

SOLDIER

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 1956



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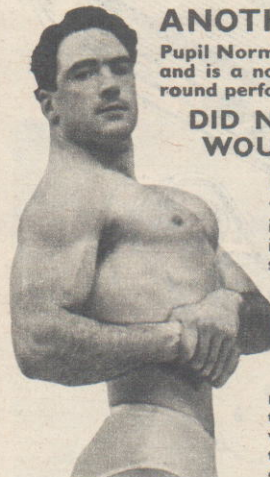
ANOTHER IRISH CHAMPION

Pupil Norman Scott has won awards for Physical Excellence and is a noted Strength Champion. He is a splendid all-round performer and gives full credit to Maxalding.

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NORMAN SCOTT (left) wrote:

"I am heavier than ever before. My legs are still increasing in size, which I thought would be impossible without heavy weights. I am stronger than ever before."



A SCOTTISH CHAMPION

Pupil H. Canale (right) is shown controlling the muscles of the back, one of the Maxalding movements which assisted him in gaining the necessary suppleness and co-ordination for games.



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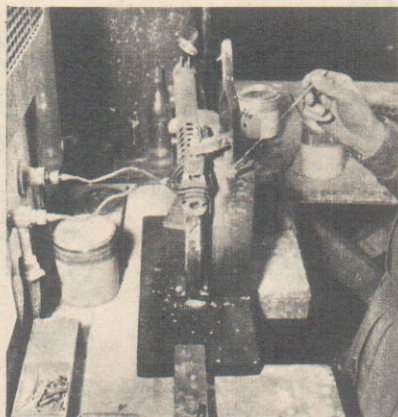
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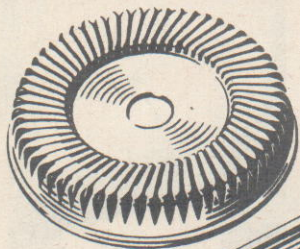
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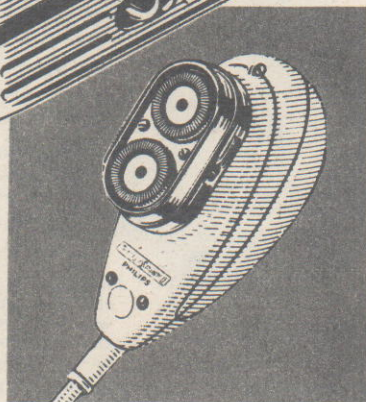
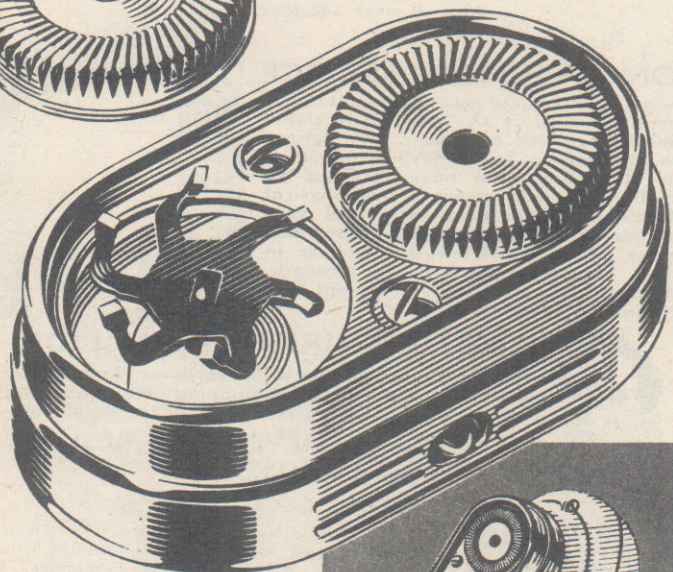
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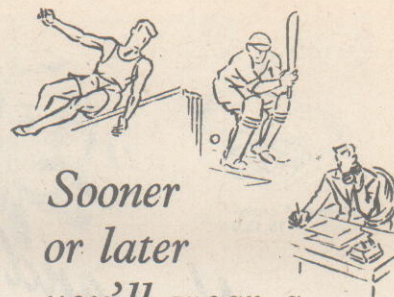
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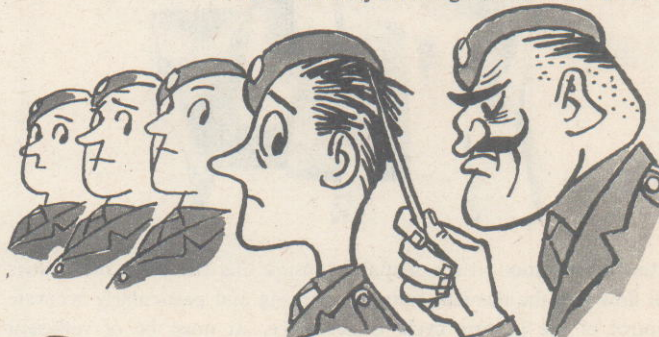
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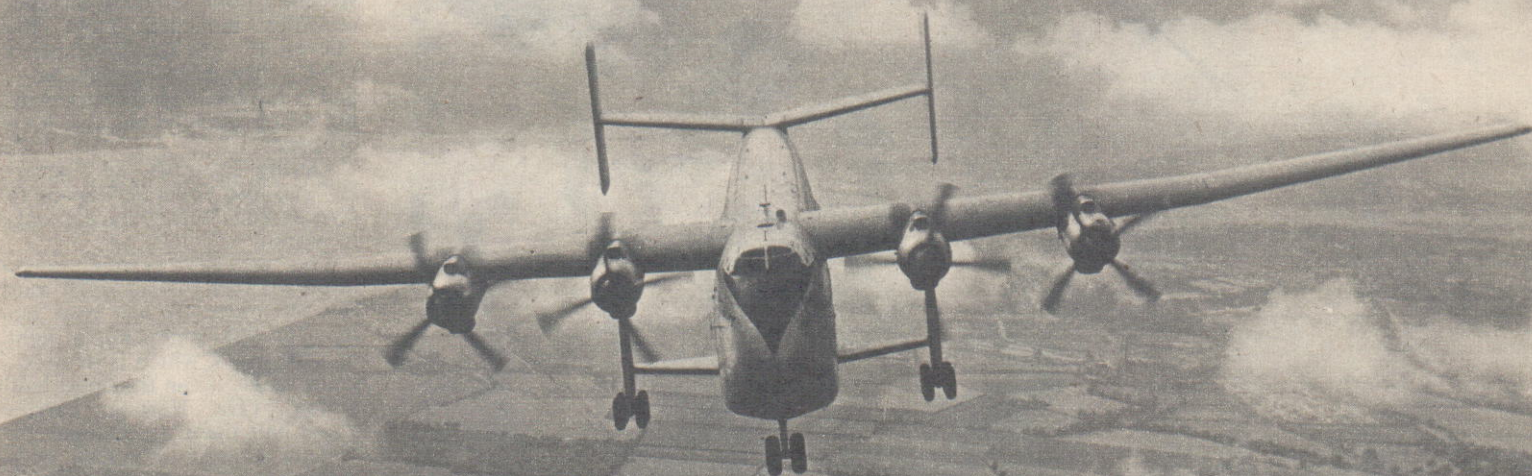
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0071

**THE ARMY'S NEW TRANSPORT 'PLANE IS AN ALL-PURPOSE
LEVIATHAN—WITH THREE EXITS FOR PARACHUTISTS**



AND NOW THE BEVERLEY

A head-on view of the "Beverley" in flight over Sussex.

A NEW medium-range transport plane which can take 70 paratroopers into action—more than twice the number any other British aircraft can carry—will soon be in regular service with the Army.

It is the Blackburn "Beverley," Britain's largest transport plane. Designed primarily as a heavy freight carrier, it can also be used for air trooping, as an air ambulance and for parachuting men, heavy vehicles, weapons and supplies.

In its paratrooping rôle, the "Beverley" can carry 70 men to a dropping zone 550 miles from base. Thirty are carried in the tail compartment and 40 (including two despatchers) in the main fuselage. Those in the tail go out first, through a hole in the floor, a method of jumping which has not been used since paratroopers dropped from Whitley and Halifax bombers during the war. Those in the main fuselage follow, through two side doors simultaneously, after the tail stick has gone.

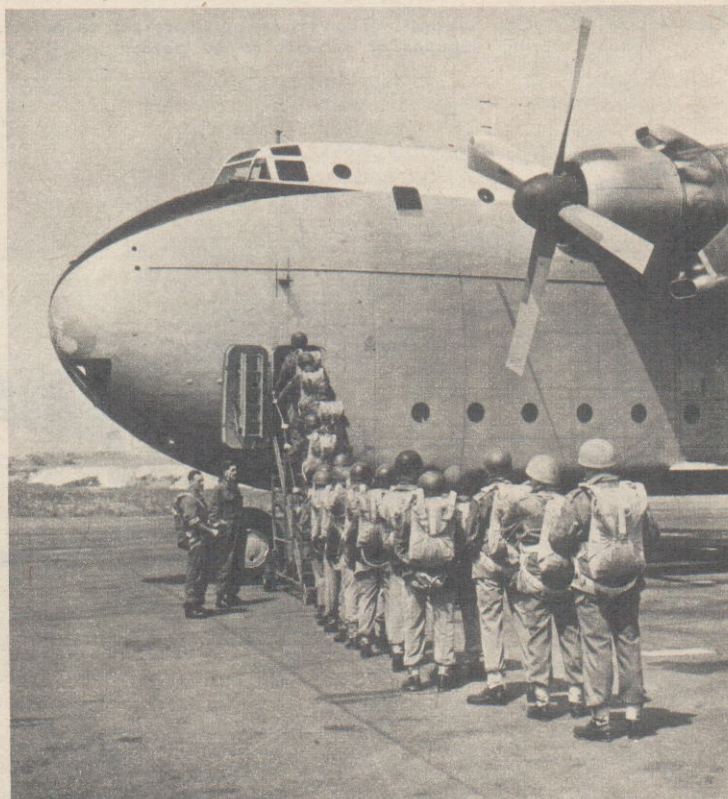
The men of one parachute battalion have already jumped from the "Beverley" during trials in southern England. Some of those who went through the floor say they preferred that method

to going through the side doors. All paratroopers will in future be trained in both methods of jumping.

The "Beverley" is the only British aircraft fitted with a rear loading door. This is 10 ft. high and 10 ft. wide, opening into a 40-ft. long hold. Because of the size of this rear door much larger vehicles and weapons can be air-loaded than is usual.

Whereas the Hastings, in its bomb bays, can take only a Jeep and trailer, or a 75-millimetre gun, or a six-pounder or an anti-tank gun, the "Beverley" can carry any weapon or vehicle or combinations of loads weighing up to 20 tons. It can, for instance, transport two Saracen armoured cars and their crews. Alternatively such loads as a 25-pounder and its towing vehicle

OVER →

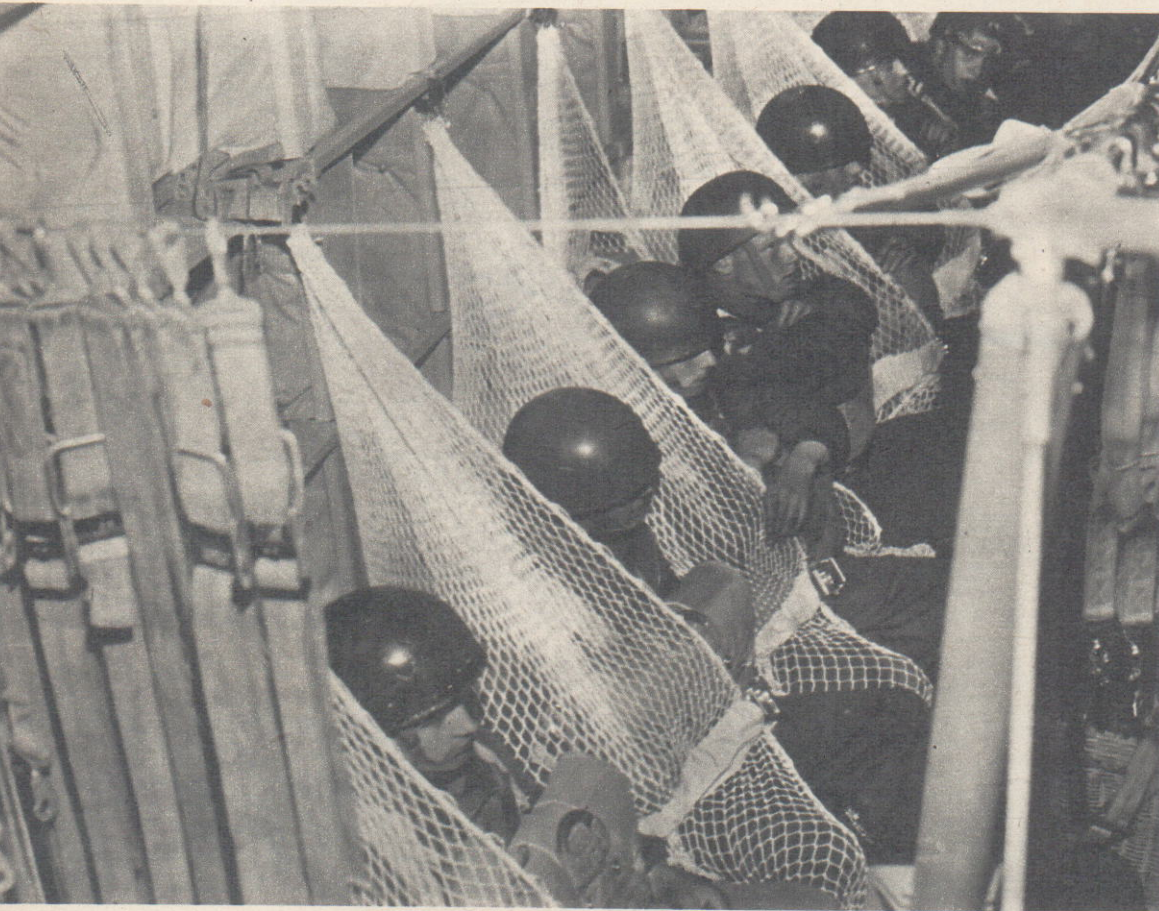


Paratroopers go aboard the "Beverley." They will now have to learn to parachute through a hole in the floor as well as through side doors.

NOW THE BEVERLEY

Continued

Right: The four-engined "Beverley" cruises at 173 miles an hour and has a wingspan of 162 feet.



Paratroopers sit facing inwards. The safety nets prevent them being flung forwards in an accident. Below: When carrying weapons or vehicles to be parachuted the plane flies with its rear doors off.

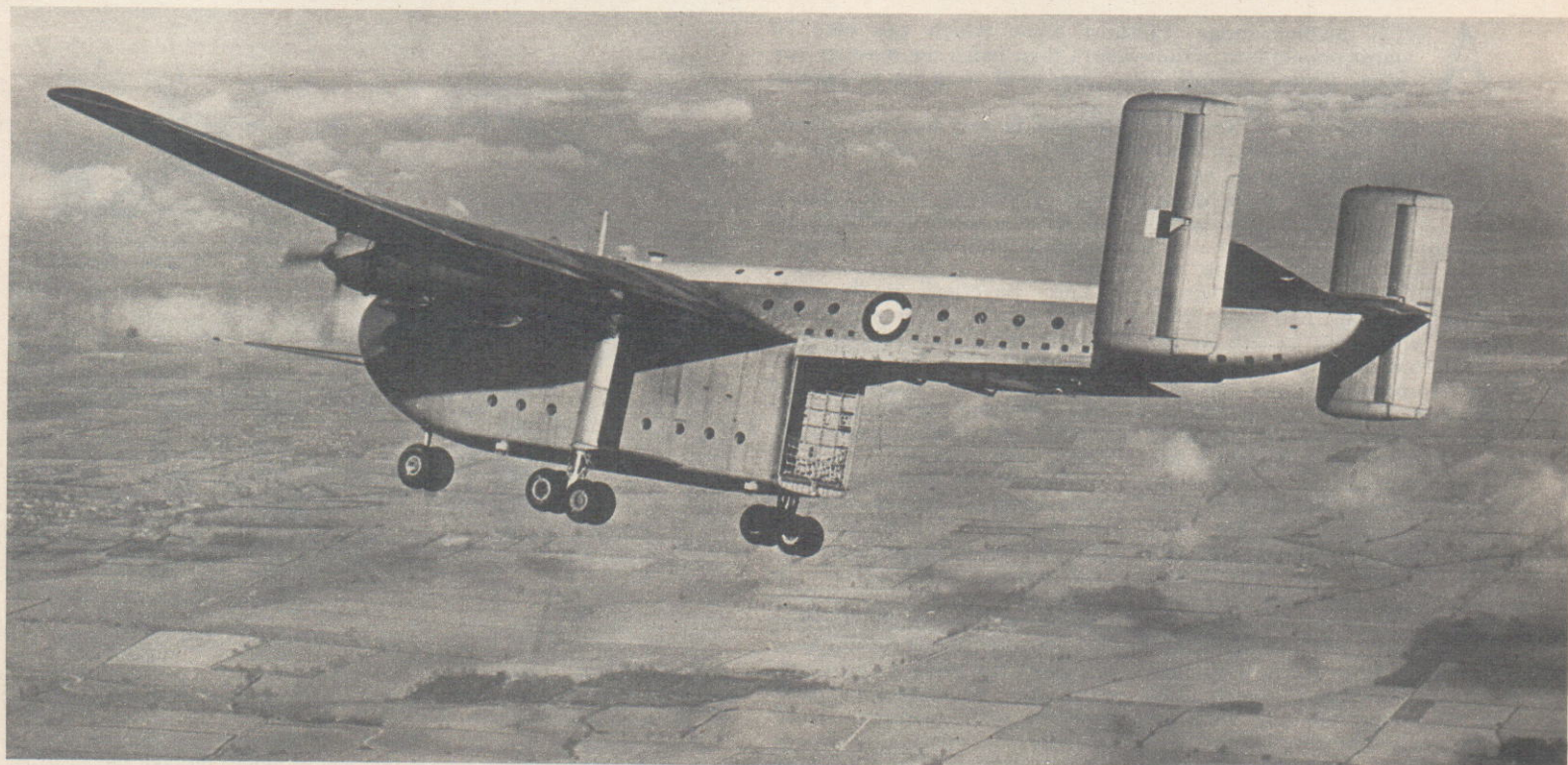
or two one-ton lorries can be carried and dropped by parachute. Recently a one-ton lorry was successfully launched from the "Beverley"—the first time such a vehicle has been parachuted—and a ballasted platform weighing nearly ten tons has also been dropped.

