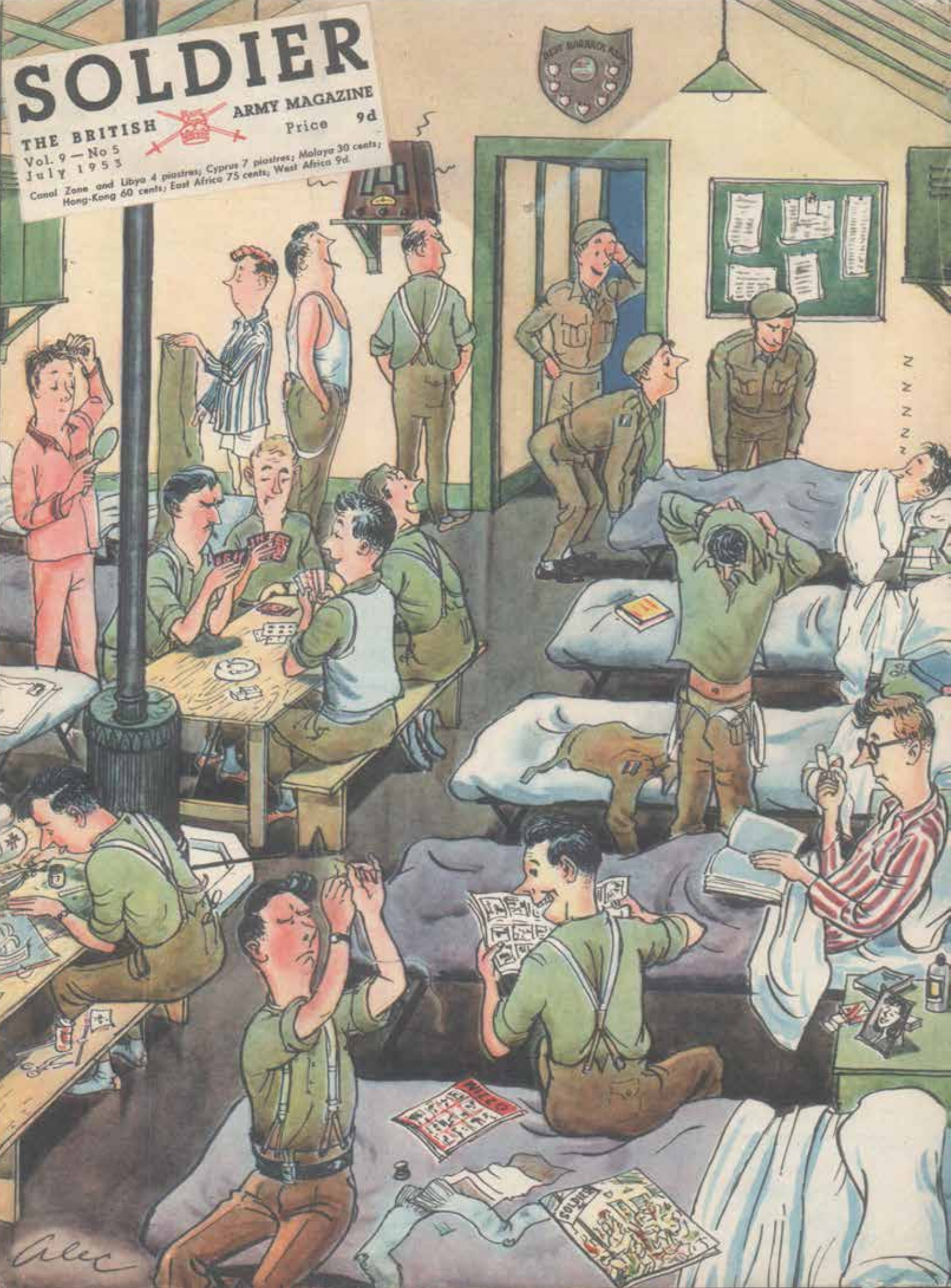
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PUNCH
SOLDIER

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JULY **SOLDIER** 1953
THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

INTRODUCING THE BAT

The British Infantryman's newest weapon is a squat, easily manhandled anti-tank gun which does not recoil on firing. Many details of this most business-like weapon are still secret

A gun fired on Salisbury Plain. A tongue of flame leapt from it and blast whipped tufts of grass out of the earth — *behind the weapon.*

The Bat, the Infantry's new, recoilless anti-tank gun, was in action. The blast behind the gun, which came through a vent shaped like a megaphone, balanced the force exerted in front by the gases expelling the shell, thus keeping the gun in place.

Why build a recoilless gun? To save the weight of the recoil mechanism. As tanks grew bigger and more thickly armoured, so the Infantry's anti-tank weapons grew heavier and more unwieldy. The Boys anti-tank rifle was succeeded by the two-pounder gun, then the six-pounder and then the 17-pounder. (The Piat entered the field only as a short-range weapon.)

The Bat weighs less than a ton — 2200 lbs to be exact — about one-third the weight of the 17-pounder, which it will replace. It can be pulled by any battalion vehicle, though its normal tractor will be a carrier. Unlike other guns, it is towed by its barrel.

A gun detachment of four men (in addition to the driver) mans the Bat — a corporal, who is detachment commander, a No. 1 to lay and fire the gun, a No. 2 to load, and a No. 3 to transmit orders from the detachment commander. The latter takes up his position away from the smoke and dust of firing which might obscure his view of the target.

The four men can manhandle the gun over all but the roughest

OVER

Men of The Gloucestershire Regiment take up action stations on the Bat. The "blow back" through the wide aperture at the rear is something to be avoided. (Note: ammunition is still on the secret list).

THE BAT

(Continued)

country — something the six-man detachment of the 17-pounder cannot do without help. Because the Bat is so light, it is easy to shift the trail and give a wider firing arc.

The new gun is easy to conceal. It is half an inch under four feet high, five feet two inches wide and 12 feet nine inches long.

Its calibre is large: 120 millimetres, or roughly four and three-quarter inches. Details of its ammunition and performance are still on the Secret list, but reporters were allowed to see its rounds doing spectacular damage to an old tank hulk at about 400 yards. A cautious official announcement says: "The gun is very accurate and easily aimed and fired by a trained soldier. It has great hitting power and can defeat the heaviest tanks of today."

The Bat, which derives its name from the initial letters of the words Battalion Anti-Tank, is Britain's first recoilless gun. The American and French armies have produced weapons of this type since World War Two, but the Bat is entirely British in conception and design.

