

# SOLDIER

THE BRITISH

ARMY MAGAZINE



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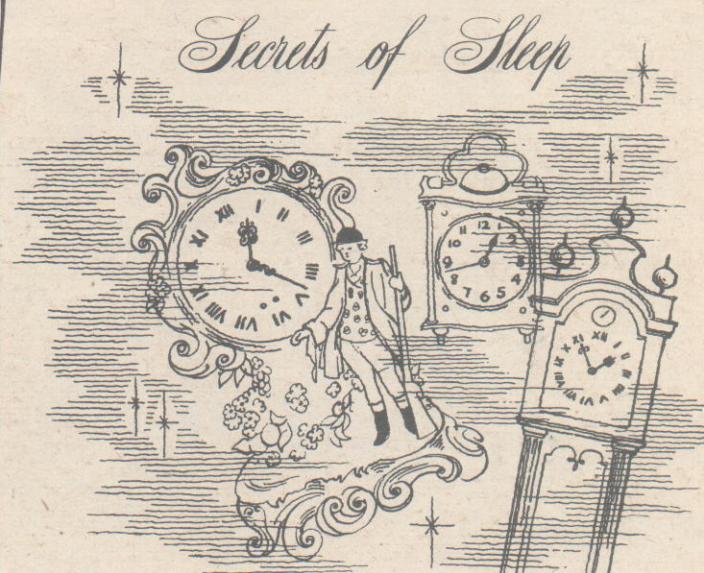
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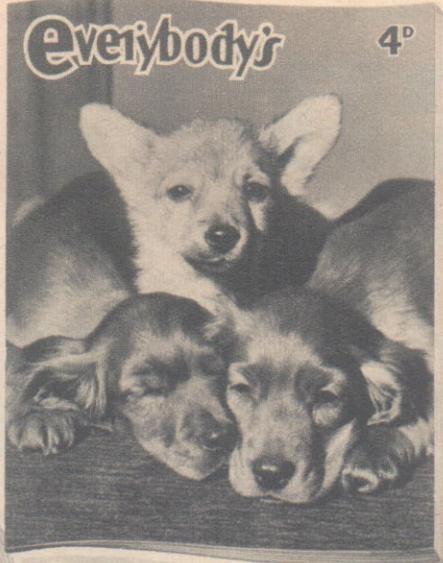


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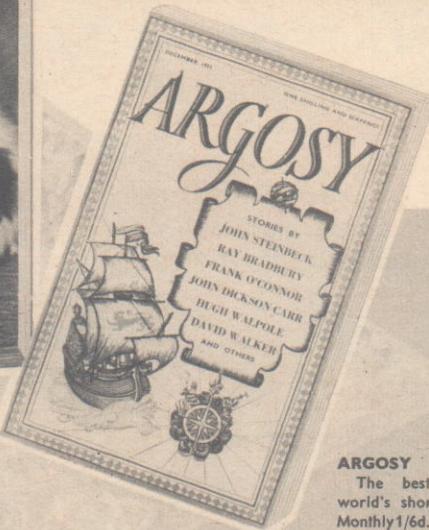
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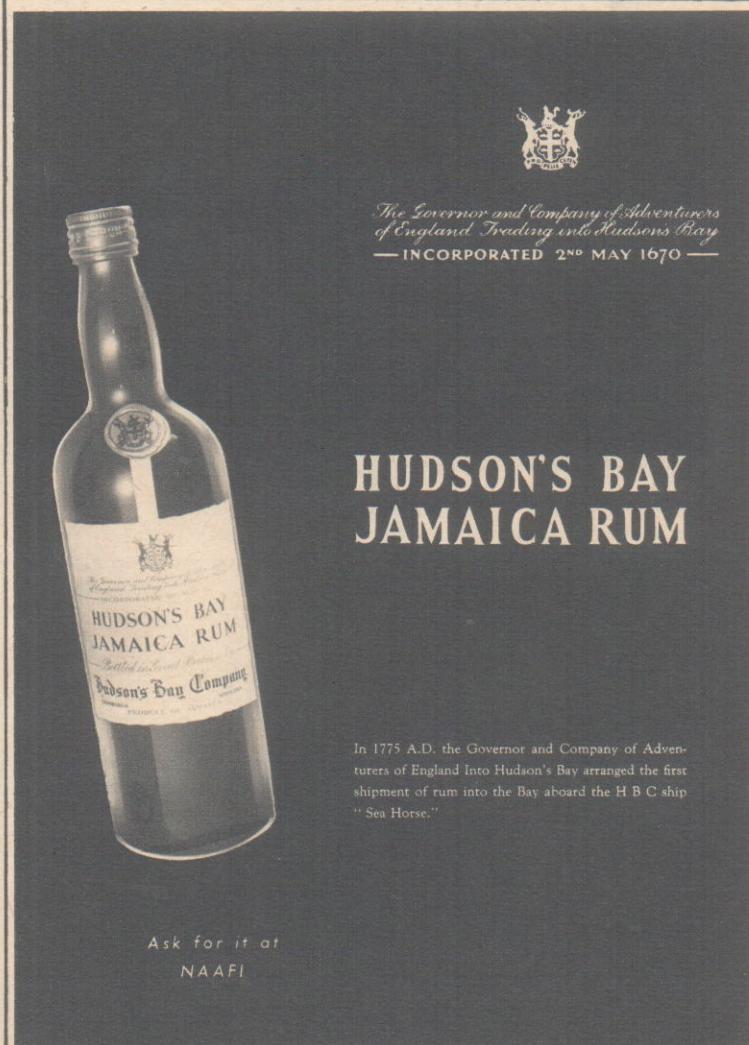


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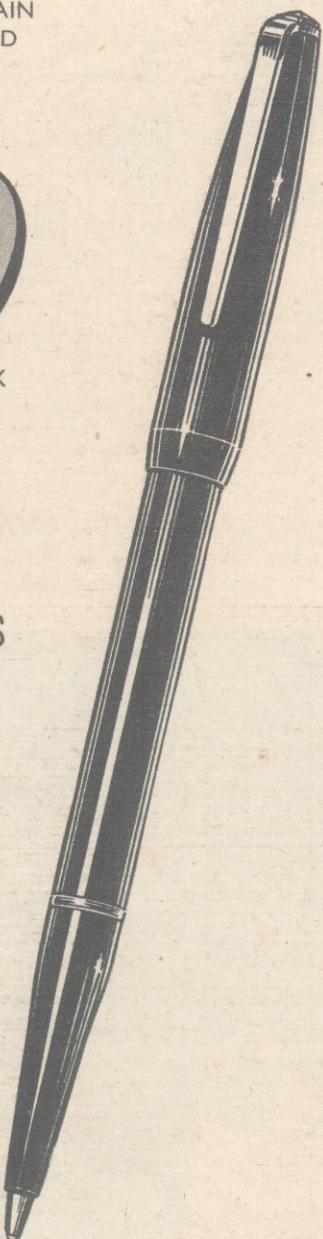
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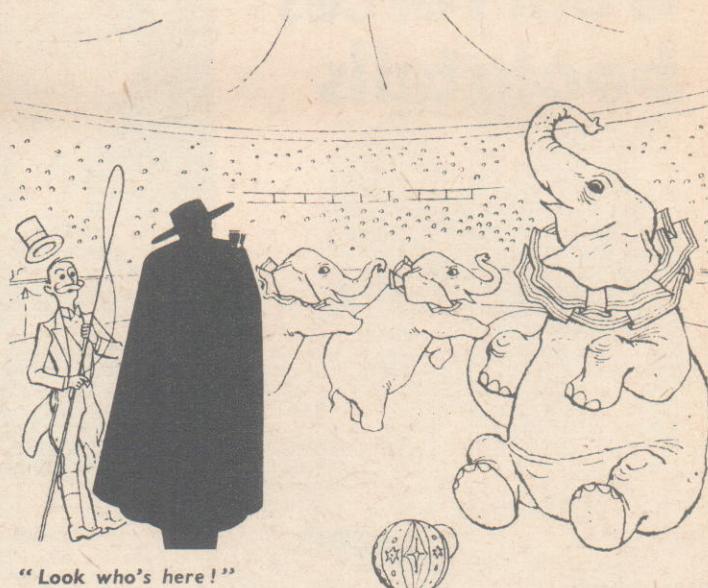
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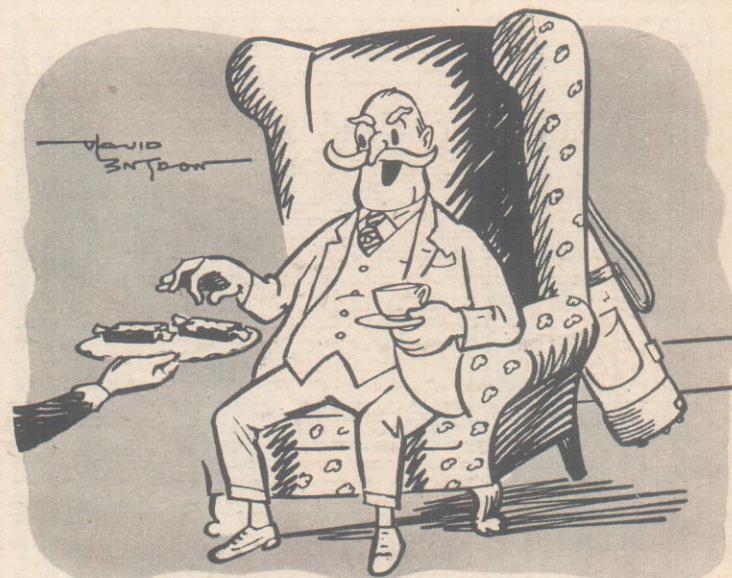


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# SOLDIER

1952

T H E B R I T I S H

ARMY MAGAZINE



The zone of contention: As a tanker moves peacefully through the Canal, Royal Air Force Vampires streak by on patrol.

## MIDDLE EAST REPORT 1

# 'Here We Stay'

**Heavily reinforced, the Army in the Canal Zone has taken all necessary steps to avoid being "starved out, forced out or knocked out"**

INEVITABLY, the emergency conditions under which the Army is living in the Canal Zone of Egypt has evoked comparison with conditions during the Army's last years in Palestine.

Soldiers are living behind barbed wire again. They must run the gauntlet of snipers, of throwers of vitriol, jam-pot grenades and tin-can bombs. Again there are wires stretched across roads at neck-height. Again Signals cables are cut.

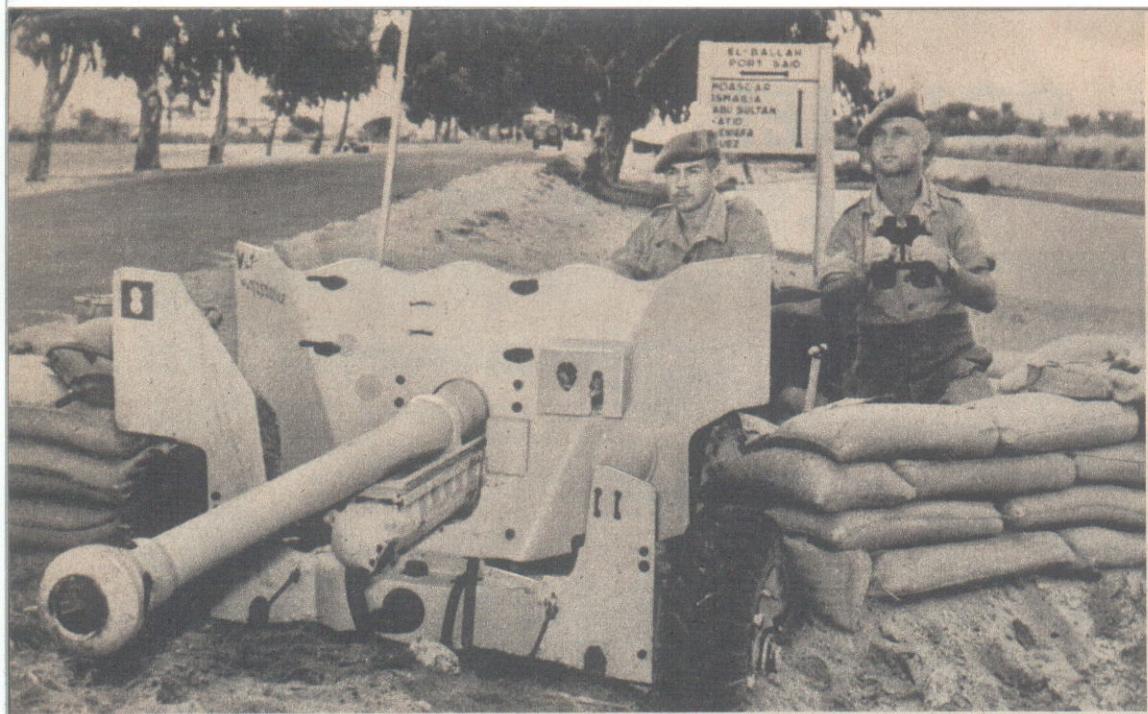
But there are also substantial differences. In Palestine there was no lack of civilian labour; in the Canal Zone most of the 42,000 Egyptians employed by the Army have been terrorised into unemployment.

In Palestine, too, it was the job of the Army, in co-operation with the Palestine Police, to maintain order among the civil population. In Egypt it is the task of the police to keep order among the 400,000 civilian inhabitants of the Canal Zone and the Army has only stepped in, for its own safety, where the police have failed. To avoid "incidents" it has denied itself the off-duty amenities of Ismailia, Port Said and Suez, to the distress of shopkeepers who, in Ismailia alone, are reported to have lost £70,000 of trade a week.

As usual, the British soldier has got down to making the best of the situation, along with the men of the

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Ready for trouble — a British field gun dug in beside a main road. All the names on the signboard have been in the news.



From Ismailia, families were evacuated to a rest camp at Lake Timseh. Here is Sergeant Alan Alfred, with wife and baby.



The Loyalists descend on the village of Abu Gamus to search for arms. From these huts near Ismailia shots had been fired at British vehicles.



British troops and Egyptian police on the rooftops of Abu Gamus during the search of the village.

## 'Here We Stay' (Cont'd)

Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. Servicemen acted, among other things, as harbour boatmen, mooring men, stevedores, public utility workers and labourers. They also had to do the more homely jobs which Egyptian labour had performed for the units. On top of this there were guards, guards, guards. And in the intervals, many of the men had to pack their families off home.

Aircraft and ships brought more soldiers to share the guards and the technical jobs, including men called up from the Supplementary Reserve. Maltese and Cypriot workers arrived to replace some of the defaulting Egyptians. From Kenya it was announced that an East African Pioneer Corps was to be raised to lend a hand on the Canal.

There was no shortage of fresh food, except vegetables. Early worries over the supply of beer have not materialised; there was plenty of petrol.

One result of the troubles was the appearance of "The Canal Zone News," a news-sheet publishing 10,000 copies three times a week. The reasons for its production were summed up in the first of a series of lively editorials, mostly on local events: "The Egyptian Government and its ministers simply cannot be trusted either to tell the truth themselves or to permit it to appear in the Egyptian papers, whether in Arabic, French or English."

And so the "News" gives a large proportion of its space to events in the Zone, reports which, to quote the editorial again, are "fully authenticated ... officially approved and may be absolutely relied upon." There is a special feature of news for families, besides news monitored from the BBC and sport. Egyptian statements are published, sometimes under such headings as "The Untruth" or "Incredible Invention."

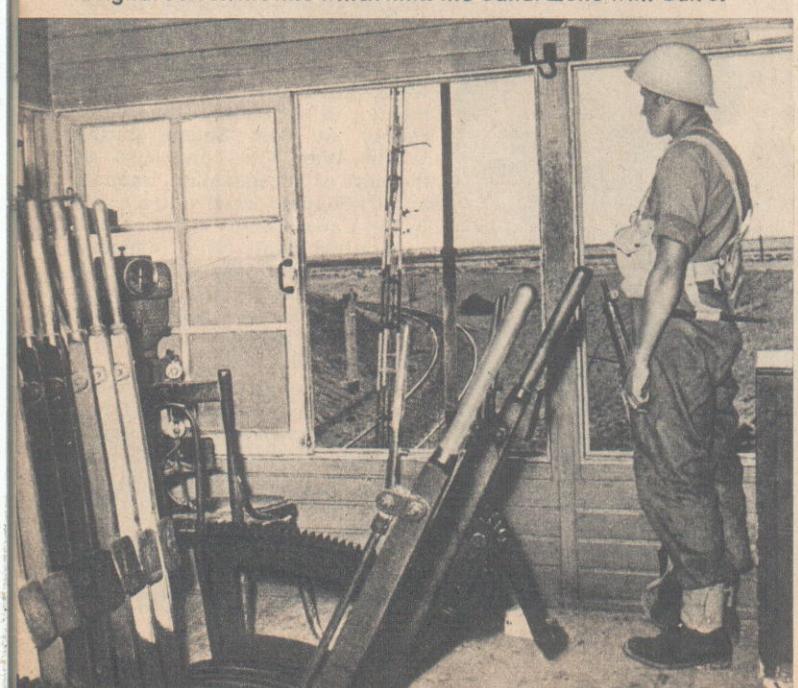
The "News" is edited by Army Education and printed by GHQ Printing Press. Each issue bears an assurance that only Service personnel are employed in its production. Beneath its title, the paper declares it is printed and published under the authority of the Commanders-in-Chiefs, Middle East, and beneath that it prints a Biblical quotation. Sample: "Nicodemus said, 'We know that thou art a teacher come from God.'"



"Death to anyone who works for the British..." This poster here being viewed by Lieut-Gen. Sir George Erskine, who commands British troops, Egypt, was posted in Ismailia.



A British soldier inspects the baggage of an Egyptian woman on board a train entering the Canal Zone. Below: on guard in a signal box on the line which links the Canal Zone with Cairo.



## SOLDIER to Soldier

MANY an attempt has been made to take the British soldier apart and find what makes him tick (and that does not mean "tick" in the sense of complain).

What inspires the Gloucesters or the King's Own Scottish Borderers to make history on the lonely mountain ridges?

Mr. Eric Linklater (*whose history of the Italian campaign is reviewed on page 28*) has something to say on the subject. It was not a burning belief in an abstract political idea which kept the armies going in Italy, he suggests. "Throughout the British Army ideology was vague, unspecified and indifferently regarded." He might have added that hardly any soldier knew or cared what the word meant, and that ninety per cent would have spelled it wrongly. (For the record: it was one of Napoleon's words, meaning "science of ideas" or "visionary speculation," according to context.)

What kept the armies going, says Mr. Linklater, was just regimental loyalty, which was "usually strong enough to maintain, without advertisement of its aim or virtue, a cause that thinkers laboured to define and statesmen strove to glorify... The soldier who acquired a forceful sense of community with the Hampshires, or the Black Watch, or the East Lancashires, had perhaps a profounder knowledge of human requirement than many well-intentioned critics of our perplexed community."

**M**R. LINKLATER is not the first to put his finger on the spot.

To share that sense of community of which he writes it is not even necessary for men to have worn the same cap badge for years; some of the bravest of the Gloucesters were men newly joined from other regiments. At heart, all regimental traditions are the same tradition—the tradition of not giving in. Common adversity welds the old and new hands before anyone can say ideology.

It is tempting to picture an ideologist trapped on a mountain top, with the enemy closing in. Which would cheer him the more: the news that a band of fellow deep-thinkers were arguing about how (or whether) to rescue him, or the news that a British battalion of the Line, battle-tested, was advancing to his aid, for no other reason than that it had been ordered to do so?