During its trials the "Beverley" has also flown helicopters to Cyprus and 30-ft. long lifeboats to Malta.

The "Beverley" carries a maximum load of just over 20 tons for 500 miles, or just over ten tons for 1400 miles. For a flight of 2400 miles, which is its maximum range, it can transport half a ton. (The Hastings carries about half these weights and the Valetta considerably less, over the same distances).

As an air-trooper the "Beverley" can carry 94 fully-equipped soldiers (36 in the tail compartment and the rest in the main fuselage, all facing backwards) for 1200 miles. The United States Flying Box-Car normally transports only 78.

Recently, on air-trooping trials, the "Beverley" landed with 94 soldiers on an airfield in Sussex. Within 80 seconds of the aircraft coming to a halt, all the men had formed up on the ground, ready to move into action. The "Beverley" was airborne again within four minutes.



Fitted out as an ambulance, the "Beverley" carries 82 casualties, 48 on stretchers in the main hold and 34 sitting cases in the tail.

Because it needs shorter runways than most other transport aircraft and can land and take-off, fully laden, on unprepared strips of grass or similar surfaces, the "Beverley" is particularly suitable for use in forward operational areas. With rocket assistance on take-off, it can clear 50 feet in 800 yards, with a ground run of only 415 yards. It can land from 50 feet in 915 yards, with a ground run of only 315 yards. From concrete runways take-off and landing distances are appreciably shorter.

As a multi-purpose aircraft the "Beverley" is likely soon to replace the Hastings, Valetta and Shackleton for air-trooping and freight-carrying. One squadron of the Royal Air Force's Transport Command has now been equipped with "Beverleys," which are still undergoing intensive trials.

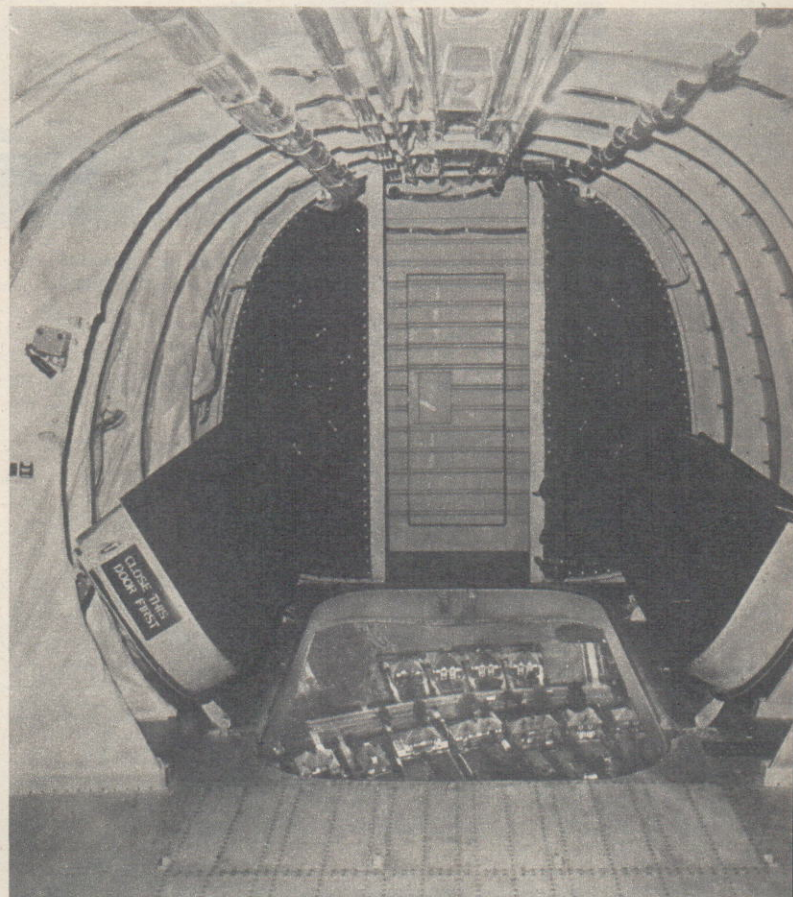
Last month, at Farnborough Air Show, the public saw the "Beverley" in action as a troop carrier for the first time. One hundred soldiers (six more than are normally carried) took off for a flight in her and, on landing, demonstrated the speed at which they could come into action.

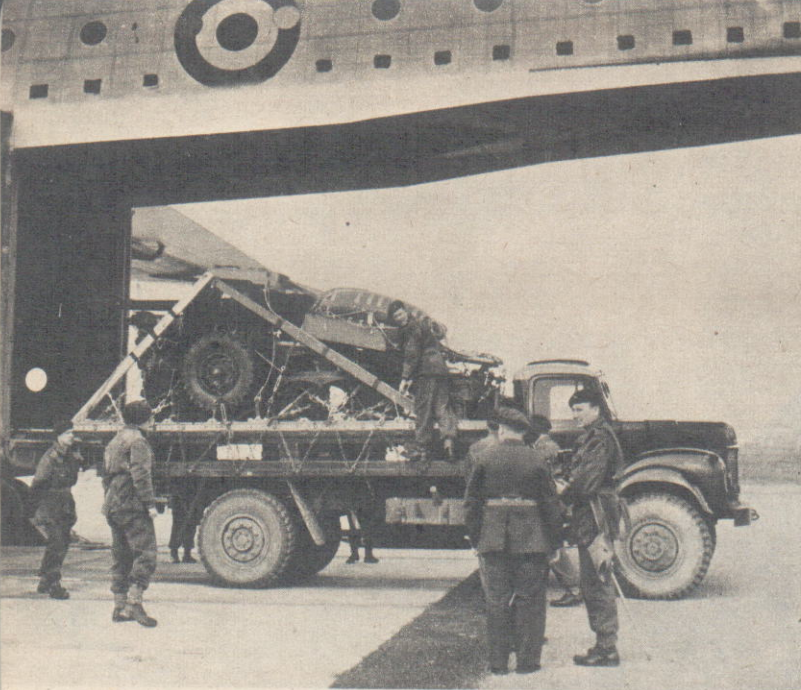
E. J. GROVE

MORE PICTURES OVERLEAF



Paratroopers in the main fuselage go out through the two side doors simultaneously, but after the tail stick has left. Left: Coming through the hole in the floor which is shown (right) from inside the "Beverley."

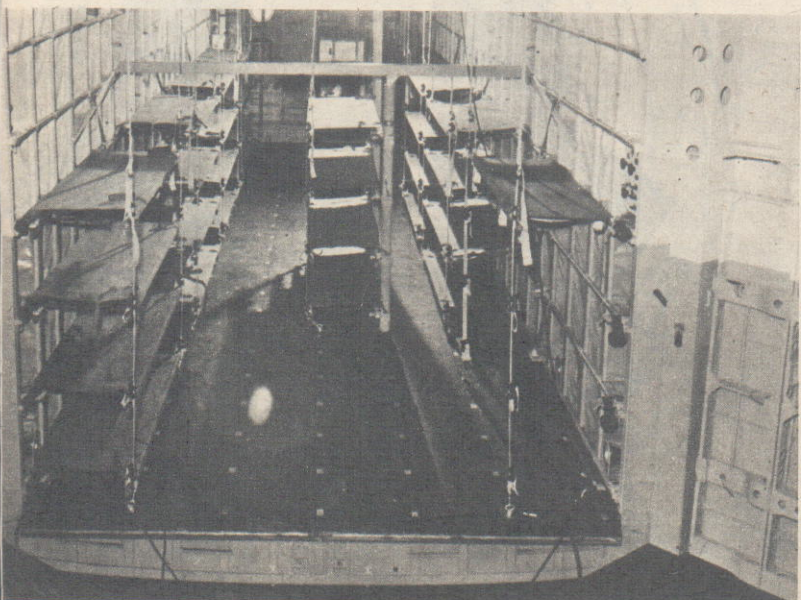




A 25-pounder gun, lashed to its parachute platform, is loaded into the "Beverley." Wheeled vehicles can drive aboard up ramps. This helicopter, its blades and undercarriage removed, was flown to Cyprus in recent trials. The "Beverley" has also carried 30-ft. lifeboats.



The Army's new transport plane can also be used as an ambulance. The main fuselage, shown here, holds 48 stretchers.



SOLDIER to Soldier

LITTLE Dai Dower is to be put in the Army and ruined as a fighter," moaned Harold Hutchinson (or should one say Little Harold Hutchinson?) in the *Daily Herald*. Why is this a scandalous act? Let Mr. Hutchinson

explain:

"Dai Dower has talent and courage. Whether it is in the ring, the field, the laboratory or the theatre, talent is the rarest commodity there is and it ought to be the most precious.

"The idea of wasting it in a peacetime army is so absurd that any society with a sense of human values would class it as a crime.

"Those of us who couldn't fight our way out of a paper bag, and whose contribution to the world's progress or pleasure is in the negative—at least we don't do much harm—are the ones for the Army.

"God knows, there are enough of us. Nature is truly prodigal with mediocrity."

Not for a long time has anybody written so much nonsense to the reported inch. Round up the clods, says Mr. Hutchinson in effect, and put them in the Queen's uniform; but don't round up men with a talent for blacking eyes, for developing new kinds of lipstick or for juggling with coloured balls while riding a unicycle. They've got talent—and you mustn't touch talent.

Many people are of the view that there ought to be a selective system of call-up, but until now nobody has dared to suggest that the principle should be that of selecting only the dull dogs.

Mr. Hutchinson's effusion, which surely must have crept in when his editor wasn't looking, would not be worth attention if it did not represent the view of a considerable section of the British public. It is well known that the nation's traditional policy has been to starve the Army of brains and talent. This makes it so much easier, when the crisis comes, to accuse the military of being hidebound, unimaginative and Blimpish.

THE news that families in Rhine Army must now make their own arrangements for employing servants, who can no longer be supplied at a subsidised rate of exchange, is unlikely to bring tears to the eyes of the British taxpayer.

In Britain, between the world wars, the middle classes grumbled endlessly about the "servant problem." They are now resigned to a servantless existence.

In various overseas stations the Army has still been able to employ servants at a cheap rate. This was one convenience which helped to offset many of the hardships of a nomadic life. Those British matrons who were startled to hear of sergeants, corporals and even privates employing servants saw only a fraction of the picture.

Service families have learned to be philosophical about the "servant problem." A posting to Britain from Germany or from the Far East brings them back to earth with a bump. If they are wise, they do not talk to their neighbours about "that dream of a servant we had in Kuala Lumpur."

On another page of this issue a soldier sighs for the days, in Malaya, when a servant entered his quarters in the morning and shaved him without even waking him. The same sort of service used to be available in India. In that sub-continent the "servant problem" was not that of recruiting servants, but of turning them away. A century and a half ago the scale of officers' servants, even on active service, was in the proportion of 10 to a subaltern, 20 to a captain and 30 to a major. Even in quite recent times an officer could find himself with 12 or 15 servants on the payroll—ranging from grass-cutter and groom to launderer and *punkah-wallah*.

It's a bit different in Tidworth today.

AS SOLDIER goes to press, little can be said about the widespread troop moves in the Mediterranean.

The newspapers have been full of the usual stories which accompany a call-up of reservists: last-minute weddings, cancelled honeymoons, grandmothers bravely battling with the War Office and reservists turning up with children.

At one training battalion, SOLDIER is informed, a reservist arrived well ahead of time, riding a motor-cycle. He explained that he had been in the middle of a row with his wife when the call-up papers arrived, so simply walked out, got on his motor-cycle and rode off to report. That should have ended the story—but he was sent home again to park the motor-cycle.

Whatever happens in the Middle East, it will have been a useful mobilisation exercise. Some units had to receive scores of reservists on top of their normal large intakes of National Servicemen and much midnight oil was burned.

CONQUEROR REGIMENT

THE 4th/7th ROYAL DRAGOON GUARDS EARNED THE NICKNAME "THE FIRST AND THE LAST." THEY ARE NOW AMONG THE FIRST TO TEST THE CONQUEROR HEAVY TANK



In 1940, the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards rode in ten-ton tanks. In 1956 they are in 65-ton Conquerors.

"TROOP trials" is a vague expression which covers a multitude of activities.

For the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, one of the regiments chosen to give Britain's new heavy-gun tank, the Conqueror, the ultimate test short of battle, it has meant some 18 months of hard work.

They have driven the Conqueror over every type of ground and in every type of weather that Germany can offer. They have manoeuvred it in summer and winter exercises. They have fired its giant gun. They have discovered some minor faults, which have been put right.

Their reports, like the Conqueror's gun and many of its internal gadgets, are secret. Their opinion of the Conqueror, however, is not: they say it is the best of its kind in the world.

When the tanks first arrived from Antwerp—carried by road on the "Mighty Antar" transporter—the Regiment's first problem was how to get them under cover. Spacious garages which comfortably housed Centurions were several feet too short for the 65-ton Conquerors,

so carpenters cut holes in the garage doors and the tanks drive in backwards, their guns elevated at the correct angle to allow them to protrude through the holes when the doors are shut.

Training Conqueror crews proved to be easier than expected. After a two-weeks conversion course the Centurion crews were able to operate a Conqueror with efficiency and assurance. Drivers say that in spite of its extra size and weight the Conqueror is no more difficult than the Centurion to negotiate round corners, while its cross-country performance, mainly because of a new type of suspension, is remarkably good. Gunners soon mastered the new fire-control system with which the Conqueror is fitted and wireless operators had no difficulty

settling down to work in the new and secret turret.

The Regiment will not be entirely equipped with Conquerors. They will retain a number of Centurions and in time hope to have all crews able to operate both tanks. Like the Centurions, the Conquerors have been given individual names, among them "Cleaver," "Claymore," "Cutlass," "Carver," "Assassin" and "Armadillo."

The Conqueror is more than 16 times as heavy as the first tank issued to the Regiment. In 1938, on mechanisation, the 4th/7th were given Mark II Vickers Armstrong light tanks. These were two-man machines weighing just over four tons, powered by 66 h.p. engines (the Conqueror's Meteor engine develops 800 h.p. at maximum speed) and with armour plating thick enough only to keep out small arms fire. A year later they received the tank which they took to France in 1939—the Mark VI (b) which weighed ten tons and carried a

crew of three. It had two machine-guns, a .5 and a .303.

After Dunkirk the Regiment took on a reconnaissance role and kept anti-invasion watch on the East coast in Beaverettes (also called Ironsides). These were light armoured cars on private car chassis, and carried Bren guns and anti-tank rifles. In 1941, when the danger of invasion had receded, the 4th/7th were armed with a cruiser tank—the 18-ton Covenanter.

But they never went to war in their Covenanters. In 1943 they were sent to train on a new and secret device—the DD swimming tank. This was a 17-ton Valentine (later replaced by the 30-ton Sherman) fitted with a canvas screen, which could "sail" through the sea at four knots and go into action immediately on landing. The Regiment landed in Normandy on D-Day with their DD Shermans but did not have to "swim" them ashore; the Royal Navy landed them directly

OVER

CONQUEROR

continued

on the beaches. After the assault the Regiment's Shermans were joined by 19-ton Crusader tanks, fitted with Oerlikon anti-aircraft guns, which were used mainly for flank protection against Infantry targets.

After the war the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards went to Palestine with AEC armoured cars and White scout cars. In 1946 these were replaced by 28-ton Cromwell tanks which the Regiment took with them to Tripolitania in 1947. Three years later they were given Archer tanks (Valentines fitted with 17-pounder guns) and when they returned to Britain in 1950 changed over to Centurions.

The 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, who can trace their history back to 1685, are sometimes known as "The First and The Last." On August 22, 1914 Corporal Thomas of "C" Squadron



Even in Germany, where heavy road vehicles are commonplace, the Mighty Antar is a notable sight.



The Mighty Antar laden with a Conqueror (right) rests on its journey from Antwerp. Below: The Conqueror is too big for an ordinary tank hangar. Its gun sticks out through the door. Right: Men and machine on parade.





A former Infantryman commands the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards. He is Lieutenant-Colonel H. M. van Straubenzee DSO, recently of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

fired what is claimed to have been the British Army's first shot of the war. During this action Captain Hornby, of the same squadron, was the first British officer to draw blood with his sword in that war. In 1918 the 4th/7th's horses were first over the Hohenzollern Bridge into Germany.

"Firsts" in World War Two include: first converted Cavalry regiments to arrive in France with tanks; first tanks ashore in Normandy; first tanks across the River Seine and the first to link up with the Americans—at Geldern. They claim to have been the last British troops in action against the Germans on May 4, 1945 in the Bremen area.

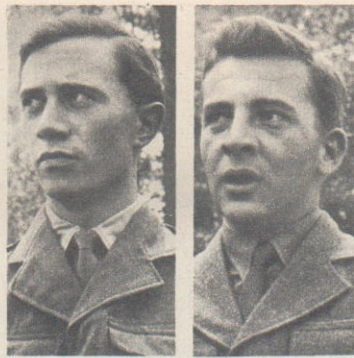
The Regiment is proud of having worked out a drill for the Sten gun which has since been copied by most other Cavalry regiments. It was invented by Captain W. J. Emerton, the Quartermaster, when he was Regimental Sergeant-major in Palestine in 1947. Captain Emerton is one of the few still with the Regiment who served with it before mechanisation.

Not all the horses have disappeared from the Regiment. Sixteen are still retained for recreational purposes and enable the 4th/7th to run the Wessex Drag Hunt, one of two surviving Army hunts in Germany.

The Regiment also have their own farm, with a stock which includes more than 100 pigs, 250 chickens and a clutch of ducklings. Last year the farm raised more than £1000 for unit funds.

Recently the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards played host to the first two New Zealand Territorial Army officers to do their annual training abroad. They belong to the 1st Armoured (Waikato) Regiment, with which the 4th/7th have an alliance. During their training they learned to drive a Conqueror.

