

SOLDIER

THE BRITISH

ARMY MAGAZINE

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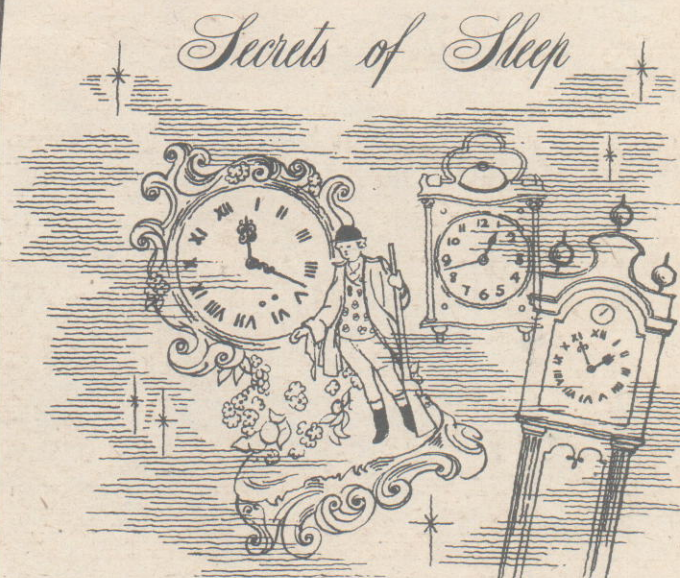
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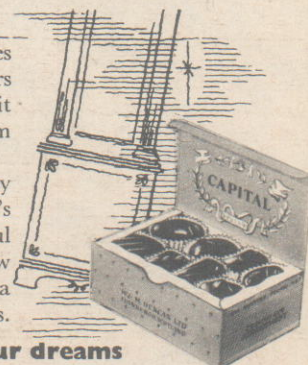
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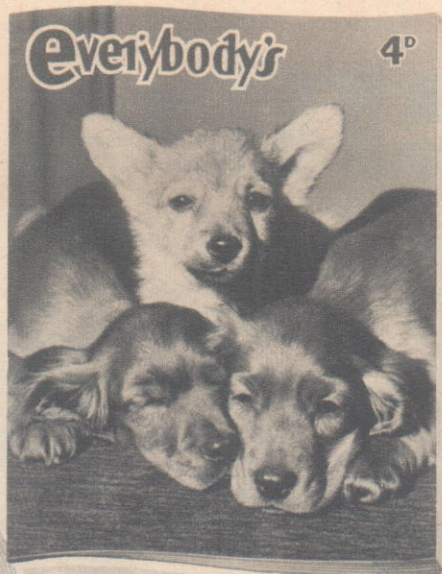
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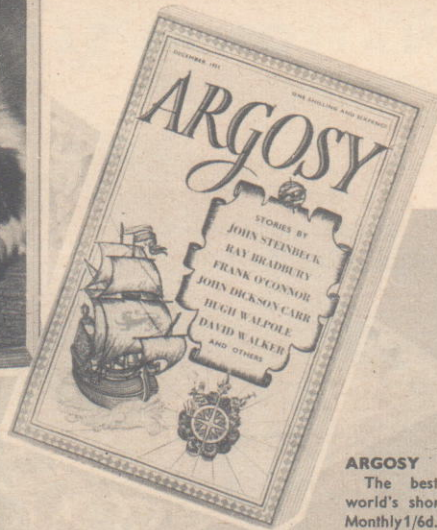
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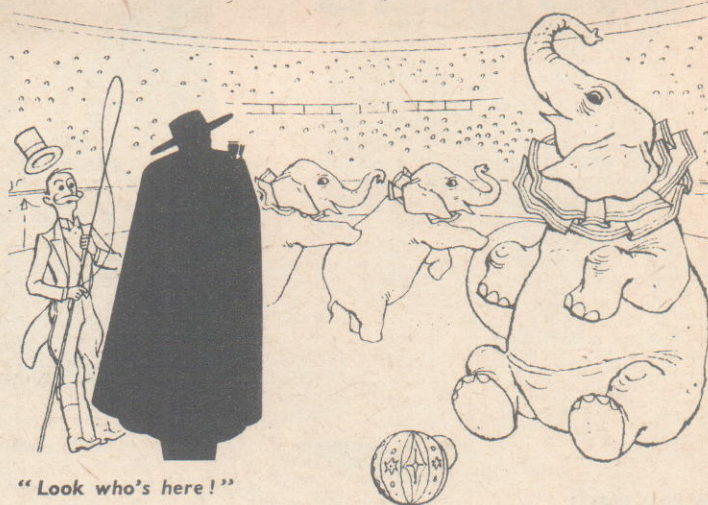
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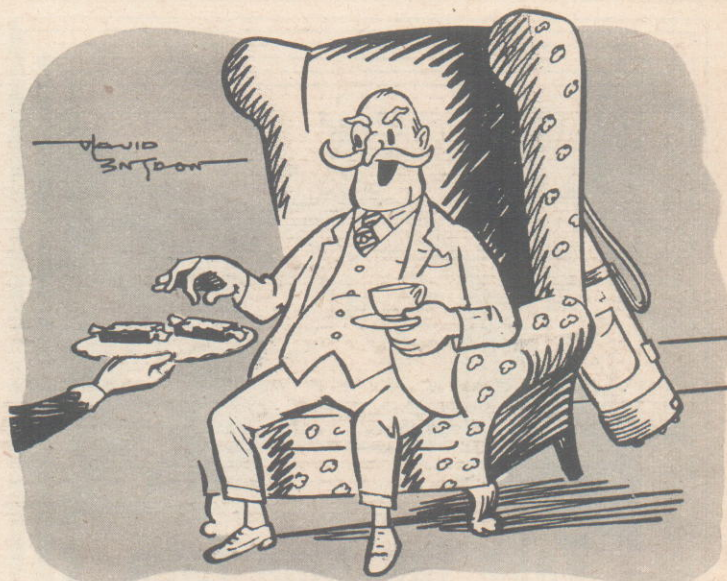
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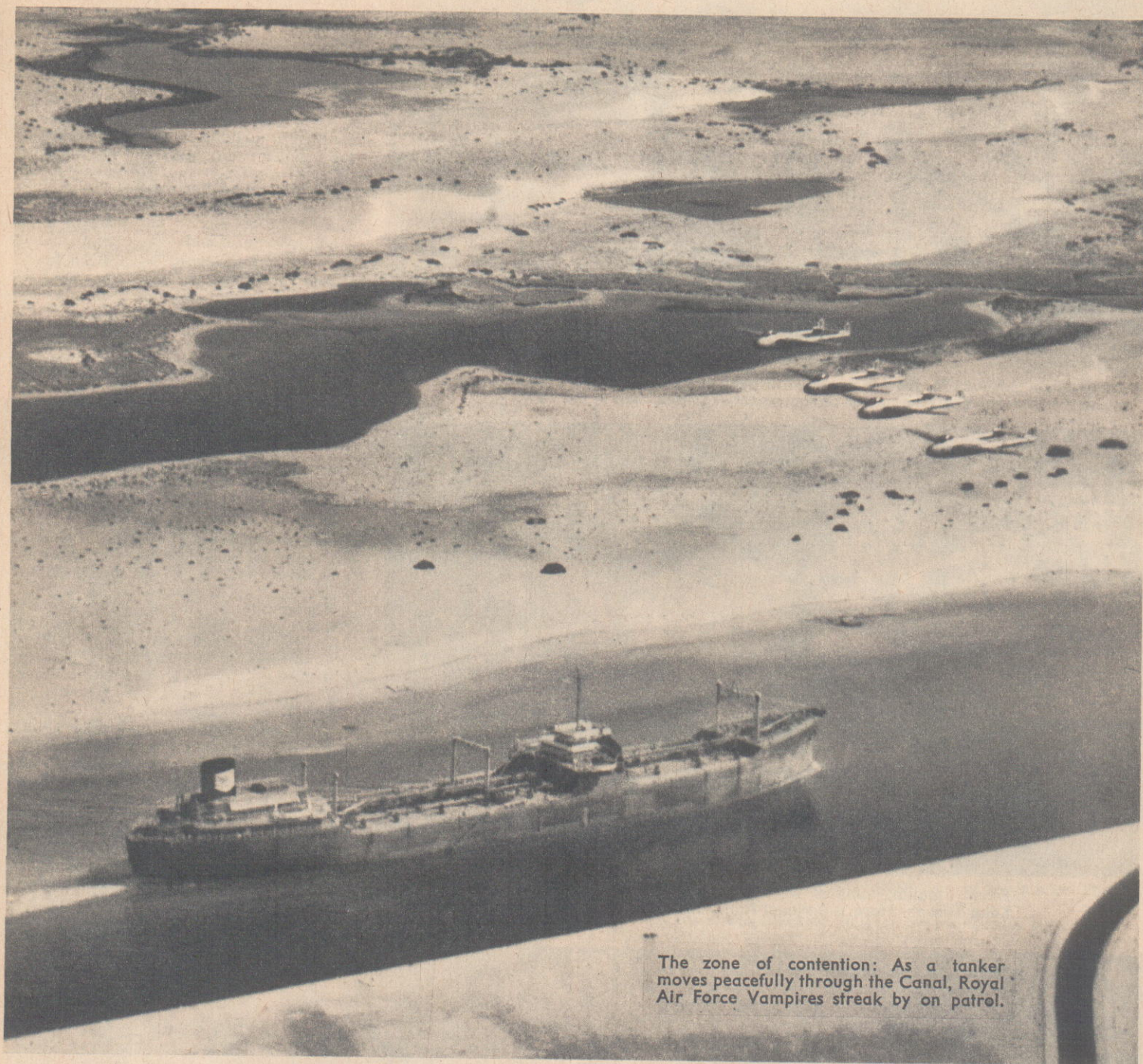
SOLDIER

1952

THE BRITISH



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.

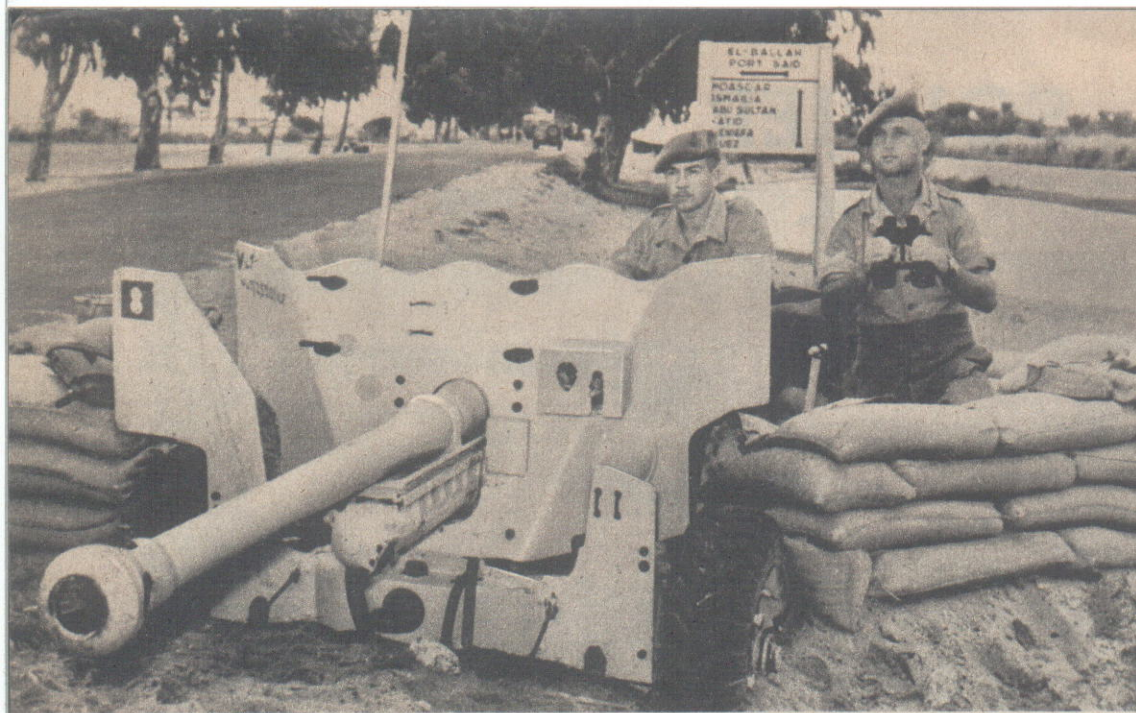
Soldiers are living behind barbed wire again. They must run the gauntlet of snipers, of throwers of vitriol, jam-pot grenades and tin-can bombs. Again there are wires stretched across roads at neck-height. Again Signals cables are cut.