Since the Bat was conceived and designed as another in the long list of apparatus the Infantry now have to master, it was given to the School of Infantry to decide how to use it. The gun made its appearance at the Support Weapons Wing late last year. Fire control details, tactical use and gun-drill were worked out. An officer of the Wing told SOLDIER that though the Royal Artillery may have been consulted on one or two technical points, the method of use was devised entirely by Infantrymen.

In one respect, gun drill on the Bat is different from drill on any other gun. At no time is the order "Detachment Rear" given — since standing behind the Bat would be a bad habit to acquire. Instead, the detachment forms up at the side of the weapon.

The Bat in action: its crack shook the camera.

Last February, the first Bat detachment began to train. It consisted of four members of the 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment — the Army's current demonstration battalion. They were Lance-Corporals T. Cox and A. Corke and Privates L. Gardiner and A. White, all of whom had had some experience with 17-pounders. The four are still together as a demonstration detachment.

Towed by the barrel: any vehicle can pull a Bat in an emergency.

(Photographs: SOLDIER Cameraman W. J. STIRLING)

Thanks to its six wheels, the Saracen can tackle very rough going.

INTRODUCING –

A NEW BATTLE-WAGON

The Infantryman now has an armoured carrier to take him into battle. It can be piloted like a submarine

A war-time improvisation: the Ram Kangaroo, a gutted Sherman tank employed as an armoured infantry carrier.

MORE than a year ago, Members of Parliament were told that a new armoured Infantry carrier had been showing its paces at the School of Infantry, Warminster.

Now the details are out. This new cross-country vehicle is the six-wheel Saracen, carrying 12 men, including the driver and the commander.

It is a very accomplished vehicle indeed. Under fire, the driver can seal his windscreen with a metal plate and steer, submarine fashion, by means of three fixed "episcopes." He can keep going even if two of his six wheels are shot away (so long as the front pair are intact).

The Saracen is designed for use by motor battalions of Infantry in armoured divisions, and will be driven by men from armoured car squadrons. Its high speed (maximum 43 miles an hour) will enable it to keep up with fast-moving tank formations. It has a range of 250 miles.

The British Army's first armoured personnel carriers were improvised in World War Two. They were gutted Sherman tanks, called Kangaroos. The Canadians used them to carry Infantry well forward with the tanks in the Falaise Gap. In Italy the 4th Hussars similarly converted a number of Shermans and became an armoured transport regiment.

Brigadier O. L. Prior-Palmer MP told Parliament in March 1952 how he had made good use of Kangaroos in Italy:

"Two battalions were carried in one attack in these Kangaroos behind my tanks. They fought for an entire day and their casualties were one serjeant with his eye blacked and one subaltern with his arm broken. Yet they came under very heavy mortar and shell fire."

Later in World War Two the Churchill tank was gutted like the Sherman, and is still in use as an armoured personnel carrier.

In an armoured battle, the

OVER

A TRAILER FOR THE CENTURION

The curious-looking appendage to this Centurion tank (photographed at a demonstration at Bovington) is the armoured petrol mono-trailer, designed to give the Centurion a greatly increased range. When the tank is crossing an obstacle the trailer can be raised by a pulley to lie back on the rear of the tank. It is not jettisoned when empty.

Churchill tanks were gutted too, and used as Infantry carriers — but space was limited as this picture shows. Below: One of the earlier devices for rushing up the Infantry — the Military Fly. These soldiers are on their way to defend the cliffs of England against Napoleon's threatened invasion. — *By courtesy of the Parker Gallery.*

NEW BATTLE-WAGON

(Continued)

Saracens will be just behind the tanks, but they are not intended to move right up to, and into, enemy positions, like the tracked Churchill carriers, which can more easily tackle ground churned up by tanks. Saracens will discharge troops when these are needed to consolidate captured enemy positions.

The Saracen is manufactured by the Alvis company and is powered by a standard Rolls-Royce engine. It has a turret for the commander, with a .300 machine-gun; a Bren gun is mounted at the rear. The underside is sufficiently armoured to withstand the blast of a mine.

Inside, the section of Infantry — who "belong" to that vehicle — sit facing each other, their kit stowed in lockers under the seats. They enter and leave by two doors at the rear, opening outwards.

The Saracen is undoubtedly the most businesslike of the many devices for hustling forward the Infantry in a war of movement. In the last war there were many improvisations in this field, one of the more curious being a plan to drag Infantrymen over the ground in individual containers.

The Infantry have had a variety of light tracked carriers which have been used as Infantry maids-of-all-work — for carrying mortars and stores, towing guns and as artillery observation posts. They were not designed for carrying Infantry into battle, though they may have been used occasionally in this role.

SOLDIER to Soldier

AMONG the proudest men marching in the Coronation procession must have been those of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

For one day, the brilliant action by their 1st Battalion in Korea even dislodged the Coronation itself from the headlines.

It was a most salutary thing that the public should have been reminded, in the midst of its jubilations, that "there's a war on," and that behind the glitter and the banners the Army was living up to its toughest traditions.

One of the few merits of a campaign like that in Korea is that a battalion which distinguishes itself is named at once. If it had been total war, the Duke of Wellington's Regiment would have been described as "a North Country regiment," and not for a long time afterwards would its identity have been revealed. It was a minor tragedy of World War Two that troops which took part in famous actions could not be named until new battles had thrust the memory of the old ones into the background.

*

THAT other stirring story which broke on to the front pages on Coronation Day itself — the conquest of Everest — was again one in which the Army could take tremendous pride.

The highest mountain had fallen after a shrewd operation planned by an Army Staff Officer! No wonder the Secretary for War and the Chiefs of Staff lost no time in sending congratulatory wires to Katmandu. Colonel John Hunt's feat may have been overshadowed by the Coronation, but he and his party are in for a tremendous homecoming.

*

IN "Who's Who" of 1975 how many biographies of distinguished generals will contain the entry "*Educ.* Welbeck, Sandhurst and Shrivenham," instead of "*Educ.* Eton, Sandhurst"?

It is now possible for a future officer to start at Welbeck College at 16, pass straight into Sandhurst at 18, obtain his commission and then complete his technical training at Shrivenham.

Much useful information about an officer's career today is contained in a new booklet "The Queen's Commission," designed to give the right ideas to the right youths.

The booklet makes very clear that a good officer is not just a man who passes examinations in dazzling succession. It consists of brief accounts of real-life experiences (some of them in Korea) undergone by resourceful young officers, experiences which called for guts as well as brains, not least in the technical arms. And it contains extracts from that masterly speech once delivered at Sandhurst by Field-Marshal Sir William Slim. His maxims cannot be quoted too often:

Courage: Anybody can be brave for a little while, but the officer goes on being brave when others falter.