In the world of sport two officers of the Regiment have made names for themselves. Second-Lieutenant R. J. Bad-



Two New Zealand Territorial officers who this year carried out annual training with the 4th/7th. They are Second-Lieutenants R. Fox (left) and C. Gadsby of the 1st Armoured (Waikato) Regiment.

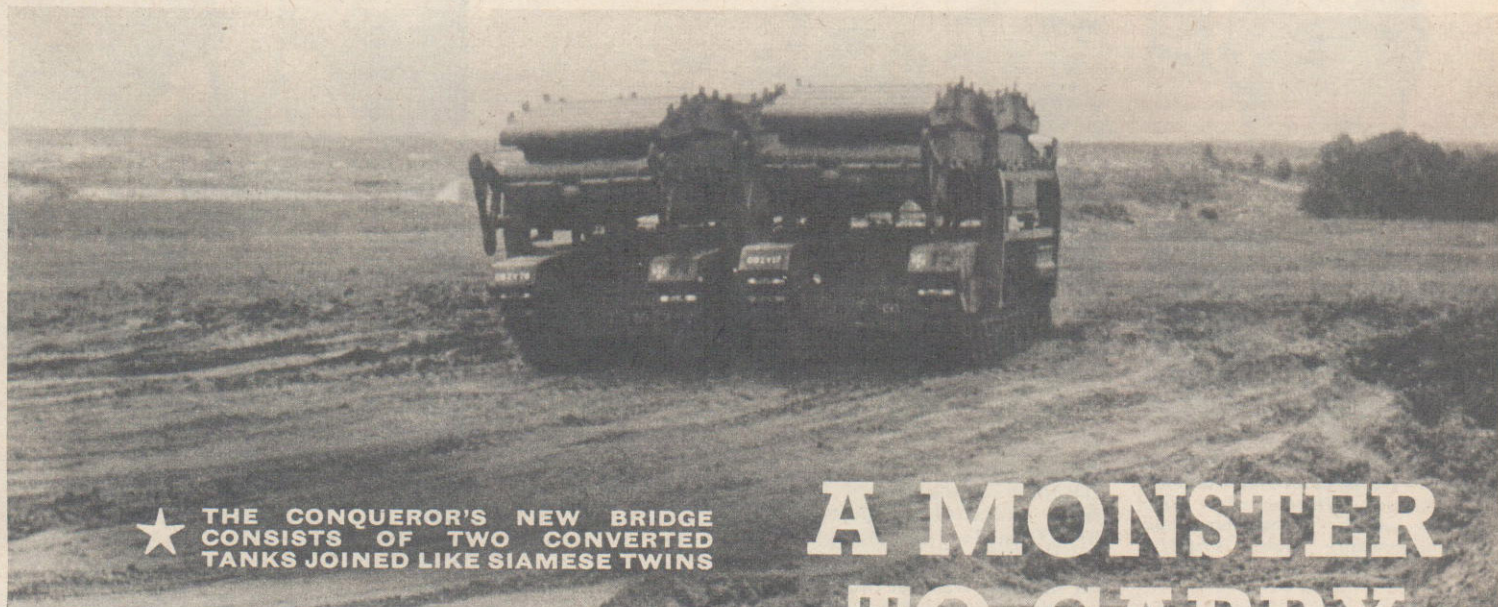
deley, the Army 100 and 220 yards champion, equalled the British native record of 9.8 seconds for the 100 yards at the Army's athletics championship recently—but the time was not ratified as a record because of a following wind. Second-Lieutenant C. B. R. Featherstonehaugh was Army wicket-keeper last year.

E. J. GROVE.

Second - Lieutenant R. J. Baddeley, Army sprint champion, is a Regular officer in the 4th/7th. He has run 100 yards in 9.8 seconds — equalling the British record.



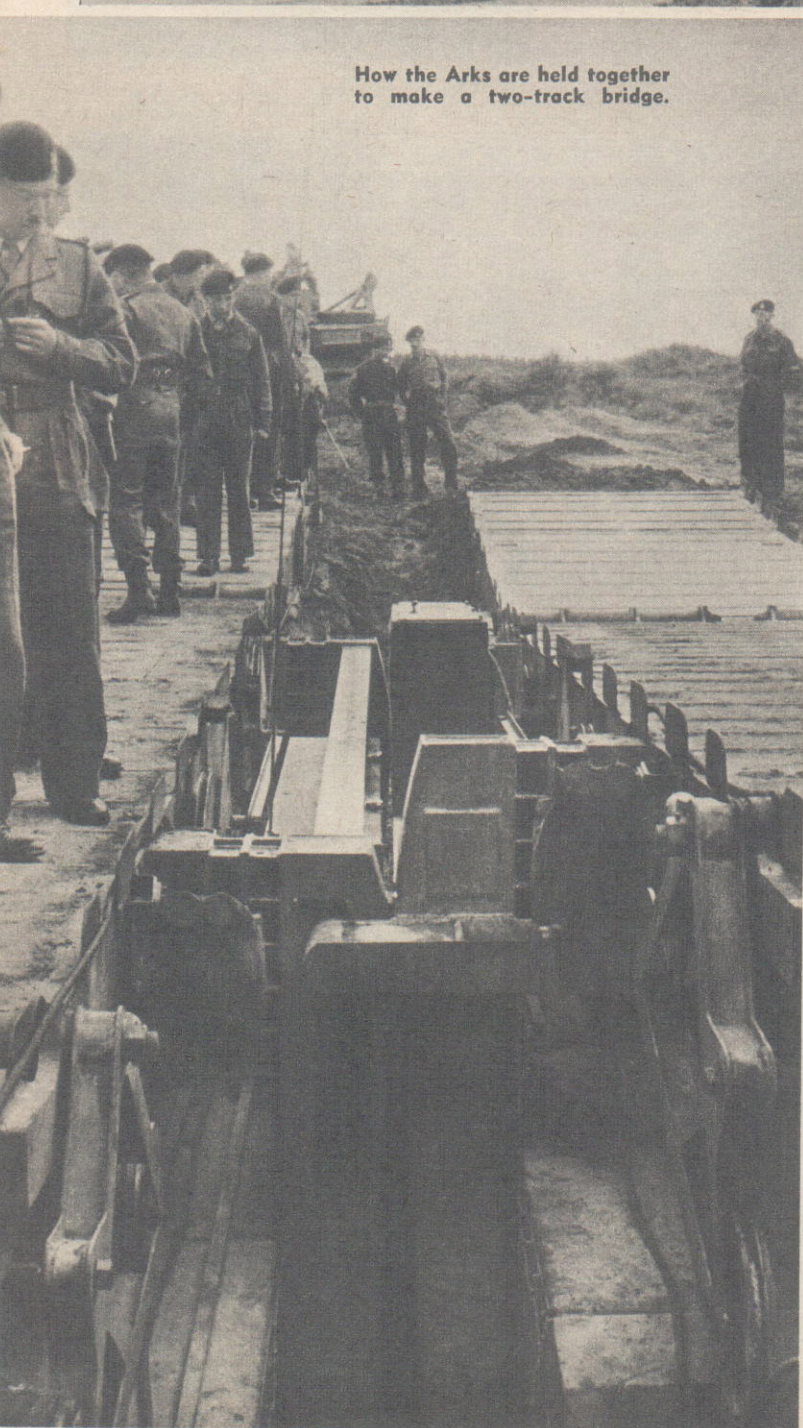
The Wessex Drag, one of Rhine Army's two surviving hunts, is maintained by the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards.



★ THE CONQUEROR'S NEW BRIDGE
CONSISTS OF TWO CONVERTED
TANKS JOINED LIKE SIAMESE TWINS

A MONSTER TO CARRY A MONSTER

How the Arks are held together
to make a two-track bridge.

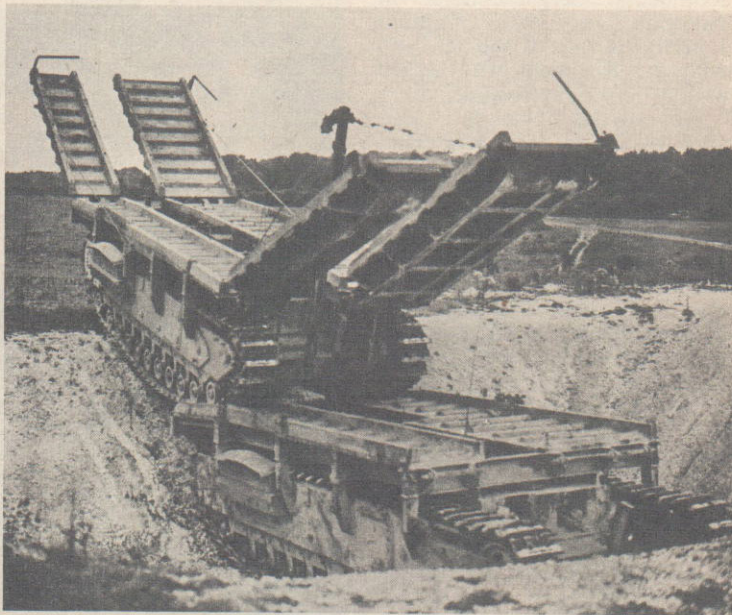


WHEN the 65-ton Conqueror was built the Royal Engineers were faced with a new set of problems.

That is why No. 26 Assault Engineer Squadron, Royal Engineers, has been working side by side with the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards in Germany, trying out ideas for negotiating rivers and wide anti-tank ditches.

They have found one answer in the Linked Ark Bridge. This is based on two Churchill tank chassis which are joined side by side and are driven into the gap or river. When they have settled, the upper structures unfold to make a roadway, the ends resting on the sides of the obstacle. This device has been successfully tried out on Hohne Ranges.

For smaller gaps, fascines (bundles of palings tied with steel-wire, as used in World War Two) have been found to be strong enough to carry the Conqueror.



The Ark in its simpler, war-time version.



Second-Lieutenant M. J. Tompsett notes down record requests which come into the station by telephone. Right: Signalman Richard Park, the chief announcer, produces his own musical programmes and sometimes reads the book at bedtime. Below: The station is a Nissen hut and the transmitting aerial is attached to the lighthouse, highest spot at the Hook of Holland.



Soldiers at the Hook of Holland built their own radio station which they operate in their off-duty hours

BECAUSE of atmospheric interference, radio programmes from Britain and from the British Forces Network in Germany are sometimes so indistinct that they can hardly be heard in Holland. So what did the soldiers of Hook Garrison do? They built their own radio station which they operate entirely by themselves in their spare time.

At present the team that runs the station is eight strong and, not surprisingly, most of them belong to the Royal Corps of Signals.

Every evening, immediately after duty, at least two report to the Nissen hut in which the station is housed and for two hours present a series of programmes, mainly record requests. Two others open up the station again at 10 p.m. for an hour. Because of guard duties sometimes only one man is able to turn up, but the station has never yet been "off the air" during broadcasting hours.

The broadcasting team is led by Second-Lieutenant M. J. Tompsett, of the Royal Army Service Corps. Chief announcer is Signalman Richard Park who also presents a programme of Scottish music for the many Scotsmen in the Garrison. Corporal R. Gallea, Royal Army Medical Corps, runs the children's hour on Sundays and Corporal H. B. Partridge, Royal Signals, generally reads the "Book at Bedtime."

Other members of the team take turn in recording interviews and sports commentaries and organising quiz programmes. Every week the Dutch radio station at Hilversum provides a programme in English giving a résumé of recent events in Holland.

The record request programmes are the most popular. With more than 4000 records to choose from, the team is rarely



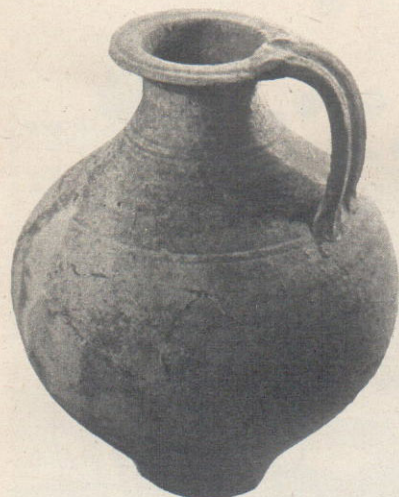
Warrant Officer Instructor W. Neely, RAEC, carries the machine he uses for recording interviews.

caught out, even when a request is received by telephone to be played immediately. Most of the records were given by the British Forces Network in Germany and the rest by civilian firms in Britain and the United States.

The British Military Radio Service (whose transmitting aerial is attached to the Hook Lighthouse, the highest point for miles) transmits on the 25-metre short-wave band and is licensed with the Dutch authorities. Officially it has a range of only 30 miles, but recently a request for a record was received from a listener in Stoke-on-Trent who said he had heard the station. And a Dutch seaman reported that he picked up the Hook programme on board his ship near the Scilly Isles.

THE HOOK IS ON THE AIR





This 2000-years-old Roman water jug was found in a brigadier's garden.



Left: A Roman drinking vessel inscribed "Vivas" (Good Health), and (above) a Mithraic head were dug up at headquarters.



Right: This Roman urn is at least 1800 years old.

THEY DIG FOR PLEASURE

HARDLY a week goes by without the addition to the Rhine Army Headquarters' museum of several pieces of Roman pottery nearly 2000 years old.

They are dug up by members of Rhine Army's Archaeological Society who do not have far to go to unearth their treasures. The Headquarters is built on the site of an old Roman camp where the 14th Legion staged soon after the death of Christ.

The Society numbers a brigadier and private soldiers, as well as the local German postman, among its 30-odd members.

It was formed last year by Major Lord Hanworth after he and his wife had uncovered the remains of a Roman pottery works when they were digging in their garden in the married quarters on the east side of the camp.

Since then members of the society have spent most week-ends excavating likely areas. Among their most notable discoveries was a Roman amphora (a two-handled drinking vessel) dug out of a well, which a brigadier and his wife found in their back garden.

It is believed to be at least 1800 years old.

One discovery was made accidentally by Corporal E. Mason, Royal Engineers. While digging for worms to go fishing in a pond near the Headquarters' riding stables he found a well-preserved sabre which had been left by one of 300 Cossacks chasing Napoleon back to Paris in 1814.

More recently the Society has proved what it had suspected for a long time: that a Roman road ran through the camp. One week-end the members dug down ten feet at a spot on the western side of the headquarters and uncovered the road which has since been named "Romanische Weg" (Roman Way). They have also found ancient Roman urns containing human ashes.

Some of the exhibits in the museum—including a Roman legionary's ration bowl and a Roman drinking vase—were found while the headquarters was being built. They were originally sent to the German Museum at Bonn which returned them on loan to the headquarters.



Clumsy handling may ruin a masterpiece, so Private E. Moxom, Royal Army Service Corps, uses a brush to remove the earth from his discovery. Below: Major J. Pounds, RAEC, with the Cossack sabre which a corporal found when digging for worms.



ONLY AN EXERCISE

BUT—

newcomers to jungle warfare keep a live round up the spout. The wisdom of eight years terrorist-hunting in Malaya is taught in "live" bandit country

PLENTY swamp," said the Gurkha lance-naik, grinning happily, and he beckoned to one of his two riflemen to lead the way into the long grass at the roadside.

For the next three-quarters of an hour, the Gurkhas spoke no more. They had been sent to escort SOLDIER from the 33rd milestone on the Johore Bahru-Mersing road to a jungle base camp set up by instructors and students of the jungle warfare wing of the Far East Land Forces Training Centre.

The students were taking part in a two-and-a-half day exercise in seeking and attacking a terrorist camp.

"It will be rather unrealistic, I'm afraid," said a major as the exercise started. "There are troops hunting real bandits in the area, so there won't be any firing."

The day before the exercise began, a police officer had been ambushed and murdered on the road. Security force patrols with tracker dogs were out looking for the killers. Instead of blank, the students had live ammunition in their weapons; only during the attack on the dummy terrorist camp would they unload, and then the instructors would keep their own weapons loaded and ready. Bandits had been met in that part of Johore during other exercises.

For much of the way, the march from the 33rd milestone was along an overgrown, abandoned logging-track, fairly easy going, especially where a rotting "corduroy" of logs remained. Game tracks ran into it frequently. There were fresh elephant droppings and, more alarming, fresh droppings of sladang, the bad-tempered jungle buffalo which is considered more dangerous than tiger or Communist terrorists.

OVER



Squatting in a swamp, a student watches for movement which may betray a genuine bandit. Note the sharp thorns on the canes.

Orders for the mock attack. The instructor, an old hand, has brought a sarong to wear in the jungle base.





"Bren group" signals an officer as the attack is mounted.

continuing **ONLY AN EXERCISE, BUT—**

The logging road ended in a clearing, and from then on the track was almost imperceptible. Prickly creepers began to snatch off jungle hats and scratch faces. Shins were scraped on the sharp ends of saplings, broken off or cut down with kukris or machetes by some earlier party. Feet caught in the endless zig-zags of rattan, raw material for the chair-makers of Singapore. There were fallen trees to be climbed over or under. Here and

there were patches of swamp, ankle-deep, knee-deep, sometimes waist-deep. It did not seem to matter much. The rain had been beating down ever since the party left the road. Nobody could possibly get any wetter.

Suddenly, there was creeper tied between the trees, and at the end of it was the base camp. To anybody who remembers forward camps in the Burma of World War Two, jungle camps

seem to have improved a great deal. The poncho, for a start, makes a far better shelter than the old-fashioned rubber ground-sheet. The jungle-wise, too, can now buy themselves very light plastic sheets which are easy to carry and make a waterproof roof, leaving the poncho handy for other purposes. Hammocks, also very light, are now becoming fashionable in base-camps.

In this camp, however, only the instructors had such luxuries. The students were making their first trip into the jungle and learning the hard way. In rank, they ranged from corporal to major and there were also police officers among them. Besides British, there were Australians, New Zealanders, Malays and Fijians.

They seemed to be liking it. "It's much better than soldiering at home," said a National Service corporal. "If I hadn't been sent to Malaya, I would have volunteered for Kenya."

Commented an instructor, "They soon find that they would rather be in the jungle, where they can't be got at, than in barracks, where they can."

Only one of the students had any cause for complaint. He was a National Service officer who had removed leeches from his chest with a cigarette lighter. To his dismay, the flame had also removed the manly hair that was beginning to sprout there.