None the less, the soldier does like to have some idea of why he is fighting. In the late war, when he thought about it, he probably decided that the general idea was to stop innocent people being pushed around; and, to this end, he was prepared to be pushed around himself. Today he has a good idea that the purpose of the campaign in Korea is also to stop people being pushed around.

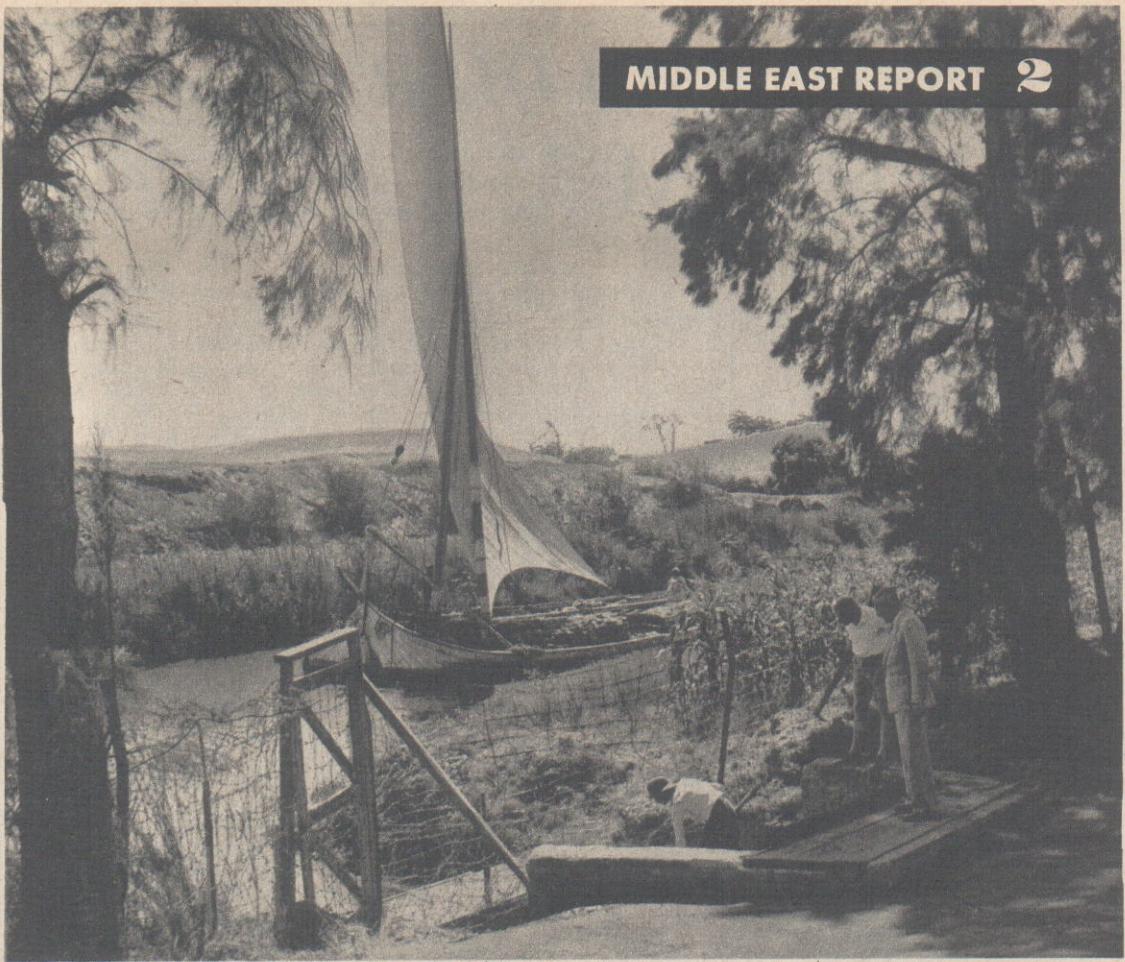
**N**OT all readers of **SOLDIER** will have heard the news of the winding up of the short-lived base at Mackinnon Road, in the Kenya bush.

Five years ago Mackinnon Road was a disused aerodrome; by tremendous labours it was built up into the Tel-el-Kebir of East Africa; now for strategic reasons, it has been wound up.

To those who helped to carve this township out of the wilderness, who suffered the alarms and dangers inseparable from bushwhacking in Africa, the end of Mackinnon Road must be a keen personal disappointment. It is worth remembering some of the things the founders did. They bulldozed a path, 25 yards wide and 73 miles long, to the River Tsavo, and piped back snow-water over it (or rather under it, because the pipes had to be protected from elephant.) They set up pumping stations and power plants in the middle of nowhere. From the resisting scrub they hacked not only the foundations of giant sheds and store-houses, but sites for rail sidings, family bungalows, playing-fields. In due course wives and children underwent some of the excitements of pioneering in Africa.

For excitements there were. One day the whole camp seized its weapons to hunt down a full-grown lion which had wandered through a hut in broad daylight; it fell finally to an RSM's bullet. More recently a herd of elephant roamed into the camp. One beast broke from the herd, picked up an unfortunate Polish-born soldier, hurled him into the air and dashed the life out of him. The carcase of one elephant was removed by tank transporter. That was Mackinnon Road... It was also a camp liable to be assaulted, not only by big game, but by virulent hurricanes.

Well, it's not the first big camp the Army has built up from desolation and has had to abandon; there have been scores of them in peace as in war. But in years to come there will be many who will tell proud tales of how they built Mackinnon Road, just as doubtless there are men who still tell how they built Razmak, 6000 feet up in the hills of Waziristan.



The garrisons of the Suez Canal Zone all depend on the —

## Men Who Wash the Water

**A**s many a newspaper has recently discovered, the British Army in the Canal Zone of Egypt depends for the bulk of its water supplies on the Sweet Water Canal, a notorious waterway which is sweet only in the sense that it is not salt.

Withdrawal of local labour has not made any easier the task of washing the Army's water. To keep supplies flowing, all three Services have lent a willing hand. At least one plot to sabotage vital mains has been frustrated.

The Army long ago discovered that there is no water so dirty that it cannot be made fit to drink, and what the Sappers do not know about cleaning dirty water is hardly worth knowing.

The Canal — in reality a series of canals — was cut to provide water for an earlier army: the army of workers who built the Suez Canal a century ago. It draws its brown water from the River Nile, and brings with it beauty and disease in equal proportions. In its more populated reaches, this much-abused canal is little more than a drain; the feluccas which glide along it are gliding on a stream of germs. It seems impossible that out of the filth can come forth sweetness —

just as it seemed impossible, during the late war, that desert wells deliberately fouled could ever be brought into use again. Yet the Army uses the water of the Sweet Water Canal, without ill effects, at the rate of 100 gallons per head per day for all purposes (a comparable figure for London would be between 40 and 50 gallons a day).

It is an impressive experience to visit one of the Army's many filtration plants which are to be found on the banks of the Sweet

Water Canal. Each plant is a series of defences in depth — against water-borne disease. The first barrier is a metal screen across the mouth of the intake main. This screen exists to keep out the more tangible contaminations — which range from drowned goats to the small snails which bring the odious disease of bilharzia, the plague of latter-day Egypt. (The snail carries parasites which live out one part of their life cycle in its body; the rest of the cycle they spend in



It looks picturesque enough — the notorious Sweet Water Canal, with a felucca sailing by. The Army taps this germ-packed waterway and turns it into drinking water. Picture shows where some of Moascar's supplies are drawn off.

the human body, burrowing insidiously through tissues and blood vessels).

From a collecting sump the water is pumped to a large circular settling tank where more rough impurities are removed on a succession of screens. Here, alum is mixed with the water in order to assist the impurities to coagulate and fall more readily to the bottom. Next come secondary settling tanks, to trap further impurities, followed by a large filter in which the water trickles by gravity through sand. By now the water has begun to attain a reasonable standard of purity. The chlorinating process follows, the proportion of chlorine being specified by the Army medical authorities. Not only must the chlorine kill existing germs, it must be strong enough to despatch any germs which may hereafter find their way into the water. Another chemical — ammonium sulphate — is added, in order to ensure that the chlorine shall remain operative as long as possible. The water is now ready to drink. It can be pumped to its destination, in emergency, by an independent generating plant on the premises; though normally

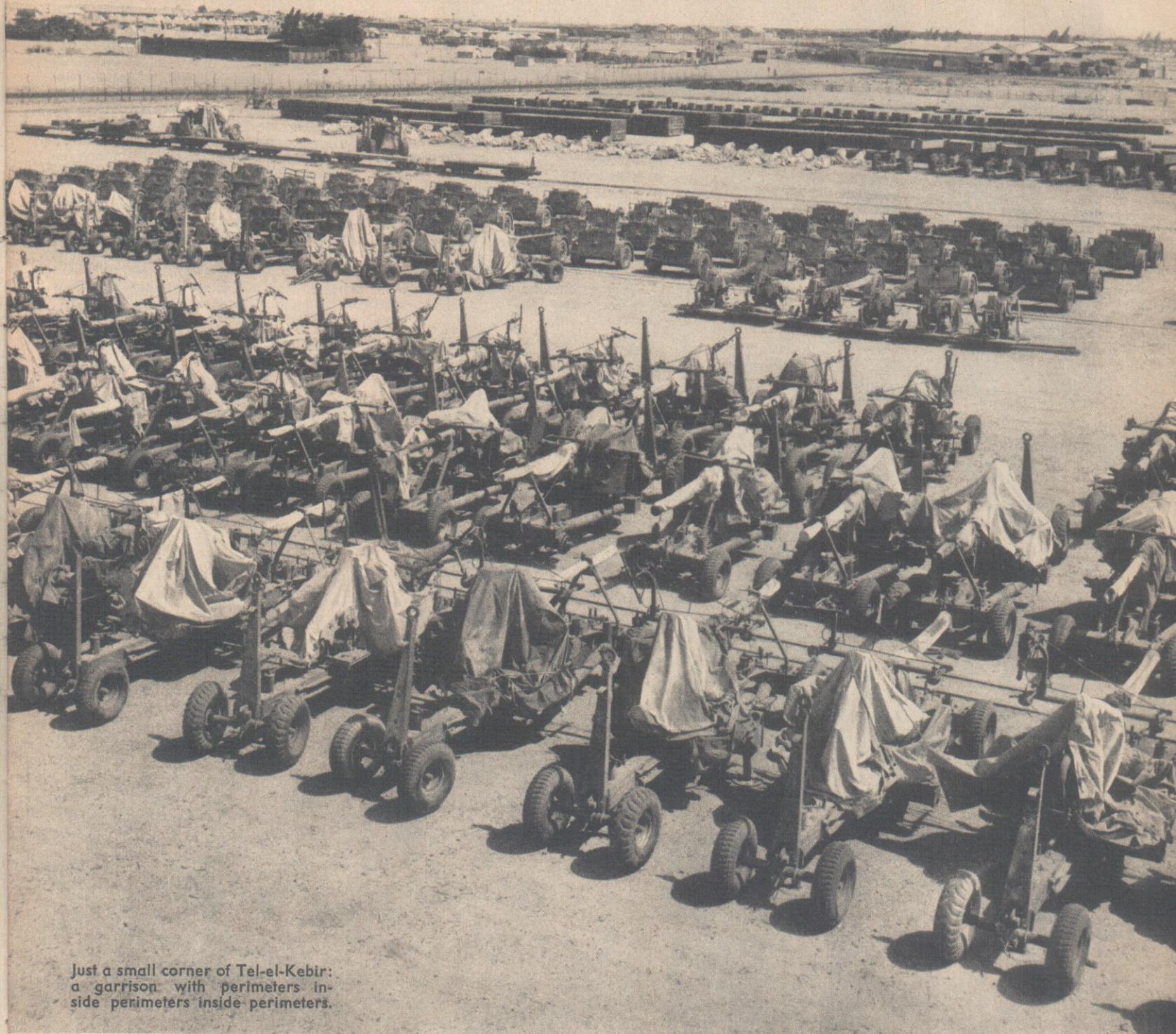
the Army's own main generating plant which supplies all the light and power required in a garrison, is used.

The supply of drinking water is only one commitment. The Army must have filtered and aerated water, too, for its bathing pools. In addition, these pools have their own filtration plants to keep them pure. Then there is the irrigation water without which the Army's hard-won gardens and lawns would die. This is rough-cleaned and treated with copper sulphate to kill the bilharzia snails.

**SOLDIER** was shown over one of Moascar's three filtration plants by Mr. W. F. H. Michaelis, a former Sapper who is Garrison Engineer (Electrical and Mechanical). During his 14 years Army service Captain Michaelis came up against many problems of water purification. He was instrumental in extending the water supply at Port Sudan during World War Two, and also at the port of Vizagapatam. Sappers and ex-Sappers work side by side in the Canal Zone's filtration and generating plants. The Command Filtration Plant Inspector, Mr. J. H. S. Dimmer, is the son of a Sapper; his father came to Egypt in 1912 and joined the Royal Engineers in 1914.

**NOTE:** Though bilharzia attacks a very high proportion of Egyptians, hardly any British soldiers contract it. When they do, it is likely to be the result of bad water discipline on patrols.

Screens like these in the big settling tanks trap the main impurities. Bilharzia snails are eliminated early.



Just a small corner of Tel-el-Kebir: a garrison with perimeters inside perimeters.

# "TEK"

The huge dump of Tel-el-Kebir has been figuring in the news from Egypt. Built near the site of a historic battle, it helped the Eighth Army to win another historic battle: El Alamein

VEN before the Egyptian troubles began, one British Army garrison had lived in an almost perpetual state of emergency: the garrison of Tel-el-Kebir.

Swept by searchlights, ringed by wire and minefields, patrolled tirelessly by man and dog, this great camp with its millions of pounds worth of much-coveted stores sprawls over the unfriendly desert at the western tip of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty Zone.

Nearby, dimly to be traced, are the lines where forces of Arabi Pasha formed up before their defeat by Sir Garnet Wolseley in the momentous battle of 1882. Still to be seen, too, are the graves of British soldiers who fell on that memorable field — if leagues of blistering sand can be called a field.

The present camp of Tel-el-Kebir is barely twelve years old. It was not sited there out of any sentimental regard for the past; nor was it deliberately built in the wilderness just for the sake of mortifying the flesh, as some may have supposed.

Early in World War Two it was obvious that enormous base installations would be needed in Egypt in

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# "TEK"

(Continued)

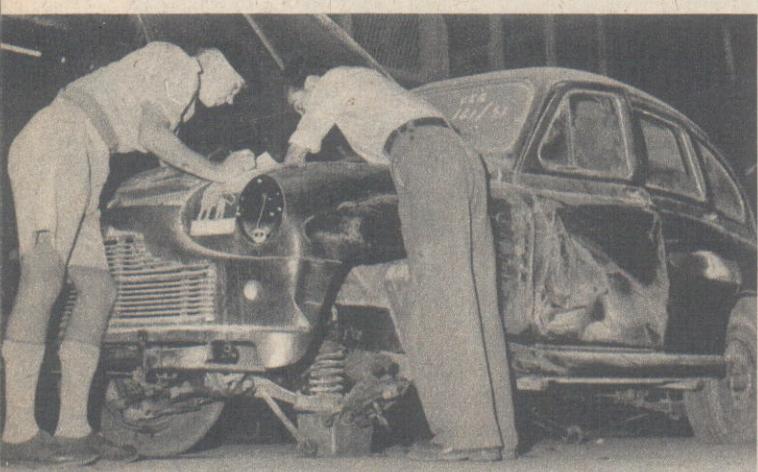
Left: A Mauritian soldier, in a watch tower with a telephone, endlessly scans the unenchanting landscape — a landscape loaded with stores worth millions of pounds.

Below: Some of the children of the garrison. One of these days rain and green grass will come as a novelty to them.

order to support the armies in the Western Desert. At Tel-el-Kebir, which was served by road, rail and the Sweet Water Canal, were leagues of what the Army joyfully recognises as "hard standing." In other words, the desert floor was adequate of itself to support heavy vehicles and the monstrous weights which the Royal Army Ordnance Corps proposed to dump on it. And under the hard desert floor was well water.

In 1940 such foundations as were necessary were laid; in 1941 began the process of stocking up. Even though the new base ordnance depot supplied the seemingly insatiable demands of Eighth Army, receipts still exceeded issues by 1500 tons a week — an Ordnance man's dream. The depot found it necessary to issue vast quantities of barbed wire to itself, until finally the perimeter expanded to its present length — some 17 miles. In those war years, "Tek" was only one of a string of huge camps which extended eastward for seven miles to Qassassin and beyond. Even today, from the road which links Ismailia to Tel-el-Kebir, can be seen the traces of these assembly and staging camps, including the forlorn end of an otherwise flattened building which still bears in large letters "NAAFI."

Tel-el-Kebir supplied the needs of all the divisions which fought at El Alamein. It was the fount of victory. When Rommel had been driven from Africa, it drew in again the unwanted stores and equipment, and began to recondition the wreckage of the desert. Other base ordnance depots closed down, but "Tek" stayed in business.



Repairing broken-down, wrecked Army vehicles is one of REME's commitments in Tel-el-Kebir. Below: Army mechanics in Middle East must know their way around a refrigerator.



When the British Army moved, in 1946, to the Canal Zone, "Tek" took over the stores from Abbassia, near Cairo, absorbing 120,000 tons in little more than a year. To "Tek" also came the warlike stores of Italy, Iraq, Palestine and Ceylon.

Though it contains shady groves (Army-built) and even has a couple of gaudy hoopoes flashing about, no one could call Tel-el-Kebir a place of haunting beauty. The first impression — of wire and watch towers — is that of a penal settlement. The next impression, from the top of a watch tower, is that of a collection of Swindons and Clapham Junctions unaccountably deposited in the desert. Everywhere are hangar-like buildings, generously dispersed, each with numerals painted on the sides — 27, 28...67, 68 and so on until well into three figures. Each of these, one finds, is a warrant officer's responsibility.

Within the main perimeter of the camp are more perimeters, and within those are still more perimeters — in the fashion of Chinese spheres. Inside these wired compounds, and inside these numbered walls, are all the things the Army needs, from split pins to tanks, from camp beds to double beds.

Inside No. 5 Base Ordnance Depot — biggest in the world — are 37 miles of roadway and 20 miles of railway, all Army-built; but the Depot is only one slice (admittedly, the biggest slice) of Tel-el-Kebir garrison. Here, too, is No. 2 Base Workshops REME, which has the daunting task, among others, of repairing all the vehicles which are rattled to pieces on the roads of Egypt. In one big shed, a haven of gloom after the blinding sun outside, a warrant officer will be supervising local workmen repairing staff cars; in another, motor cycles; in another, three-tonners and so on. The Workshops also find time to run a training wing, where the pupils may be Guardsmen or Somali Scouts, where the lesson may be repair of refrigerators or maintenance of half-tracks. Also, the Workshops find time to run their own cinema.

Over the years, Tel-el-Kebir built up a big labour force: Egyptians, Sudanese, Cypriots and many other nationalities. Some of them journeyed in from Cairo and Alexandria; others lived in their own self-contained camps within the main perimeter. The roll of artisans was an impressive one — carpenters, sail-makers, saddlers, blacksmiths, welders and more than 400 tent-menders. Complete closing down of "Tek" would be equivalent to closing down a major industrial town. The garrison also had its own camp for the Mauritian troops drafted in to guard its confines, and camps for bearers and office workers. Like other garrisons, "Tek" has recently been beset with labour difficulties.

