

SOLDIER

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 1956

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See page 13

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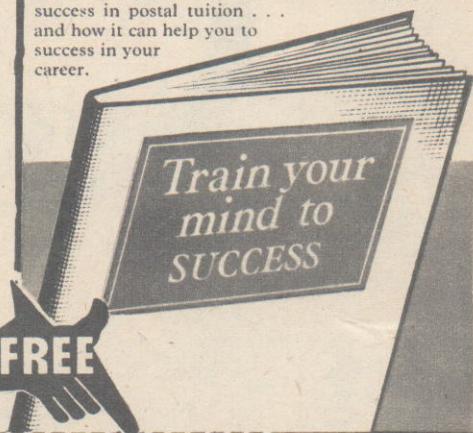
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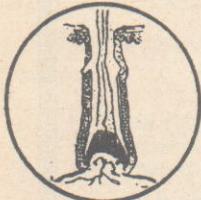
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Soldier, Sept. '56.



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Allan Hunt (right) who was featured in our advertisement in the June issue of "Soldier," reports further gains in size and strength. His chest has now passed the 52 inch mark as shown in this fully expanded position. At a strength-testing session he established some records and is undoubtedly one of the strongest men in the country.

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BEST ARMS 1956



BRITAIN'S "BEST ARMS" CONTEST

The current contest to find the best arm development saw Maxalding pupils in top positions. Pupil Fred Wood, a National Serviceman (left), was at the top of this country's entries. This pupil reports further progress although far removed from gyms or apparatus, and while training solely on Maxalding.

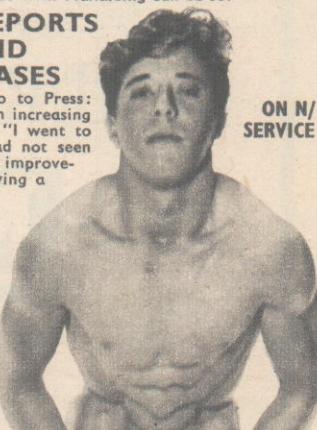
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ON N/ SERVICE



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Cpl. D. Williams (left) reports from an overseas station: "I have never taken any other course but yours and my development is due entirely to the performance of your wonderful exercises."

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Vol. 12, No. 7

SOLDIER

SEPTEMBER 1956

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Libya, 4 piastres; Cyprus, 7 piastres; Malaya, 30 cents; Hong-Kong, 60 cents; East Africa, 75 cents; West Africa, 9d.

WATER JUMP



Ever tried parachuting into the sea? Every year these Territorial Engineers come "down in the drink" off Guernsey

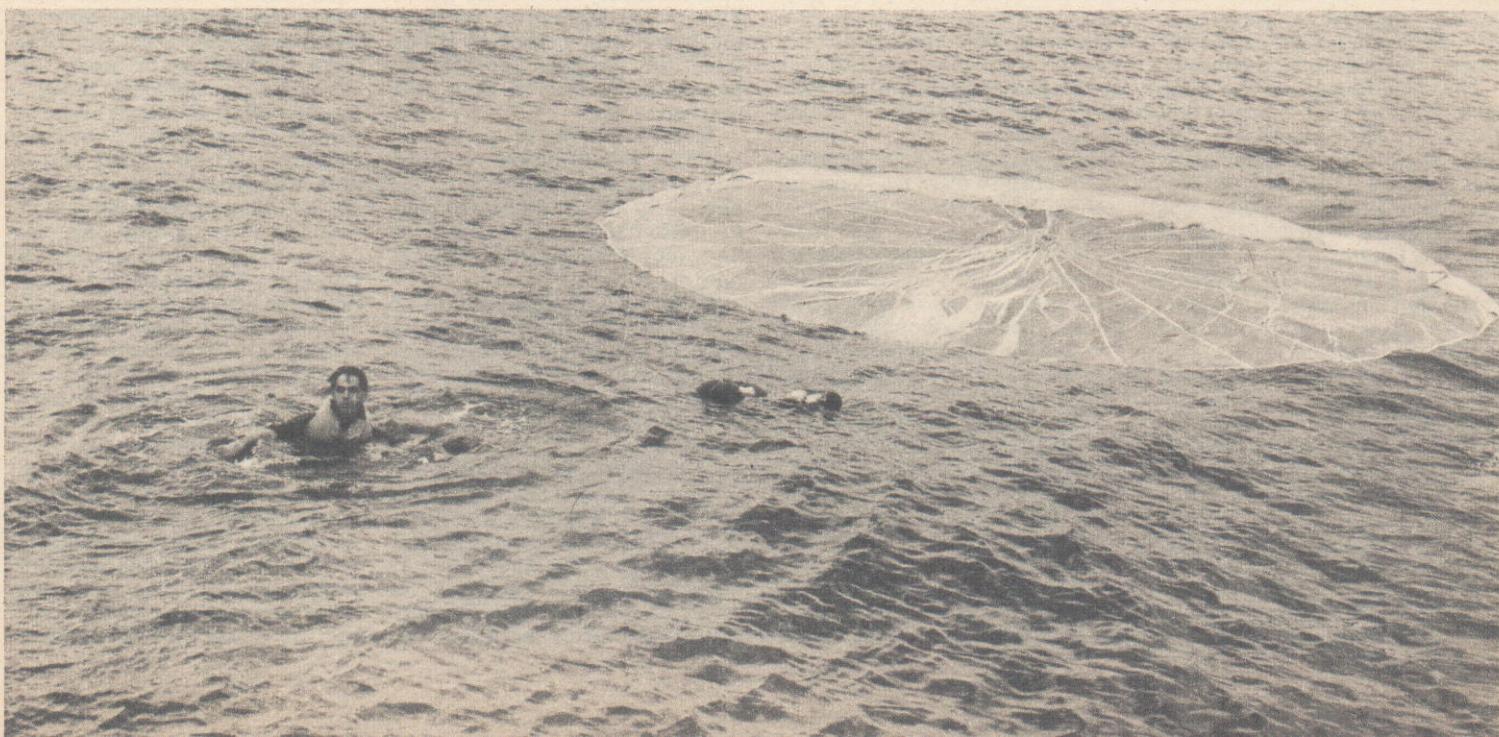
Photographs: SOLDIER Cameraman FRANK TOMPSETT

ONE of the sights of the summer holiday season in Guernsey is that of men of 131 Parachute Engineer Regiment, Territorial Army, jumping into the sea from an aeroplane.

It started some years ago when the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Lieutenant-General Sir Philip Neame VC, was Lieutenant-Governor of Guernsey and invited the Regiment to take

part in Liberation Day celebrations. The jump became an annual event, and the present Lieutenant-Governor, Air Marshal Sir Thomas Elmhirst, maintained the tradition when he took over from General Neame. The Regiment has now performed the sea descent six times. It has also been to Guernsey for training week-ends, during which it has blown up an old fort and some derelict buildings.

OVER ➤





Parachutes are picked up before parachutists. Care is taken not to tangle the lines.

Left: A helping hand from the Royal Navy crew.

Right: After the jump, parachutes are hosed down with fresh water.



Although the water jump entertains the holiday-makers, who crowd the harbour and beaches at St. Peter Port, it has a more serious purpose. A parachutist on operations may, through emergency or error, have to jump into water, so a practice water jump is useful experience.

The men who make the jump come from all over England and Scotland. The Regiment, formerly part of 16 Airborne Division and now of 44 Independent Parachute Brigade Group, has one squadron at Hendon, one at Croydon (with a troop at Guildford), one at Hull (with a troop at Doncaster) and one at Glasgow (with a troop at Edinburgh and another at Liverpool).

There are only 20 places in the Valetta used for the jump and these are shared among the squadrons. This year the men left their work on Friday night, gathered at Aldershot on the Saturday morning for a little "synthetic training," and then flew from Blackbushe in their Valetta.

A Royal Air Force launch carrying an officer to check safety

precautions in the dropping zone had crossed from the mainland the previous day and on Saturday morning preparations began. This was very much a combined operation. The Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, St. John Ambulance Brigade and the lifeboat service all provided craft to pick up the parachutists, and St. John Ambulance men stood by in case of accidents. The Women's Voluntary Services had members on the craft to serve tea (laced, of course, with rum on the naval craft) and cakes to the damp parachutists. The harbour authorities were busy keeping the dropping area clear, the police were controlling the crowds and firemen were preparing to wash the sea-water from the parachutes with their hoses.

The first men to jump were two "drifters," Royal Air Force parachute instructors whose mission was to test the jumping conditions. Another circuit of the aircraft and out came the first stick of four parachutists.

They jumped from about 1000 feet. As soon as their main parachutes had opened, they partly

unhooked their reserve parachutes and pushed them to one side, free of the main harness. Then they undid the harness and freed themselves from their leg-straps. As they neared the water, they pulled themselves up until they were hanging by their hands from the harness, and let the parachute go free as their feet touched water.

Their Mae Wests, partly inflated by mouth before they left the aircraft, were sufficient to support them in the water, though they also had a reserve supply of buoyancy in their carbon-dioxide bottles.

As the men dropped, four craft headed towards them, and in less than a minute the parachutes (picked up first) and the men were aboard. Five times the Valetta circled, until all 20 parachutists had jumped.

There were no hold-ups this year. When the weather is bad on the Saturday afternoon, the jump is postponed until the Sunday morning. Once a jump was held up because a shark was sighted in St. Peter Port harbour. The aircraft circled until the shark was

clear of the area.

The Regiment has a series of spectacular week-end exercises to its credit. It was the Glasgow squadron which burned Dreg-horn Castle (SOLDIER, June 1955) and subsequently blew up the fabric. Last year, the Regiment mounted an elaborate airborne exercise in the Isle of Man. Taking off from Blackbushe in three Hastings and an American "Flying Box-car" they parachuted on to the island at dusk, in driving rain, carried out a demolition and made an arduous night march. The following day, the Glasgow, Edinburgh and Liverpool contingents sailed back to the mainland in small craft of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

FOOTNOTE. An air vice marshal and his pilot recently parachuted into the sea from a jet fighter off Cyprus and were picked up by helicopter after 40 minutes in the water. The Royal Air Force does not include water-jumps from aircraft in its normal aircrew training. Men leap into water from the sides of swimming baths or from launches to practise using "survival" equipment.

WHAT IS TO BE

THE FUTURE OF THE ROYAL ARTILLERY?

Guided missiles may change the pattern of war but a field army still needs guns—and that includes anti-aircraft guns

THE disbanding of Anti-Aircraft Command, the closing down of coastal forts, the dispatch of Gunner teams to America to train on the "Corporal" guided missile—these events may have contributed to a notion that "conventional" artillery is rapidly becoming out-of-date.

It is time to put the subject into proper perspective.

Britain's anti-aircraft sites were scrapped because the main threat to these islands was considered to be that of nuclear bombardment from a very high level. It was decided that this peril could be more efficiently met by Royal Air Force fighters and guided missiles.

The defence of a field army from aerial attack is a very different problem. Targets in a combat zone are likely to be small and well concealed, and can only be spotted and attacked successfully from low levels, even with nuclear bombs.

Again, the advent of tactical nuclear weapons, whether fired from the ground or dropped from an aircraft, means that a ground commander must make constant and accurate reconnaissance, not only to select his targets but to assess damage after attack. In the foreseeable future this reconnaissance can be carried out only by manned aircraft, which will constitute a very high priority target.

Thus, there is vital need for an anti-aircraft defence to be provided over the field army and its installations right back to the base ports.

That is why a considerable number of heavy and light anti-aircraft regiments, both Regular and Territorial, have been retained. Most of them are trained and equipped for a mobile role in support of the field army. A number of Territorial light anti-aircraft units have been earmarked to defend certain vital targets in Britain which are thought to be particularly liable to low-level attack. There are also anti-aircraft units deployed in defence of bases overseas.

For the present, all these units will be equipped with guns of improved performance, controlled by the latest types of radar. In due course there may be units equipped with mobile surface-to-air guided weapons capable of dealing with the high-level threat to the field force. Units thus equipped would replace a proportion of heavy anti-aircraft regiments, but there would still remain a need for guns to deal with the medium-level and low-level threat.

There is, therefore, no ques-

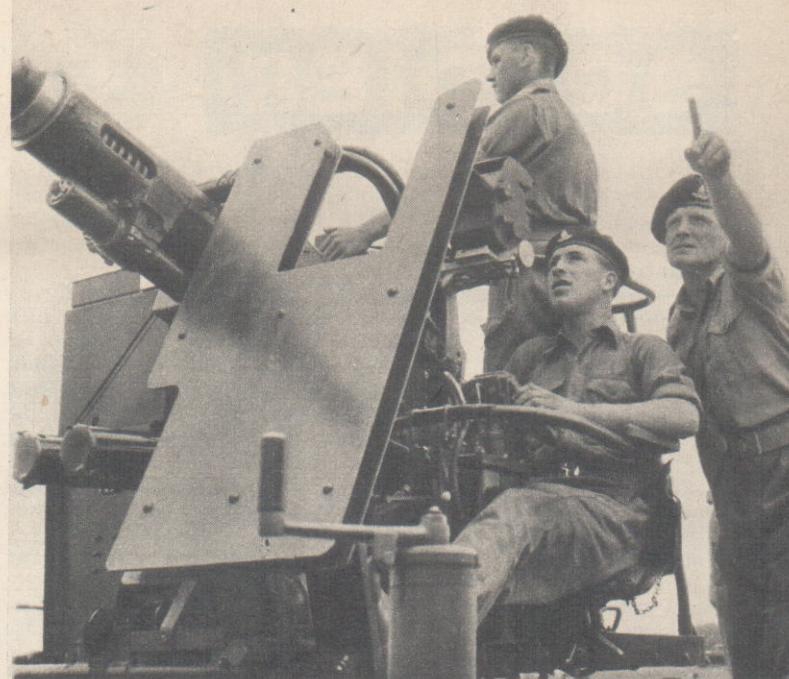
tion of the demise of the anti-aircraft branch of the Royal Artillery. On the contrary, the branch is being modernised and re-equipped to meet the potentially devastating threat to the field army posed by the introduction of tactical nuclear weapons.

The North Atlantic powers are well alive to the need for an efficient anti-aircraft arm. A succession of anti-aircraft units of various nationalities pass through a busy firing camp on the Baltic.

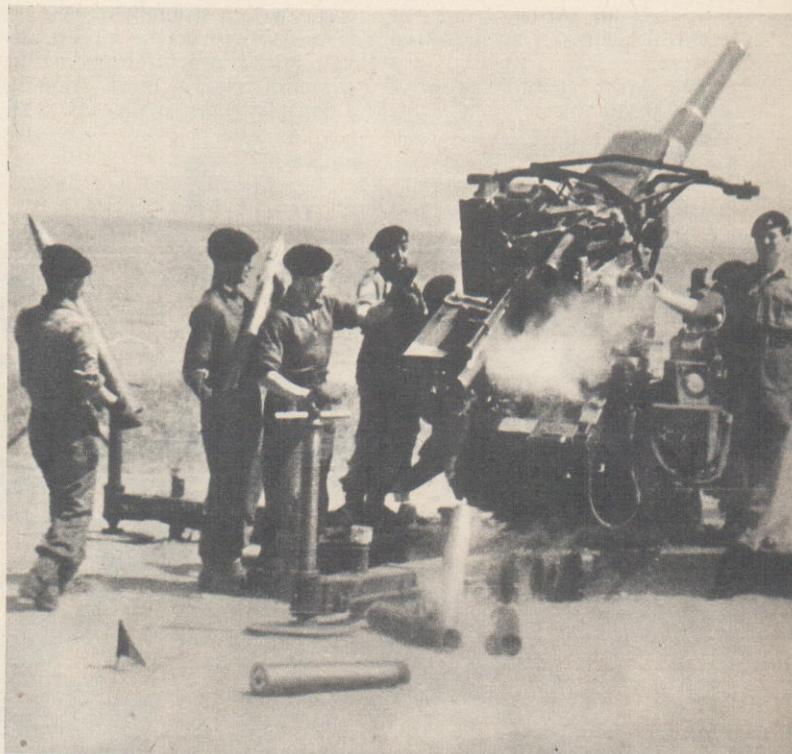
In the field artillery branch, too, there will be a continuing need for a conventional gun to give intimate close support to other arms. The heavier calibres of gun may be replaced by guided missiles, like the Corporal. Other types of missile are being developed.

As long as wars are fought by soldiers on the ground, whether on their feet or in tanks, it seems likely that supporting artillery fire will have to be brought down immediately in front of them to get them on to their objective, or to break up enemy attacks in front of their positions.

This traditional artillery role cannot be carried out by guided missiles because of the danger to our own troops from the resulting bursts, whether nuclear or high explosive. This is as true for an all-out global war as for minor wars against terrorists. It is significant that in Kenya and more especially in Malaya the demands for artillery support have been considerable and the results excellent.



These pictures were taken at NATO'S anti-aircraft practice camp on the shores of the Baltic. Above: a Bofors picks up the target. Below: a mobile 3.7 in action.



Below: 3.7 anti-aircraft guns of the 1st Singapore Regiment, Royal Artillery firing in a ground role—against terrorist positions in Malaya.



SOLDIER to Soldier

EVERYBODY can produce theories about what is needed to stimulate recruiting. Each man thinks his idea is the long-sought secret, whether it is a return to scarlet walking-out dress or guaranteed jobs on demobilisation or more boarding schools for soldiers' children.

Those who said the answer was "more cash" are hardly in a position, just now, to say, "I told you so."