From the base-camp, the students had been out on "fan patrol" earlier that morning. Five parties had fanned out from the base-camp on bearings five degrees apart. After marching 1000 yards, each patrol had turned right for 50 yards, then

turned right again and worked back to the base camp. In this way, the fan-shaped area had been thoroughly combed. Some of them had found the "terrorist camp" (manned by Gurkhas) 600 or 700 yards from the base.

Now came the orders for the attack, given by an officer-instructor wearing a sarong (easy to carry, comfortable to wear in camp while jungle-green is drying out).

A camp, with cultivation, containing eight to ten terrorists had been located, he told the students. They would cordon and assault it. The assault, intended to drive the bandits out into the fire of the cordon, would normally have been signalled by Bren fire, but as there were real Communist terrorists about, today the signal would be by shout.

Nobody was to carry a machete; only one water-bottle would be carried in each section and this would have a rubber top and no cup—these two precautions to maintain silence. Men with chevrons on their shirts would wear their shirts inside out—this order was for camouflage. (One NCO who duly turned his shirt, however, forgot to remove the makers' white tab sewn inside the collar.) Jungle hats, bearing unit recognition markings would be turned inside out for the same reason. Signals would be silent until the assault had been put in.

"And don't worry if the Gurkha doesn't stop when you have shot him," the students were told.

SOLDIER moved up to within 100 yards of the bandit camp with the reconnaissance party. At that distance, there was nothing

JUNGLE

The folding saw now carried by well-found jungle patrols in Malaya. It is handy for clearing air supply dropping zones and landing-places for helicopters. It makes less noise than a machete and will fell bigger trees.



to be seen, but the sound of wood being chopped with a machete came clearly through the trees. As the main body moved up, silent signals came into operation: a clenched fist to summon the Bren group, a "V" sign to indicate a rifle group, two fingers on the arm for a section commander, and so on.

As the cordon was formed, SOLDIER moved into the bandit camp. Here, around a large log fire, was accommodation more familiar to men who served in 14th Army. With their kukris and a handy bamboo clump, the Gurkhas and a British sergeant-instructor had built themselves bamboo beds and roofed them over with foliage. A dixie was on the fire, and SOLDIER was drinking tea laced with rum as the assault came in.

Circumstances favoured the attackers. Heavy rain and a fast stream nearby drowned any noise they might have made. Barring one who "died" on the spot, the Gurkhas rushed away from the camp, and there were energetic noises from the undergrowth nearby. A piece of wood came flying from behind a bush and landed at a student's feet.

"You're dead. That was a grenade," shouted an instructor.

"But I shot him first," shouted back the student indignantly.

The instructor shrugged. "Never mind," he said.

When it was all over, and the students' weapons were reloaded, there came the inquest. Had the bandits been real ones, there would have been no assault, it appeared. The inexperienced patrols which discovered the camp had been seen: they had moved saplings, then turned back



A plastic sheet roof and a hammock make for snug sleep in a dripping jungle base.

and moved more saplings instead of "freezing" when their movements had been detected. Real bandits would have been a thousand yards away before the assault went in. All that would have to be put right by their next exercise, which was to last four days and be fully operational, with real Communist bandits as the target.

SOLDIER marched out with the "bandits," by another route. This time, it was swamp most of the way—"Usually dry swamp," said the sergeant-instructor. He

and the Gurkhas hacked away with kukris as the party tried to step on roots or fallen logs and, failing these, sank into the mud and water. Sometimes, for the stubby Gurkhas, it was chest-deep when there were streams to be crossed. It was chancy to try to steady oneself on nearby branches. The canes which grew in that swamp nearly all bristled with needle-like thorns.

It was late afternoon when the party reached more or less solid ground, and the first instruments in the jungle's "evening orchestra" were tuning up. A fierce, wheezing whistle came from one side of the track. "Some jungle beast," muttered the sergeant,

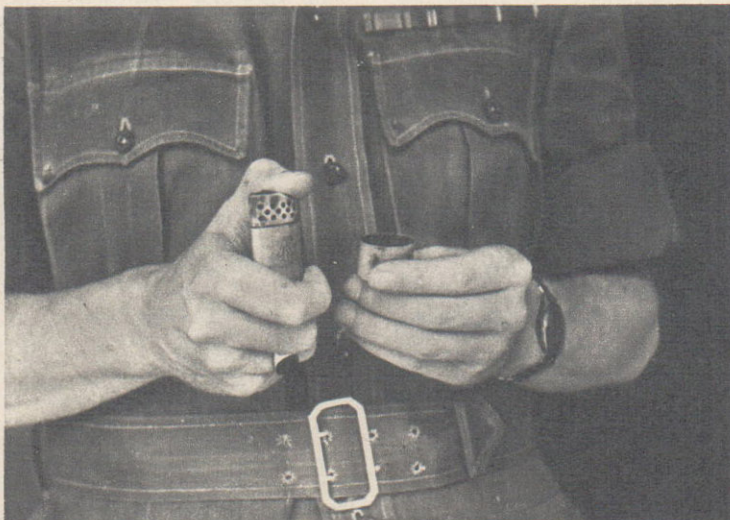
and someone murmured the hope that it was not a sladang. Another creature was making a noise like a telephone bell, and the crickets' chorus was swelling. The party arrived on the road to a raucous accompaniment by bullfrogs.

The students spent the night in the jungle and moved out early the next day, a Saturday, in time for week-end leave. On the Saturday evening SOLDIER met some of them again in Singapore. They were heading for a fun-fair with a dance hall, where they planned to take the floor with Chinese taxi-dancers. Their first experience of the jungle had not left them exhausted.

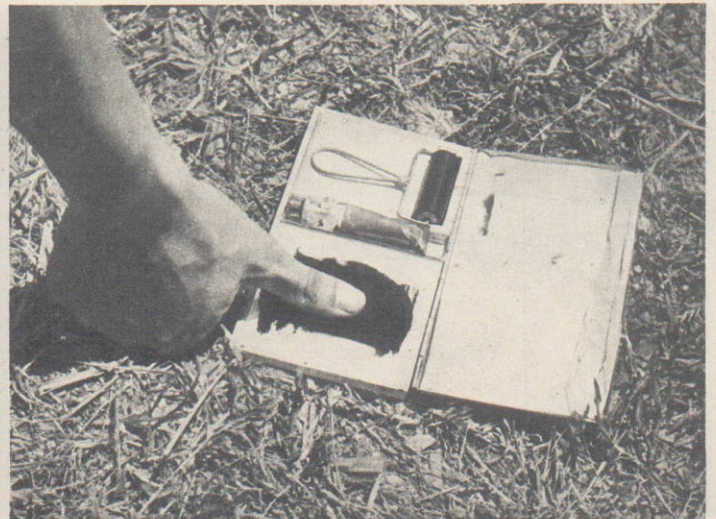
RICHARD ELLEY

GADGETS

Not every soldier can boast an Army-issue cigarette-lighter, complete with broad arrow. It is essential in places like the swamps of Malaya where a box of matches soon becomes saturated.



Every patrol carries a finger-print set to record the prints of dead bandits for later identification. It gives more reliable evidence than the box-camera formerly carried by patrols.





TWO GIRLS by the INDIAN OCEAN

MOMBASA. Seaport, Kenya. Railway terminus. Exports tropical produce (ivory, hides, etc.). Pop. 57,000.

THAT is what the gazetteer says. Privates Beryl Murphy and Kathleen Taylor, Women's Royal Army Corps, were not, however, interested in gazetteers when they left the pay office where they work in Nairobi to go on leave.

The night-train carried them through the dusk across the bare-looking plains where zebra, giraffe and gazelle graze, and they woke next morning in the lush coastal belt.

In Mombasa they booked into NAAFI's Silversands Leave Centre and soon were seeing the Mombasa of the guide-books where "Coral headlands embrace sweeping bays of brilliant sand, and coconut palms, casuarinas and mangoes stretch down to the sun-drenched shores of the Indian Ocean."

In addition, they had film-shows, dances, barbecues, tom-bola, roller-skating, trips in glass-bottomed boats to see the colourful tropical fish, and swimming and goggle-fishing. No gazetteer ever mentioned those.

These photographs were taken by Sergeant W. R. Hawes, of Army Public Relations. Clearly there are some good jobs in Public Relations.



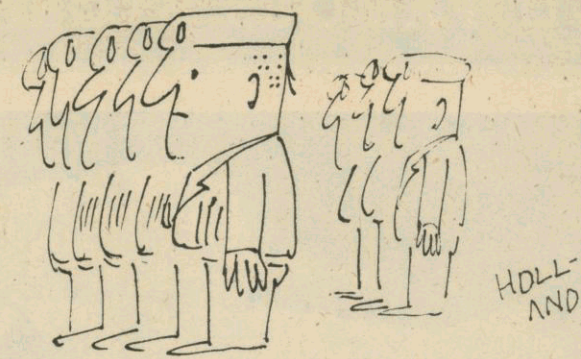
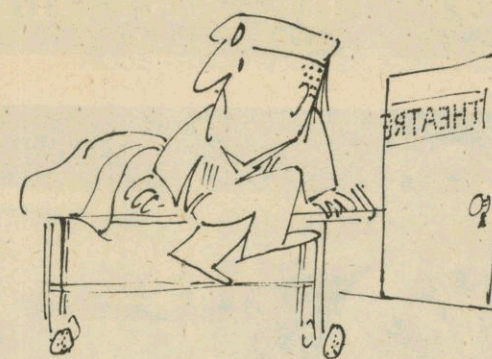
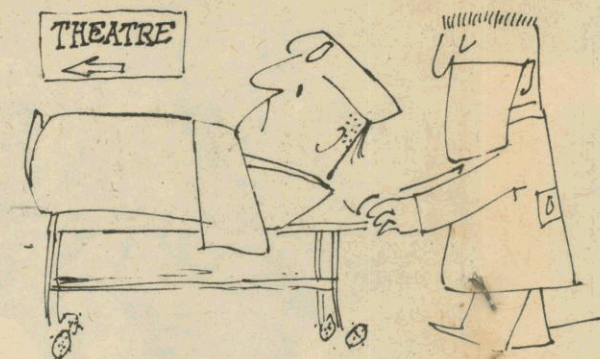
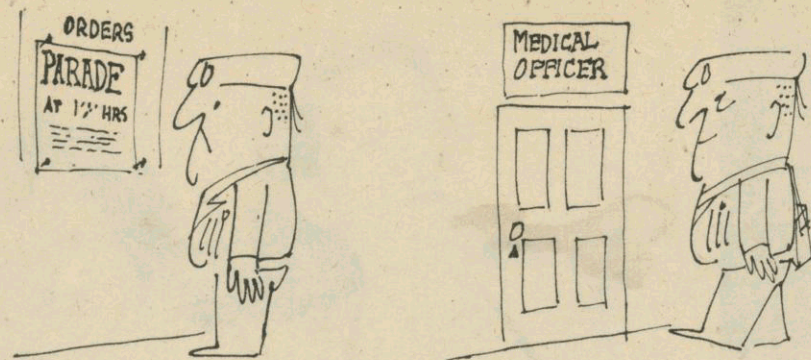
Left: "Come to sun-kissed Mombasa . . ." Or, "Join the Army and see the world." The girl in the starlet pose is Private Beryl Murphy.



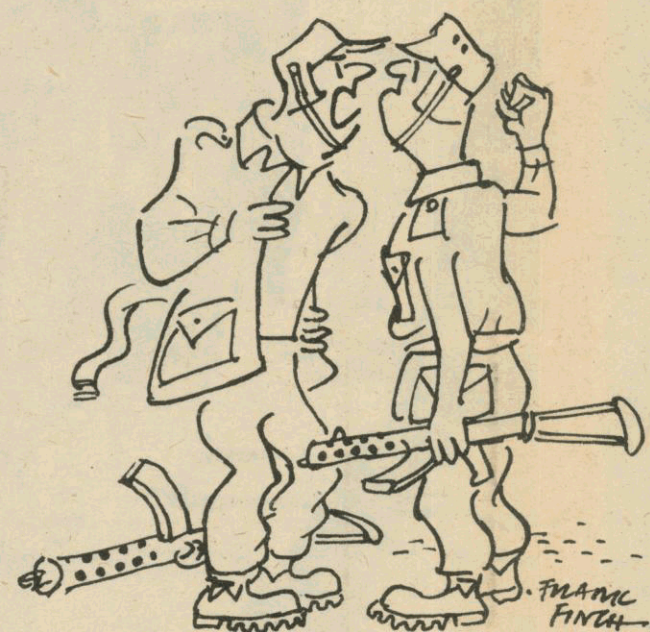
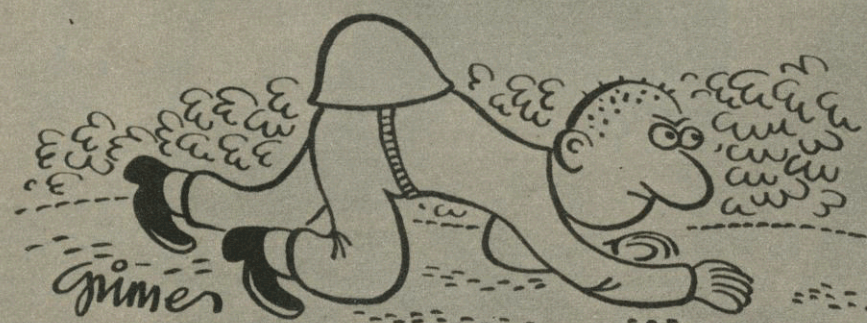
Left: Private Beryl Murphy and Private Kathleen Taylor arrive at Silver-sands Leave Centre. Above: They are supposed to be looking at tropical fish through the glass bottom of a boat, but are in fact laughing at the photographer who nearly fell overboard into those limpid blue waters.

Below, left: Fish's eye view of Private Beryl Murphy. Hence goggle-eyed fish. Dances? Film shows? Tombola? Give me food, says the tortoise.





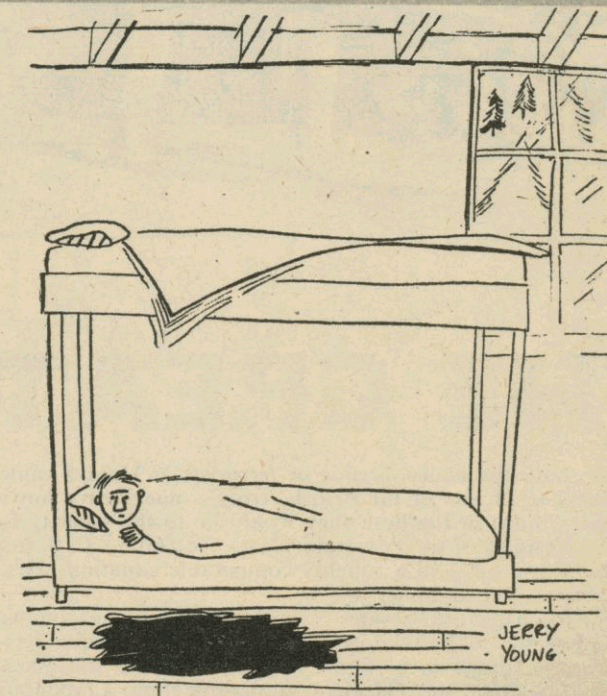
★ SOLDIER HUMOUR



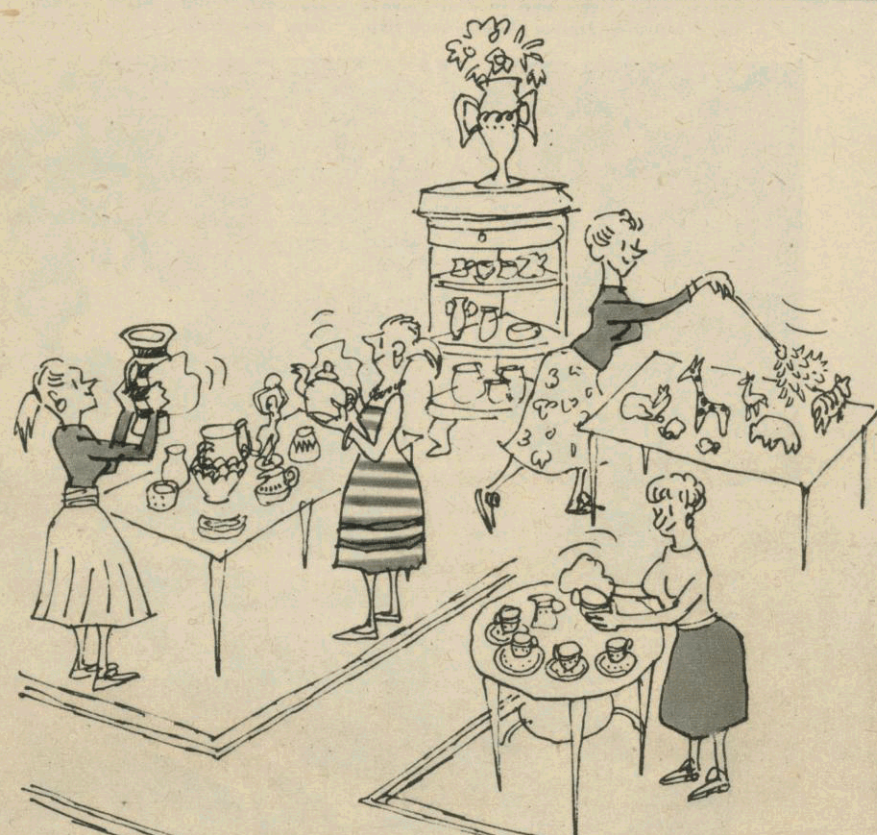
"Okay, get out of that combat suit and fight."



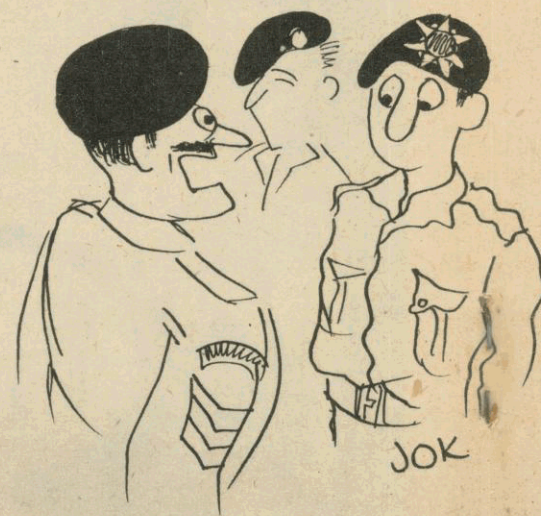
"But how am I going to tuck it under my epaulette?"