Nor must another of the "villages" be forgotten — the village for British soldiers' families. Even in normal times it cannot be pretended that "Tek" is an ideal families station, but there are nevertheless a number of families there, and Canal Cottages have been going up. The children all go to the same school, for there is not a sufficient quorum to justify a secondary school.

By its very nature, "Tek" is the sort of garrison which must provide its own amusement; and it does so, even to the extent of indulging in Scottish country dancing.

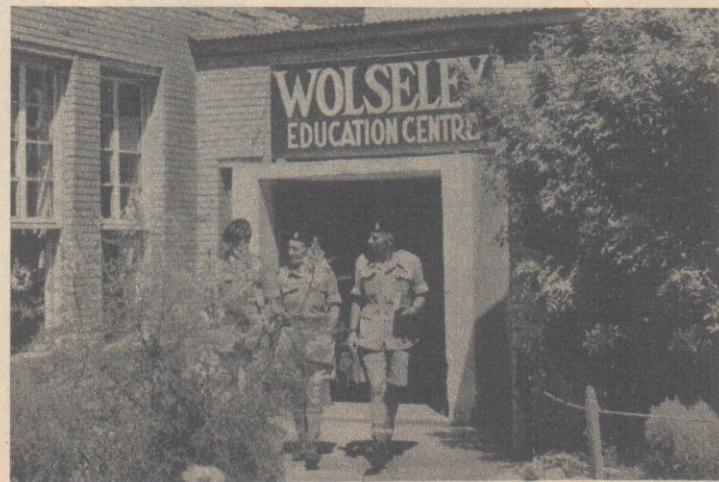
The show place of "Tek" is a remarkable oasis of trees, shrubs and flowers called the "Garrison Gardens." Here, from time to time, bands play; and in the heart of the desert a man may listen to Gilbert and Sullivan and suppose himself, for an instant, in an English dingle. The Gardens were founded in 1941 by Colonel B. G. Cox, then commanding the Base Ordnance Depot. In 1950 Colonel Cox went back as Brigadier Commanding the Garrison, and now has the satisfaction of seeing his project grown to maturity. The execution of the gardens, according to a plaque over the entrance, was the work of Corporal F. Stimpson, whose name well deserves to be remembered. He is now living at Great Bookham, Surrey.

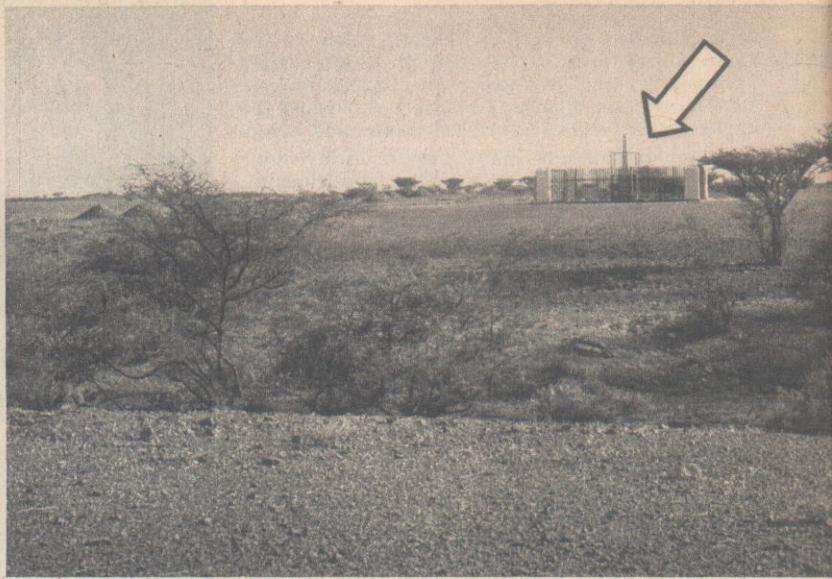
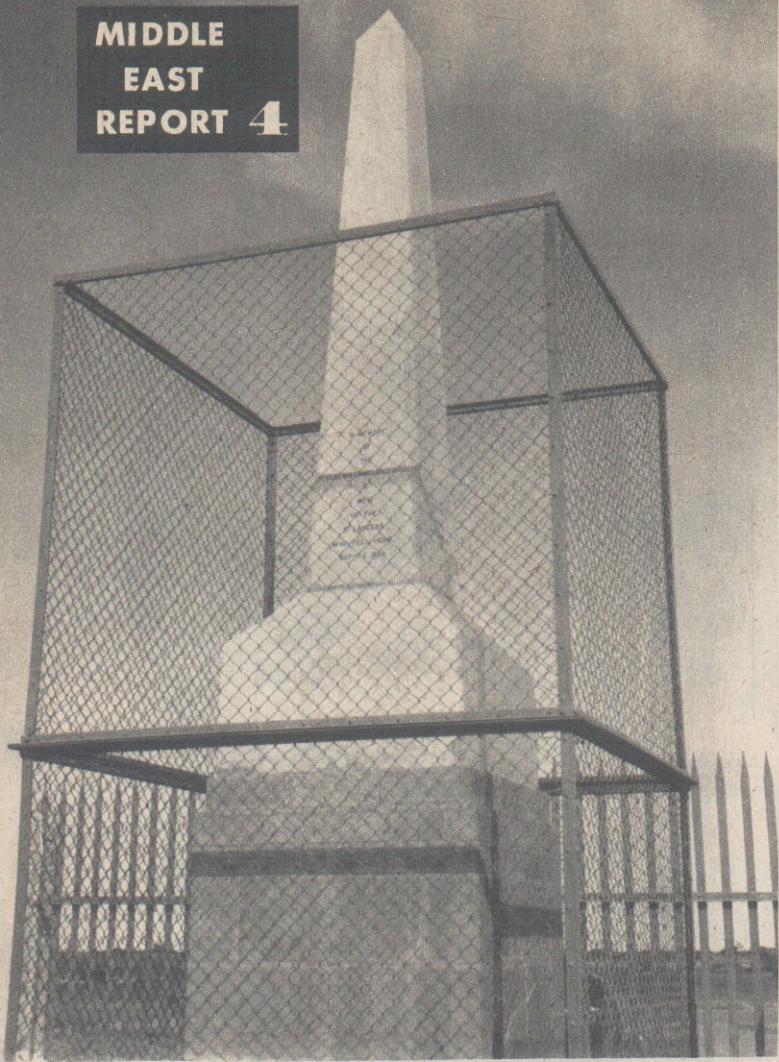
There is no country in the world in which a great ordnance depot can be set down and left unguarded. "Tek" is like a handful of corn tossed in front of hungry pigeons. The light-fingered and the light-footed have had their successes in raiding the garrison stores; but the garrison has had its successes too. The modern Battle of Tel-el-Kebir is a battle of wits.



An oasis the Army built: The "Tek" Garrison Gardens were founded in 1941 by Col. B. G. Cox, now Brigadier Commanding the Garrison.

Right: The name of Wolseley, who directed the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir, in 1882 is perpetuated in the Garrison.





Doubly caged to protect it against idle damage, this memorial (left) on the battlefield of Omdurman commemorates the charge of the 21st Lancers (with whom Mr. Winston Churchill rode). Above: a view of the monument showing the depression in which the Dervishes concealed themselves, and where "a tremendous hacking match took place."

# The Past Looms Up in the Sudan

History is never far away in Khartoum. The soldier serving there treads in the footsteps of great men



Drummers of the 1st Battalion, East Lancashire Regiment at practice under the trees in the South Barracks, Khartoum. The regiment has since moved to the Canal Zone of Egypt.



Commanding British Troops, Sudan: Major-General R. L. Scoones, who is also Kaid of the Sudan Defence Force. Below: The Deputy Kaid, Brigadier B. W. Leicester, Royal Marines.



FROM the temporary airfield outside Khartoum, a bus sets off with the newly-descended passengers over a track so rough that it is a relief when the driver forgoes it and shoots off over open country.

Gulping at the hot air, holding on to his seat, the passenger has little time to notice a modest obelisk almost hidden from sight by a box of wire mesh and a ferocious outer barricade of spikes. For a misleading moment he may be reminded of one of those Infantry squares at Waterloo.

But this is not the field of Waterloo; it is the field of Omdurman, which was Waterloo enough for the Dervishes.

The well-protected monument marks where the 21st Lancers made their first charge in war, and the last big cavalry charge in history. On this spot, but for a benevolent Fate, a young Cavalryman called Winston Churchill might have ended his career.

Hard by is the depression, or *khor*, whence the Khalifa's men rose unexpectedly to challenge the Lancers, and where a tremendous hacking match took place. ("As on another occasion," Mr. Churchill has written, "I came safely through, one of the very few officers whose saddlery, clothes or horses were unhurt and without any incident that is worth putting down.")



An open-air housey-housey session in Khartoum's unusual NAAFI club. Lounge, restaurant, bar and other rooms open off the dance floor. From time to time cabarets are staged here.

The rough ride over the battlefield makes as good an introduction as any to Khartoum, an outpost where the past still looms gigantic over the present.

The next sight to catch the newcomer's eye is a silver dome gleaming above the low mud roofs of Omdurman. It is the Mahdi's Tomb, successor to the original which had a huge rent torn in it by Kitchener's guns. The top of the original tomb is still there in the adjoining Khalifa's house, whence a megalomaniac ruler addressed hectoring letters to Queen Victoria, even threatening to set sail and invade England.

Through the teeming streets of Omdurman, biggest native city

of Africa, the newcomer reaches Khartoum, spaciously laid out, as Kitchener laid it out, on the banks of the Blue Nile. Here is a great statue of the Field-Marshal on his horse, and another of Gordon, on the camel which carried him 3840 miles in one year across the wastes. Of the palace where Gordon was speared and beheaded, nothing remains.

The newcomer may have reached this far without seeing a soldier or even a military vehicle; but the British Army is encamped here, unobtrusively, in the station which it has occupied since 1898. Even less obtrusively, the Egyptian Army is also encamped here.

Khartoum is a 12-months

station. The heat, which rises to 109 degrees in May and a humid 105 in October, makes it undesirable for a battalion to serve there longer. Khaki drill is worn the whole year round. Yet despite the heat, the absence of families, and the scarcity of female companionship Khartoum is not an unpopular station. One reason for this might be that it is well off the track of visiting VIP's, save in the winter. And Khartoum enjoys one curious advantage over Egypt; though 1000 miles to the south, it receives its home mail before the Canal Zone does, thanks to the directness of the air service home.

The British battalion, reinforced as necessary, is stationed in the

Sudan to safeguard the existence of the Government as agreed in 1899 by the Condominium Powers (Britain and Egypt). Until recently its role has been virtually a sinecure. Now Egypt has repudiated the Condominium agreement and King Farouk has declared himself King of the Sudan.

Ordinary civil disturbances, if they arise, are put down by the civil police, backed if necessary by the Sudan Defence Force (this will be the subject of a later article).

The British garrison is housed in permanent, tree-shaded barracks on either side of the Blue Nile (which is brown). Each barracks has its own sports grounds,

OVER



Above: The top of the old Mahdi's Tomb (which was shelled by Kitchener), with the new Tomb in background. Right: a general view of the silver-domed Mahdi's Tomb.

## The Past Looms Up in the Sudan (Cont'd)

canteen and swimming pool. There is an Ordnance Depot not far from Khartoum at Gordon's Tree; and in an old fort like something out of Beau Geste is a REME workshop. The Infantry battalion maintains a company detached in stone-built barracks 3000 feet up in the Red Sea hills at Gebeit, 24 hours from Khartoum by rail. Here the climate is more agreeable and, since there are no shops, a soldier can save his money. There is a Sudan Railways pool in which he can bathe. All around is good training country.

This does not mean that there is no training at Khartoum. When SOLDIER passed through, the East Lancashire Regiment (which was about to be relieved by the South Lancashire Regiment) had been out on exercises in the desert. The men had been practising night navigation and movement without lights, sleeping in holes in the ground; not too uncomfortable a life, save during a huboob (dust and rain storm).

In Khartoum troops spend much leisure time in a NAAFI club which is probably unique in its lay-out. At the centre is a circular, open-air dance floor (alas, that there are not more dancing partners!) with tables and chairs ranged around. Opening off, in



the form of a star, are a lounge, a restaurant, a billiards room and a bar. Periodically a cabaret is staged here, and then every particle of roof space is crammed with soldier spectators. The funds for this purpose come largely from the money-spinning Blue Nile Cinema, the only cinema operated by NAAFI.

Khartoum itself has not a great many allurements to offer, and those are usually expensive. If a soldier sits down at a sidewalk cafe it will be only a matter of seconds before a pedlar is unrolling snakeskins for his inspection, and when he has seen one snakeskin he has seen them all. There are two civilian cinemas and two cabarets. One of the cabarets, ironically enough, is named after the ascetic Gordon;

but so is almost every institution in Khartoum.

The Army makes its own recreations. Its roll of sports would be an impressive one even in a temperate clime. According to season, the garrison goes in for football (often against Sudanese teams), hockey, rugby, tennis, cricket, water polo, swimming, athletics, basketball, squash, volleyball, sailing (on the Blue Nile), fishing and shooting (duck and sand grouse near Khartoum, big game in the south). The Kaid has an official launch which he lends to units for daytime journeys or "moonlight picnics."

Since the war it has been possible for troops from Khartoum to take short leave at Asmara, 8000 feet up on the Eritrean plateau. This year, however, the British Army will be withdrawing from Eritrea.

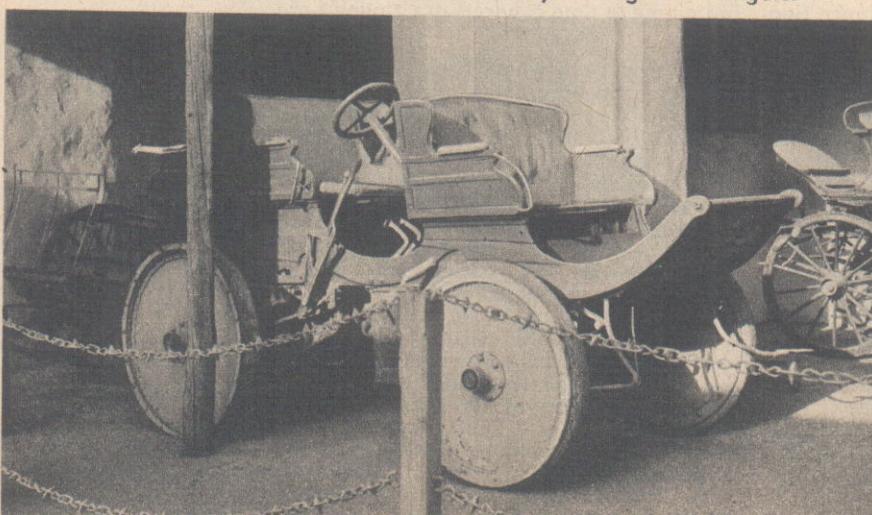
Though the British soldier's curiosity in his environment is rarely overwhelming, many soldiers take the opportunity to see the more obvious sights in the vicinity; to walk barefoot on the cool floor of the Mahdi's tomb, to see the curious exhibits in the Khalifa's house, or to watch the silversmiths and other craftsmen at work in the native city. They may also go out to see the battlefield of Omdurman (if unit

exercises do not take them there). From the higher ground it is possible to see the stretch of the Nile whence the gunboats joined in the pounding of the Dervish hordes, and the site of the zareba (palisade) from which the forces of Kitchener moved out on a historic September morning. The battlefield is bleak, stony and dotted with flat-topped bushes, and can have altered little since the day of the battle. It needed a certain effort of the imagination to picture on these wastes the Dervish forces — "coloured, glistening, dark, violent, proud, beautiful" (in Lytton Strachey's words); an army which in the Mahdi's day was fired by war drums and lashed to a suitable frenzy by rhinoceros hide whips.

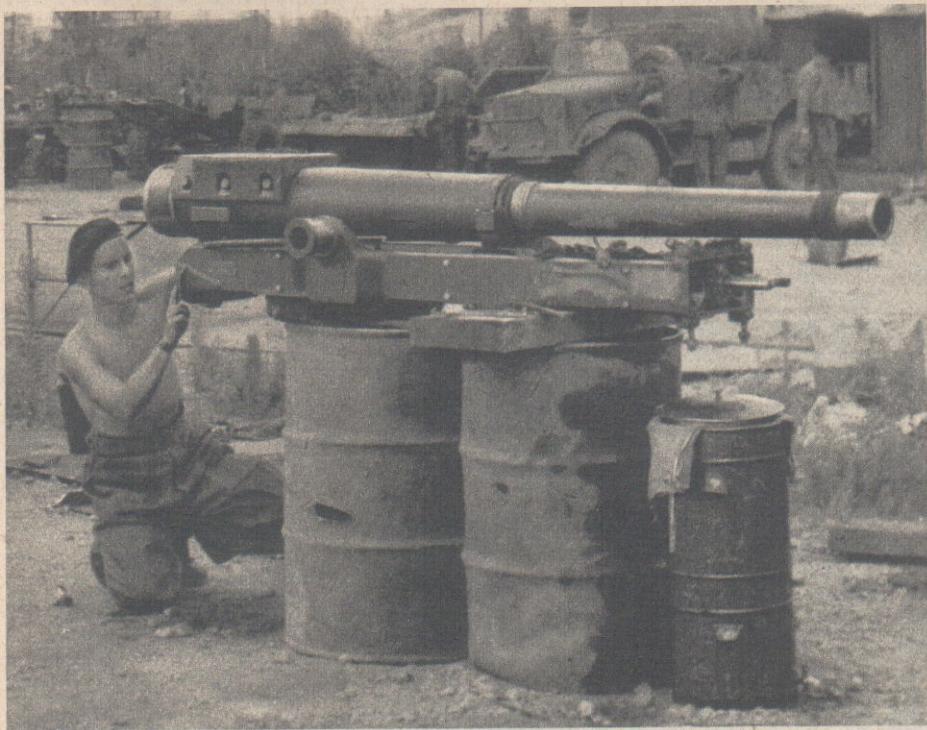
Of later wars, there are few or no souvenirs. World War Two did not directly touch Khartoum. Occasionally dishevelled officers returning from perilous missions in Eritrea or Abyssinia would stagger up the steps of the Grand Hotel, to be eyed for a moment or two with misgivings by those who were clean, white and cummerbundled. Khartoum was a staging post on the aerial supply route between Brazil and Dakar in the west and India and China in the east. It was also a staging post for the Emperor Haile Selassie, who stayed there on his way to reassume the throne of Abyssinia. With his picturesque retinue, he occupied the building which is now the garrison officers' mess and which is known — even officially — as the Pink Palace.

\* Middle East Reports 2, 3 and 4 by E. S. TURNER; Photographs by LESLIE A. LEE.

Preserved in the Khalifa's house is the first car seen in the Sudan: an Arrol-Johnston used in 1902 by Sir Reginald Wingate.



# KOREA AND NOW THE SNOW



Neither workshops nor benches are easy to come by in Korea. So a craftsman of 10th Infantry Workshops, REME tackles a gun barrel on oil-drums in the open air. Below: Tankleaguer, Koreastyle. Centurions (and washing) belong to "B" Squadron, 8th Hussars.

THOUGH the Korea battle-line changed little in the weeks before the snows came, British units of the Commonwealth Division took part in some heavy fighting.

