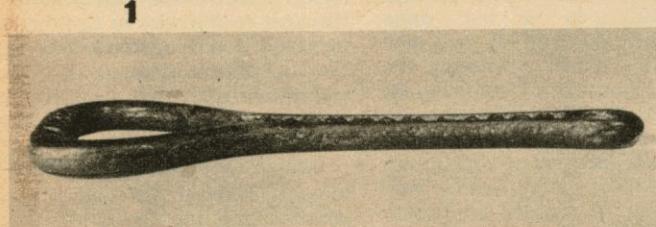
★ The solution and the name of the winner will appear in SOLDIER, April.



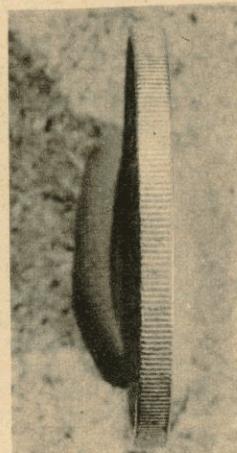
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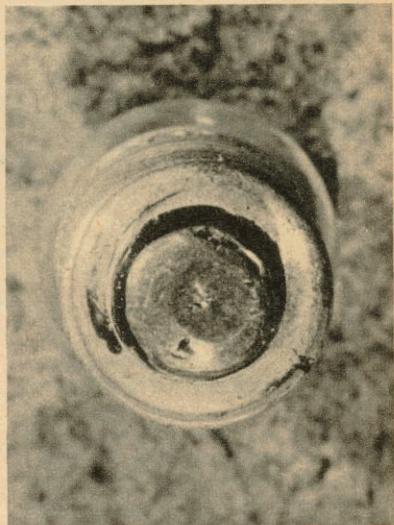
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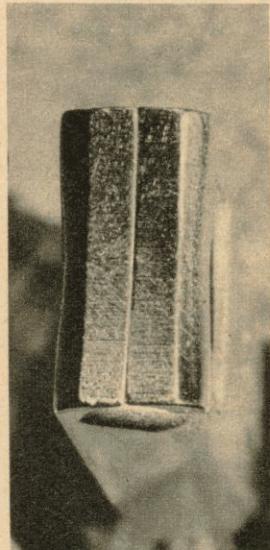
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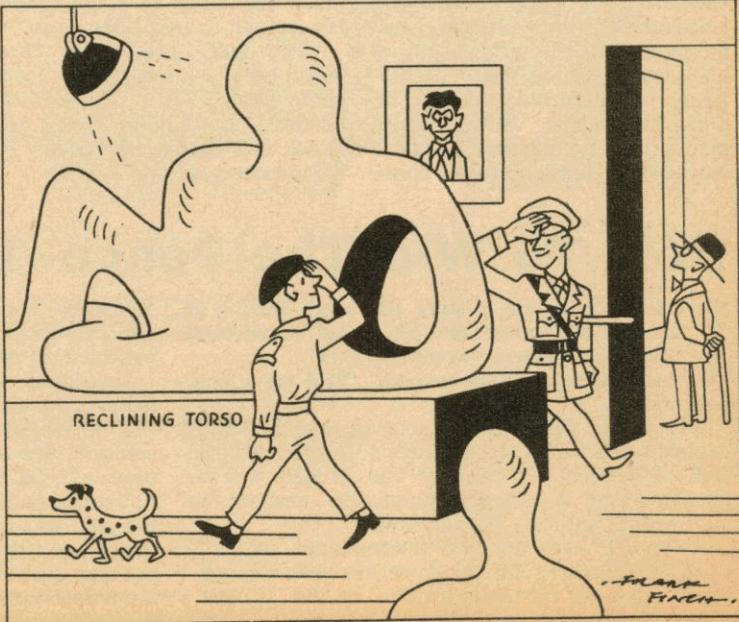
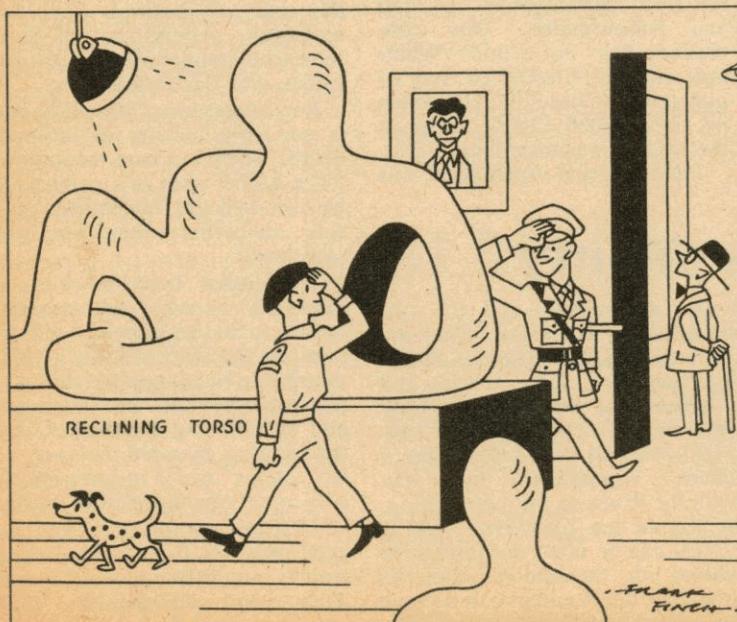
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6

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

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



SACKED-But He Stopped Rommel

HOLDING on to our Alamein position has given us the severest fighting we've yet seen in Africa."

