

**SOLDIER**  
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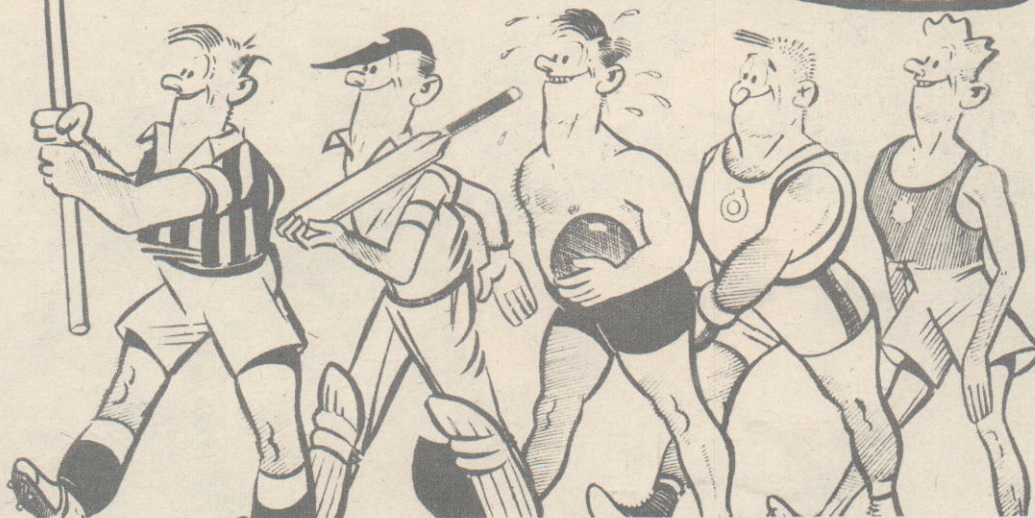


**GOODBYE TO A GREAT SOLDIER**  
(See pages 5-11)



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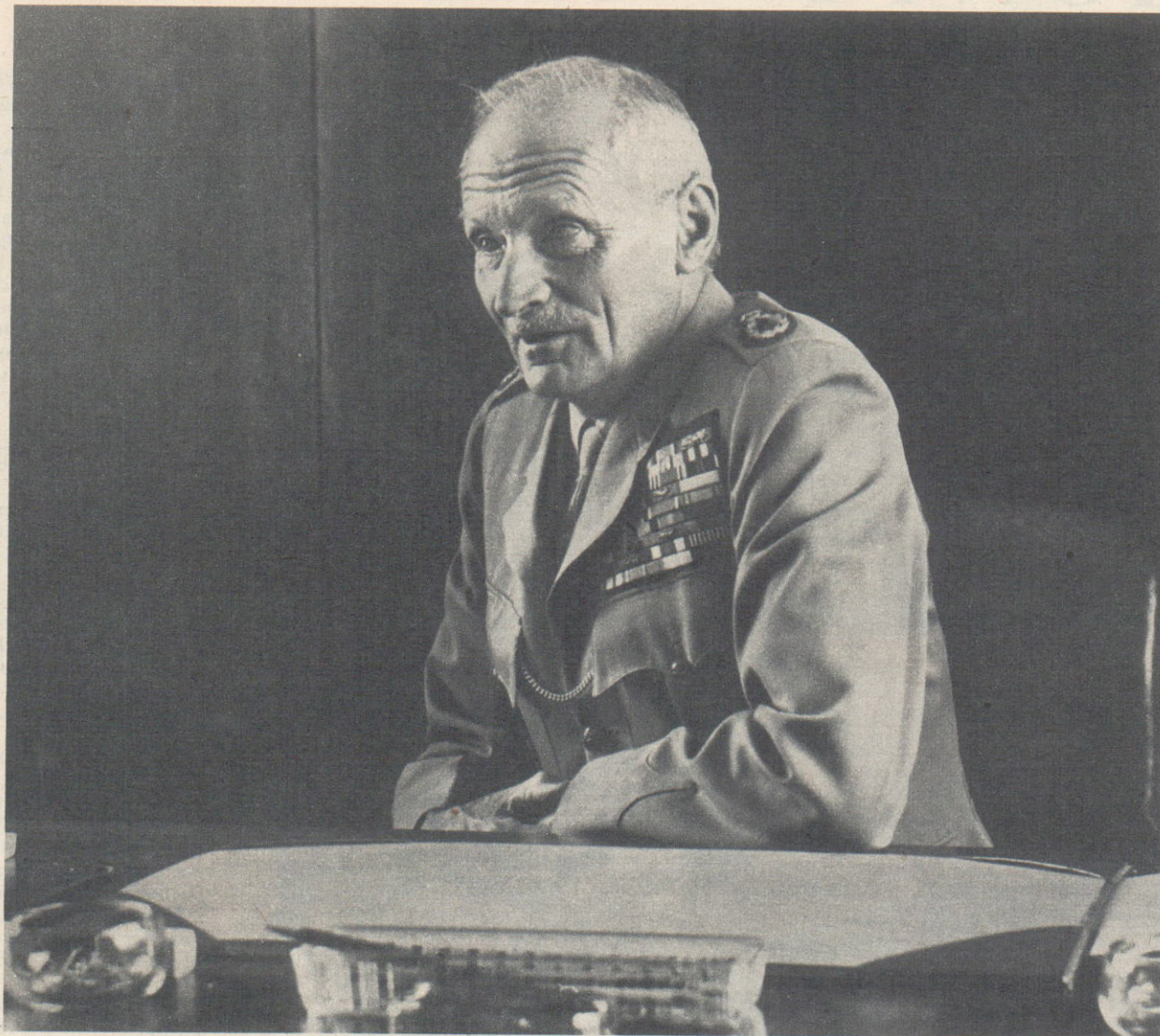
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# GOODBYE TO A GREAT SOLDIER

**T**HIS month the Army says farewell to a great soldier and a national hero: Field-Marshal the Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, KG, GCB, DSO, whose brilliant leadership, planning and tactics in World War Two made him a legend in his own lifetime and earned him a rightful place among the great captains of war.

On Saturday, 20 September, after completing 50 years continuous commissioned service (longer than any other British officer in the past 100 years) "Monty" gives up his appointment as Deputy Supreme Allied Commander in Europe and retires from active service in the British Army.

It is a date every Briton will mark with pride, tinged with sadness, for it records the passing from the military scene of a dedicated soldier and patriot who in war never lost a battle and who in his later years has devoted his life to preserving the peace.

At Alamein, a lustrous name forever to be associated with this famous soldier, he transformed an almost broken army into an unbeatable one and won a victory that proved to be a turning point in

our history. Under him, and supremely confident in his skill, the British and Allied armies stormed into North-west Europe to set the seal on final victory. Since 1951 he has served with great distinction in the military counsels of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

No commander since Wellington inspired his men the way that "Monty" did. Always mindful of casualties, he planned his battles with meticulous attention to detail and would not strike until he was sure of winning. He lived with and like his troops and took them completely into his confidence, so that every man knew he was a member of a great team, each with an important part to play. He set himself the highest standards and expected the same of those who served under him. Inefficiency, especially when lives were at stake, he would not tolerate.

He was every soldier's idea of a fighting general and his men were devoted to him—a devotion born out of respect and confidence that "Monty" would see them through.

**SOLDIER** joins the rest of the Army in wishing the Field-Marshal good luck and happiness in his well-earned retirement.



# "MONTY"—THE SYMBOL OF VICTORY



THE SUPREME HOUR OF A BRILLIANT LEADER OF MEN WHO NEVER LOST A BATTLE. OUTSIDE 21st ARMY GROUP TACTICAL HEADQUARTERS ON LUNEBURG HEATH "MONTY" RECEIVES THE GERMAN SURRENDER DELEGATES

**A**T St. Mark's Vicarage close by the famous Kennington Oval, a son was born on 17 November, 1887, to the Reverend Henry Montgomery and his wife Maud. He was their fourth child and was christened Bernard Law Montgomery; the boy who was destined to become more than half a century later Britain's greatest military commander since the Duke of Wellington and one of the most outstandingly successful of all time.

The boy Bernard, whose nickname "Monty" became the symbol of victory at a desperate time in Britain's history, spent most of his childhood abroad; at the age of two he was taken to Tasmania, where his father had been appointed a bishop, and lived there until he was 14 when the family returned to London.

It was at that early age, when most boys want to be engineers, that "Monty" really began his brilliant military career. When he was enrolled as a day pupil at St. Paul's School, Hammersmith (appropriately, as a general "Monty" planned the invasion of Normandy there in 1944) he unhesitatingly volunteered for the Army Class. He was already set on becoming a famous soldier.

The young Montgomery was not a brilliant student; at the end of one term he finished bottom in mathematics. But he was popular and excelled at games, particularly at cricket and rugby, which may explain his predilection for using sporting terms in World War Two in his famous personal messages to his troops.

Already, in his youth "Monty" showed on the sportsfield his remarkable talent for leadership that was later to play such a vital part in his victories on the battlefield. When he was 18 and captain of the school rugby team his sports master wrote of him: "He was exceedingly plucky but inclined to do too much himself and he often had to be warned against tackling opponents in a manner likely to break their collar-bones. He was a most inspiring leader of boys on the football field. He would assemble the Fifteen around him at half-time and carefully outline his policy for the rest of the game."

In 1906 the future Victor of Alamein went to the Royal Military College at Sandhurst but although he applied himself diligently to his studies, he achieved no great distinction and was commissioned—on 19 September, 1908—into the Royal



"Monty" as a staff officer in World War One. In that earlier war he won the DSO and was once left for dead.

Warwickshire Regiment with which he served in India from 1910-14.

When his battalion returned to England a month before the outbreak of World War One the young "Monty" was a platoon commander and in this role landed in France during the retreat from Mons to receive his first taste of battle.

From the beginning it was clear that he was a born fighting soldier, absolutely fearless and an inspired leader. His gallantry soon won him the Distinguished Service Order—a rare award to a lieutenant. On 13 October, 1914, he led his platoon in a bayonet charge on a strongly-held German position in the village of Meteren and was severely wounded in the chest and invalided home. He returned to France in 1916, this time as a staff captain, and by the end of the war was a major on the staff of 47th (2nd London) Division. He spent the next two years, until 1920, with the first British Army of the Rhine and for a short time commanded the 17th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers.

It was at this time, with the war still fresh in his memory, that the future Field-Marshal began seriously to apply his mind to the higher art of warfare and developed the first of his unshakable convictions on strategy,

OVER . . .



Left: When the Victor of Alamein arrived in North Africa he sported this Australian slouch hat, covered with the badges of the regiments he led. He changed it later for his famous black beret. Above: From the turret of a tank in the forward area the man who beat Rommel surveys the retreating Afrika Korps.



## THE DAY THEY DUG HIS GRAVE

But for the sharp eyes of a surgeon, Field-Marshal Lord Montgomery might have died in 1914—buried alive in a grave that had already been dug for him.

It happened in October, 1914, when Lieutenant Montgomery, leading a bayonet charge, was shot in the chest by a sniper. As he fell unconscious into a shell-hole a soldier who went to his assistance was killed.

After three hours "Monty" was dragged out of the shell-hole and carried two miles on an Army greatcoat by four soldiers who took him to an advanced dressing station. Here, still unconscious, he was left for dead and a burial party dug his grave. Then a surgeon noticed an involuntary tremor in one of his hands and postponed the burial. "Monty" regained consciousness and was invalided home to Woolwich Hospital where he completely recovered.

Describing this incident in a speech at Charing Cross Hospital in 1955 Lord Montgomery commented: "In some extraordinary way I recovered . . . But I am certain what nearly finished me was being picked up and bumped about in a greatcoat. If I had been left alone I would have been all right!"



Conference in the desert. Montgomery explains his plans to his field commanders before the Battle of El Alamein. His first order on arrival in North Africa was "If we are attacked there will be no retreat."

Below: A deeply religious man, Field-Marshal Montgomery, then a Lieutenant-General, reads the lesson in the desert on a national day of prayer.





# "MONTY"— THE SYMBOL OF VICTORY

*continued*

tactics, training and discipline.

His opportunity to teach these principles to others came in 1926 when he went to the Staff College at Camberley as an instructor. Among his pupils were three other soldiers who were later to become famous as successful generals in World War Two—the future Field-Marshal Lord Harding, General Sir Oliver Leese and General Sir Miles Dempsey. One of his early contributions to military efficiency while at Sandhurst was to re-write in 1929 most of the Infantry Training Manual which was still in use at the outbreak of World War Two.

After leaving Sandhurst Lieutenant-Colonel Montgomery went to Palestine with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and on becoming a full colonel in 1931 served in Egypt and India in a

variety of staff jobs. In 1934 he became an instructor at the Staff College at Quetta and three years later, with the war clouds beginning to loom in Europe, returned home to take over as a brigade commander in Southern Command. Twelve months later, now a major-general at the age of 51, he was commanding a division in Palestine and Trans-Jordan but fell seriously ill and was brought home by hospital ship.

Shortly before the outbreak of World War Two he was in harness again, this time as commander of 3rd Division which he took to France in 1939. His uncanny gift for doing the right thing at the right time and his tremendous self-confidence soon attracted the attention of Field-Marshal Lord Alanbrooke, then a corps commander, who wrote in his

memoirs: "There is no doubt that one of 'Monty's' strong points is his boundless confidence in himself . . . I thanked Heaven to have a commander of his calibre. . . ."

Back again in England after Dunkirk General Montgomery, now commanding 5 Corps, threw himself whole-heartedly into the gigantic task of helping to rebuild the shattered British Army and as a result won a reputation, which still persists in some quarters, for being a martinet. Certainly he was a strict disciplinarian and many men, including a number of high-ranking officers, found to their cost that "Monty" detested inefficiency. But the efficient and wise he spurred on to greater achievement and many who served under him have reason to be grateful for his kindness and guidance.



Although a non-smoker, "Monty" always handed out cigarettes to his men in the desert when he visited them.

Right: At work in his caravan in the desert. Throughout the campaign he had a portrait of Rommel over his desk.



In Germany, the Field-Marshal again meets the man who gave him his beret in the desert: SSM J. Fraser, 7th Royal Tank Regiment.



## "Monty's" Beret

No soldier who served under him could think of "Monty" without his black beret. It was as much a symbol of victory as "Monty" himself. Yet, until recently when he met the man who gave it to him, few knew how he came to acquire it.

This is the story. In August, 1942, "Monty" arrived in North Africa to take over Eighth Army, wearing an Australian slouch hat. On one of his tours of inspection before El Alamein he complained to his personal tank driver that his hat was too big to wear inside a tank. The driver handed him his own Tank Corps beret which "Monty" accepted and wore, complete with the Tank Corps badge, throughout the war—from El Alamein to Berlin and even after the war as Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

The driver who gave "Monty" his beret is Squadron Sergeant-Major J. Fraser, now serving with 7th Royal Tank Regiment in Germany, who was introduced to his old chief during "Monty's" recent farewell tour of Rhine Army.

Below: To his troops, "Monty" was the ideal fighting general. Here, during the advance to Tripoli, he poses, hands in pockets, for an Eighth Army sergeant.





The future Field-Marshal's passion for efficiency assumed greater significance when, a few days after taking over South Eastern Command in 1942, he issued a new training directive. The theme was "War is no game and victory will be won only if every officer and man is trained to the highest degree." In future all units would carry out more and tougher field exercises; all ranks, including his own staff, would go on cross-country runs or do physical jerks before breakfast; everyone would learn more about the business of war.

Before long "Monty" instituted his famous "off-the-record" talks to officers and NCOs which were to continue throughout the war as an essential part of his plan to build up confidence between himself and those he led.

None who attended those meetings will forget them. As "Monty" strode briskly on to the stage he would strike his stick three times on the floor and announce: "There will now be an interval of two minutes for coughing. After that there will be no coughing." When the compulsory coughing had died down the general would launch into a masterly account of the "situation," explain how the problems would be solved his way and then proceed to tell his audience what he expected of them. At the end they would depart, confident not only that "Monty" knew all the answers but confident too in their own ability.

In August, 1942, the hour of destiny struck for the man who was to become the outstanding soldier of the war. Britain's

fortunes in North Africa had reached their lowest ebb. Eighth Army had been driven back to the Egyptian border and stood at Alam Halfa, exhausted, demoralised and well-nigh mesmerised by the myth of Rommel's invincibility.

This was the state of affairs that faced General Montgomery when he was hurriedly flown to Egypt to take over Eighth Army after General Gott had been killed on his way to take command. It was a situation that only a man of Montgomery's extraordinary drive, optimism and self-confidence could have tackled—and he revelled in it. Within two days of his arrival he had issued his first order: "I have cancelled the order for withdrawal. If we are attacked there will be no retreat. If we cannot

stay here alive then we will stay here dead. There will be no surrender."

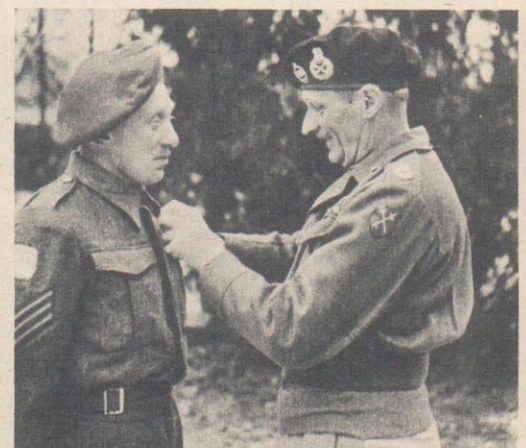
Within a week Montgomery had made his plans for smashing the Afrika Korps. He reorganised his Army, gathered around him a new team of commanders and went out among his battle-weary troops, infecting them by sheer personality alone with much of his own enthusiasm and faith. The effect was electric and almost overnight a new spirit was injected into Eighth Army which somehow instinctively knew that here at last was a man destined to lead them to glory.

Two weeks later, at Alam Halfa, the Afrika Korps was halted and "Monty" now turned his mind to the greater problem of driving the Germans out of

**OVER . . .**



Above: "Monty" lived with and like his men. Outside Sollum he takes time off for a cup of tea and a sandwich. Right: On a flying visit to London after his stupendous victory in North Africa, "Monty" was hailed as a national hero. Everywhere he went police were called out to hold back the admiring crowds.