The Chinese sent two formations to attack hill positions west of Yonchon on the 28th Brigade sector. These positions had been captured a few weeks previously by the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, in the United Nations "limited objective" offensive.

The number of attackers has been variously estimated at between 6000 and 10,000. The weight of the attack fell on the King's Own Scottish Borderers, under their second-in-command, Major Dennis Tadman (the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. M. Macdonald was acting as brigade commander at the time). They were holding Hills 317 and 217, linked by a ridge.

A mighty artillery barrage, estimated at more than 100 shells a minute for more than an hour, preceded the Chinese offensive. Before it had died down, the Communists swarmed forward in the daylight of late afternoon, some of them into their own artillery fire. They swept through gaps torn in the barbed wire by the guns, blew their own gaps or climbed over each other's bodies. As they reached the tops of the hills, some of the Borderers' positions were surrounded, and soon ringed with dead.

Darkness fell, but the battle went on, sometimes lit up by flares. There was close-quarter fighting with bayonets and sometimes bare hands. The Chinese en-

OVER



## KOREA (Continued)



The track is not "jeepable," so Korean porters carry rations, ammunition and water, under Australian escort. Below: In a barbed-wire lane, an Australian patrols his company's winter-line perimeter.



The provost company of 1st Commonwealth Division comprises six British and two Canadian sections. To these are attached 12 South Korean policemen and an American prisoner-of-war interrogation team of two officers and 12 American-enlisted Japanese, who carry out preliminary questionings. Below, left: American-Japanese interrogators at work. Right: British and Canadian MP's at pistol practice.

couraged themselves with bugles and horn, to which the Borderers' buglers replied with defiant blasts.

Late in the night, Major Tadman ordered the companies to withdraw, to avoid being completely cut off. In small groups, the men fought their way back and formed a new line. The 28th Brigade's front was still unbroken.

On the flanks of the Borderers, the Royal Australian Regiment and the King's Shropshire Light Infantry had also come under sharp attack, which they were able to hold. A little farther back, the Royal Norfolk Regiment was seeing its first battle in Korea.

Just before dawn, Centurions of the 8th Hussars arrived on the scene and began to blast the Chinese in their newly-won positions. It fell to the Royal Leicestershire Regiment, also in its first Korean battle, to counter-attack — not the first scrap the Leicesters had shared with the Borderers, for they both won their first battle honours at Namsur in 1695.

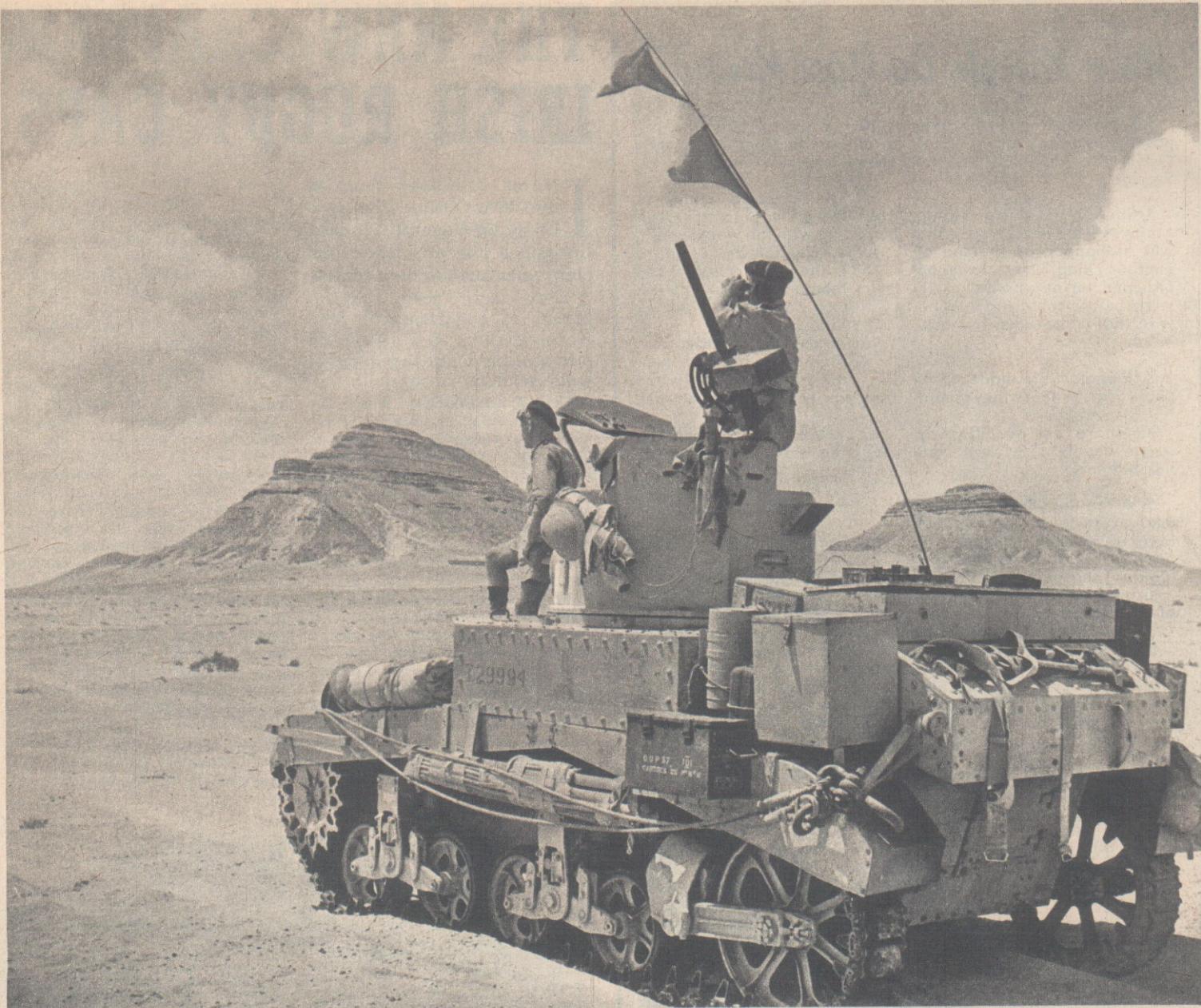
The Chinese had manned the hill positions strongly by the time the Leicesters set off up the steep, thickly-wooded slopes. Artillery and mortar fire rained on the attackers. Two NCO's were killed when they threw themselves on top of grenades to save their comrades.

The Leicesters reached some of their objectives, and there was bayonet fighting, but the attackers were outnumbered. They had to fall back. It was a gallant counter-attack which had helped to stabilise the 28th Brigade's line.

Some days later, the Communists tried again to break through 28th Brigade. The Leicesters and the Shropshires were

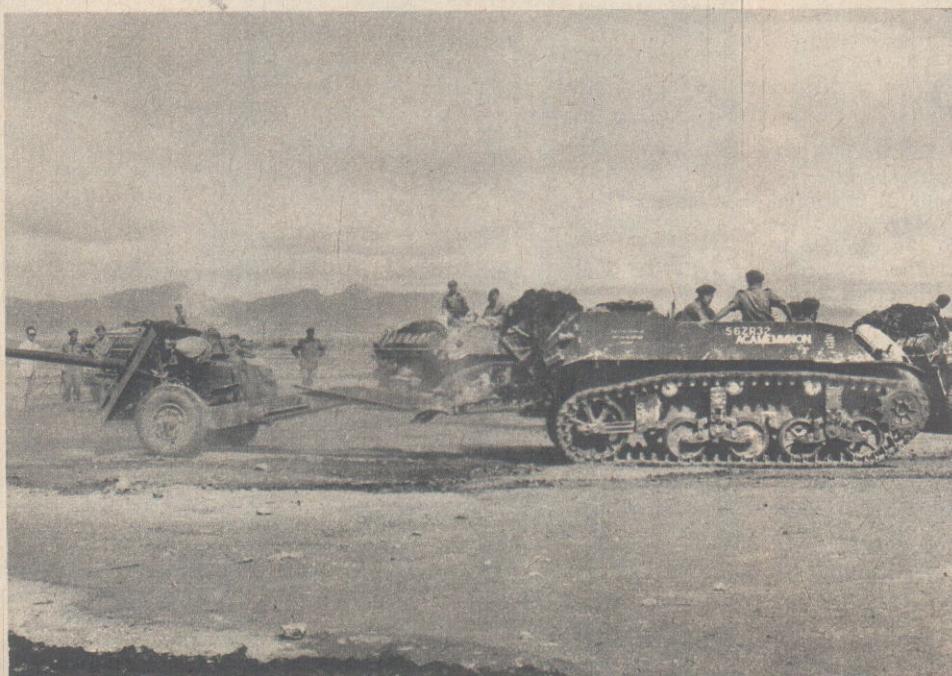
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THEN AND NOW: (Above) A Honey tank in the Western Desert, in World War Two. (Below) This "sawn-off" tank is towing a 17-pounder of 16th Independent Parachute Brigade Group (now in Egypt.)

## An Old-Timer Comes Back



THEN years ago, American-built light tanks were scudding over the sands of Egypt, playing a dashing role in the desert war of movement.

Today some of those same tanks, much modified, are again operating on the sands of Egypt; this time they are towing Infantry 17-pounder guns.

The tanks were known as Honeys when they were first introduced to the Desert Army. They were lightly armed: a 37 mm gun and two .30 Browning machine guns. They were also lightly armoured, their total weight being only 14 tons. Their top speed, however, was 40 miles an hour, which is still fast as tank speeds go.

In 1943 a new version of the Honey, called the General Stuart, appeared on the scene.

Since the end of World War Two, Honeys and Stuarts have been in storage. They were obsolete, not only on account of age but because the British Army had decided to do without a light tank.

Now they have been dusted off — and sawn off. Their turrets have been removed and their hulls altered. Some of them have taken up their new task in the Canal Zone; others are being modified in Britain and will join Territorial units.





Paraded on the Plains of Abraham, Quebec, for inspection by Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh: the 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade. On this site in 1759, General Wolfe won the battle which was a turning-point in Canada's history.

## From Plains of Abraham—to Germany

THE Canadian national flag flies over barracks in Germany again and the Maple Leaf is seen once more on the road signs.

This time the Canadians come not as an occupation force but as the Dominion's contribution to the land forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

In Holland, where they had fought some of their bloodiest battles of World War Two, the Canadians were given a tremendous welcome. The Dutch have cause to be grateful to the men who liberated large areas of their country from German domination and helped to rebuild their shattered army. During and after the war the Canadians formed many friendships with the people of Holland and took home many Dutch girls as their brides.

**The Canadians are back in Europe, renewing old friendships. In the 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group are volunteers from every province in the Dominion**

foods and setting up in their occupation area factories which converted waste food into soups.

The Germans have another good reason to be pleased. The Brigade will not become an additional burden on occupation costs. Instead, as Canada's Defence Minister recently announced, the Canadian Government is footing the bill.

In Germany, too, the Canadians were warmly welcomed, not only by the British Army of the Rhine but by the Germans themselves and the still-vast army of Displaced Persons. Men still remember with gratitude how the Canadians helped to stem starvation and disease in the early post-war years by sending home for special

Many of the officers, warrant officers and NCO's of the 27th Brigade fought in World War Two in Holland and Germany. The commander, Brigadier Geoffrey Walsh, was Chief Engineer to the 1st Canadian Army in Europe. In 1945 he went back to Canada to organise the Northwest Highway System in preparation for the taking over by Canada of the vital supply route to Alaska.

The men come from every province in Canada, including Newfoundland. One of the Infantry companies — Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal — is French-speaking. The

Brigade was recruited around the framework of Canada's Reserve Army units (equivalent to Britain's Territorial Army), most of whom fought in both World Wars. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Brigade has soldiers from no fewer than 42 units. Each of the three battalions — the 1st Canadian Highland, the 1st Canadian Rifle and the 1st Canadian Infantry — has companies which retain their own identity and continue to wear their own unit shoulder flashes and cap badges. In the same way the Field Regiment of the Royal Canadian Artillery and other supporting arms and services were raised from the Reserve Forces all over Canada.

While the 27th Brigade is in Germany it will be an independent force under the operational command of the British Army of the Rhine. It will carry out most of its own "chores," employing



Brigadier Geoffrey Walsh, CBE, DSO, commanding 27th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group.



When he landed at Rotterdam Private W. Saunders, from British Columbia, was met by his Dutch mother-in-law and sister-in-law. At the end of the late war he took home a Dutch girl as bride.



Old soldier and new: Private W. Burrows (46) was with the Royal Canadian Artillery during the war when Private D. D. Cutler was a schoolboy. Below: Canada's flag is hoisted again over a German barracks. (Picture by Sjt. F. Covey, Public Relations, Rhine Army).





Last item to go on board: hot coffee for the flight to Fayid. Each Hastings takes 42 men. First stop is Malta.

# Flying There Backwards

Well, not exactly — but the soldiers who go by air do sit with their backs to the engine. The latest big air-lift is painlessly organised

THE last of a pile of lunch-boxes was handed into a silver-painted Hastings aircraft, and the air quartermaster closed the door.

Inside the aircraft 42 soldiers were comfortably seated, facing the tail, in accordance with the Royal Air Force's latest safety rule. "Never thought I should fly across the world backwards," said one of the party.

They were a mixed company: a major and men of the Border Regiment, a second-lieutenant with some Gunners, and two privates of the Army Catering Corps. Destination: Fayid.

As the engines of the Hastings started up, an officer of the Royal Engineers walked off the tarmac, probably thinking, "And that's that. Now for the next lot."

The officer was Major D. Arnold-Kelly, senior Railway Transport Officer, Corsham Area. How an RTO came to be concerned with sending soldiers off on a journey by air is not such a long story as it might seem. When Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. Philipps, AQMC (Movements), Southern Command, was faced with a sudden increase in air trooping from the RAF Transport Command station at Lyneham, owing to the developments in the Suez Canal area, he had to improvise a staff to fit the occasion. Major Arnold-Kelly was picked to take charge.

No. 65 Week-End Training Camp, on a hill at the edge of the thatched Wiltshire village of Ogbourne-St. George, was taken over to serve as a transit camp, and its staff suitably augmented.

A Movement Control office was set up there, and soon the machinery was working smoothly.

The party SOLDIER saw off had arrived at Swindon station the previous afternoon. There they were met by an RTO, a baggage party and troop carriers of the 6th Armoured Division Column, Royal Army Service Corps.

They arrived at Ogbourne-St. George conveniently in time for tea. Here, arrivals who had not already been detailed into "flights" — parties of 42, the normal load of a Hastings — were introduced to their travelling companions. To make sure that no aircraft takes off with empty seats, Ogbourne-St. George holds a "cushion" of men whose flight dates are near and who fill up any earlier unexpected vacancies. Men of the "cushion" are the only ones in transit who may go out of camp — but they are also liable for camp duties.

The officer in charge of each "flight" was handed 42 forms on which his men recorded their own details and the names and addresses of their next-of-kin. Documentation complete, they went off to the flight huts where each

## Battle Honours — after 190 Years

AFTER nearly two centuries, battle honours for an engagement in the Seven Years War have been conferred on British Infantry regiments.

The awards commemorate the capture of Belleisle, off the coast of France, in 1761, by a force of 7000 men under Admirals Keppel and Hodgson; the garrison capitulated after a two-months siege. Until now, no regiment has had "Belleisle" among its battle honours.

The regiments which receive this honour are the Buffs, Royal Norfolks, Green Howards, Royal Scots Fusiliers, Worcestershires, East Lancashires, Royal Hampshires and Welch.

New evidence brought to the notice of the committees which recommend to the King awards of battle distinctions has also resulted in four regiments add-

ing "Salamanca" to their honours (for Wellington's famous battle in Spain, against the French, in 1812). They are the 12th Royal Lancers, Coldstream Guards, Scots Guards and Black Watch.

In line with the policy that battle honours for naval operations shall comprise the name of the operation associated with the Naval Crown, three regi-

certain regiments are to change those of their World War One battle honours which are displayed on their King's Colours. The Royal Fusiliers replace "Marne, 1914" with "Nonne Bosschen"; the Welch Regiment replace "Mesopotamia, 1916-18" with "Loos," and "Palestine, 1917-18" with "Gaza"; and the 12th London Regiment (Rangers), The Rifle Brigade, are to replace "Ginchy" with "France and Flanders, 1914-18."

All applications from regiments for battle honours for wars and campaigns before World War Two have now been finally examined and only those mentioned above have been approved. No battle honours for World War Two have yet been announced.



man found on his bed two sheets, two plates and a mug — this to save unpacking.

The time of parade for departure — three hours before take-off — is known overnight. An hour before parade, no matter what time it is, the men are given a meal — even if the parade is scheduled for just two hours after breakfast or lunch. Then the men climb into the troop-carriers again and set off for Lyneham.

At this point, Major Arnold-Kelly might say, "And that's that!" with justification, for as soon as the men reach Lyneham they are completely in the hands of the Royal Air Force. For the sake of good liaison, however, Major Arnold-Kelly goes often to Lyneham to see parties off.

At Lyneham SOLDIER listened to the flights being "briefed" by a Royal Air Force warrant officer. He told them of the rations they would receive on board, and the speed and height at which the aircraft would fly. He explained that the NCO air quartermaster would bring round chits saying what progress the aircraft was making. The air quartermaster, he added, would provide pills if they felt sick, and "bags, vomit" in case the pills did not do their stuff.

The warrant officer went on to explain about seats, safety straps (with demonstration) and escape hatches, and the "no smoking" rules on the tarmac and in the aircraft. A sergeant showed the men how to put on a "Mae West." Then the warrant officer told them about Customs regulations. "If you have more than £10, the Customs officer suggests you should hand the balance to me to keep until you return." He told them how many pairs of nylons, how much liquor and how many cigarettes they might bring back without expecting to pay duty. "And any silk underclothes must fit you and not have enough spare material to make under-

clothes for your girl-friend." Finally he offered, on behalf of the passenger staff, to post any last-minute letters. "If you don't happen to have the coppers for the stamps, don't worry, we'll post them all the same."

The men went into the next room, where an improvised NAAFI had suddenly appeared. Next reminder of their purpose at Lyneham was a warning from the warrant officer that there was just time for one more cigarette. Their next would be in Malta, six-and-a-half hours away.

Cigarettes out, the men climbed into RAF hump-backed buses and were driven to the Hastings waiting on the tarmac. There they were informally fallen in, tallest in front, shortest in the rear, so that the heavier men might be seated near the cockpit and the lighter near the tail. Then they took their seats. Last came the freshly-cut sandwiches.

Even more than the men going abroad, the families arriving back from the Middle East enjoy the



To save fumbling with safety straps inside the aircraft, Warrant Officer L. G. Steele, RAF, lays on a special demonstration (left). Each soldier is weighed with his personal luggage (above).

hospitality of the Royal Air Force at Lyneham. As the steps are run up to the side of the Hastings, a swarm of men in blue go up them, to return laden with carry-cots or toddlers too small to negotiate the steps by themselves.

In the air passenger office, tea and biscuits and armchairs are awaiting the wives; in the next room a nurse and two members of the Women's Voluntary Services await the children, and there appears a corps of RAF men, from squadron-leader and warrant officer to AC Plonk, all willing to dandle a howling infant or make bunnies from their handkerchiefs. Formalities here are painless; the wives go through most of them sitting in the armchairs.