Initiative means that you don't sit down and wait for something to happen. If, in war, you wait for something to happen, it will happen all right and it will be unpleasant when it does.

Will-power means that you will force through what you consider to be your duty to do, against not only the opposition of the Queen's enemies, but against the opposition of well-meaning friends and of all the doubts and difficulties of men and nature which will assail you.

Knowledge: You have no business to be an officer unless you know how to do the job better than those you lead.

Self-sacrifice: It means simply this, that you will put first the honour of your Queen and Country; that next you will put the safety, the well-being and the security of the men under your command; and that last, and last all the time, you will put your own interest, your own safety and your own comfort.

"PROBABLY no single individual has done so much for the well-being of the Forces..."

SOLDIER wrote that in September, 1948. How many soldiers could name the individual referred to?

The answer is Lord Nuffield, the motor-car magnate.

The Nuffield Trust for the Forces of the Crown, first launched in the summer of 1939, has now spent more than one million pounds on the Services. That new £35,000 swimming pool at the Britannia Club, Singapore (a picture appeared in SOLDIER in April) was the gift of the Trust. Soon Gibraltar will benefit by the gift of a swimming pool. The most recent of Lord Nuffield's benefactions to Middle East garrisons is the gift of 26 Firefly sailing craft; they were received with much enthusiasm. Probably the best-known of the Nuffield enterprises is the Nuffield Centre, in London, which recently celebrated its 1000th variety entertainment for Servicemen.

During the late war Lord Nuffield's Trust, besides setting up clubs and rest centres, paid for prodigious numbers of radio sets in lonely camps, for libraries, musical instruments, mobile cinemas, sports gear, games and furniture all over the world.

There is no historical parallel for the Nuffield Trust. In Victorian times there were philanthropic millionaires, but somehow it never occurred to them to make the soldier's lot a happier one.

To Lord Nuffield, SOLDIER offers the Army's sincerest thanks.

*

THE War Minister was asked in the Commons recently for his views on the use of soldiers and regimental names in commercial advertisements.

His reply was that anything which kept the soldier in the public eye was to the good.

This may or may not pave the way for a picture strip about the adjutant who was falling down on his job ("One more parade like that and you're posted!"), until the wise old Medical Officer recommended him to drink Ovavita last thing at night.

Hitherto those radiant young women and masterful men in the advertisements have only put on uniform on the outbreak of major wars. It seems only right that they should do their share of National Service in these unusual times.

The interest of advertisers in specific regiments *could* become embarrassing: would any regiment wish to be known as Littlepools' Own? Though it is doubtful whether anyone thinks the worse of a famous Cavalry regiment for being linked with a brand of cigarette.

*

DID you notice that curious case at Berkshire Assizes when two 19-year-old soldiers convicted of robbery with violence were asked by Mr. Justice Hilbery whether they would volunteer unconditionally for service overseas (the newspapers reported this as meaning service in Korea)?

Not surprisingly, the two agreed, and were bound over on that condition.

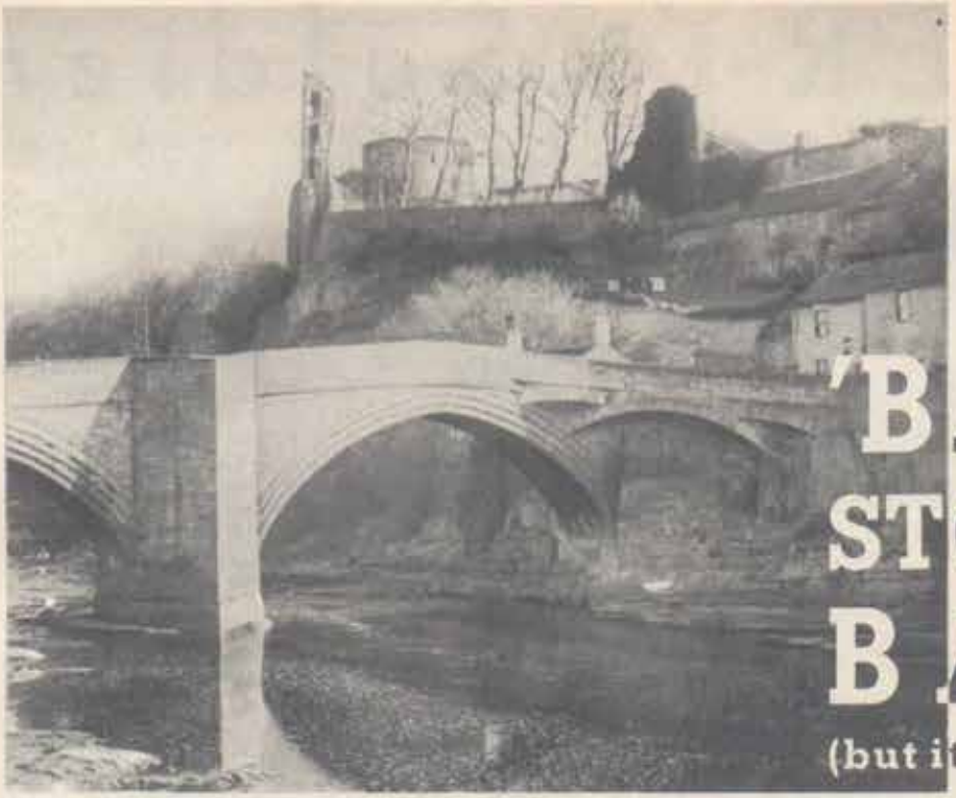
"An Insult to the Army," said the lone voice of the *Daily Mirror*.

A spell of front-line service (if that was what was intended) may or may not be a good thing for these two young men. But are these two young men going to be a good thing for the front line?

The battlefield is where the soldier serves with most honour. It is not a place of punishment, or a rehabilitation centre. It is a place for trained and disciplined men, not for society's misfits.

Everybody has met the man who says, "Why don't we round up the spivs and lead-swingers and put them into uniform?" No doubt it would be a good thing for them to be kicked around a bit, but the Army is not a place for kicking people around. The recruits it wants are those who will do a steady, honest job. Luckily it gets them by the thousand.

The Army's Coronation poster was drawn by Eric Kennington. The soldier in battle-dress serves as a reminder that, even at this time of brilliant ceremonial, soldiers are also on active service. Both soldiers are drawn from life. In the foreground is CQMS Raymond Dodkins, who served with the Middlesex Regiment in Korea. The ceremonial soldier is Corporal Ernest Atherton, Royal Horse Guards.