Above: A hero greets a hero. Field-Marshal Montgomery presents the ribbon of the Victoria Cross to Sergeant George Eardley, MM, of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, who won the highest award for bravery at Overloon in Holland in 1944.

Left: In his staff car, "Monty" crosses the Seine by Bailey bridge at Vernon after the break-out from the Normandy beachhead. Eight months later he accepted the surrender on Luneburg Heath.

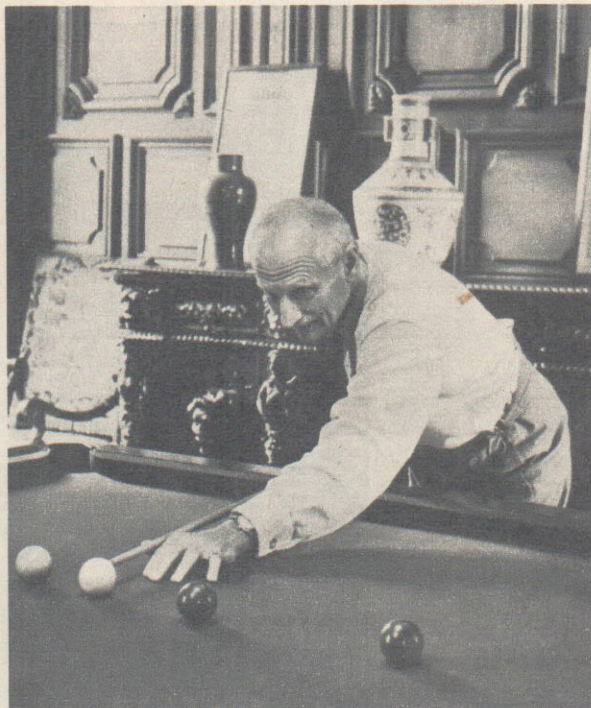




Above: A field-marshal with a corporal's stripes. They were presented by the 11th Battalion, Chasseurs Alpins when "Monty" was made Corporal of the Regiment. Below: At his home in Hampshire the Field-Marshal recalls wartime memories among the regimental badges and trophies he collected in the war.



Below: "Monty" takes time off as Deputy Supreme Allied Commander in Europe for a game of "slosh."



Left: Three warriors confer at an El Alamein reunion in the Albert Hall.

the Rhine but his idea for a powerful thrust on a narrow front was rejected by General Eisenhower. It will always be a matter for conjecture whether Montgomery's plan would have succeeded and so have shortened the war perhaps by many months. In the event, "Monty" found himself saddled with the tremendous task of forcing a bridgehead across the Rhine at Arnhem, a battle that will go down as one of the most glorious in the history of British arms. The battle has been described as a defeat but in many ways it was a great victory: four of the five river lines were captured and from this success were laid the foundations of the final assault on Hitler's Reich.

While directing the bitter fighting in the Scheldt Estuary and eliminating the German forces west of the Meuse, "Monty" was suddenly called away to command the American First and Ninth Armies which had been taken by surprise in the Ardennes. Under "Monty's" directions the battle swung in favour of the Allies and von Rundstedt was thrown back. Then "Monty" went back to the Rhineland and prepared to cross the Rhine.

Two months later came "Monty's" supreme hour. On 4 May, 1945, in his tactical headquarters on Luneburg Heath he accepted the surrender of all German armed forces in north-west Germany.

But that was by no means the end of Field-Marshal Montgomery's brilliant military career. In 1946 he was appointed Chief of the Imperial General Staff and in 1948 chairman of Western European Commanders-in-Chief Committee, the forerunner of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation to which, as Deputy Supreme Allied Commander in Europe since 1951, he has devoted all his thought and time.

It is a remarkable tribute to his outstanding talents that after the end of the war "Monty" was able so rapidly to transform himself from a fighting general with a reputation for being intolerant into a military statesman and a super-strategist with a gift for understanding the implications of nuclear war. As Deputy Supreme Allied Commander in Europe he was as dedicated to the cause of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the preservation of peace as he was in war to the winning of battles.

His name will go down in history as a Great Soldier and patriot.

## "MONTY"—THE SYMBOL OF VICTORY continued

Africa. In high quarters at home he was criticised for not attacking Rommel at once but "Monty" knew his Army was too weak in men and materials. In spite of pressure, even from Mr. Churchill, he refused to move until he was sure he could win. He got his reinforcements and then—on 23 October—launched his famous attack on the Germans at El Alamein which became one of the turning points of the war, opening the way for the invasion of Sicily, Italy and finally North-west Europe.

It was the end for the Germans in Africa. After being subjected to the heaviest artillery barrage ever mounted, the Afrika Korps broke and fled westwards, relentlessly pursued by a now exultant Eighth Army all the way to Tunis. For "Monty," whose name had now become a household word in Britain, it was a tremendous triumph. All the tactical theories which he had for so long sought to inculcate in others had been vindicated.

Soon, "Monty" was to achieve

even greater renown, leading Eighth Army into Sicily and then into Italy from where, in 1944, he was recalled to England to plan under General Eisenhower the final blow against the Germans and to lead the British and Canadian armies back into the mainland of Europe.

Back in England he was welcomed as a national hero and from the day he returned he began to forge the bond of mutual confidence with the men he was to lead in the greatest military enterprise in history. In the hours he could spare from the gigantic task of directing the invasion plan and the final defeat of Germany he travelled throughout the country by special train, visiting his troops and speaking to the men and women in the arms factories making the weapons to finish the war. The campaign was more successful than even he imagined possible. Throughout the land confidence grew into certainty that with "Monty" at the helm the war would soon be over.

In his old school at Hammer-smith "Monty" completed the invasion plan and when it was ready moved down to Portsmouth shortly before D-Day, serenely sure that it would succeed. On the day the invasion was launched he held a press conference, hatless and dressed in a grey polo jersey and corduroy slacks, seemingly the most unconcerned person present. "The operation has begun according to plan," he announced, "and now I have nothing to do. I am not worrying."

With the invasion, "Monty" renewed his duel with Rommel and every move in the subsequent campaign went according to plan—"Monty's" plan. Characteristically, when criticised for not hastening the break-out of the British and Canadian forces in the Caen area he refused to change his strategy, biding his time until he could deliver the blow from which the Germans never recovered.

As his armies swept victoriously across the Seine, "Monty" was already planning to "bounce"



## WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT "MONTY"

"The British have found a leader. This man is like Cromwell."  
—The New York Times.

"That austere, Cromwellian figure."—Sir Winston Churchill.

"That intensely compacted hank of steel wire."—George Bernard Shaw.

"We are losing a friend whose advice has been of enormous value and for whom we have the deepest affection."—General Norstadt, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe.

"England has always been blessed in finding the right man in her time of need and in Montgomery she found the man she needed to lead her Armies to victory."—Field-Marshal Sir Claud Jacob.

"He is probably the best battle fighter or stage manager of battles that we have produced for generations . . . He takes infinite trouble in the preparation of his plans . . . He is endowed with a thick skin, a very disarming naivety, a trained simplicity of thought . . . He is always the leader. He will seek advice and after mature thought will give orders which he rarely goes back on . . . All those who work with him or for him can be assured of an added excitement to the joy of living."—Lieutenant-General Sir Ronald Weeks, Deputy Chief of the Imperial General Staff from 1942-45.

"He is SHAPE's blacksmith, its schoolmaster conscience—terrible-tempered Mr. Bang."—The American magazine "Time."

Probably his greatest asset was the skill with which he unerringly put his finger on the essentials of every problem . . . He planned his battles down to the smallest detail with an ice-cold brain."—Lieutenant-General Sir Brian Horrocks, one of "Monty's" corps commanders.

"You have probably read in the newspapers that my old divisional commander—Lieut-General Montgomery—is taking over the command of the 8th Army! Now you will see some action. If anyone can beat Rommel it's Monty!"—From a letter written by a Private Royce of 3rd Division, to his mother in 1942.

"He gave us a masterly exposition of the situation, showing in a few days he had firmly gripped the whole problem. He accurately predicted Rommel's next attack and explained his plans to meet it. All of which proved true and sound."—Sir Winston Churchill in his memoirs recounting a visit to Montgomery's desert headquarters.

"I was dumbfounded by the rapidity with which he had grasped the situation facing him, the ability with which he had grasped the essentials, the clarity of his plans and above all his unbounded self-confidence—a self-confidence with which he inspired all those he came into contact with . . . I went to bed that night with a wonderful feeling of contentment . . . I had an inward feeling that at last we might begin to meet with some success."—Field-Marshal Lord Alanbrooke after visiting Montgomery before El Alamein.

"Everything went as Montgomery had predicted . . . This great soldier, in three weeks had galvanised his disillusioned and battle-weary troops with his own self-confidence. Officers and men were no longer looking over their shoulders expecting retreat but shared their new commander's belief that they could destroy the enemy."—Sir Arthur Bryant in "The Turn of the Tide."

"I don't think I remember having had one row with my chief. There was often a lot of smoothing out to be done when he had been on the warpath or explanation in more silky phrases after a 'Monty-gram' had gone off. A 'Monty-gram' was the name given to a signal written by Montgomery himself when he was making his views quite clear—with no room for doubt . . . It has often been said that Montgomery never issued paper or read documents. This, of course, is not strictly true . . . He did read papers, but I reduced these to the very minimum. As a general rule, however, we conducted all our business verbally."—Major-General Sir Francis de Guingand, "Monty's" Chief-of-Staff.

"I was gratified and also relieved to find that Montgomery was delighted and eager for what I had always regarded as a majestic, inevitable but terrible task . . . The general was in the highest spirits; he leaped about the rocks like an antelope and I felt a strong reassurance that all would be well."—Sir Winston Churchill in his memoirs after offering "Monty" command of 21st Army Group for the invasion of Normandy.

"The fact that such trophies will hereafter be the personal property of the British Commander-in-Chief in the field should be an incentive to all young officers in the British Army to repeat the episode . . . whenever the public interest requires."—Sir Winston Churchill, announcing that Field-Marshal Montgomery would be allowed to keep the German surrender document.

## ... AND WHAT "MONTY" HAS SAID

"The battle which is now about to begin will be one of the decisive battles of history . . . The eyes of the world will be upon us . . . Together we will hit the enemy for 'six' right out of North Africa . . . Let every officer and man enter the battle with a stout heart and the determination to do his duty so long as he has breath in his body."—From his personal message to Eighth Army on the eve of the battle of El Alamein.

"The time has come to deal the enemy a terrific blow in Western Europe . . . To us is given the honour of striking a blow for freedom which will live in history and in the better days that lie ahead men will speak with pride of our doings. . . I have complete confidence in the successful outcome of the operations . . . With stout hearts and enthusiasm for the contest let us go forward to victory . . . And good hunting on the mainland of Europe."—From his personal message to troops of 21st Army Group before the invasion of Normandy.

"Seize your opportunities. Be bold. Get fire in your bellies."—In a speech addressed to Britain's youth.

"A close study of the enemy commander is necessary if you are to succeed in war . . . Go big. Never turn down a project merely because it is difficult. Create enthusiasm for the plan. Use the best experts but do not be dictated to by them."—In an address to the Staff College.

"I did not in the war tell soldiers all the truth, but what I did tell them was the truth, and I did tell them what it was necessary for them to know to play their part. That built up a sort of confidence between us."—In an address to pupils of St. Paul's School.

"This beret is worth two divisions."—Concerning his Tank Corps headgear when higher authority objected that it was unorthodox.

"In all the battles we have fought together we have not had a single failure . . . This has been due to the devotion to duty and whole-hearted co-operation of every officer and man rather than to anything I may have been able to do myself. But the result has been a mutual confidence between you and me, and mutual confidence between a commander and his troops is a pearl of very great price."—In his farewell message to Eighth Army.

"If the nations of the free world do not throw away everything they have done in the last ten years in building up tremendous deterrents to aggression, the chances of a third world war in any foreseeable future are very small."—In a speech after announcing his retirement at the age of 70 last year.

"As you know, I foretold a man-made satellite in 1955. I also said that if it were possible to land on the moon we must do so before the Russians, unless of course it was not possible to return, in which case there would be no objection to the Russians beating us to it."

"The Channel Tunnel is a wild-cat scheme. Strategically it would weaken us. I am whole-heartedly opposed to it. If we have any money to spare it would be far better spent on roads, education, hospitals, homes for the people and to reduce the burden of taxation."—In a speech to the Navy League in 1957.

"Seek happiness through achievement which results from hard work. Be adventurous in spirit."—His "Soldier's Creed" published in an American magazine, 1952.

"The best way of cutting down the flow of hooligans and criminals into the world is caning in the schools. I was well beaten myself—and I'm the better for it."

"It is an excellent thing for men to get away from barracks, bugles, parades and discipline and up into the mountains to ski. It develops quick-thinking and a splendid team spirit. It breaks down class barriers and barriers of rank."

"War is certainly a rough and dirty business but politics—by gum!"

"It makes me sad to see the way in which certain generals who served under him (Sir Winston Churchill) in the late war, now criticise him and snipe at him and write about how difficult he was. He did more to ensure that we won the war than any one single man. There is one general who will never criticise him . . . and that is this one."

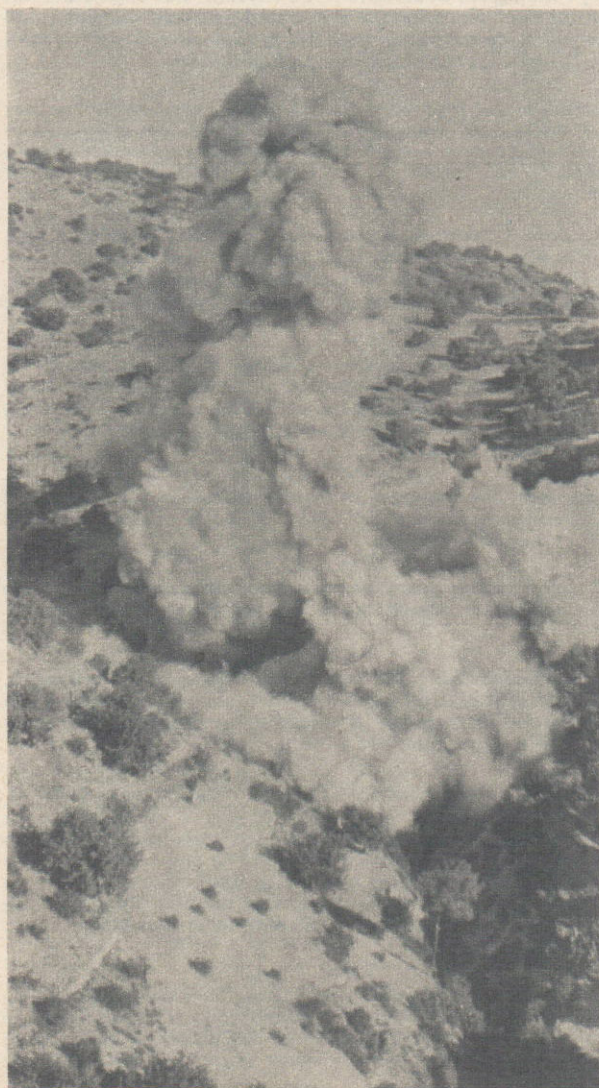
"No politics for me. On the day I retire I shall have plenty to keep me occupied. I am on the governing body of three schools. I hope to see some cricket. I am President of Portsmouth Football Club which must stay in the First Division. Occasionally I may speak when I feel my experience can be of some use."



# CYPRUS . . .



*Left: A Sapper lowers a string of plastic explosive "sausages" down a hole in the rock in the Troodos Mountains where a large number of EOKA terrorists may be hiding.*



*Below: The charge is exploded and a great hole blown which may lead a way into an unexplored cave.*



*Right: In a deserted street in Nicosia five men of the Suffolk Regiment patrol with guns at the ready. In streets like this a gunman can shoot and quickly disappear into a labyrinth of passages and houses.*





# MAN HUNT!

**W**HILE the headlines from Cyprus focused attention on clashes between Greek and Turkish mobs, nearly 2000 British soldiers and Royal Marine Commandos were quietly and systematically carrying out the biggest and most thorough search for EOKA terrorists the island has yet known.

As SOLDIER went to press, the hunt, known as operation "Kingfisher," had been going on for the past three months in the rugged foothills of the Troodos Mountains.

It began when reports were received that a large number of terrorists, including Colonel Grivas, their leader, were hiding in a rabbit warren of underground tunnels and caves north of Limassol. Immediately hundreds of troops were rushed to the area, some by helicopter but most by lorries and armoured cars, and in a matter of hours a cordon was thrown round 100 square miles of vine and scrub-covered slopes. With tracker dogs and mine detectors the troops worked their way towards the hide-out, searching every inch of the ground and examining every tree and rock.

After three days the ring was drawn tightly round a 50-square mile area and since then the search has gone on, with minute attention to detail, by day and night. For several weeks nearby villages were completely isolated and no one was allowed to enter or leave without a close scrutiny by military patrols. When least expected, patrols swooped on villages and searched every house, and guards at heavily-defended road blocks stopped all vehicles passing through the area. Many soldiers stood guard in mountain hide-outs so remote that they had to be supplied by helicopters. At

OVER . . .

*Above (left): At a hastily erected road block in a village outside Nicosia, British soldiers stop and search a lorry which might be carrying arms or terrorists. Above: Searching for hidden caches of arms and ammunition, troops scour a Limassol hillside, beating every bush, inspecting every rock.*

*After a clash between EOKA and Irish Guardsmen, other soldiers were called in to search and interrogate villagers near the spot where the action was fought. No chances are taken. Armed men stand by while their comrades "frisk" every suspect and look for arms.*





# CYPRUS...

## MAN HUNT! *continued*



*Above: A patrol of the Royal Welch Fusiliers approaches a village in the Limassol area in the hunt to track down General Grivas's thugs. The patrol leader is Lance-Corporal Edmund Kelland.*

*Left: With mine detectors, troops in search of bandits check all buildings for possible hiding places for arms and ammunition. Note the left-hand man closely inspecting even the mortar between the stones.*

*An armoured car stands guard at a village cross-roads near Famagusta where, a few hours before, two Cypriots were killed and 22 British soldiers injured in a violent clash with E.O.K.A. terrorists.*

night, searchlights played over the hills, and troops in ambush positions kept watch by the light of flares for terrorists attempting to break through the cordon.