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.

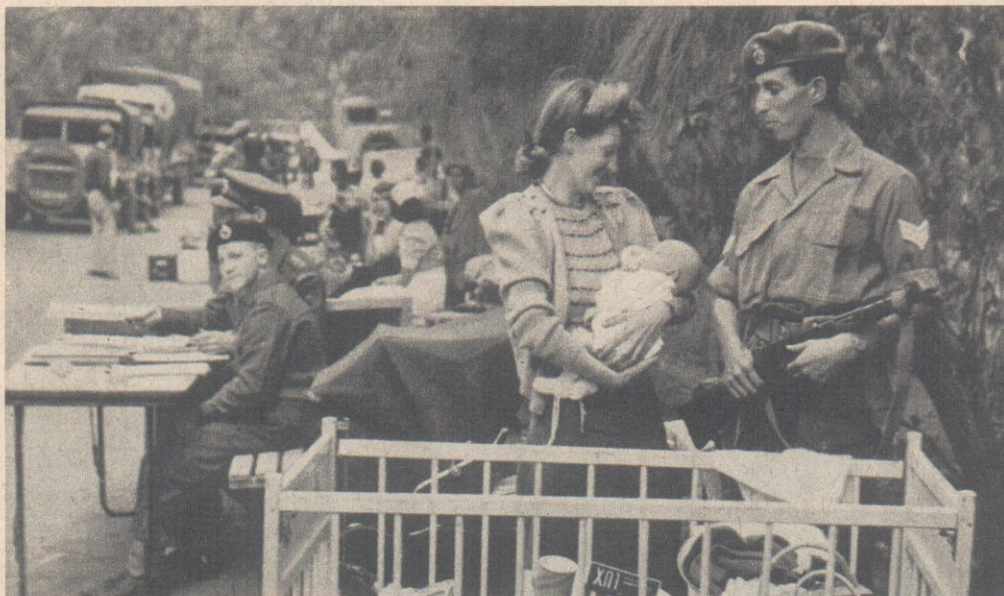
In Palestine, too, it was the job of the Army, in co-operation with the Palestine Police, to maintain order among the civil population. In Egypt it is the task of the police to keep order among the 400,000 civilian inhabitants of the Canal Zone and the Army has only stepped in, for its own safety, where 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

OVER



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 Serjeant Alan Alfred, with wife and baby.



The Loyals 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."

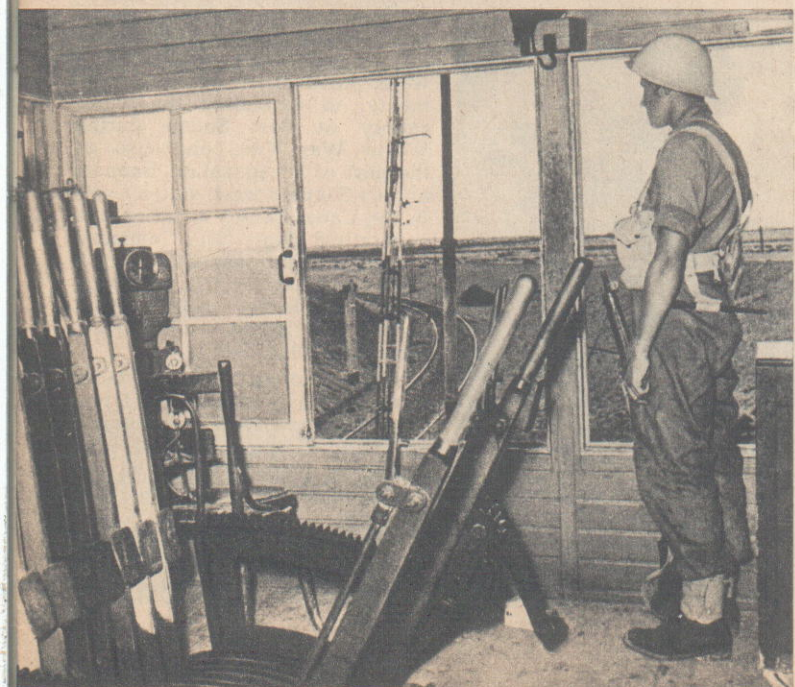
The "News" is edited by Army Education and printed by GHQ Printing Press. Each issue bears an assurance that only Service personnel are employed in its production. Beneath its title, the paper declares it is printed and published under the authority of the Commanders-in-Chief, Middle East, and beneath 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."

MR. 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.

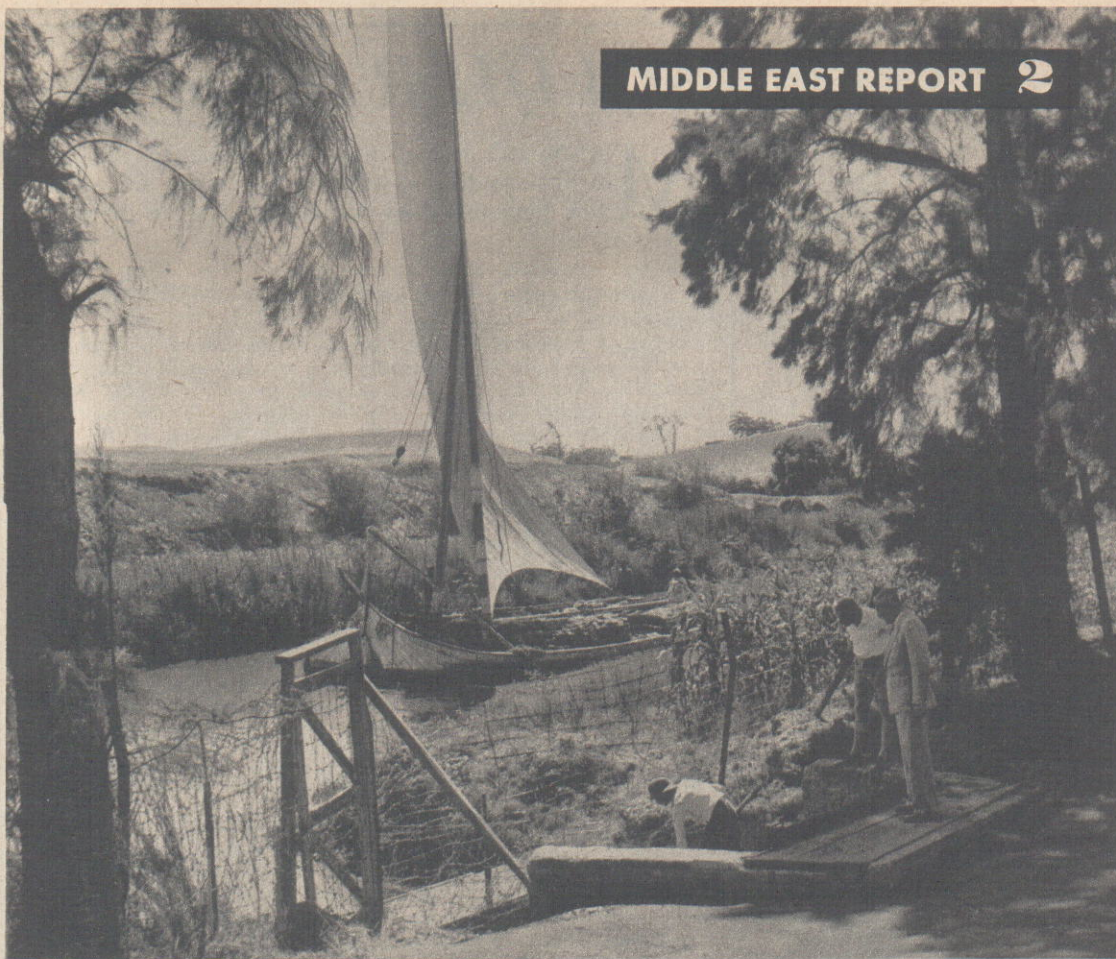
NOT all readers of **SOLDIER** will have heard the news of the winding up of the short-lived base at Mackinnon Road, in the Kenya bush.

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 carcass 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

AS 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.

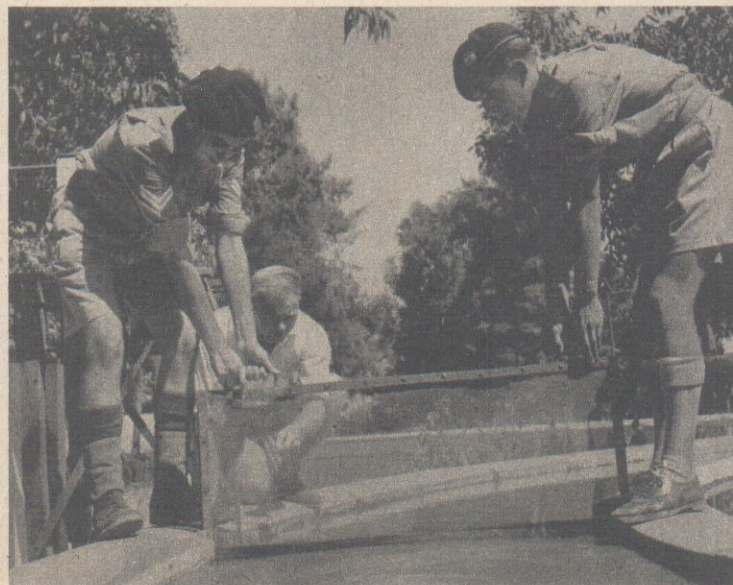
The Army long ago discovered that there is no water so dirty that it cannot be made fit to drink, and what the Sappers do not know about cleaning dirty water is hardly worth knowing.

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.