One pessimistic school continues to argue that only an industrial depression can do the trick. Yet the depressed industries which, before the war, used to furnish so many recruits to the Services were coal mining and agriculture.

Can anybody foresee a depression in those?

If the car industry totally collapsed, would the result be reflected in queues outside the recruiting offices, or merely outside the labour exchanges?

Nobody knows.

In any event, who wants to build up an Army from the resentful victims of an industrial squeeze?

The Army should not be a second-best choice.

THERE is another theory that recruiting will pick up again just as soon as National Service is abolished, since many Regulars—and would-be Regulars—dislike the task of training endless intakes, year in, year out.

The same attitude (it is argued) may be holding back volunteers from the Territorial Army.

Is it significant that in many units in Northern Ireland, where there is no National Service, Territorial recruiting figures are conspicuously higher than in other parts of Britain?

This summer an Ulster all-volunteer regiment—245 (Ulster) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery—went to annual camp with a strength of 600. It is believed to be the largest all-volunteer regiment of its type. In camp it found itself training alongside units made up with

National Servicemen, whose strengths ranged from 300 to 350.

There may or may not be special reasons why Ulster Territorial regiments attract more volunteers. Some will hint vaguely at economic causes, others will talk of the Irishman's supposed love of a fight.

Ulster's example is a splendid one, but only a wild optimist would argue from it that, when National Service goes, Territorial recruiting will at once leap by fifty per cent.

What, then, can make the Army popular? The same thing which alone can turn a play or a film into a success—spontaneous word-of-mouth recommendation by those who know a good show when they see one.

AN article in this issue offers a timely reminder of the part the Army has played, for the common good of mankind, in the mapping of the globe.

It is important not to forget that the Royal Navy, during the

nineteenth century, performed a prodigious service in charting the oceans, again for the common good. It was a dull, lonely, and often dangerous task, but the sailors carried it out for generation after generation.

In recent times the Royal Air Force, too, has given liberal help in mapping undeveloped lands.

These things tend to be forgotten by the taxpayers mourning the cost of the fighting Services.

IN the American magazine *Army* a Scotsman, Major N. C. Baird, has written an article—a very tactful one—suggesting that, in their enthusiasm for pipe bands, units of the United States Army should not help themselves too freely to historic tartans.

As a result of the mingling of Commonwealth and American troops during the late war, Scottish piping has become popular in the United States Army, which now has three pipe bands. In the Sixth Army Band the pipers wear a kilt of Royal Stuart tartan—a privilege which, in the British Army, is granted by the Sovereign.

"A Highlander," writes Major Baird, "looks upon his tartan much as an American regards his flag . . . In the British Army the uniform of a regiment is its personal concern; therein can be found something of its achievements in war and marks of Royal favour . . ."

Any American units wishing to introduce pipe bands, suggests Major Baird, should consult certain organisations in Scotland which are prepared to assist in tracing "legitimate links."

One of Major Baird's statements has been challenged. He said that "the kilt is truly national (i.e. Scottish) and has not been copied from another nation." To this, Captain Sherwood S. Stutz retorted: "To reduce the kilt to its essentials, it is a wrap-around skirt with pleats sewn in back." The basic garment, "less Scottish refinements," was worn (he points out) in ancient Egypt and a variation of it is still to be seen in the Greek *evzone's* ballet skirt.

Many Highland Scots will no doubt shudder at Captain Stutz's definition of a kilt, which to them is not only an article of clothing but an article of faith, a symbol, a Colour, and a challenge. But Captain Stutz agrees with Major Baird that American bands should not adopt military and clan tartans without permission.

It is only fair to add that the British Army in its time has borrowed styles and embellishments, with or without permission, from a great variety of sources.

Just in case you missed it: Mr. R. Edwards MP recently asked the Secretary for War whether he would introduce "mobile embalming arrangements, or alternatively, mobile cremation facilities" for troops in Cyprus.



From this spot in Metaxas Square, Nicosia, Private Trevor Shaw (seen above), of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, killed a terrorist whom he saw by night creeping up on alley opposite. The man fell just as he was about to hurl a bomb.



Right: During a lull in recent disorders men of the Royal Warwicks tried their skill at marbles against these Greek Cypriot lads. There was nothing about this affair on Athens Radio.

"We expect to be in Malaya as long as British troops are here," say the seasoned Regulars from Australia, now hunting terrorists.



The Australian slouch hat, familiar to British troops in two world wars, gives place to the jungle hat on operations.

SOLDIER visits

THE DIGGERS IN THE JUNGLE

AH SUI may have been killed or taken by the time this appears. If not, 800 Australian soldiers in Northern Malaya will still be hot on his trail.

They know, from photographs, what this Communist leader looks like. They follow reports of his movements as closely as they follow reports of Test matches.

"He is our first target in Malaya," says Lieutenant-Colonel J. G. Ochiltree, commanding the 2nd Battalion The Royal Australia Regiment.

The Australians are newcomers to the war against the Communist terrorists, but Ah Sui need not take heart at that. There is a great deal of experience and training behind them.

The story of the Battalion dates back to World War Two. Before that war, Australia had few Regular soldiers, but when the war ended it was decided to form a Regular Infantry brigade. From each of three famous war-time divisions—the 6th, 7th and 9th—was formed a battalion and these, in time, became the three batta-

lions of the Royal Australian Regiment.

The 2nd Battalion claims descent from the 9th Division, which fought in Tobruk, at Alamein and in the Pacific. As a battalion, it served in Japan and Korea, and arrived in Malaya in October last year.

Unlike the British battalions, it arrived already trained for the jungle. A long time ago it was decided that Australian troops were more likely to fight in the jungles of Asia and the Pacific than in the deserts of the Middle East. As a result, the war-time jungle training centre at Canungra, in Queensland, was reopened and turned into a permanent establishment of the Australian Army. Most of the

2nd Battalion went through a six weeks' course there. "A good deal of the training was much tougher than anything we have struck so far in Malaya," says Lieutenant-Colonel Ochiltree.

There is also much experience of active jungle warfare in the Battalion. Many of the officers and senior non-commissioned officers served with Australian units in the Pacific and some with British and Indian units of 14th Army in Burma. Although most of the Battalion is made up of men born in Australia, there is a considerable sprinkling of "new Australians." Many of these are from the British Isles, but the others include New Zealanders (among them some Maoris), a German, a Dutchman, a Malay, a Thursday Islander, a Cingalese and a Canadian.

At Minden Barracks, Penang, where the Battalion has its base, SOLDIER heard an Australian regimental policeman criticising



The badge of the Royal Australian Regiment, as displayed outside the 2nd Battalion's headquarters.

the ability of "Pommy" footballers on a nearby pitch—and doing so in a strong Liverpool accent.

At a company headquarters in a rubber plantation, there was Private Eric Brown who served in Malaya with the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment from 1951 to 1953 and shyly admits to having been credited with two

OVER ➔



Colonel F. W. Speed commands the Australian Army Force, Far East Land Forces.

A long way from Wagga Wagga: a 2nd Battalion camp in a rubber plantation.



Lieut-Colonel J. G. Ochiltree (right), the battalion commander, and Corporal E. S. Bryant.

DIGGERS IN THE JUNGLE

continued

terrorist "kills." "I let the younger chaps have a go now," he says, though he is not so very old himself. Owing to foot trouble, he is now an officers' mess steward.

Out with the Support Company, in another plantation, SOLDIER met Company Sergeant-Major R. A. G. Brown who joined the Dorsets in 1932,

moved to the Small Arms School at Hythe in 1939 and ended his career in the British Army as a quartermaster-sergeant instructor in 1946. After a year or two at his old trade as a decorator in Southampton, he joined the Australian Army and was almost immediately posted to the Australian School of Infantry, in Victoria.

Preparing to move off on an operation in command of a company was Captain D. M. Ramsay from Greenock, who is normally the Battalion adjutant. Captain Ramsay was a company commander with the 6th Battalion The Black Watch in Italy during World War Two, and afterwards second-in-command of the Lovat Scouts. He left the Army in 1947, began work as a civilian and joined the London Scottish as a Territorial. In 1952 he took a Regular commission in the Australian Army and almost immediately went to Melbourne as adjutant of the Victorian Scottish, a Territorial unit similar to the London Scottish and affiliated to the Gordon Highlanders.

These new Australians from Britain find service in the Australian Army little different from that in the British Army. Textbooks and weapons are the same, thanks to standardisation. The Australians use the British NAAFI and hospital facilities and, in the jungle, British rations. Out of the jungle, they augment the British fresh rations. The main differences are in the pay, which favours lower-rank Australian soldiers but is not so high for more senior officers as in the British Army.

And the men? "They are just like the Jocks," says Captain Ramsay. Gone are the war-time Diggers whose discipline was the amazement and despair of their allies—though the toughness and





A radio ready for the jungle. The Australians found tougher jungle in Queensland.

self-reliance remain. These are Regular soldiers, who sign on for six years and may extend in three-year periods (Australian National Servicemen do not go abroad in peace-time). Their discipline is what may be expected from well-trained Regulars. A "Pommy" officer who receives a salute from an Australian soldier no longer looks surprised.

There are now nearly 1500 Australian troops in Malaya. They are there primarily as part of the Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve, which also includes a New Zealand squadron serving with the 22nd Special Air

Service Regiment.

"We expect to be in Malaya as long as British troops are here," says Colonel F. W. Speed, commander of the Australian Army Force, Far East Land Forces.

Most of the Australians belong to 28 Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group—successor to the famous 28 Brigade which fought in Korea—which is the Army component of the Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve. Its members wear a flash very like that of the old 1st Commonwealth Division.

Besides the 2nd Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment, the

Australian contingent includes members of all the major arms and services except armour. There are a field battery of Royal Australian Artillery, a troop of Royal Australian Engineers, and two Provost sections. The other Australians, including Staff officers, work in "integrated" units, alongside British troops. "Integration" goes as far as shared barrack-rooms and a common ration-scale—the British one—and is working as smoothly as it did in Korea. Units run on these lines include a motor transport company, an Infantry workshop, an Ordnance field park and a field ambulance. There are a few Australian nurses in Malaya.

An Australian soldier is eligible for home posting after two years in Malaya, but may have to wait six months longer for his replacement.

In January, the first Australian families arrived in Malaya on a "points" system similar to that of the British Army. The families of men below commissioned rank moved into a modern hostel in Penang, built as an hotel but taken over by the Australians before it was opened. It has been furnished by the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Officers' families are sharing a British Army hostel.

Soon the first families will be moving into furnished married quarters, of which 20 are being built for officers and 92 for men. Some will go into hired quarters. Two servants are provided for an officer's family and one for a soldier's family. To pay for his home and servant 15 per cent of the soldier's pay and allowances are deducted. In Australia he would suffer the same deduction for an unfurnished home without a servant.

"Re-training," the period when a unit leaves the Malayan jungle and devotes its attention to other kinds of warfare, is the time when the regimental sergeant-major comes into his own.

RSM Ismail bin Chic of the 4th Battalion The Malay Regiment, found himself with the congenial task of helping his battalion prepare for a Trooping The Colour ceremony in Ipoh, at which the Sultan of Perak would take the salute. SOLDIER'S picture shows him with his sword while drilling the Colour party.

The rehearsals had the Caterham touch. RSM Ismail bin Chic, who has 21 years service, took a regimental sergeant-major's course there.



A "new Australian," Captain D. M. Ramsay served in the Black Watch, Lovat Scouts and London Scottish.

HEIRLOOM BADGE

THE badge which adorns the slouch hat of Sergeant Don Meldrum in the picture has a history.

It was first worn by his father, Sapper James Meldrum, before the Battle of Hill 60 in World War One. Like many other soldiers, Sapper Meldrum kept his badge when he went back into civilian clothes, and it remained in a drawer until World War Two.

When Sapper Meldrum's son Raymond joined the Royal Australian Artillery in World War Two, he wore his father's old badge. Then, from 1946 to 1948,



it was worn by Raymond's brother, Neville, who was on occupation duties in Japan.

In 1948, the fourth owner, Sergeant Don Meldrum, youngest son of James, and a member of the Royal Australian Army Service Corps, took over. With him, the much-travelled badge went to Korea, where Sergeant Meldrum has been photographing Australian soldiers.

Once, in Korea, he lost his heirloom for two days. He flung his hat (and an expensive camera, too) at a swarm of attacking hornets, then fled.

"I went back next day—gingerly, you may bet—and retrieved the missiles," says Sergeant Meldrum. He considers the badge a lucky charm since it was with him in an air crash from which he escaped with a sprained ankle. "I bet Dad would be cross if I lost it."

THE CATERHAM TOUCH



"Re-training," the period when a unit leaves the Malayan jungle and devotes its attention to other kinds of warfare, is the time when the regimental sergeant-major comes into his own.

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PEP COURSE

For Service schoolboys in Singapore, the Army provides a holiday which includes a night compass-march through jungle



Confidence Course: The boys train daily for a competition at the end of the week's holiday. Obstacles are designed to be hard at first but reasonably easy after practice.

Tarzan stuff—if you don't count the catcher. Besides swinging from trees, the boys learn to fell them. For quieter moments there are religious instruction, films and a launch trip.

Stepping out in the road-walk race, an uphill event. The campers also take part in a log tug-of-war competition and a variety of organised games.

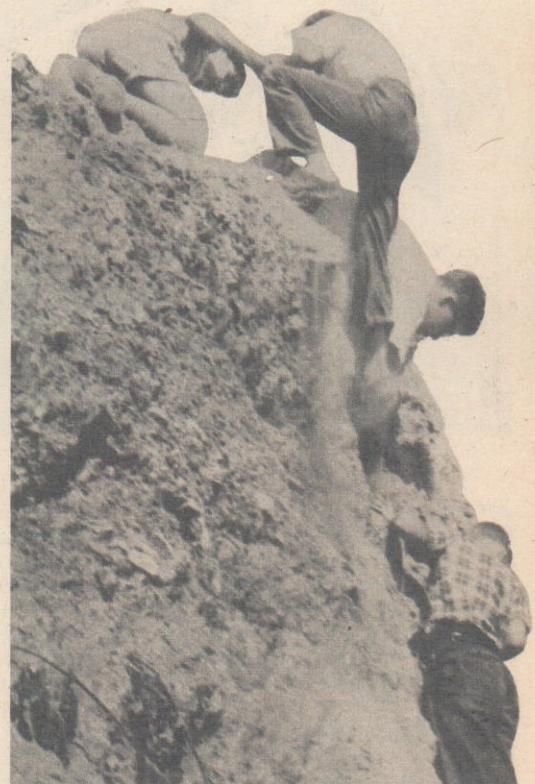
THERE is a lively new holiday camp on the Island of After Death.

The island—known by the Malay version of its name, Pulau Blakang Mati—is about two miles long and a few minutes by ferry from Singapore. In the ordinary way, it leads a routine military existence.

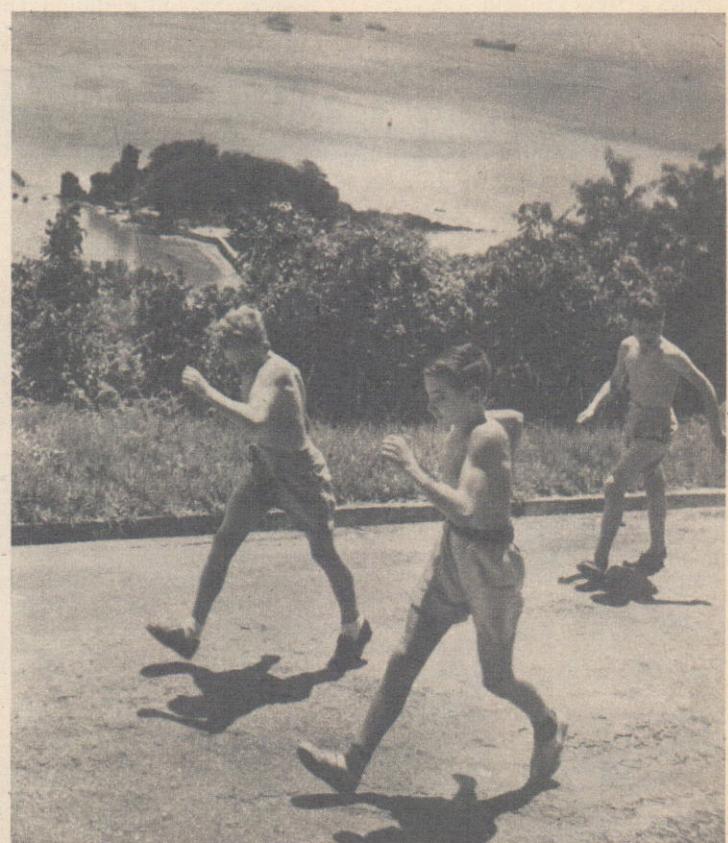
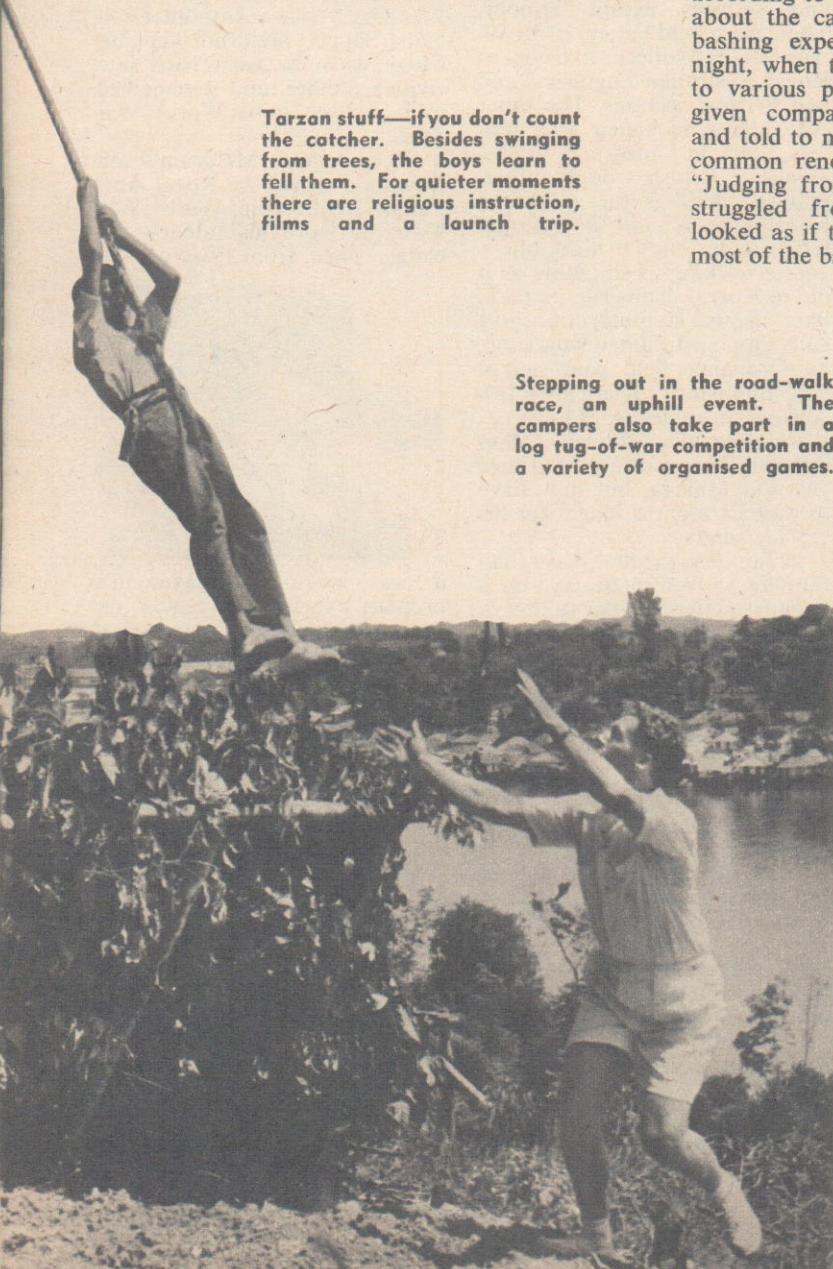
The holiday camp is the Army's version of an Outward Bound School, set up for boys in their 'teens from the Singapore Army schools. Like the Outward Bound schools, its objects are summed up in the motto, "To serve, to strive and not to yield."