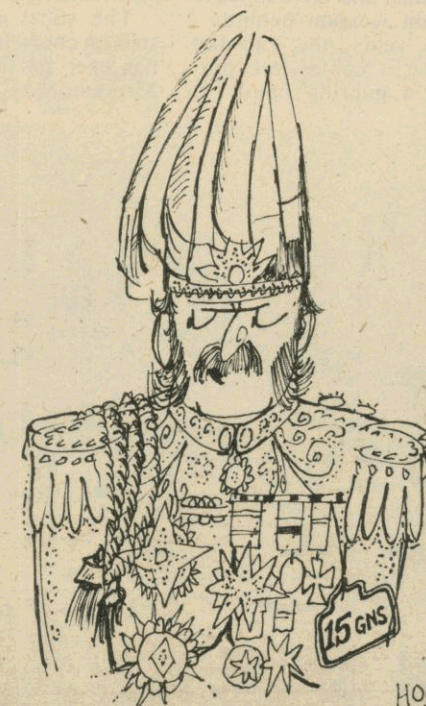
Courtesy: U.S. Army Times.



Bull in a China Shop.



"I don't care if you are a Crunchy-Munch Super Space Chief, you'll wear the same badge as the rest of us."



"Tell my batman to report to me immediately after parade."

CAN YOU DRAW?

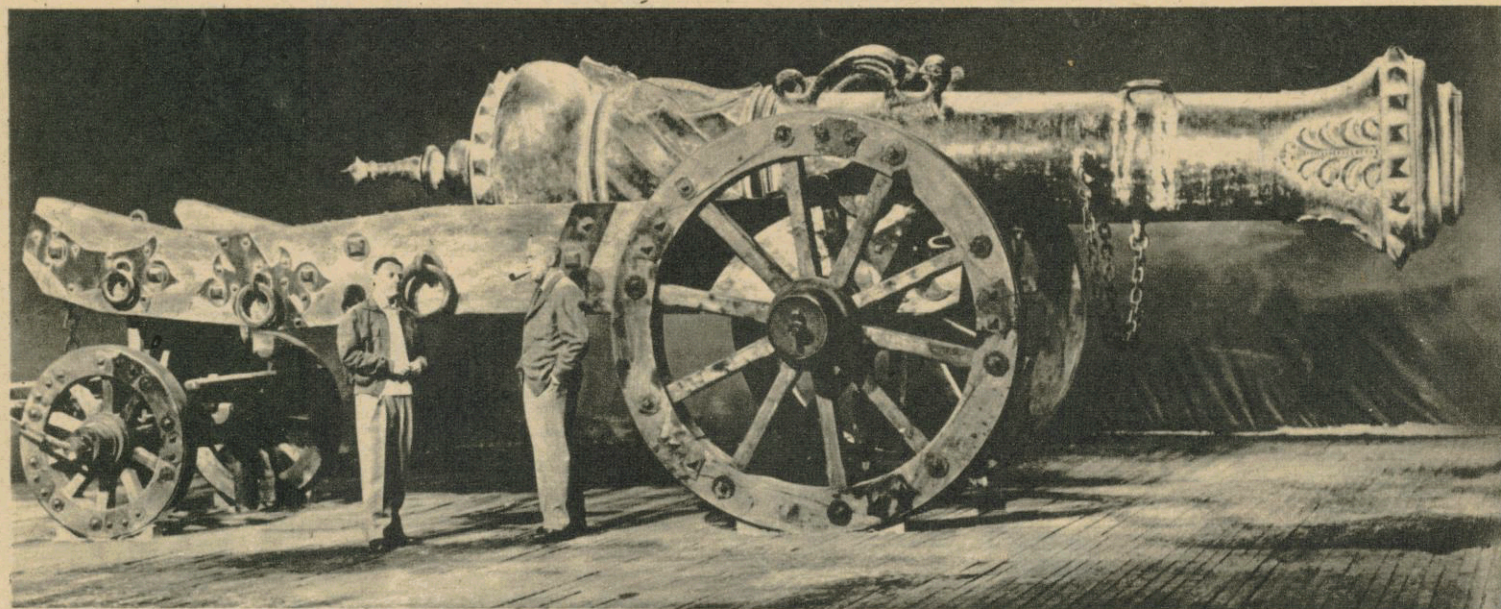
Can you see the funny side of the Army?

SOLDIER welcomes cartoons from its readers and pays for all those published.

Drawings should be in black ink on white paper. Shading should be kept to a minimum. Most drawings are better without any.

One tip: Don't waste time trying to think of more jokes about Guards' bearskins. That idea has been flogged to death.

Try some of the less familiar aspects of the Army. It's full of humour—where you least suspect it.



"Thirteen feet long, it was, and two feet in diameter at the breech, and a foot in diameter at the muzzle."—from "The Gun," by C. S. Forester.

THE GREAT GUN

IF, by some mischance, a gang of terrorists in Malaya came into possession of one of the British Army's super-heavy howitzers, what a thorn in the flesh they would be to the security forces!

In his novel of the Peninsular War, "The Gun," C. S. Forester develops with great skill a roughly comparable situation. His story is now being filmed under the title "The Pride and the Passion."

C. S. Forester is best known for his novels about naval warfare, particularly the Hornblower series, but "The Gun," published in 1933, is not his only novel about land fighting. "The General," one of his earlier books, is a study (sometimes said to have been inspired by Field-Marshal Lord Allenby) of

a World War One commander. Hornblower himself has frequently found his shore-legs long enough to climb a mountain and discomfit a French garrison, or has jogged painfully on horse- or mule-back to some soldierly affray.

The centre-piece of "The Gun" is a vast and ornate 18-pounder with a Latin inscription round

its muzzle: "And our mouths shall show forth Thy praise." It has been snatched from decorative duty at some castle to play a part against the French, and is abandoned by retreating Spanish troops when it overturns on a mountain road.

Local men rescue it, and to it rally armed peasants, inspired by its presence to resist the invaders. Then they are called away across the mountains, and have to leave the three-ton weapon behind.

For two years, the gun lies hidden, then it comes into possession of a guerilla band. A

British warship supplies it with powder and shot. Guerilla leaders fight among themselves for possession of the weapon.

French forts are reduced. A French column is destroyed. A town is liberated. Men keep flocking to the gun, until it is marching in the middle of an army. At last, however, the gun meets its match in the siege of a fortress where the French have well-handled 18-pounders of their own. It is irreparably damaged, and its army melts away.

The story is one which will strike a chord in any Gunner who has ever felt an affection for a 25-pounder.

The siege of Avila in "The Pride and the Passion," based on "The Gun," which was made in Spain. Cary Grant, Frank Sinatra and Sophia Loren are the stars.



Troops on the march in "War and Peace." Below: The retreat from Moscow—in Northern Italy.

WAR AND PEACE

FILM companies customarily make their war films in a big way. The firm which has just completed "War and Peace" with a cast including 18,000 soldiers, had something big to work on.

"War and Peace," Count Leo Tolstoy's novel of the Russians and their campaigns against Napoleon, has been described as "The greatest novel ever written" by venerable literary figures such as John Galsworthy, but its greatness is not confined to its artistic merits.

It is one of the longest novels ever written. A recent pocket

OVER





"Hurrah!" shouted Prince Andrew, and . . . he ran forward with full confidence that the whole battalion would follow him."—Tolstoy. A scene at the Battle of Austerlitz. Prince Andrew is played by Mel Ferrer.

WAR AND PEACE cont'd.

edition in English runs to 1700-odd pages, including the translator's notes. "War and Peace" has so many characters that most editions include a list of the



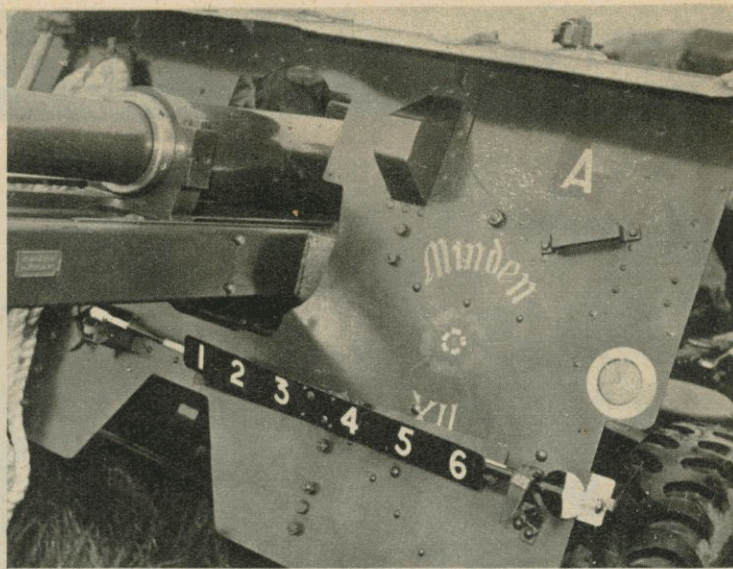
Herbert Lom as Napoleon in "War and Peace." Audrey Hepburn, Henry Fonda, John Mills and Oscar Homolka are also among the stars.

principals, sometimes loose so that it can be kept handy to enable the reader to refresh his memory about who is who. (The film has 60 speaking parts.)

The novel took five years to write and appeared in six volumes, between 1867 and 1869. It links the fortunes of four noble Russian families in the years 1805 to 1812, and includes descriptions of the Battles of Austerlitz and Borodino, in which Napoleon trounced the Russians, and of the French retreat from Moscow.

Tolstoy, member of an aristocratic family, became a cadet in the Tsar's army in the Caucasus, where the Russian Empire was extending its frontiers in prolonged border campaigns. He was awarded a gallantry decoration but turned up late for the investiture parade and was clapped in the guardroom instead of receiving the medal.

In the Crimea he commanded a battery of guns against the Allies during the siege of Sevastopol and wrote a series of sketches of life in the beleaguered city. They were published in a magazine and made such an impression in St. Petersburg that the Tsar is said to have ordered that Lieutenant Tolstoy should not be exposed to danger. The war over, Tolstoy left the Army and settled down to writing and to life in the country. He freed his serfs at a time when that was a very unfashionable action for one of his class, and was excommunicated by the Russian Orthodox Church for his religious views. He died in 1910 at the age of 82.



The rose is on all the paintable possessions of 12 (Minden) Field Battery.

ALARM

AT the Battle of Minden, for the first time in their history, men of the Royal Artillery trotted their heavy (12-pounder) guns into a series of "crash actions." It was quite a contrast to their usual stately entry into battle.

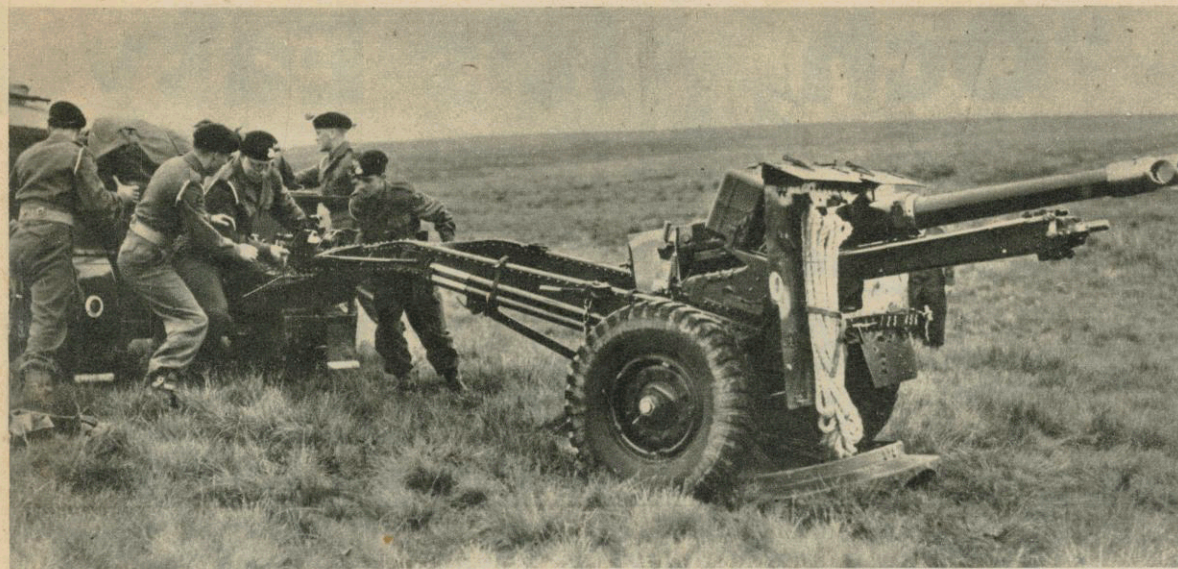
So it is appropriate that their successors of 12 (Minden) Field Battery, Royal Artillery, should celebrate Minden Day, or part of it, with a series of "crash actions," in a competition known to all Field Gunners as the Alarm Stakes.

Alarm Stakes are no peculiarity of 12 Battery. Any Battery with cause to show off its prowess, or test it, or to let off some high spirits, may stage this

event, and there are variations on the theme.

In 12 Battery, the contestants are the gun detachments, each led independently by its Number One, the sergeant. When the event starts, each detachment is (theoretically) asleep. The men have taken off some of their clothing and are lying on the

Pick up the pieces and assemble: The second stage of the Alarm Stakes.



The 25-pounder is in position. Now comes the unlimbering.

STAKES

ground. The guns are partly dismantled and usually one wheel and the breech mechanism of each have been removed.

When the alarm is given, each Number One dashes to the battery commander, about 150 yards away, and is shown a target. Meanwhile the other members of the detachments have been furiously dressing themselves and re-assembling the guns. The guns are limbered up, driven to a point from which the target is visible and brought into action.

This year 12 Battery was at its

firing camp at Otterburn, near Newcastle, and thus able to bring the alarm stakes to their proper climax by firing ten live rounds from each gun at the target. Parade-ground alarm stakes with no real firing are relatively tame.

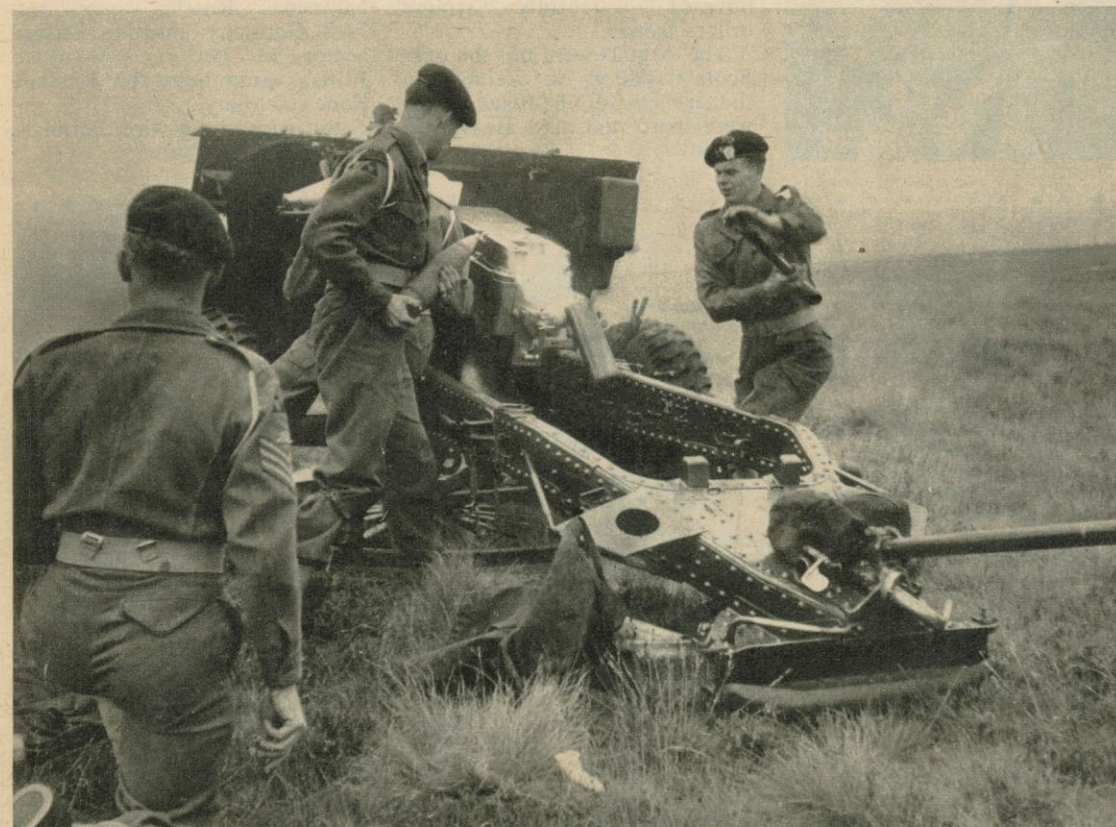
In 12 Battery the six gun detachments compete two at a time. Independent observers judge their performances. Marks are given for speed in getting into action and engaging the target, for accuracy of fire, for correctness of dress and of drill.

A race that only Gunners can stage may be a drill test or part of a celebration. In the right place it will end with a bang—or ten bangs

"The Gunners love it," says Major D. W. Leach, the Battery commander. "This is something only Gunners can do."

Thanks to a kindly gesture from the other batteries of 20 Field Regiment, 12 Battery began this year's Minden Day with no duties facing it. After breakfast Major Leach distributed the Minden roses. Unlike some of the Minden Infantry regiments, 12 Battery has no connection with Yorkshire or Lancashire and provides each man with one red and one white rose. They

The last phase of the Alarm Stakes: Ten rounds rapid, live rounds, across the Otterburn ranges.



Second-Lieutenant J. M. Watson, the Battery's youngest subaltern, accepts a dusting of pepper on the roses unit custom demands he eats at the Minden Day celebration.

are made of paper and wired together; the Battery stocked up with them in Hong Kong two years ago and still has enough for next year's Minden Day.