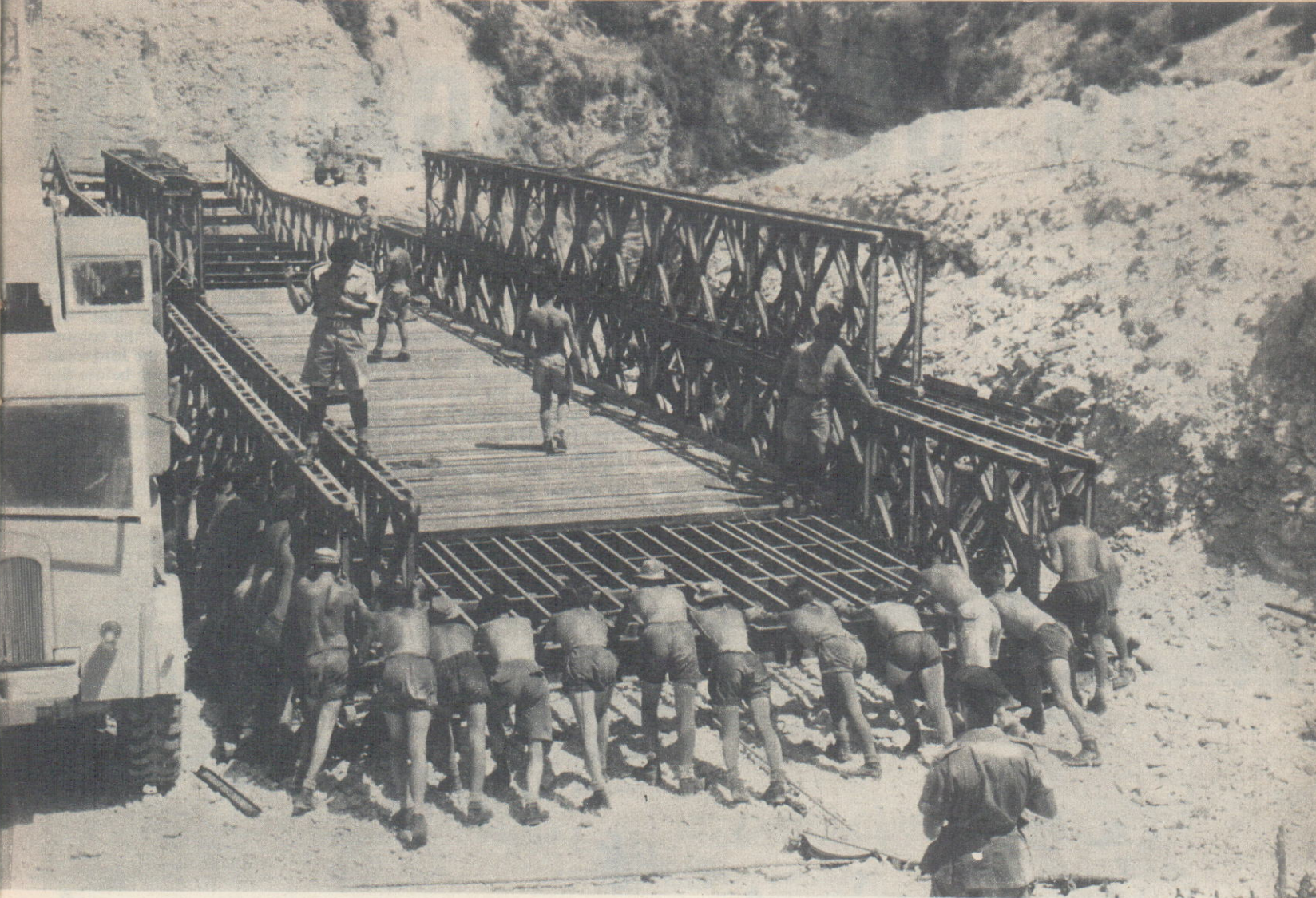
The spot where the terrorists were believed to be hiding was a desolate valley, more than an hour's walk across the mountains from the nearest road, which is thickly honeycombed with caves and connecting tunnels. To search all the caves thoroughly was an impossible task so the Royal Engineers were called in to blow them up and block the entrances and passageways between them.

Fears that EOKA may be planning a new all-out campaign of terror were heightened when a gang of ten armed terrorists attacked a platoon of the Irish Guards in a remote camp in the Troodos foothills. It was the fiercest clash between British troops and terrorists for nearly two years, and although there were no casualties on either side, the fight went on for nearly an hour before a frontal assault by the Irish Guards drove off the terrorists.

Several days later an officer and a trooper of The Royal Horse Guards were murdered—shot in the back while shopping in Famagusta.







## THE ARMY LENDS A HAND

**O**NE side of the coin of the Army's activities in Cyprus tells of gun battles with terrorists, of baton charges on screaming, stone-throwing mobs, of armed patrols, ambushes, curfews and searches.

Such news makes headlines and if they think of the British soldier in this riot-torn island only as an implacable, if kindly, armed policeman.

The other side of the coin tells a very different story—a story, alas, all too little known—of the considerable assistance the Army has given, and is still giving, to the inhabitants of Cyprus to make life easier for them and to bring about a more friendly understanding between soldier and Cypriot.

Many Cypriots—Greek and Turk—have reason to be grateful to the Army which has taken in its stride tasks like distributing food, repairing and erecting jetties for impoverished fishermen, grading and re-surfacing roads, repairing damaged water and power supplies. This summer many troops, some in their spare time, helped farmers gather in their crops and, with Army lorries, cheerfully moved scores of families and their furniture from riot areas to safer homes in other villages.

Army ambulances, and even, on occasion, helicopters have been used to rush expectant mothers and

the outside world can be excused

seriously ill villagers to hospital.

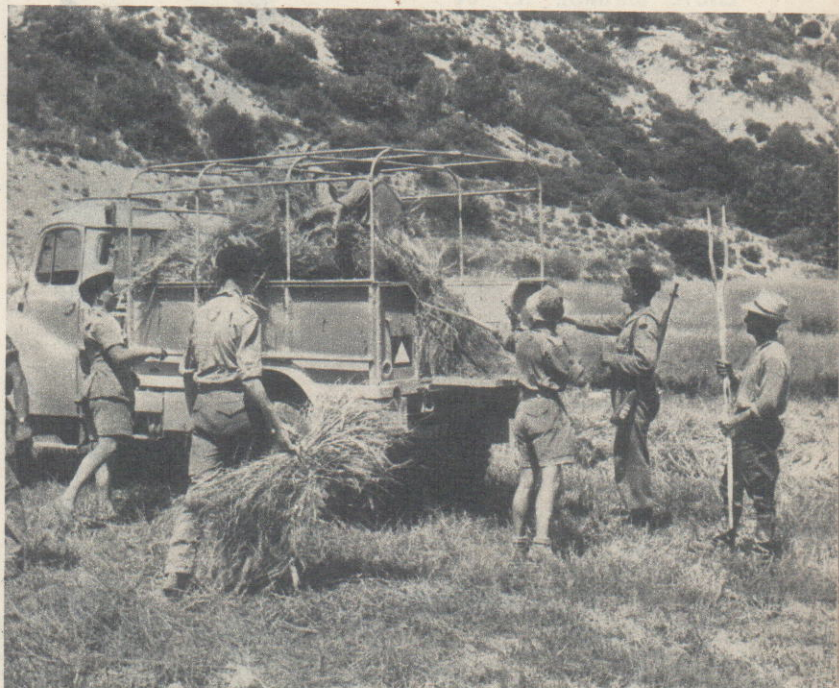
An outstanding example of the help the Army has given recently is the building of a Bailey bridge across a deep ravine to connect the villages of Yerovasa and Trozena in the Limassol area. The two villages are each several miles from two main highways leading to the coastal towns and the inhabitants of each had to make a lengthy detour across country to reach them.

The District Commissioner of Limassol mentioned the problem to the Army and almost immediately the Royal Engineers moved in to erect the Bailey bridge. Now, people from both villages can reach either of the main roads in less than a quarter of the time it took them before the bridge was built.

The Sappers have also recently been carving a road across the Troodos foothills in the south-west of the island to hasten supplies into the area where terrorists are believed to be hiding. This road will later be handed over to the local authorities.

*Troops take time off from hunting terrorists to help a farmer in the Limassol area harvest his grain. But an armed guard stands by—just in case. Many tons of grain were moved in Army lorries to curfewed villages.*

*Sappers of 40 Squadron 37 Field Engineer Regiment, push a section of the bridge into place across the gorge to connect the two villages. More than a ton of plastic explosive was used to cut approaches to the bridge site. The bridge was paid for by the Cypriots—the Sappers gave their services free.*





# ON GUARD AGAIN IN JORDAN

**T**WELVE months to the day after leaving Jordan the British Army found itself back there again—once more on guard amid the sun-scorched sand and barren rocks in one of the most torrid and inhospitable spots in the world.

Last year, when the Anglo-Jordanian Treaty came to an end, the British garrison in Akaba, at the southern tip of Jordan, wound up its affairs and filed quietly aboard a troopship for home, hoping that the British Army would never have to serve there again.

But their hopes were short-lived. Within 24 hours of an

appeal to Britain for help, more than 2000 men of 16th Independent Parachute Brigade were flown from Cyprus to Amman, the Jordanian capital.

For the paratroopers this was the second urgent move by air in a few weeks. Shortly before, they had been rushed from Britain to Cyprus to help put down com-

munal riots. Now they were on their way to protect Britain's vital interests in an area which seemed likely to go up in flames at any moment.

As SOLDIER went to press the men of 16th Independent Parachute Brigade, led by Brigadier Tom Pearson DSO, were settling down in the sweltering heat with characteristic British cheerfulness, ready for any eventuality.

A few hours after landing at the former Royal Air Force base

in Amman, bringing with them their own vehicles, equipment and food, they had dug defensive positions on the airfield and were sharing guard duties at military installations and the British Embassy with the colourfully dressed men of the Jordanian Army. It was not long before the paratroopers were exchanging their red berets for the Jordanians' red and white flowing headdress.

Nor was training neglected, although the troops were confined

to the airfield. The paratroopers soon solved that problem by organising route marches and section "schemes" around the perimeter.

Living conditions were rough. The men slept in tents in the middle of the airfield and for the first few days ate nothing but "compo" rations, a diet which was later enlivened by the welcome arrival of scores of hawkers with locally grown fresh fruit. One of the biggest problems was

keeping cool and Arab tradesmen

did a roaring business selling soft drinks to the perspiring paratroopers. This is not the first time British troops have been called on to stand guard in Jordan. Lawrence of Arabia had his headquarters there in World War One, and in World War Two it was scheduled to become a Middle East base if Egypt had been overrun. After the late war, in 1949, the British Army returned to Jordan when an Israel-Jordan flare-up seemed likely.



ON A FLAT-TOPPED ROOF OVERLOOKING THEIR TENTED CAMP, MEN OF 16TH INDEPENDENT PARACHUTE BRIGADE SET UP SANDBAGGED POSITIONS TO GUARD AMMAN AIRPORT. IN THE BACKGROUND LIES THE CITY.



A section of paratroopers arrives at the British Embassy in Amman to share guard duties with the Jordanian Army. Below: In an Amman street a Jordanian policeman and paratroopers discuss security problems.



## SOLDIER TO SOLDIER

**H**ISTORY proves that war-winning generals—in Britain, at least—emerge when all seems lost. Such a man was Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein.

In World War Two Britain's fortunes were at their lowest point in 1942 when "Monty" took over Eighth Army, which had been beaten back to the Egyptian border. The Germans were the masters of Europe; on the high seas Hitler's submarines were exacting a near-fatal toll of Allied shipping; from the air Britain was being slowly beaten to her knees.

Then, almost overnight, at El Alamein, came the first taste of victory and with it the conviction that Britain must triumph in the end. It was Sir Winston Churchill who said, "Before Alamein we never had a victory. After Alamein we never had a defeat."

Alamein was the turning-point of the war and no one was more responsible for the miraculous change in our fortunes than "Monty," the man who will assuredly go down in history as the greatest general in any army in the past 100 years.

Later events—in North Africa, Italy and North-West Europe—were to stamp him with the mark of the master planner and tactician and a leader of men in war the like of whom had not been seen since the Great Duke of Wellington.

As he steps down at the end of a long and brilliant career, SOLDIER echoes the sentiments of a grateful nation and a proud Army by wishing him long life, good health and (in one of his own well-known phrases) "good hunting" in the years to come.

★ ★ ★

**I**F the latest recruiting returns are anything to go by—and there could be no more accurate yardstick—the Minister of Defence (Mr. Duncan Sandys) looks like winning his ten-to-one bet that conscription can be ended by 1962.

The figures for May reveal a continued large increase in the number of men enlisting on long-term engagements. In May last year 1820 men joined for three years, 121 for six and 171 for nine years. In the corresponding month this year the totals were 365 for three years, 1307 for six years and 490 for nine years. In terms of man years this means an increase of nearly 100 per cent, from 7725 for May, 1957 to 13,347 for May of this year.

In spite of this encouraging trend the number of Regular enlistments from National Servicemen and extensions from short-service Regulars continues to be disappointing. As SOLDIER pointed out last month, there is room here for tremendous improvement.

★ ★ ★

**M**R. JAMES PITMAN, Tory Member of Parliament for Bath, has a new idea for bringing in recruits: dress all Servicemen in brightly coloured full dress uniforms, scarlet tunics for the soldier and yellow ones for the airman.

"There is a growing dress-consciousness among men these days," he says, "and I believe Mr. Sandys should take a leaf out of the Teddy Boys' book and make Service uniforms more exciting than the dull, drab things we have to suffer now. With the Army all in scarlet tunics you'd have a wonderful spectacle on ceremonial occasions."

Hmm! On the subject of dress a Miss O. Seller, of Bristol, has other ideas. Writing to a daily newspaper recently she suggested that all Servicemen should wear a white cap and blue apron. "After all," she comments, "we have played nursemaid overlong to problem countries."

★ ★ ★

**T**HE news that the title of the Midland Brigade is to be changed to the Forester Brigade comes as a pleasant surprise to those who have criticised the War Office for lack of imagination in selecting names for the new amalgamated regiments and the newly constituted brigade groups.

The choice will nowhere be more popular than in the three regiments which make up the Forester Brigade: the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, the Sherwood Foresters and the Royal Leicestershire Regiment. Forester is a name which reflects the beautiful wooded countryside in which they were all raised more than 200 years ago when the forests of Arden, Charnwood and Sherwood covered Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

Having set a precedent, perhaps the War Office could take a look at some other brigade group titles, especially Home Counties, a name which could inspire nobody.



# SAPPERS

EVER-READY TO TACKLE THE ODD JOB, SAPPERS LEND A HELP. ING HAND TO PREPARATIONS FOR THE EMPIRE GAMES  
AND THE LLANGOLLEN EISTEDDFOD, AND STRENGTHEN THEIR TIES WITH THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## MAKE A ROWING COURSE

**H**-BOMBS to rowing. Sappers take a little change like that without turning a hair.

In March, the men of 50 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers (part of 25 Corps Engineer Regiment) arrived home from Christmas Island. Two months later they were back on operations, setting up the rowing course for the Empire Games at Lake Padarn, under the shadow of Snowdon.

The squadron was based at Maidstone, in Kent, waiting to go to Germany, when the Lake Padarn job came along and about 100 men, under the squadron commander, Major R. W. T. Britten MC, moved into the Royal Air Force camp at Llanberis on the shore of the lake.

Lake Padarn is nearly two miles long and between 200 and 300 yards wide for most of its length. To one side is the lower end of the Snowdon range, and to the other another range with 3000-ft peaks. This setting makes the lake splendid for competition rowing; thanks to the hills no winds blow across it, only along its length.

The squadron's task was to lay out a course 2000 metres long with coloured overhead markers 20 ft above the water at eight points. By keeping their craft in line with the markers, oarsmen in coxless boats would be able to steer straight courses.

The difficulty was that Lake Padarn is 90 ft deep in places, which makes rigid anchoring from the bottom impossible, and that the bottom is rocky and would not give a hold to anchors anyway. So the Sappers placed their faith in steel cables, an inch and a half in circumference, anchored to the shores.

First the Lake was surveyed and markers set up. Then ring-bolts were cemented to the shores, taking a heavy toll of the Sappers' steel drills.

With the ring-bolts in position, the Sappers began laying four cables the length of the lake, the outer two to hold rafts from which the overhead markers would be strung and the inner two to hold the markers on the limits of the 60-metre-wide, four-lane course.

The cables were laid from a raft made of two folding boats on which was a platform of bridging roadway, and the raft was then towed by a third folding boat with an outboard motor. On the platform the drums of cable were mounted. The task of steering the raft would have distressed the oarsmen for whose benefit all this was taking place. The outboard motor side-twisted the contraption one way, the weight of the cable pulled it another, and two Sappers

with oars strove to maintain a balance and keep the whole thing going in the right direction. Any failure by the outboard motor was a minor disaster, since the weight of the cable then pulled the raft backwards and that meant slack to be taken up.

While the cables were being laid, more rafts were being built on the beach. Each consisted of two folding boats on which was built a 20-ft scaffolding tower. There were only a dozen of these rafts because where the lake was narrow the towers could be built on the shore.

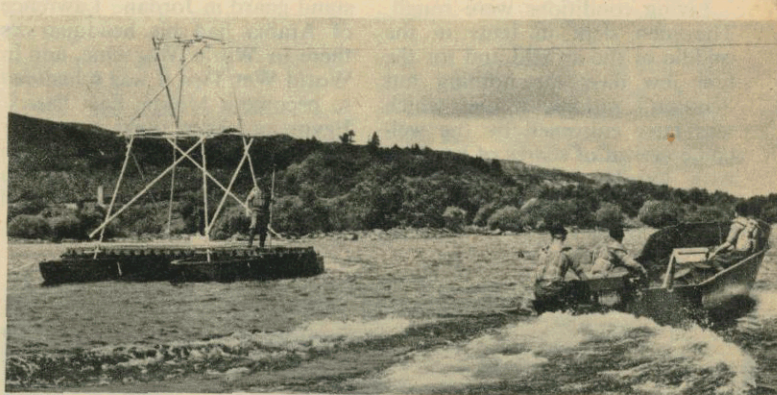
When they were finished, the rafts were secured to the outer cables, which kept them firmly in place in relation to the length of the lake. To keep them from drifting towards the centre, they were secured by more cables to the shores. To keep them from drifting towards the shore, there were the cables running from tower to tower across the course, from which the direction markers were to be hung. These cables passed over pulleys at the tops of the scaffolding and had 200-lb blocks of concrete attached to each end, so that if the rafts swayed in high winds, the cables would remain taut.