The boys work and play in teams, led by subalterns, to learn how to live in a community and to develop courage, toughness and initiative.

The high-light of the week, according to one boy who wrote about the camp, is the jungle-bashing expedition on the last night, when the teams are taken to various parts of the island, given compasses and bearings and told to make their way to a common rendezvous. He adds, "Judging from the wrecks who struggled from the green, it looked as if the jungle had done most of the bashing."



A helping hand over the rocks is good for team-spirit.





The pretty Duchess who enlisted soldiers with a kiss: a scene from the 1950 Tattoo.

“SCOTTISH COMMAND PRESENTS . . .”

THE EDINBURGH TATTOO, THE MOST SUCCESSFUL OF THE POST-WAR MILITARY DISPLAYS. IT HAS DRAWN SPECTATORS FROM 100 COUNTRIES

WHAT are these seats for?" asked a woman tourist of one of a gang of men erecting scaffolding stands on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle.

The workman cast his eye over the hard metalled surface on which she was standing and answered, "The finals of a gardening competition, madam."

The reply was not, perhaps, in the tradition of Scottish courtesy, but to any Scot, particularly an Edinburgh Scot, the question was nearly as silly as, "In which country do they make whisky?"

With the Edinburgh Festival coming up, why should the seats be erected for anything but the Edinburgh Tattoo? And surely nobody goes to Edinburgh who has never heard of that. Since it became a full-scale tattoo in 1950 a million and a quarter people have seen it in the flesh, and the bookings show that they have come from more than 100 countries. Last year, there were more than 11,100 from America alone. And millions have seen the Tattoo on television.

It started as a modest military display in 1947, Scottish Command's contribution to the Edinburgh Festival. Today, organised jointly by Scottish Command and Edinburgh City Corporation, it is perhaps the most successful of all the post-war tattoos, and in a city which had no pre-war tradition of tattoos.

What has made its success? Scottish enthusiasm is probably the foundation, but the Festival crowds who go to Edinburgh for a high-brow feast are happy to relax with some old-fashioned military music and pageantry.

One factor may be that Edinburgh Tattoo is more intimate than most. Unlike the old Aldershot Tattoo, which impressively covered acres at Rushmoor, it is confined to an area 110 by 33 yards, round which are crowded 7000 tiered seats—with no room for any more. This restricts the number of performers; 800 is the maximum so far, and likely to remain so. But the audience gets the full value of every note played. No gestures are lost through distance. When the pretty daughter of the commanding officer of the Gordon Highlanders

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The mounted band of the Blues ascends Edinburgh's Royal Mile.





Performers from overseas. Above: A French Garde Republicaine. Right: Drum-major and pipe-major of the 8th Punjab Regiment.



"SCOTTISH COMMAND PRESENTS . . . *continued*

played the part of Jean, Duchess of Gordon who helped raise the Regiment by presenting the King's Shilling with a kiss; every spectator saw the kiss as clearly, if not as closely, as on a cinema screen. (There was just one kiss a performance, and great competition to be the lucky "recruit".)

Then there is the frame-work. The grim, flood-lit battlements of Edinburgh Castle make a background no canvas and paint can rival, and a superb setting for the lone piper who plays "Lights Out" after the sunset ceremony.

And, of course, the programme. It moves fast, and it lasts just 90 minutes. "We send the audience away wanting more," says the producer, Brigadier A. G. L. Maclean, CBE. "We don't want a programme that drags on until it gets boring."

The items are not entirely Scottish. From France mounted Gardes Republicaines came to take part; from Holland, the Dutch Grenadiers; from Malaya, this year, comes the Federation Police Band.

Not even the pipers are all Scottish. They have come from the Brigade of Gurkhas, the 8th Punjab Regiment, the Royal Irish Fusiliers and the Royal Ulster Rifles, from Canada, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. All the Scottish regiments, have, of course, been represented and this year there will be more than 200 Scots in the pipe bands.

The final factor in the success of the Tattoo has been the weather. Not once has a performance had to be put off because of rain. "It's quite fantastic," says Brigadier Maclean. "There has been rain before a performance and after a performance, but never enough during one to spoil it." Even so, precautions have been taken. At one time no military band would play in heavy rain, because the damp would spoil the skins on the drums. Now the drum skins have nylon covers, which take no hurt in a rainstorm.

The Tattoo has, inevitably, its own technical problems. The small arena means it cannot stage modern battle-scenes or such

tattoo favourites as the Royal Signals motor-cycle display team and the Royal Horse Artillery musical ride. The arena slopes, too, which restricts the gymnastic displays. The mounted bands of the Household Cavalry, however, have performed there and this year the Royal Scots Greys are sending their mounted trumpeters.

One technical problem the Edinburgh Tattoo has avoided is that of noisy generators which interfere with the music. Instead of searchlights, it has pageant lights which work from the mains. They are operated by Territorials of 432 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, the only Territorials taking part.

The problem of costumes is solved by hiring from firms in London and Edinburgh, but a little licence is necessary now and again. This year, for example, the Clan Cameron of 1745 will attack Edinburgh Castle, which will be defended by the 47th Loyal North Lancashire Regiment (Gunners will play both parts). The Loyals will be correctly dressed, but the Camerons will be wearing a tartan which was not invented in 1745.

"We shall probably let the English win one night and the clansmen the next," says Brigadier Maclean. "The men don't like to be on the losing side at every performance."

Brigadier Maclean, a former Cameron Highlander, produced his first tattoo at Ipoh, Malaya, in 1947 and made his first contact with the Edinburgh Tattoo as a Staff officer at Scottish Command in 1950. He was then director of the Tattoo, an appointment which is still held by a Staff officer from the Command. In 1952, when he retired from the Army, Brigadier Maclean was appointed producer, a task which occupies him all the year round, but has left him time to produce other tattoos in Bermuda, Copenhagen, Inverness and Dundee.

Eight days before opening night, the programme is little more than a script. In eight days the performers are welded into one non-stop show. Then a rocket explodes over the Castle, and the loudspeaker begins, "Scottish Command presents . . ."

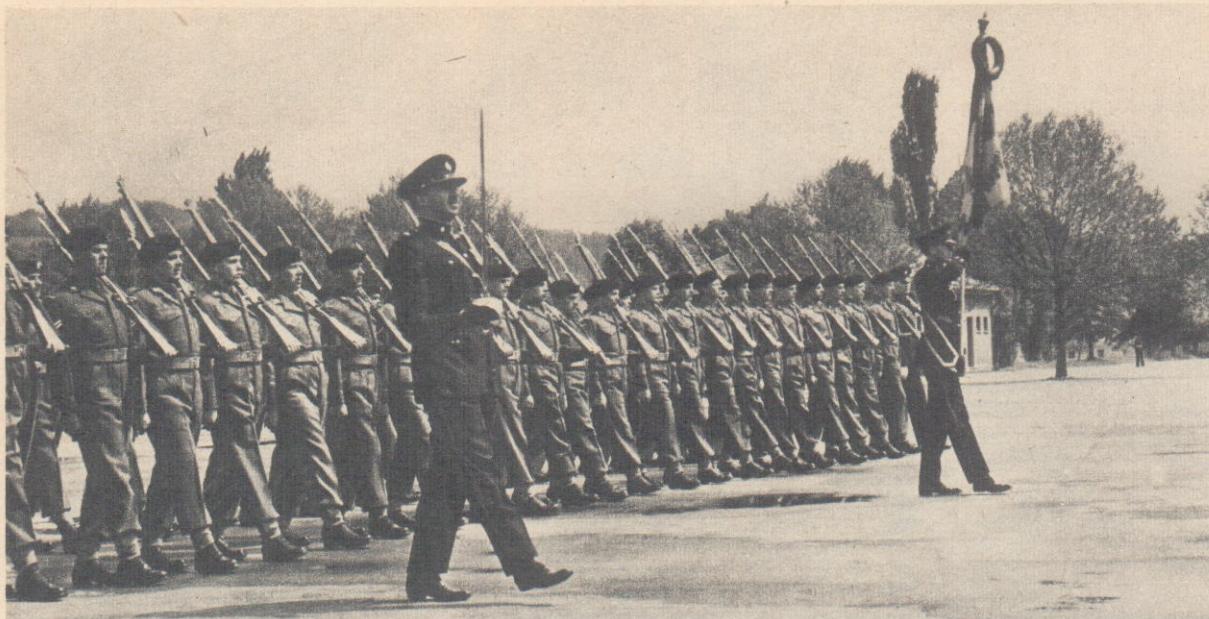
Brigadier Maclean shares the commentary with an assistant. It is not the same for all 27 performances. "You can be funny on Fridays and Saturdays," says Brigadier Maclean, "but not on Mondays and Tuesdays. Audiences at the beginning of the week are inclined to be shy and less responsive."

Each night at the end of the show he urges them to make sure they have left nothing behind. "Last night," went one announcement, "we collected 23 left-hand gloves, 44 right-hand gloves, a purse containing £90, 18 male raincoats, 28 female raincoats, two travelling rugs, 11 umbrellas and a set of dentures."

To SOLDIER he added, "They must have enjoyed themselves, or they wouldn't have forgotten so much."

The producer of the Edinburgh Tattoo, Brigadier A. G. L. Maclean (at microphone) produced a tattoo this year in Bermuda, where this photograph was taken. He has also produced a largely Scottish tattoo in Copenhagen.





The Worcesters parade their Regimental Colour in Germany to celebrate "The Glorious First of June," a naval battle honour they won in 1794.



The Worcesters will soon be off to the Caribbean, where they hope to settle down after . . .

21 MOVES IN 11 YEARS

IN an Army debate in the Commons, Members of Parliament commented on the very frequent changes of station which battalions undergo nowadays, as compared with before the war.

One of the most-moved battalions of the post-war years, a speaker said, was the 1st Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment.

In the last 11 years this battalion has changed home 21 times. It may not hold the record for most countries visited but it would be hard to find any battalion with more experience of packing and unpacking.

Soon the Battalion will be preparing for its 22nd move since the end of the war: this time to the Caribbean, where it will occupy three separate homes—Jamaica, British Guiana and British Honduras. It can reasonably expect to remain in the Caribbean for three years (which is twice as long as it has spent in one place since 1945).

No one welcomes the prospect of staying "firm" (the Worcesters' motto) more than Captain Harold Knox, the Quartermaster, and his staff. Since 1948, when he joined the Battalion in Berlin as Regimental Sergeant-Major, he has moved with it 13 times. As Quartermaster since 1952 he has organised five of those moves. Now he looks forward to a

respite from taking and handing over barracks, settling bills at short notice, checking equipment, arms and ammunition, drawing up fresh inventories, and the other chores of removal.

It is good news, too, for the wives, some of whom have had to set up home at least half-a-dozen times since they first joined their husbands in Germany in 1946. The children will be able to settle down for a reasonable spell in one school.

But moving around the world with the Army has compensations which far outweigh the disadvantages, says Mrs. Kathleen Hays, wife of Bandmaster F. E. Hays. She has lived in nine Army homes (including a Nissen hut in Liverpool) since 1946.

"Army homes are not so bad and some are much better than we could get in civilian life," she says. "It is disappointing to give up a home you have worked hard to improve but there's the thrill

of visiting other countries and meeting new people. It would cost a civilian a fortune to go where the Army sends its wives free of charge."

Army life is also good for the children, in Mrs. Hays' opinion. It broadens their knowledge as no school-teacher could hope to do, and makes them self-reliant. Her eldest daughter, at seven, could make herself understood in Chinese. All three of Mrs. Hays' children now speak German.

The Worcesters' first post-war home was in Nietze, north of Luneburg. Shortly afterwards they moved to Luneburg where, until the beginning of 1946, they guarded prisoners and helped to run camps for Displaced Persons. Then they went to Goslar and a few months later to Gandesheim, near Hanover. For several months they patrolled the East-West border.

In November 1946 the Worcesters went to Trieste and spent an exciting year patrolling the Jugo-Slav border and guarding military installations. The next move was to Pola in Jugo-Slavia, for three months of road blocks and patrols.

The Battalion left for Luneburg again. From May 1947 until March 1948 they were mainly employed on "Operation Woodpecker," cutting down trees in the forests. They went to Berlin in March 1948 on the day before the blockade began, travelling in Control Commission buses along the autobahn as rail traffic had been stopped. They stayed until the blockade was lifted 18 months later, guarding the British Sector border, helping to distribute supplies and, when time allowed, training in the Grunewald Forest.

They experienced several border incidents. Once the Russians moved a border post into the British sector during the night. Next morning a Worcesters' officer ordered his platoon to dig in and be prepared to fight. Then he went forward with two men and together they moved the post back to its correct position. The Russians, also dug in, made no move to prevent them.

When the Worcesters left Berlin in the autumn of 1949 for Gottingen they took part in the

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HE'S PLAYING HIS WAY HOME

SOUDIERS have made their way home from various Mediterranean garrisons with the aid of bicycles and motor-cycles, but Lance-Corporal Martin Rodger, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, is probably the first man to attempt to travel from Cyprus to Britain relying mainly on a clarinet.

Lance-Corporal Rodger, a National Serviceman, is a clarinetist in his spare time only. As

SOLDIER went to press, he was planning to leave for home with just a rucksack of clothing, £8 and his clarinet.

His first move was to take ship to Malta—earning his keep on the way. In Malta, he would stay with a Naval chaplain friend and increase his funds by playing in the island's cabarets.

From Malta, he planned to travel via Naples, Rome and Venice to Milan, seeking local

engagements in cabarets and restaurants. After Milan, his schedule included Marseilles, Lyons and Paris with, he hoped, some more profitable musical engagements.

Just in case the clarinet did not provide comfortable travel all the way, Lance-Corporal Rodger had a stand-by in his rucksack—a pair of Army boots.—Report by Captain T. A. E. Pollock, Military Observer.



On Worcester's famous cricket ground in 1950 the Regiment received the Freedom of the City and was presented with four silver drums.

first large-scale training manœuvres in Rhine Army and in the spring of the following year returned to England and were stationed in Chester. While there they travelled to Worcester to receive the freedom of the city.

The Worcesters arrived in Malaya in 1950, when terrorist activities were at their height, and stayed there until June 1953. During this period the Battalion moved eight times. They accounted for 57 dead terrorists.

Soon after the Battalion went into action in the Segamat area in 1951 the present Quartermaster (then RSM Knox) "captured" a two-days-old baby girl whose terrorist parents had fled. The baby was carried to safety in a corporal's pack and later handed over to a convent. Every year the nuns at the convent send Captain Knox a photograph of the child, now a healthy five-year-old.

After Malaya the Worcesters returned to Britain and for 18

Captain H. Knox, the Quartermaster, "captured" a two-day-old baby in the Malayan jungle.

months were employed at Bulford training Territorial Army and Army Cadet units. They provided the demonstration troops in the Army's latest training film on atomic warfare.