The Army makes a brief appearance, first to hand the wives a pink sheet headed "Welcome Back to Great Britain" and telling what arrangements are being made for them. The Army also hands them railway warrants and seven-day ration cards and

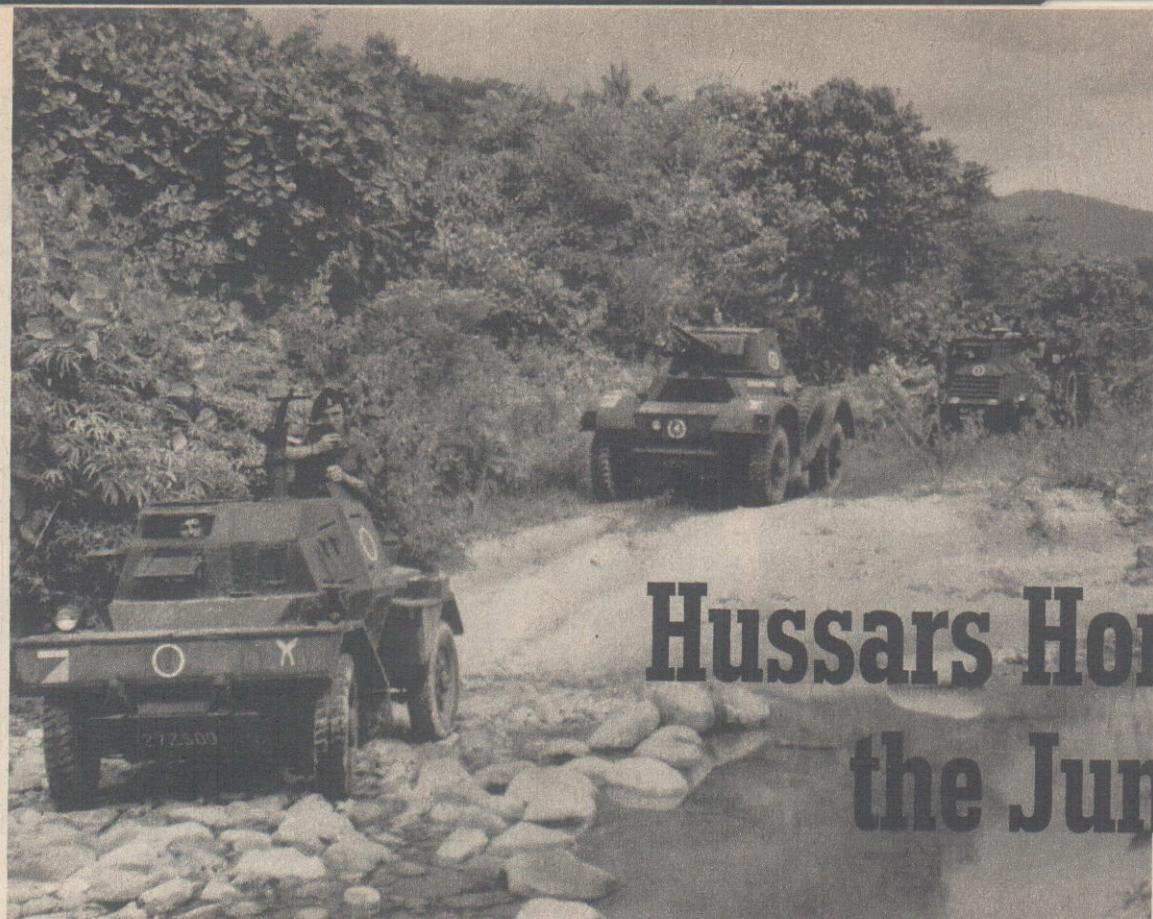
explains how to obtain identity cards and ration-books. Then the Royal Air Force initiates the women into the mysteries of the National Health Service (which started after some of the families had left Britain).

When the baggage has been loaded, the families climb into buses and go off to the RAF transit camp at Clyffe Pypard where, if they wish, they may stay the night. Here, a Royal Air Force paymaster will give them an advance of their husbands' pay — inter-Service co-operation can go no further.

The following day they set off. Those who have no homes to go to are met at Paddington by girls of the Women's Royal Army Corps and a baggage party, and are taken to London District Assembly Centre, where accommodation may be arranged. Even so, many of them are not finished with the hospitality of the Royal Air Force; its family hostel at Blackpool is open to Army families.

And this is the modern air trooper in flight. The Hastings cruises at 200 knots.





**"Keep the roads open"**  
was the order — and  
the 4th Hussars did so.  
It meant being deploy-  
ed over a tremen-  
dous area of jungle

## Hussars Home from the Jungle

One of the last operational patrols: first a scout car, then an armoured car, then a vehicle laden with assault troopers. (Photograph: Sjt. Michael Ingram)

The Hussars published their own newspaper at Ipoh. Heading the mailing-list was Mr. Winston Churchill, Colonel of the Regiment.

**T**HE 4th Hussars, who for a long time could lay claim to being the "most scattered" regiment in the Army, have left Malaya for Britain. They have been relieved by the 12th Royal Lancers.

The Colonel of the Regiment is Mr. Winston Churchill, who has kept himself informed of the Hussars' Malayan exploits.

Among the troops embarking was Sergeant Wilfrid Carroll, of Chorlton, Manchester, who remembers the Colonel's last inspection. "It was at Mena, in Egypt, and our Sherman tanks came back to stand guard for the famous talks."

In 1943 Mr. Churchill spoke to members of the Regiment in Cyprus before they went to Italy,

and again at Lorreto in Italy on the Adriatic front.

At the outbreak of Malaya's emergency, in 1948, the 4th Hussars were among the first troops rushed out from the United Kingdom. They were the sole armoured unit until the arrival of the 13/18th Royal Hussars in June 1950.

The Regiment was to have gone out as a divisional regiment, Royal Armoured Corps, to fit into the Gurkha Division. The Emergency made another type of role necessary, and a special 'D' Squadron was raised in Malaya. It has now been disbanded.

Just before leaving Malaya, a number of officers and men who joined the 4th Hussars out there as reinforcements met for the first time. The Regiment had not been together since the day of disembarkation in October 1948.

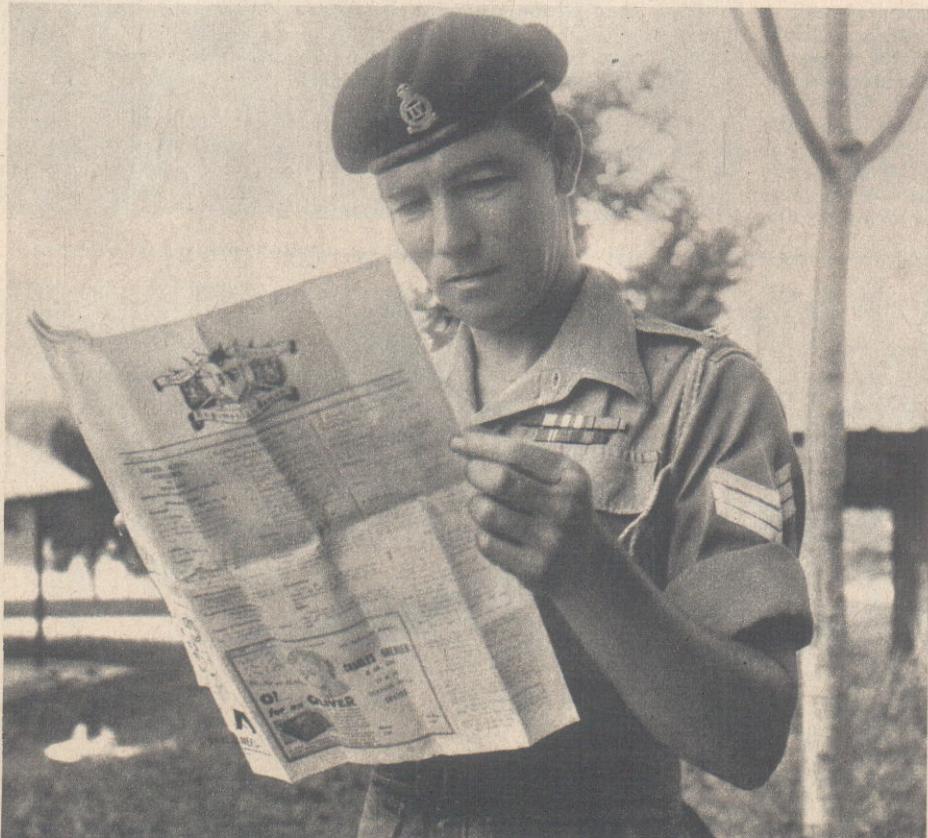
When the Emergency began, the order to the Hussars was: "Keep the roads open." This meant that squadrons had to be split up and scattered all over the country. At times three out of five troops would be detached, and a squadron might have one or two troops in different brigade areas. In those early days the Regiment had detachments serving under six brigade or equivalent commands. They covered almost every road in the country. It is doubtful whether any unit of the British Army has been so widely deployed.

The Hussars' secondary role was to send out small mobile patrols to assist Police or Infantry. And in an Infantry role, the Hussars earned a reputation of "Nulli Secundus."

On the few units in Malaya at the outset a tremendous responsibility lay; but they held firm against the terrorists when wavering might have meant disaster. To beleaguered planters the armoured cars were a heartening sight. One planter asked a young Hussar officer to take complete charge of his estate while he had his first real night's sleep for months.

The Regiment killed 41 terrorists (only bodies brought in are counted), wounded 27 and captured 25, arrested nearly 300 suspects and found 77 camps. In action one officer and 10 men were killed, and 26 wounded.

In their first major action, one officer and six men of "A" Squadron were killed when some 70 terrorists ambushed a party of Hussars on the Jalong road in December 1948. Most of these casualties were sustained in the opening minute. Grimly fighting back, the Hussars beat off the attack. A subaltern who had only just arrived in Malaya took over, and for his gallant leadership





Though primarily an armoured car regiment, the 4th Hussars did their share of "jungle-bashing."

was awarded the Military Cross. Six terrorist bodies were recovered.

Up to January 1950 the Regiment's operations were mostly on foot. Then they received their full quota of armoured cars, and road patrolling increased. By April of that year it was possible to reorganise the Regiment on a four-squadron basis (three in Malaya and one in Hong-Kong). It meant that everyone was employed to the limit. To fill gaps, officers changed squadrons more often than was really desirable, and junior officers and NCO's took on greater responsibilities than normally.

A sergeant in base workshops said: "We often burned the midnight oil getting vehicles fit for duty. Heat affects oil seals and batteries especially." Bandsmen lent a hand with guard duties and administrative work.

There would have been every excuse for the Regiment neglecting its education, but the list of certificates gained by the 4th Hussars, as coach-ed by WO II Lloyd Foulkes, is a striking one.

Before the Regiment sailed, some 120 men who had not completed their tour overseas were transferred to the 12th Royal Lancers. There are 30 Poles with the Regiment, some of whom are taking out British papers.

RSM W. T. Thomas goes home without his daughter, for 20-year-old Joy married a Royal Marine Commando from her home town, Lance-Corporal Alun Evans, of Llandover, Swansea. The veteran of the Regiment, 47-year-old Sergeant George Harman, of Hounslow, says he expects to go overseas with the Hussars several times more before he retires. He has been with them for 26 years.

Before leaving Malaya, the 4th Hussars had tombstones set up on all Regimental graves in civilian cemeteries. Lance-Corporal Gerald Whiteside, of Leeds, the Regimental carpenter, and the Regimental Sergeant-Major designed and erected them.

D. H. de T. READE

## They Also Serve in Malaya

### The PADRE

IN 20 months the senior Service chaplain in Malaya, the Rev. W. P. Cole, put in more than 80 flying hours and covered 20,000 miles by road.

That tired old query, "Is your journey really necessary?" is best answered in the case of Malaya's flying padre by the men in the operational areas. Not only do they turn up in strength for his services, but they ask, "When are you coming again, Padre?"

He has had his moments of worry. Once a gang of native labourers gesticulated violently when they saw his car approaching, and shook their heads as they pointed ahead. An ambush? He pushed on and found several vehicles halted without sign of life. At this he crawled into the ditch — and learned in due course that there was quarry blasting ahead.



### The PAINTER

CAPTAIN Aubrey Fielding, now serving with the Intelligence Corps in Malaya, lives two lives. On duty, he is a photographic interpreter, piecing together aerial mosaics and scrutinising them to find signs of Communist camps.

Off duty, he paints pictures of distinction. Captain Fielding, whose home is at Winchester, had his first painting exhibited in Johannesburg when he was only 14 years old. Over the past 35 years he has shown his pictures at scores of exhibitions; in Britain, at the Royal Society of British Artists, the Royal Institution of Oil Painters, the Royal Institute, the Leicester and Leger Galleries, and at the Royal Scottish Academy. His works have also been widely displayed in South Africa, and he has been represented in Jerusalem and Cairo. In eight months he has painted 20 pictures in Malaya.

During World War Two Captain Fielding assisted in the great camouflage deception at El Alamein, and he created his own hocus-pocus in Crete.

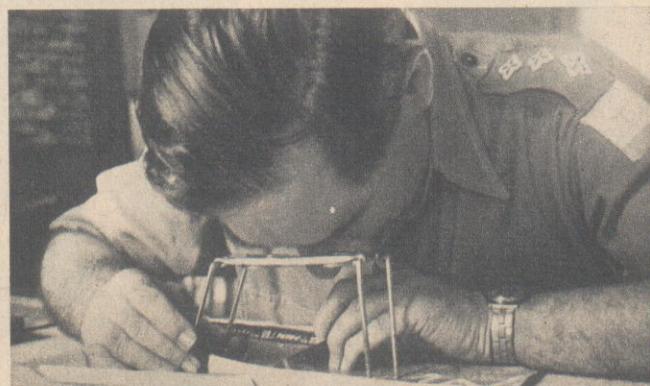
In Malaya he peers for hours on end through a stereoscope. "Interpreting is exacting and requires great concentration," he says.

Before the war Captain Fielding painted scenery for the stage under the late Frank Tyers, scenic artist; he acted, stage-managed and painted scenery at the Old Vic, London; he toured South Africa as an actor with Dennis Neilson-Terry and Mary Glyn; he was an assistant director with Gainsborough Pictures, and he managed cinemas.



Off duty. Captain A. Fielding, with palette and easel.

On duty. Right: Captain Fielding hunts bandits — with a stereoscope.



## Should a Woman Kill?

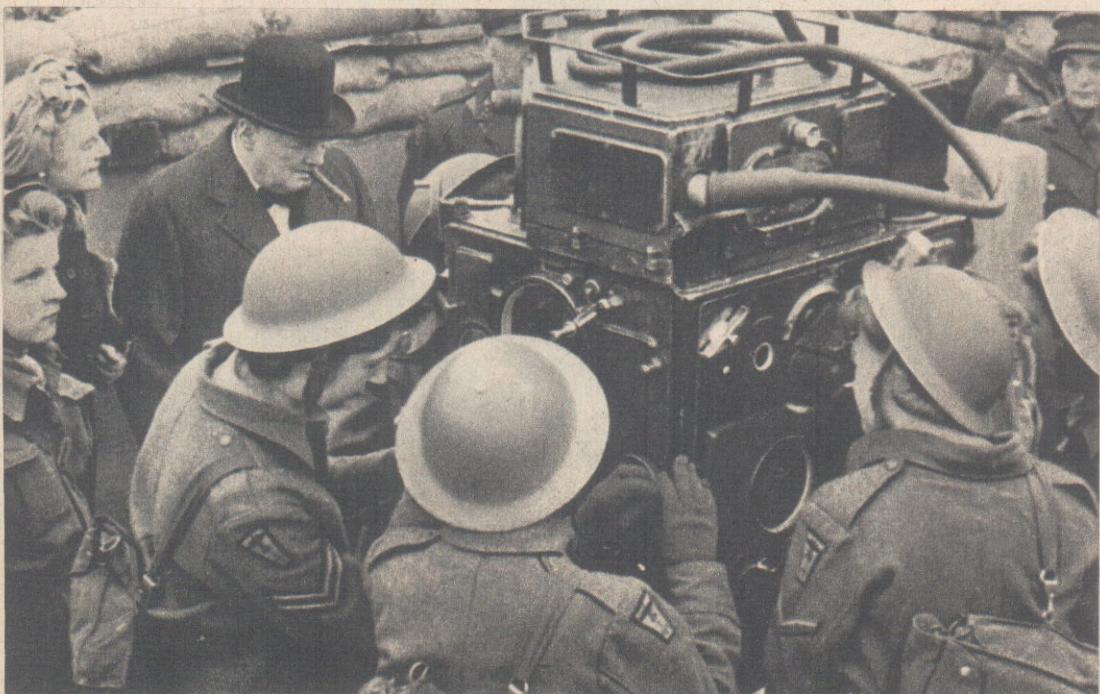


Singing on the march: a mixed platoon of Jugo-Slav partisans, on an island in the Adriatic during the war.



Left: One of Russia's women snipers, Sima Anashkina. Instead of polishing ball bearings, she polished off the enemy. She was awarded the Order of Glory.

Mr. Churchill watches British girls operate an anti-aircraft predictor in the late war. "Women actually proved better in their assigned tasks than did the average male soldier," testifies an American colonel.



MEMBERS of Parliament recently decided that women should be allowed to join the new Home Guard, but that they should not be allowed to carry arms.

"Should a woman kill?" is an old, old subject for debate, and quite recently it has been raised in military circles in America.

Whatever the answer, there is no doubt that during the war British women in uniform *did* kill. Their hands were not on the firing levers of the 3.7's; but their sensitive fingers were on the handwheels of the fire control instruments, their eyes matched the moving pointers which put the guns on target, and it was a female voice which gave the initial order "Fire."

So far Britain has never seriously considered arming women with short-range weapons. True, women occasionally have been discovered serving as men, but they have been quickly expelled from the ranks. Other countries have shown less hesitancy about arming women, however. Russian girl snipers, many of them with dozens and even hundreds of kills to their name, were feted in Britain and America during the late war. Jugo-Slav girls joined the armed partisan bands. And since the war the state of Israel has trained its women in warlike arts.

Still more recently, there have been reports of armed "Daughters of the Nile" preparing to join in the harassing of British forces in the Canal Zone of Egypt; not to mention reports of fierce "women in black" leading the enemy in Korea.

In the Home Guard debate it was Mr. Emanuel Shinwell who suggested that women should be allowed to join, though he did not think they should be armed. Mr. Antony Head, the War Minister, said at once that there was no intention whatever to arm women members of this force.

Sir Thomas Moore thought it a debatable point whether women should be trained in the use of rifles. "Personally I cannot see why, if we train women to use anti-aircraft guns, we should not train them also to use rifles. The whole thing seems to me to be illogical." He said he would like to hear what Dr. Edith Summerskill had to say on the subject, since she had taken a prominent part in advocating that women should be trained in the use of arms. But Dr. Summerskill did not rise to the invitation.

Sir Herbert Williams spoke rather wistfully of how he had seen women being trained in the use of arms in Israel. He was not advocating that we should do likewise; but he did say that it was all very well for a "squeamish" member "to talk about womanhood, and so on, but what is to happen when an atom bomb is dropped?" The House left it at that.

The point of view expressed by Sir Thomas Moore was also ventilated by General Sir Frederick Pile, who commanded Britain's wartime anti-aircraft defences, in his book "Ack-Ack." He said: "I see no logical reason why they (the women) should not fire the guns too. There is not much essential difference between manning a GL (radar) set or a predictor and firing a gun; both are means of destroying an enemy aircraft." During the war,



Men and women on parade side by side: a sight not yet seen in the British Army. These are Jugo-Slav partisans of World War Two.

however, "I was not going to suggest going as far as employing (women) on lethal weapons. I was quite aware that there would be struggle enough to get their employment through in any operational form at all."