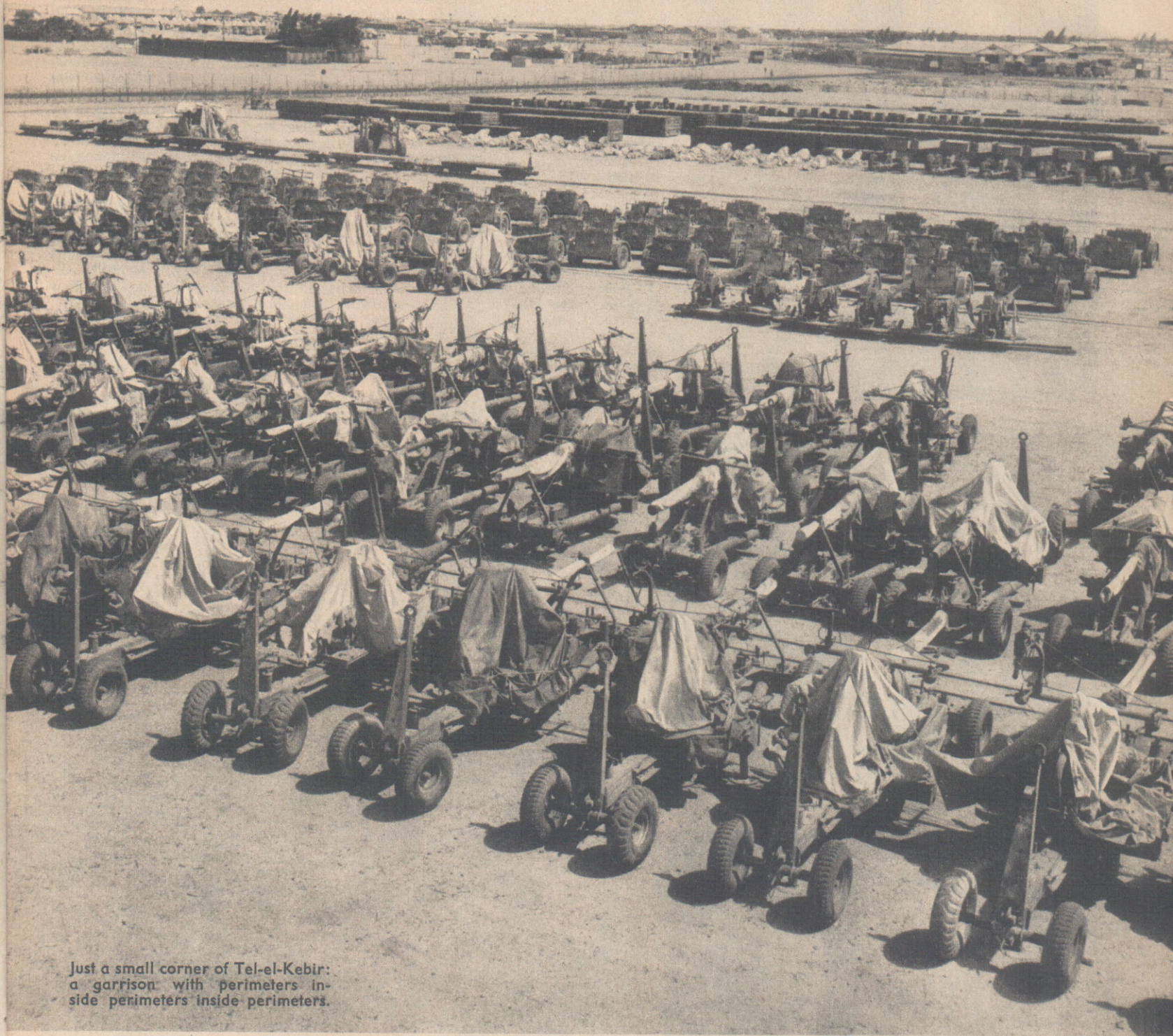
The supply of drinking water is only one commitment. The Army must have filtered and

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 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

EVEN 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

OVER ➔



"TEK"

(Continued)

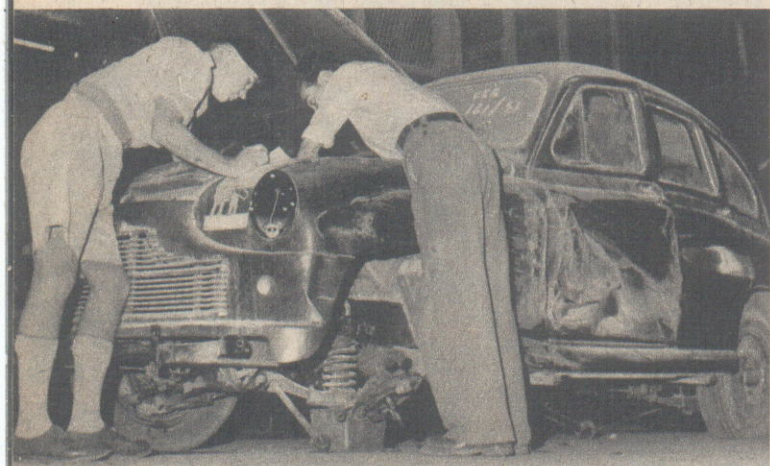
Left: A Mauritian soldier, in a watch tower with a telephone, endlessly scans the un-enchanting landscape — a landscape loaded with stores worth millions of pounds.

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.

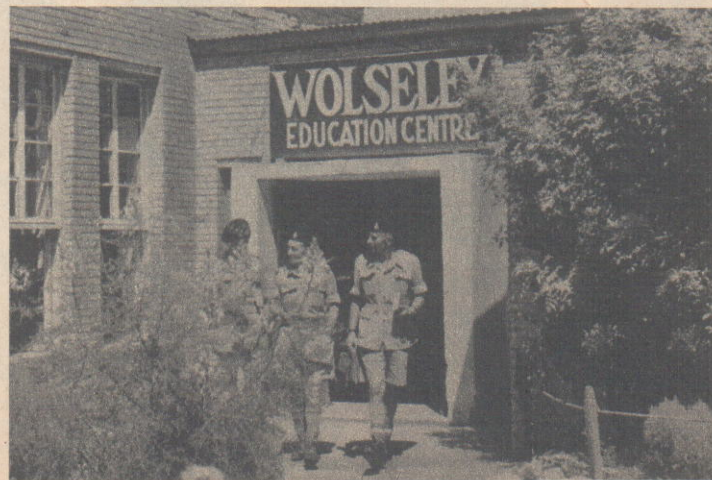
By its very nature, "Tek" is the sort of garrison which must provide its own amusement; and it does so, even to the extent of indulging in Scottish country dancing.

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.

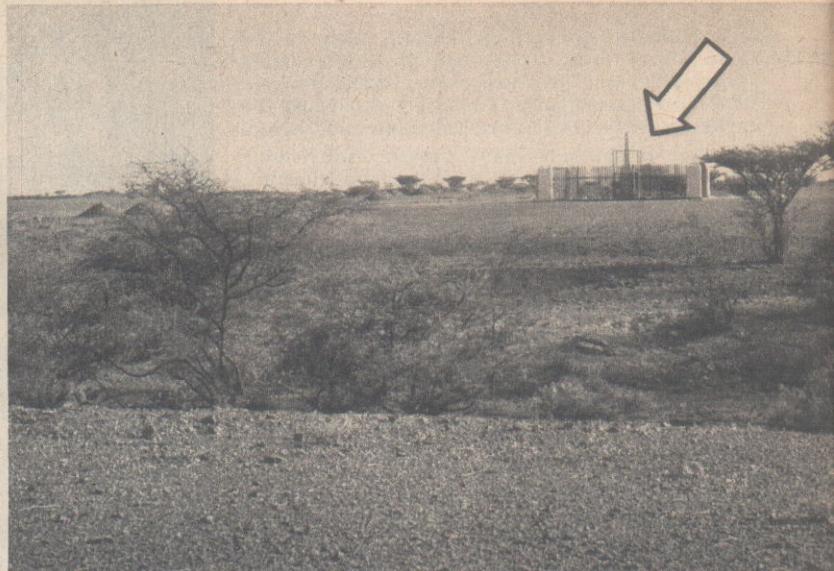
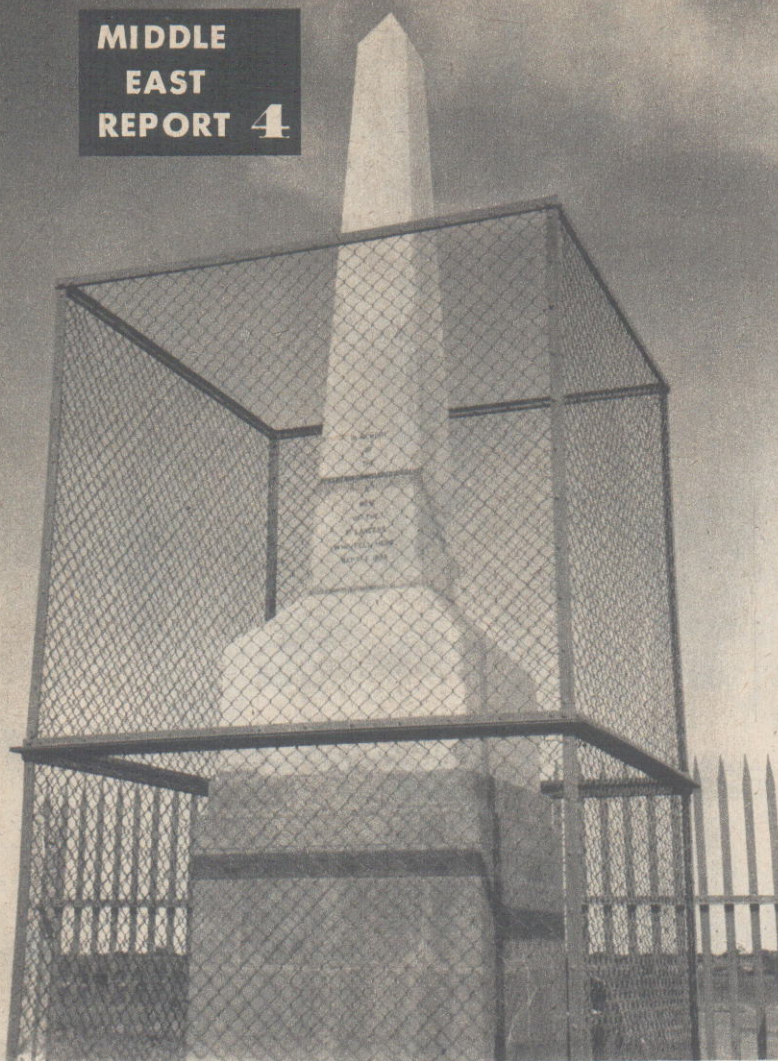
There is no country in the world in which a great ordnance depot can be set down and left unguarded. "Tek" is like a handful of corn tossed in front of hungry pigeons. The light-fingered and the light-footed have had their successes in raiding the garrison stores; but the garrison has had its successes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



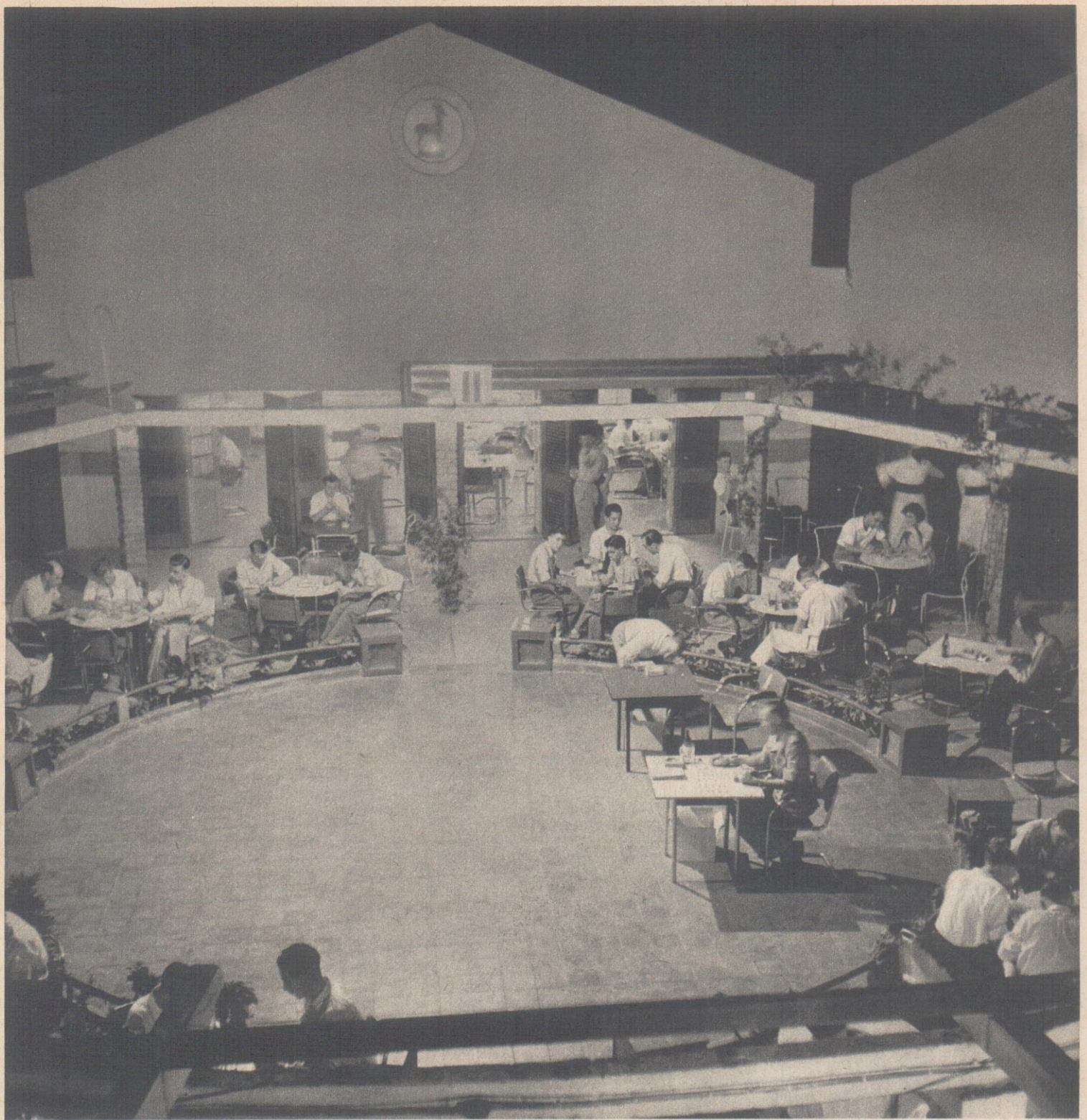
FROM the temporary air-field outside Khartoum, a bus sets off with the newly-descended passengers over a track so rough that it is a relief when the driver forsakes it and shoots off over open country.