All this done, the inner cables were fished up and the coloured buoys marking the sides of the course fitted on. Finally, there was a super-raft of Bailey pontoons to be built for the finishing line for the judges and the television and newspaper cameramen.

When all was done, half the Sappers went back to Maidstone. The others stayed behind, to maintain the course before and during the Games.

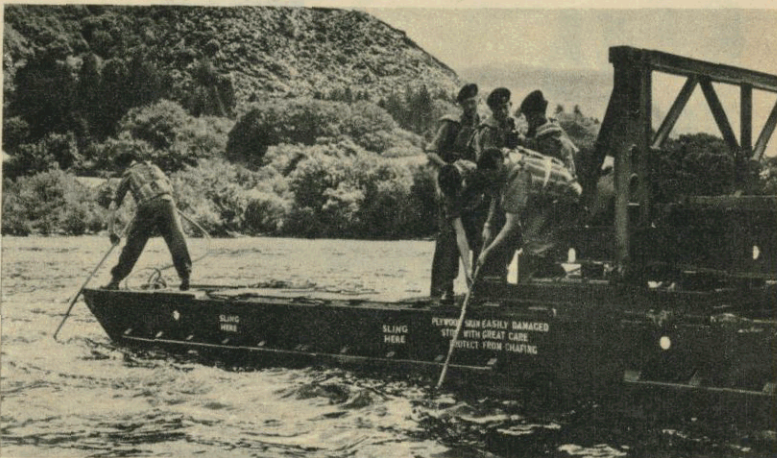
It was all good training, and because of this the Army could afford to make its bill to the Empire Games committee a low one. It did no-one out of a job: as usual when the Army contemplates doing a civilian job, employers and trades unions were consulted to make sure no civilian firm could undertake the work.

**FOOTNOTE:** The operation nearly ended in disaster when five of the rafts were sunk in a gale. There were no casualties to the Sappers, however, and the rafts were salvaged and the course made ready in time for rowers to begin their training spins.



On one of the floating towers, from which a steel cable, bearing rowing lane markers, spans the course, a Sapper, boat hook in hand, waits for the outboard motor boat.

Below: More Sappers in lifebelts haul in anchoring cables to secure the finishing line's floating stand of Bailey pontoons, to be used by judges and newspaper and television cameramen.



## ... AND PUT UP A

**I**T was an engineering feat for which nothing had been prescribed in the training manual—the erection of a 14-ton, 106-ft. high totem pole.

Yet the men of 3rd Field Squadron, 22nd Field Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, by using plenty of ingenuity and elbow grease and aided by some stout engineering equipment, made a difficult task look surprisingly simple.

A gift to the Queen by the people of British Columbia to mark the centenary of their province, the totem pole had travelled by cargo ship to London docks and by road to Windsor Great Park.

There, appropriately at the end of an avenue of Canadian trees, the pole which Red Indian Chief Mungo Martin had carved from a 600-year-old Canadian cedar, was given a permanent resting place. Buried to a depth of only six feet, it now towers above the surrounding tree-line.

After preparing the site and erecting lifting gear, the Sappers' first job was to construct the concrete cavity for the totem pole to rest in. In the centre of this they fixed a strong metal plinth to fit snugly into a hole in the base of the pole.

Two derricks, of a type normally used for railway bridging, were positioned six yards apart beside the hole. They lifted the totem pole from its road transporter and laid it down with its fulcrum directly over the hole. Then the pole was raised just above the point of balance between the derricks, control

## ... BUILD A BRIDGE

**M**AJOR E. W. C. DUGDALE is a Territorial officer of the Royal Engineers, and in private life general manager of a firm of radio and television dealers, but this summer he took over from a bishop.

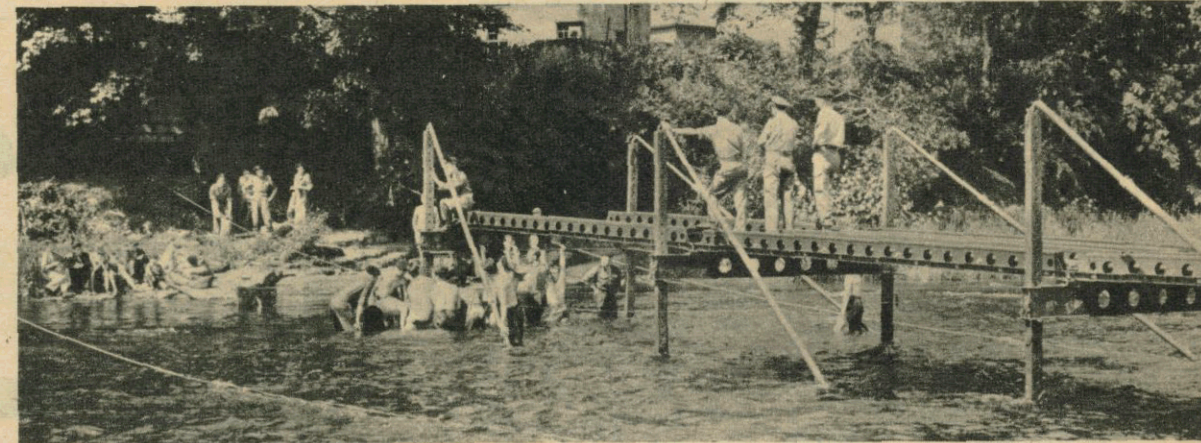
The bishop was Trevor of St. Asaph. Six centuries ago, he built a bridge across the River Dee at Llangollen, a bridge which still stands. It was normally Llangollen's only bridge until Major Dugdale took over where Bishop Trevor left off and built a second one.

It was all because of Llangollen's eisteddfod. Scores of Welsh towns and villages have eisteddfodau, festivals of music and literature, but the one at Llangollen brings performers and audiences from all over the world. On its most popular days, 26,000 people crowd the eisteddfod ground and another 5000 or 6000 sightseers wander round Llangollen. Then, the little town's narrow streets are crammed and Bishop Trevor's bridge cannot cope with the crowds. So this year Major Dugdale's Territorials came to help.

The unit Major Dugdale commands, 298 Field Squadron (part of 113 Army Engineer Regiment) comes from Birkenhead and includes shipwrights, joiners, welders, draughtsmen and red-leaders from the great shipyards; and men from the big soap factory at Port Sunlight and from the

Right: The craftsmen who built Llangollen's 14th-century bridge would have been dumbfounded by the rapidity with which these Territorial Sappers spanned the shallow but swift-flowing River Dee.

Below: Enjoying the cool of the river the Sappers work on an approach to the trestle bridge, a short cut for the thousands of visitors to the eisteddfod.



chocolate factory at Moreton.

They arrived at Llangollen one Saturday lunch-time. By Sunday tea-time they had built a foot-bridge over the river, and made the approaches—steps on one side, a path through a disused tunnel under the railway on the other. Visitors who would in any case have had to leave their buses and cars almost immediately across the river from the eisteddfod field would be able to

travel straight over the water.

"It will save some 6000 people a two-mile walk a day," said a member of the eisteddfod's board. It was a trestle-bridge, 180 ft long, built of equipment used for the inshore sections of folding-boat bridges. It was unmilitary in that the Sappers added handrails of tubular scaffolding.

The job was not particularly arduous, but it had its snags. The water was only 4 ft 6 ins at the

deepest, but it had a five- or six-knot current. There were inconvenient boulders, just where mud-flaps supporting the trestles were due to rest, and these had to be broken and hauled away.

The Sappers' bridge was not as handsome as Bishop Trevor's solid stonework, but it was not ungraceful and its military green paint blended into the wooded valley. The bishop, one felt, would have approved.

## TOTEM POLE

being maintained by guy ropes attached beyond the lifting point and at the butt end.

Slowly and carefully the pole was coaxed to just above maximum height so that its broad, black, greasy base, on which it slid only inches at a time, was suspended directly above the hole. The ropes were slackened and the totem pole was gingerly lowered until it dropped neatly into the hole, sitting firmly on the metal plinth.

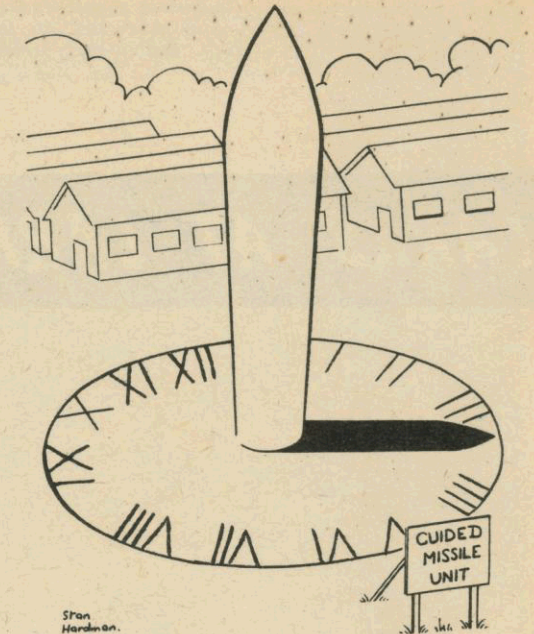
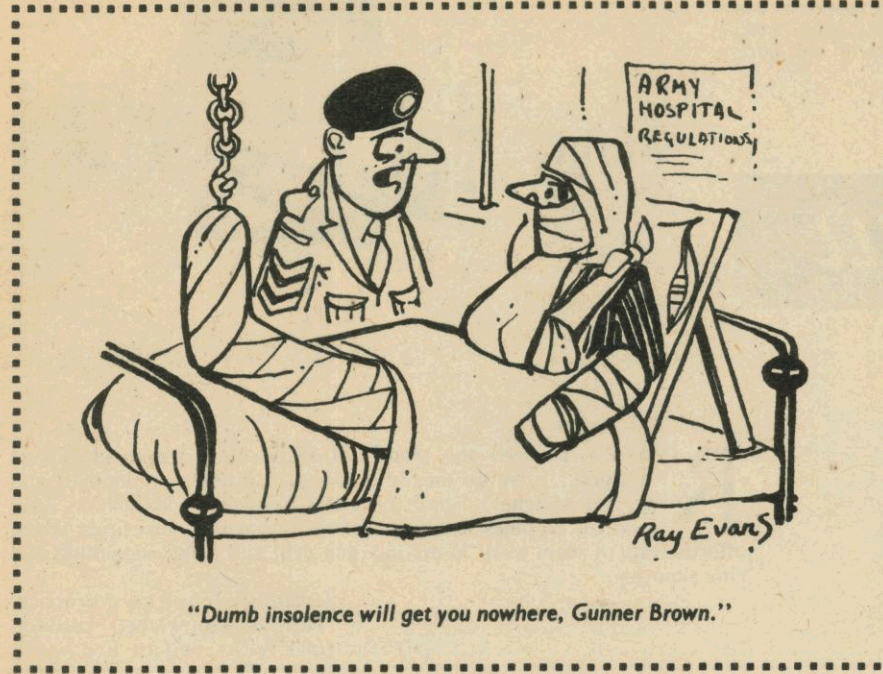
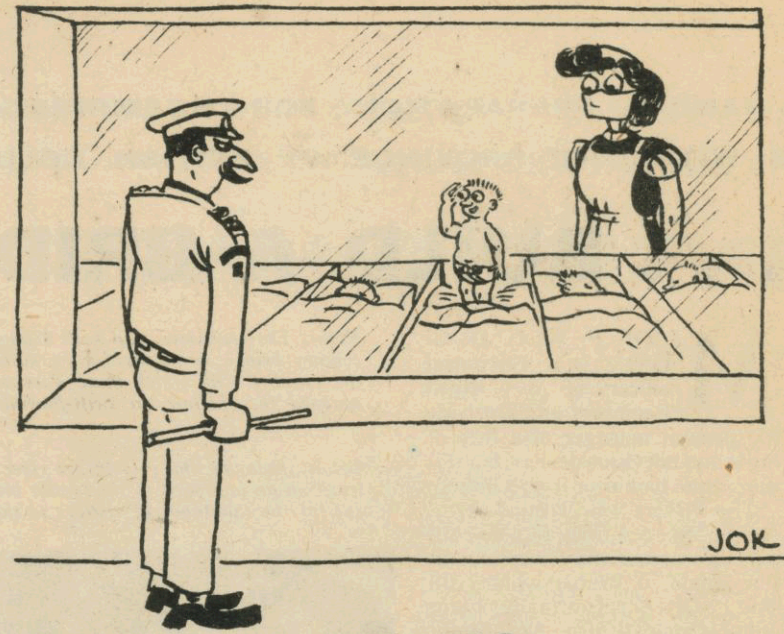
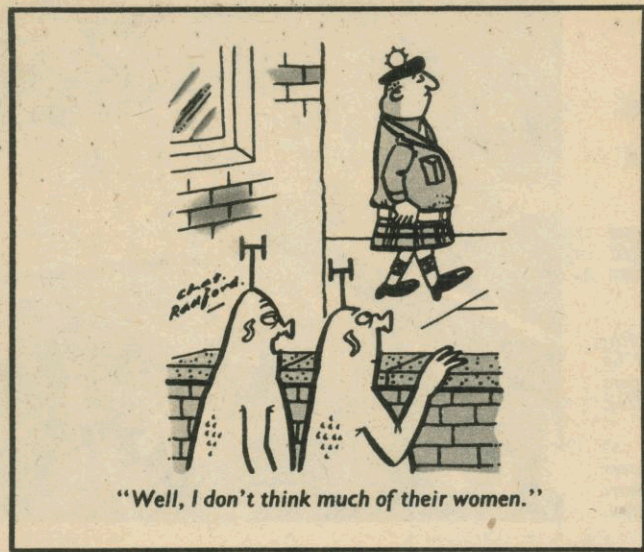
Guy ropes were adjusted to ensure that the pole was vertical and then in went the cement to wedge the base. After the cement had hardened, away came the guy ropes and for the first time the totem pole stood without visible means of support.

For the Sappers it would have been a good moment for their own war-chant—"Laffan's Plain."

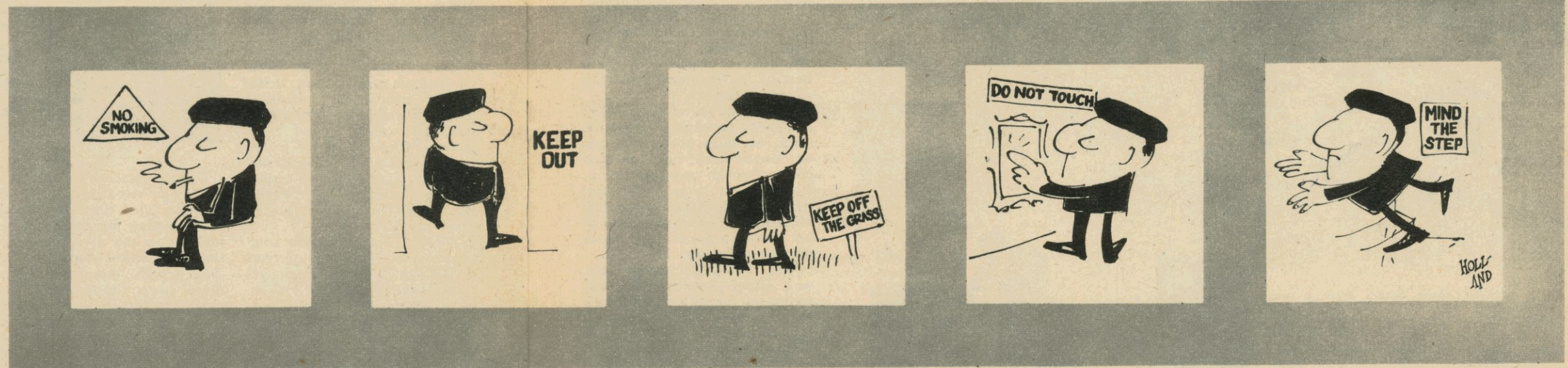
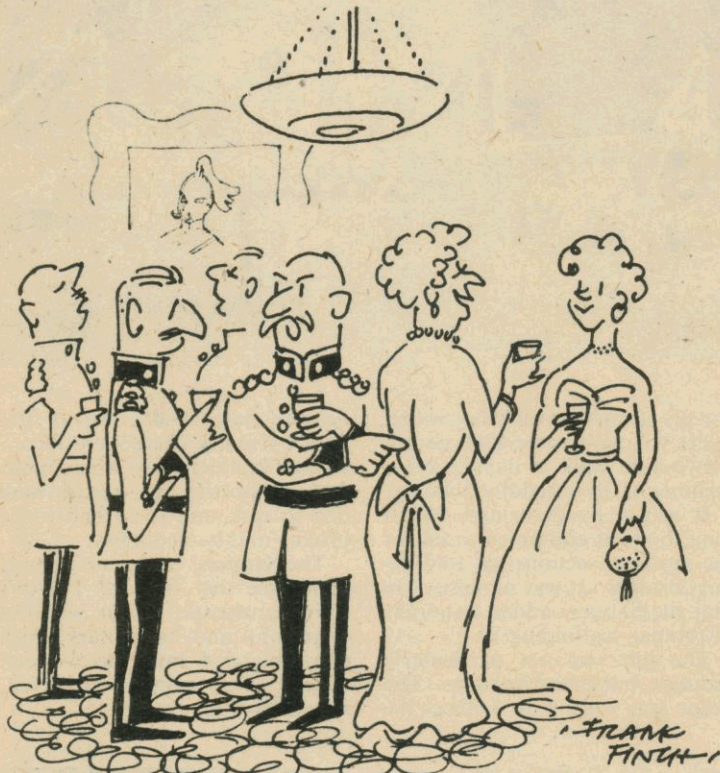
Sappers adjust guy ropes as the totem pole is raised. The figure at the base is a cedar man. Nine other ornate carvings, each representing the mythical ancestor of a clan, depict a man with a hat, a beaver, a very old man, a thunder-bird, a sea-otter, a raven, a whale, a double-headed snake and a hali-but man.