Hundreds of years have passed since the castle above the river was fortified. Now Barnard Castle is a garrison town again.

SOLDIER visits one of the new garrison towns in the north of England: Barnard Castle. It was the scene of a World War Two revolution in Infantry training

'BARNEY' STOOD FOR BATTLE

(but it's a family station now)

MENTION Barnard Castle to the last-war Infantryman, and he will leap out of his chair and begin to move at the double.

This Durham town was the home of the vigorously conducted General Headquarters Battle School, which became a legend in a very brief space of time. Here, and in divisional battle schools, Infantry training underwent such a shake-up as it had not received since the days of General Sir John Moore.

In fact, the shake-up was such that sober traditionalists were alarmed; they heard tales of men being goaded into action by cries of "Hate! Hate! Hate!" and "Kill! Kill! Kill!" with variations in the shape of "Sweat saves blood!" and "Huns in your homeland!" (After some protests, "Hate!" was cut out, but "Kill!" was left in).

Before the war Barnard Castle was just a quiet market town. It had not seen much military excitement since the reign of the first Queen Elizabeth, when the castle garrison under Sir George Bowes had held out for eleven days in the Rising of the North (the stand at Barnard Castle bought much useful time in which the Queen's forces rallied to throw back the Percys and the Nevilles).

In 1939 the people of Barnard Castle watched with some perturbation the sight of militia camps springing up round the town. For long their castle had lain in ruins; now they were to become a garrison town again.

Throughout the war troops in their thousands poured in and out of the six new camps. On Saturdays the local station master found himself taking up to £2000 in fares from men off for the week-end.

After the war the Army in Barnard Castle was reduced to one brigade, which suddenly vanished overseas. It is said that when this happened even the publicans went out to look for work. (Barnard Castle's industries are confined to leather and penicillin).

Today the people of Barnard Castle know that theirs will be a garrison town for a long time to come. Workmen are putting the finishing touches to two estates of new houses for married soldiers, and to a road of officers' houses. For the married soldier, Barnard Castle is a lucky posting, in that he is reasonably sure of finding a home for his family.

For the unmarried soldier, the town's attractions are not overwhelming. Besides the castle there is an excellent museum based in a French-style mansion; there are two cinemas, a YMCA club and rather more drinking places than eating places. Most troops make for Darlington, where there are plenty of organised dances and entertainments.

When SOLDIER called at Barnard Castle two battalions of the Green Howards had recently marched out, and the occupants were the 1st Battalion The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and 58th Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery, lately returned from the Far East. In due course they will be joined by the Cameronians, from Malaya. Territorial units descend on the remaining camps in summer.

When the 58th Medium Regiment arrived, a private soldier of the advance party welcomed them with the unnecessarily gloomy words: "There's only one thing wrong with Barnard Castle — it's above water level." The next day the Regiment was paid out after its journey from Hong-Kong. Many of the men had credits running to over £100 which they drew for their leave. In a few hours shopkeepers had almost sold out as the Gunners bought up raincoats, sports clothes and suits. Prosperity had returned to "Barney."

Colour has also come to "Barney." For this year's St. George's Day, the Fusiliers staged their famous parade — the first time since 1938 that it has been held in Britain by a Regular battalion. They placarded the town with invitations to the public to watch

Brigadier the Earl of Caithness (centre), a Gordon Highlander, commands 51st Independent Infantry Brigade, with headquarters at Barnard Castle. Left: Lieut-Col. M. Speer commands the 1st Battalion The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, and Lieut-Col. H. A. Orr (right) 58 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Left: The Gunners at "Barney" can field a brace of trumpeters in full dress, to give that extra touch to mess nights.

Right: His drum is decked out with St. George's Day roses: a drummer of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers.

the Trooping. By War Office permission, the band and drums turned out in scarlet tunics and sealskin caps, 80-strong. Every soldier wore the red and white rose in his hat. To Deerbolt Camp for the occasion came the BBC television newsreel cameras.

Both regiments — the Gunners and the Fusiliers — have started their own families' clubs. These add to the social life of the community and are a means of airing family problems. Members of the Fusiliers' club have gallantly undertaken to darn the unit's football socks. The villagers of Stainton invited the children to take part in their Coronation celebrations and asked one soldier's wife to join their Coronation committee.

Among the personalities whom the Army has brought to Barnard Castle, two have made their mark locally. One is 16-year-old Boy Thomas Butler, of the Fusiliers. When the Battalion was stationed at Brancepeth Castle, Durham, after its return from Hong-Kong, he marched in and asked to be taken on as a drummer boy. On the St. George's Day parade he carried the Drummers' Colour, a standard exclusive to the Regiment.

The other is Lance-Bombardier Paddy Murphy, from County Cork, who has spent 23 of his 32 Army years with 58th Medium Regiment, and who has not been on leave since 1919. He says that when he went home then, the people thought he had earned his World War One medals for fighting the English and gave him a rousing welcome. Since then he has drawn three leave warrants but somehow never got farther than the canteen. He is the regiment's unofficial historian, and never forgets to mention the order of the day which General Sir Richard Gale issued in Palestine in 1948, when he described the regiment as "absolutely the cat's whiskers."

To this Cameronian in Malaya, Barnard Castle is a good posting.

More Pictures Overleaf

Below: By special permission, the Fusiliers' band wore scarlet and sealskins for this parade. Here they march through the ranks of the Battalion on the parade-ground at Deerbolt Camp.

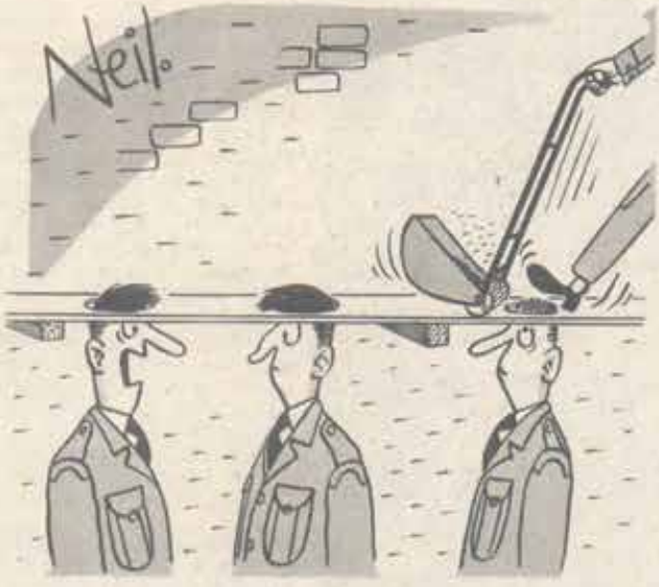
'Barney' (Concluded)

Gunner recruits at Barnard Castle are introduced to the redoubtable 5.5 medium. They belong to 58 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery.