He was right. Sir James Grigg, then Under-Secretary for War, described the proposal as "breathtaking and revolutionary." There were eloquent protests from the diehards, once the plan became public. But, says General Pile, "it was pure mathematics that forced everybody's hand." In other words, manpower was running disastrously low. The scheme went through, and, says General Pile, "British girls were the first to take their place in a combatant role in any army of the world."

\* \* \* \* \*

age male soldier. Their coolness and courage were amply demonstrated in hundreds of anti-aircraft engagements." (Colonel Davis does not say so, but presumably he means that the delicate touch of a woman on a hand-wheel was more sure than the fumbling fingers of a man).

Some of the public had thought that "women would be coarsened and their morals lowered by military service..." But, as it turned out, "morals in mixed batteries were no lower than in civilian life" (which is not, perhaps, the most flattering of tributes).

In passing, it may be mentioned that the morals of the Jugo-Slav girl partisans were impeccable. Death was the penalty of dishonour.

\* \* \* \* \*

Colonel Davis is convinced that the American public could be made to accept the idea of women operating anti-aircraft equipment, and even to like it. "Our pioneer women, who helped build the nation, endured the hardships of frontier life, and on more than one occasion fought the Indians, side by side with their men." And he goes on to make the point that the destruction of aircraft by gunfire is a very impersonal business. The women operating the fire control instruments do no more towards the kill than the women producing the machines and munitions of war.

"In any case, it should be the privilege of every citizen, man or woman, to fight and destroy any enemy attempting to inflict destruction on this country."

Which is just what the advocates of handing rifles to women have been saying all along!

FOOTNOTE: Members of the Women's Royal Army Corps are encouraged to take up rifle shooting — but as a recreation only.

In Britain, however, "women actually proved better in their assigned tasks than did the aver-

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# Eric Linklater on War in Italy

ERIC Linklater, the novelist, has lately been gathering material in Korea for a history of that war.

If the book he writes is as thorough and workmanlike as "The Campaign In Italy," which has just appeared over his name, the Army will owe a notable debt to this one-time private of the Black Watch.

"The Campaign In Italy" (*His Majesty's Stationery Office, 12s 6d*) is one of a series of books, based on official documents, intended for the general reader. In compiling it, the author had access to the reports of the Historical Sections of the British and American armies, and the usual war diaries. He was also able to draw on his personal experiences in the campaign (experiences of which he made lively use in his light-hearted novel "Private Angelo.")

Those who fear that a novelist, charged with writing a war history, will try his best to get along with the minimum of facts may, in this instance, be reassured. Writing a detailed history now and then is good discipline for an author, and Eric Linklater submits to it. Battalions, regiments, brigades, divisions, corps — they are all named and numbered, as much for the benefit of those who fought as for the future historian. The "general reader" may find the 475-page record heavy going; but when the chronicle of battle allows, the author breaks in with a passage like this, on the surrender of the Italian Fleet:

"By the cold light of accountancy it seemed that we had lost the Mediterranean. But Admiral Cunningham hid his losses from the enemy, used his remaining ships with unfailing courage, with unresting vigour, with a genius that united these qualities in a matchless force before which accountancy lost its significance, and the Duce's swift and lovely fleet, like Cleopatra's flagship, turned tail and fled. And now, after three years of unrelenting struggle, Sir Andrew saw, in imposing procession on the summer sea, the greatness of his reward."

Some more passages like that would have been welcome.

Of the troops in Italy, the author says:

"They deserved more than they gained, the polyglot soldiers of the Allied armies in Italy, and like valiant men the world over they had given more than they received." But, come fair or foul weather, "there will be some who talk of Alexander, and the great names of the regiments that he led."

How did Alexander himself sum up the campaign? He said:

"The soldiers, sailors and airmen of so many nationalities who fought in Italy never had the



Eric Linklater: his next book will be on Korea.

pleasure of a conquering advance into the heart of Germany; they had none of the obvious targets before them which buoyed up the spirits of their comrades on the Western Front, but only one more mountain range or river to cross in the face of an enemy resistance which never seemed to weaken. Perhaps not very many of them realised how vital was the part they played, but all could feel pride in the way in which they played it..." That is the final sentence of Field Marshal Viscount Alexander's dispatches "The Italian Campaign," recently published by His Majesty's Stationery Office (3s).

(See also *SOLDIER to Soldier*, Page 7)

## He Reported Korea

THE race to bring out the first book on the Korean war has been won by Reginald Thompson with "Cry Korea" (*Macdonald, 16s*). As a war correspondent, Mr. Thompson joined the United Nations forces just after the Inchon landing, accompanying them on the ill-fated drive to the Manchurian border and back.

His book is a personal, lively and provocative story, containing enough details about the trials of reporting a war at a cable charge of 1s 1½d a word to persuade any would-be "warco" to take up insurance or accountancy.

The soldier tends to look on the writings of war correspondents with reserve. Their worries dwindle beside his. Which is the graver calamity, a missed deadline or a missed objective? Mr Thompson, unlike some war correspondents, has been a soldier himself and does not ask for impossible facilities. (He tells how one American correspondent in Korea marshalled the communications of an army to send back a description — all at 1s 1½d a word — of a luxury six-seater latrine at a headquarters). But Mr Thompson does indulge a few grousers. "War correspondents held the lowest travel priority, and could be moved off a plane at the last moment to make room for any potato peeler . . ." No doubt a potato peeler or two could be found to comment.

Those were the days when United Nations forces were locked in colossal road jams, in the midst of which generals raged. The author has much to say about lack of road discipline. He is critical of protracted hold-ups which need not have happened if Infantrymen had been sent

# Compton Mackenzie on The Indian Army

LATE in 1945 Mr. Compton Mackenzie was pressed by the Government of India to write the story of India's fighting forces during the war "in the form of a popular novel, but strictly accurate as to detail."

Mr. Mackenzie investigated the proposition and decided to write a non-fiction history, on a much more comprehensive scale: half a million words, in fact, divided into two volumes.

The first of these massive volumes has now appeared: "Eastern Epic: Defence" (*Chatto and Windus, 30s*). For his pains, Mr. Mackenzie (along with Mr. Linklater) has been roundly criticised by a fellow author, who thinks such works are better left to writers of less conspicuous talents. Those who knew the old Indian Army will beg to differ; only a writer of the highest professional repute, they will say, is worthy to write its story.

Nobody can accuse Mr. Mackenzie of scamping the job, or of any lack of warmth for his subject. A man in his sixties, he travelled 60,000 miles visiting the scattered

and often well-nigh inaccessible battle-fields where the Indian troops fought. In his foreword he lists by name more than 40 generals with whom he talked personally; and that takes no account of scores of lower-ranking authorities he consulted.

It may be true, as Mr. Mackenzie's critic has said, that "Eastern Epic," detailed and documented as it is, is not the kind of book which can be read straight through. Those who served with the Indian Army will probably dive for the index to find out what Mr. Mackenzie has said about their particular unit. Others, who have painful reason to be interested in the events attending the fall of Malaya or of Hong-Kong, will at once turn to the appropriate chapters. Very few generals will not be intimately interested in some part of this volume.

The book covers the events from the beginning of the war down to March 1943, taking in the Eritrean, Syrian, Burma, Malaya and North African campaigns, among others. The author describes, not only battlefield actions, but such operations as the evacuation from Rangoon of the "famous and well-beloved" Wasbies (Women's Auxiliary Service, Burma).

For the authorities who neglected the Far East defences Mr. Mackenzie has very hard words, accusing them of "pusillanimous economy" and "besotted un-readiness." He scolds Mr. Churchill for his version of the Syrian campaign in "The Second World War," saying: "If you can believe that you can believe anything."

In circumstances of "almost unimaginable frustration and difficulty," says the author, British officers raised and led to victory "the greatest army of volunteers the world has ever known." And with that victory they helped win for India and Pakistan "the independence so long and so ardently desired."

★ Mr. Compton Mackenzie was a second-lieutenant in the 1st Hertfordshire Regiment in 1900-01; a captain in the Royal Marines in World War One, and later Director of the Aegean Intelligence Service.



Compton Mackenzie: he talked to 40 generals.

# There was Also The Lady With The Lamp

**M**OTHER Seacole was her name. It was not her fault that she became the Lady With The Lamp instead of the Lady With The Lamp.

In her own sphere, that of running a canteen, she did a better job than Florence Nightingale.

Major Reginald Hargreaves tells the story of Mary Seacole in one of the chapters of his book "This Happy Breed" (Skeffington, 18s). The lady was born in Jamaica, the daughter of a Scottish officer and the Creole proprietress of a hotel. Her ambition was to join Miss Nightingale's band of nurses in the Crimea.

When, clutching her cotton umbrella, she reached Scutari, Mary Seacole was kept waiting for half an hour before Miss Nightingale would see her. During that period, she busied herself ministering to wounded redcoats lying unattended. Then came a chilly interview; Miss Nightingale had not liked the newcomer "interfering" with her charges. There was quite a contrast between "the ascetic, wraith-like gentlewoman, in all the severity of her garb of mercy, and the exotic, loudly clad, flamboyant, coffee-tinted child of the Eastern sun who faced her."

In Scutari, as the author points out, there was no room for two strong-willed women. Mary Seacole retired as gracefully as she could, still clutching her cotton umbrella, and decided to become a sutleress — but a sutleress with a difference. Her "British Hotel" was a haven, not only for the dejected redcoats, but for members of Lord Lucan's Staff (including one of Queen Victoria's own nephews), the "swells" of the "Heavies" and the dashing hussars and lancers of Lord Cardigan's "Light" Brigade. But this distinguished patronage meant little to Mary Seacole; time and again she went out, under fire, with comforts for the wounded men lying where they had fallen. Her courage was such that the

William Wordsworth watched him "triangulating away with unabated zest" on a remote mountain top in Cumberland, and wrote in his poem "The Black Combe":  
*Know . . .  
That on the summit whither thou art bound  
A geographic labourer pitched his tent,  
With books supplied and instruments of art,  
To measure height and distance: lonely task,  
Week after week pursued . . .*

Among other topics dealt with, in authoritative and witty fashion, by Major Hargreaves are the forgotten "invasion" of Britain by the French in 1797; the comedies of old-time recruiting; the case of John Shipp, the only man to have been twice commissioned for bravery in the field; the drinking of healths; the rise of the war correspondent; and the British soldier as ambassador.

## The Warwicks won 40-0

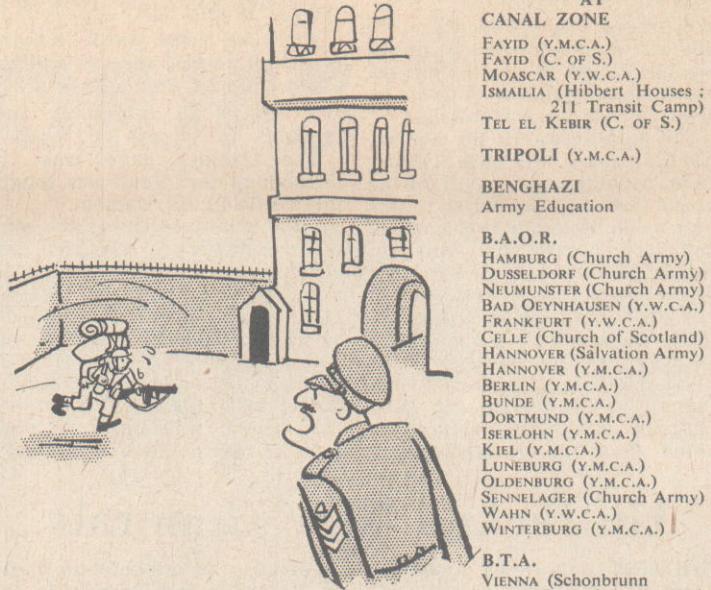
NOT long before the outbreak of World War One, the German battleship *Gneisenau* entered Bombay harbour, with the Crown Prince on board. As a friendly gesture the Warwickshire Regiment, stationed in Bombay, arranged to play the crew at football.

Since the Warwickshire team was a strong one, and it did not seem desirable to trounce the visitors too severely, the commanding officer directed that a second-class team be fielded. Unfortunately, as the game progressed, it appeared that these instructions had miscarried, and the match ended with a victory for the Warwicks by 40 goals to nil. When the colonel demanded an explanation from the officer responsible, he received the answer, "I was not taking any risks with Germans."

The culprit was Major Bernard Law Montgomery, an officer who in later life achieved some fame by pursuing a policy of not taking any risks with Germans.

This story is told by Lady Peacock in "Field-Marshal Viscount

Continued Overleaf



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**BOOKSHELF (Continued)**

will," says Lady Peacock. "He was just as stubborn about drinking; he refused to sign the pledge, but when he was free to do as he liked, he became a teetotaler."

The authoress tells the not unfamiliar story of how Officer Cadet Montgomery got off on the wrong foot at Sandhurst. Even after he had rehabilitated himself, and had passed out thirtieth among 150 cadets, one officer told him: "You are quite useless; you will get nowhere in the Army."

Not so familiar, perhaps, are the terms of the message Field-Marshal Montgomery sent to the Cabinet in the summer of 1942, when he was being pressed to mount an attack against Rommel:

1. If the attack starts in September it will fail.

2. If we wait until October, I will guarantee success and the destruction of Rommel's army.

3. Am I to attack in September?

The Cabinet gave way. In October of that year was fought the Battle of El Alamein.

"His is the spirit of the crusader, believing in the rightness of his cause and inspiring others with his own faith and enthusiasm," writes Lady Peacock. One of those whom he inspired was Lady Peacock's son, P. David le Mesurier Humphreys, a second lieutenant in the Royal Horse Artillery who was killed at Alamein. To him the book is dedicated.

## He Picked Nine Generals

**PICKING** a team of generals from history, as cricket fans build up paper teams including Grace, Bradman and Bedser, is the sort of game one can imagine the Imperial Defence College playing in its lighter moments.

It has also been played, with a difference, by Barrett Parker in editing "Famous British Generals" (Nicholson and Watson, 12s 6d). Mr. Parker has picked nine generals, not for different qualities which would blend them into a team but according to a set of rules of his own devising.

Each, he claims, has some of the qualities essential to a great commander as laid down by Lord Wavell in a famous series of lectures. A general, said Lord Wavell, must know what he wants and have the courage and determination to get it; he must have an interest in and knowledge of humanity, the raw material of his trade; the will to win; the spirit of adventure; and a touch of the gambler. Lord Wavell added that the general who allowed himself to be bound and hampered by regulations was unlikely to win a battle.

## Merging the Old Comrades

**F**OR nearly 250 years the 5th Dragoon Guards and the 6th Inniskilling Dragoons pursued their separate and honourable courses, building up their own traditions and customs.

In 1922, with reluctance but good grace, the two regiments became one, but the past members of the Regiment did not accept the merger so readily. In 1929, says Major-General R. Evans in "The Story of the Fifth Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards" (Gale and Polden, 21s) "there still remained the two separate Old Comrades Associations, each fiercely cherishing its own identity."

So the serving members decided to take their predecessors in hand. They held an old comrades reunion in York, with all the usual ceremonies. Afterwards the old men went away satisfied with the new Regiment. Six months later, the two associations merged.

Each year, the Regiment celebrates "Oates Sunday," to commemorate that "very gallant gentleman" Captain L. E. G. Oates, who was seconded from the Inniskilling Dragoons to accompany Captain Scott's expedition to the South Pole. Crippled by frostbite, Captain Oates walked

**SPORT**

There's good sport for

# A CABIN IN THE CAIRNGORMS



Three log cabins (originally built by Canadian lumberjacks during the war) were reassembled as one. It was a heavy job of manhandling. Below: setting out for a day's sport. Last year there was skiing on Midsummer's Day.



Service skiers in the Scots mountains — and a warm fire at the day's end

# THE CAIRNGORMS

**A**BOVE Rothiemurchus, 1400 feet up in the foothills of the Cairngorm mountains of Scotland, is a large log cabin which awakes to vigorous life on winter week-ends. It is a "base camp" for Service skiers.

The cabin used to be three cabins. They were originally erected 20 miles away by Canadian lumberjacks, felling timber in the Scots forests during World War Two.

Moving and rebuilding the huts was an operation conducted by Highland District. It involved much toil and strain, and — because of long periods of unsuitable weather — it lasted two years.

The three-in-one cabin stands near the entrance to the Lairig Ghru, the great cleft running through the Cairngorms from Royal Deeside to Glen More. Its site was lent by Colonel Grant the Younger of Rothiemurchus. The cost of building and equipping the hut was met by the Nuffield Trust.

In no sense is the cabin a luxury hotel. Leave parties bring their own rations, do their own cooking and other chores. There are wooden, double-tier beds with mattresses, pillows and three blankets. In summer (when the hut is used by hill-walkers) visitors bring their own sheets; in winter it is better to bring a sleeping-bag as well.

The hut is self-sufficient — it needs to be, as it is eight miles from the nearest station, at Aviemore, and two miles from the nearest road. Its kitchen has a large oven and two calor-gas cookers, and there are pressure lamps for lighting. Water can be heated by calor-gas or in boilers over wood fires. There are wash-basins, mirrors and even a bath, though the bath tends to be ignored when the thermometer shows 20 degrees of frost.

The cabin has beds for 40 people, 36 of whom can eat at a sitting in the big common room with brick fireplace and benches

As early as possible, the parties



set off up the mountain. Half an hour's steady climbing brings them to the top of Castle Hill, a 2200-foot crest which offers splendid ski-ing slopes, especially for beginners, who offer up the learner's prayer:

O wad some power the giftie  
gie us  
Tae ski ourselves as other  
skiers.

More experienced skiers make day-long trips to the higher peaks. Cairngorm, 4084 feet high, is the favourite, but there are those who fancy Braeriach (4241 feet), and the highest of all, Ben Macdui (4296), bastion by ridges and ravines. Ben Macdui is the haunt of the "Grey Man," the ghost of an old laird who wanders among the crags when they are shrouded in mist. He is ten feet tall and his favourite trick is to frighten people over a precipice into the gulf of the Lairig Ghru. The legend may stem from the fact that in certain conditions the climber's own shadow is projected on to the wall of mist before him, twice as large as life.

The Cairngorms have several other claims to fame. They form the largest mountain mass in Britain, with several hundred acres higher than 4000 feet and many square miles over 3000 feet. Their climate is Britain's nearest approach to the sub-arctic.

Log fire in a log cabin: this party of visitors included many cadets from Sandhurst.

There are easy slopes and hard slopes — but there are no ski lifts or funiculars.