Rommel wrote that nearly three months before Field-Marshal Montgomery launched his great attack; ten days before Monty arrived in Egypt.

It is one of the most potent tributes to Field-Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck. Yet just six days after it was written, General Auchinleck, as he then was, was dismissed from his post as Commander-in-Chief in the Middle East.

Was this sacking justified? In "Auchinleck" (Cassel, 35s) John Connell copiously states the case for the Field-Marshal. In a biography of nearly 1000 pages, half is devoted to the 13 months "The Auk" spent in the Middle East.

When he took over, the theatre's multiple fighting fronts had been reduced to two: Syria and the Western Desert. The Syrian campaign was soon finished, but the Commander-in-Chief still had to look north and east, as well as west. Cyprus seemed a likely place for the next German attack; and if the Russians failed, as then seemed possible, Hitler might drive through the Caucasus. Then Middle East Command would have had to concentrate its resources on defending the oil-fields of Persia and Iraq.

In the Desert, Eighth Army had been driven back and Tobruk was beleaguered. An attack was mounted and Rommel reacted in his usual vigorous style. Eighth Army, too dispersed, was soon in difficulties. The Army Commander lost confidence. General Auchinleck himself took com-

Field-Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck DSO. He angered Churchill by refusing to attack until he was ready—and was dismissed.

mand of Eighth Army and turned a difficult situation into victory. Then he handed over to a new Army Commander and went reluctantly back to GHQ in Cairo. Rommel, defeated but not destroyed, was thrust back into Tripolitania.

Rommel struck, and Eighth Army was driven some way back. A new offensive was mounted, but again Rommel struck first and Eighth Army in turn was rolled back. Again, "The Auk" intervened dramatically, dismissed the Army Commander and brought the disorganised Eighth Army back to the prepared positions at Alamein. Rommel was stopped.

More, Eighth Army, though not yet strong enough for its great offensive, was attacking. Rommel wrote to his wife: "The enemy is using his superiority, especially in Infantry, to destroy the Italian formations one by one, and the German formations are much too weak to stand alone. It's enough to make one weep."

"The Auk" also wrote: "I've never been a good loser. I am going to win." In a formal order, he declared, "Eighth Army will attack and destroy the enemy in his present position."

The Prime Minister arrived in Cairo and visited Eighth Army. "Troops very cheerful, and all seem confident and proud of themselves, but bewildered at having been baulked of victory on repeated occasions," he telegraphed to London. Mr. Churchill was worried about the Desert campaign. To disquietude was added displeasure when General Auchinleck, as he had done before, refused to attack before he was ready. After consulting the War Cabinet, Mr. Churchill wrote his dismissal. The staff officer who carried it, Colonel (afterwards Lieutenant-General Sir) Ian Jacob, wrote: "I felt as if I were just going to murder an unsuspecting friend."

For those who wish to argue the merits of "The Auk" as Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, here are the long reports and telegrams which flowed between Cairo and London and the Desert. Here, too, are appraisals—some far from flattering—of his staff and subordinates. One conclusion sticks out a mile. Whatever General Auchinleck may or may not have been in GHQ, when he commanded Eighth Army in the field he was magnificent.

Field-Marshal Auchinleck was

commissioned in 1902 to join the Indian Army. By the end of World War One, he was marked as a promising officer. In the 1930's he distinguished himself in the Mohmand campaigns on the North-West Frontier.

Early in World War Two he was in Britain, raising the new 4th Corps—an unusual distinction for an officer of the Indian Army. He went to Norway to command the land forces around Narvik. The operations here, it is often forgotten, went well; events in Belgium and France forced the withdrawal of the force.

When invasion seemed imminent, General Auchinleck was commanding the 5th Corps and then Southern Command. He left to become Commander-in-Chief in India, the post which he left when he went to the Middle East and resumed after his dismissal. He was the last Commander-in-Chief in the old style and during the troubled days at the time of partition held the temporary appointment of Supreme Commander over the British, Indian and Pakistan armies.

For a long biography, this one is curiously lacking in intimate detail. There is a bare mention of "The Auk's" skill as a painter. If he ever had any adventures outside soldiering, they are not mentioned.

The author describes him as "isolated" when he held command in Britain and accounts for this, in part, by the British Army's "one minor vice (it is arguable that it is not even a vice)—an inveterate and all-suffusing snobbery." An outstanding example, he says, of "totems" which meant nothing to General Auchinleck was cricket.

"No one, however, except an extremely odd fish, could confess frankly to disliking Auchinleck. They could only be, and they remained, baffled by him."



How To Win The Peace—By Monty

IN 1940, there was a story that after hearing of the fall of France, one Scot said to another, "Suppose England surrenders next?" "Ah, mon," said the second. "It'll be a lang, dour war."

His phrase comes to memory in reading Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery's forecast of the task of winning the peace: "The struggle will be hard and long. But time is on our side—and not the contrary, as so many people think."

After ten years as an "international soldier," Lord Montgomery has set down his views of East-West relations in three articles in the "Sunday Times"—two of them following his visit to Mr.

Kruschev and others in Moscow—and the two Chichele lectures he delivered at Oxford. They are collected in "An Approach to Sanity" (Collins, 8s 6d).