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, spaciouly 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,



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 workshops. 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.

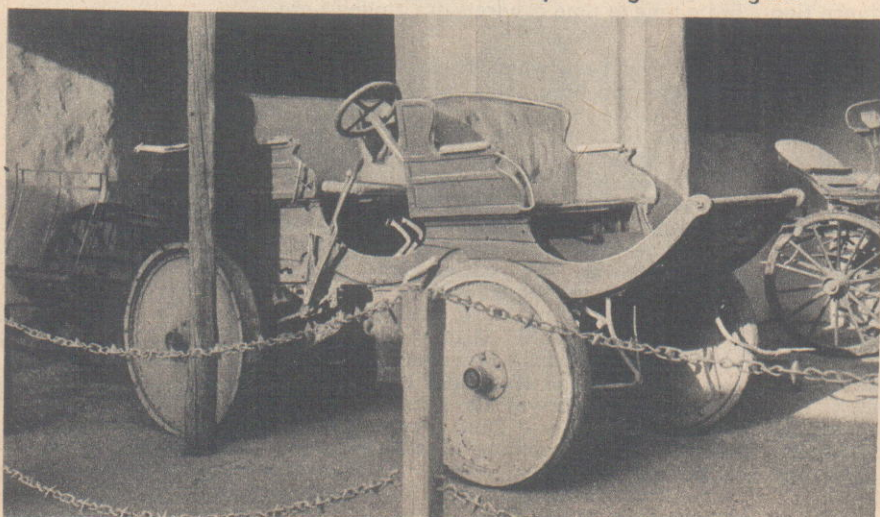
Though the British soldier's curiosity in his environment is rarely overwhelming, many soldiers take the opportunity to see the more obvious sights in the vicinity; to walk barefoot on the cool floor of the Mahdi's tomb, to see the curious exhibits in the Khalifa's house, or to watch the silversmiths 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 cummerbunded. 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: Tank leaguer, 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:



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

Late in the night, Major Tadmanson 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 Namur 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.

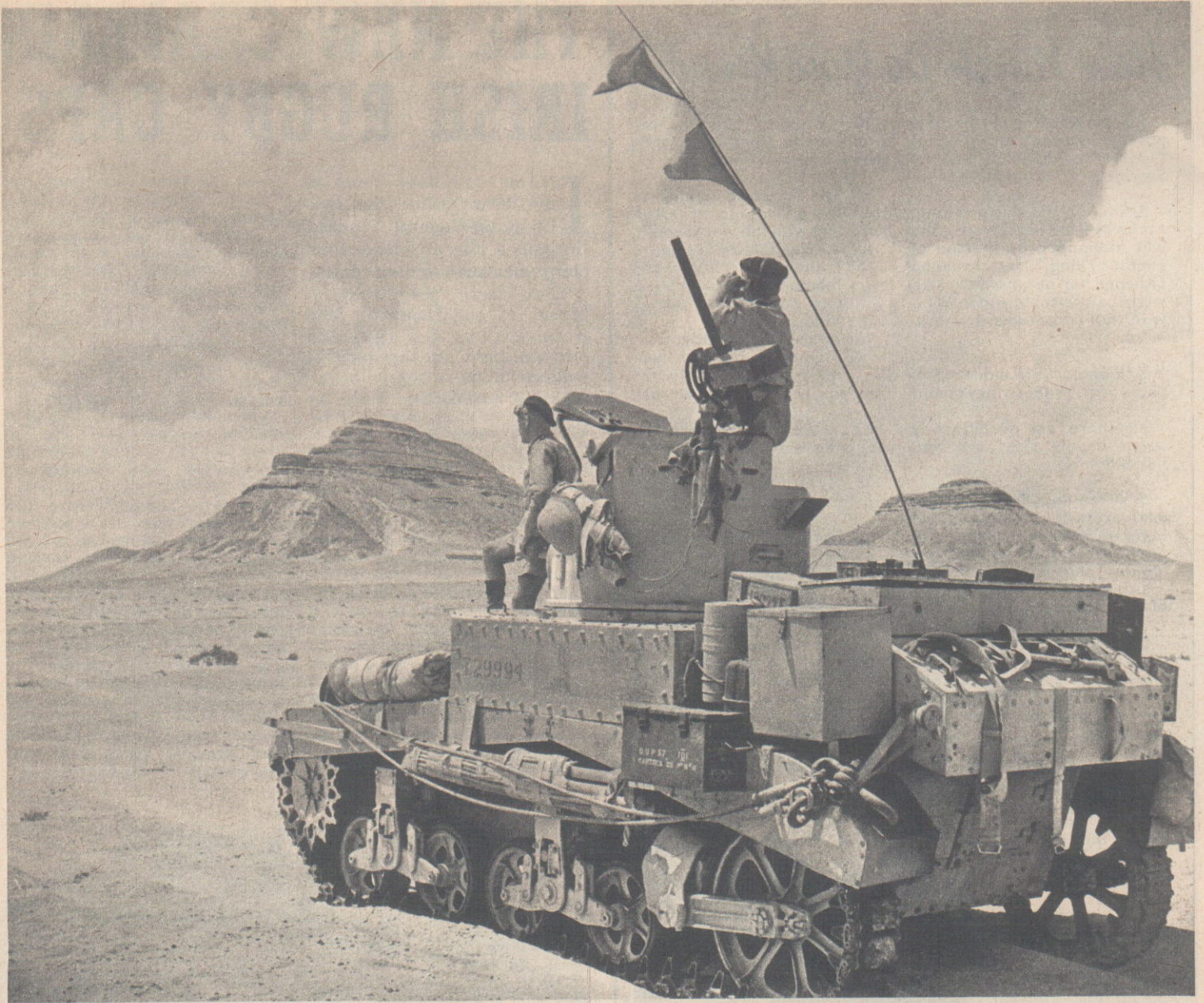
The Leicesters reached some of their objectives, and there was bayonet fighting, but the attackers were outnumbered. They had to fall back. It was a gallant counter-attack which had helped to stabilise the 28th Brigade's line.

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

Continued on Page 33

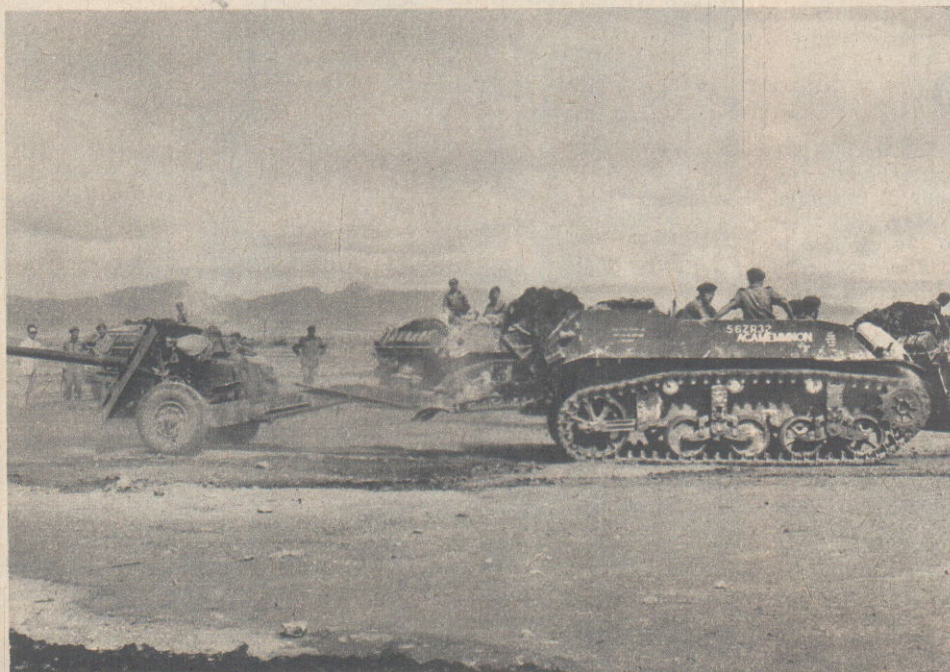
The provost company of 1st Commonwealth Division comprises six British and two Canadian sections. To these are attached 12 South Korean policemen and an American prisoner-of-war interrogation team of two officers and 12 American-enlisted Japanese, who carry out preliminary questionings. Below, left: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





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



TEN 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 .300 Brownings were all they mustered for offence. 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.

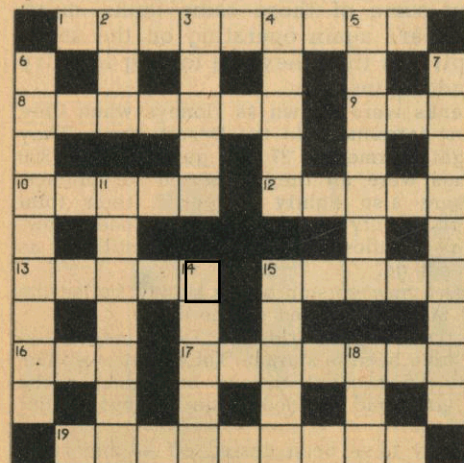
How Much Do You Know?

- From which countries come postage stamps marked (a) Österreich, (b) Helvetia, (c) Sverige, (d) SHQIPTARE?
- She was the wife of a king, renowned for her beauty. She was kidnapped by the son of another king. Her husband besieged her new home for ten years before capturing it. Who was she? Who was her husband?
- Pianoforte is made up of two words. What do they mean?
- There are traditionally seven deadly sins: can you name them?
- A few months ago a film actor was to be seen about London wearing a large false nose, essential for depicting a famous character in French literature. What was the name of the character?
- These men wanted to go to Widdicombe Fair with Old Uncle Tom Cobleigh and all: Bill, Jan, Peter, Peter, Dan'l and Harry. What were their surnames?
- A marlin-spike is a favourite weapon of the tough boatswain in sea-stories. What does it look like and what is it designed for?
- If you wanted to buy some Latakia, would you go to a basket-maker, a tobaccoist, a cheese-merchant, a coffee importer or a chemist?
- Printing House Square is famous as the home of — what?
- In England a billion means a million millions, but what does it mean in America?
- The following definitions are of words or pairs of words beginning with the word "red":
(a) a diversionary device;
(b) in the act of crime;
(c) memorable (as applied to a day);
(d) kind of snipe;
(e) excessive formality;
(f) pigment made with metallic oxide.
- What, in Parliamentary language, is a three-line Whip?
- Which is the smallest province of Canada?
- Complete these analogies:
(a) Pennines is to England as Apennines to ...;
(b) Covey is to partridges as pride is to ...;
(c) Ayrshire is to cattle as Aylesbury is to ...;
(d) Lord's is to cricket as Hurlingham is to ...
- What are the objects in this picture?