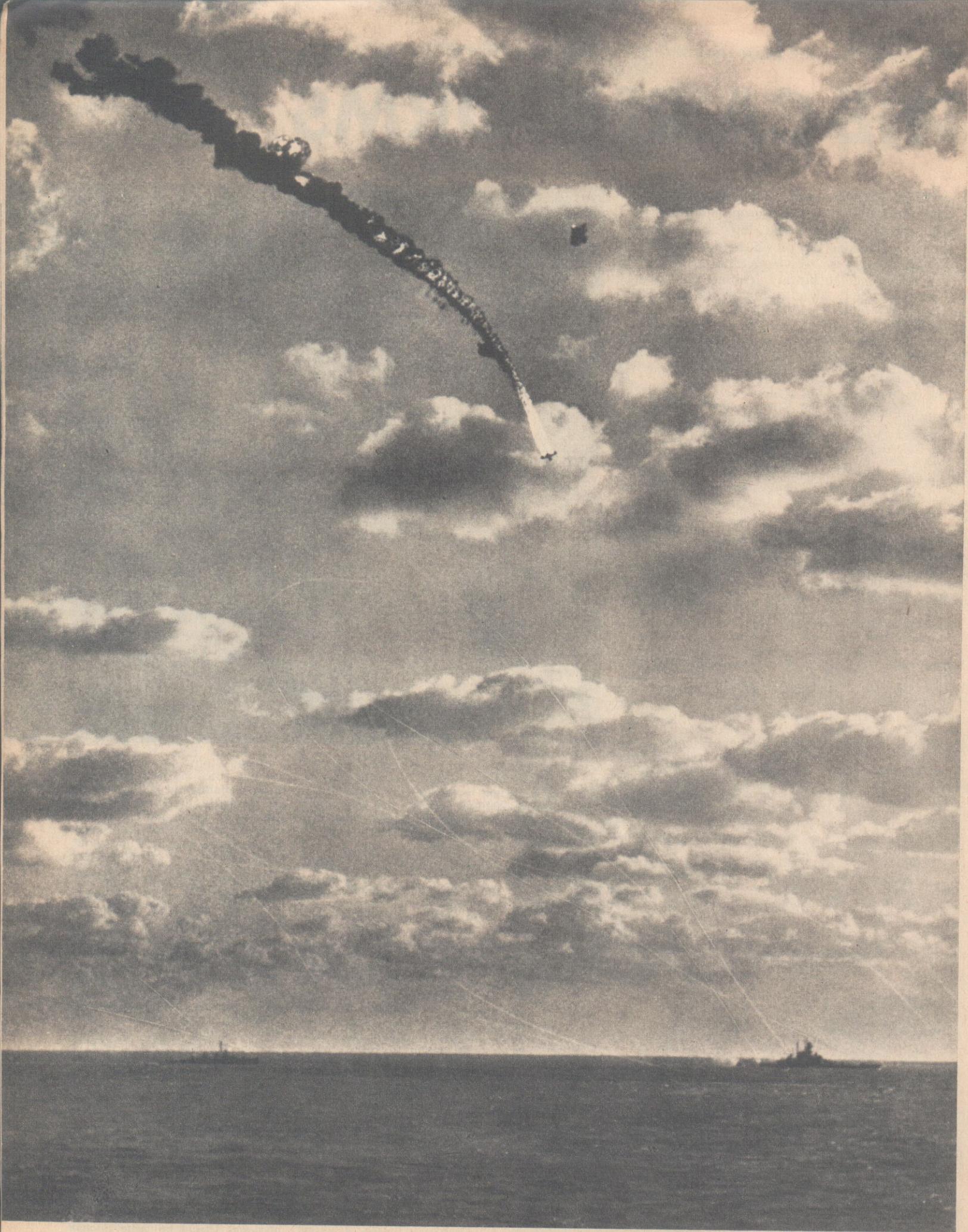


In the stony corries, circular hollows on the mountainside, flourish plants and lichens which are normally found only in the sub-arctic. Herds of red deer roam the mountains, but go down to the glens in the winter and stand and stare at climbers passing up the track between the roadhead and the hut. Grouse call continually and on the high shoulders live ptarmigan, which are rarely seen below the snow-line.

Going can be tough when heather and boulders are covered with loose snow, but the views from the ski-slopes are magnificent. The weather may vary from sunshine in the morning to a heavy blizzard by late afternoon, and this may last 24 hours without a break or give way to more sunshine the next morning.

Soldiers who ski in these hills for pleasure may like to remember that the men of 52nd (Lowland) Division spent arduous war-time winters amid the snowy peaks of the Cairngorms, training in the arts of snow warfare.

★ Men and women of all ranks of the active Services may use the Rothiemurchus hut on payment of 1s 6d a night maintenance charge. Applications should be made through units to the Honorary Secretary, Rothiemurchus Hut Committee, HQ, 51st Highland Division and Highland District, Craigie House, Perth.



## SOLDIER SCRAPBOOK OF WORLD WAR TWO

PAGE 32

Going down . . . The anti-aircraft gunner rarely sees such dramatic evidence of the accuracy of his shooting as this. The picture was taken during an attack by Japanese aircraft on American warships in the Pacific.

# How New Zealand Does It

FROM its first batch of compulsory recruits, the New Zealand Army produced not only soldiers but the cast of a film as well.

The film, "The Territorial Soldier," was made to show later recruits and their parents, what to expect. It was exhibited in London recently to military correspondents of a number of newspapers, to give the outside world a glimpse of New Zealand's National Service scheme in operation.

Except for the traditional scout-style hat of the New Zealand Army, and for some of the background, the film might have been made in any British National Service training centre. Training and weapons used were the same; so were recreational activities.

Where the New Zealand National Serviceman differs most from his British counterpart is in his service obligation. The New Zealand Army, with no garrison duties to perform, has no need to retain its National Servicemen once they are trained. So when New Zealand decided to introduce compulsory service, the period of full-time service was set at 14 weeks.

Of this period, six weeks are spent in basic training and the rest in corps training. After that, the National Serviceman joins a Territorial unit in the same way as the British National Service-

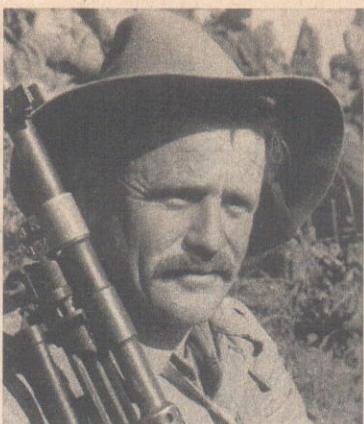
## National Service occupies 14 weeks — with three years Territorial service to follow

man. For three years he must do three weeks service in the year, then he goes on to the Reserve.

When the scheme was first introduced, the call-up age was set at 18, but as no New Zealand soldier under 21 may be sent overseas, the scheme was not scheduled to produce soldiers for service in an emergency for the first three years.

Because of the international situation, there is now a Bill before the New Zealand Parliament designed so that the scheme shall catch up with the men already between 18 and 21. If it is passed, they, too, will have to do compulsory training. This will mean cutting the full-time National Service to ten-and-a-half weeks instead of 14, but men who are thought suitable to become officers will still train for 14 weeks. When all the men up to 21 have been trained, everybody will do 14 weeks again.

In the Territorial units, officers and NCO's are all volunteers, since they have to devote more than three weeks in the year to training and courses. A man compulsorily serving with a Territorial unit may change his status to that of volunteer and thus become eligible for promotion and, perhaps, later for a commission.



As fine a type of "Digger" as you could find: Pte. S. Henry, from King Island, Tasmania, serving in Korea.

# FILMS COMING YOUR WAY

The following films will shortly be shown in Army Kinema Corporation cinemas overseas:

### WHERE NO VULTURES FLY

The stars of this colour film are the animals in the national parks of Kenya. Its story is based on the struggles of Mervyn Cowie to form the national parks. For additional excitement, the producer has introduced a rascally ivory poacher. There is a fight in the jungle, a motor-car chase across a mountain (which ends with a charge by a rhinoceros) and an encounter in which an African kills a leopard with his bare hands. The cast includes Anthony Steel, Dinah Sheridan, Harold Warrender and some primitive African tribesmen.

### ENCORE

This follows in the tradition of "Quartet" and "Trio" and presents three of Somerset Maugham's short stories. The first is "The Ant and the Grasshopper," about two brothers, one industrious and respectable, the other idle and dissolute, played respectively by Nigel Patrick and Roland Culver, and with a good part for Peter Graves. "Winter Cruise," the second story, concerns a troublesome middle-aged spinster on board ship: stars, Kay Walsh and Ronald Squire. In the third part, "Gigolo and Gigolette," Glynis Johns plays a girl who, for a living, dives from the top of a ladder into a small tank of water with a surface of flaming petrol.

### ANOTHER MAN'S POISON

You never can tell with women novelists. Sometimes they broadcast all their secrets in their books. But Bette Davis keeps quiet about her ne'er-do-well husband and when he appears, neatly poisons him off. Then his partner in crime (Gary Merrill) turns up and life becomes complicated, especially when the local vet (Emlyn Williams) pokes his nose in. There are nearly as many poisonings as in a Shakespeare tragedy.

### LADY GODIVA RIDES AGAIN

What happens to pretty girls with no talent who win beauty contests? The producers of this film have no illusions about the fate which may await professional beauties if they are not careful. They have no illusions, either, about the desirability of a bathing costume parade in a popular film. Dennis Price, John McCallum and Stanley Holloway are the stars and Pauline Stroud (see SOLDIER's back page) is the beauty contest winner.

### MR. DENNING DRIVES NORTH

John Mills, successful aircraft manufacturer, has something on his mind and, to quote the publicity blurb, he "becomes a tormented figure, sharing only with his conscience a terrifying secret which smoulders and flares as the days wear on." In turn fanning the smouldering secret and throwing water on it as it flares are Phyllis Calvert and Sam Wanamaker.

*Don't miss it!*



**Y**OU may buy SOLDIER, which costs ninepence, from your unit, canteen or AKC cinema. Or you can make sure of your copy now by ordering direct on the form below.

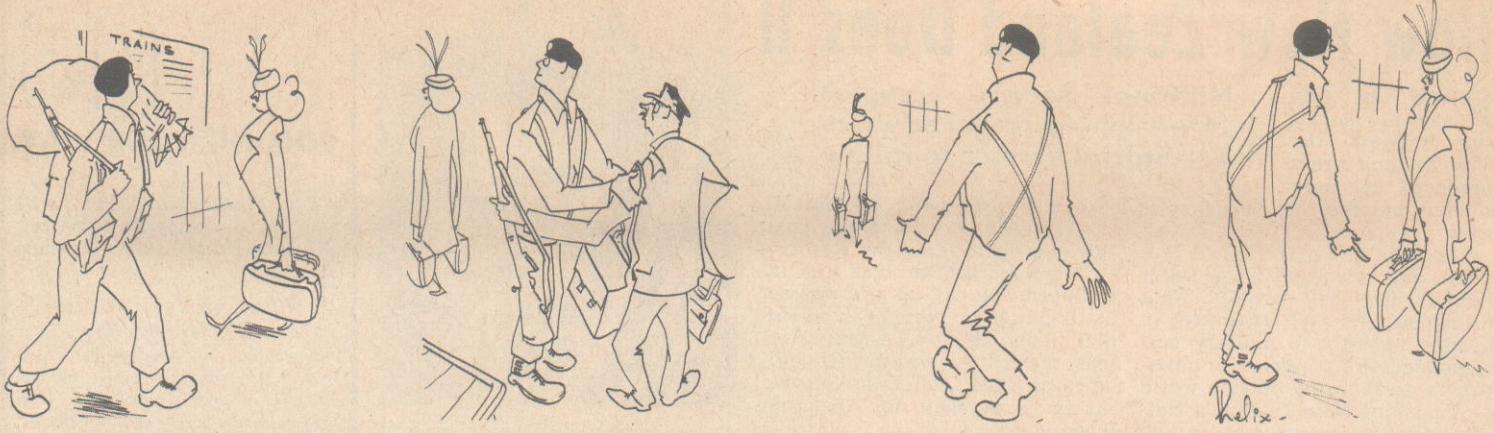
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<b>ORDER FORM</b>	
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Please send ..... copies of SOLDIER each month for ..... months,	
beginning with the issue for the month of ..... (BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)	
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UK Cheque or Postal Order value ..... is enclosed.	
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SOLDIER costs eleven shillings for one year (12 copies) — post free.	

The best-known action in which 45 Field Regiment took part was the Battle of the Imjin, in which the Gloucesters made their famous stand. Five officers and 22 men of the Field Regiment were lost. The guns were in action for 80 hours, firing more than 22,000 rounds. Twice the gun positions were under enemy observation and fire, and the gunners fired over open sights.

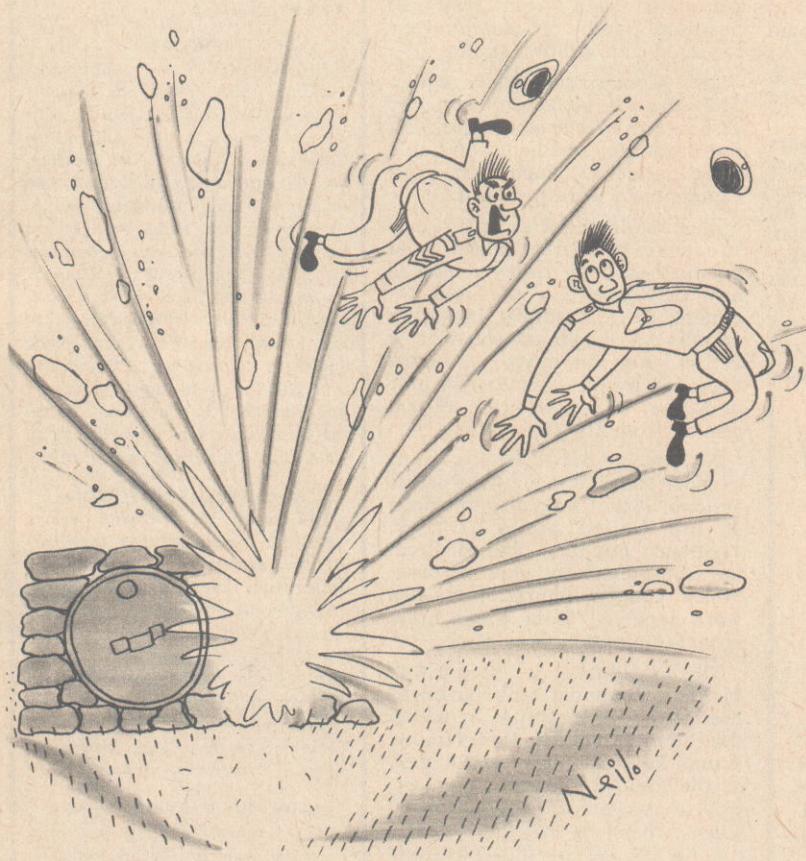
Back in Hong-Kong too, is 170 Light (Mortar) Battery, Royal Artillery, which also fought by the side of the Gloucesters and shared the United States Presidential Citation for that action.

In September the Battery joined 28 Brigade in its assault on the enemy's winter line. The operation was a great success and the mortars fired more than 12,000 bombs in four days. Its main contribution was a ten-day smoking of the 355 Feature, until the hill was taken by the King's Own Scottish Borderers.

The Battery arrived in Hong-Kong sadly depleted. Its hard core of reservists were on their way home and it had left its "K" volunteers in Korea.



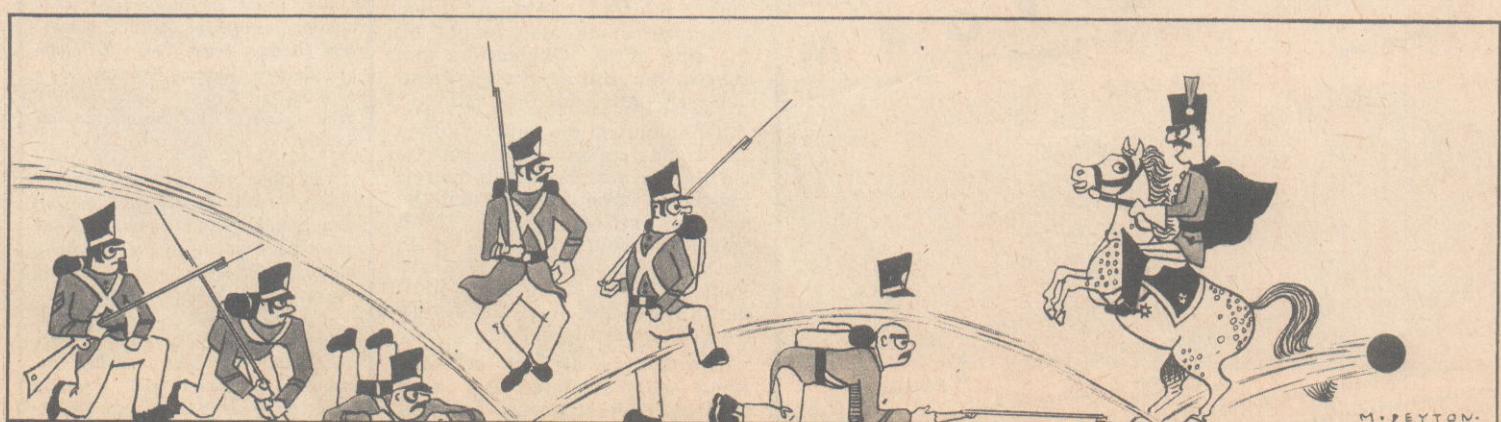
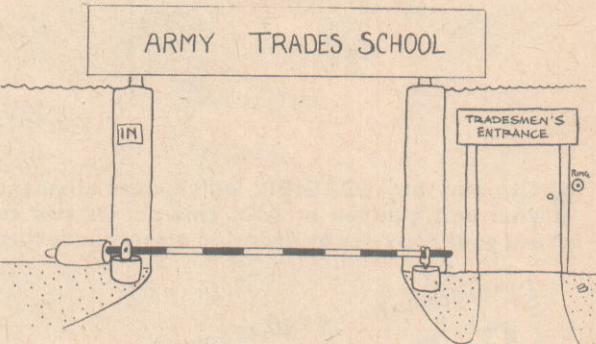
## SOLDIER HUMOUR



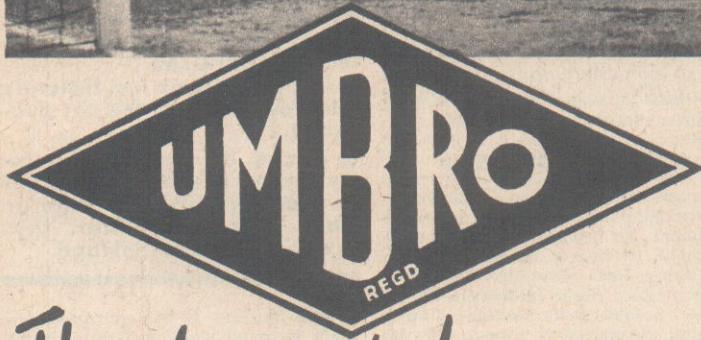
"Next time you make an oven out of petrol drums, make sure they're *both* empty!"



"Why can't you pay me like any other husband?"



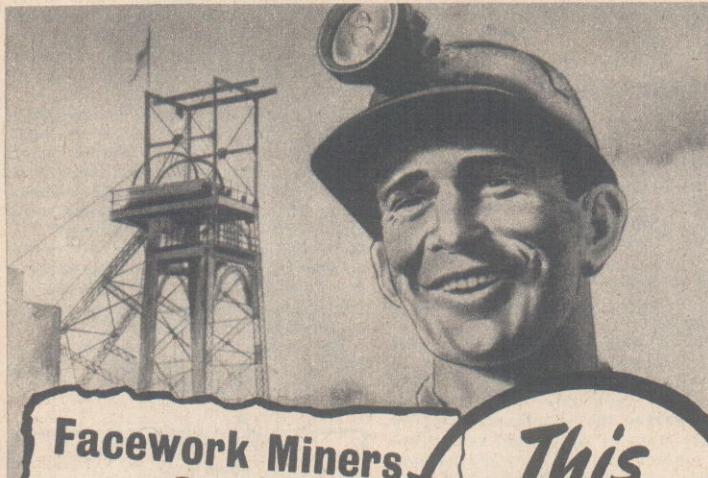
"As you were!"