In typical Montgomery style, these articles and lectures are simply written and easy to read. They outline the problems clearly. They offer no easy solution, but the Field-Marshal does offer hope of peace. If, he considers, it is possible to find a way to live and let live with the Russians for a generation, the cold war might become less turbulent. That is the gleam of hope. If it can be done, the answer to another question comes into the field of vision: Is it possible, given time, that the Russians can become part of Christendom?

"The Last Of The Gentlemen's Wars"

THE Boer War at the turn of the century was fought because each half of the white community in South Africa's Transvaal Republic wanted to dominate.

The Boers said the war was for liberty. The British said it was for equality. The vast majority of the inhabitants, who were not white, were ignored by both sides and in the end won neither liberty nor equality.

The story of this extraordinary and unnecessary war is told in impartial and painstaking detail by Rayne Kruger in "Good-bye, Dolly Gray" (Cassell, 30s). In his attempt to portray the social and political happenings which led to the conflict the author is not so successful as in his descriptions of the battles, sieges, expeditions and alarms of the war itself. Here he is on surer ground and his descriptive passages are rich in picturesque detail.

The war went badly for Britain at the start and, despite the arrival of Lord Roberts and a build-up of overwhelming numerical superiority which redressed the situation to some extent, hostilities were far from over when Roberts handed over to Kitchener and returned to England and a delirious public welcome.

The Boer War has been called the "last of the gentlemen's wars" and certainly the old rules of war were scrupulously observed by both sides. The occasional atrocity, inevitable in all wars, was lost sight of in the many acts of chivalry. The day after the early Boer victory at Elandslaagte, for instance, their commander, General Kock, who had been fighting the British since he was 12 years old but bore his enemies no malice, invited British prisoners to

The Year The Lamps Went Out

WHEN World War Two broke out in September, 1939, the writing had been on the wall for several critical and unsettled years. But World War One burst on a prosperous and complacent Britain with the suddenness of a thunderclap.

Though the Balkans were again being tiresome, there had been no foreboding of imminent disaster. Britain felt secure, and the future seemed full of promise. War was scarcely even a speculation.

How it all came about, why Britain got involved ("just for a scrap of paper!") and how the British people, from the King to the man in the street, thought and spoke and acted is told in "1914" (Cassell, 21s), with a sure sense of history and a journalist's eye for human detail, by James Cameron, the *News Chronicle's* chief foreign correspondent and international-affairs columnist.

This is not a war book in the accepted sense of the term; it is far more, the story of the end of an era, a picture of a momentous year in the life of a people who, for good or ill, were never to see their world again as they saw it then.

a smoking concert. "God Save The Queen" and the Boer "Volkslied" were sung by hosts and guests alike with vigorous impartiality.

Temporary armistices were granted to bury the dead and when the Boer General Joubert died the British Commander sent his successor condolences and a moving tribute.

Many of those who fought in this unnecessary war later achieved fame—Churchill, Allenby, Haig, Smuts, Lloyd George, Kipling and even Mahatma Gandhi, who was present at the Battle of Colenso as a stretcher-bearer.

Mr. Kruger's story also reveals a war fought with great incompetence on both sides. To the con-

Native tribesmen played a part in the war and took the opportunity of paying off old scores on the Boers. This painting shows Sekukini tribesmen attacking a Boer patrol.



temporary it was no minor colonial conflict, for Lord Roberts' army was at that time the largest ever to leave Britain, and for the first time on a major scale such up-to-date refinements of war as machine-guns and barbed wire were employed.

Compared with modern war-

fare the casualties sustained by both sides were trivial. The British lost 22,000 men, of whom two-thirds died not from bullets but disease. The Boer death-roll totalled 24,000, of whom, the author says, 20,000 were women and children interned in camps far from the field of battle.

"And What Did You Do, Daddy?"

TELL me about some of the brave people in the war you fought in when you were young, Daddy."

"I haven't time now, dear, but here's a little book you can read about them. It's called 'Great Exploits of the Second World War' by G. F. Lamb, published by Harrap at 10s. 6d. It's very

nicely written, specially for children."

(A week-end passes quietly.)

"Daddy, I've read your book."

"Did you enjoy it?"

"Oh, yes. Especially the Battle of the River Plate, and the fight with the *Bismarck*, and the rescue of that ship *San Demetrio*, and the man who escaped from the

Japanese in Hong Kong, and that Colonel Stirling who went round blowing up German aeroplanes. But that's the only bit about soldiers."—"I know. I expect Mr. Lamb had so many great exploits to choose from, he just couldn't find room for any more soldiers."