(Answers on Page 36)

CROSSWORD



ACROSS: 1. A loving malady. 8. Fortification which does not seem sure at last. 9. This little piggy went to market...

10. Essential to life. 12. 'im behind schedule. 13. Rough copy of a contingent. 15. May a paddler aspire to promotion to this? 16. Pile, for card players. 17. Front cover of a book? 19. "C. P. Reigned" (anag.).

DOWN: 2. Idiosyncrasy. 3. On a par. 4. Tenth tax. 5. External. 6. Six in a rod in pent. 7. Mixed seed followed by a wooden container. 11. He provides the raw material for the fur business. 14. The 101st vessel upside down. 15. Handle. 18. Sounds like the boy to get the wages.

(Answers on Page 36)

THE NEW CHAPLAIN—IRISH RUGBY CAPS

IN his fifth-floor room in the War Office the new Chaplain-General looked through a pile of letters from clergymen all over the country.

They were invitations to preach to congregations who were anxious for first-hand information about the spiritual welfare of the troops.

This is a subject on which the Reverend Victor Joseph Pike, CBE, MA, Honorary Chaplain to the King, has full personal knowledge. Since 1932 he has been an Army padre, serving with the men in peacetime stations at home and abroad, or standing by their side in the fierce battles that raged through North Africa and Italy.

At 44 years of age he is the youngest Chaplain-General on record, and possibly the most sports-minded of them all. His powerful shoulders were developed on the rugby field. He was capped for Ireland no fewer than 13 times. Besides being an International he has played for the Army and Hampshire County.

The new Chaplain-General fol-

lowed his father, the Rector of Thurles, County Tipperary, into the Church of Ireland. He says that it was a friend, Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Browning, now Comptroller of Princess Elizabeth's Household but then a Grenadier Guards major, who first spoke to him about becoming a chaplain.

Before he could be appointed to his present office, his name had to be put forward by his predecessor, Canon F. Llewelyn Hughes, recommended by the Army Council to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and finally approved by the King.

The new Chaplain-General has come to the War Office with no revolutionary ideas. His job, he says, is to make and sustain Christians among the officers and men and to guide the chaplains under him in their work. In this respect he has inherited a problem which Canon Hughes had to face: the shortage of padres. The problem is being partly solved by a request from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to every diocese asking them to nominate one clergyman for a three-year tour of duty in the Services.

GENERAL WON 13

What advice does the Chaplain-General give to new chaplains? He says: "I quote St. John's Gospel — 'And a stranger they will not follow' — and tell them they must know their men on the route march, in the barrack-room and on the field of sport. They must pray for their men and their men's regiments and discipline their own lives as severely as the lives of the troops are disciplined. For, in their padre, the men look for the man who fearlessly represents the character of the Lord."

He finds the soldier of today is not antagonistic towards religion but that he lacks the religious knowledge of the pre-war Regular. He says this about the National Serviceman: "He has an instinctive feeling towards God and an earnest desire to seek for the eternal values. He is still Britain's best ambassador and the more Christian virtues he possesses the better ambassador he will be."

And of the young officer: "The subaltern of today has a more active interest in religion than had his counterpart before the war."

The Chaplain-General has a scattered flock to watch. He is already making plans to visit the Far East and possibly Korea.

The Chaplain-General's first contact with the Army was, appropriately enough, at Aldershot. In

1932 he was junior chaplain with the 5th Infantry Brigade in 2nd Division. After that he served at Gibraltar, the Royal Artillery Depot at Woolwich and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. During the war he was with the 4th and 43rd Divisions and the 11th Armoured Division before joining 5th Corps as Deputy Assistant Chaplain-General. He went with them to North Africa and became Assistant Chaplain-General to the Eighth Army. Since the war he has been in Cairo, Western Command and Rhine Army.

The Chaplain-General is married with three children and has nine brothers and sisters. Two brothers are in Tanganyika where they are provincial commissioners, another is a missionary in the Gambia, another is teaching in Australia and another is a rector in Eire. His four sisters have qualified as doctors.

His only regret in life, he says, is that he is past his active rugby days, though he still watches a game when he can. At one time his autograph was much sought after by schoolboys, a fact which rather mystified him until the day when one of his younger brothers told him that a small boy had tried to sell him the coveted signature for half-a-crown.

PETER LAWRENCE



To his new padres, the Chaplain-General quotes St. John: "... a stranger they will not follow."

CHURCH BELLS — OFF THE RECORD

THE garrison church at Bad Oeynhausen, Rhine Army headquarters town, is made from Nissen huts. It has no bell tower and no bells.

Yet for the past four years congregations have made their way to services there to the sound of some of the most beautiful bells in the world; the bells, in fact, of St. Peter's, Rome and St. Margaret's, Westminster.

Some churchgoers have even congratulated the garrison chaplain on his excellent team of bell-ringers. They were victims of a mild but pardonable deception.

For the bells of Bad Oeynhausen are played on a gramophone record, relayed through an amplifier to the great dome of the Kur Theatre which rises just behind the garrison church.

The story of the bells began in 1947 when the original garrison church caught fire and was destroyed. Rhine Army Sappers built a new Nissen hut church, but without bell tower and bells.

The idea of installing artificial bells was hit upon by the garrison chaplain at that time. He obtained a portable gramophone and sent to England for a record of the bells of St. Peter's, Rome. Then he persuaded the Royal Signals to lend him an amplifier and to fit eight loud-speakers into the dome of the Kur Theatre. A choir member, Signalman John Williams volunteered for the job of "bellringer."

Since then, 15 minutes before every Sunday service, or on special occasions, a Signalman has gone to the vestry and play-

ed the "bells." Each record takes two minutes to play, and as the needle nears the end the volume control must be turned down, the gramophone arm moved back to the first groove and the volume boosted again to make sure of a smooth change-over.

A year ago the record of the bells of St. Peter's, Rome became so badly worn that it had to be discarded and replaced by the one used today — "The Stedman Caters" (used for morning services and weddings) and "The Grand Sire Caters" (used for evensong), played by the bell-ringers of St. Margaret's, Westminster. The present Padre, the Reverend A. H. C. Allcock, hopes to have several new records of other equally famous cathedral and church bells in the very near future.

Since Signalman John Williams was released his job as "bell-ringer" has been taken over by Signalman Derek Dane. Occasionally he must inspect his loud-speakers on the top of the Kur Theatre, which calls for considerable agility as he scrambles along the perilous catwalk to the eaves where the speakers are hidden.



Signalman D. Dane prepares to "lay on" the bells of St. Margaret's for Sunday morning service.



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.

For these reasons, it was fitting that Rotterdam should be chosen as the scene for the ceremonial handing over of the Brigade to General Dwight D. Eisenhower for service with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation forces.

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

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.

When it was announced a few months ago that a Canadian brigade would be sent to Germany, the volunteer lists were not only filled in a few weeks but sufficient volunteers were recruited to set up an almost equal number of reinforcements.

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 North-west 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



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.

only a very few German civilians. The Brigade is armed with British small arms, United States mortars and artillery and has its own transport, including the distinctive 15-cwt Dodge trucks.

It is yet another tribute to British tanks that the squadron of the Royal Canadian Dragoons will take over Centurions.

The Brigade is looking forward to training with soldiers from the seven other North Atlantic Treaty powers serving in Germany — Britain, the United States, France, Belgium, Norway, Denmark and Luxembourg.

"Back home," a senior Staff officer told SOLDIER, "we had no chance of working with soldiers of other nations. Now we shall be able to learn new methods and perhaps teach some, too."

It is odd that this is the first time a Canadian Brigade has had the opportunity to train together for longer than a few months. Despite the tremendous size of Canada there is no military accommodation there large enough to house a whole brigade at one time, and in winter the cold is so intense that only specialised arctic training can be undertaken.

The Canadians are not bringing their wives and families with them. Instead they have tackled the problem of separation in a new way. Married men will serve

in Germany for a year and then return to Canada; single men will remain for two years. Both may volunteer to extend their service, although this will be approved only in special cases. Arrangements are being made for the Canadians to visit Britain and go to British leave centres in Germany. Some, no doubt, will go back to Holland to renew old friendships and the French Canadians have eyes on Paris.

Many soldiers whose homes are in the western provinces of Canada had to travel nearly 7000 miles to reach Germany; some journeyed farther across Canada to the port of embarkation than on the voyage to Holland.

The move of the Brigade was officially known as "Operation Migraine." But most of the headaches are now over. Johnny Canuck never did take long to get acclimatised. E. J. GROVE



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).



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, AQMG (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

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

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-

ments are to have adjustments to their battle honours. The Welch Regiment is awarded "St. Vincent, 1797" in conjunction with the Naval Crown already granted; the Royal Berkshire Regiment and the Rifle Brigade are to have Naval Crowns to be associated with "Copenhagen," already granted.

There are also a number of new and adjusted World War One battle honours. The 42nd Royal Tank Regiment receives "Ypres, 1917," the Dorset Regiment, "Khan Baghdadi" and the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, "Tigris, 1916." The King's Royal Rifle Corps "Macedonia, 1916-18" is to be changed to "Macedonia, 1915-18."

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.



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).

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 serjeant 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

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

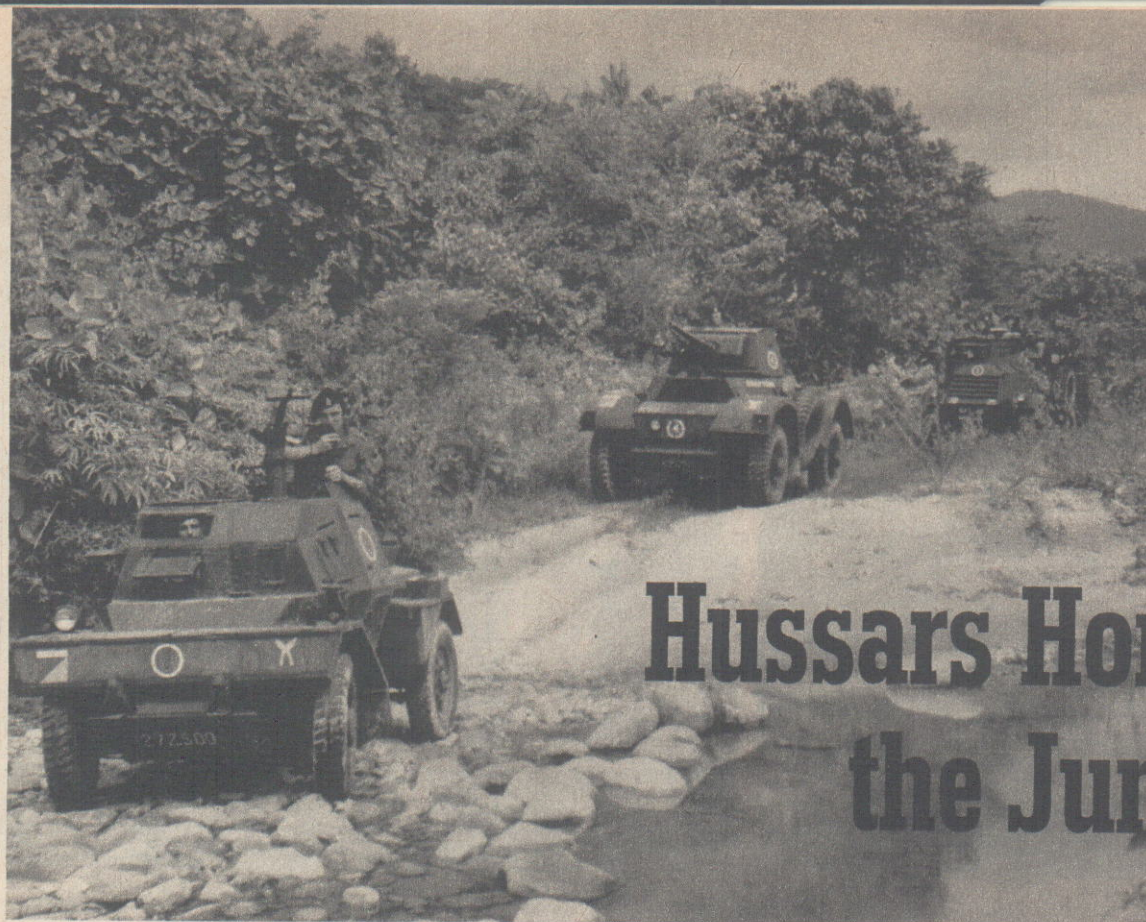
explains how to obtain identity cards and ration-books. Then the Royal Air Force initiates the women into the mysteries of the National Health Service (which started after some of the families had left Britain).