After the Alarm Stakes came a party lunch at which the officers and senior non-commissioned officers served the men, and the youngest subaltern ate his Minden roses, which, he had been advised, were quite palatable with pepper and salt. He took the additional precaution of steeping them in his share of a rum punch the Battery had brewed for the occasion. (In the Lancashire Fusiliers, all officers who have not done so on a previous Minden Day also eat a rose, served in a finger-bowl of champagne.) The Battery's day ended with an outing to Whitley Bay.

Besides being one of the two batteries with the Minden honour-title (the other is 32 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery), 12 Battery has the distinction of being the senior field battery and the second senior battery of the Royal Artillery.

It was formed in 1747 for service in India and was the first British Army unit to land there. The Dorset Regiment's motto *Primus in Indis* (First in India) is based on the fact that it was the first Infantry regiment to fight in that country. The Dorsets landed in 1754; 12 Battery was there in 1748.

In World War Two, 12 Battery was captured in Singapore and went into "suspended animation" until 1943, when it was re-formed. It saw action in Korea, where it fired 81,360 rounds in seven months and where the truce arrived in time to allow the Battery to celebrate Minden Day 1953 in proper fashion. The following year it saw Minden Day in Hong Kong and last year at Woolwich.

"Och, it's Easy, Bud!"



Left: A Black Watch corporal directs American Infantrymen to their new location on Anglo-American exercises in the Grunewald.

Above: "This is how we do it..." Assault pioneers of the Argylls demonstrate power-driven rafts on the Havel.

AMONG the woods and lakes of the Grunewald, 20 minutes drive from the heart of Berlin, German trippers have seen this summer how effectively the Scots and the Americans can co-operate on exercises.

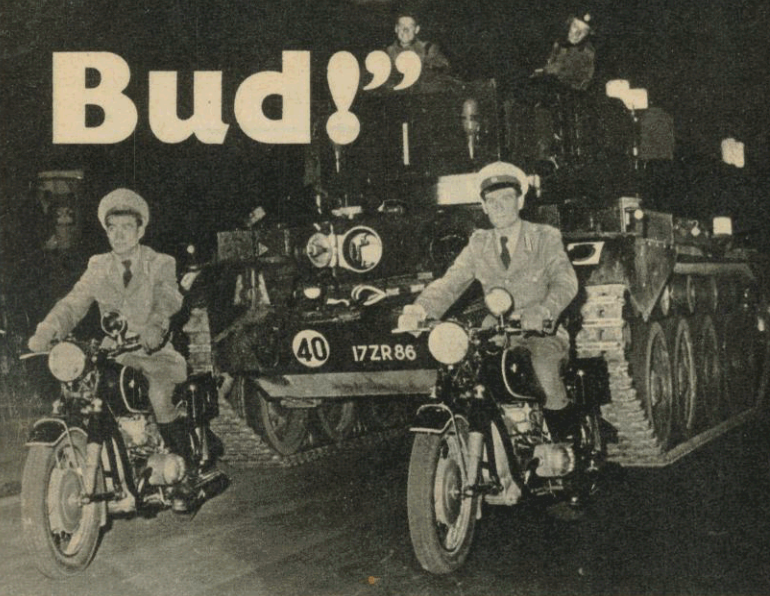
On the Havel Lake assault pioneers of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders demonstrated their water-crossing technique to American assault pioneers, skilfully loading carriers and anti-tank guns on to power-driven rafts.

In the woods more British and American troops were digging and patrolling. French officers hovered watchfully around orders groups.

The Argylls were not the only Scots battalion on exercises in the Grunewald. The Black Watch were there, too, and are still in Berlin.

Kladow Barracks, which the Argylls have now left, are the most attractive and comfortable in the Berlin garrison. During a tour of the barracks the visitor often finds himself faced by a spidery wire fence, which is the physical demarcation line between Russian-controlled East Germany and the British Sector of Berlin. No other British camp hugs the Russian Zone so closely.

But wire or no wire, Berlin is a good family station.



Tanks of Berlin's Independent Squadron are escorted along the Kaiser-damm by German motor-cycle police en route to the Grunewald.

BOOKSHELF

Tale of Soldiers' Families

IN his new short novel "Married Quarters" (Constable, 13s 6d) Tim Carew has chosen a theme which was crying out for a novelist's treatment: the frustrations of an Infantry battalion, and of its dependent families, in the restless world of the nineteen-fifties.

He dedicates his tale "to the wives of British soldiers who wait for their men to come home, and their implacable rival—The Regiment."

You won't find the Fontwell Rifles in the Army List, but the adventures seem strangely familiar. They are a battalion fated never to be sent to a real family station.

In 1951 they are in the Canal Zone, awaiting the arrival of wives and children they have not seen for 18 months. But the Egyptian "troubles" break out and the troopship is ordered to turn about as soon as it reaches Port Said, leaving the families only one embarrassing hour together on board. (Something like that happened—remember?) On the return journey the troopship catches fire in the Mediterranean and sinks (something like that happened, too).

At length, the Fontwells settle for a few weeks in Colchester, waiting to be posted to Germany where married quarters are the best in the world. Instead, at the last minute, they are shipped to Korea.

The author, who wrote "All This And a Medal Too," was a soldier himself. He gives a good picture of some of the human problems involved in the frequent moves of a battalion; sketching, for instance, the dilemma of a married sergeant who gets a cushy posting on the eve of his battalion being ordered to a theatre of war. Mr. Carew's style is crisp, spare and salty. His soldiers talk like soldiers. There is no silly sentiment or introspection in his tale, which is thoroughly readable.



IN KOREA, TOO

Scots troops have been co-operating closely with American units. Attached to the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders for a month were 1st Lieutenant Max L. Lehw, of Oklahoma and 2nd Lieutenant Larry S. Crist, of Maryland, both of the United States 21st Infantry, which is in the same division as the Scots battalion. Needless to say both officers tried on a kilt—that's Lieutenant Lehw on left—and studied the art of piping under bearded Pipe-Major Evan Macrae



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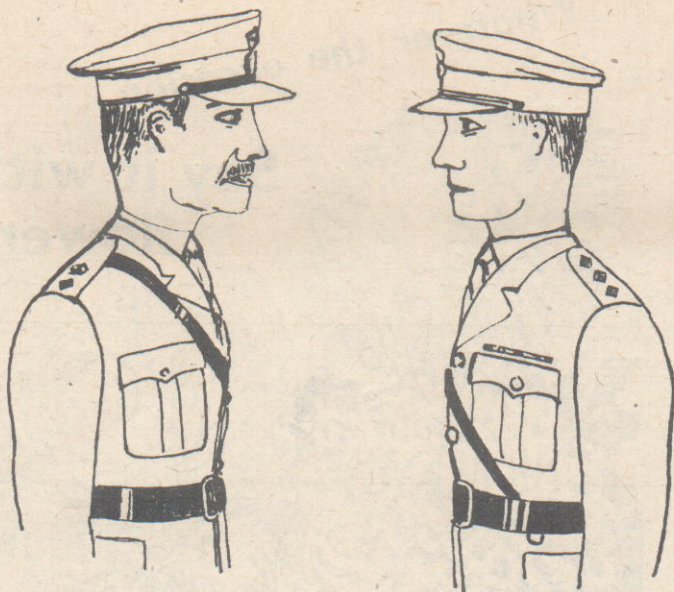
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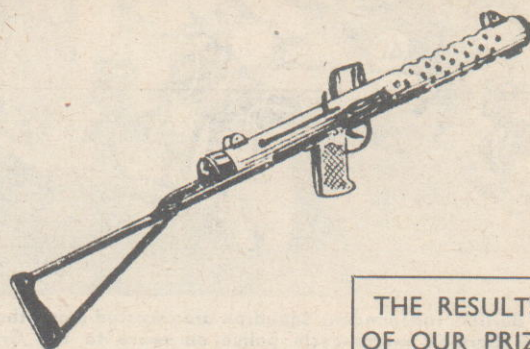
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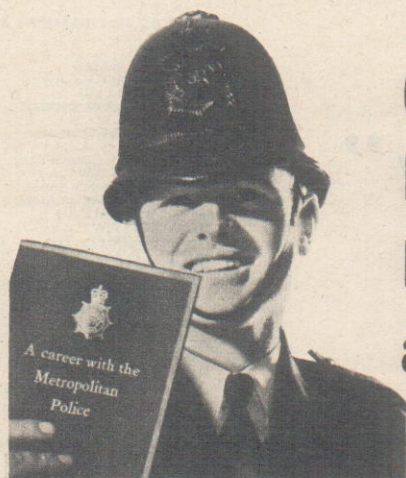
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SUBJECT(S) OF INTEREST

How Many Countries Have You Visited?

A RECRUITING advertisement has started much argument—among older soldiers.

The advertisement said that Brigadier Bernard Fergusson ("The Most Travelled Officer in the Army") had been sent to more than 30 countries since he joined the Army, and from these had been able to visit a great many more.

It was quoted in *SOLDIER*'s August issue, and since then long-service soldiers have been adding up their totals of countries visited. They have not always agreed about the results. Much depends on what you call a visit and what you call a country.

For anyone interested in playing this game, *SOLDIER* suggests a "visit" means actually setting foot in the country on duty or on leave; thus an air trooping trip to Singapore yields at least half a dozen countries. The United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) counts as a single country; so do groups of small islands, like the Channel Isles or the Windwards. Pakistan counts as a separate country only since 1947.

One man who, by *SOLDIER*'s reckoning, has amassed the respectable, but by no means



His travels began in Ireland: Warrant Officer W. Neely, RAEC.

record, total of 39 countries visited during his service is Warrant Officer William Neely of the Royal Army Educational Corps. It is 23 years since, as a lad of 19, he took notice of the poster which said "Join the Army and See the World" and joined up at Omagh.

With the 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Fusiliers, he was soon off on his travels. Leaving the United Kingdom (1) he called at Port Sudan (2), Aden (3) and Singapore (4) on the way to China (5). From Shanghai, where he was a clerk in the orderly

IT DEPENDS WHAT YOU CALL A VISIT —AND A COUNTRY

room, he went for a health cruise in a Royal Navy destroyer to Korea (6) and Japan (7).

When the Battalion went to Singapore at the end of 1935 Lance-Corporal Neely was a member of the band and rugby team, with both of which he travelled widely in Malaya (8).

The following year he visited Hong Kong (9) and Java (10) as a member of the band. He broke the return journey to take part in a Boy Scout rally on the Dutch island of Rhio, off Sumatra (11) in the China Sea.

From Singapore, the Battalion moved to India (12) in 1938 and six months later Corporal Neely became an Infantry instructor in Ceylon (13). In 1941 he transferred to the Royal Army Educational Corps and a few months later was sent to Burma (14). In 1942, during a spell on the North-West Frontier, he was guard to a political assistant on a journey into Afghanistan (15).

On his way home in 1943, Sergeant Neely spent several days in South Africa (16), a day on

Banana Island off Sierra Leone (17) and another day at Gibraltar (18). Two years later Warrant Officer Neely went to the Channel Islands (19).

In 1946, he was posted to Jamaica (20) as an education instructor. In three years in the West Indies he called at the Bahamas (21), the Leeward Islands (22), the Windwards (23), Trinidad (24), British Guiana (25) and British Honduras (26). From British Honduras, he went to Mexico (27) to take part in some Army Day celebrations.

In 1949, Warrant Officer Neely was posted to Egypt (28), then to Cyrenaica (29), to the British Military Mission in Saudi Arabia (30), and then to Cyprus (31). On his way home, in 1952, he spent two weeks in Malta (32).

A posting to Germany (33) the next year enabled him to go on leave to Austria (34), Belgium (35), France (36), Italy (37) and Switzerland (38). Last year he was posted to Holland (39). He hopes that before leaving the Army, in 12 years time, he will have added at least another ten countries to his list. It will be noted that he has hardly touched West Africa and has not visited East Africa—yet.

Has anyone a longer list?

THE LONG WALK—ROUND HONG KONG



A soldier won Hong Kong's first "walkathon," a 41-mile walking race round the hilly island. There were 236 starters, mostly Chinese (right). The winner was Pte. Thomas Broadbent, REME (below) who took 8 hours 21 minutes. Left: Sergeant M. Jones, RA and his daughter Hazel, the only woman to finish. Father finished, too.



IS THIS THE TOUGHEST JOB?

A famous military historian, Brigadier-General Sir James Edmonds, has died. His labours are here compared with those of the redoubtable Sir John Fortescue

ON the author's door was a notice which read: "Every minute spent by the historian in frivolous conversation delays the progress of the history."

The author was Brigadier-General Sir James Edmonds, one of the greatest military historians, who has died at the age of 94.

The task from which he was anxious not to be distracted was that of editing, and writing, the Official History of the 1914-18 war. It took him some 30 years. He wrote 14 volumes himself.

His career serves to illustrate how truly formidable is the task of writing modern military history. The Duke of Wellington thought it impossible for anyone to write an accurate description of the Battle of Waterloo; but to Brigadier-General Edmonds that would have seemed a mere holiday task.

Inevitably, Brigadier-General Edmonds' achievement recalls that of the Army historian Sir John Fortescue, who took 36 years to produce his 13 volumes chronicling the Army's campaigns down to 1870. There were many similarities between their personalities and careers. Both were scholars with prodigious memories. Both were men of vigorous opinions, with a genius for stripping away the "muck-age" and baring the essence of a situation. Never could it be said of them that they were unable to see the wood for the trees. Many writers of lesser stature would have gone blind or mad tackling comparable tasks. Both men, while busy writing of far-off battles, had their labours disorganised by new wars.

But there were important differences. Sir John Fortescue was answerable only to himself; Brigadier-General Edmonds, as an official historian, had not the same opportunity to express his personal views.

It is on record that when Brigadier-General Edmonds began his task in 1919, 38 lorries delivered 25,000 documents and 90,000 maps for his perusal. But that was only a start. As the work progressed he was flooded with private diaries and letters, many of which yielded valuable information. When writing his account of the Battle of the Somme he interviewed, or corresponded with, a thousand officers who had fought in it. He circulated his first account of the early 1918 battles to 1500 officers, of whom half offered suggestions and corrections.

Paradoxically, Brigadier-General Edmonds' task was made more difficult because *not enough* was written about the war. Many war diaries were neglected in the heat of campaigning, or were filled up perfunctorily by the unimaginative. During one tremendous battle, a brigade diarist

bracketed several days together and wrote "In action." When the Gunners complained that they were not receiving a good enough show in the Official History, the Brigadier-General said it was their own fault—they often left insufficient records.

"I must remind the reader," Brigadier-General Edmonds wrote, "that the historian is forced to depict a battle with an orderliness which was not apparent during the actual events; it is quite impossible to give an adequate representation of the organised confusion of modern warfare." No one person sees more than a small corner of the battle. An officer quoted by General Edmonds said: "To



He wrote 13 volumes of British Army history: Sir John Fortescue. Illustration from Lady Fortescue's "There's Rosemary, There's Rue" by courtesy of Messrs William Blackwood.

write about March, 1918 is like writing about a cathedral from the knowledge of one window."

In his earliest volume, the Brigadier-General said he hoped to finish the work "within reasonable compass." By September 1939 he and his small staff were only just getting down to the job of describing Passchendaele (and vigorously defending Haig). Then, as Hitler's war broke out, Brigadier-General Edmonds' officers were taken from him one by one and assigned to more pressing duties. He gathered together what they had written and, while civilisation once more went

up in flames, finished the task. In 1945, when the first histories of World War Two were coming out, he had ready five more volumes about World War One.

By that time, survivors' memories of those earlier battles were fading rapidly—another headache for the historian. Brigadier-General Edmonds found that, on the whole, the earlier years of 1914-18 were more clearly remembered than the later ones.

Brigadier-General Edmonds' filing system was so excellent that an officer who called on him, in 1945, was shown, within two minutes of being asked to state his former regiment, operational messages written in his own hand 30 years before.

The Brigadier-General himself wrote the narrative of the events on the Western Front. Other pens under his direction tackled Gallipoli (two volumes); Mesopotamia (four), Macedonia (two), Palestine (two), East Africa (one), Italy (one), Togoland and the Cameroons (one). There were a number of additional volumes containing only maps.

Unlike Brigadier-General Edmonds, Sir John Fortescue, an earl's son, was never a soldier. He suffered from short-sight. Two years in the West Indies aroused his interest in the British Army, which lost so many battalions there to "Yellow Jack." In 1895, when the firm of Macmillan invited him to write a one-volume history of the Army he asked whether he could be allowed four volumes. This was agreed. For six years he carried out preliminary research. Then the first volume came out, with an admission that he was not blind to his temerity, as a civilian, in tackling such a project. However, he explained, "England has waited long for a soldier to do the work." That first volume contained many a provocative statement like this:

"It is because we are a fighting people that we have risen to greatness, and it is as a fighting people that we stand or fall. Arms rule the world; and war, the supreme test of moral and physical greatness, remains eternally the touchstone of nations."

This new author spread himself so liberally that when the fourth volume came out, in 1906, he had carried the narrative only as far as 1802. "I know not what plea to advance in my excuse," he wrote, "except that sheer ignorance avowed on a famous occasion by Dr. Johnson."

Sir John Fortescue's self-imposed task began to threaten his health and finances. King Edward VII appointed him archivist at Windsor Castle, a



He wrote 14 volumes about the Western Front: Brigadier-General Sir James Edmonds. Illustration by courtesy of Institution of Royal Engineers.

post which kept the wolf from the door but involved him in a good deal of additional work. At various times while engaged on his History he took time off to write other books of military history. He also edited six volumes of the correspondence of George III.

By 1916 Sir John Fortescue had published the eighth volume. Strong pressure was put on him to start writing a history of the world war then in progress, and eventually, against his better judgment, he consented, and forgot the Peninsular Wars for four years. His widow has told (in "There's Rosemary, There's Rue") how before starting to describe the first Battle of Ypres he spent six weeks making abstracts of abstracts.