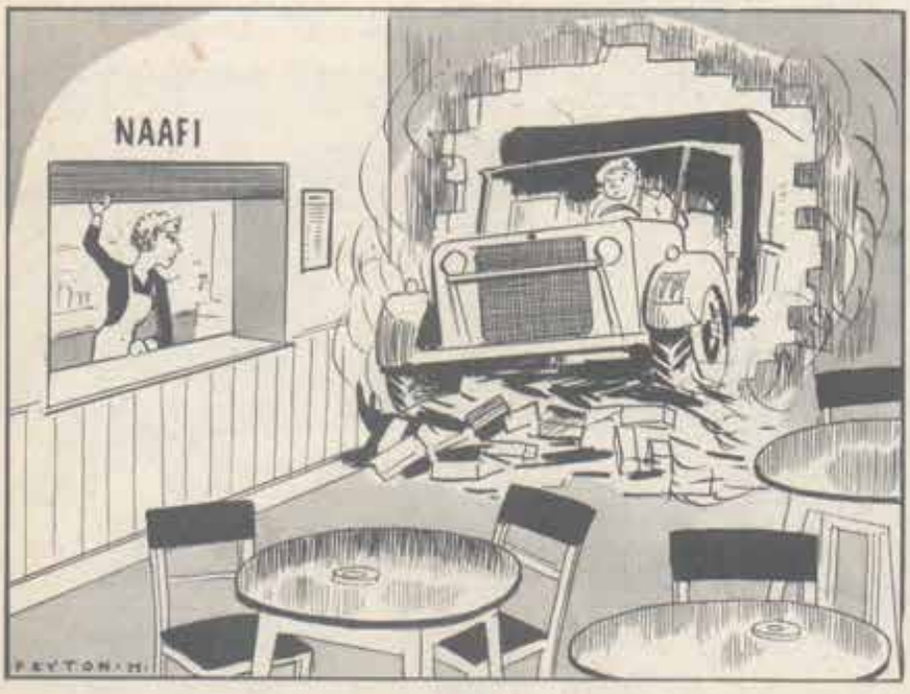
The domestic side: New estates of married quarters are being completed at Barnard Castle. Left: Serjeant and Mrs. Harold Weatherdon in the living-room of their semi-detached house, built to a less formal design than usual (below). Foot of page: a new road of officers' houses. "Don't think we shall allow these houses to be empty for long," says the Garrison Engineer, Mr. F. R. Heading.

"Don't look — it only encourages him."

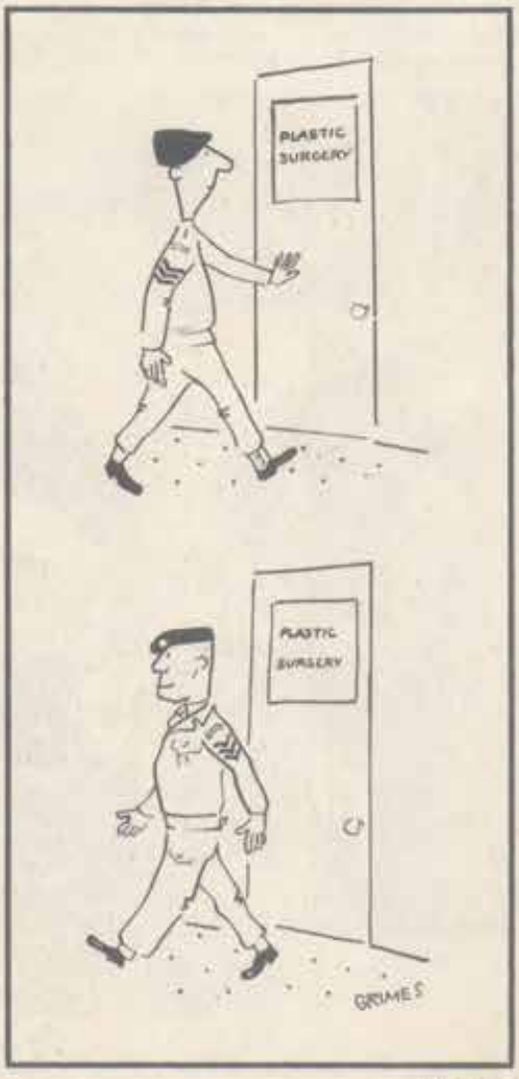
Soldier HUMOUR



"Whose brilliant idea was it to mechanise the barber's shop?"



"There's ten minutes to go before we open."



MANNA FALLS AGAIN

It was welcomed by Parachutists and Commandos, locked in "battle" where only the Bedouin live

Parachutist machine-gunners (above) open up on a Commando defensive position. Below: Gunners of 33rd Parachute Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, ready to go into action.

The manna, dropped by parachute, was in the form of freshly-baked loaves of bread.

IN the footsteps of Moses and the Children of Israel, exiled from Egypt into Sinai, went two of Britain's crack formations to fight the Canal Zone's Exercise Crossbow.

They were 16th Independent Parachute Brigade and 40 Royal Marine Commando.

The Commandos were assumed to have kidnapped a scientist prospecting for radio-active metals and to have "persuaded" him to work for them in his portable laboratory in the Wadi Khamila, some 30 miles inland from the Gulf of Suez. The Parachute Brigade had the task of rescuing him.

The 30-mile route was one of the toughest in a tough country — an authentic wilderness of towering mountains, overhanging peaks and boulder-strewn, deep-sanded *wadis*. It was no mean effort on the Commandos' part to manoeuvre unwieldly vehicles into the *wadi* to form part of the professor's equipment.

The Parachute Brigade concentrated on the coastal plains at the mouth of the Wadi Sidri.

Parachutists' conference. Left to right: Lieutenant-Colonel R. K. Page, 33rd Parachute Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, Brigadier D. S. Gordon, commanding 16th Independent Parachute Brigade, Major M. J. D'A. Blackman, 2nd Parachute Battalion and Lieut-Col. V. W. Street, 3rd Parachute Battalion.

IN SINAI

Meanwhile the Commandos occupied positions in the mountains and valleys, taking cover and digging-in.