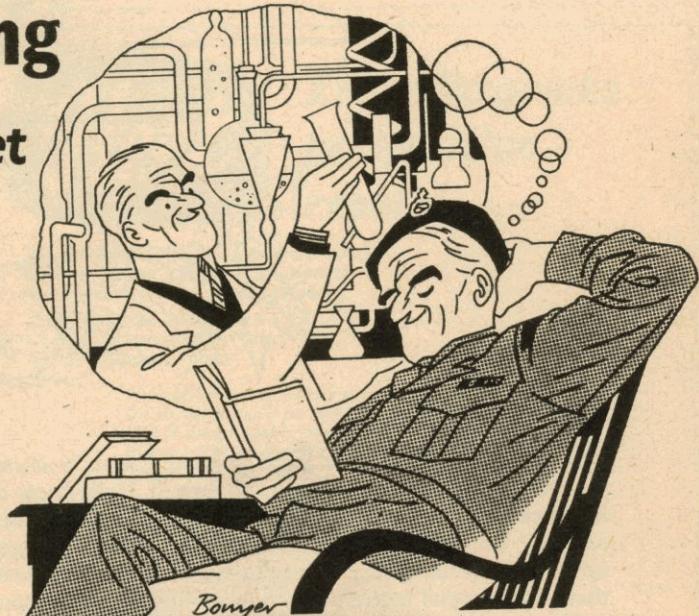
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"I didn't like the bit about the dead man being floated ashore in Spain with all those papers to fool the Germans. It seemed so sad that he couldn't fool the Germans without being dead. Was that really true, Daddy?"—"It was."

"I think all those Battle of Britain pilots were smashing chaps. And the people who were in London in the blitz must have been very brave. Was Auntie Mabel one of them?"—"She was."

"Daddy, Paul's read the book, too. He says he's read it nearly all before in other books and seen half of it on the pictures. He thinks it's a bit of a swizz."—"Paul's thirteen and he's read a lot of war books."

"Do you mean it's a bit young for him, Daddy?"—"Perhaps. But I enjoyed reading it."

Rogers And His Rangers

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL ROGERS, who died on Thursday last in the Borough [of Southwark], served in America during the late war in which he performed prodigious feats of valour... but a long confinement in the Rules of King's Bench reduced him to the most miserable state of wretchedness."

Thus, *The Morning Post* of 18 May, 1795, ungraciously dismissed the death of one of the most colourful and pathetic personalities in British military history: the man whose brilliant exploits won him world-wide fame and whose military teaching is reflected today in the exploits and training of the Commandos.

His story, told by John R.

Cuneo in "Robert Rogers of the Rangers" (*Oxford University Press*, 42s), is an extraordinary chronicle of triumph and disaster.

The son of Scottish parents who emigrated from Ulster, Robert Rogers joined the British cause when war broke out with France in America in 1755 and raised his own private army of Rangers—men already well trained in the arts of tracking, setting ambushes and spying in the forests of New Hampshire. Where other British troops were unwilling to go, Rogers led his men, winter and summer, in week-long expeditions miles behind the enemy lines, attacking Indian camps in swift, bloody forays in which both sides scalped their opponents. Typical



Major Rogers of the Rangers: His valour won him world-wide fame.

of his exploits was a five-week patrol, first on skates on Lake George, then by night through forest-covered mountains to Ticonderoga to attack an Indian post. Not a single man was lost.

Rogers and his Rangers were feted as heroes, which caused jealousy among the British Regular officers, including the generals, and soon Colonel Gage, of the 44th—later to become Rogers' implacable enemy—was ordered to raise Regular Rangers.

At the same time the generals withheld money for Rogers to pay his men and took every opportunity to discredit him. He was put on half pay, but recalled to re-raise the Rangers when the Indians rebelled again.

But Rogers' renewed success did not last long. Still deliberately deprived of money, he spent most of his own savings on his men and was consequently jailed for debt. Then he was refused permission to accept a gift of land from some friendly Indians.

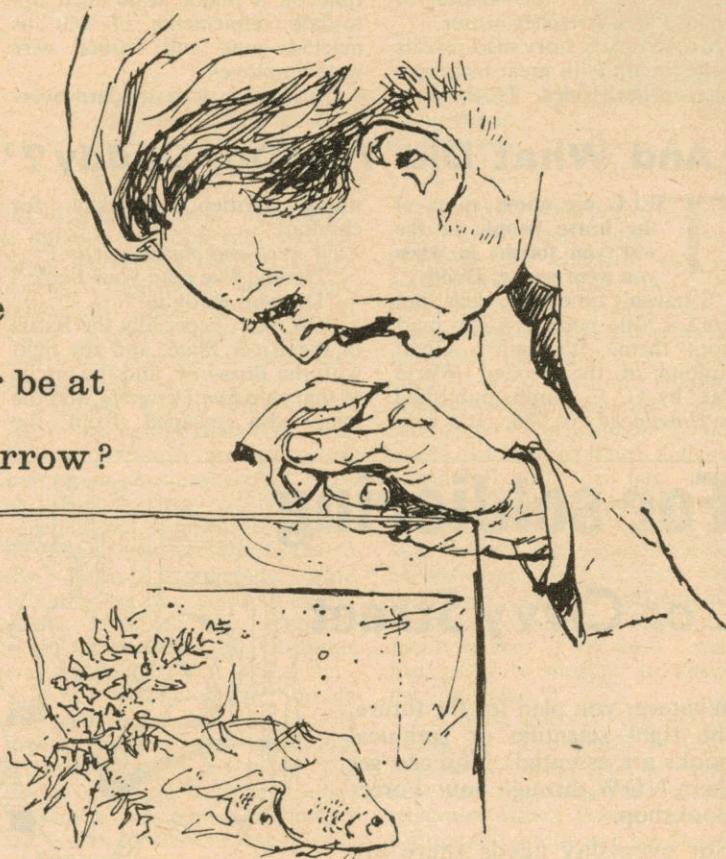
His troubles had only just begun. Embittered, he went to England to try to obtain redress from the King and was mollified with the offer of a captaincy in the Royal American Regiment. He returned to America to take command of Fort Michilimackinac and shortly afterwards was arraigned for treason on a trumped up charge of dealing with the French.