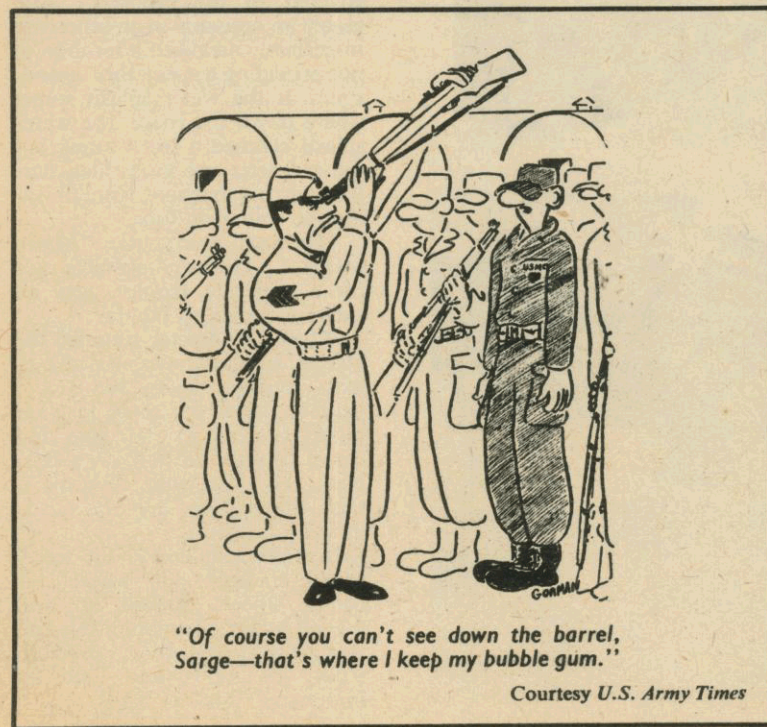
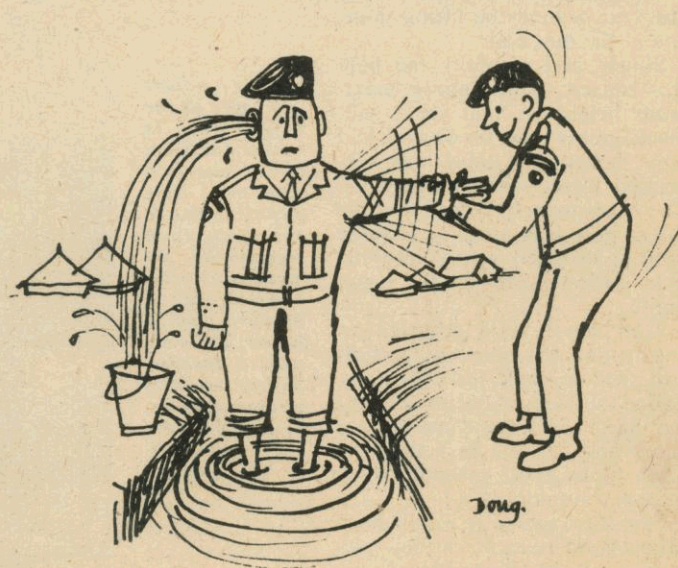
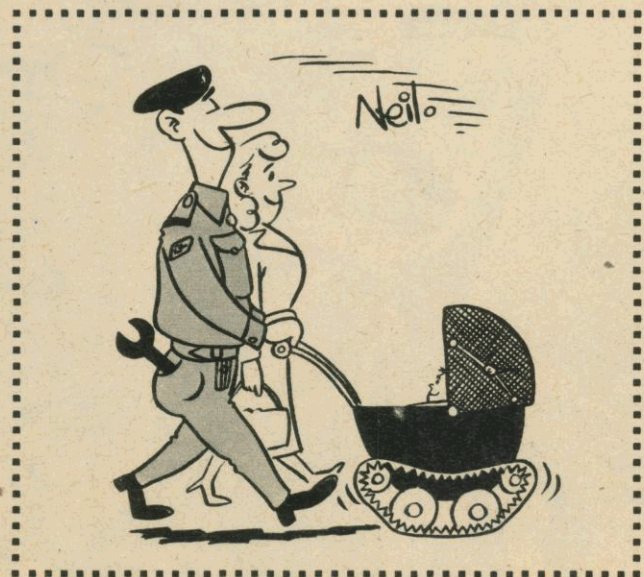




## soldier



## humour





An anxious moment in the peg-driving contest as a one-ton lorry reverses into the bay. Most of the competitors had to make several attempts at this hazard.

## LARKS AT LARKHILL



**R**IVALRY between the troops of 18 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery, is by no means confined to inter-troop football and cricket matches. Since 1952 the Regiment's six troops have vied for trophies in an annual skill-at-arms competition which affords tests of team work in driving, gun drill and firing, signalling and rifle shooting.

Several weeks of keen practice, in periods sandwiched between normal duties, led to this year's event, held during a regimental week-end in the unit lines at Larkhill, on Salisbury Plain.

A "musketry" competition, gun drill and a quick-action event with live ammunition—all three counting towards the Troop Challenge Shield—preceded the week-end's "showpieces," watched by members of the Regiment and their wives and families.

Peg-driving tested the ability of a driver to manoeuvre, against the clock, his quad, trailer and gun or one-ton lorry, on a tortuous course through pegs and drums. Reversing into a bay—"all done by mirrors" and the well-meant if not always accurate assistance of his mate—provided an added hazard for the lorry driver.

Then came the signals race, with troop signallers feverishly reeling out line by lorry and hand, taking a telephone message and transmitting it by wireless to Stonehenge in the distance for it to be returned by despatch rider.

The appearance in the arena of the first riders, muddled and dust-covered to the eyebrows, suggested an omission in an otherwise impeccably arranged afternoon in not providing a spectators' grandstand at the water splash somewhere down the road. The water splash claimed a few victims but did not deter one keen rider, parted from his machine, from finishing the course on foot.

The final event, the "Alarm Stakes," a Gunners' obstacle race for a separate trophy, was an exciting climax to the day.

When a trumpeter sounded the charge, six gun crews shot out of tents, put on socks, boots and gaiters, threw the tents in their quads, hooked up their guns and drove forward to halt on a line. Next the guns were unhooked, then winched up, and the quads moved on again.

In a feverish flurry, the troop teams changed gun wheels for trailer wheels, picked up and loaded boxes of ammunition and in a final flourish took up action front, set sights and fired an impressive round of blank.



Above: As the Alarm Stakes begin a gun crew hurriedly pulls on socks, boots and gaiters while the drivers start up their quads.

Right: Changing wheels is a matter of one-man-one-job, split-second timing and team work.

Below: The penultimate stage of the Alarm Stakes competition, loading boxes of ammunition into the quad, requires both speed and brawn. The Alarm Stakes Cup went to "E" Troop, but the Troop Challenge Shield, Quick Action Eagle and Gun Drill Cup, were won by "A" Troop.







Highlanders in life-belts wade ashore from a tank landing craft. Waiting their turn on the ramp, men of another company have put on plimsolls and rolled up their trousers so that later they will be able to march dry shod. The Infantrymen had clambered down scramble nets when transferring from a cruiser and destroyers to the tank landing craft.

## HIGHLANDERS HIT THE BEACHES

**O**NLY the rhythmic ring of metal shod boots and the raucous cries of seagulls broke the pre-dawn silence as a company of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders marched down the steep road from Dover Castle into the swirling mist round the harbour.

Protectively, the castle peered over the mist as the Camerons and men of their sister battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, filed aboard a cruiser—HMS *Birmingham*—and destroyers moored alongside the harbour's Eastern Arm.

On deck the Highlanders found uncomfortable corners and snatched lost sleep before the battle which was to follow. "Para Handy," the first exercise of its kind in the British Isles since the war, had begun.

Suddenly alarms rang. Within seconds "enemy" fighters, spotted by radar, were diving on the convoy. As Royal Air Force Hunters and Fleet Air Arm Seahawks flew in to strafe the ships their shrill whine, met by the staccato rattle of Bofors guns, rudely jerked sleeping Highlanders back to reality.

On the cruiser's flag-deck Brigadier Bernard Fergusson DSO talked about "Para Handy." It was, he said, an exercise of improvisation, of getting used to an unfamiliar element, and an example of the "fire brigade" role which might fall to the British Army in a minor non-nuclear action.

The exercise's first lesson had

already been learned, for two of the three medium-howitzers of "J" (Sidi Rezegh) Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, and a loaded three-ton lorry, had been left behind on Dover Harbour's beach.

Transport and guns were shipped in three tank landing craft (two of them manned by the Royal Army Service Corps) to Southwold, in Suffolk, and disembarked on a beach captured and prepared by an advance party of Royal Marines. But plans for the loading at Dover had not allowed for problems set by a steep shingle beach into which gun tractors and vehicles quickly sank axle deep.

A shovel party filled in deep furrows in the shingle and an armoured recovery vehicle assisted transport which had floundered

into immobility—but tide and time limit crept inexorably nearer.

The 5.5 howitzers, water-proofed, were being "swum" for the first time. The first tractor neatly propelled its gun aboard the landing craft, ready to drive straight out on Southwold Beach. But the second tractor angled its gun across the craft's ramp and the third howitzer, waiting nearby, was overhauled by the tide.

Half an hour after loading was to have been complete, the loud-

Royal Marines give a helping hand as a lorry mounts the beach. The Marines formed a beach landing party.



hailer of LCT 4061 announced: "I can give you five more minutes only." Three three-tonners were driven aboard inside two minutes. Then the ramp was raised.

The background story of the exercise was that the "fire brigade" force would reinstate the prime minister of a British protectorate who had been deposed by foreign interventionists, the "Amalekites." The British Government had reacted "with unusual rapidity" in mounting a seaborne expedition.

Mr. Julian Amery, Under-Secretary of State for War, who sailed with the troops and watched the landing, advance and subsequent battle commented: "These are signs of the new thought. Training has to be real and imaginative if we are to get recruits."

Exercise "Para Handy" taught many useful lessons, but perhaps its most pleasing feature was the friendly co-operation of Army and Navy, epitomised by the sharing of rations and rum.

In the cruiser's wardroom the happy atmosphere was heightened by the ship's link with the Seaforth Highlanders, sister regiment of the Gordons and Camerons. HMS *Birmingham* transported the Seaforth's 1st Battalion from Shanghai to Hong Kong during the 1938 troubles.

For the Gordons and Camerons the exercise was the culmination of a brief co-existence in Dover. The Seaforths, Highland Light Infantry and Black Watch had also soldiered there, but this was the first time the two 1st Battalions had been together in Britain for nearly 20 years.

PETER N. WOOD





On the Heights of Abraham 199 years ago the 35th Foot put the French to flight. This painting depicts the final assault on the Royal Roussillon Regiment of Grenadiers whose white plumes were captured at Quebec and worn by the 35th as a battle honour. The plume was later incorporated in the cap badge of the Royal Sussex Regiment.

HOURS OF GLORY

9

## UP THE CLIFFS

At the battle of Quebec the 35th Foot also won their famous nickname "The Orange Lilies," so called after the standard of the Royal Roussillon Regiment which the 35th captured on that fateful September day.



THE Battle of Quebec, fought on 13 September, 1759—that astonishing year of glory for British arms—was particularly remarkable in that it led directly to the supremacy of Britain over France in Canada, and that both the opposed commanders were killed in the action.

One of the regiments which celebrates the anniversary this month is The Royal Sussex, which as Otway's Regiment, or 35th Foot, stood on the right of the British line in the fighting which followed the secret dawn ascent by our troops of the steep cliff-path rising 200 feet from the St. Lawrence River to the Heights of Abraham.

In the spring of 1759 Major-General James Wolfe had returned to Canada from England with reinforcements for the Army under Major-General Jeffrey Amherst which had been operating against the French and in 1758 had captured the fortress then called Louisbourg. Wolfe's reappearance, as a major-general at the age of only 32, with the inspiring account he brought of the fresh resolution and confidence which William Pitt (afterwards Lord Chatham) as Prime Minister had infused into the nation at home, put fresh heart into the troops in Canada. In the officers'

messes there was heard a new toast—"British Colours on every fort, post and garrison in America!"

But during that summer, especially in August, while their guns on the Isle of Orleans in the St. Lawrence bombarded the city of Quebec, the British suffered considerably from sickness and short, unpalatable rations. Wolfe himself fell ill and gloom became general. But by September he had recovered and his depleted regiments cheered up again.

Quebec, then the capital of the French settlements in North America, was heavily fortified as well as being strongly placed by nature beside and above the St. Lawrence. The assault on Quebec therefore was planned as a combined naval and military operation. As part of the plan large numbers of troops were taken on board certain British warships and transports (which, to the surprise of the French, had been navigated over 300 miles up the river) and

moved to Cap Rouge, eight more miles upstream from Quebec. At Cap Rouge these troops, including the 35th Foot, embarked in the ships' boats in the evening of 12 September, and in the dark early hours of the 13th were carried silently downstream on the ebbing tide.

The boats moved close to the left or north bank, and twice were challenged by French sentries, who each time were given a satisfactory answer from a French-speaking British officer. In time the flotilla came to the *Anse du Foulon* (since called Wolfe's Cove) where Wolfe previously had spotted with his telescope a narrow path running up the face of the precipitous cliffs. By chance no sentry was there, and soon the boats had been run aground and the troops landed on a narrow strand beneath the Heights.

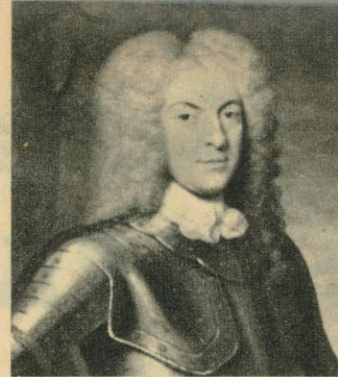
A party of Light Infantry at once began to scale the cliffs to surprise the small French post known to be camped on the top. They succeeded completely, as dawn was breaking. The firing and their cheers were a signal to Wolfe to send up the rest of his troops, and up they went, while the empty boats were pulled back to fetch more troops from the ships and from across the river. By 6 o'clock about 5000 British soldiers were on the Heights of Abraham, a mile from Quebec, ready to dispute possession of the city with about 7500 Frenchmen under command of the Marquis de Montcalm.

Wolfe had gained his first objective without loss, but his situation

was not altogether happy. He had to reckon with both Montcalm's army in front and the possibility of an attack from the rear by the French General de Bougainville, who was holding outposts commanding the approaches to Quebec from upstream. That meant detaching part of Wolfe's small force to guard his rear.

The French also had their difficulties. The Quebec garrison commander had refused to let Montcalm have any of his guns, and thus Montcalm felt compelled to launch an immediate assault without waiting for the arrival of Bougainville. Wolfe's men had managed to get one gun up to support the Infantry on the Heights.

Warburton's fine account of the *Conquest of Canada* says that the 35th Regiment held the extreme right, over the precipice, adapting themselves to the shape of a small elevation there by forming a semi-circle on its slope. Next were the so-called Louisbourg Grenadiers (a small battalion made up of grenadier companies from the different regiments) and beyond them toward the left of the line the 28th (now The Gloucestershire Regiment), 43rd (now The 1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd), 47th (now the Loyal Regiment), 78th (now the Seaforth Highlanders), and 58th (now The 2nd East Anglian Regiment (Royal 10/48th Foot)). These were the first line, under Wolfe's personal command. A light Infantry battalion composed of regimental light companies was posted on the left flank. When all were assem-



General Sir Charles Otway, Colonel of the 35th Foot. General Wolfe's last words as he lay dying from his wounds at Quebec were reputed to be "Send on Otway's."

bled Wolfe ordered every man to load with an additional musket ball.

About 7 o'clock the French troops from the city were seen mustering in force, and they brought up two field guns which "caused some annoyance." Soon a body of Canadians and Indians entered the brushwood below the edge of the cliff and worked their way into a field in front of the 35th, until driven away by some of the 47th.

About 10 o'clock, according to Warburton, "the whole of the French centre and left, with loud shouts, and arms at the recover, now bore down to the attack. . . . When they reached within 150 yards they advanced obliquely from the left of each formation, so that the lines assumed the appearance of columns, and chiefly threatened the British right. And now from flank to flank of the assailing battalions

plume which for half a century afterwards they proudly bore."

In that advance Wolfe was hit again, twice, and collapsed, murmuring, it is said: "Send on Otway's!" He lived just long enough to hear that the enemy was in retreat. A little later Montcalm, riding among the fugitives to try to rally them, was also brought down, mortally wounded. Then a new French force—Bougainville's—appeared, and Brigadier-General Townshend, who had taken over command from the dying Wolfe, sent the 35th and 58th to deal with them. They did, so effectively that Bougainville's men were soon hurriedly making for Quebec after their beaten comrades.

The battle cost the British 55 killed and over 600 wounded. The casualties of the 35th were one officer and six other ranks killed and seven officers and 29 other ranks wounded. The French losses were estimated at about 1500. The victors did not at once follow the enemy into Quebec, but entrenched themselves on the field they had won, to prepare for a regular siege of the fortress, which in the event proved to be unnecessary.

The white plume won by the 35th was worn in the hats of the Royal Roussillon Regiment of Grenadiers—one of the oldest in the French Army—which they encountered and defeated. It was apparently the same device as that with which King Henry of Navarre inspired the Huguenots at the battle of Ivry, as recorded in Macaulay's stirring ballad:

## TO A FAMOUS VICTORY



Sixteen years after their victory at Quebec the 35th were in action at the Battle of Bunkers Hill in the war with America—wearing the white plumes they had captured from the French. The plume is believed to have been the device with which Henry of Navarre inspired his Huguenots at Ivry.

rolled a murderous and incessant fire. The Grenadiers and 35th fell fast."

Yet calm, silent, and motionless, save when they closed up the ghastly gaps made in their ranks, the British waited for the General's word. At that stage Wolfe was hit in the wrist, but he simply wrapped a handkerchief round it and told the troops to keep steady and reserve their fire.

Not till the foremost French were within 40 yards did he give the word, and then: "At once the long row of muskets was levelled, and a volley distinct as a single shot flashed from the British line. . . . Numbers of the French reeled and fell; never before or since has a deadlier volley burst from British Infantry. . . . Meanwhile Wolfe's troops had reloaded; he seized the opportunity of the hesitation in the hostile ranks, and ordered the whole British line to advance. At first they moved forward in majestic regularity, receiving and paying back with deadly interest the volleys of the French. . . . On the extreme left the 35th Regiment, under the gallant Colonel Fletcher, carried all before them, and won the white

"Press where ye see the white plume shine, amidst the ranks of war,

And be your *oriflamme* today the helmet of Navarre."