When they returned to Germany in February 1955 the Worcesters, whose Colonel is Rhine Army's Commander, General Sir Richard Gale, were quick to make their mark. Last winter they built a snow warfare school at Winterburg and recently won Rhine Army's unit rifle cham-

pionship. Colour-Sergeant F. Grice won the individual Sterling contest for the regiment.

A few of the men who served with the Battalion at the end of the war are still with it, but none has accompanied it on all its moves. Company Sergeant-Major T. Hands has the best record, but he missed several moves in Malaya when he was transferred to the North Staffordshires in 1951 for a year. He is closely followed by Colour-Sergeant F. Jones, who went to the North Staffordshires and the Royal Norfolks in 1953 and rejoined the Worcesters early this year.

The longest-serving soldier in the regiment, Corporal Stanley Martin, a storeman, can afford to smile at a mere 21 moves. In his 32 years with the Worcesters he reckons he has changed homes at least 50 times—not counting the prisoner-of-war camps to which he was sent in Italy and Germany after he was captured in Tobruk in 1942.

E. J. GROVE



Corporal S. Martin, the oldest soldier in the Regiment, unpacks a consignment of new rifles. When he's not unpacking, he's packing.



The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel C. P. Vaughan DSO, and the Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir Richard Gale. Right: These men have undergone most moves with the Battalion (left to right): CSM T. Hands, RSM E. Compton, C/Sgt F. Jones and CSM J. Stone.



THE ARMY MARKED A FIVE-MILE LINE

And so began a task of mapping which impressed the poet Wordsworth—and is still going on today in the world's far places

ON Hounslow Heath, in the year 1784, the Army was given the task of marking a dead-straight line more than five miles long. Anyone who thinks that is an easy task should go out and try it. The operation took two-and-a-half months.

Each night soldiers of the 12th Foot solemnly mounted guard over a suspended plummet which marked the latest spot reached during the day.

The five-mile line was so accurately drawn that the deviation between starting-point and finishing-point was only six inches. It was decided to mark the line by sinking two iron guns in such a way that the centres of the bores coincided with the terminal points.

That five-mile line was the initial base line for the first accurate trigonometrical survey of Great Britain.

It was more than that. It was the start of an assignment which has taken surveying teams of the Royal Engineers to almost every country in the world. Only 15 per cent of the world's surface has been mapped on the scale of one inch to the mile but most of it has been done by the Army. The work is still going on, notably in Central and East Africa, the West Indies and Aden.

In his youth General William Roy, who superintended the measuring of the Hounslow line, had helped to prepare for the Duke of Cumberland an improved map of Scotland, after the '45 rising. The result was not so much an accurate map as "a magnificent military sketch."

The Napoleonic wars provided the Royal Engineers with more strenuous professional problems, but the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain was not halted. Major-General William Mudge, who re-measured the Hounslow line, was the driving spirit. Wordsworth once watched him at work in the Lakes, and commemorated the occasion in rather pedestrian lines in "The Black Combe":

*"Know . . .
That on the summit whither
thou art bound,
A geographic Labourer pitched
his tent,
With books supplied and
instruments of art,
To measure height and dis-
tance; lonely task,
Week after week pursued . . ."*

During the long peace the helios of the Royal Engineers winked on many a hill in Britain, as the country was carved up in giant triangles. The primary mapping of the British Isles on an inch-to-the-mile scale was not completed until 1852. Nine years later the triangulation of Britain was matched up with that of Russia, Prussia, Austria, France and Belgium. This allowed the computing of what was then called "the longest arc of parallel that man will ever measure"—from Valentia in Ireland to Oursk in the Urals.

In India Sapper officers tackled a much more formidable task of survey. Major William Lambton found that the breadth of the

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In Roy Grove, Twickenham, is preserved one of the two cannon which marked the ends of the five-mile line cut across Hounslow Heath. It bears a plaque which was erected on the 200th anniversary of General Roy's birth.



On an English hilltop, Sapper officers of an Ordnance Survey team record information to keep the maps of Britain up to date. The white canvas beacon acts as an aiming mark for back bearings.





These photographs were taken by members of a Royal Engineers team who spent two years surveying the wild Kenya-Ethiopia border. Centre picture shows bearings being taken with a theodolite along a path cut through the bush. Left: a tribesman with all his worldly goods, including his house, on a camel. Right: a Sapper sergeant takes a reading from a boundary pillar erected by the team.

peninsula in the latitude of Madras was 40 miles in error measured by the old astronomical method, as compared with his trigonometrical system. The task of mapping the sub-continent was hampered by distorting heat, dense jungle, virulent fevers, local wars and mutinies by native troops. In the Nepalese Himalayas more than 100 observation towers had to be built above the level of the tree tops. But the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India went on. One of its

moving spirits was Captain (later Sir) George Everest, of the Bengal Artillery, who at least got his name on the map.

That Hounslow five-mile line began to look very small when, in 1858, a party of Royal Engineers under a Colonel Hawkins started to mark out a line from Eastern Canada to the Pacific Coast—the famous 49th Parallel, dividing Canada from the United States. The line had earlier been mapped by Lieutenant-Colonel Bucknall Estcourt and a Sapper

party. Readings were taken on the bright flame from burning birch bark. The parties signalled to each other by gunpowder flashes—one flash for "move to the right," two flashes for "move to the left" and three flashes for "halt." In one section of 64 miles two parties working from opposite ends found themselves 341 feet out.

A line 20 feet wide was marked along the boundary, frequent monuments being erected. Since the United States boundary team would not agree to continuous marking, this part of the work had to be done wholly by the British. They averaged about half a mile a day, across plains, through forests and over mountains. Often they toiled in the worst of conditions and relied for food mostly on what they could kill. The boundary line from the Pacific to the Rockies was completed in 1862; that from the Rockies to Ontario was not begun until 1872. It had to be driven through perilous "Injun country," yet the party, under a Captain Ward, found themselves well received by the fierce Redskins.

At the same time Royal Engineers were surveying the Holy Land and the Sinai Peninsula. In the process they threw new light on many Old Testament stories. They conclusively proved Mount Sinai to be the Jebel Musa. At one stage they made their base at the famous St. Catherine's Monastery in Sinai, which was often visited in recent years by British troops from Egypt. The Army surveyors traced the probable route of the Children of Israel from the head of the Gulf of Suez, where it was thought the Red Sea was crossed, to Mount Sinai. As a result of the survey the hitherto doubtful sites of 172 place names mentioned in the Bible were determined. In the course of these operations a

young Sapper officer destined for greatness—Lieutenant Herbert Kitchener—nearly died from fever. Troops in Cyprus today use maps based on Lord Kitchener's survey of that island.

Officers of the Royal Artillery also played a distinguished part in survey operations during the nineteenth century. General Sir Edward Sabine accompanied Sir Edward Parry to the North Polar seas in 1819-20 as scientific observer. Other Gunner officers cruised on magnetic surveys in the Antarctic, in the Hudson Bay

THE SOLDIER AND THE EXPLORER

No military operation is any use without a map.

Hence there is a professional bond between the soldier and the geographer.

General Sir Gerald Templer, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, recently proposed the toast of the Royal Geographical Society, which this year is sponsoring 18 expeditions, ranging from the Arctic to Borneo, from Persia to Peru.

The President of the Royal Geographical Society: General Sir James Marshall-Cornwall.



The modern function of exploration, he said, was to fill in the gaps in the broad picture left by the explorers of last century—by mapping and detailed reconnaissance. But exploration still called for leadership, initiative and courage. "We in the Army continue, I am glad to say, to provide our quota in this gallery—John Hunt and Charles Wylie of Everest, Streatier of last year's Kanchenjunga ascent—and our contribution in men and equipment to the North Greenland Expedition of 1952-54... May they have many successors and as worthy."

General Templer announced that the Army would contribute motor transport and drivers to a Sahara expedition next year.

The president of the Royal Geographical Society is a soldier: General Sir James Marshall-Cornwall, who in 1940 evacuated many thousands of British troops from Cherbourg. He later commanded British Troops, Egypt.



A 1300-mile stretch of the 49th Parallel dividing Canada and the United States of America was marked out by the Royal Engineers.

Territories and in Cape Colony.

Early this century the Colonial Survey was initiated. The Director of Military Survey was asked to assist in the mapping of numerous Empire lands—notably Tanganyika, Kenya, Northern Rhodesia and the West Indies. This work still goes on.

Today the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain—which, rather oddly, comes under the Ministry of Agriculture—is largely staffed by civilians, but it still has a serving Royal Engineer officer at its head. Under him are a number of Sapper officers who direct survey operations within the British Isles. Until the outbreak

of World War Two there was a Survey Battalion Royal Engineers permanently engaged on survey work in Britain.

The global range of World War Two resulted in the surveying of many undermapped territories, especially in Asia. A method of radar-controlled air survey was developed, enabling maps to be made from aerial photographs without preliminary ground survey; a system which was of great value in the mapping of Japanese-occupied lands.

But aerial survey provides only a comparatively rough picture and ground survey is necessary in densely wooded or mountainous areas to pin-point rivers, tracks, villages and gradients.

In war or peace, there are always countries to be surveyed

or re-surveyed. For the men on the ground—the "geographic labourers"—the task is often arduous and exciting. Not so long ago three Sapper officers who surveyed a tract running from the mountains of Nyasaland to the Muchingo escarpment of Northern Rhodesia found themselves skipping out of the paths of plunging elephants and rhinos, fording crocodile rivers and shooting the occasional black mamba. They travelled through almost unexplored country in the classic single-file, packs-on-head formation beloved of cartoonists, meeting many an out-of-the-way tribe, including one ruled by a chieftainess. Often they shot their own supper. The native bearers, who had to be taught to read

clocks, occasionally borrowed from the surveyors "fourteen shillings to buy a new wife or forty shillings to dispose of an old one." In some parts of Africa night surveying—with the aid of lights—is made difficult by the reluctance of superstitious natives to remain on isolated hills in darkness.

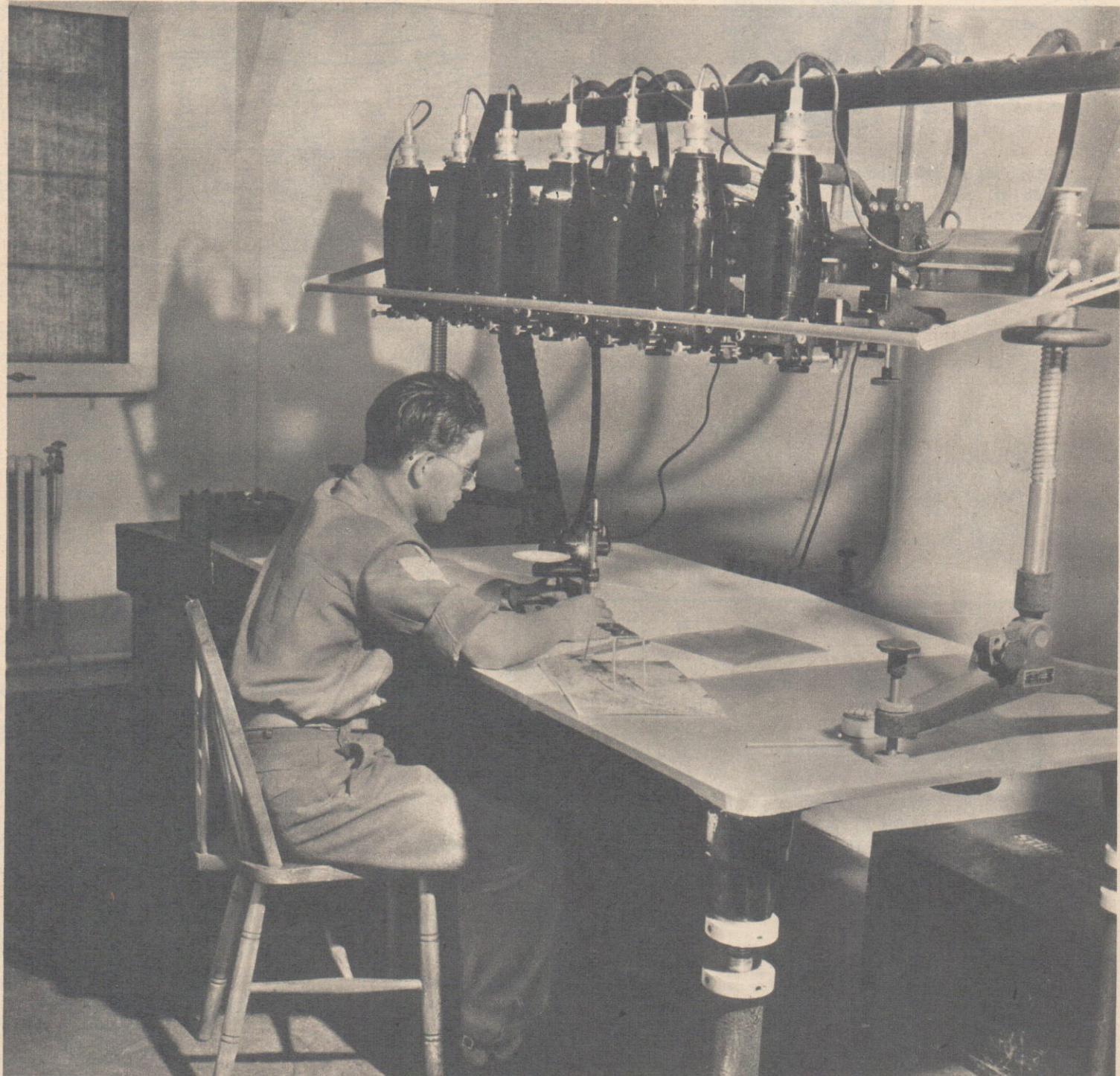
A few months ago a team of Sappers returned to England after spending two years marking and surveying the 400-mile boundary between Kenya and Ethiopia. With bulldozers they cleared a five-yards gap through mile after mile of dense scrub, so tangled that they could often clear only one mile a day, and blazed a trail across the salt flats and boulder-strewn deserts that abound in that area. Often they

worked in temperatures of more than 110 degrees. In one part they were so plagued with flies that they could eat only at night, with all lights doused. Most of the team grew beards, for water is short in those parts.

Since the war Sappers have also surveyed large areas in Iraq and Jordan, carrying spare vehicle engines and 14 days reserve rations in case of breakdowns. One British Sapper officer was until recently working with Australian engineers helping to survey parts of the Australian desert; another is engaged on mapping in Canada.

Although the modern military surveyor has improved instruments, he goes through the same trigonometrical motions as did Mudge and Everest.

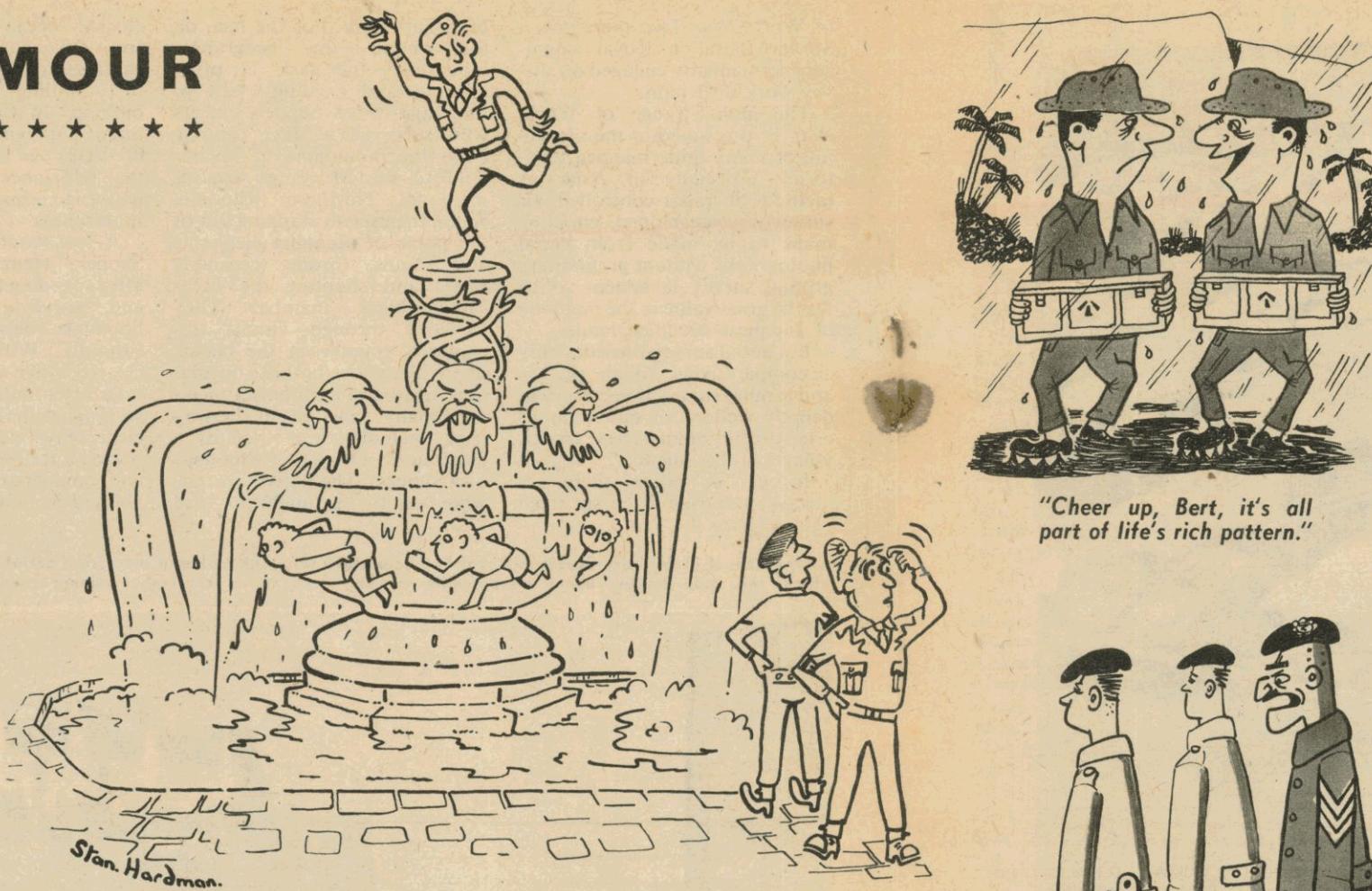
At the School of Military Survey a Royal Engineer staff-sergeant makes a map from aerial photographs. The projectors throw a picture on the table which the map-maker, using stereoscopic glasses, sees as a three-dimensional model. He draws his map to scale from the "model."