Although acquitted by court-martial, Rogers was relieved of his command by Gage, now the commanding general, and his pay was stopped. Again he went to London to seek help from the home government.

After two years' weary battling he obtained a small pension, but in the meantime lost every penny of his savings and returned to America, where the War of Independence was now raging. Again he offered his services to the British and once more raised his famous Rangers, but was relieved of his command in 1777. He returned to England and spent the rest of his life in and out of debtors' prison between bouts of desperate drunkenness.

When he was buried in the churchyard at the Elephant and Castle only two unknown mourners followed the coffin.

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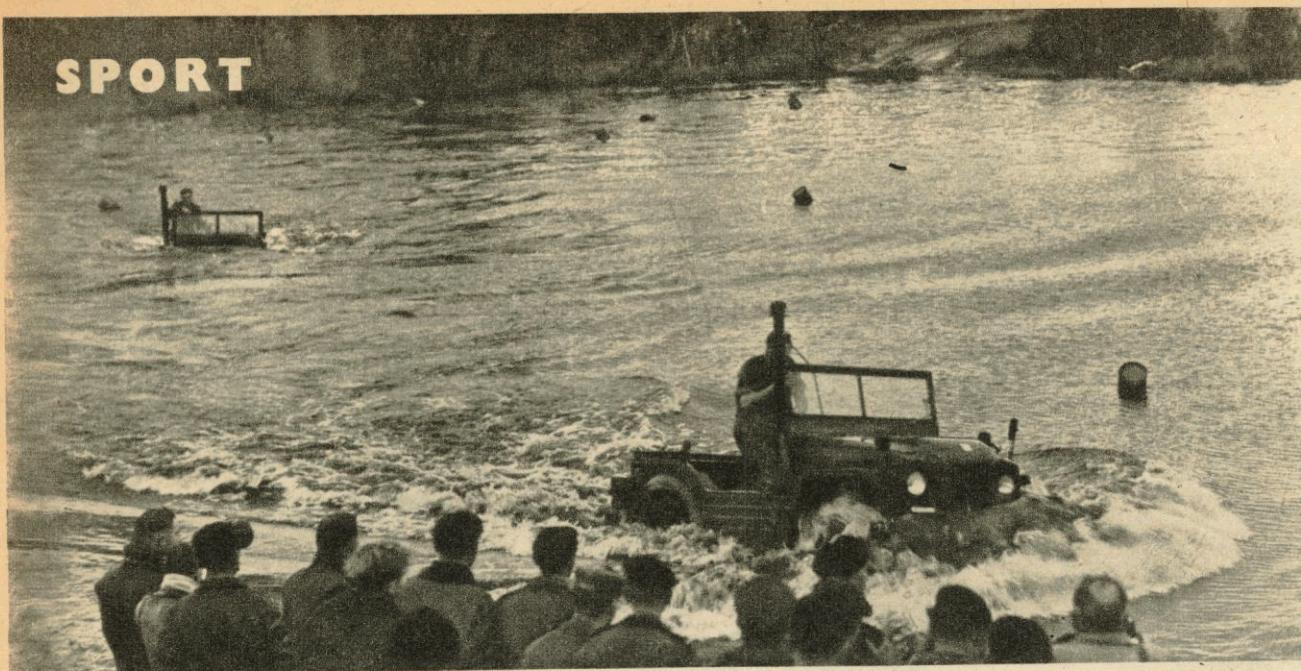
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SPORT



Left: CSM G. Asbury, RASC, the new champion, "swims" a waterproof Champ through the 5-ft deep lake. Note the oil-drum course markers. At times only the drivers' heads and snorkels were visible.

Below: A competitor flogs his machine up a mud-filled gully during the Army's most strenuous rough-stuff trial. Despite the many tricky hazards, every entrant finished the course.

TOUGH, ROUGH, RUGGED

THE Army's toughest, roughest and most rugged test of skill, stamina and nerve produced plenty of thrills at this year's Army Rough Riding championships at Bordon.

Over a wooded course turned into a greasy morass by heavy rain, competitors rode motorcycles and drove three-ton trucks, Land-Rovers and Champs up and down tortuous, precipitous hills, into and out of a 5-ft deep ditch, along a narrow ravine 18 inches deep in mud and, in waterproofed Champs fitted with snorkels, "swam" through a 5-ft deep pond for 75 yards.

Despite all the formidable hazards there was only one casualty—a three-tonner which refused a "jump" and charged into a bank.

The contest, fought out by two-man teams from four formations, was a very evenly-matched affair and only two points separated the winners—the Army Mechanical Transport School—from the runners-up—16 Independent Parachute Brigade. Third, four points behind the winners, were 1 Infantry Division and fourth, 3 Infantry Division.

The individual champion was Company Sergeant-Major G. Asbury, Royal Army Service Corps, of the Army Mechanical Transport School, with 46 points, and runner-up Sergeant L. Pickworth, REME, of 16 Independent Parachute Brigade, with 43 points.

A three-ton truck teeters over a steep bank. One false move and the vehicle could easily overturn. Only the best drivers should try this kind of thing.



Fleet

Xmas limericks competition results . . .