Then the advance began. Commandos, who had climbed up almost vertical cliffs to fire down on the Parachutists, were surprised to meet them on the razor-edged peaks carrying arms and 40-lb packs. There followed brisk shooting forays adjudged by nimble umpires.

For the troops taking part there were no half-measures in this roughest Canal Zone exercise to date. Water was limited at first to a gallon a day for each man for all purposes, but it was restricted to half a gallon as the exercise continued. Commandos, widely strung out and secure in fire positions on the hill slopes with orders to delay the enemy advance, lived up to 24 hours on a packet of hard biscuits each, a tin of bully or sardines, and only a bottle of water.

The Parachute Brigade had no easier time. Their supply lines extended back to El Shatt, a good 100 miles distant. Drivers of the lorries, the troop-carriers and other vehicles performed prodigies to keep up the brigade's advance. Many were forced to man-handle their trucks through soft-sand, and in one notorious seven-mile stretch of *wadi* which defied all but four-wheel drives, bulldozers were used to tow out bogged vehicles.

Manna, which came from heaven in the time of Moses, dropped from the skies this time in the shape of ready-made loaves of bread, for benefit of Parachutists and Commandos alike.

Sinai's dark-skinned nomads, often mounted on camels, had a cheery grin and a wave for the soldiers. They seemed not at all perturbed at this invasion of parts of the country which, apart from the Bedouin themselves, had probably remained untrodden for hundreds of years.

On the second day the Parachute Brigade's 1st Battalion captured the professor's heavy equipment, deserted by the Commandos. During the evening the professor himself escaped his guards, dodged their patrols in no-man's land, and reached the safety of 3rd Battalion lines.

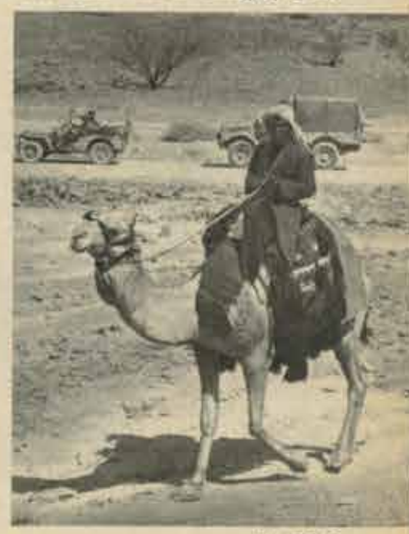
Then, in the Wadi El Sih on the third day the Parachutists mounted a brigade set-piece attack to kill and capture the remaining Commando troops.

Afterwards came the return drive to the Canal Zone along the coast road past the Wadi El Mousa, reputedly the first oasis at which Moses and his people drank after crossing the Red Sea — "twelve wells of water and three score and ten palm trees." Even today the oasis supplies water for the inhabitants of a small village. — *Report by Captain W. Holmes, Army Public Relations.*

Two Commandos look down on the Wadi Khamila. Below: During the night they "fought" on the rocky hill-tops in the background. Now the Commandos withdraw.

A bulldozer gives a pull to a "four-by-two" bogged in the sand.

A Bedouin "four-by-four" which crosses loose sand without changing gear.



Some desert battles of World War Two had much in common with naval battles — and left almost as little trace behind them

LOOKING FOR A BATTLE

This war-time picture shows just about all there was of Knightsbridge.

IT'S not so hard to reconstruct a mountain battle like Keren, or a famous old set-piece like the siege of Quebec.

But try to re-create the Battle of Knightsbridge, or any of those naval-style desert battles fought "in the blue." It's quite a problem, now that the derelict hulk of tanks, trucks and aircraft have long since been removed for scrap.

Officers from all over the Middle East — Tripolitania, Cyrenaica, the Canal Zone, Jordan, the Sudan, Iraq, East Africa and Malta — recently spent three days in the Western Desert studying the battles of the Gazala Line which ended with the fall of Tobruk in June 1942.

Officers explore the ruins of the old Italian fort at Bir Hacheim, where the 1st Free French Brigade made its great stand against Rommel.

The arrangements were made by 25th Armoured Brigade, which became an operational formation in 1952 and early this year took over the administrative functions of Cyrenaica District.

At Knightsbridge — the name given during the war to a track junction in the open desert 25 miles south-west of Tobruk — men of the 1st Battalion The Sherwood Foresters built a tented camp to hold 400 officers and men. They had the help of a small Sapper party with a compressor, for the ground was so hard that it was necessary to drill a hole for almost every tent peg. Less than two months before, a minefield had stretched across part of the tented area, and the complete site had to be swept. Sappers of 3 Squadron 22nd Field Engineer Regiment carried out this task and in so doing destroyed about 800 assorted grenades, shells and mines. At the end, electric light and running water were laid on and there was even the band of the 1st Battalion The Sherwood Foresters to play in the camp each evening.

This was probably the first battlefield tour to be held in a featureless desert, and its organisation presented considerable problems. There were no easily identifiable landmarks. All that remained were slit trenches, old gun positions and a few strands of barbed wire, marking minefield limits. Seven eye-witness speakers assisted the directing staff and their individual narratives did much to bring the story to life. It was small wonder, however, that most of them had the greatest difficulty at first in recognizing their surroundings.

Two other major difficulties with which the directing staff had to contend were the vast distances involved and the scarcity of viewpoints. Stands could be sited to offer a view of only a very small portion of any battlefield. It was decided not to attempt a detailed account of operations at a low level, but rather to give a brief general picture of the battle as a whole, supplemented by the individual impressions of officers who took part in the fighting.

Maps and photographs referring to the operations were on view in information tents at the camp. They included some of Rommel's personal maps, lent by Herr Schultz-Dewitz, formerly a platoon commander in 15th Panzer Division, who served for a short time as Rommel's intelligence officer and is now head of the German War Graves Commission in Libya.

During the exercise, visits were made to Bir Hacheim, the "Cauldron" — scene of the bitterest fighting — and Tobruk. The fluid nature of desert operations was most clearly brought out; and the exercise usefully illustrated the rival commanders' approach to the problems of command, communication and administration in the desert.