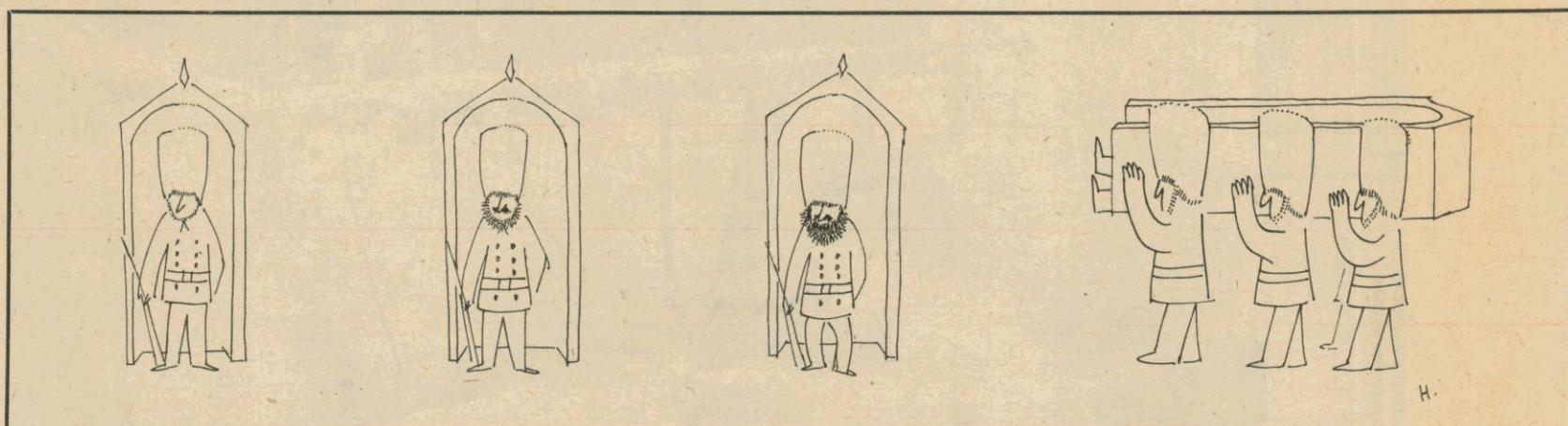
SOLDIER HUMOUR



"I'm a bit doubtful about this new idea of letting the men go on leave straight from the ship."



"Cheer up, Bert, it's all part of life's rich pattern."



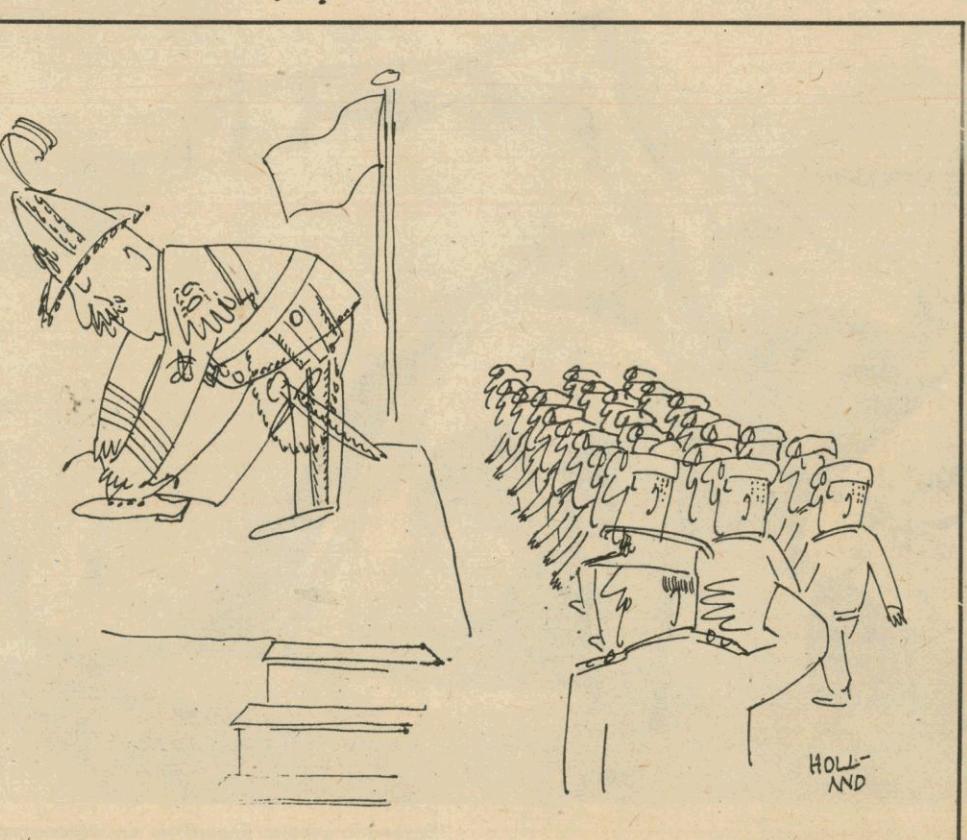
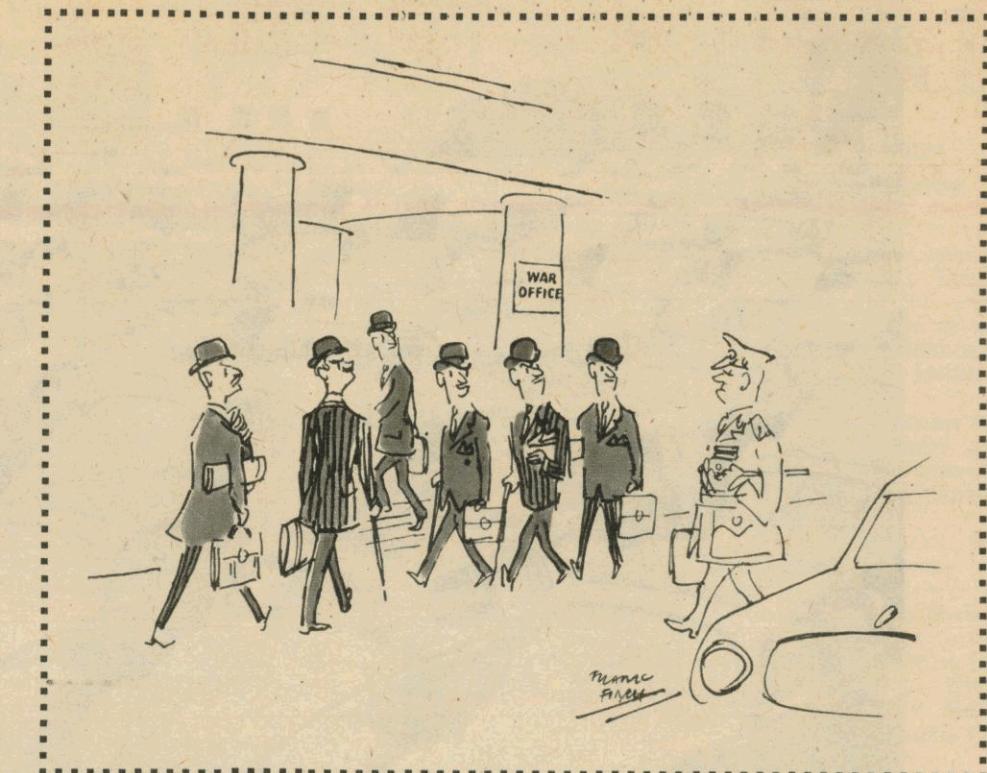
"Come out in a hurry this morning, Bennett?"



"All right, Burke—I know you're due to go on leave today."



"So this is your idea of somewhere to eat and watch a good floor show!"

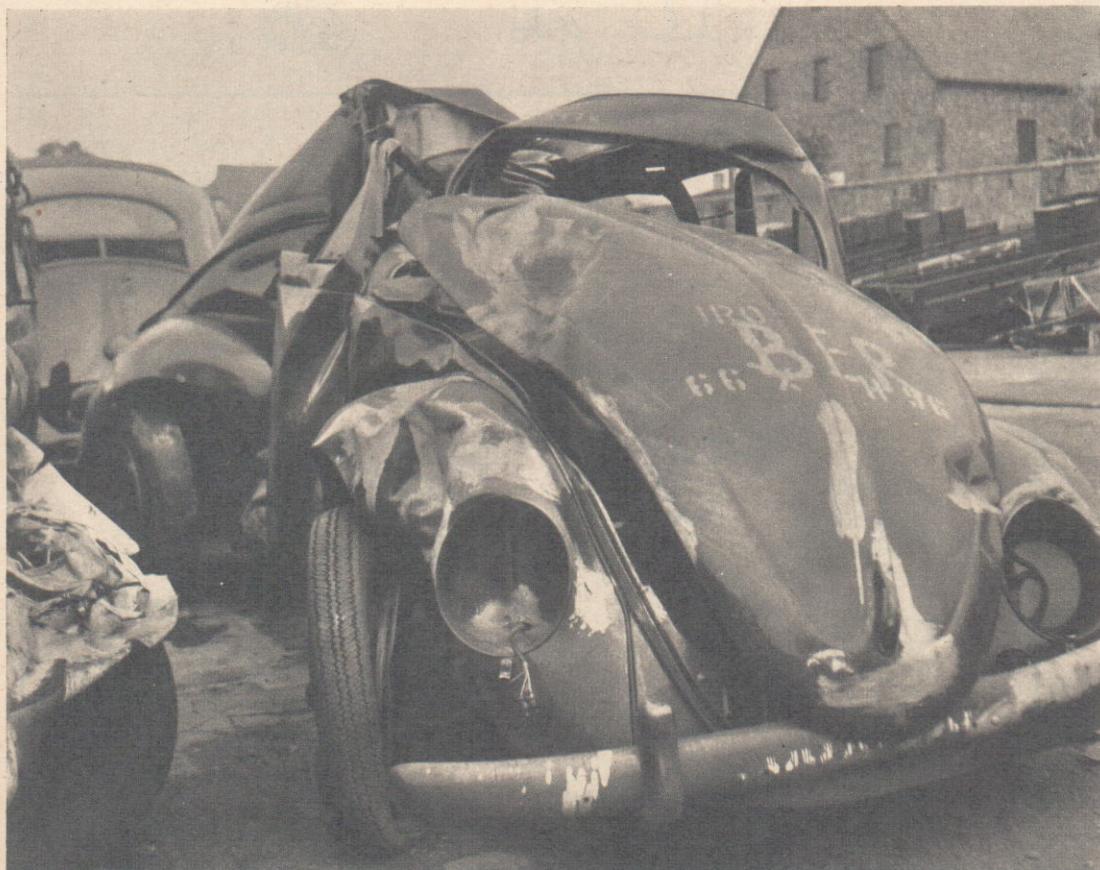




Bent, bashed and occasionally burned: some of the 200-odd Army cars which came to grief on German roads in six months.

AN ARMY UNIT IS KEPT BUSY TACKLING THIS

CRASH HARVEST



"Beyond Economic Repair" is an under-statement when applied to this vehicle. It was involved in a fatal crash.

IN sad rows stretching the length of the vehicle park at No. 4 Base Workshops, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, in Germany, stood more than 200 Army cars of German make.

Not one was roadworthy.

Some of the vehicles bore the initials: "BER" (Beyond Economic Repair), others "BLR" (Beyond Local Repair). They were the casualties, some mechanically worn out but most of them damaged in accidents, which had been sent from units all over Rhine Army during the past six months.

Making major repairs to German cars used by Rhine Army is a new task for No. 4 Base Workshops (previously it was done by German contractors). Normally a "non-runner" spends only 30 days in hospital. From the vehicle park it is taken into the workshops, completely stripped and rebuilt. If a car is too badly damaged to repair, those parts which can be used again are removed and used to build up other vehicles.

The workshops are largely staffed by Germans who are supervised by officers and warrant officers of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and British civilians.

THE PROVOCATIVE GENERAL



Major-General J. F. C. Fuller gained a reputation as a writer with his vigorous arguments for the tank. At 78 he has just finished a major work of military history

CONTROVERSIAL" and "provocative" are the words reviewers are using again to describe the latest book by Major-General J. F. C. Fuller CB, CBE, DSO.

The same words have been applied to his work a good many times since, as a Territorial adjutant, he first broke into print with "Hints on Training Territorial Infantry."

Now, some three dozen books and half a century later, he has published the third volume of "The Decisive Battles of the Western World" (Eyre and Spottiswoode, 45s). At 78 he maintains his reputation as the stormy petrel of British military writing and as an original military thinker.

The new volume is the culmination of 15 years' work. As an instructor at the Staff College in the 1920's, when the only military history studied was "Stonewall Jackson," by Lieutenant-Colonel G. F. R. Henderson, an account of the campaigns of the American Civil War general, General Fuller decided that students needed something with a more general outlook on war. "Decisive Battles" was originally a two-volume work.

"But it was too hurriedly written," says General Fuller, "and Hitler did me a service by bombing London and destroying almost the whole edition."

The three volumes, published over the last three years, cover battles from 1500 BC to the end of World War Two. The whole represents, to quote one review, "an extraordinary achievement of the old age of a remarkable man."

In his latest volume General Fuller condemns (as he did at the time) the "unconditional surrender" policy of the Allies, the mass-bombing of Germany and the dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan. It is chastening, too, to men who fought in Fourteenth Army to find that Burma does not feature among the decisive battles.

"Burma was a prestige campaign," General Fuller told SOLDIER. "I don't say it was not necessary. Slim's campaign was marvellous, but strategically it was superfluous. The Japanese were beaten in the China seas. I never thought the Japanese would enter India. What could they do

there?"

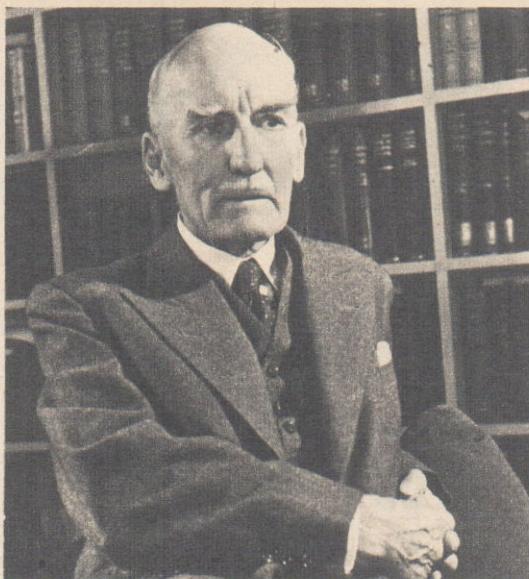
Curiously, the man who provokes so much argument and thought about military matters had no interest in them himself as a young man. He went to Sandhurst, with the aid of a crammer, only because his maternal grandfather wished it. In his regiment, he did not share his brother officers' interest in sport, and one reported him to the regimental surgeon because he was found reading a book called "The First Philosophers of Greece."

In the South African War, as a subaltern, he had an independent command of Kaffir scouts. The freedom he enjoyed in this and in a subsequent appointment as a Volunteer (later Territorial) adjutant spoiled him for regimental soldiering, he says in his "Memoirs of an Unconventional Soldier." The Territorial post had, however, stimulated an interest in military affairs, so he worked for the Staff College.

Here his essays demonstrated his unconventional thinking, and on one occasion he was brusquely told it was not the business of a student to amend Field Service Regulations but to study them. Perhaps fortunately for Captain Fuller's military career, World War One interrupted his studies.

In 1917, Major Fuller joined the headquarters of the Heavy Branch of the Machine Gun Corps—shortly to be the Tank Corps—in France. Working with him was another officer whose forthright opinions on mechanical warfare were to become well known, Captain (now General) G. le Q Martel.

Major Fuller "metaphorically burned King's Regulations" and joined the battle to obtain recognition for the tank. Blistering are



Major-General Fuller today. Nearly 40 years ago the King read a copy of his "Weekly Tank Notes" and asked to be put on the mailing list.

his comments on those who obstructed its progress. It was he who wrote the first training manual for tanks, which formed the foundation of tank tactics for the next year or so.

In August 1918, Colonel Fuller DSO ("Boney" to his friends) moved to the War Office. His mission: to help the Imperial General Staff double the Tank Corps. Few people in the War Office knew anything about tanks. For those who did not, Colonel Fuller produced a newspaper called "Weekly Tank Notes." Its circulation rose from 30 to more than 400 and King George V demanded an "undiluted copy" each week.