We are pleased to announce the result of our Xmas Limerick Competition. The winning entry was submitted by:—

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The second prize was won by:—
Lt. Ian G. Goldman, RAMC, M.I. Room, 27 G.W. (Fd.) Regt. R.A., Crookham, Hants.

and the third prize by:—
I. K. Mackinnon, 4/5th Bn. The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders (TA), Cameron Barracks, Inverness.

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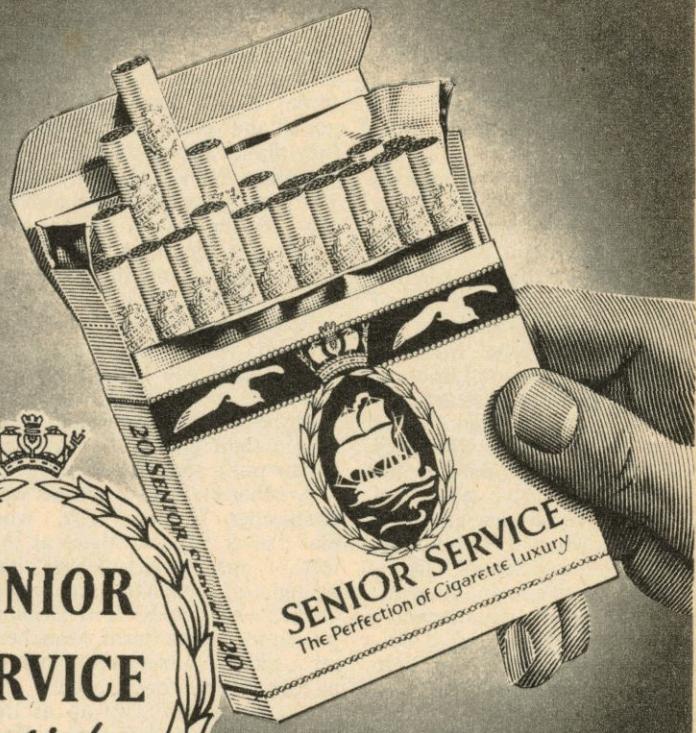
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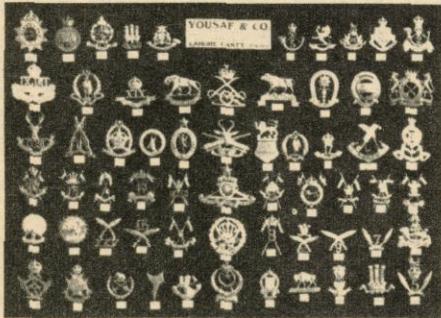
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LETTERS

THAT ROPE TRICK

I was there when your picture of the Indian Rope Trick (SOLDIER, December) was taken. It was a trick picture all right and all the Gunners shown in the photograph were in the swim.

How was it done? A pole was stuck into the ground behind the rope and the Indian boy used this to hang on to. The rest of the rope above the boy's right hand was held in position by a wireless aerial. The "fakir" was a charabah. —Samuel Taylor (ex Gunner, 14 Field Regiment and 100 Anti-Aircraft Regiment, RA), 72 Marigold Crescent, Burnmoor, Houghton-le-Spring, Co. Durham.

I spent 27 years in India and never met anyone who claimed to have seen the Indian Rope Trick, though a few said they knew someone who had! —Lieut-Col. H. S. Bagnall, The Wilderness, Northiam, Sussex.

I spent 30 years in the Indian Army but never either saw the Indian Rope Trick performed or met anyone who had seen it. However, on the North-West Frontier, in the 1930s I did witness a levitation act given by an Indian conjurer in the open lines of an Indian regiment.

A boy assistant stood in front of the conjurer who made a number of passes, apparently mesmerising the boy, who then began to fall stiffly. The conjurer caught him and placed him horizontally between the backs of the two chairs, his neck resting on the top rail of one chair and his heels on the top rail of the other.

He then removed the chair from under the boy's heels and the boy remained stretched stiffly in his horizontal position with his neck supported only on a chair back. A hoop was then passed over the boy's body, showing that there was no vertical support other than the chair back under the boy's neck.

The conjurer then lifted the boy to a standing position, made some more passes, and the boy appeared to come out of a trance and moved about again normally.

We all agreed that we had seen the same phenomenon but whether it was a case of mass hypnotism, a very clever trick or an actual fact, none of us could determine.

There was no possibility whatever of suspension by wires or anything from above, nor of support from below, since the whole performance was conducted within a small circle formed by officers and sepoyos and the conjurer's only "props" were two chairs borrowed from the battalion office and a hoop of his own. —Lieut-Col. G. A. I. Sanders, Yew Close, Bristol Road, Wells, Somerset.

WHY LEFT?

The only reason I know why troops step off with the left foot (Letters, September) goes back to Roman times when legionaries carried their shields on the left arm. When advancing, the first pace was always taken with the left foot to obtain maximum protection from the shield by bringing it to the front first. —Major R. S. J. Thirlwell, NSW Scottish Regiment, 56 Taren Road South, Caringbah, NSW, Australia.

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

Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published.

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

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

GOODBYE TO THE GUNS

I was most interested to read "Farewell to the Guns," (SOLDIER, December) and the tribute so well paid by 58 Medium Regiment, RA, to their 5.5-inch guns—guns which all who knew them grew to love and admire.