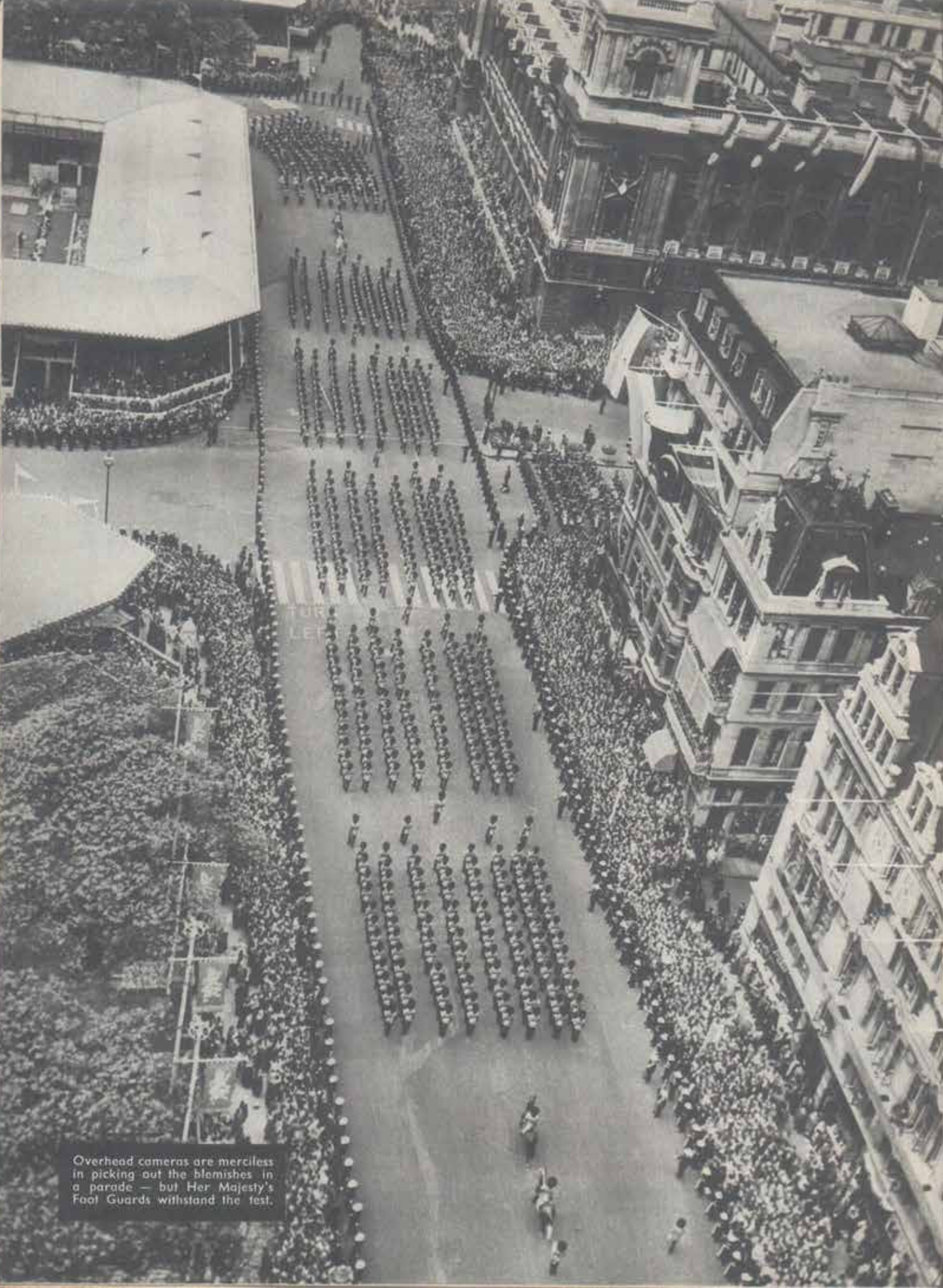
Lieutenant-General Sir Francis Festing, commanding British Troops in Egypt, directed the exercise on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East Land Forces. Visitors included Sir Alec Kirkbride, Her Majesty's Minister to the Kingdom of Libya. — *Report by Major J. Manners, Army Public Relations.*

Général de Brigade Masson of the French Army describes the battle of Bir Hacheim, in which he took part. He was Chief of Staff to General Koenig.

THE QUEEN WE SERVE IS CROWNED

AFTER the Coronation ceremony, the Queen's procession passes down the nave of Westminster Abbey. On each side are an officer and ten Gentlemen-at-Arms. Standing on the screen at the back of the picture are the Kneller Hall trumpeters — 20 students undergoing bandmasters' courses at the Royal Military School of Music. Their rehearsals of the specially-written Coronation fanfares — secret until the day—extended back over six months. In charge of the trumpeters was the School's Director of Music, Lieut-Col. M. Roberts.

SOLDIER'S PICTURE RECORD OF THE CORONATION PROCESSION BEGINS OVERLEAF



Overhead cameras are merciless in picking out the blemishes in a parade — but Her Majesty's Foot Guards withstand the test.

Badajoz, Vittoria, Nivelle, Toulouse... the Colours of the Infantry regiments are carried up Whitehall.

THE QUEEN'S MEN MARCH

It was wet and wonderful, cold and colourful — the march of ten thousand men and women from hundreds of units in scores of lands

IF you want to humble a military expert, take him along to a Coronation procession and ask him to identify the regiments as they march by.

You don't need to ask him difficult questions, like "Is that the Falkland Islands Defence Force?" or "Where is the Australian Army Psychology Corps?" (that is *not* an invented name — a corps with that title was represented in the march!). Just ask him to point out half a dozen of the English county regiments, and you will soon have him groggy.

For a Coronation procession — superb sight though it is — is a spotter's nightmare. When an entire regiment is reduced to a single line of men in a tight-packed, glittering parallelogram the problem of recognition becomes acute. Even the identifying of famous war leaders, whose features are known to millions, turns out to be a guessing game.

Perhaps the answer is that a Coronation procession should be enjoyed purely as a spectacle — for its colour, its precision, its music and its inspiration. Even in the sluicing rain, this march had its peculiar magic.