The war over, Colonel Fuller saw a danger that the Tank Corps would be scrapped. Advertising, he thought, was the way to save it. So he wrote articles by the dozen and gave lectures by the score. One essay won the Gold Medal of the Royal United Services Institution, but the War Office, he writes, was "upheaved." The essay was considered violent military Bolshevism. Colonel Fuller had roused a hornet's nest and was delighted. The demand for tanks was stimulated.

There were other lively moments to come in his Service career. "Don't let Fuller leave the Service—we shall want his brains," wrote General Sir George Milne, soon to be Chief of the Imperial General Staff, when Colonel Fuller considered resigning because permission to publish one of his books had been refused. "The most insubordinate document" he had ever read was how the same general described Colonel Fuller's report on a visit to India.

Finally, in 1933, Major-General Fuller refused command of Bombay District, knowing full well that if he did so he would never be employed again. Bombay offered no scope for his specialised knowledge.

"I had established my name as a writer during ten years of propaganda for mechanisation," he told SOLDIER. "So I took up writing for a living."

In 1935, at the invitation of Lord Rothermere, he went to Germany to report Hitler's first manoeuvres, on Luneburg Heath. On his own account, he three times visited Franco's armies in the Spanish Civil War to write about them. The *Daily Mail* asked him to go to Abyssinia as a war correspondent.

Before leaving, he called on the Italian ambassador in London and was offered a letter of introduction to Mussolini. "I did not want to meet the Duce," he says, "but I thought it would be discourteous to refuse."

In Rome, he found other war correspondents balked in their attempts to get to Abyssinia. After three days of being thwarted by officials himself, General Fuller produced his letter to Mussolini and was received by the Duce. A day or so later, he sailed from Naples for Massawa with Marshal Badoglio, the Italian Commander-in-Chief—as Mussolini's guest. The other correspondents were still kicking their heels in Rome.

"It was not a very exciting war," says General Fuller. "I took off my hat to the Italians as workmen. They did things our men would never do, and lived in appalling conditions. I was no journalist. I could not type and I knew nothing of cable-ese. My dispatches must have been some of the most expensive ever."

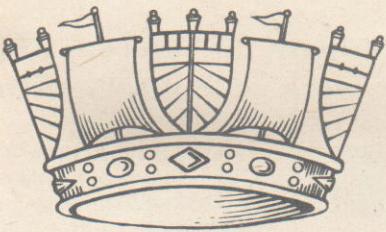
In World War Two, General Fuller was a highly successful commentator, writing for both British and American newspapers and magazines. He did not, however, read the newspapers. "All you want to know is the bare news—who has been defeated, how many casualties, who has been moved where, and so on. Then you take out a map, look at all the geographical features and decide the most brilliant thing to do—or the silliest thing to do with some commanders. Then you know what is going to happen."

For the *Sunday Pictorial*, General Fuller, early in 1944, wrote a speculative article on the expected invasion of Europe, and it was banned by the censor. The editor particularly wanted an article on the subject, so General Fuller said, "Let's do it another

Continued on Page 33



Gentleman-Cadet Fuller: he went to Sandhurst in 1897.



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The view from Sandy Ridge. The river just below the hill on the right marks the frontier.

The Watchers on Sandy Ridge

AT the top of Sandy Ridge, the air is fresh and the view superb—across the Bamboo Curtain.

Sandy Ridge, 300-odd feet high, is one of the eyries in the New Territories of Hong Kong from which British soldiers keep a routine watch on a small section of Communist China.

"They will observe everything in their arc," say standing orders for the observation post.

The arc includes nearly the whole frontier between the Colony and Red China. Below runs the Sham Chun River, which marks the frontier. Beyond is a wide plain, backed by hills.

Just across the river a Chinese

Army pill-box stands on a mound. In the distance are several villages and a fair-sized town. Coolies, and sometimes files of troops, move through the paddy-fields and vegetable gardens. Any activity is recorded.

Not the most exciting task—but any force with a frontier to guard must keep its eyes wide open.

Rations for the watchers. Mules bring all supplies up this track.



HONG KONG ROUND-UP

Photographs: SOLDIER Cameraman FRANK TOMPSETT.



The observation post and (below) the observers. They work in two-hour shifts with five hours' rest and keep a log of what happens over the border.



Caution: Ancestors Ahead

ONCE upon a time the Emperor Hiu, who belonged to the Ming dynasty and lived 600 or 700 years ago, personally ordered a buffalo bridge to be built over a stream near the village of Kam Tin, now in Hong Kong's New Territories. Over this bridge, to this day, the villagers drive their precious water-buffalo (a good beast may be worth £200).

Early this year, during an exercise, the buffalo bridge was considered to have been blown up. For realism, an enthusiast set off a charge—and part of the old bridge collapsed.

A trivial matter to repair? Not in Hong Kong.

Mr. G. S. H. Gillingham, the Command land agent, who settles claims against the Army, knows an ancient monument when he sees one and soon realised that the buffalo bridge called for more than functional repairs.

The old bridge is of unusual

BONES, DRAGONS AND DEAD EMPERORS MAY INTERFERE WITH EXERCISES

construction. Each of the main spans is made of three parallel "planks" of granite, and each of these "planks" is about 17 feet long and weighs roughly two tons. They could have come only from quarries several miles away, over the hills. How they were transported and erected is a question on which antiquarians can only speculate.

One of these "planks" was broken, and no other was available. So the Royal Engineers were called in and asked to do some invisible mending. The broken pier was built up again. Then steel ties were used, where they would not show, to knit the two pieces of granite together, and finally more steel was used underneath the "plank" to reinforce it. When the Sappers had finished, the bridge looked just as



Kam Tin's buffalo bridge. It was damaged during an exercise.

it had before the accident, and the villagers were satisfied.

Old as it is, the bridge is young compared with Kam Tin itself. This walled village is believed to have been built more than 2,000 years ago. Once, it is said, during a civil war, the Emperor of China's daughter fled from the

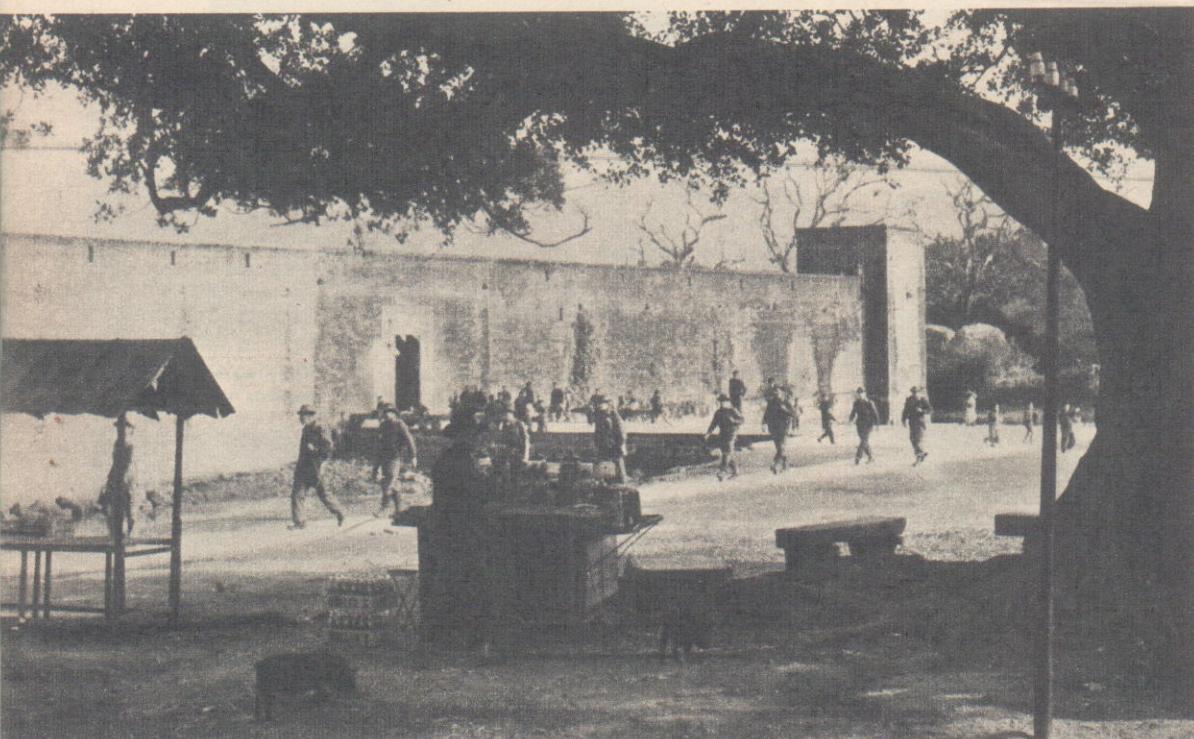
rebels and hid at Kam Tin.

She did not reveal her identity, but the headman of the village fell in love and married her. When the Emperor had overcome his enemies, his search parties located his daughter at Kam Tin. The princess refused to leave the village. All she asked of her father was land.

So the Emperor called for a wooden goose and floated it on the stream which passes Kam Tin. Wherever the wooden goose touched the bank there, he said, the land would belong to Kam Tin. On this legend, the villagers of Kam Tin have been known to base claims to the ownership of land, and on similar legends, other villagers have based other claims. The Army, however, refuses to acknowledge them.

A much more difficult problem in land matters is Fung Shui ("Wind Water"). Fung Shui is a highly complicated creed which affects particularly the siting of graves, but also that of buildings and other projects. It is so complex that only learned Fung Shui experts really understand it.

Graves are sited on the principle, in part at least, that wind disperses the spirits of the dead whereas water will stop them, and dispersal is to be avoided. So graves are situated on shel-



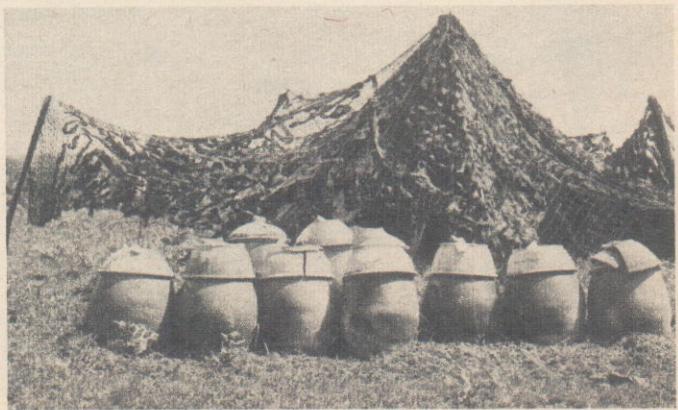
CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



The walled village of Kam Tin. It once provided a husband for an Emperor's daughter.

Left: A Chinese grave built out on an open hillside.

Right: Each jar contains the bones of an ancestor.



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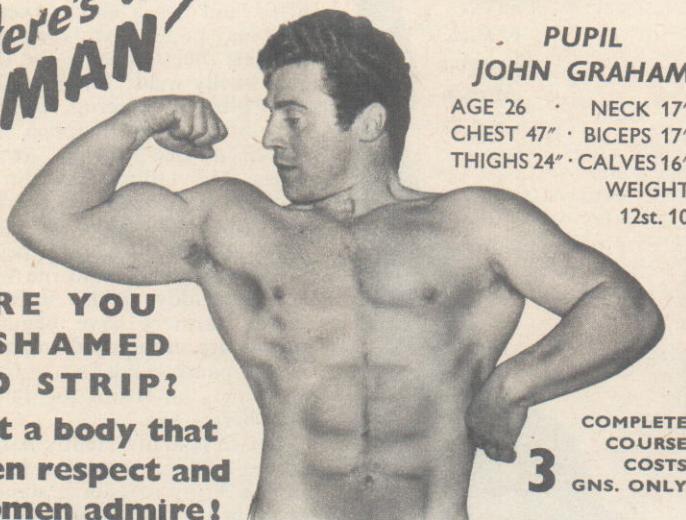
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Careers in Electricity Supply

This is an extract from a recorded interview with F. P. Harwood, a third year student apprentice with the London Electricity Board.

“...and I should like to see myself in his position at his age.”



Har.: After I passed in physics at Advanced level I wasn't sure what I wanted to do—chemical, electrical or mechanical engineering. Then my father got hold of the training scheme of the London Board, and that seemed to me a very comprehensive training.

Q.M.: And so you started training at North Western Sub-Area?

Har.: Yes. I was fortunate in being with a man who was a natural instructor. Later I found that work outside interested me more than in the office and since then I have had about 7 months with an Assistant Distribution Engineer who had himself been a graduate trainee. He knew what I wanted from his own experience, and he has done well for himself—he's not 30 yet—and I should like to see myself in his position at his age.

Q.M.: Weren't you chosen to go to France last summer?

Har.: Yes, with a party of apprentices. We went out to Electricité de France. Very interesting.

Q.M.: Strenuous?

Har.: Very! 3,000 miles in 17 days. We were the guests of the French Electricity Authority who made us feel very much at home.

Q.M.: You find the training flexible?

Har.: Oh yes, I asked if I could have more time—in basic mechanical training—and I was able to. You are not being trained to *do* the job, but to know *how* to do it; how, later on, to expect other people to do it. We have a period in a domestic repair shop and I'm hoping to spend two months in a cable factory, two months in switchgear and two months in another factory.



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

The Education and Training Officer,
Central Electricity Authority,
8 Winsley Street, London, W.1.



HONG KONG

continued

tered hillsides, perhaps with groves of trees to protect them, and with water below.

Into many family and village graves are placed uncoffined bodies to decompose. After about three years the families go festively to the graves, on the feast of Ching Ming, recover the bones, wash and polish them and put them carefully into jars, feet first and then the other bones in the right order, ending with the skull on top. Then the jars are placed on hillsides (Fung Shui again) to await permanent burial, if and when funds allow.

Graves and jars must be treated with respect by the Army. The courses of new roads have been replanned, to avoid disturbing them. When a village tomb was damaged during an exercise, a new one was promptly built at the Army's expense and ceremonially handed over by a senior brigadier, supported by civilian officials in top-hats.

Tanks produce headaches all their own in a Colony where it is necessary to tread so carefully. The 7th Queen's Own Hussars, who are in Hong Kong now, are equipped with Comets since few of the bridges in the New Territories could support Centurions. Because of the intense cultivation in the valleys, they can rarely go off the roads, except on to the grave-sprinkled hills.

On rare occasions the ban is lifted and for a single exercise they may go into the paddy fields and test their tracks in the thick and smelly mud. So valuable is the Colony's rice-crop, however, that this may only happen when there is no rice growing. At such times, Mr. Gillingham and his staff are out in strength, to assess the damage the tanks will inevitably cause to the bunds, the low mud walls which hold the water in the paddy fields. Recently, paddy farmers have begun to breed carp in the mud and water of the paddy-fields, so in future there may be claims for damage to fisheries, too.

If rice is inadvertently harmed in the fields, it would be tactless of the Army to offer a standard price in compensation. The villagers of Shatin (where the Army has its air observation post strip) would be offended. Their rice, they claim, is so good that in the old days they were not allowed to sell it. The entire crop had to be sent to the Emperor.

The Army must not only beware of damaging crops itself. It must also watch out that its clumsiness does not let in "dragons" to wreak havoc. On the upper side of hill villages, there may be a fence of bamboo stakes to keep the dragons out, and a dragon gate of bamboo on the track passing through the village. These must be preserved or replaced.

RICHARD ELLEY.

HE FLED WITH A ONE-LEGGED ADMIRAL— AND REACHED CHUNGKING

ANYONE who leaves it as late as this to publish his escape story of World War Two must have a tale that is really out of the ordinary.

Captain Freddie Guest, a former Indian Army Cavalryman, has just such a tale. His "Escape From The Bloodied Sun" (Jarrold, 16s) tells, excitingly, how he fled from surrendered Hong Kong with a handful of companions—including a one-legged Chinese admiral later knighted by King George VI—and made his way through the Japanese gauntlet to Chungking, war-time capital of China 1200 miles in the interior.

Very little has been written about the events which led to the fall of Hong Kong, after 100 years of British rule, on Christmas Day, 1941. Captain Guest's book helps to fill in many of the details.

Hong Kong went down fighting. When news came of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, the Colony knew that it would soon be battling with its back to the sea. The regiments defending the New Territories fell back to an Inner Line and were soon afterwards evacuated to Hong Kong island in a minor Dunkirk. Then the Japanese began bombarding the island, not only with high explosive but with words and music ("Home Sweet Home" appeared to be their propaganda theme song). The high explosive was more effective; it caused a two-day petrol fire which shrouded Hong Kong in a sinister black fog and under cover of this the Japanese landed storming parties. The author enthuses about the execution performed in street fighting by "that wonderful gun, the Bofors." When the Japanese seized a building as a headquarters, the Bofors commander would begin to pulverise it. "We had only two of these guns, which were manned by the Hong Kong Volunteers. What a wonderful job they did!" But two Bofors could not hold the island. By the time a whole

A ONE-TIME INDIAN ARMY CAVALRYMAN MADE A THRILLING BOLT FROM WAR-TIME HONG KONG AFTER THE SURRENDER



Captain Freddie Guest: he planned escape in advance.

Japanese division had landed the defence was seen to be hopeless.

British troops were ordered to Murray Barracks, as the first step towards captivity. The prospect did not appeal to Captain Guest, who had earlier thought out ways of escaping if the Colony fell and had prudently practised long-distance swimming. The question was: where to head for? Canton would be occupied by the Japanese. So, probably, would Singapore. So, too, would Portuguese Macao. What about Rangoon? Or Chungking?