However, it was not a unique ceremony. On 19 June, 1954—on the very same parade ground—22 LAA Regiment, RA, paid a similar tribute to the SP Bofors when that gun passed out of service to be replaced by the towed version of the L 60. The salute was taken by the CRA, 2 Infantry Division (now Major-General R. H. Hewetson DSO, Commandant of the Staff College).

Your report attracted great interest and as Commanding Officer of 22 LAA Regiment, RA, I was engaged for some time in voluminous correspondence answering questions about the ceremonial involved. At least one other regiment in Germany also carried out a similar parade. May all honour accrue to any regiment which honours its guns at all times but particularly at such moving moments as depicted in your article. —Brigadier H. E. C. Weldon, 33 Anti-Aircraft Brigade, London, W.12.

75-MILE MARCH

"The March of the 12,000" (SOLDIER, October), reminds me that recently the Union Defence Force Signals (South African Permanent Forces) marched 75 miles in less than 24 hours, carrying rifles and full packs. I do not know how many men took part, but a news film on this feat was shown in South Africa. —J. Llewellyn Jones, PO Box 29, Choma, Northern Rhodesia.

TOUGH CADETS

After reading that 45 cadets marched 45 miles in three days (Letters, December), I thought you might like to hear of a march completed by seven cadets of Brook Park County High School last summer.

The ages of the group ranged from 14 to 19 (the youngest being myself), and we marched 35 miles in one day carrying 50-lb packs. We camped out the previous night and lived on Army "compo" rations. Not one of us dropped out, nor did any of us think of so doing. —R. Williams, 130 Valentine Close, Fareham, Hants.

CHINDITS

There must be hundreds of ex-Chindits who are not aware that a Chindit Old Comrades' Association exists. Membership is open to ex-Servicemen of all arms and nationalities who served under Major-General Wingate's command in 77 Indian Infantry Brigade in 1942-3 and in Special Force in 1943-4.

The Chindit spirit must not be allowed to die. All enquiries should be addressed to me: —J. W. Evanson, 63 Smedmore Street, Wolverhampton.

SPECIAL BOAT SECTION

The Royal Marines who took part in the recent exercise in Norway ("Taffs and Red Devils in the Mountains," SOLDIER, December) were men from No. 1 Special Boat Section and not Commandos. —Captain H. B. Musto, RM, Joint Amphibious Warfare Centre, Poole, Dorset.

SOLDIER

CINEMA PRICES

Not long ago Army cinema admission prices were increased. Now they have gone up again. Does the Army Kinema Corporation think that because a soldier gets more pay he ought to pay more at the pictures? —"Valentino," Catterick.

★ No. Since the last increases, on 29 April, 1956, the Army has been reduced and redeployed and the Army Kinema Corporation has accordingly faced a considerable reduction in admissions, plus a constant rise in labour, equipment and other operating costs.

The Corporation, states the War Office, can make no further economies without lowering the standard of entertainment provided.

The Army Council has therefore approved the increased prices, from 10 January, 1960. In static cinemas the higher priced seats will cost from 6d to 9d more up to a top limit of 3s 6d, and lower priced seats from 3d to 6d more up to 2s.

JOHN CHARD MEDAL

The John Chard Medal (Letters, November) is awarded for 12 years' service in the Armed Forces of the Union of South Africa and is equivalent to our Territorial Efficiency Medal. After a further eight years on the active list the John Chard Decoration may be awarded, irrespective of rank.

Members of the South African Permanent Forces, which corresponds to our Regular Army, are eligible for the Union Medal (Unie-Medalje) after 18 years' service under conditions similar to those pertaining to our Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. —H. M. Campbell, 13 Thorncroft Road, Fratton, Portsmouth.

IT DOESN'T HURT

It is good to learn from your article "Fifty Buckets of Blood" (SOLDIER,



COVER PICTURE

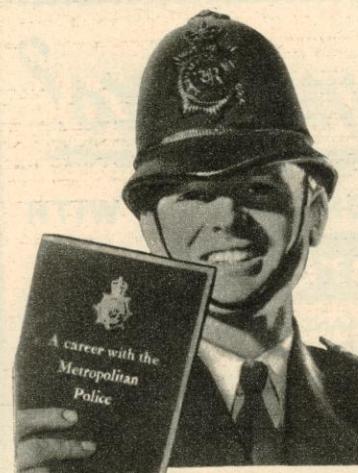
A THRILLING highlight at this year's Bath Tattoo will be a daring ride through hoops of flame by rough riders of the Royal Army Service Corps Horse Transport Company.

SOLDIER's cover picture by Staff Cameraman PETER O'BRIEN shows a team in action during training at Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot.

October) of the fine response of blood donors at Cranwich Camp, Norfolk.

I can testify from personal experience that the donor does not suffer in any way. —Lieut-Col. G. A. I. Sanders, Yew Close, Bristol Road, Wells, Somerset.