The 35th took also from the Royal Roussillon Regiment a Colour bearing a golden *fleur-de-lis*, and this is said to be one reason for their nickname, "The Orange Lilies." After they had ceased to wear hats decorated with the actual plume, the plume device was embodied in the cap badge and shown surmounted by the Garter Star.

The Royal Sussex received a new and sterner nickname at the First Battle of Ypres in 1914. It was applied to them by the Germans and passed on by certain prisoners taken by the 2nd Battalion: it was the "Iron Regiment." In the last war the 1st Battalion, as part of Wavell's gallant Army of the Nile, helped to overthrow the Italians in Eritrea and Abyssinia, and later fought in the Western Desert.

ERIC PHILLIPS

NEXT MONTH: The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at Balaclava.



## NEWS from NORTH AFRICA

# BRITONS TRAIN AN ARAB

**I**N recent years a new Arab Army has been raised in Libya—a small but efficient fighting force trained and advised by a handful of officers and senior NCOs forming the only British Military Mission in existence.

The birth of the Libyan Army followed closely on the creation of the United Kingdom of Libya in December, 1951, the first independent state to be created by the United Nations. In 1952, two British officers arrived in Benghazi to begin the Military Mission's work. Recruiting began

and British NCOs arrived, in April, 1953, to train the first recruits.

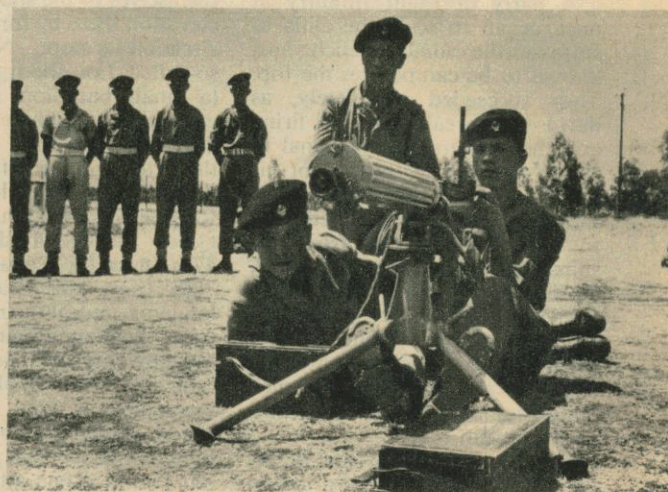
The first unit formed, the Idris El Awal Battalion, had as a nucleus some 80 members of the

former Emirial Guard; today, as the third battalion nears full strength and field batteries and an armoured car squadron reach an advanced stage of training, these men have become officers and senior NCOs throughout the Army.

Similarly, the strength of the Military Mission, which is commanded by Colonel Guy Campbell MC, has increased since

those early days to ten officers, 12 senior NCOs and a dozen other ranks on the administrative staff. Only two of the original members remain—Major Clive Aspinall, an adviser at the Libyan Army Depot, and Staff Sergeant John Curle, Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, who was the first NCO to join.

Most of the officers at present serving with the Mission have



Above: Men of the 3rd Infantry battalion of the Libyan Army have reached a high standard of training as shown by this Vickers medium machine-gun crew engaging targets on the orders of a Libyan weapon training instructor.

Left: Under the watchful eye of Major T. Reilly, RA, a detachment of Libyan Army Gunners is put through its drills on a 105 mm field gun at Barce Barracks in Cyrenaica.

## GREEN JACKETS RE-LIVE A BATTLE

**I**N January, 1943, men of the King's Royal Rifle Corps emerged from the Tripolitania Gebel to fight their way across the Azizia Plain to Tripoli and on to Tunis. They were playing, in deadly earnest, an epic role in the grim battle against Rommel's Afrika Corps.

Today, in the same area, the Green Jackets are re-enacting this chapter in their history—but this time in front of film cameras. As part of their training a platoon is helping to make the film "Sea of Sand"—an account of the activities of the Long Range Desert Group.

For days on end, under a blistering sun, the soldier film actors, led by Lieutenant W. E. Barry, went into action in much the same way as their predecessors had done—crawling across "bullet-swept" ground, crouching behind their machine-guns and taking part in bayonet charges. They also helped to set up the scenes and advised the producer on camouflage and had the pleasure of watching their own performances when sequences were run off in a Tripoli cinema.

"Sea of Sand" is based on a story by Sean Fielding, a former editor of SOLDIER, and the producer is Monty Berman who joined SOLDIER's staff after serving as an Army photographer in North Africa.

Film star John Gregson chats to men of the King's Royal Rifle Corps on location in the Libyan desert.



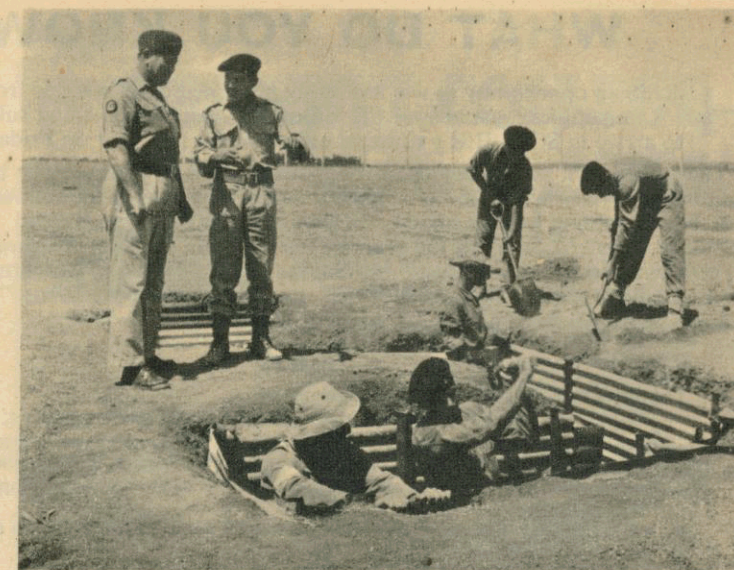
Photographs: Sergeant J. Perks, Army Public Relations.

## ARMY

long and close associations with the Middle East generally and the Arabs in particular and their wide experience and understanding has played a vital part in building the Army from scratch.

Today, the Libyan Army is justifiably proud of its achievements. Last year, the Royal Libyan Military Academy, at Lethe Palace in Benghazi, was opened to train the first 35 officer

cadets. This winter more than 100 potential officers will be receiving their training there. The Chief Instructor is Major T. C. V. Todd, of the King's Own, assisted by Company Sergeant Major W. Pierce, of the Welsh Guards, and Staff-Sergeant Instructor R. Bisson, of the Army Physical Training Corps.—From a report by Major W. A. C. Digby, Military Observer.



Left: The Libyan Army has its own workshops in Benghazi and all its tradesmen have been trained by the British. Sergeant Donald Vickers, REME, watches a Libyan corporal at work on the welding bench.

Right: CSM W. Pierce, of the Welsh Guards, inspects officer cadets at Libya's Sandhurst in Benghazi where more than 100 potential officers at a time will soon be trained.



## GETTING TO GRIPS IN THE DESERT



Members of the Tripolitania District Judo Club get down to business, putting each other on the mat.

**A** 21-YEAR-OLD corporal gripped a major by the collar and hurled him over his shoulder to land with a thud on the ground.

"Well done," said the delighted major—and then did the same to the corporal.

But no one called the Military Police; the "fight" was all in fun, part of the training of the Army's one and only judo club in North Africa which has sprung up in Tripoli. Twice a week the members meet, clad in loose white judogi and get to grips in friendly combat to practise the ancient Japanese sport.

The club was formed when Captain Tim Healey, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, discovered that two other judo enthusiasts were serving at the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' workshops in Tripoli: Craftsman D. Godber (a blue belt) and Craftsman M. Holt (green belt). They encouraged others to join and before long men from the King's Royal Rifle Corps, the Royal Engineers and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps were learning the elementary holds and throws. Each member bought his own judo costume.

The club hopes soon to be affiliated to the British Judo Association and to have a qualified teacher.



**H**ERE'S an opportunity to win a recently published book selected from the list below. Competitors must answer the ten questions in the quiz and submit their entries to arrive in SOLDIER's editorial offices by the first post on Friday, 26 September.


The winner will be the sender of the first correct list of answers to be opened by the Editor. He or she will then be invited to choose any one of the following books which will be forwarded free of charge: "Operation Sealion" by Ronald Wheatley (30s); "Seventy Days" (A Diary of the Warsaw Insurrection, 1944) by Wacław Zagórski (21s); "The Lost World of the East" by Stewart Wavell (18s); "Modern Basketball" by A. L. Colbeck (21s); "Follow The Sun" by Jill Wordsworth (18s); "Alone" by Rear Admiral Byrd (21s); or a bound volume of **SOLDIER** 1957-58 (25s).

## 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 "Win A Book—3" panel printed at the top of this page. Entries which do not have the panel affixed will be disqualified.
3. Competitors may submit more than one entry but each *must* be accompanied by the "Win A Book—3" panel.
4. All readers—civilians as well as Servicemen and women—are eligible to compete.
5. The Editor's decision is final.

1. "All the world's a stage and all its men and women merely players." Who wrote that: (a) Sir Winston Churchill; (b) Robert Herrick; (c) William Shakespeare; (d) Field-Marshal Lord Roberts?
  2. Which is the longest bone in the human body?
  3. Which regiments have these nicknames: (a) The Tins; (b) The Old Eyes; (c) Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard; (d) The Havercake Lads?
  4. Which of these cricketers have not played for England in a Test Match: Tony Lock, D. Kenyon, R. Berry, W. Watson, B. Close, K. Andrew, R. M. Tremblett, T. Clark, F. True-man, B. Constable and D. Insole?
  5. This famous soldier has made a name for himself as a television personality. Who is he?
  6. President Chamoun has recently been in the news. Of which country is he president?
  7. Which of these words is mis-spelled: (a) accomodation; (b) seige; (c) rhythm; (d) propeller; (e) batallion.
  8. Who is the intruder here: C. Chataway, D. Ibbotson, G. Pirie, K. Wood, R. Bannister, B. Hewson.
  9. Pair the following personalities and their professions: Sir William Penney; Augustus John; Daniel Blanchflower; W. H. Auden; Ian Carmichael; Sir Robert Boothby. Actor; artist; poet; politician; footballer; scientist.
  10. What is the "scope" which: (a) Nelson put to his blind eye; (b) enables a doctor to hear heart beats; (c) forms images that appear solid; (d) helps a submerged submarine to see; (e) throws a magnified image on a screen?
- 



(The answers and the name of the winner will appear in SOLDIER, November.)

## MILITARY CROSS

*by John Straiven Russell*

Try your hand  
at this new kind  
of crossword and  
see how bright  
you are.

**SOLDIER's**  
expert solved it  
in three minutes  
flat. Can you do  
better?

The answers to each clue read only from left to right. When completed the first and last columns spell the names of a corps and a regiment in the British Army.

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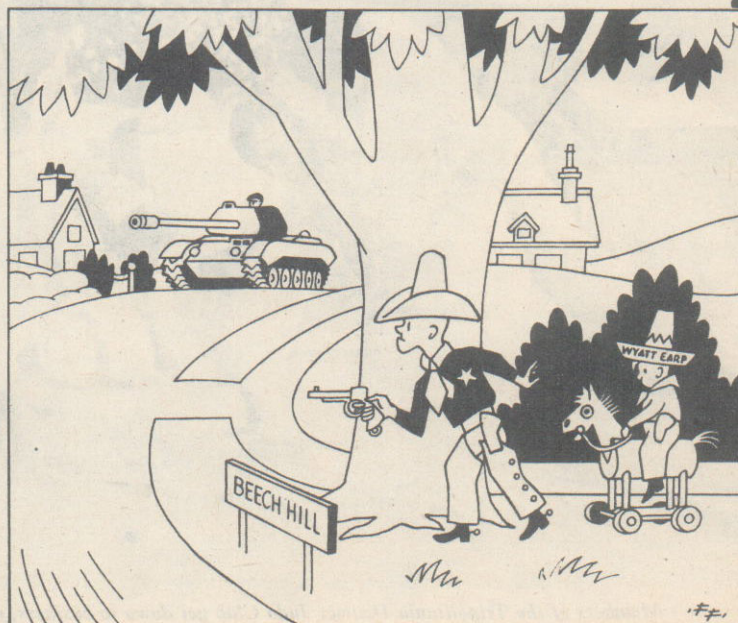
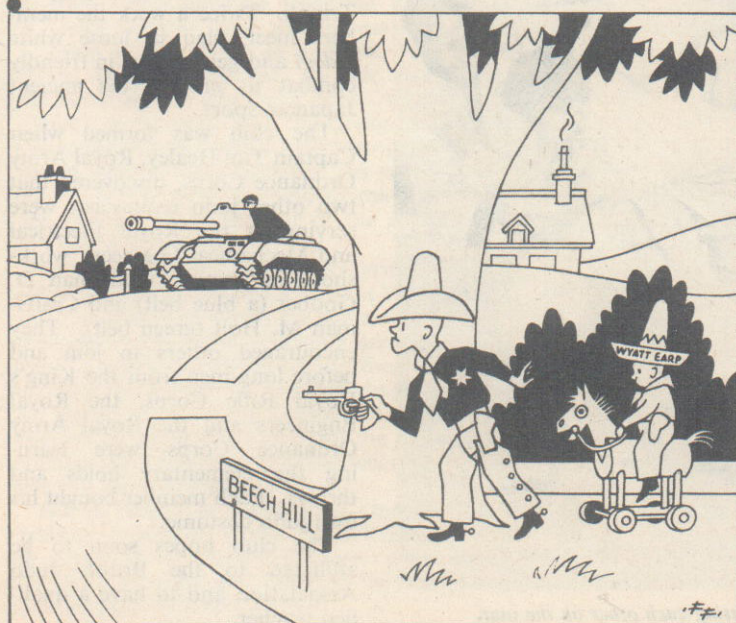
## CLUES

1. Wandering military man?
2. Upset Dover over nothing.
3. Annually.
4. Give weapons to a girl for a fleet.
5. Ten ill in a seedy way.
6. Her Majesty's Gunners initially say thanks for the printing errors.
7. Goes with name and rank.
8. Bird to get around the girl.
9. Alcohol without hypocrisy.
10. Regular and typical.
11. Bestow, with a waggon at the end.
12. Last.
13. Carpet and half a German make a game for 26 and 30.
14. Tale about a thousand produces violent weather.

**SOLUTION ON PAGE 38**

## 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.







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**THE  
FAMOUS**

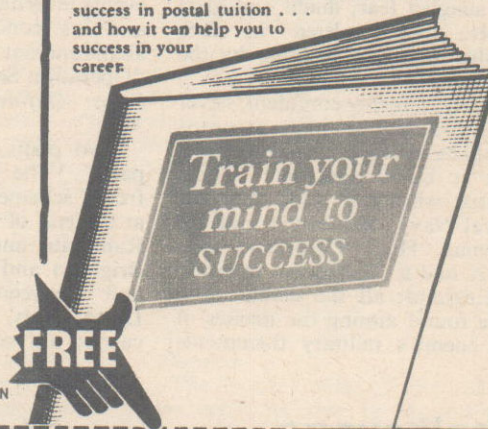
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# Hitler Was Foiled—by The RAF and The Weather

**M**OST of us who were in Britain during the 12 critical months after our Army's return from Dunkirk in June, 1940 can recall the mingled fear, doubt and grim resolve that existed in face of the threat of invasion by the Germans.

Many, serenely confident, never believed any serious attempt would be made, or if it were made, that it could succeed. These trusted wholly in God and the Royal Navy. But Hitler and the German High Command certainly had a plan for an invasion of England; all the details of it were found among the masses of the enemy's military documents

which fell into Allied hands in 1945.

These papers have been exhaustively studied by Mr. Ronald Wheatley, who now presents them, with a narrative of related events in Britain and in Germany, and his conclusions about the abandonment of the plan, in "Operation Sea Lion" (Clarendon Press: Oxford University Press, 30s).

Two plans were, in fact, prepared. The first was a "broad front" scheme, involving landings at the end of July, 1940, between Ramsgate and Bexhill, between Brighton and the Isle of Wight, and between Weymouth and Lyme Regis, all intended to be carried out simultaneously.

The final plan by mid-September, 1940, differed from the first in that the landing frontage and the number of divisions to be employed were reduced, while the rate of reinforcement was to be slower. But the broad lines of the operation were to remain the same.

Discussing the reasons for the eventual rejection of the plan, Mr. Wheatley points out that German air superiority was recognised as the indispensable preliminary to invasion. That was not achieved, as Hitler himself recognised on 14 September, 1940, when he did not give his expected order to begin the operation, and the failure on that score was the

main reason why the order was never given.

The plan also depended on the infliction by air action of such damage to British economy and morale that resistance would collapse. That aim also was not attained: indeed the attempt drew so much of the power of the Luftwaffe away from the Royal Air Force that the latter was given a chance to recover when the enemy air assault was first switched to London.

Third of the major reasons for the abandonment of the invasion plan was Germany's inadequate sea power, which meant, among other things, the enforced use of barges roughly converted into frail landing-craft, making the operation dependent on exceptionally fine weather. After invasion had been called off for 1940, Hitler complained of "the decisive factor, the weather; only five consecutive fine days were needed, but they did not come!" Mr. Wheatley, however, considers that the weather by itself was not decisive.

## Scallywags in Solkotrea

**T**IM CAREW, author of "All This And A Medal Too" and two military novels, has now written another Army tale: "The Last Warrior" (Constable, 12s 6d).

It has a curious theme, inspired by the fact that, a century and a half ago, the sweepings of the British Army were sent to form what were, in effect, penal battalions on the West coast of Africa. There in the main they soldiered well and died miserably or violently.

In this novel, the present-day War Office is persuaded (rather easily, it seems) to sanction the raising of a scallywag force to assist the civil power in a trouble-spot called Solkotrea, on the Ethiopian border. The idea is welcomed by the commanding officers of all the Infantry battalions, who think it is a brilliant opportunity for unloading all their bad characters.

Commanding Special Force, Solkotrea is Major Tonnard, a descendant of an officer who footslogged in West Africa in the bad old days.