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 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 Serjeant 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.

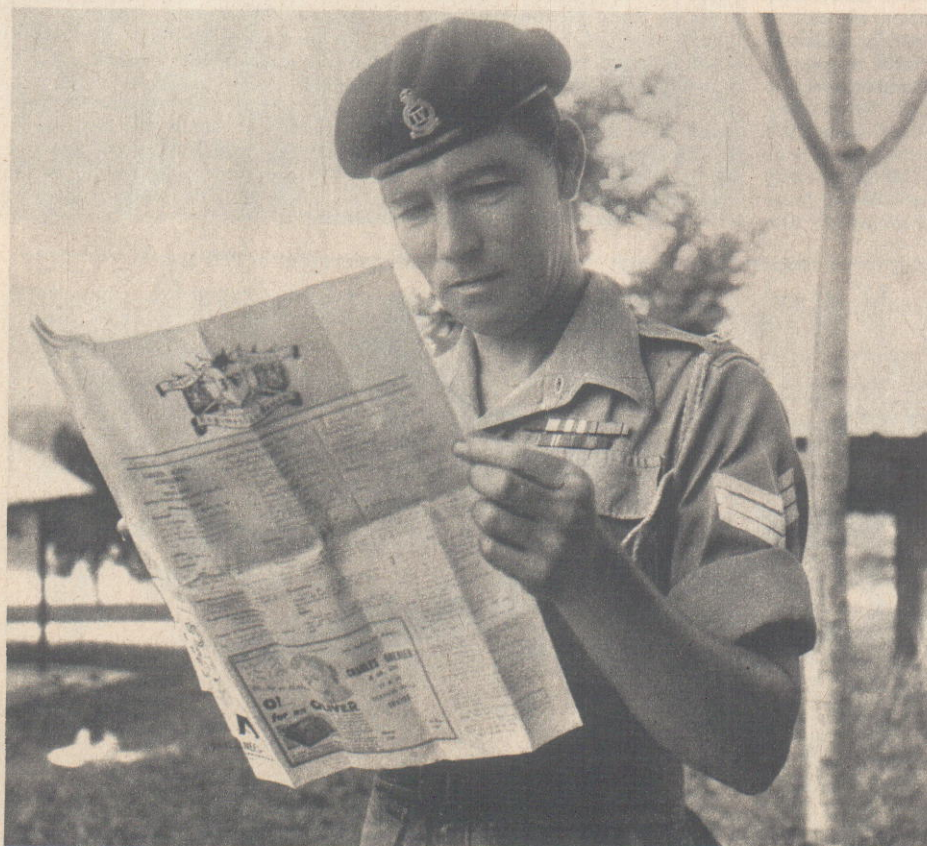
The Hussars' secondary role was to send out small mobile patrols to assist Police or Infantry. And in an Infantry role, the Hussars earned a reputation of "Nulli Secundus."

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

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





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 serjeant 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 coached 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 Llandoverly, Swansea. The veteran of the Regiment, 47-year-old Serjeant 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 White-side, of Leeds, the Regimental carpenter, and the Regimental Serjeant-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.

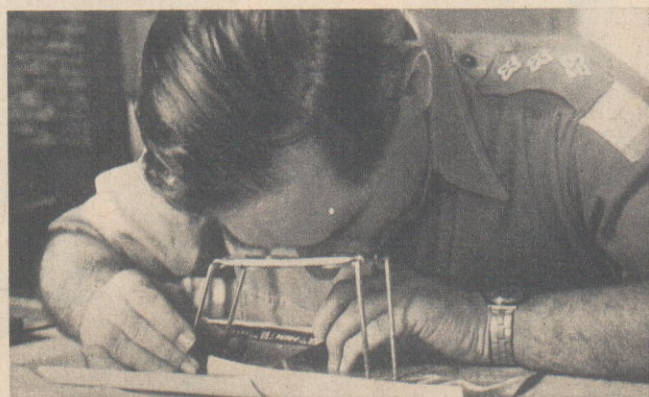
In Malaya he peers for hours on end through a stereoscope. "Interpreting is exacting and requires great concentration," he says.

Before the war Captain Fielding painted scenery for the stage under the late Frank Tyars, 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.



AN OLD CONTROVERSY BREAKS OUT AGAIN

Should a Woman Kill?



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 fêted 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.

* * *

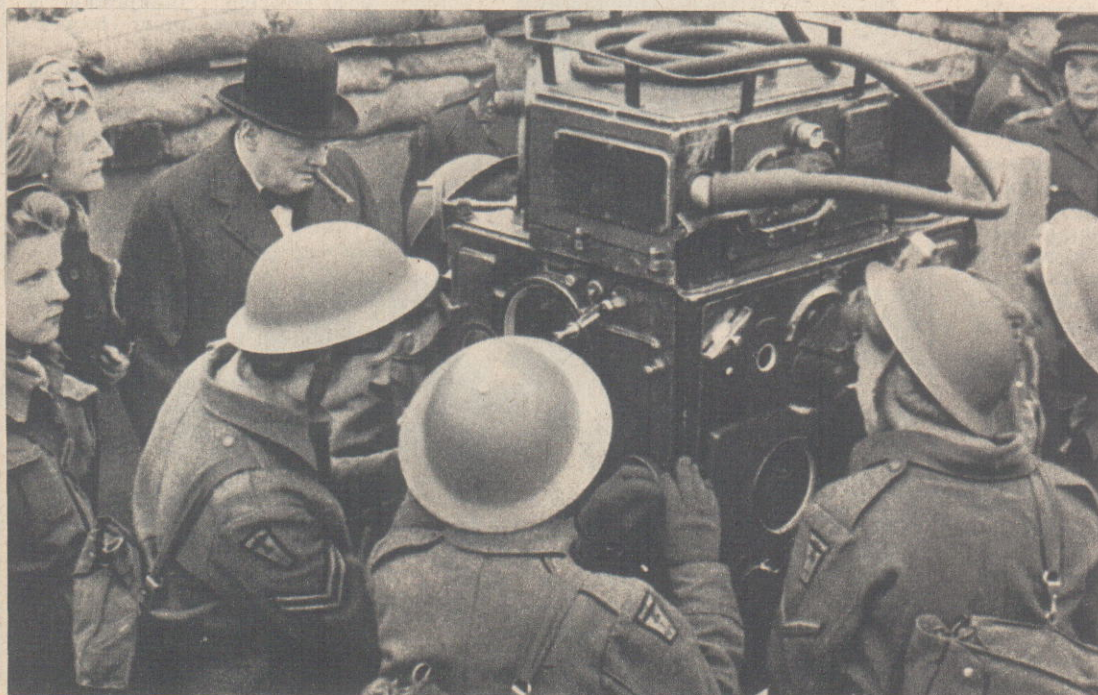
The point of view expressed by Sir Thomas Moore was also ventilated by General Sir Frederick Pile, who commanded Britain's wartime anti-aircraft defences, in his book "Ack-Ack." He said: "I see no logical reason why they (the women) should not fire the guns too. There is not much essential difference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



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.





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 "breath-taking 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."

* * *

By a coincidence, an article entitled "Let The Women Do It" appears in the November 1951 issue of *Military Review*, the magazine of the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The author, Colonel John W. Davis, artillery instructor at the United States Army War College, urges that women should be used to operate anti-aircraft defences in America (a cautious editorial note says that Colonel Davis's views are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army). America, the writer points out, will be vastly more vulnerable in any future war, and there will not be men enough to defend its coasts.

He says that one of the reasons for Germany's collapse was that she had to retain a million and a half persons in anti-aircraft defence. In due course women were introduced in small numbers, but they "were poorly trained and did not do well."

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

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.

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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 unflinching courage, with unrelenting 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

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)



Eric Linklater: his next book will be on Korea.

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-known inaccessible battlefields 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 unreadiness." 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.

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 grouses. "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

promptly to flush out the enemy, instead of waiting for aerial or field artillery. The fault, he says, was not lack of courage, but lack of experience in the arts of war. He is censorious about the too-free use of automatic weapons, "which seem to induce a form of jitters in their owner"; as a result 20 or 30 shots were commonly used to do the job of one. And he is scornful of Intelligence communiques "filled with the phrases of advertising copy-writers."

These criticisms are, of course, personal ones; but they come from an observer who has watched a variety of wars, starting with the forgotten one in the Gran Chaco.

Hitch-hiking up and down Korea, thumbing lifts to Japan in aerial "boxcars," Mr. Thompson viewed the campaign from most angles. He saw the tragedy of the refugees; he watched loud-speaker vans trying to coax "Gooks" (he hates the word) into surrender; he saw the remarkable spectacle of a young broadcaster with a microphone asking retreating troops whether they thought the atom bomb ought to be used on the enemy. "Hell, yes, use it," was the answer.

Mr. Thompson visited the 27th and 29th Brigades, and the men who served in those redoubtable formations will read with pleasure what he has to say about them.

There was Also The Lady With The Gamp

"MOTHER" Seacole was her name. It was not her fault that she became the Lady With The Gamp instead of the Lady With The Lamp.

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

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 husars 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

cry "Come back, Mother, come back!" resounded on the battlefield. Her only "wound" was sustained when a Russian officer bit her finger, inadvertently, in his death agony. At the end of it all, her sole reward was a mediocre poem in *Punch*.

Major Hargreaves' book is subtitled "Sidelights on Soldiers and Soldiering." Each chapter picks on some lesser-known character, incident or custom in British military history. Another worthy whose activities were recorded in a mediocre poem was "Mudge of the Maps," otherwise the Lieutenant-Colonel William Mudge who first got down to the job of mapping the British Isles accurately.

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."

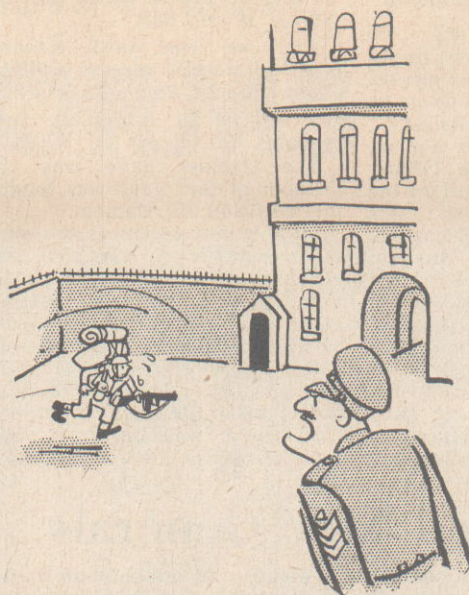
The culprit was Major Bernard Law Montgomery, an officer who in later life achieved some fame by pursuing a policy of not taking any risks with Germans.

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

Montgomery" (*Hutchinson*, 7s 6d), — a short, illustrated biography written "mainly for the younger reader." Anyone who assumes that this must therefore be a work of pious flattery is wrong. The Field-Marshal, who read the draft of the book, allowed the authoress to make criticisms which many a lesser man would have blue-pencilled.