The escape to the mainland was an extremely exciting one. Japanese gunners fired on the motor launch and Captain Guest was one of those who took to the water, swimming under fire to the nearest island. Another who succeeded in reaching land, despite a wound, was the one-legged Chinese admiral, Andrew Chan Chak, who left his wooden leg in the boat. He had been assisting in the fight against Japanese Fifth Columnists in the Colony and

would have been a marked man.

The escapers joined forces with a Royal Navy party who landed them at a village—long the resort of pirates—on the mainland. Then the group, numbering about 70, began their journey into the interior, the Chinese admiral riding in a litter borne by coolies. Soon they were clear of Japanese ground forces and their only problem—but no small problem—was to join up with their own side again. The Navy decided to make for Rangoon—and eventually got there. Because of his wound, the Chinese admiral had to be left in hospital. That left four Army officers on their own. They rang up Chungking and were ordered to make contact with the Chinese Regular Army. Two of Captain Guest's companions were able to "thumb a lift" by American aircraft. The other was given a special assignment. Captain Guest travelled the last 600 miles alone, at one time in the uniform of a Chinese soldier. It was hard slogging: the Chinese never stopped for "brew-ups"

in the British manner but just went on and on.

And so to Chungking (lunch with the Ambassador, tea with Chiang Kai-shek), Calcutta and Delhi (lunch with the Viceroy and tea with General Wavell). Later Captain Guest became an instructor in an officer cadet school in Bangalore.

The author, a man of action, tells his story without trimmings. He explains that he had spent many years in India and Africa and long-distance travelling held no terrors; also "rough-living was no worry to me as I considered myself to be more than just fit." Certainly it was no emaciated starveling who arrived at Chungking. Captain Guest seems to have eaten some remarkably sustaining meals on the journey.

A heartening book, containing valuable morals which need no underlining.

Showing the route Captain Guest followed to reach China's war-time capital Chungking, 1200 miles from Hong Kong. The Japanese held the coastal areas.



A Diehard Escaper Also Turned Up at Chungking

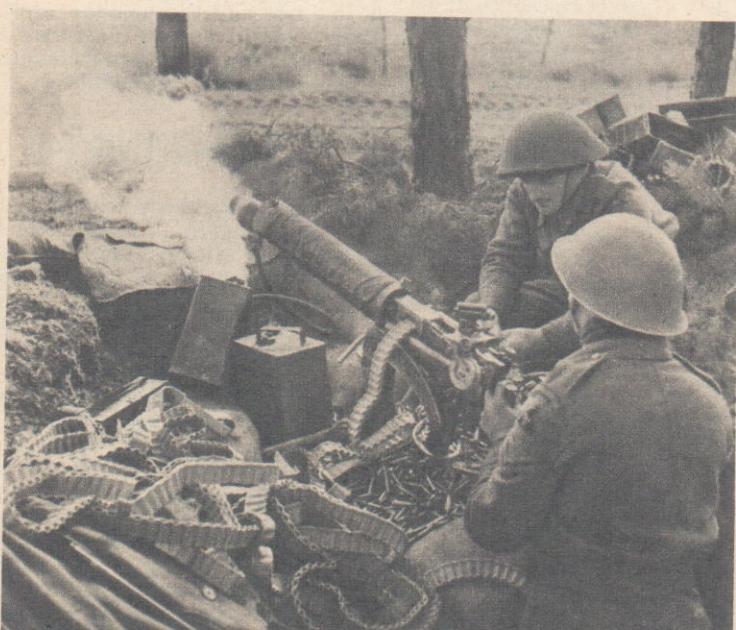
THE story of the escape of Captain A. G. Hewitt, of the Middlesex Regiment, with two other officers, from Hong Kong occupies four exciting pages in a new history of the Diehards—"The Middlesex Regiment: 1919-1952" (Gale and Polden, 25s).

The escape was carefully planned over several weeks in the prison camp at Sham Shui Po, in the New Territories. The three officers made their getaway in a sampan, but were almost immediately fired upon and forced to turn back to the beach. During the night they hid in a Chinese grave in the hills and next day fought "a full-blooded and desperate fight" with seven Chinese who charged them brandishing bayonets and choppers. The three officers fought back with bare fists—and won.

It was impossible to know whether the Chinese would be friendly or hostile. Eventually

the three were recognised by a very tall Chinese, half-American negro, who had formerly owned a radio shop in Kowloon. He passed them on to a local gang of bandits, who in turn led them through the Japanese lines. Then they were taken over by the Chinese National Army and marched to Kukong, capital of Kwantung Province.

Captain Hewitt was subsequently flown to Chungking; one of his companions, Douglas Scriven, mustered a group of Chinese



Middlesex machine-gunner supporting an Infantry advance with flank fire from their Vickers at Overloon, Holland. See review on right.

OVER

and went back to repay those who had assisted the fugitives; and the third escaper, a New Zealander, Pilot Officer Douglas Crossley, made his way to Calcutta by road, rail and air.

This regimental history, ably presented by a Naval officer, Lieutenant-Commander P. K. Kemp, tells the tragic story of the 1st Battalion's fighting retreat in Hong Kong in 1941. When the surrender came, this was the reckoning: out of 36 officers, 10 were killed, four wounded, two missing; of the 728 men, 94 were killed, 110 wounded and 25 missing. Nor was this the end of a sad story. In October, 1942 the captive Battalion were ordered by sea to a new camp and their vessel, the *Lisbon Maru*, was torpedoed by an Allied submarine. When most of the Japanese had abandoned the ship, leaving the prisoners battened down, Lieutenant-Colonel H. W. M. Stewart organised the forcing of the hatches. Although the first men out were fired upon by the guards, a great many escaped; but the luckless Battalion lost 132 more lives in this shipwreck. In the new prison camp Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart wore himself out working for the well-being of his men and died. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

Colonel L. A. Newnham, the previous commanding officer of

the Battalion, was removed by the Japanese from prison camp on suspicion of organising contact with Chinese lorry drivers. With two other officers he was interrogated under torture, starved, beaten and finally sentenced to death, the execution being cruelly postponed in a vain final effort to break the officer's nerve. Colonel Newnham was awarded a posthumous George Cross.

In all, seven battalions of the Middlesex saw active service in World War Two. All were machine-gun battalions except one, which was equipped with light anti-aircraft guns, but remained staunchly "Diehard."

In the Battle of the Reichswald no fewer than four Middlesex battalions were engaged side by side in the initial fire plan. "This must surely be a record," says Lieutenant-General Sir Brian Horrocks in a foreword. General Horrocks is himself a Diehard and commanded the 2nd Battalion for a spell in 1940. He was the deviser of the "pepperpot" technique which was employed with deadly effect when the Allies re-invaded Europe. Under the orchestration of the machine-gun commander, a given area was strafed for hours and, if need be, days by every available kind of weapon: machine-guns, Bofors, anti-tank guns, tank guns and mortars. It was an invigorating assignment for a machine-gun commander, who became in effect a Commander Royal Artillery for the occasion.

"HOW DARE YOU LET THEM GO FISHING!"

IT was dinner-time at Marrakesh, where Sir Winston Churchill was convalescent.

As soon as the party had taken their seats, the Prime Minister rose and placed in front of one officer a plate covered by a table napkin. "Your *hors d'oeuvres*," he said.

The officer lifted the napkin and found underneath the insignia of a major-general. Thus did he learn of his promotion. The officer concerned, General Sir Leslie Hollis, recalls the incident in "One Marine's Tale" (Andre Deutsch, 15s).

General Hollis, a clergyman's son, was 17 when World War One

He knew the inner secrets of the war: General Sir Leslie Hollis.



broke out. He learned the answers to 150 questions by heart, which enabled him to take a commission in the Royal Marine Light Infantry. As a Marine officer he saw the Battle of Jutland from the crow's nest of a cruiser whose only casualty was a case of German measles, and learned the rudiments of midwifery when dealing with Greek refugees.

He went to Whitehall as a major in 1936, to the staff of the Joint Planning Organisation, and did not leave again until 13 years later, when he was a lieutenant-general, newly appointed Commandant-General of the Royal Marines. Few men saw more of the higher direction of the war. At one time he "doubled" the appointments of Secretary to the Chiefs of Staffs Committee and Staff officer to the Prime Minister, who was then Minister of Defence. There were occasions, fortunately rare, when his two loyalties were conflicting. Once, red-faced, he had to explain to an irate Prime Minister that all three Chiefs of Staff had taken one of their infrequent week-ends off to go fishing. "Fishing!" said Sir Winston, "In war-time! How dare you allow them to go fishing?"

General Hollis once told the Prime Minister a true story about a young Marine who, after only short training, went on a Commando operation in Burma, with instructions that if he was cut off he should make his way back to headquarters. He was cut off and as the only headquarters he could think of were in Plymouth he set off for that port—and after tedious travels reached it. "I don't think much of your story," said Sir Winston. "The man turned his back on the enemy."

As Commandant-General, General Hollis went to America to visit the United States Marines, and was asked to take the salute at a "small" parade. It numbered 14,000 men, more than the entire strength of the Royal Marines.

A Book of Uniforms

FORCES BOOKSHOPS AT

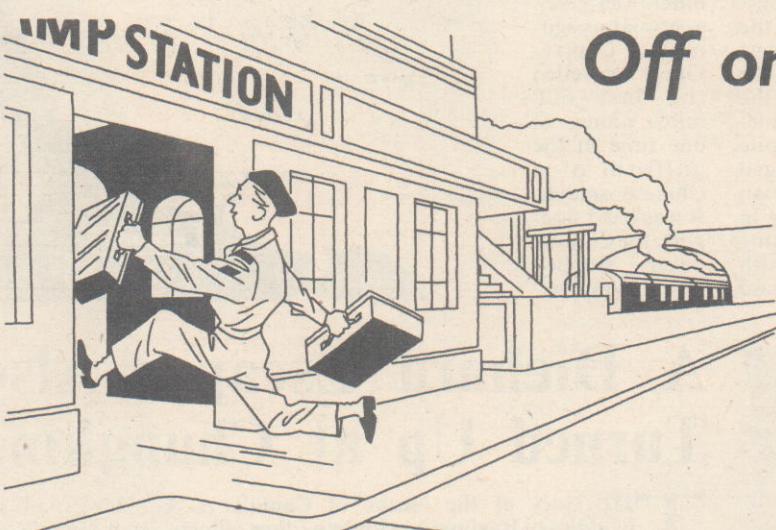
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HERFORD (Y.M.C.A.)
HERFORD (Y.W.C.A.)
HILDESHEIM (Toc H)
HORNE (Y.M.C.A.)
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MUNCHEN-GLADBACH
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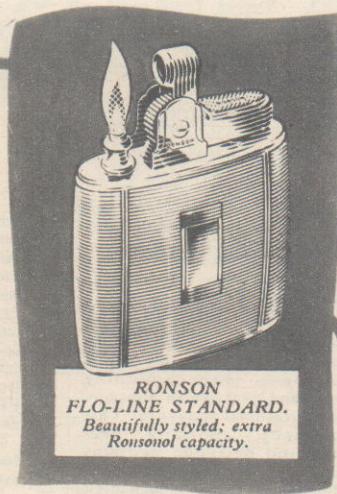
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The Big Flag in Paris, Then The Reckoning...

WHILE the Allies were breaking through at Caen and Falaise, in the summer of 1944, mysterious telephone calls from Berlin were rocking the chateaux and grand hotels and bunkers of the German high commanders.

The rumour reached Paris that Hitler had been assassinated. It was a false alarm, the effect of which was to disclose the identity of conspirators in the highest places. In Paris the detested SS troops and Hitler's ambassador were put under arrest. Had Rommel (wounded by Allied aircraft) still been Commander-in-Chief, West, the German Army in France might have revolted. His successor, Field-Marshal Gunter Hans von Kluge, vacillated until the rumour was proved false.

After that it was obvious that heads would roll. The only question was: Whose?

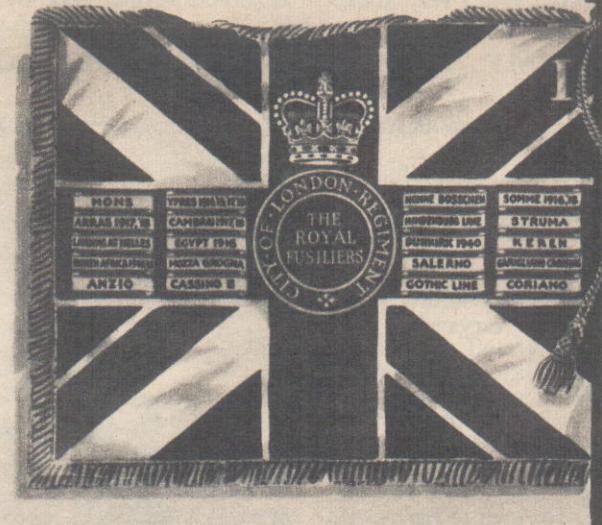
One man who did not wait for the official answer was General Karl Heinrich von Stuelpnagel, Military Governor of France, who had ordered the round-up of the SS. He stopped his car beside the Meuse Canal and told the driver he was going for a little walk. They found him floating face upwards with a bullet hole where one eye should have been. He was not dead. With great skill they patched him up for the hangman.

Field-Marshal von Kluge stopped his car west of Verdun and ordered a rug to be spread under a tree. There he lunched, wrote a letter and then bit a phial of cyanide.

A gripping account of the sensational aftermath of the anti-Hitler plot in German-occupied France is given in "Conspiracy Among Generals" (*Allen and Unwin, 16s.*) by Wilhelm von Schramm, a one-time senior war reporter.

The generals of the old school knew that Hitler's leadership was disastrous, but they boggled at the idea of assassination, not only on moral grounds but because of their military oaths. Says R. T. Clark, who has edited and translated this volume: "It was not until 1944 that men like Rommel and Stuelpnagel could begin to admit to themselves that there might be times when murder, like suicide, is the last resort of a gentleman."

It is an extraordinary and tragic story. No British commanders have been faced with any comparable clash of loyalties since 1688, when James II's military leaders deserted him and joined William of Orange.



NOW IT BEARS NEW HONOURS

THE new King's Colour of the 1st Battalion The Royal Fusiliers, presented to the Regiment recently by the Duchess of Kent, is one of the first to bear Battle Honours of World War Two. So far the Royal Fusiliers have been awarded only the ten Honours to be emblazoned on their Colours; others will be announced later. Three other regiments, the Royal Berkshire Regiment, the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and the Royal Scots Greys have also had their emblazoning Honours specially awarded to incorporate in new Colours.

The Life Guards, Royal Horse Guards, Irish Guards and Duke of Wellington's Regiment have been awarded their lists of World War Two Battle Honours in full.

THE PROVOCATIVE GENERAL

(Continued from page 23)

way. We'll have 1066 in reverse. Instead of the Normans invading England, we'll have Normandy invaded from England." Once again Whitehall, or a small section of it, was "upheaved" and the new article was "killed" too.

Today, General Fuller and his wife live quietly in Sussex, overlooking the South Downs. His visitors find a small, neat man with fiercely bristling eyebrows and a gentle manner, ready to give a considered opinion on any aspect of war. SOLDIER asked what he thought of the generals of World War Two.

"Our generalship was probably better than it had ever been before," he said. "I take off my hat to Montgomery as a good general. I think many of the lesser commanders were streets above what they were in former wars, certainly back to the Napoleonic wars. But what was the outlet for generalship in the First World War? You must have mobility, and we never had it. In the last war, largely because of the tank and aeroplane, there was mobility. If we had had third-rate generalship, it would have been disgraceful."

General Fuller does not expect the Army to find itself in a major nuclear war. He points out that there are tribes in Arabia which could defeat other tribes by poisoning wells, but do not do so for fear of retaliation. He thinks a Russian war on Britain would be a trade war. But if nuclear war should come—

"People say it will all be over in a fortnight. I think it will be an exceedingly long war. This country, which is a bomb target, might be driven out of it, but in

continental countries the confusion will be so terrific that you will have guerilla warfare. People will have to become guerillas to live. The whole thing will eventually peter out through exhaustion, like the Thirty Years War."

General Fuller is taking no rest after finishing his "Decisive Battles." Now he is at work on a book analysing the generalship of Alexander the Great.

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His First Bisley—and He Triumphs

A NEWCOMER FROM THE ROYAL ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS BECOMES THE ARMY'S CHAMPION SHOT... AND FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1939, THE REGULAR ARMY WINS THE INTER-SERVICES BURDWAN CUP

IT was the last morning of the Army Rifle Association meeting at Bisley.

On the 100-target Century range, some of the Army Hundred were firing their final shots. The crowd took little notice of them. Rifle shooting is not much of a game for spectators without telescope or binoculars.

Interest was centred on a large blackboard, topped by a plywood marching lion and the words "Army Hundred." Heading the hundred names was that of Armourer Staff - Sergeant D. W. Kingdon, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, who had scored most points, 302, in the two events which make up the first stage of the Army championship. Beneath was the name of Captain H. Orpen-Smellie, Essex Regiment, who was starting the day two points down.

In the first practice of the day, Captain Orpen-Smellie scored 47 to Staff-Sergeant Kingdon's 44, and led by one point. In the second, Staff-Sergeant Kingdon took back the lead by scoring 47 to Captain Orpen-Smellie's 41, brought his lead up to six in the third practice and equalled his rival's score in the fourth. With 478 points, Staff-Sergeant Kingdon was the new Army champion and the third in the short history of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

It was a notable performance. Staff-Sergeant Kingdon, who is

36 and wears glasses, had never competed at Bisley before. Most of his 13 years' service has been spent overseas and he returned from Cyprus last November. In the spring he was attached to the 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and made his mark in rifle shooting at the Salisbury Plain and Third Division meetings. He went to Bisley with the Battalion team.