Under the African sun the force of scallywags find themselves up against as sticky a situation as any in the annals of imperial policing. Needless to say, they put up a stout show. The climax is a siege of the Residency, rather like the siege of Lucknow brought up to date—complete with the distant pipes of the Highlanders to tell the garrison that succour is at hand.

Racily told, the story keeps up a spanking pace, but the book is not recommended as a Sunday school prize: the characters are mostly lacking in inhibitions.



From barges roughly converted into landing-craft a German submersible tank takes the water during invasion exercises in France in 1940.

## There Was Bungling On The Veldt

**F**OR some time there has not been a good popular account of the South African War. Now, suddenly, there are two on the market: Edgar Holt's "The Boer War" (Putnam, 25s.) and Peter Gibbs' "Death Of The Last Republic" (Muller, 25s).

Both are strongly to be recommended. Mr. Holt tells the story straightforwardly in a brisk, uncluttered style, but with many well-chosen stories and sidelights. Mr. Gibbs, writing from "the touchline" in Rhodesia, has a sardonic humour which he does not allow to get out of hand.

The story of the Boer War is one which, to borrow the words of Hilaire Belloc:

"... contains all the morals that ever there were, And it sets an example as well."

In the early stages the direction of the war by British commanders was often deplorable and the Staff work was indifferent. Troops were thrown in frontal attacks against kopjes where every boulder concealed a Boer sharp-shooter. The movement of General Sir Redvers Buller's forces was hampered by unnecessary equipment. Through bungling and misunder-

standing, positions were ceded which should not have been ceded. Against all the rules of probability, the British Army was humbled by galloping farmers who elected their own officers and non-commissioned officers and carried out orders only if they agreed with them.

The three great sieges—Lady-smith, Mafeking and Kimberley—have become legends. But what a farce attended the relief of Kimberley! Mr. Holt relates that when Colonel Kekewich, commander of the garrison, rode out to meet General French of the relieving force he took the wrong road. Eventually he found that French had been whisked off by Cecil Rhodes to a champagne dinner; and Rhodes, who had quarrelled mightily with Kekewich during the siege, tried to order him from the hotel. With difficulty, Kekewich obtained a short, unsatisfactory interview with his rescuer. (Mr. Gibbs has it that "that night—as strange bedfellows—Kekewich, Rhodes and Roberts slept under the same roof"; but, according to Mr. Holt, Lord Roberts did not turn up at Kimberley until two weeks later,

and when he did he congratulated Kekewich on his defence.)

It was, of course, Lord Roberts who swung the fortunes of war. Tactics underwent a fundamental change. Objectives were now taken with the aid of flank attacks and with the men in extended formation. There was proper reconnaissance and use of cover. Mounted Infantry did what sword and lance could not do.

There is much incidental fascination in the story of the Boer War, as in the use of balloons for observation and of heliographs for sending messages. The defenders of Ladysmith were so astonished at a pessimistic helio message from General Buller that they thought the Boers must be pulling their legs.

Although it is Mr. Gibbs who sets out to extract wry humour from the story, Mr. Holt is by no means without his sprightly moments. Of General Sir George Colley at a critical stage in his career he says: "He had written the article on the British Army for the 1875 edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. He was about to provide new material for the next edition."



# Behind The Lines in Malaya

**W**HAT does it feel like to be left behind the lines of an advancing enemy, to carry out an intelligence mission?

John Cross DCM, who with three other Britons stayed behind during the Japanese advance in Malaya, records briefly in "Red Jungle" (Robert Hale, 16s) what happened when his party heard of the fall of Singapore.

For two months, in the general retreat, they had been on the run. "For most of that time we had felt little confidence. Now we had food, weapons, ammunition, equipment and friends, and a mission. We were free and in command of our own fate, and we felt cheerful, almost cocky."

The author and two other non-commissioned officers of the Royal Corps of Signals, and a major who was a peace-time Government official in Malaya had a wireless set. They were to maintain contact with stations in Singapore and Java, transmitting intelligence gathered by 25 Chinese who stayed with them, and from other guerrilla sources. They were equipped and provisioned for three months.

As it turned out, they did not succeed in transmitting to the world outside Malaya, and the three months turned into three and a quarter years, during most of which they were completely cut off from other Europeans.

Patiently, they listened for a wireless call. Hopefully, they sent out calls of their own. Their generator-motor broke down and the mechanic laboriously cast spare parts from the precious metal of an old motor-cycle gearbox casing. Petrol ran short, and they built a water-wheel to work the generator—not once but three times, because they had to move frequently as the Japanese located them.

Of the intelligence collected, little got out of the country and that only by courier. After frustrating months, the major, escorted by two stragglers from the Infantry, set off to try to reach Australia. His departure had to be kept secret from the Communist guerrillas who were, by then, very much in charge of the underground warfare situation. Before he could leave Malaya, he fell ill and died.

The wireless equipment was by no means wasted, however. The news it picked up, from Moscow, San Francisco, London and other sources, went to fill clandestine newspapers, and the stay-behinds trained operators from among the guerrillas.

The men lived with the jungle fighters of the Malayan People's Anti-Japanese Forces (mostly indistinguishable from Communists) and shared their hardships and rations. At times, they ate bear, wild-cat, dog, frog, iguana, monkey, python, rat, squirrel and tortoise. Only leopard-meat, by

its toughness, defeated them.

A few months before the liberation of Malaya, the stay-behinds at last made contact with some recent arrivals from outside. Instructions came that one of the three must go to India for interrogation. The other two could, if they wished, stay on to

work with the newcomers.

They had all dreamed of seeing the Japanese defeated, of walking round Changi jail with bunches of keys releasing prisoners of war from the cells. Now that something like their dream was approaching reality, they came to the sad decision that they would

## CRETE: AS THE GERMANS SAW IT

**T**HE daring and successful German airborne invasion of the island of Crete in 1941 is described in a fine blend of realism and romance by a German parachute battalion commander who took part in it.

In "Daedalus Returned" (Hutchinson, 16s), Baron von der Heydte gives a fascinating glimpse of that remarkable operation through the eyes of one of the victorious enemy invaders.

In Crete, the Allied forces were backed by British naval mastery of the Western Mediterranean, and they also outnumbered the Germans who dropped from the air. But the Germans controlled the skies and the defenders soon found themselves hopelessly placed.

It seems that Baron von der Heydte in his youth had been steeped in Greek mythology and knew the legend of the artificer Daedalus, who fled from his

native Athens to Crete. Evidently the Baron's reflections on the island's classical past, and the abrupt revelation of its present through his descent among its dusty vineyards and watercourses on a blazing spring morning, largely distracted his romantic mind from the grimness of battle that followed his arrival. Yet he did not forget that he had come as a soldier, responsible for a commander's part in the success of a great and hazardous enterprise.

After seven days of fighting and hardship he received the surrender of the town of Canea. What happened then is best told in his own words. "I ordered that a common cemetery should be made... for the dead of both my own battalion and the British and Greek troops who had opposed us... We erected a large cross. On one side of its pedestal was the following inscription:

not fit in. They were out-of-date in their training and knowledge of weapons; they had lived so long with Asians that they had adopted Asian habits. So, a mere three months before the Japanese surrender, they boarded a submarine and left.

This is a remarkable record of endurance, exciting, well-told, with a good seasoning of humour.

'In these olive groves and on the heights of Perivolias these men of the 1st Battalion of the Third Parachute Regiment fought, and won, and died.'... while the reverse side of the pedestal carried an inscription as follows: 'In valiant combat against the Battalion one hundred and fifty-six members of the following British regiments died for their King and Country.' Beneath were inscribed the names of the units to which the British troops who had fought against us had belonged."

The Baron invited British officers taken prisoner in his sector to attend the consecration of the memorial. The survivors of his battalion paraded, and both he and the senior British officer spoke. "And at that moment we did not consider ourselves enemies, but friends who had been defeated by the same harsh fate."



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# A Cool Champion

**T**HE crowds studying the "Army Hundred" blackboard on the last morning of the Army Rifle Association meeting at Bisley were excitedly discussing the prospects of their favourites.

But the man who was to win the coveted Queen's Medal—Quartermaster Sergeant Instructor K. Argent, of the Small Arms School Corps—was not interested in other competitors' chances. He calmly and brilliantly shot his way through the four final rounds to return a score of 141 which gave him an aggregate of 464 and the championship title at his fourth attempt.

The 26-year-old chief weapon instructor at Mons Officer Cadet School, Aldershot, treated the championship (in which nerves play a very big part) as if he was still practising on the range at Aldershot. He seemed more concerned about a forthcoming match between Skinner's Grammar School and the Old Boys, for which he had been selected!

Runner-up in the championship—nine points behind the winner—was Corporal R. Merritt, 6 Training Regiment, Royal Engineers, with 455 and third (after a tie-shoot) was Captain C. G. Platfoot, Royal Army Service Corps, who had earlier won the RASC individual best shot cup and the officers' trophy for the third year running in the Corps championship.



Captain Clive Platfoot, RASC, had a successful Bisley: third in the rifle championship and winner of the officers' trophy for rifle and pistol and Royal Army Service Corps individual cup for the third successive year. He is holding the two trophies which now become his personal property.

Last year the Queen's Medal was won with a score of 474 but this does not mean that standards were lower this year. Scoring has now been brought into line with that normally used in Army competitions, a bull counting four instead of five, and more figure targets have been introduced.

Another innovation was the replacement of the Revolver 30 by the Sub-Machine Gun 30, as the sub-machine gun is now the more important weapon. Several other matches were modified to make them more consistent with modern weapon training, with its extra accent on fire and movement, snap and rapid shooting. For the first time, too, the number of competitors was limited to 850 instead of a thousand so that no major unit could enter more than 12—for all competitions.

The 4th Training Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, distinguished themselves by becoming the first non-Infantry unit since World War Two to win the King's Royal

Rifle Corps Cup. For eleven of the post-war years the champion unit has been a battalion of either the Rifle Brigade or the King's Royal Rifle Corps. The new champions, who were second last year, scored 125 points in eight major events, the Green Jackets Depot being second, three points behind.

The REME team also defeated all the Infantry teams in a snap-shooting match to win the Britannia Trophy.

The Methuen Cup, for teams of eight from units of all the Armed Services, was won by the English Regiments with 1328 points out of a possible 1600. Green Jackets Depot was second with 1303 and RAF Bomber Command third with 1301.

Soldiers did well in the National Rifle Association meeting: for the fourth year running the Army team of eight won the United Service (rifle) cup with 1354 points, 24 more than last year. The team's top scorer was Captain H. E. Malpas, of the Small Arms School Corps (a previous Bisley champion) who scored 178 out of 200.

Warrant Officer E. P. Mitchell, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, won the Service Rifle

*The champion was third at the end of the second stage but a brilliant last round took him to the top. Only two of the first ten were Infantrymen.*

Championship aggregate. Consistent shooting over seven matches gave him a score of 372 out of a possible 420.

Captain Platfoot also performed notably in the national meeting, winning the Queen Mary match with a score of 183 and beating his conqueror in the Army championship, Corporal Merritt, by six points.

In the Inter-Services sub-machine gun event the Regular Army was well beaten by the Royal Air Force who set up a new record with 1145 points, 15 more than the previous record and 146 more than the Army scored. For the first time all teams used the Sterling which is replacing the Sten as a close-quarters weapon.

The new Army champion, QMSI Argent, achieved further success by winning the Regular and Territorial Armies Cup in which 50 Regulars and 50 Territorials take part. This year's Territorial Army champion was Sergeant S. J. Graham, North Somerset Yeomanry.

The Irish Guards should have carried out the marking during the Army championship but were flown to Cyprus for the emergency. The 1st Battalion, The Manchester Regiment took their place and made a first-class job of it.

**FOOTNOTE:** Miss Marjorie Foster, a wartime officer in the Auxiliary Territorial Service, became the first woman to win a major Bisley Service rifle trophy for 28 years when she won the Donegall Challenge Cup at the National Rifle Association meeting—putting all ten shots in the bull from 200 yards.

Miss Foster made history in 1930 by being the first woman to win the King's Prize.

K. J. HANFORD

NAME	REGT	STAGE	PRACTICE				TOTAL	GRAND TOTAL
			1	2	3	4		
Capt. JAMESON	4 REME	326	33	35	36	21	125	451
Capt. WATKINS	RMAS	322	31	31	29	27	118	440
QMSI ARGENT	SASC	328	35	37	33	31	136	464
WO1 MITCHELL	4 REME	321	33	33	34	21	121	440
Capt. COLLYER	1 QUEENS	321	32	35	33	20	120	440
WO1 MORGAN	RE	321	36	23	30	30	106	427
2/Lt. AUSTIN	ISURFERS	321	30	32	24	33	119	440
Cpl. MERRITT	6 RE	320	33	33	33	30	129	440
Cpl. MARTIN	DEPT WATKINS	318	31	29	23	23	96	418
WO1 ARMSTRONG	Gen. Inf. En.	318	33	35	30	20	118	440
WO1 POPE	Command. Inf.	317	37	27	24	33	121	440
Capt. PLATFOOT	RASC	315	36	34	33	31	134	440
Sgt. PABRY	4 REME	315	27	33	24	31	115	433
Lt. Col. TOWNSEND	R. Sigs	314	33	25	23	30	111	433
Lt. REES	1 WGC	314	31	26	36	34	127	441
Sgt. MCARTHY	4 REME	314	32	31	35	37	135	447
Sgt. PRICE	1 WGC	313	31	34	31	27	123	439
Lt. HARRIS	Command. Inf.	313	27	26	27	19	99	412
Lt. STODDARD	RASC	313	34	33	25	33	125	440
QMSI MACKENZIE	SASC	312	30	33	25	35	123	450
WO1 FITZGERALD	1 RE	311	35	36	32	33	136	447
Capt. GRANT	1 S. AFRICAN	311	36	37	33	30	136	447
Sgt. AUREY	KRRG	311	31	38	33	33	135	447
Maj. WILSON	DEPT REME	311	31	38	33	33	135	447
QMSI STOCKMAN	SASC	311	32	34	24	12	102	417



Members of the Small Arms School Corps cheer the new champion, QMSI Argent, and raise him at arms length in the triumphal chair.



# ATHLETICS: ARMY LOSE — BUT SHINE IN FIELD EVENTS



A hammer-thrower to watch: Private J. Pullinger, Royal Hampshires, who has hurled the hammer only one yard short of the Army record. He is a useful performer with the discus, too.



One of the Army's four winners was Lance-Bombardier L. Purkis here seen breasting the tape in the 440 yards event. Below: Grim determination in the Women's 100 yards race which was won by Corporal H. Hester, WRAC, No. 154.



**A**LTHOUGH the Royal Air Force easily beat the Army at this year's Inter-Services athletics championships, three of the outstanding performances were achieved by two soldiers — both members of England's Empire Games team — and a corporal in the Women's Royal Army Corps.

In the discus, Company Sergeant-Major Instructor E. A. Cleaver, of the Army Physical Training Corps threw 155 ft. 3 ins., nearly seven feet farther than the nearest competitor. Though this effort was 6 ft. 7 ins. short of the Combined Services record it was 4 ft. 3 ins. better than CSMI Cleaver's own winning throw in 1957.

CSMI Cleaver, who has thrown the discus 161 ft. in a non-title contest this year, has held the Army title since 1954, consistently breaking his own records each year. In 1954 his record throw was 134 ft. 2 ins.; in 1957, 153 ft. 11 ins. and this year 157 ft. 10 ins., a feat which would have won him a bronze medal in the last Empire Games.

Another fine performance was that of Corporal David Wilson, Royal Signals, who retained his Inter-Services high jump title with 6 ft. 1 in., which is by no means his best effort this year. In the Army championships he jumped 6 ft. 3 ins., the best since Alan Patterson, then a private in the Royal Army Pay Corps, equalled the British native record with 6 ft. 7½ ins. in 1947.

Corporal Hazel Hester, of the WRAC Physical Training School, scored a triple triumph by retaining the 220 yards and long jump titles which she won last year and also winning the 100 yards. Her performance was all the more remarkable as just before the championships she had spent two days in bed with a strained back!

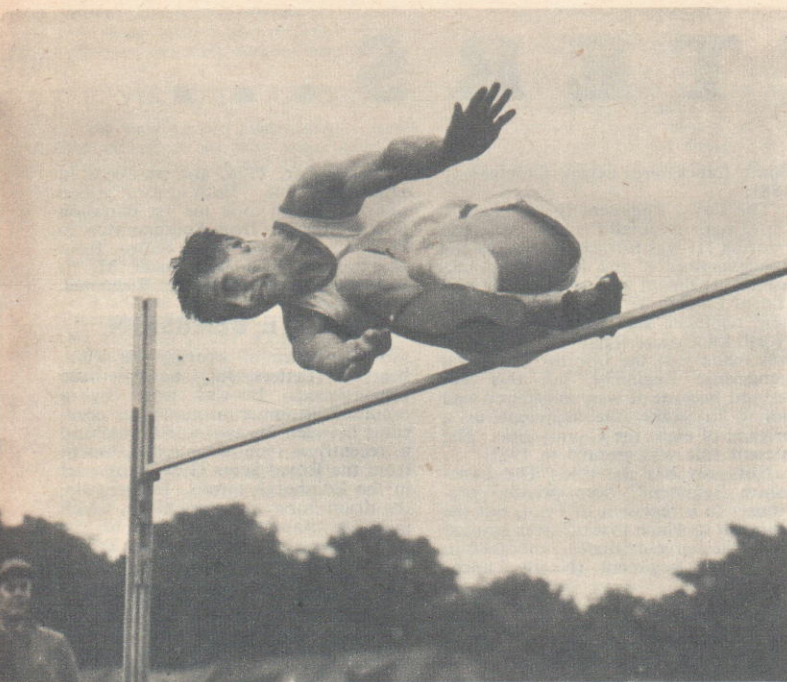
She almost added a fourth victory to her credit. In the Women's Services 4×110 yards relay she began the last leg ten yards down on her WRAF rival and only just failed to catch her at the tape.

In spite of these efforts the championship title went to the Royal Air Force for the fifth successive year by 165 points to the Army's 124. The Royal Navy trailed along third with 81. The only other Army winners in the men's events were Sergeant Instructor C. Andrews, of the Army Physical Training Corps, who won the 440 yards hurdles in 55.8 secs. and Lance-Bombardier L. Purkis, Royal Artillery, who romped home first in the 440 yards in 49.8 secs.