Here are stories of "Monty" as a boy egging on his comrades to dangerous pranks, always wanting to lead and to boss, smoking a forbidden cigarette and generally chafing against parental authority, which was exceptionally strict. The lapse into smoking was only an incident. "He gave up smoking of his own free

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.

In addition to these qualities, Mr. Parker narrowed his field to men who "have been called upon to carry statesmen's obligations on warriors' shoulders." He also eliminated leaders like Wolfe, Gordon, Napier and Roberts "because it was felt that upon no one of them did the safety of the nation in any ultimate sense depend."

As a result, the book comprises nine essays (six of which have appeared in print before): Cromwell, by Sir John Fortescue; Marlborough, by Major-General J. F. C. Fuller; Wellington and Allenby, by Captain B. H. Liddell Hart; Kitchener, by Sir Arthur George Haig, by Mr. Winston Churchill; Alexander, by Captain Cyril Falls; Wavell and Montgomery, by Major H. A. De Weerd, who is an American professor. The names of the leading contributors are a sufficient indication of the merit of the essays.

Merging the Old Comrades

FOR 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

out to his death in a blizzard in order not to hold up his hard-pressed comrades.

The Regiment's famous green trousers had their origin in the green breeches which the 5th Dragoon Guards wore in 1751. The trousers had not been officially recognized by World War Two, but they made their appearance at an Investiture at Buckingham Palace after Dunkirk and have been accepted since.

In World War Two, after taking part in the first campaign in France and Belgium, the Regiment remained in Britain until after D-Day. Even then, when they arrived in Normandy, there were no tanks for them, so the Dragoon Guards made themselves useful by "servicing" tanks for other units. Then they received Cromwells and were soon into battle. They fought through to Hamburg.

Three days before VE Day, three horses joined the Regiment, and within a month there was a well-stocked regimental stable.

SPORT

There's good sport for

A CABIN IN



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 ski-ing on Midsummer's Day.



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

THE CAIRNGORMS

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

ABOVE 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 of 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

and tables of roughly-trimmed timber. The other four are working in the kitchen. There are skis, sticks and boots for visitors who do not bring their own.

The hut has been open just over a year, in which time the 40 beds have been occupied for a total of more than a thousand nights.

Last season, skiing was possible in the Cairngorms for eight months continuously, from November to June. There was even skiing on Midsummer's Day. In winter, the nights are long and visitors

who want to ensure a full day's ski-ing must be up early, to prepare breakfast, saw and chop wood, refill boilers and do all the other household tasks as well as prepare their haversack rations for the day. The longer days of spring not only provide more ski-ing hours but usually better weather and snow conditions as well.

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 Macdhu (4296), bastioned by ridges and ravines. Ben Macdhu 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.

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.

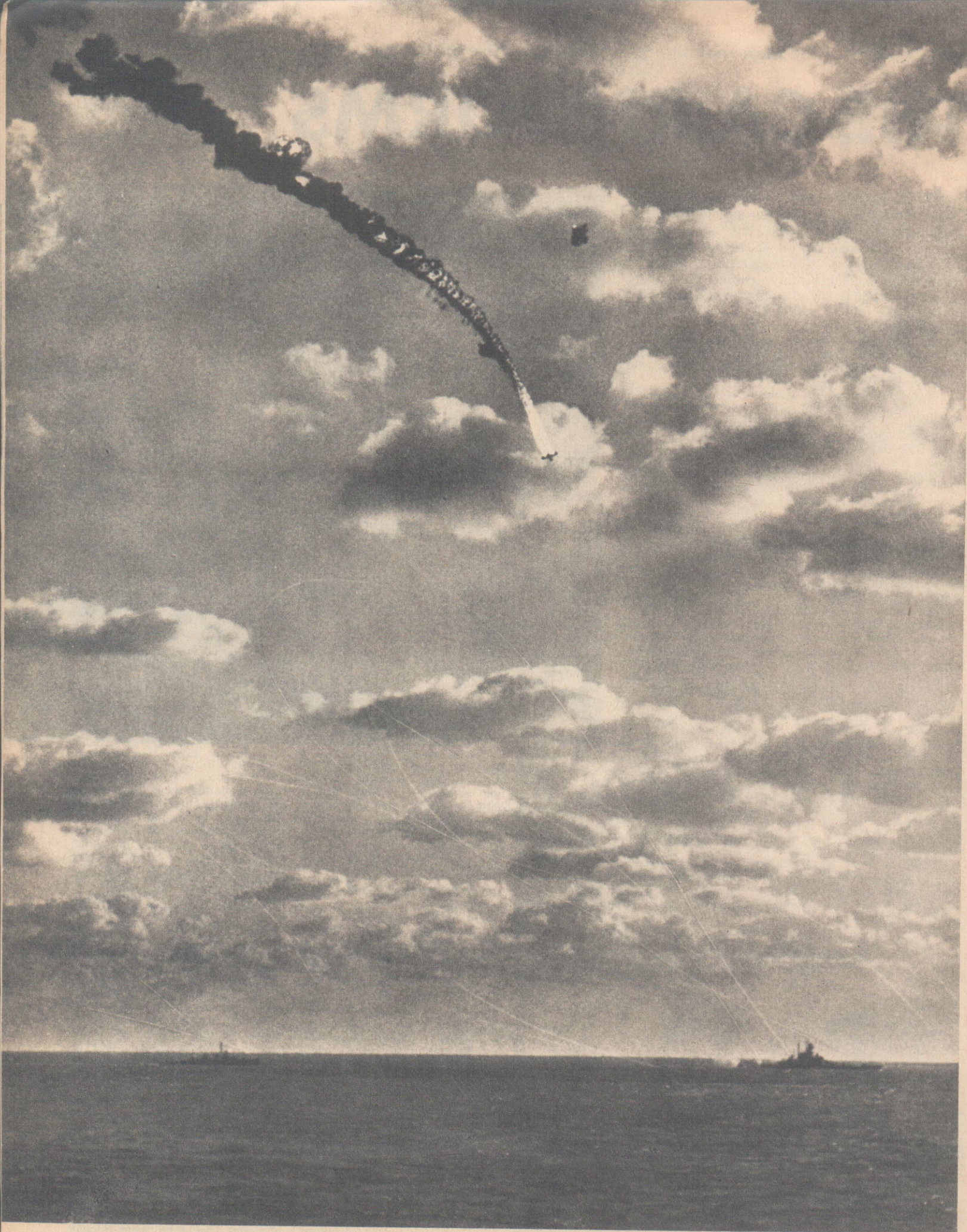
Going can be tough when heather and boulders are covered with loose snow, but the views from the ski-slopes are magnificent. The weather may vary from sunshine in the morning to a heavy blizzard by late afternoon, and this may last 24 hours without a break or give way to more sunshine the next morning.

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.

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





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-

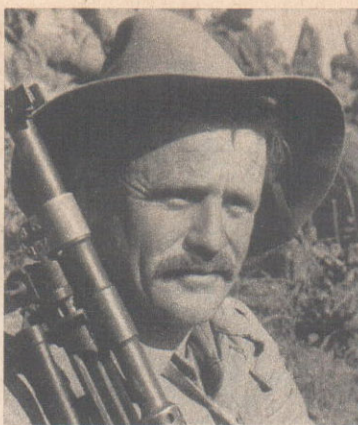
National Service occupies 14 weeks — with three years Territorial service to follow

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.

KOREA (Continued from Page 16)

attacked by strong forces and were dislodged from two hill positions, both of which were regained the following day.

The Communists tried again. The Shropshires fought them for 12 hours in bright moonlight, and the Borderers and Leicesters also faced attacks. Each time the Communists were repulsed.

Meanwhile, the first British unit to arrive in Korea direct from Britain has been relieved and is now in Hong-Kong: 45 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. In twelve months this regiment was out of action only ten days, a record achieved by no other British unit in Korea. In all, it fired 150,000 rounds from its 25-pounders.

Not only did the Regiment support 29 Brigade in all its major actions; it lent help also to troops of the United States, Turkey, Thailand, Belgium, Puerto Rico, the Philippines and South Korea. Many congratulatory messages were received from these units after the shooting was over.

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.

FILMS

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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.

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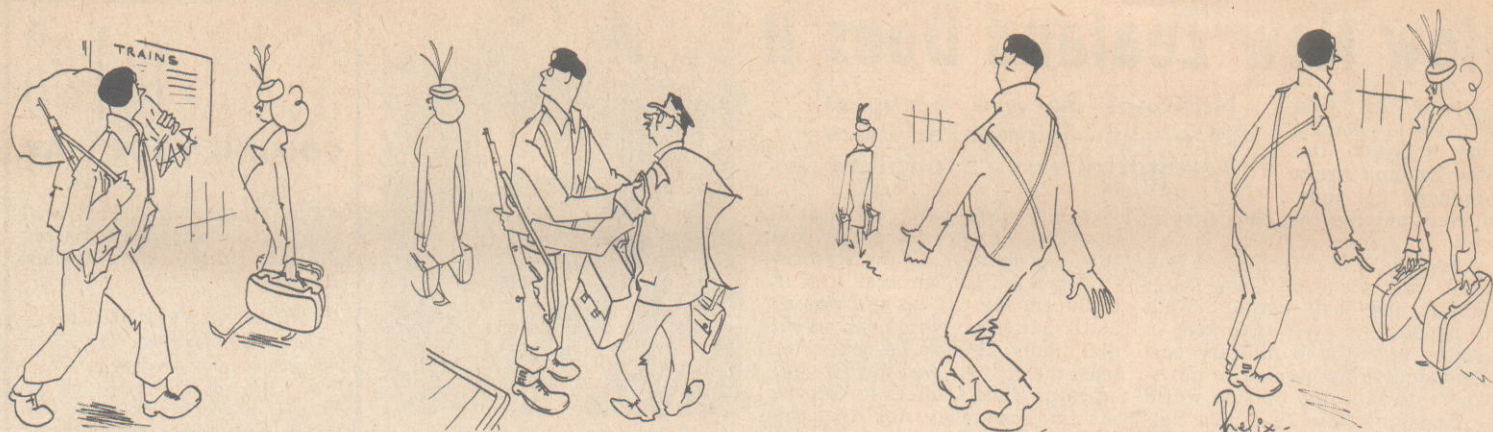
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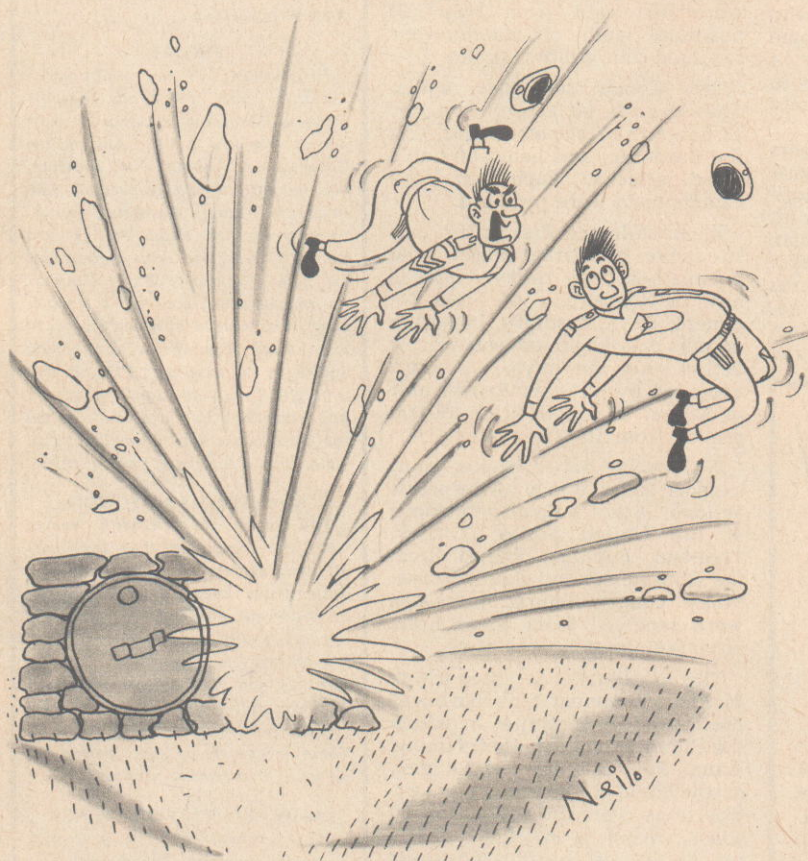
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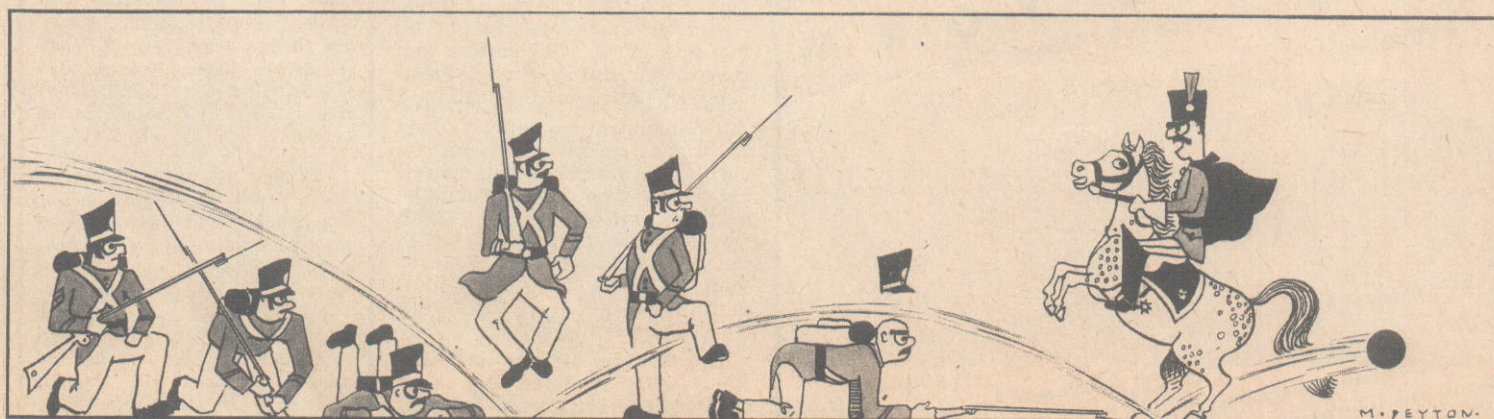
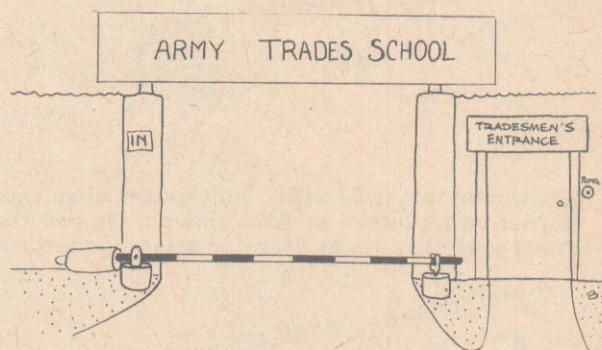
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- 5 Damp a rag with water.
- 6 Moisten the boot with the rag.
- 7 Finish with a dry cloth and "You could shave in it."