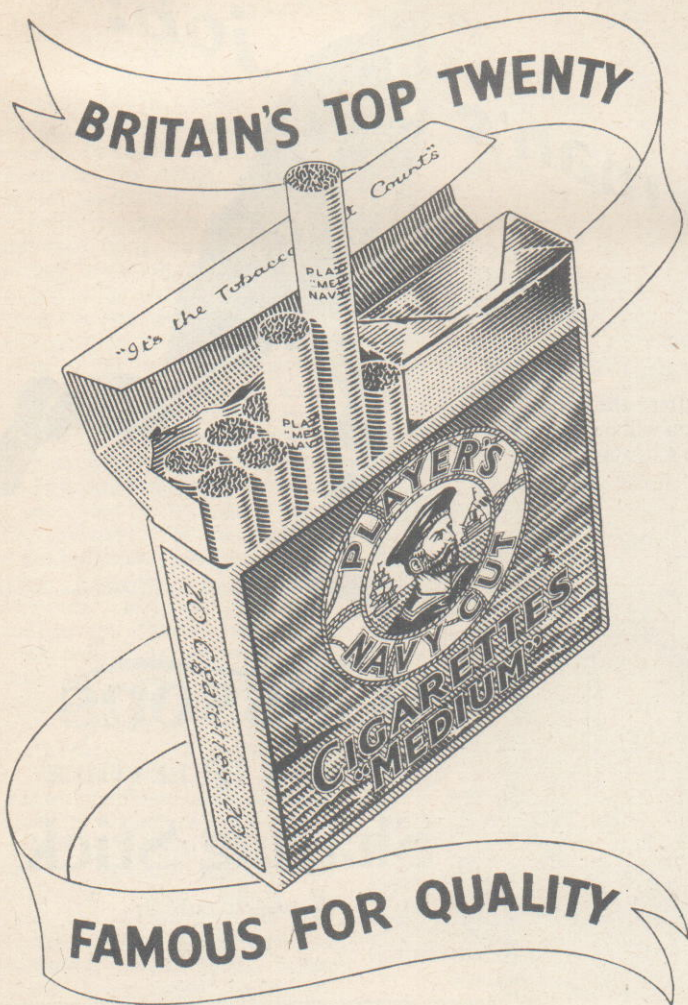
Sir John Fortescue was the wrong man for the job—or perhaps it was the wrong job for Sir John Fortescue. Not everybody relished his forthright judgments. Too many people wished to blue-pencil or otherwise amend the narrative; others were angry because their names were not mentioned. Sir John was not a man to welcome criticism or complaint. He was grateful when the history of the Kaiser's war was given into other hands.

During that war he never ceased to fume because the commanders and politicians were making all the old familiar mistakes. "Why do I waste my time in writing the history of the British Army?" he lamented. "What is the use of sweating one's life out recording past blunders if no lesson is learned from bitter experience?"

The last volume of the famous History, incisive, angry and magisterial to the end, came out in 1930. Three years later the author died on the Riviera.

He used to complain that the 13-volume work brought him less than a halfpenny a line, and once calculated that he would have done better for himself,

Please turn to page 33



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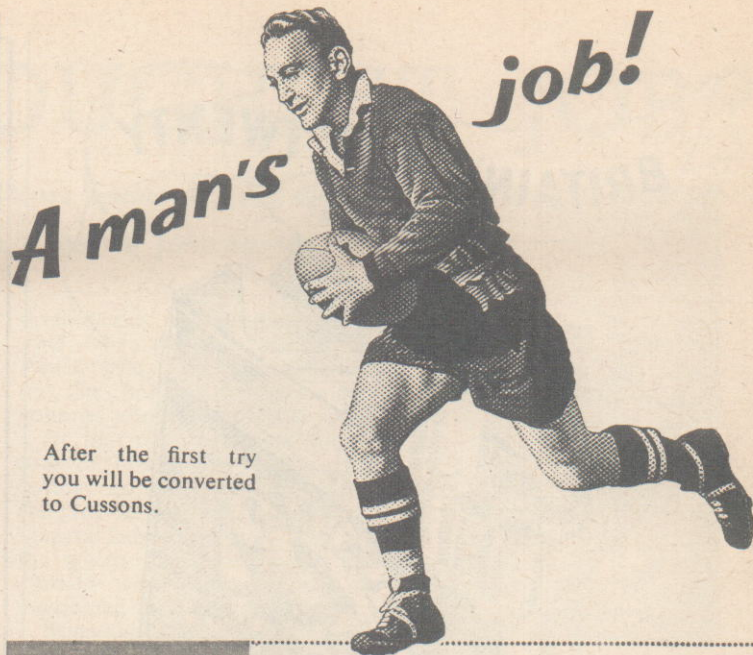
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TOUGHEST JOB

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financially, as a private in the Infantry, even without good conduct pay or marksman's pay.

Hearing, in 1920, that the General Staff thought highly of his work, he wrote: "Its judgment may have been biased by the ease with which it acquired the fruits of over 20 years of labour and research, giving absolutely nothing in return."

One of his mortifications was that hardly anybody knew enough about military history to review his volumes authoritatively as they came out; all they could do was commend his industry or praise his trenchant style. Often, however, he was assailed for his judgments and his unconcealed contempt of eminent statesmen. His chapter sub-headings are liberally sprinkled, at the politicians' expense, with words like "folly," "pusillanimity," "indolence," "misconduct," "imbecility," "insanity," "inefficiency," "niggardliness" and "improvidence."

Many problems beset Sir John Fortescue which did not affect General Edmonds. He tried wherever possible to visit the battlefields about which he wrote, but, as he pointed out: "Rivers change course or are canalised, coast lines alter, marshes are drained, forests are felled, land reclaimed or abandoned, villages are absorbed into towns or vanish." One of his worst headaches was trying to reconstruct the street-fighting battle of Buenos Aires.

Much of his *magnum opus* he wrote standing at a lectern. This, he considered, was preferable to getting up fifty times an hour to check references.

Of Sir John Fortescue the *Dictionary of National Biography* says: "He held very definite views and never hesitated to express them, sometimes rather more forcibly than the evidence warranted . . . he had his share of foibles and preferences."

But at his best Sir John Fortescue was magnificent. He has many a noble, ringing passage. When he praised, he praised generously.

The last sentence of his *History* is possibly the finest:

"The builders of this empire . . . were not worthy of such an Army. Two centuries of persecution could not wear out its patience; two centuries of thankless toil could not abate its ardour; two centuries of conquest could not awake it to insolence. Dutiful to its masters, merciful to its enemies, it clung steadfastly to its old, simple ideals—obedience, service, sacrifice."

There will never be another Fortescue. The task of continuing the history of the British Army, on the same scale, from the point where he left off—1870—is too much for any one individual, however single-minded.



Some of the Army's archives of World War Two, 12,000,000 documents including war diaries.

AND NOW THE WORLD WAR TWO STORY

IN preparing the official military histories of World War Two, no single historian faces a task as vast as that which was undertaken by Brigadier-General Sir James Edmonds.

This time, the 30-odd volumes of official military history of the war are being tackled as an inter-Services project, directed from the Cabinet Office. The object is to portray the operations of the three Services, not separately, but in relation to each other.

Officially, the title of the project is "History of the Second World War—United Kingdom Military Series."

Some of the authors are former officers of the three Services; others are professional historians, academically trained. Most of the volumes are being written by individual authors, but the accounts of the three major campaigns—"The Mediterranean and Middle East" (six volumes), "The War Against Japan" (five volumes) and "Victory in the West" (two or three volumes)—are being prepared by teams of four authors working in collaboration, one drawn from each service with an Army officer in general charge.

The editor of the series, who is also the author of one of the six volumes on "Grand Strategy," is Professor J. R. M. Butler, the Cambridge historian. He was a lieutenant-colonel in the Intelligence Corps in World War Two. He is assisted by an advisory panel consisting of Lieutenant-General Sir Ian Jacob (who was Military Assistant Secretary to

the War Cabinet in World War Two), Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Pownall, Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Blake and Air Chief Marshal Sir Guy Garrod.

With the panel to help him, Professor Butler has also been responsible for appointing the other historians. As the draft of each volume is completed, it is considered by the Professor and the panel, who discuss it with the author before the final version is made ready for the printers.

The principal source of information for the historians is a series of narratives prepared by the independent historical sections of the three Services from their archives. In the Army's case these are some 12,000,000 documents, including the war diaries compiled by unit and Staff officers during the campaigns.

The narrators produce strictly factual accounts of the campaigns. These narratives themselves are valuable historical documents for future historians and for Staff colleges and other places where war is studied.

The narrative is, however, only the basis of the historian's material. For some campaigns, notably Singapore and Hong

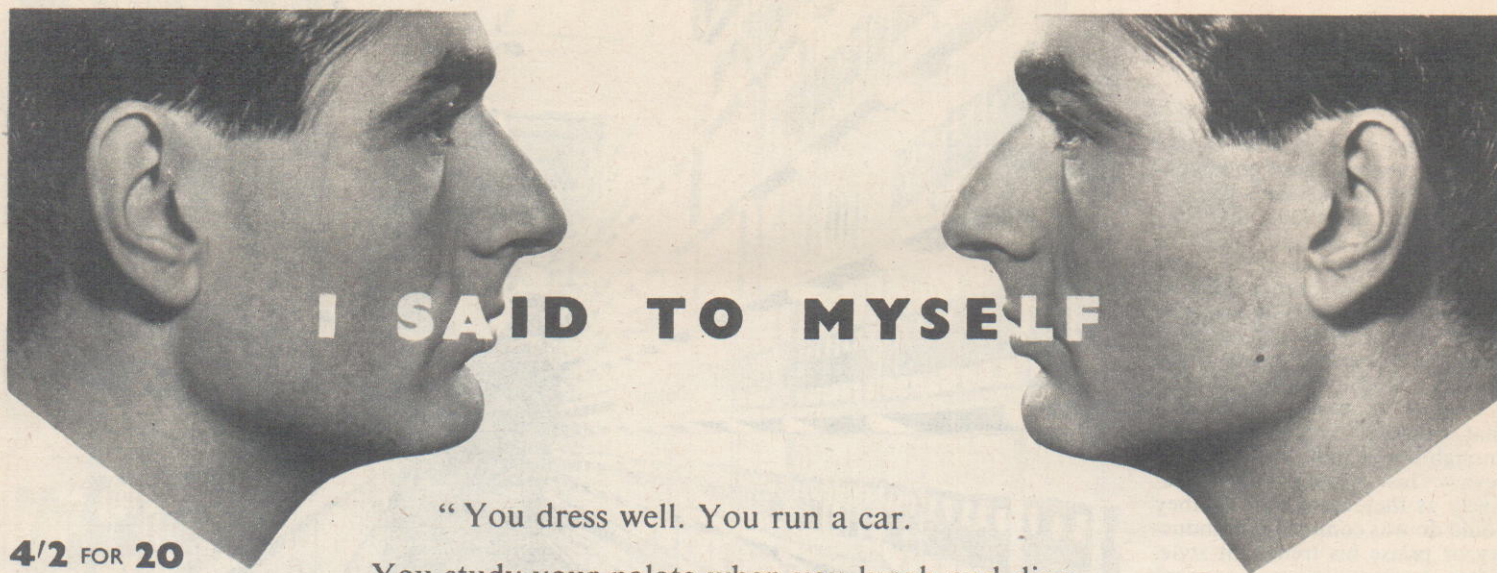
Kong, where documents were destroyed, few records exist. The historian must fill the gaps from accounts written at the time and by interviews with officers who took part.

Enemy sources are also available to help the historian. At the end of the war, Britain seized the German naval records; America took those of the German High Command and Army; the Americans and the Royal Air Force shared the records of the Luftwaffe. Britain's war historians have a permanent representative in Washington to delve among German documents there.

Japanese war records are still in Japan, where the Americans have an historical section working on them. The British Military Attaché is the historians' link with these. Original documents, or sometimes copies, are frequently received in London where an expert on Japan, a former Military Attaché in Tokio, helps the historians in dealing with them.

The Military Attaché in Italy and those in former Allied countries also assist historians.

So far, seven volumes have been published: one of "Grand Strategy," two of "The Mediterranean and Middle East," one (of three) of "The War at Sea" and two single-volume histories: "The Campaign in Norway" and "France and Flanders, 1939-40."



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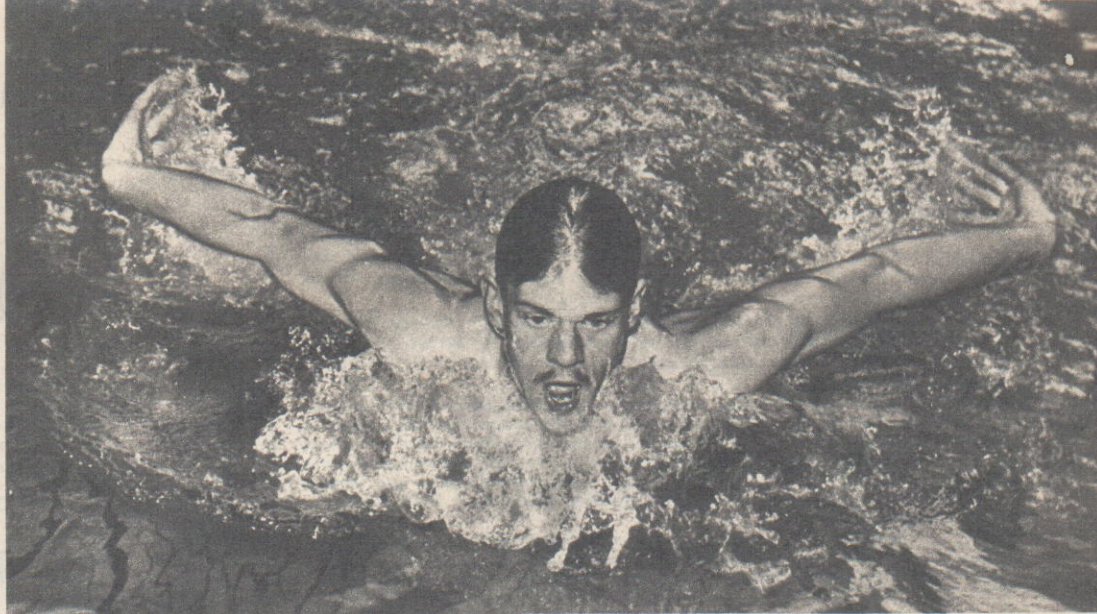
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BUTTERFLY CHAMPION

*In Aldershot military
baths a young Army
lieutenant swims nearly
100 lengths a night*



FOUR or five evenings a week, there is as graceful a demonstration of the butterfly stroke at the Aldershot military swimming baths as you could find in an ocean of swimming pools.

Tirelessly, the swimmer slips from end to end. He covers nearly 100 lengths, broken down into groups of 14. Some groups he swims full stroke, some with arms only, some with legs only. At other times there is a group of sprint strokes or the sprint strokes are sandwiched between the others. It is all part of a carefully-planned schedule.

Having swum some 2500 yards, the Army's butterfly champion calls it a day. He is Second - Lieutenant Duncan Kemp, a training officer of the Army Catering Corps Training Battalion just down the road.

Last year Second-Lieutenant Kemp took up the butterfly stroke seriously and, on the strength of a time of 64 seconds for the 100 yards, came fourth in the national rating. He has bettered this time more than once this season, notably at the Aldershot District

stroke in which he specialises is fairly new, and was officially separated from the breast stroke only in 1948. It looks much like the breast stroke but the arms leave the water for the return movement.

As SOLDIER went to press, the national swimming championships were about to be held and then three swimmers were to be chosen to represent Britain in butterfly and breast stroke events at the Olympic Games. Second - Lieutenant Kemp considered that if two of the three were butterfly swimmers, he had a slender chance of being picked.

"Two years of competitive swimming is not really enough to get one into an international team," he said. "By the next Olympic Games (1960) I shall be near my peak."

Meanwhile, training goes on most days of the week. At weekends, Second - Lieutenant Kemp may be in his home baths at Kingston, or at Worthing, training with Miss Angela Barnwell, who was a 1952 Olympic swimming finalist. In November he finishes his National Service and hopes to go into the hotel business. Before call-up he studied catering and hotel management at London University, where he was awarded a swimming "purple" (equivalent to the "blues" of Oxford and Cambridge).

Footnote: In addition to Second-Lieutenant Kemp's 100 yards butterfly record, six other new records were set up at this year's Army swimming championships, three by men and three by women. The new men's records were: 100 yards free-style, Cpl. J. Whitehead RAPC, 54.2 secs.; 100 yards back-stroke, L/Cpl. T. Lofthouse RAOC, 62.8 secs.; 880 yards, Pte. J. Connolly RASC, 11 mins. 47.9 secs. Sergeant-Instructor I. R. Goodwin APTC equalled his own record of 71.2 seconds for the 100 yards breast-stroke.



An Army swimming champion:
Second-Lieutenant Duncan Kemp.

and Army championships when he returned 62.8 and 63 seconds respectively, setting up new records each time. He also took this year's Southern Command championship, but his time was 64.2 seconds; he blames this on having been storm-tossed on a steamer between Ostend and Dover for 14 hours the previous day as he returned from a club tour of Germany.

Second - Lieutenant Kemp, aged 21, is a slender six feet three inches with a long reach, a quality he values less for swimming than good muscle-power in proportion to weight. The butterfly

NEVER-SAY-DIE DURHAMS

FOR three years running the 8th Battalion The Durham Light Infantry have won the Queen's Challenge Cup awarded to the best Territorial sporting unit.

This "hat-trick" has been achieved by dint of much strenuous spare-time training. Each year has meant a greater effort in new fields of sport.

The Queen's Challenge Cup (originally awarded as the King's Challenge Cup by King George VI in 1939) was won in the first post-war season (1952-53) by 467th (York and Lancaster) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment. Since then it has been held by the Durham battalion.

Points for this cup are awarded for prowess in a variety of sports. It is a notable advantage to win the Territorial Army Football Cup, since this yields 10 points. In 1954 the 8th Durhams beat 467th Regiment in the football final, and in 1955 they reached the semi-final, being beaten by the Lanarkshire Yeomanry (as semi-finalists they earned six points).

In each of those two years, the Battalion was one point down when it faced the last event—swimming; but both times its star swimmer, Corporal J. Grave, swam magnificently in the 100 yards and, by his success, gained the Cup for the Battalion.

In the 1956 competition the Durham battalion opened the season with a bang, beating their first two football opponents 8-1 and 9-1, and winning the 50(N) Infantry Division Football Cup. But in the Territorial Cup quarter-finals they were beaten—again by a Scots team, the 1st Battalion The Glasgow Highlanders. It seemed impossible this time to win the Queen's Challenge Cup, as the Battalion had no points for football.