As soon as the result was known, the spectators crowded round the triumphal chair in which Bisley champions make their traditional progress through the camp. Looking more than a little embarrassed, Staff-Sergeant Kingdon stood near it for photographers. The Royal Army Medical Corps band, which had been resting on the dusty grass in Number One Dress, formed up.

To a round of applause, Staff-Sergeant Kingdon sat in the chair, his team-mates hoisted it to their shoulders, the band struck up "See the Conquering Hero Comes" and the procession moved off to the officers' mess, where Staff-Sergeant Kingdon



A pint for the champion. Staff-Sergeant D. W. Kingdon, with Lieutenant-General Sir James Cassels, after his chairborne progress.

To have his name entered on this board should be every soldier's ambition.



dismounted to be congratulated by a number of generals and drink a pint of beer.

The Army's unit championship this year went to the Green Jackets Depot. The Methuen Cup, open to certain teams of the three Services, was won by Royal Air Force Fighter Command for the third year running. The English Regiments team took fifth place and the Household Brigade sixth.

At the National Rifle Association meeting, however, the Regular Army captured the Burdwan Cup for the first time since 1939. For nine years running the Royal Air Force had won it, and last year tied with the Regular Army. This year, the Regulars won three out of the five component events and had a second and a third place, gaining 22 marks out of a possible 25 marks. The Royal Navy was second with 19 points and the Royal Air Force third with 15.

In the individual events, Lieutenant H. E. Malpas, Small Arms School Corps, won the St. George's Vase, considered second in importance only to the Queen's Prize. Lieutenant Malpas was Army champion in 1947.

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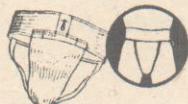
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LETTERS

AN INCENTIVE

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★This ingenious plan might run down the Army rather too quickly. From the Army's point of view, it would be better to keep the well-trained men and let the others go.

PIG ON WALL

I am trying to obtain the name of a march and the regiment to which it belongs. In the pre-1914 days it was customary for soldiers to put the following words to the first few bars:

"I put the pig upon the wall
To see the band go by."

I think it was the march of one of the old Irish Regiments.—Colonel E. C. Cross (retd.), 27 Merchison Crescent, Edinburgh.

★SOLDIER believes that it was the march of the North Staffordshire Regiment—"The days when we went gipsyng."

PROMOTION

I have recently been informed of a regulation which prevents a soldier in Singapore from being promoted to substantive rank if he has less than three months to serve before returning to the United Kingdom for release. Does SOLDIER know of any such regulation?—"Lance-Corporal," FARLEFT.

★It is the rule, not only in Singapore but everywhere, that soldiers shall not be given substantive promotion in the last three months of service, unless they are eligible for promotion on a time basis. There is a tendency to forget that promotion is designed to meet the needs of the Army and is not a reward for past services.

KHAKI SHADES

Battle-dress is the National Service soldier's only uniform and it is therefore essential that at least one of his two suits should be as near perfect as possible. For us poor "Q" types, who are given the job of ensuring a good turn-out, life is not made easier by the apparent inability of manufacturers to provide a standard shade of khaki. We all realise that a shade can rarely be repeated in successive dyes but consider it possible for manufacturers to be given cloth from any one dyeing in order that an equivalent quantity of blouses and trousers could be issued.

It has been said that "lot numbers" (as used by ammunition factories) might be used, so that a certain command or area could be sure of less difficulty in matching than at present. The turnover in our training battalion runs into over 150,000 suits of battle-dress a year and, frequently, we find no fewer than a dozen firms' products among the clothing received. Only, if

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

Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published.

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

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

one is lucky enough (or bulky enough) to require a special size, can perfectly matching blouse and trousers be obtained.—"RQMS."

★The matching of battledress has been a matter of concern to the War Office for years. There are likely to be discrepancies for a long time yet.

Just after the war, when materials were scarce and strict inspection was impossible, a large quantity of material which normally would have been rejected found its way into store. Stocks of clothing made from this have still to be used up.

Since the narrowing of the "shade tolerance" material still has to be accepted which is not strictly to specification, as no two firms can produce exactly the same shade. Firms which accept orders for blouses are not always able to take orders for trousers, and vice versa. Even if they could, little would be gained, since most soldiers take one size in blouse and another in trousers. Again, blouses last longer; replacement trousers must be selected as best they can.

When a special suit is made the contractor usually cuts it all from one roll of cloth; but the matching problem arises when one or other garment needs replacement.

SOBRIETY

Is the Royal Army Temperance Association still in existence and is it possible to get particulars of medals issued by them? I have several medals which were issued to me in Turkey and India between 1920-30 and I have lost the ribbons.—William Dean (ex-2nd Bn Essex Regiment), 121 Campbell Road, Bow, London.

★This Association, founded in 1862 by Lord Roberts, still exists. Its object is to encourage habits of sobriety among soldiers. Those who become members sign a pledge either of total abstinence or of temperate drinking habits. A bronze badge is awarded for six months membership and a silver medal for 12 months membership; after 10 years the silver Roberts' badge is given and after 15 years a silver badge with the Royal Arms in gold. It takes 20 years to qualify for the highest award, a gold enamelled medal with bar. Each medal has its own distinctive ribbon.

The Honorary Secretary of the Association is the Assistant Chaplain-General, Eastern Command.

GENERAL SIR HOWARD ELPHINSTONE VC

A letter published in the July SOLDIER contained the statement that Lieutenant (later Major-General Sir) Howard Elphinstone VC was "a naturalised Russian, born in Riga."

SOLDIER is asked by Mrs. A. M. W. Whistler, of Bagshot, Surrey to point out that Major-General Elphinstone, her grandfather, though born in Riga, was British and remained so. The Elphinstone family were given estates in Riga in recognition of services rendered to the Russian Navy, to which Major-General Elphinstone's grandfather was at one time lent.

SOLDIER apologises to Mrs. Whistler and to any other members of the Elphinstone family to whom annoyance may have been caused by this statement.

11,680 INJECTIONS

I was very interested in the article about the Medical Officer—"His Patients Are All Too Healthy" (SOLDIER, July). For 16 years, in order to go on living, I have been giving myself two injections a day. I had to start doing this after I got out of France in 1940. Since then I reckon I have given myself no fewer than 11,680 injections. Now, nearly 66 years of age, I find it less trouble than having a shave. I am not claiming this as a record, but I think you will agree that it is an awfully large number of injections and should I live to be a really old man I will have gone on adding to the number each day. Incidentally, in the course of 16 years, I have brought the job to a fine art.—Victor W. Hewson (ex-Buffs), Hillcrest, King's Road, Bury St. Edmunds.

SLOVENLY

Cheers for "Balbus" (Letters, July) for pin-pointing an eyesore. The way some young soldiers are allowed out of camp nowadays is a disgrace. The sooner we have a bit of "bull" back the better. On the Tube trains in Outer London one sees berets and belts under epaulettes, jackets undone, fancy-coloured socks, Teddy Boy footwear and filthy khaki shirts. Whenever I see a smart, clean-looking soldier, I am always tempted to congratulate him. As for the others . . . well!—R. A. Landels (ex-warrant officer), 36 Rothesay Avenue, Greenford, Middlesex.

BOOTS, AMMUNITION

As to the origin of the expression "ammunition boots" (Letters, July): "ammunition" appears to have been used as a prefix meaning Government Issue and was applied to clothing, equipment, rations and so on. The expression "Ammunition Bread" is recorded as having been used as far back as 1793.—G. N. Farrier, Hon. Curator, Regimental Museum, Royal Northumberland Fusiliers.

I believe there was at one time in use in the Royal Artillery a cumbersome over-shoe, worn when entering a magazine to ensure against sparks from the studs of the ordinary boot. When "boots, ankle" were first issued to Garrison Artillery they were thought to be so big and clumsy that they evoked the comment . . . "just like a so-and-so ammunition boot."—S. R. Sellwood, Shevington Camp, Scatterdells Lane, Chipperfield.

COMMUTATION

It was an "eye-opener" to me to learn (Letters, July) that a three-Services Committee has decided what I should be allowed to do with my Service pension, especially as I have recently been in communication with an agent concerning the purchase of a house. I was informed that a normal three-bedroomed house would cost at least £1950 in the area of my choice. Perhaps someone will be good enough to supply me through SOLDIER with the name of the firm still building houses at £1500 apiece.—"Rock Bottom" (serving in BAOR).

★A pension is a pension, not a bounty. Restrictions on commuting are imposed in the long-term interests of the pensioner. There are probably elderly ex-soldiers who rue the day they commuted.

ARAB STEEDS

The article on Sir Winston Churchill's visit to his old regiment (SOLDIER, July) takes me back to Bangalore, where I went in 1894 to join the 5th Field Battery, Royal Artillery.

It was in 1896 (I think) that I watched the 4th Queen's Own Hussars (in which Lieutenant Churchill was serving) march in. They were horsed with Arabs, all entire, I believe, very fine-looking animals. The Arabs were about 14 hands, and mostly creams, piebalds, skewbalds and chestnuts, all with long flowing manes and tails.

I heard that the Arab mounts were an experiment. The idea was to test them on ground harder than that of Arabian deserts. We Gunners were horsed with Australian waler, which were ideal for the hard going. These walers, certainly those in our battery under Major Temple, could trot 12 miles an hour, without undue fatigue, whereas the ordinary trot was eight miles an hour. Major Temple achieved this 12 miles by intensive training on long route marches, with very long trotting spells. He did not confine himself to the "walk one, trot three" which was more or less routine with mounted units. His horses were lean and hungry-looking, possibly, but they were extraordinarily fit, with coats whose shine betokened well-being.

On garrison manoeuvres it was no uncommon sight for us to come upon a dismounted Hussar leading his lamed Arab back to camp. Lameness among our walers was very rare. It was on ceremonial parades that the Arabs outshone the others; they were a splendid sight—like circus horses, gaily caparisoned, and each carrying a gloriously bedecked Hussar, in full review order.

But, like Ichabod, the glory has departed, and all we have left of the old Army's pomp and circumstance are the Household Cavalry and the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery. However, we old sweats are thankful that these are still with us to remind us of "the good old days."—J. E. Stratford, 375 Rayleigh Road, Brentwood, Essex.

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more letters

"NUCLEAR SOLDIER"

The article entitled "Nuclear Soldier" (SOLDIER, July) has been read with great interest at this School. However, there are certain inaccuracies in it.

You state that "a geiger counter measures the amount of infection." Such an instrument measures the intensity of nuclear radiation and has no connection with disease.

It is most unlikely that more than one technical dosimeter will be carried by a monitoring team. The instrument will normally be carried by the team leader.

The survey meter is solely used to measure the intensity of radiation and, by using the calculator, the question of when or for how long troops can enter or remain in a radio-active area can be determined. The calculator does not "work out the rate of decay." It is based on certain decay laws only.

—Colonel J. B. Ashworth, Commandant, Joint School of Chemical Warfare.



Film actress Belinda Lee was one of the British stars who visited Army units during Berlin's Film Festival.

Indian cantonment character was still to be found anywhere. He was the barber who used to arrive in barrack-rooms about reveille and shave the troops while they lay in their beds. Does the British soldier enjoy this privilege in any overseas command today?—F.O.O.

SHORTS

I was surprised to read that the American Army is adopting shorts as part of its uniform (SOLDIER, July). In my experience, shorts have very limited uses. To be smart, they must be accompanied by knee-length stockings or hose-tops, which are far hotter and more uncomfortable than slacks. In day-time, in any populated tropical area I know, you spend your time knocking flies off your knees, and if the place is malarial you have to change into slacks in the evenings to keep off the mosquitoes. Slacks for me, any time.—K.D.

UNFURNISHED

I am expecting to join another unit in England in three months' time. As I have always furnished my married quarter, can I claim an unfurnished quarter at my new station and will a cash allowance be made for providing my own furniture?—"Officer."

★An unfurnished married quarter can be provided but there is no allowance as such for providing one's own furniture. There is a difference of £30 per year in the charges for furnished and unfurnished officers' quarters.

THOSE BOUNTIES

I and many like me have signed on for 22 and 25 years' service without gaining a penny, yet young soldiers today are receiving the £100 bounty not once but twice. Many are signing on for that reason alone and their interest in the Army itself is negligible. Some of them are such bad bargains it would pay the Army to give them £100 to get out. I do feel that some recognition is due to the older Regular soldier, who did not need a carrot in front of his nose to urge him on.—"Genuine Regular," BAOR.

★A soldier is not permitted to sign on for a long period unless his conduct is satisfactory.

SHAVE IN BED

Reading that the Char-Wallah is still going strong in Malaya (SOLDIER, August), I wondered if another

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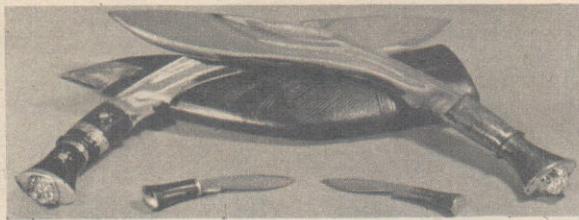
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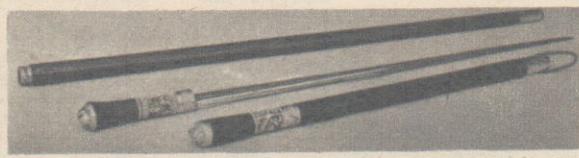
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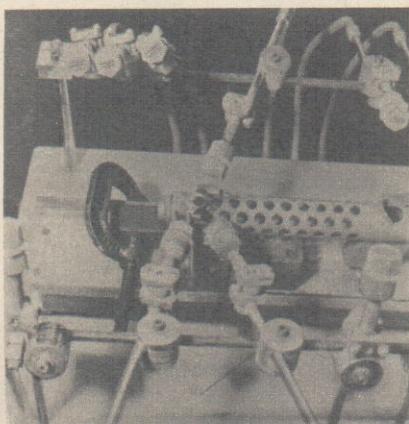
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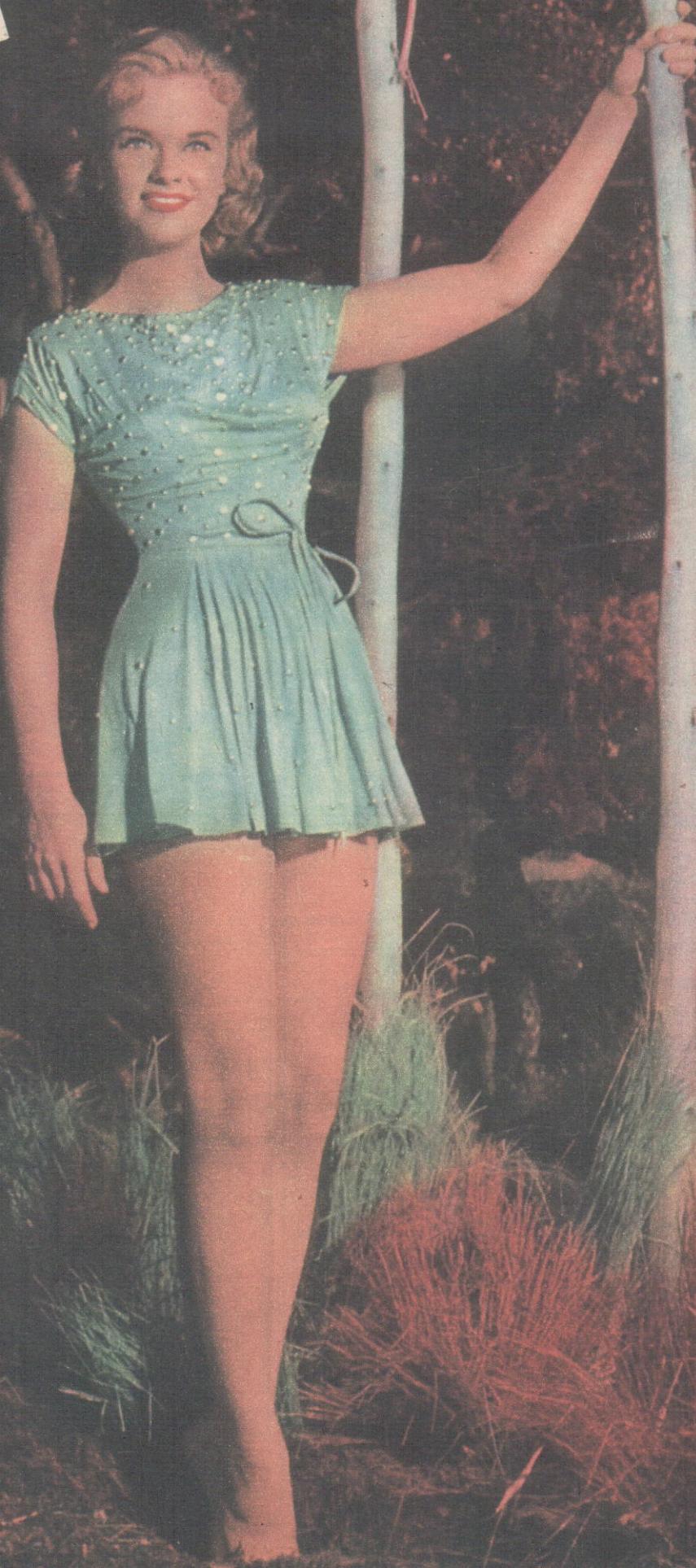


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