In the Women's championships the contest was more closely fought, but the Women's Royal Air Force chalked up their tenth win in eleven years — by 55 points to the WRAC's 51½ and the WRNS's 37½.

The championships were held in a heavy downpour which made the running track soggy and slow, but two new Inter-Services records





*A winning leap of 6 ft. 1 in. retained the high jump title for Corporal D. Wilson.*

were set up, both by the Royal Air Force: Senior Aircraftman Terry Cox returned 1 min. 52.6 secs. for the half mile and the RAF 4 x 110 yards relay team beat the Army in 42.9 secs.

This year's Army championships saw the breaking of a 25-year-old record when 2nd-Lieutenant C. D. Carrington, of 38th Training Regiment, Royal Artillery, covered the 120 yards hurdles in 14.9 secs., knocking a tenth of a second off the time set up in 1933 by Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. White DSO, who is now Commandant of the Army School of Physical Training.

Another up-and-coming soldier athlete, Private John Pullinger, of the Royal Hampshire Regiment—for whom the experts predict a bright future—won the hammer

event with a throw of 164 ft. 4 ins., which is only three feet less than the record set up two years ago by Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Reidy, of the Royal Army Educational Corps. Earlier, Pullinger had won the Rhine Army hammer and shot put titles. In 4 Division's championships he beat the previous hammer record by no less than 33 feet! In the discus event at the Army championships he was third with a disappointing 130 ft. 3 ins., a long way behind the winner, CSMI Cleaver.

In the Women's championships Corporal Hester broke no records but repeated her last year's successes by winning the long jump, the 100 and the 220 yards. Private M. Thorne threw the javelin 98 ft., only three feet short of the record.



*Breaking the Combined Services half-mile record in 1 min. 52.6 secs. is Senior Aircraftman Terry Cox, Royal Air Force.*

## Pentathlon Champion Again

**T**HANKS and cavalry battled from the start in this year's Army Modern Pentathlon Championships and at the end of the five days honours were divided, the cavalry winning the team shield and tanks the individual cup.

Lieutenant P. J. Harvey scored 4649 points to retain the Army Individual Challenge Cup but his team, 2nd Battalion Royal Tank Regiment, winners of the team championship for the previous two years, ceded the King of the Hellenes Challenge Shield to the Household Cavalry Training Squadron, winners in 1955. Corporals of Horse T. Hudson (Royal Horse Guards) and C. Eldridge (Life Guards), who represented Great Britain in the World Championships at Stockholm last year, took second and third individual places with 4567 and 4231 points.

In the riding event, won by the Royal Army Service Corps Training Centre, with the Household Cavalry third, 17 competitors, including Corporals of Horse, Hudson and Eldridge, scored maximum points. The Household Cavalry won the épée fencing, with Hudson and Eldridge second and third to Sergeant Instructor R. E. Bright, Army Physical Training Corps, who won the event for the third time.



A second place in pistol shooting and tenth place in swimming took Lieutenant Harvey into the lead over Corporal of Horse, Hudson, while the Household Cavalry, sixth in the shooting, won the swimming to regain the team lead. Corporal F. Finnis, 1st Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment, won the pistol shooting and Corporals of Horse, Hudson and Eldridge took first and second places in the swimming. The final event, the 4000 metres cross country run, was won by Lance-Corporal E. J. Lindsell, Corps of Royal Military Police.



**This Season's  
"Umbro" is styled by Matt Busby**

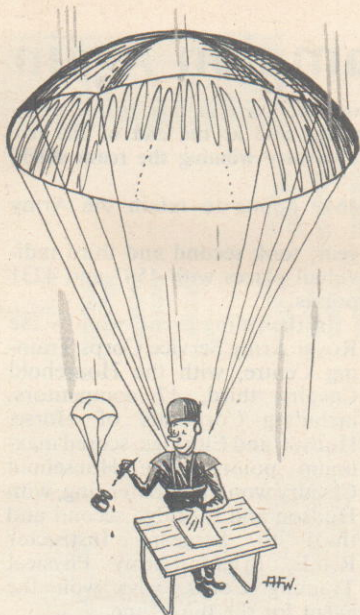
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# LETTERS...

## JUBILEE MEDAL?

As this is the golden jubilee year of the Territorial Army would it not be possible to strike a medal for all members of the Territorial Army and those who, having served in World War Two, already hold the Efficiency Medal (TA)? It would be a mark of appreciation of services voluntarily rendered.—“Ex-Terrier.”

## AMALGAMATIONS

Regimental cap badges are now to disappear, to be replaced by Brigade cap badges. Whatever the Infantryman feels about this, he is bound by loyalty not to criticise or complain. But with the amalgamations come new names and here he can surely be permitted to indicate what appears to be a technical and historical error in one such re-naming.

The East Lancashire Regiment and the South Lancashire Regiment amalgamated in July to form “The Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales’s Volunteers).” At first sight, this is a logical, sensible and appropriate title to confer upon a combination of two regiments whose previous titles embraced so large a part of Lancashire. However, this is technically an encroachment and, territorially, it is historically unsound.

The East Lancashire Regiment was formed in 1881 from the 30th Foot (1st Cambridgeshire Regiment) and the 59th Foot (2nd Nottinghamshire Regiment). The South Lancashire Regiment was also formed in 1881, from the amalgamation of the 40th Foot (2nd Somersetshire) with the 82nd Foot (Prince of Wales’s Volunteers). The territorial link of the East and

South Lancshires began, therefore, in 1881.

The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) remains unaffected by the latest reforms. It was formed in 1881 by the amalgamation of the 47th (The Lancashire) Regiment of Foot with the 81st (Loyal Lincoln Volunteers) Foot. The new regiment was called The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. A request was made that the title be The Loyal Lancashire Regiment, but this was refused because it was considered bad policy to grant one regiment in a brigade of eight the County title. The present title was granted in 1921.

Not only has the title “The Lancashire Regiment” been granted previously to a regiment of Foot, but the regiment to which that title was granted is still in active existence, embodied in the Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire).

While it was not considered expedient in 1881 to confer the county title upon any one regiment in a county brigade (although that regiment had held such a title for 91 years) it has now been decided to confer the honour upon one regiment of a brigade whose county attachments date back a mere 77 years. Is this to be a precedent for the future?

The position which now arises is a strange one. In a Lancastrian Brigade of four Lancashire Regiments (as it will be when amalgamations are complete) there is one “Lancashire Regiment”: the combination of the 30th Foot (Cambridgeshire), 40th Foot (Somersetshire), 59th Foot (Nottinghamshire) and the 82nd (Prince of Wales’s Volunteers). In the same Brigade is The Loyal Regiment (NL), whose Lancastrian connections date back 176 years.—“Traditionalist.”

## BANDITS

I cannot allow to pass unchallenged the claim (SOLDIER July) made for the 1st Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII’s Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles) that “no battalion has a more distinguished record in the struggle against the bandits; in killed and captured they accounted for 270.”

The 1st Battalion (Princess Mary’s Own) Gurkha Rifles, which relieved the 1st Battalion (2nd Gurkha Rifles) in Kulai, although spending the last two years of the emergency in Hong Kong, are officially credited with over 300 terrorist eliminations, and this at a lower cost than to their rivals.—Captain F. C. Batten, Welch Regiment.

## LOCOMOTIVES

You listed (June) a number of regiments after which railway engines have been named. Two have been named for the Green Howards—at Richmond

in September, 1938, and at Leeds in December, 1946. Both in turn pulled the train which took the 1st Battalion Green Howards from Southampton to Northallerton on their return from Malaya in 1952.—Lieutenant M. S. Harrison, Green Howards, Richmond.

## WHITE BEARSKIN

The practice of wearing the white bearskin (Letters, July) has not been discontinued. It was worn by a mounted drummer on numerous occasions between the two world wars and as recently as 1956, when a detachment from the Royal Scots Greys took part in the Edinburgh tattoo. Incidentally, the drum horse is always black, which gives an impressive contrast to the white bearskin.—Corporal Ian Terris, Royal Scots Greys, Catterick.



The kettle-drummer of the Royal Scots Greys wearing his white bearskin at Aldershot in the late 1930s.

In 1938 I was with 90th Field Regiment, RA (TA) when it took part in the Lord Mayor’s show. I well remember the band of the Royal Scots Greys appearing in full-dress, with the drummer wearing his white bearskin and scarlet plume.—R. May, Royal Waterloo Hospital, London, S.E.

## BATTLEAXE BADGE

Your photograph (July) of men of the amalgamated Devon and Dorset Regiment shows them wearing as a formation sign a light-coloured battleaxe on a dark background, the same as was worn by 78th (British) Infantry Division in World War Two. Has “the golden chopper” been adopted by a new formation?

I cannot believe that the Devon and Dorsets wear it for reasons of tradition as neither of the original regiments served with 78th Division.—WO II J. J. Jenkins, Royal Signals Wing, Cambridge University Training Corps. ★The battleaxe sign is now worn by 11th Infantry Brigade Group, of which the Devon and Dorset Regiment form

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part. The first formation to wear the battleaxe on their sleeves, 78th Infantry Division, was disbanded in 1946.

## VICTORIA CROSS

On reading the article about roads named after Sappers who won the Victoria Cross (SOLDIER, June), I noticed that on the plaque for Perie Row the rank shown is "Private." Should this not read "Sapper"?—R. F. Robert, 163 Heyworth Street, Liverpool.

★Perie was a private in the Royal Sappers and Miners during the Crimean War when he led sailors with ladders to the storming of the Redan on 18 June 1855. Privates of the Royal Sappers and Miners became Sappers of the Royal Engineers the following year.

Was the Victoria Cross awarded between the two world wars? Some of us believe that it was awarded posthumously to an officer for bravery on the North-West Frontier of India. Is this correct?—Inspector F. G. Howard-Willis, Nicosia, Cyprus.

★There were five awards of the Victoria Cross between May 1920 and December 1938. The first four, which were given posthumously, were won by:

Captain H. J. Andrews, Indian Medical Services, in Waziristan on 28 October, 1919.

Captain G. S. Henderson, Manchester Regiment, in Mesopotamia on 24 July, 1920.

Lieutenant W. D. Kenny, Indian Army, in Waziristan on 2 January, 1920.

Captain G. Meynell, 12th Frontier Force Rifles, on the North-West Frontier of India, 29 September, 1935.

The fifth award was to Sepoy Ishar Singh, 28th Punjab Regiment, who survived the action in which he won the Victoria Cross in Waziristan on 10 April, 1921.

How many awards of the Victoria Cross have there been since it was made the highest award for bravery?—D. Tanner, 11 Milton Road, Yate, Bristol. ★1347.

## SAPPERS WERE "INDIANS"

Your preview (July) of the White City searchlight tattoo said that the Horse Transport Company, Royal Army Service Corps, would act as Indians in a "Wild West Show." It is true that they acted as mounted Indians as well as Mounties. However, Big Chief "Bull" and the foot Indians were members of the permanent staff of 6 Training Regiment, Royal Engineers. It seemed most appropriate that Sappers should be represented in this event during the centenary year of the founding of British Columbia, in which the Corps played such a large part.—Major G. Horne, 6 Training Regiment RE, Morval Barracks, Cove.

## COMPASSIONATE LEAVE

Is it true that if in future we get compassionate leave it will not be deducted from our privilege leave?—"Private."

★Yes. The Minister of Defence announced in the House of Commons recently that it had been decided that in all cases the grant of compassionate leave should not be allowed to affect entitlement to normal leave.

## FOURSOME

We recently enlisted the fourth member of the same family, making a total of four brothers serving in one Squadron. The fifth brother, who is only 14, has joined the cadet battalion which is affiliated to the Squadron. Can any other unit in the British Army surpass this record?—Major C. C. Reed, 506 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers (TA), Drill Hall, Wallsend-on-Tyne.

★Four brothers—named Davies—are serving with the 1st Battalion, South Wales Borderers.

## WRONG HATS?

Having served with the Gloucestershire Regiment, I was interested in the

Hours of Glory article (SOLDIER, March). Surely, the drawing which showed the 28th Foot at Alexandria cannot be correct sartorially? According to the regimental history, the officers at that time wore headdress as shown in SOLDIER's illustration but the other ranks wore the shako.—M. H. Withers, Heatherlea, Heatherdown, Ascot.

★SOLDIER's illustration was a photograph of a drawing in possession of the Regimental Depot of the Gloucestershire Regiment.

## ST. JEAN D'ACRE MEDAL

You show a picture (May) the caption of which indicates a Jean d'Arc medal. To turn Joan of Arc into a cause of distinction for British soldiers is rather curious and somewhat strange. Did you not mean St. Jean d'Acre?—Second-Lieutenant (R) Paul Chovelon, 8 cours des Minimes, Aix-en-Provence.

★It should have been St. Jean d'Acre.

## MILEAGE ALLOWANCE

During a three-year tour in East Africa I used my own car when I went on leave and was able to obtain mileage allowance of 2d. a mile. If a similar scheme were adopted in the United Kingdom many soldiers would be only too willing to use their own transport, thus effecting a considerable saving on travel expenditure.

I have been posted to Germany and hope to go by car and claim mileage allowance. Is this possible?—"SQMS."

★Refund of travelling expenses to stations abroad for privately made journeys is only possible if the traveller can prove that there was no room aboard ship or in an aircraft. As there is a regular military service to Germany, anyone going by car would be able to claim mileage allowance only as far as Harwich.

## SERVICE AFLOAT

I served with the Army in Malaya in

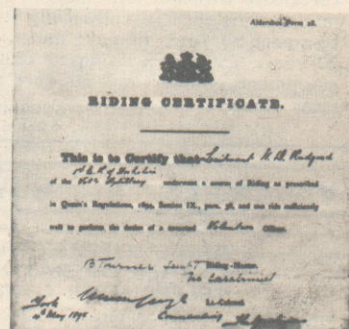
1948-49 and with the Merchant Navy for four years before re-enlisting in the Army. When I was with the Merchant Navy, my ship put in at Mombasa, Kenya. Does this entitle me to the Africa General Service Medal?—"Craftsman."

★No.

## RIDING CERTIFICATE

Searching the yards of a Norfolk second-hand dealer for a picture frame I found one priced 6d, which contained an old Army riding certificate. It was backed by a piece of Lieutenant Rudgard's notepaper and a pad of the Australian Mail, dated 1869.

I cannot help wondering what Lieutenant Rudgard was like and how he acquitted himself as a "mounted Volunteer Officer," and how, a year later, his treasured certificate came to be backed by the Australian Mail. The striking coincidence about all this is that this certificate came into my possession on a Sunday and on the Monday morning my SOLDIER arrived. Turning to Letters the first thing to catch my eye was a letter headed "Carabiniers!"—Mrs. Sheliah F. E. M. Pratt, Shipdham, Norfolk.



Lieut. Rudgard's riding certificate.

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## more letters

### MILITANT BANDSMEN

"Is a military band a non-combatant platoon or can it be changed into a duty platoon on the orders of an officer commanding?"—**Bandsman.**

★ Although the primary function of a military band is to act as such it can, in exceptional circumstances, be used temporarily in a minor (normally defensive) operational role.

A directive was issued by the War Office in March, 1955 that all bandsmen should be trained to enable them to drill correctly, perform their duties in a band on a parade and to use a personal weapon efficiently.

The amount of training is left to the discretion of the officer commanding the parent unit.

Members of staff bands are not affected by these instructions.

### COMMUTATION

Because of the housing shortage and no possible chance of getting a Council house, would I be able to commute part of my pension to buy a place of my own?"—**"COMMS."**

★ Every pensioner may within six months of his discharge from the Regular Army, obtain permission to realise £600 by commutation in respect of: (a) house purchase; (b) furniture and household necessities; (c) a motor vehicle if required in connection with his business. £600 is the maximum and it can be sanctioned for a combination of the projects, not necessarily for only one.

Every man who applies to commute must pass a medical board.

### MOBILE DEFENCE

I am a disabled soldier who wants to join the Mobile Defence Corps. I was discharged from the Army in World War Two because of blindness in one eye and I receive a disability pension. If I pass a medical examination for the Mobile Defence Corps and am allowed to join can my disability pension be stopped? I do not want to join only to find my pension gone. There are quite a lot of jobs I have been refused because of my disability.—**"Regular Reader."**

★ Where partial blindness is the cause of disability the Mobile Defence Corps cannot accept volunteers owing to the risk of infection to the damaged eye.

### ANOTHER SIX MONTHS

I joined the Royal Artillery as a boy in 1943. A year later at 17½ years of age I mustered as a Gunner. When I

## HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(See page 28)

The drawings differ in the following respects: 1. Number of points on boy's star. 2. Smoke from house on right. 3. Shape of tank turret at right. 4. Thickness of tree's main trunk at top. 5. Top of small boy's hat. 6. Attic window of house on right. 7. Ring on revolver butt. 8. Top of gate post of house on left. 9. Small boy's forelock. 10. Length of tank-gun barrel.

### WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

The first prize-winner in SOLDIER's competition which began in July was: **Signalman P. McCabe, 2 H/Wrls Troop, 19 A.G.S.R., BFPO 40.**

The correct answers were: 1. Major David Stirling, DSO. 2. (d). 3. Renault. The rest are American cars. 4. Two-til. Nat Lofthouse. 5. Sabrina. Real name Norma Sykes. 6. Camber Sands. 7. (b). 8. Centurion. 9. (c). 10. The Gloucestershire Regiment. 11. (d). 12. The Bull.

Turn back to page 28 for this month's competition, the prize for which is a recently published book.

### MILITARY CROSS

1. R A N G E R  
2. O V E R L O  
3. Y E A R L Y  
4. A R M A D A  
5. L E N T I L  
6. L E R R A T  
7. N U M B E R  
8. G A N N E T  
9. I N T O X I  
10. N O R M A L  
11. A I L  
12. E N D U R  
13. R U G G E R  
14. S T O R M Y

had completed eight years colour service I re-engaged and before the 12-year point had been reached further re-engaged for 22 years.

As all pensionable service now starts from the age of 18 does this mean in the case of myself and hundreds of other ex-Boys, that at the end of what we thought would be 22 years' service it is in reality only 21½ years? Will we be required to re-engage for another six months?"—**"Warrant Officer."**

★ Yes. All men similarly situated will be asked during the last year of service to extend their engagements in order to make up the deficiency.

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