But they were determined not to give in without a big struggle. The Battalion's cross-country runners got down to some serious training with matches against the 1st Battalion The Durham Light Infantry and civilian clubs. In the finals, after travelling all night with little sleep, they found themselves facing alarming opposition on a course much hillier than expected. However, the Battalion team distinguished itself by having six runners in the first 19, which gained them six points.

In previous years, the Durham battalion had not competed at boxing. Now they decided to enter a team and much intensive training followed. Five boxers were chosen to represent 50(N) Infantry Division at the inter-divisional contest in London, and of these three were beaten narrowly in the finals and two in the semi-finals. But those three finalists yielded three points—and the score was now nine. In the meanwhile Second-Lieutenant A. B. Wilson had been selected for the Territorial hockey team, which produced another point, and then Lieutenant R. Boddington was selected for the Territorial cricket eleven. That brought the total to 11.

At the Territorial athletics meeting a large team from the Battalion travelled to do battle with the Glasgow Highlanders, who also had a strong team—including Corporal Graham Everitt, the Scottish mile champion. Corporal Everitt won the mile and half-mile events, which put the Glasgow Highlanders' score to 14. The Durhams' only success was in the hop, step and jump, bringing their total to 13.

So, once again, success depended on winning that 100-yards swimming event . . . and once again Corporal Grave did it.

Now the Battalion are talking of a second hat-trick. One who will watch their progress anxiously is RSM M. McLane, who has just left; his keenness did much to inspire them.

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LETTERS

RAINCOATS

NAAFI is now selling an Air Ministry pattern raincoat to members of the Royal Air Force. It is a raglan-style garment, very smart, in blue-grey gaberdine, which may be worn with uniform on non-ceremonial occasions, or with civilian clothes.

Is it not about time that the Army had a similar concession? Or are we still to go around, like poor relations, in our present unsuitable wet-weather kit?—**Corporal.**

★The approved Royal Air Force raincoat costs £5 15s in Britain; there is an addition for import duties in some places overseas.

COMMUTING

I finished my 22 years' service two years ago with a pension of 39s 10d per week. I commuted 7s per week to help buy a house. On moving in, I found I could not furnish it without resorting to hire-purchase, which I prefer to avoid. Is it possible for me to commute another 7s per week out of 32s 10d to buy furniture? As manager of a public-house my living accommodation is provided, but I cannot stay in a public-house for ever.—**"Geordie."**

★Army Pensions Office will always sympathetically consider a second application for commutation in circumstances like these.

CADET BADGE

Can SOLDIER say whether I am entitled as an ex-member of the Combined Cadet Force to wear the proficiency badge during my National Service in Germany?—**"Signaller" (BAOR).**

★No. It can be worn only during the recruit stage with a training regiment in this country.

KING'S CORPORAL

Knowing SOLDIER's interest in the King's Corporal myth, I am wondering whether you have seen the interesting article on the subject in the August *British Legion Journal*.—**"Three Stripes."**

★The article quotes a New Zealand old comrades' magazine, *Review*, in which a Mr. A. E. Lucas gives his version of the myth's origin. "In Victorian days," he says, "the regiment was more of a family affair than it is now and if Private 'A' did a brave deed his commanding officer would make the man a corporal—there was no MM or DCM in those days. The official order would start: 'Her Majesty is graciously pleased . . . Corporal 'A' was a good chap and had added to the regiment's good name. He would therefore be looked after. If he was a good NCO he might rise to be a lieutenant-quartermaster; if not he would be found a quiet little job in the stores. And should he kick over the traces he would

be dealt with leniently. His officers would always remember what he had done for the regiment. He would never be 'busted.'"

★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.

★This fact would not escape the barrack room lawyers who would argue that Corporal 'A's' immunity sprang from the circumstances of his promotion and unashamedly, in the manner of old sweats, they would quote Queen's Regulations as the authority. Younger soldiers wouldn't—or couldn't—bother to check this up and so the legend grew."

Mr. Lucas recalls meeting a so-called King's Corporal who got away with many offences until, one night, having had a drink too many, he took part in the musical ride at the Aldershot Tattoo and kept falling off his horse. A few days later he was a full-blown trooper.

SOFT SHOE SHUFFLE?

I read the news that tests are to be carried out by the Army to determine the suitability for general issue of a soft, composition-soled boot. I wonder what the Guards have to say about this? Carried out in soft-soled boots, the Trooping of the Colour would become a militarised version of the soft shoe shuffle. A well-made pair of waterproof boots for use in the field has been a long-felt want, but to replace altogether the present smart, comfortable and, in my opinion, indispensable type of boot with a "creep" or "bop" affair would be disastrous to discipline and foot hygiene.—**"Stud and Polish" (BAOR).**

DIGGER DISCIPLINE

I have been in Japan with a Royal Australian Signals unit for some months. Although there are many differences in discipline and organisation with which I do not agree, there is one idea that might well be adopted by the British. This is that a soldier should halt when passing or being passed by a marching body of troops, face the route and remain at attention until the troops have gone by.—**Sergeant E. G. H. Raynes, Royal Signals, Kure, Japan.**

RECRUITING OFFICERS

Asked why only Regular officers are permitted to take up appointments as recruiting officers (Letters, August) you quoted the ineligibility of other officers and offered no answer to the query. I am aware of deep dissatisfaction among officers such as your correspondent who are unfairly debarred from these appointments. We are also excluded from retired officer appointments, classes II and III. These almost invariably require great administrative experience which, often, could be better supplied by long-service "through the ranks" officers.—"Major."

★SOLDIER quoted the rules. It would be for the Army Council to consider any change in them.

QUICKEST "ROYAL"

A correspondent asks (August) whether any regiment or corps acquired the title "Royal" more rapidly than the Royal Pioneer Corps. There is not much to choose between this Corps and the Royal Tank Regiment. The Royal Pioneer Corps was formed in October 1939 and became "Royal" seven years and two months later. The Royal Tank Regiment dates from 27 July, 1916, the title "Royal" being granted on 18 October, 1923, a few days short of seven years, three months. The palm, however, should be awarded to the Royal Tank Regiment, since the Pioneer Corps had existed for five years previously. In 1917 the "Labour Corps" was raised, being disbanded in 1922. The Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps of 1939 adopted the badge and motto of the World War One unit and may therefore be said to be that unit re-raised.—E. J. Martin, Honorary Secretary, Military Historical Society, Harrow Weald, Middlesex.

WINDSOR

Shown with the article "For Ever Windsor" (August) is a picture of armoured cars setting out from Combermere Barracks. In fact, the gates are those of the old Imperial Service College. During World War Two a number of the College buildings were requisitioned for use by the Grenadier Guards Training Battalion. In 1942 the College amalgamated with Haileybury to form the present Haileybury and Imperial Service College near Hertford. Since then the buildings at Windsor have been occupied by the Auxiliary Territorial Service Officer Cadet Training Unit and the Household Cavalry. An old member of the Imperial Service College, I was surprised on a recent visit to find the chapel in use as a barrack-room.—"Old L.S.C. Boy."

Your Windsor article brought back happy memories of a year spent there in 1912-13 and I was glad to notice the name of Sir J. N. Horlick in the photo of the Officers' guardroom.

There were also some very interesting and amusing inscriptions on the door of the Guard Officer's bedroom. One in particular I remember. It was, I think, by Whyte Melville and began, "Here will I sleep and take my rest." There were also one or two very witty ones by Major Tim Nugent of the Irish Guards, relics of his subaltern days as a Grenadier.

At Victoria Barracks in 1912 one of the barrack blocks was turned into cubicles holding one bed only. There was a passage way in the centre and there the men used to gather for a chat before "lights out." Calling the roll gave the sergeants-in-waiting a species of low hurdle course to negotiate.—H. Fletcher, Waterlake, Stalbridge.

EXTRA SHILLING

A difference of opinion has arisen over the rate of pay for a regimental quartermaster-sergeant and a quartermaster-sergeant instructor. I maintain that when I held the latter appointment at the Small Arms School I received the same rate of pay as a regimental quartermaster-sergeant. I have tried to explain that the appointment of quartermaster-sergeant instructor is peculiar to such bodies as the Army Physical Training Corps or the Small

Arms School Corps, but to no avail.—Warrant Officer W. J. Shelton, Welbeck College, Worksop.

★Until 1 July, 1946, both ranks carried a common rate of pay higher than that of other class-two warrant officers with equivalent trade qualifications. When the post-war pay code was introduced, however, all class-two warrant officers were put on to a single scale. On 1 April, 1951, the regimental quartermaster-sergeant was given a lead of a shilling a day over other class-two warrant officers, including quartermaster-sergeant instructors, in recognition of his special responsibilities. He still retains that lead.

THE ORKNEYS

How invigorating to read "Story Without Photographs" about the Orkneys (SOLDIER, August). I was stationed in those islands for three years during World War Two and the article conjured up a host of memories. Many of us thought at the time it was a misfortune to be stationed where butter, eggs and cheese were plentiful, that boredom would master our efforts to keep minds occupied. But it was not the case. There were evening educational classes in Stromness, Church of Scotland canteens and boxing matches in the Craigmillar theatre.

I wonder how many, after reading your article, were able to recall journeys on the SS *Ninian* and the *Earl of Zeeland*, the welcome awaiting them on their arrival in the snow-clad islands of Flotta, Hoy, the Ronaldshays, the Mainland, the transit camps, the weekly ration of chocolate and cigarettes? No doubt they would also remember the warm handshake from well-wishing Orcadians when the time came for them to leave the islands.

Then there were the "stand-bys" when that inevitable meteorological plane brought men tumbling from their comfortable Nissen huts into drifting snow at 0300 hours, and the barrage into which the Navy threw everything except their anchors and the boom defence. I shall never forget those grey-green islands beyond the Pentland Firth or the well-chosen words of Shakespeare which appeared under the title of *Orkney Blast*: "Methinks the world hath spoke aloud at last; a fuller Blast ne'er shook our battlements." (*Othello*).—R. J. G. Bliss, 7 Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, Coventry.

TRADE UNIONS

I am due for release. During my service I have been to trade testing centres and attended various courses. I am classified as a vehicle mechanic, class one (AFV). How can I get trade union status as a skilled artisan on my release? Will Army training make me eligible for employment as a skilled man?—"Sergeant" (serving in BAOR).

★This NCO can be accepted as a skilled man provided he has five years' training and experience. He has been advised to write to the Amalgamated Engineering Union before his service ends. See ACI 311/1954.

MUSICAL RIDE

A corporal in a regimental band due for demobilisation, I am thinking of joining the United States Air Force as a musician in England. To whom should I write?—"Alto Sax," Middle East.

★In order to play in a band of the United States Air Force this musician would first have to emigrate to the United States and join up. There is no guarantee that he would be sent back here.

THE FN RIFLE

When are troops stationed in Britain likely to be issued with the new FN rifle?—"Marksman."

★According to a statement in Parliament on 24 July, 1956, by the Secretary for War, the Army so far has received more than 14,000 FN rifles, of which 12,000 have been sent to overseas commands. All these were of Belgian manufacture.

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Application forms and further details from:

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more letters

SHAVE IN BED

When I served in Malaya in 1948-51 we had a *napi-wallah* who used to shave us in bed (Letters, September). Often have I had my mosquito net lifted and been shaved without waking up and remained sleeping until the *char-wallah* arrived. Is it any wonder I always paid my shaving bill regularly? Oh, to be in that glorious country again! — **Bombardier W. Heeley, 56 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, High Legh Hall Camp, Cheshire.**

OLDEST REGIMENT

In discussing the oldest regiment (August), it is interesting to note that the Sedentary Gunners of Lille were formed two years before the Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard, namely, on 2 May, 1483. Indeed, they might even claim a greater age if a previous body, raised at the beginning of the fifteenth century, had not been placed in "suspended animation" for indulging in some kind of shady transaction over an issue of coats. The Sedentary Gunners have an unbroken history of active service down to 4 June, 1940, when the unit, then forming part of 406 Anti-Aircraft Regiment of the French Army, was destroyed by the Germans. The corps possesses extensive premises at Lille, presented by Napoleon Bonaparte on 31 August, 1803, and now serving as a museum and headquarters of a flourishing Old Comrades Association. — **R. P. North, 321 Nether Street, Finchley, London.**

★Other readers have contended that the Royal Scots, first of the Line, are the oldest armed body. The Regiment is usually considered as dating from 1633, when Charles I granted to Sir John Hepburn authority to raise in Scotland a regiment for French service. In one form or another Scots troops had already been serving the French kings since 1421 (six years after Agincourt).

Sir John Fortescue, the Army's historian, dismisses the notion that the Royal Scots are the oldest regiment in the world as "preposterous." The assertion, he says, sprang from the fact that some officers of the French Kings' Scottish Guard joined it in 1635 or thereabouts. The Scottish Guard enjoyed an independent existence until the French Revolution and "to claim its privileges for Hepburn's regiment is as absurd as though a corps raised tomorrow, and officered by half a dozen gentlemen of the Grenadier Guards, should claim precedence of all British Infantry."

ARMY SPORTSMEN

A correspondent of a national daily newspaper complained that "little Dai Dower was to be put into the Army and ruined as a fighter." He even went so far as to suggest that he should be "free to go after the glittering prizes that rightly reward great talent." Recent reports published in **SOLDIER** of the sporting achievements of men serving in the Army make complete nonsense of this incredibly stupid article. — **Sergeant M. H. Perkins, RAOC/AER, The Elms, Henley-in-Arden, Birmingham.**

★See "SOLDIER to Soldier," Page 8.

BEYOND RECALL

I bought my discharge from the Army six years ago, but when reservists were recently called-up several people asked if I would be required for service again. Hating the idea of having to say "I bought myself out"—many times I have regretted it—I said I would not be called up as I had been out of the Army too long. As I am not on a Regular Army Reserve I do not want to leave my job to volunteer again, in order to avoid answering a lot of questions. On the other hand, call-up papers would enable me to sign-on again. Is this likely to happen? I would rather have another bit of

In July **SOLDIER** said that the letters S.B. on a mortar barrel stood for "Strengthened Barrel." This was so at one time; the letters now stand for "Smooth Bore."

adventure now than die of old age.—**"DP" (name and address supplied).** ★The only possibility of this reader being recalled, if under 45, is as a member of the Army General Reserve. He obtained his "freedom" when he bought his discharge.

PAY PARADE

Pay parade in the Army is a great time-waster, apart from the fact that the paying officer frequently is a young National Service subaltern, placed in the mortifying position of having to pay warrant officers and others who receive more than he does. The fact that the newest recruit knows just how much the regimental sergeant-major is drawing is not a good thing, either. The Royal Air Force, I understand, have a better system than the Army.—**RQMS E. G. Sargent, Hulse Barracks, Portsmouth.**

★The Royal Air Force have abolished pay parade on some stations in Britain and substituted the visual-envelope system. The men's pay is put into the special envelopes and they are able to see what they are getting before they sign. The distribution is made by the paying officer on the station. This new system is likely to be extended by the Royal Air Force at home; overseas it is not so easy.

THOSE PRICES

Can **SOLDIER** explain, in a few words, why NAAFI prices have gone up in Germany?—"Flummoxed."

★Until September 1 British Forces in Germany had the benefit of certain supplies and services paid for at a subsidised rate of exchange—40 German marks to the British pound, instead of the official rate of 11.76. The withdrawal of that concession means that the cost of NAAFI's overheads and local procurement in Germany is increased. By agreement of the Service ministries, NAAFI prices are now increased by about one penny in the shilling. Cigarette and tobacco prices are not altered. To compensate for increased prices a local overseas allowance has been granted. It is payable only to married men.

Service families wishing to employ servants must now make private arrangements.

NAAFI prices have not been increased in Berlin, where no local overseas allowance is payable.

How to Get SOLDIER

SERVING soldiers may obtain **SOLDIER** from their units, canteens or AKC cinemas. Presidents of Regimental Institutes should ask their Chief Education Officer for re-sale terms. Civilians may buy or order **SOLDIER** at any bookstall in Britain.

Those unable to obtain the magazine through these channels may subscribe direct to Circulation Department, **SOLDIER**, 433 Holloway Road, London, N.7. The rate is 10s. 6d. a year post-free. Cheques or postal orders should be made payable to "Command Cashier" and crossed "a/c **SOLDIER**."



On **SOLDIER**'s front cover is **SQMS B. D. F. Braine, of the Royal Scots Greys.**



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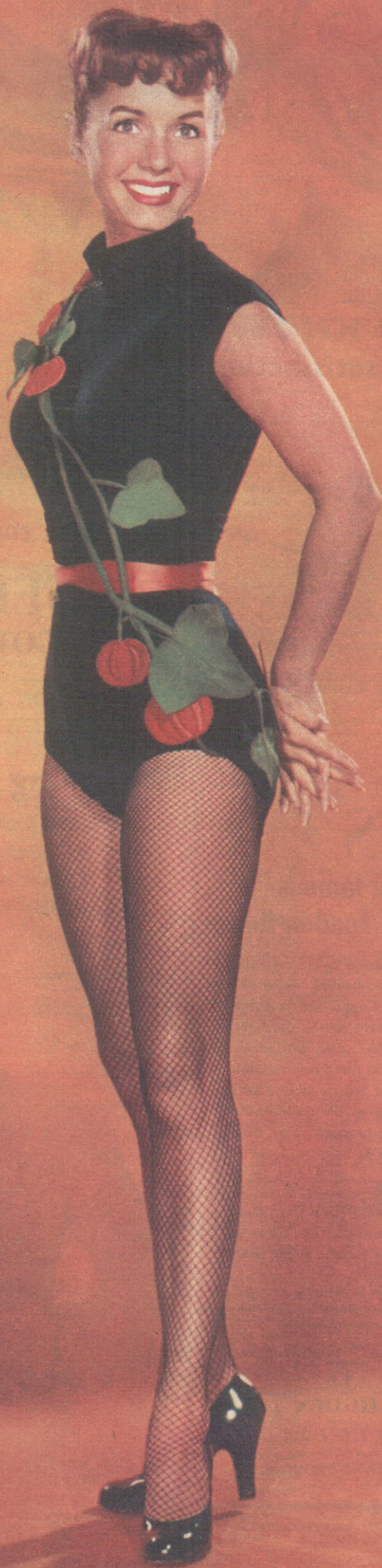
SAUCE

... and I go for it
in a big way!
says Richard Lyon



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