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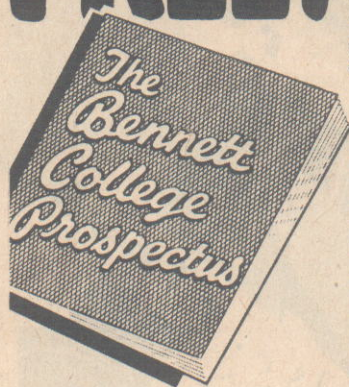
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are officially non-combatant? —
A. J. Jones (address supplied).
★ Only the Non-Combatant
Corps. Other corps are no longer
described as being either combat-
ant or non-combatant, and King's
Regulations are being amended
to this effect.

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 Terri-
torial 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 Regula-
tions. 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 hus-
band being below the rank of
lieutenant-colonel), a passage may be
provided on prepayment by the hus-
band 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. Ans-
wers cannot be sent to col-
lective addresses.

Anonymous or insufficiently
addressed letters are not pub-
lished.

● Please do not ask for in-
formation which you can get
in your own orderly room or
from your own officer, thus
saving time and postage.

normal routing is by chartered air-
craft, he must make private arrange-
ments 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 accommoda-
tion, 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 North-
amptonshire Regiment, Trieste.

★ This soldier can claim the follow-
ing allowances if he lives in private
accommodation in Trieste:

Ration allowance, £1 4s 6d; mar-
riage 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.
- Helen of Troy; Menelaus.
- Piano, soft; forte, loud.
- Anger, pride, gluttony, lust, avarice, envy and sloth.
- Cyrano de Bergerac.
- Bill Brewer, Jan Stewer, Peter Gurney, Peter Davey, Dan'l Whiddon, Harry Hawk.
- A steel bar, a foot long, sharpened at one end, for opening strands of rope when splicing.
- Tobacco.
- The Times.
- One thousand million.
- (a) red herring; (b) red handed; (c) red letter; (d) redhank; (e) red tape; (f) red lead.
- A summons to a Member of Parliament to attend a division, underlined three times to stress its importance.
- Prince Edward Island.
- (a) Italy; (b) lions; (c) ducks;
- polo.
- 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. Wader. 16. Nap. 17. Pretext. 19. Preceding.
- DOWN: 2. Fad. 3. Equal. 4. Tithe. 5. Outward. 6. Provident. 7. Desecrate. 11. Trapper. 14. Topic. 15. Wild. 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, Botcherby, 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!"

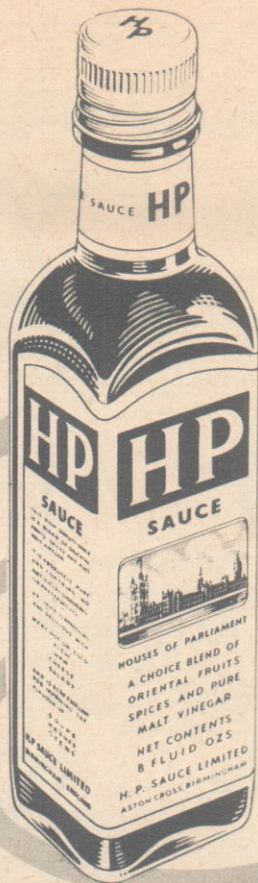
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OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT IN THE TEA TRADE

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Applications, giving full details of age, education, experience etc., must be made in the first place by letter to:

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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: Serjeant 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 invalided out unless they were on a 22-years engagement (there was a war-time concession which applied only to men invalided 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



"Soon as we reach the end of the journey," says the bus conductor, "out come my Rizla cigarette machine and papers. Then, with some good fresh tobacco, I'm all set for the smoothest, most satisfying smoke I know. Try it yourself it's easy with Rizla!"

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"49" OF COURSE! The star who plays the part takes a great pride in his appearance both on and off "duty." His name—Brian Reece, the genial compère of "Starlight Hour."

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2. Better colour... from Nugget's richer stains.
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TWIST—
and it's
open

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Is your Nose stuffy and congested? Do you get constant Head Colds? Are you losing your senses of taste, smell, hearing? Is Catarrh getting the better of you? You can STOP Catarrh where it starts. Clear your NOSE—and keep it clear—with 'Mentholum'. This amazing breathable balm—when applied into the nostrils and rubbed on the chest—volatilises

instantly. Its medicated vapours quickly subdue inflammation, free congestion and open up stuffed breathing passages. 'Mentholum' stays where it is put and keeps active for hours. It breaks up Head Colds overnight and even obstinate Catarrh yields to it. Breathing is believing, so get 'Mentholum' right away. There is nothing like it.

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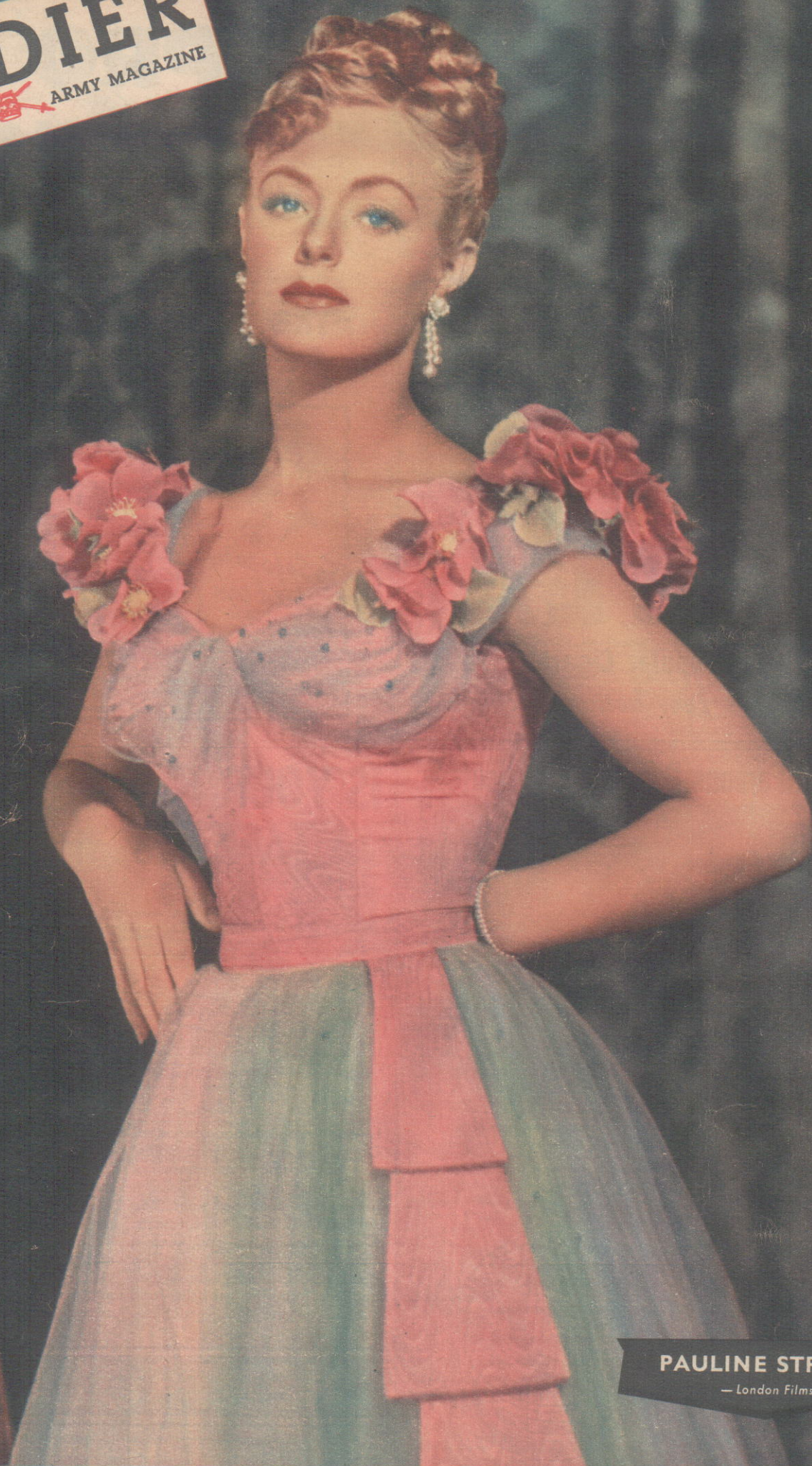
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SOLDIER

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE



PAULINE STROUD

— London Films