LETTERS CONTINUED OVER



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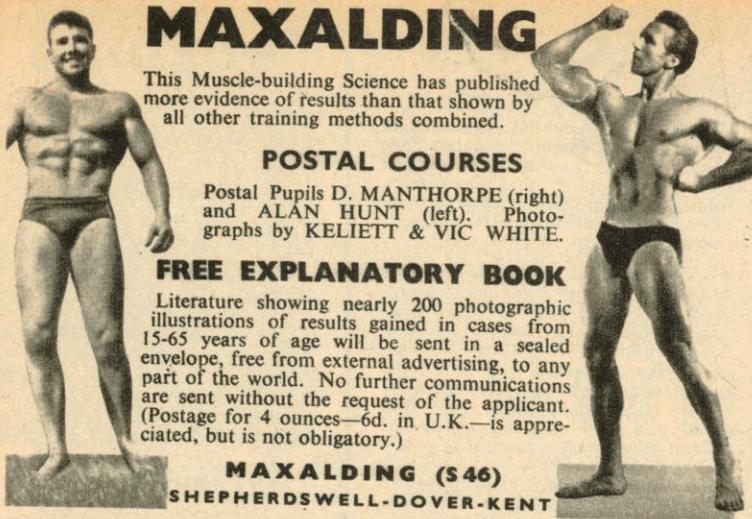
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OLD WIVES' TALE?

Mr. R. Purdy says (Letters, December) that officers of the 92nd Regiment (Gordon Highlanders) did not change the lace in their epaulets to black in memory of Sir John Moore, that they had been wearing black lace since the Regiment was formed and that the Regimental history supports this statement.

I would point out that the "Historical Record of the 92nd Foot," the preparation of which was ordered by His Majesty in 1831, says, "... epaulets, two for all ranks, of silver bullion, having two stripes of yellow in the centre of the strap, with a thistle and band of blue round the edge."

"The Life of a Regiment, Vol I," published in 1901, says that the officers changed the colour of this lace to black in memory of Sir John Moore. A later edition says that "S. M. Milner, the greatest authority on Military Heraldry, states that the change was some time after Corunna."

I quote from what are the best books of the Regimental History, and the story was certainly made known to me when I joined. The black buttons on the spats are reputed to be in memory of the same General.

I pass the ball back to Mr. Purdy who has opened a most interesting subject.—Lieut-Col. G. N. Ross, Mount Pleasant House, Nr. Kintbury, Berks.

Mr. Purdy's interpretation of the Regimental History is not accurate. According to my history the Regiment was embodied near Aberdeen on 24 June, 1794, and numbered 100th Regiment on 20 August, 1794. It became the 92nd Highlanders in 1798 while stationed in Ireland.

My book also says, "Lace is silver with a blue thread in the centre" and the epaulets had a "binding of blue round the edge."—Sgt S. C. Warden, 1st Bn. The Gordon Highlanders, BFFPO 23.

All ranks of the 92nd were supposed to wear black buttons on the spats to commemorate the death of Sir John Moore, and I believe the black sword-knot of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (now The Greenjackets), commemorates the same occasion.—G. A. Dunnett, 773 Ferry Road, Edinburgh 4.

SCOTTISH-IRISH-WELSH

Your article (SOLDIER, December) on the centenary of the London Scottish and London Irish Regiments reminds me that in 1944, during the battle of the Gothic Line, 168 Brigade comprised the first battalions of the

London Scottish, London Irish and Welch Regiments. All three suffered heavy casualties. The 1st Battalion, The Welch Regiment was reduced to cadre strength and the survivors allocated to the other two battalions.

About 200 Welshmen were transferred and I well remember being led away from our battalion area with a piper at our head. Some four or five months later we rejoined our parent unit for the final phase of the Italian Campaign.—B. Whelan (Ex Signal Sgt, 1st Bn. The Welch Regiment), 13 Ainsty Road, Wetherby, Yorks.

PRIVATE DERBY

In your article "New Colours for the Foresters" (October) you mention that the regimental mascot is Private Derby the Fourteenth. He is, in fact, Private Derby the Nineteenth, presented to the 1st Battalion in April last.

The Foresters have had Regimental rams since 1838 and the most eminent was Private Derby the First. He marched 3000 miles, was present at six battles and was decorated with the India Medal in 1862.—K. Purdy, 10 Lodge Way, Mickleover, Derby.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

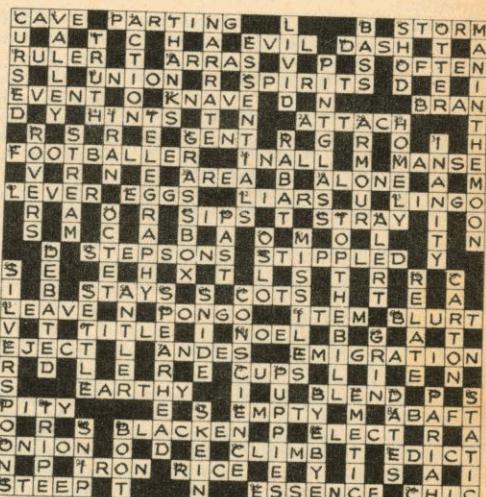
(See page 29)

The pictures vary in the following respects: 1. Length of tie on portrait. 2. Height of picture frame in far room. 3. Ceiling light in far room. 4. Length of officer's stick. 5. Space between "Reclining" and "Torso." 6. Bow tie of man on right. 7. Pocket of man on right. 8. Height of sculpture's "knee," below lamp. 9. Lines in bottom right corner. 10. Dog's right ear.

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

The winner of SOLDIER's Christmas Crossword was: Mr. A. W. Hunter, Regimental Pay Office, Ashton-under-Lyne.

The correct solution was:



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