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MM.4

# RISE AND SHINE!

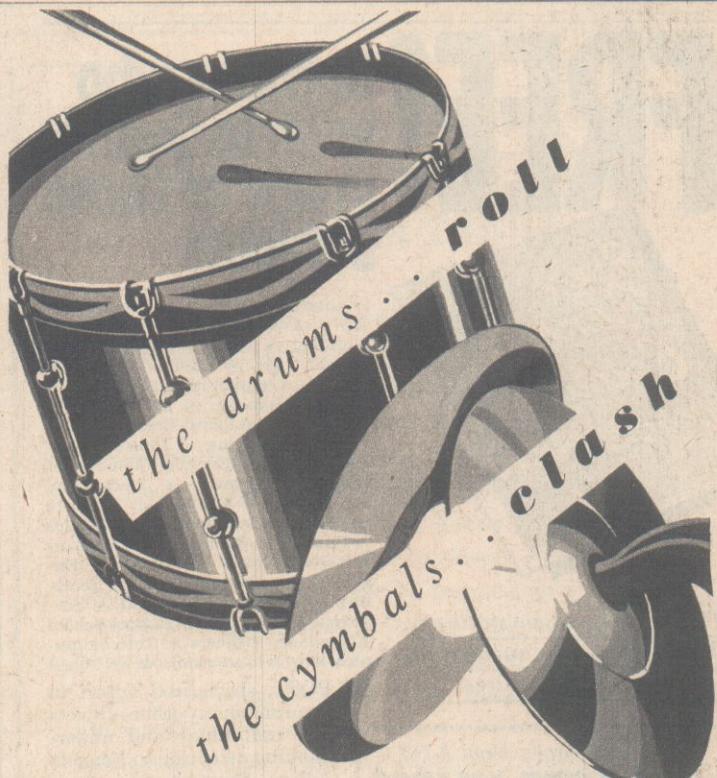
R.S.M. A. J. BRAND, M.V.O., M.B.E.,  
gives his 7 point recommendation  
for a parade ground polish.

Known throughout the British Army as "The Voice," R.S.M. Brand, late of the Grenadier Guards and the R.M.A. Sandhurst, has used and recommended Kiwi for twenty-five years. Here is his 7 point method for getting a parade ground polish on a boot.

- 1 Get a tin of Kiwi Polish.
- 2 Take the lid off the tin.
- 3 Remove dust and dirt from the boot.
- 4 Put a little Kiwi on the boot with a rag or brush.
- 5 Damp a rag with water.
- 6 Moisten the boot with the rag.
- 7 Finish with a dry cloth and "You could shave in it."

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# LETTERS



## NON-COMBATANT

Can you tell me which corps are officially non-combatant? — A. J. Jones (address supplied).

★ Only the Non-Combatant Corps. Other corps are no longer described as being either combatant or non-combatant, and King's Regulations are being amended to this effect.

## HEREFORDSHIRES

I have recently been involved in an argument about the Herefordshire Regiment. To my knowledge no such regiment exists; it is not listed in the Army List, although there is a Herefordshire Light Infantry (TA).

The person with whom I was arguing produced a brooch of the badge of the Herefordshire Regiment and I have also been shown a photo-stat copy of the "Extract from the Title Deed" in which the freedom of Hereford was conferred on the regiment in 1945. Can you solve the mystery? — "Signals Serjeant," Beverley, Yorks.

★ In 1947 it was decided to make the Herefordshire Regiment, a Territorial unit, part of the Light Infantry Group to which its parent corps, the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, belonged. Therefore under Army Order 67 of that year the title was changed to the Herefordshire Light Infantry. The cap badge was altered to incorporate the Light Infantry bugle horn.

## SEPARATED HUSBAND

If a soldier is separated from his wife, can he occupy a married quarter with his children and draw the usual allowances?

Can he take his children overseas to a families station and be given quarters and allowances normally paid to a man accompanied by his wife? If so, is he allowed a reduced rate of travel on a troopship for a nursemaid?

I have seen a newspaper report about troops at Windsor living in five-guineas-a-week furnished flats for which they pay only 17s, the Army paying the rest. Does this apply to any unit in any town in Britain and where are the instructions laid down? — "Unhappy Husband" (name and address supplied).

★ Normally, if a soldier is separated from his wife but has the custody of the children, he can apply for a married quarter subject to the general provisions of King's Regulations. In addition, he is entitled to marriage allowance. If he qualifies as above, he is entitled to have his family in any families station, with passage paid from public funds, provided that the Commander-in-Chief gives his permission, that adequate accommodation exists and that the family will be with the father for at least nine months. In a station abroad, overseas allowances would be paid in the normal way.

If the husband has a child under ten years of age and the nurse or governess is not entitled to a free passage under regulations (the husband being below the rank of lieutenant-colonel), a passage may be provided on prepayment by the husband of the full cost if the journey is by sea. If the husband is serving at an overseas station where the

## ● 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. 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 own orderly room or from your own officer, thus saving time and postage.

normal routing is by chartered aircraft, he must make private arrangements for the nurse to fly out.

The scheme whereby furnished houses are hired as married quarters was adopted in stations where the number of official quarters is below scale. It is purely a temporary measure until more are built. There is no ACI on the subject; instructions were laid down in a War Office Letter sent to units in March 1949, and amended last August.

## WHAT ALLOWANCES?

I was married by commanding officer's consent 18 months ago, but as I am still under the age of 21 I am not yet eligible for married quarters. I understand, however, that it would be in order for my wife to join me here and for both of us to live in civilian quarters.

Having found suitable accommodation, I would like to know to what allowances I become entitled when my wife arrives. I have been told that I cannot claim local overseas allowance, but do I qualify for rent allowance and ration money? — Bandsman D. G. Simmons, The Northamptonshire Regiment, Trieste.

★ This soldier can claim the following allowances if he lives in private accommodation in Trieste:

Ration allowance, £1 4s 6d; marriage allowance, £2 2s; local overseas allowance (at single accommodated

## Answers

(from Page 18)

### How Much Do You Know?

- (a) Austria; (b) Switzerland; (c) Sweden; (d) Albania. 3. *Piano*, soft; *forte*, loud. 4. Anger, pride, gluttony, lust, avarice, envy and sloth. 5. *Cyrano de Bergerac*. 6. Bill Brewer, Jan Stewer, Peter Gurney, Peter Davey, Dan' Whiddon, Harry Hawk. 7. A steel bar, a foot long, sharpened at one end, for opening strands of rope when splicing. 8. *Tobacconist*. 9. *The Times*. 10. One thousand million. 11. (a) red herring; (b) red handed; (c) red letter; (d) redshank; (e) red tape; (f) red lead. 12. A summons to a Member of Parliament to attend a division, underlined three times to stress its importance. 13. Prince Edward Island. 14. (a) Italy; (b) lions; (c) ducks; (d) polo. 15. Overload petrol tanks used by fighter aircraft in Italy during the war.

### Crossword

ACROSS: 1. Affection. 8. Redoubt. 9. Toe. 10. Vital. 12. Elate. 13. Draft. 15. Wüder. 16. Nap. 17. Pretext. 19. Preceding.

DOWN: 2. Fad. 3. Equal. 4. Tithe. 5. Outward. 6. Provident. 7. Desecrate. 11. Trapper. 14. Topic. 15. Wield. 18. Ern.

rate), 1s 9d. The local overseas allowance cannot be paid at married rate as this is only payable to soldiers over the age of 21. Marriage allowance is taxable but the other two are not. There is no rent allowance.

#### MIXED MARRIAGE

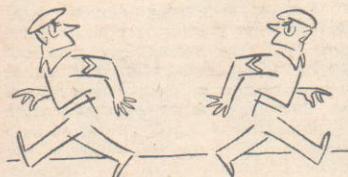
I am stationed in Japan. Now that the Japanese Peace Treaty has been signed are we allowed to marry local girls? — "Pro-Geisha" (name and address supplied).

★ The Commander-in-Chief of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces, Japan has issued instructions (covering 12 pages) governing marriages between British subjects and non-British Asiatics. These should be available in your unit.

#### WHO IS SENIOR?

If two NCO's of equivalent rank are promoted the same day, how is their individual seniority determined? — "Agitated Arthur" (name and address supplied).

★ The deciding factor is the date on which they were promoted to their previous junior rank. If two men are



promoted to lance-corporal on the same day, and then are promoted to corporal together, their seniority is decided by the dates on which they enlisted.

#### FILM SPEED

In your answers to "How Much Do You Know?" (November) you say that film passes through the cinema projector at 32 feet a minute. In fact, the speed is 18 frames per second, or approximately a 1000-ft reel in 11 minutes, giving a rate of 90 feet per minute for standard 35 mm films. For 16 mm the speed is 36 feet a minute. — Signalman Peter Johnson, Royal Signals, Catterick.

#### "SOLDIERS THREE"

Mr. E. V. Hodkinson says that in the film "Soldiers Three" the men had Short-Magazine Lee-Enfields instead of Lee-Metfords. If he refers to "Black Jack" he will find that the Martini-Henry rifle had only just been issued to the regiment and that the men were still trying to use the Snider drill for it.

Another point: were there any Regiments of Artillery then? There was The Regiment of Artillery and there were brigades of Artillery, but not, I think, regiments. — H. W. Alder, Finsbury Park Road, London, N. 4.

★ "Black Jack" is one of the stories originally published with "Soldiers Three." In many of Kipling's stories of this period reference is made to the newly introduced Martini-Henry rifle.

#### STELLENBOSCH

Your Dutch reader who asked for the origin of the expression "to Stellenbosch an officer," was right in associating it with the Boer War. Stellenbosch was the Advance Base Headquarters of the British Forces, and officers who proved unsuccessful in the field were sent back there. Thus "Stellenbosch" became a name synonymous with military failure. The term is still used by venerable members of London clubs. — "Bowler Hat" (name and address supplied).

#### BREVET RANK

THE pre-war rank of brevet lieutenant-colonel has been reintroduced. This is a nominal rank given to majors and carries neither the pay nor the privilege of the higher rank.

Promotion to the rank of major is by time. Above that rank, promotion comes by selection. Majors who would be selected as lieutenant-colonels if the establishment allowed can now be given brevet rank, which means they hold equal place on the roster with substantive or temporary lieutenant-colonels and can thus be considered for promotion to full colonel.

Substantive majors who already hold senior temporary rank (such as temporary brigadier) can also be made brevet lieutenant-colonels. A major serving in a unit which is commanded by a lieutenant-colonel can be given brevet rank and can wear the badges of that rank. Thus it is possible for a company commander in a battalion to be made brevet lieutenant-colonel and to wear the crown and star on his shoulder. He will not, however, draw extra pay.

The brevet rank was suspended in 1939 when the war-time promotion code replaced the peace-time code. With its reintroduction the War Office announced the names of 52 majors who are now granted brevet rank.

#### THAT SIXPENCE

You stated in November that the holder of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal is entitled to sixpence a day if he leaves on pension, in place of the £5 normally given. Surely this is an error? — "Long Serviceman" (name and address supplied).

★ It was. The only monetary award is a gratuity of £5.

#### HIRE PURCHASE

I decided to buy a bicycle locally on hire purchase. One shop would not consider Servicemen as customers, and another, after I had paid a deposit of £4, decided to decline my custom.

Is this fair to Servicemen? Considering that traders accept civilians in far poorer circumstances, I think this is a slur on our honesty. — WOII A. B. Jarvis, Royal Engineers, 22 Warwick Camp, Botcherville, Carlisle.

★ Many hire purchase firms say they have had to make a rule not to accept Servicemen customers who, unlike local residents, are liable suddenly to be posted overseas.

#### LUXURY BATH

I was interested in your article on Kuala Lumpur (SOLDIER, May), particularly in the reference to the new swimming pool recently opened there. What a pleasure it would be to have one here in Lagos, where the climate is similar although perhaps more humid!

I noticed in your March issue an article on the even finer pool at Bad Oeynhausen, which must have cost something in excess of the £17,000 used in Malaya. The old Command swimming baths at Aldershot, the home of Army swimming since before World War One, may be considered antique in comparison with the one in Germany. This latter bath would have been of far greater service had it been built on home soil to continue the traditions of nearly half a century of military swimming. It would also have stood comparison with the equivalent

Continued Overleaf



"I was in the first war. Eleventh Hussars. The old Cherry Pickers."

"Well, they sure picked a winner when they picked Cherry Blossom Boot Polish!"

CB/1a/52

## OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT IN THE TEA TRADE

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## 100,000 CHANCES of HAIR Falling Out Too Soon

THE INSET illustration shows one of the 100,000 or so "pits" out of which the hair grows. (There are about 1,000 to every square inch of scalp.)

Under the microscope the sides of these pits are seen to be covered with rows upon rows of minute notches, intended to lock into similar notches in every growing hair.

Unfortunately illness, overwork, and other unnatural conditions frequently cause the pits to sag wide open. Then the hair, robbed of support, is easily loosened, and an alarming hairfall follows.

New hairs, in all likelihood weaker ones, take the place of those that have fallen; for the excessive demands on the hair roots strain Nature's resources.

The beginning of hair troubles such as receding at the forehead, thinning at the crown, or general thinning, can often be traced to these causes.

Yet the scalp condition described above responds well as a rule to treatment. And with a successful response, the gaping sides of the "pits" close up, allowing their rows upon rows of saw-edged notches firmly to interlock with the saw-edged notches of the hairs. Then,



as the new shoots sent up by the hair roots make their appearance, the thin covering of hair gives place to normal density of growth.

So says Mr. Arthur J. Pye, the Consulting Hair Specialist, who for upwards of 30 years has conducted a hair treatment practice in Blackpool for such troubles as Falling Hair, Premature Loss of Hair, Greyness, Greasy or Dry Dandruff, etc. Those who cannot visit him should send for his book, "HOW TO TREAT HAIR TROUBLES." It is fully illustrated with diagrams and photographs, printed in large type on good paper, and gives a clear and detailed account of the various hair disorders that yield well to a timely reconditioning treatment applied to the scalp. A free copy will be sent on application, addressed to: Arthur J. Pye, 5, Queen Street, Blackpool S. 89.

POST THIS FORM

To Arthur J. Pye, 5, Queen Street, Blackpool S. 89.

Send Book and particulars of treatments, post free.

NAME (Block letters)

ADDRESS (Block letters)

JANUARY, 1952

## MORE LETTERS

Royal Naval and Royal Air Force establishments at home.

Perhaps a *SOLDIER* reader can give a good reason for the construction of such a fine building in occupied Germany where fine pools already exist? This new pool will ultimately be handed over to our late enemies. This is shown by the fact that the dimensions are in metres. Army championship distances are measured in yards. — Sjt. J. A. Ellis, RAOC, Command Ordnance Depot, APO Lagos, Nigeria.

★ The Army Sports Control Board say: "The bath at Bad Oeynhausen was charged to occupation costs, which means that the Germans paid for it in materials and labour. It will ultimately return to them. The same system does not obtain in Britain where building of houses has enjoyed first priority since the war and swimming baths are most expensive."

NOTE: Sergeant John Ellis is an Army record-breaking swimmer.

### VICTORIA CROSS

Which regiment or corps in the British Army has been awarded most Victoria Crosses, and which has been awarded most bars to VC's? How many VC's have been awarded to the Lancashire Fusiliers? — Fusilier E. Currie, Lancashire Fusiliers, MELF.

★ The Royal Artillery (including the Royal Horse Artillery) has the highest number of Victoria Crosses — 61. The RAMC has the most bars — two. The Lancashire Fusiliers have been awarded 18 VC's.

Who was the first man in the Gurkha Army to be awarded the Victoria Cross in Malaya? Who was the first man in the Malay Regiment to win the Military Cross? — Private A. Rahman B. Khatid, 2nd Malay Regiment, Malaya.

★ No VC's have been awarded to members of the Brigade of Gurkhas for service in Malaya. The first MC in the Malay Regiment was awarded to Lieut. Ibrahim Bin Ali Ditta for an action in Malaya in 1942, the announcement being published on 1 August 1946.

### HIS MILITARY CROSS

Brigadier Antony Head, the new War Minister, won the Military Cross in 1940. Can you tell me where this was? — "Gunner" (name and address supplied).

★ In May 1940 Major Head was brigade major of 20th Guards Brigade, formed of the Irish and Welsh Guards,

who were rushed from England to defend Boulogne. As communications in the vicinity of the port were non-existent and the battle was always changing, Major Head made many personal reconnaissances "with complete disregard of danger" and established personal contact with the Royal Navy and French Army as well as with our own troops. On one occasion he travelled in a French tank through forward areas to see if the enemy had withdrawn.

Making the recommendation for the award Brigadier W. A. F. L. Fox-Pitt wrote: "His ability to appreciate the situation quickly and make decisions was invaluable to me." The Brigade was ordered back to England after two days' fighting.

### HIS TOUR

I re-enlisted in June 1947 and in the following August was sent to Germany. In August 1950 I went to Britain for three weeks before flying out to Korea to join the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. I went to Hong-Kong in May 1951 and after three months joined my parent regiment, the Gordon Highlanders, in Malaya. I am trying to work out when I am due back in Britain. Can you help? — Private L. East, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders, Malaya.

★ Subject to the exigencies of the Service, this soldier is due home in May 1952. The normal overseas tour is for three years but service in Europe counts in full up to November 1946, as half from then until December 1949 and one-third from January 1950 onwards. Thus this soldier's three years in Germany count as 17 months.

### NO PENSION

I have completed 12 years service and am now on a three-year bounty engagement, but for the past 18 months have been in various sanatoria for pulmonary tuberculosis. As I am to be discharged from the Army I would like to know whether I am entitled to a pension or to a gratuity and civilian clothes. — "Corporal" (name supplied) Preston Hall, Maidstone, Kent.

★ The Army does not pay a pension to men invalidated out unless they were on a 22-years engagement (there was a war-time concession which applied only to men invalidated out between September 1939 and 14 February 1949). However, a gratuity is given under Army Order 18 of 1949. This soldier should receive about £80. A civilian suit is given if six months of the short-service engagement have been served and discharge is through no fault of the soldier.

## NEW YEAR SERMON

THERE is not a man alive who would like to see on his tombstone the epitaph: "Here lies one who meant well." That is faint praise which is indeed damning, for all the world knows that the way to hell is paved with good intentions.

And yet, no more suitable epitaph could be written for most of us. We do mean well. Sometimes our good intentions are formed into practical resolutions, but at the fall of each year we look back — and see the ground strewn with the broken pieces. We make resolutions for the New Year with a steadily declining faith that they will be kept. Perhaps the saddest moment of our lives is when we realise we no longer believe in making good resolutions.

We are defeated because we see ourselves as individuals, responsible to God alone. But God for us has become too loving and indulgent. He is so familiar with our pet weaknesses that surely he must put up with them by now. We find it increasingly difficult to take them seriously. We need to deepen our sense of community. What we do wrong is never our own affair: it has an effect and an influence far greater than we can imagine. When we realise that Christians are not isolated camp followers but members of a team which is the body of Christ, we shall find the incentive to renew our resolutions with vigour. And through the fellowship we can find strength to carry them out.

One good turn  
deserves another



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