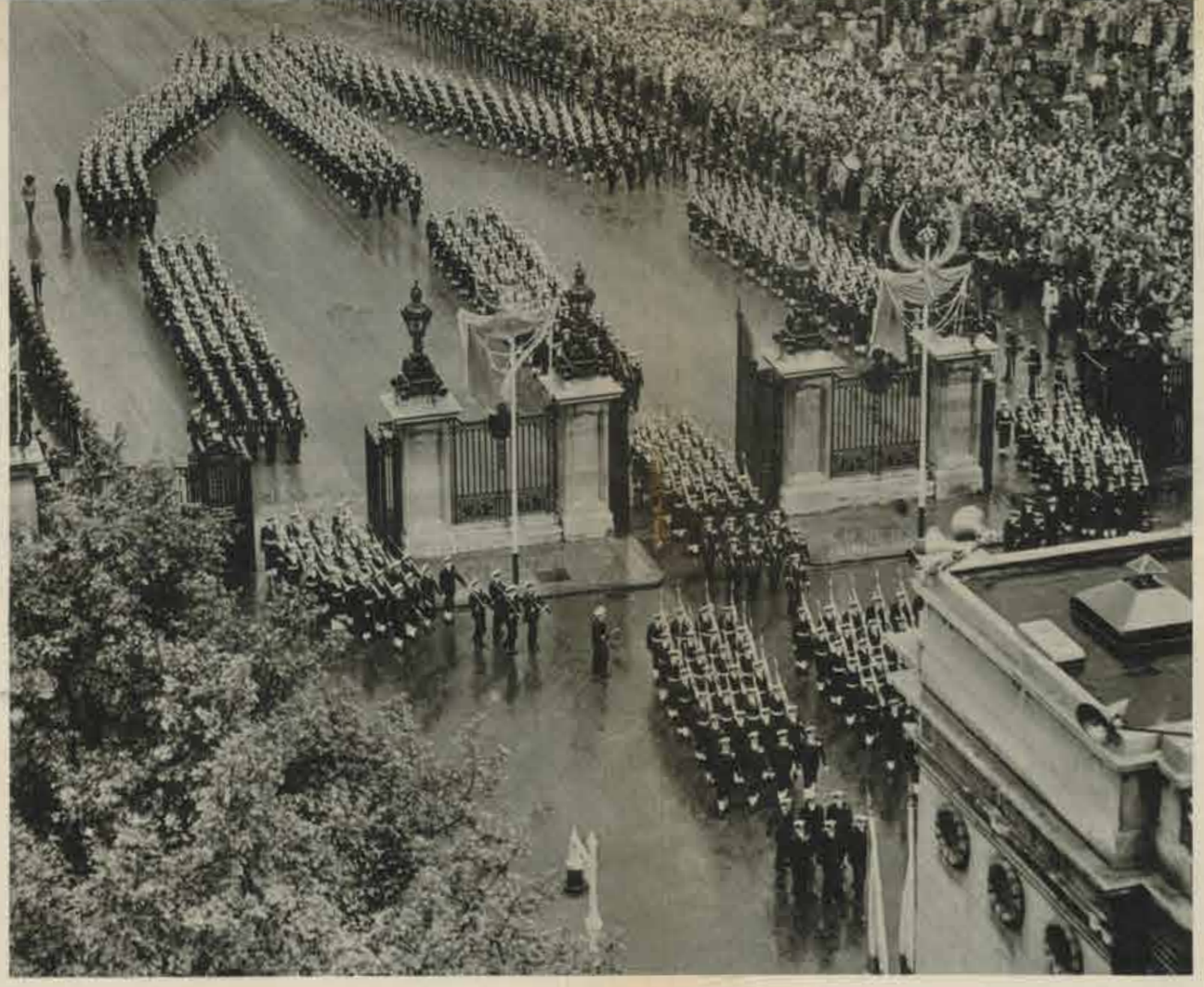
It was a day of trial for the Army's Number One Dress. Although (as SOLDIER's correspondence columns show) there are those who will not be happy until the Army returns to scarlet, no one watching the procession could seriously pretend that Her Majesty's Foot looked like commissionaires, or employees of Cable and Wireless. It was the trappings that made the difference — the varying hues of piping and striping, the sashes and cap bands, the gold on officers' shoulders, the medals. Yet it was noticeable that the crowds went out of their way to cheer scarlet — as when they caught sight of the West Africans in their red jackets, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Queen's Watermen.

Occasions which bring all the Army's Colours and Guidons together on one parade come only once in a generation. Here Colours were borne in a profusion to dumbfound that military expert — and, like the uniforms, the Colours had their treasured variations. There was one with a silver wreath on the top of the staff, another with a gold wreath, yet another with a circlet of coloured flowers and there was even a staff with what appeared to be white flowers growing out

OVER

The overseas contingents pass under the ornamental arches in the Mall.

He rode with the Chiefs of Staff of the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force: General Sir John Harding, Chief of the Imperial General Staff. Below: four field-marshals, batons in hand: Viscount Montgomery (hand to cap), Lord Ironside, Earl Alexander and Sir Claude Auchinleck.



Leading the procession: Col. B. J. O. Burrows — followed by four troopers.

One of the Corps making their debut in a Coronation procession: the Women's Royal Army Corps. Below: the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery pass the Victoria Memorial.

What *The Times* called "a peculiar and endearing manoeuvre" — the splitting of the procession into three at Marble Arch. Below: One of the smartest mounted detachments was that of the British South Africa Police.

THE QUEEN'S MEN MARCH

(Continued)

of the top. Tantalising sights these, especially as the Colour which bears the regiment's name usually droops anonymously on its staff (though one reporter had the Colours "unfurled in the breeze").

Who, besides the men in scarlet, earned the biggest cheers? Inevitably, Colonel B. J. O. Burrows, who led the procession. After it has waited for eight (or 28) hours the British public will cheer anything that moves, a statement which means no disrespect to the Inspector of Trooping. In any event, it is time Movement Control had a cheer.

Who else? The Airborne, making positively their first appearance in any Coronation procession; the Gurkhas, those sober and most soldierly little men from the kingdom which (until that week) had contained a notoriously unclimbable mountain; the white-skirted Fijians, screwing their eyes against England's icy rain; the lancers from Pakistan riding behind their Premier's coach, an echo of the pageantry which once went with Viceroys and

OVER

The mounted band of the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues) pass the Horse Guards in Whitehall where troopers sit at their accustomed posts, even on Coronation Day. Below: The procession passes through Trafalgar Square. In the crowd are hundreds of periscopes.

QUEEN'S MEN

(Continued)

Imperial Durbars; the 4th Hussars in full dress, basking in the cheers for Sir Winston Churchill (and duly grateful, one hopes, to authority for waiving the dress regulations); the Home Guard, in all the startling novelty of khaki; the Women's Royal Army Corps, disproving the slander that women are not made to march; the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, with their toy-like engines of war; and, as always, the Foot Guards, uncannily precise, and the Household Cavalry, poetry in steel and flesh.

It is the fate of those who ride nearest the Queen's coach to pass unnoticed, simply because everyone is looking at the Sovereign. That is why so many people wondered, afterwards, how they had come to miss the Lord High Constable (Field-Marshal Viscount Alanbrooke) and Admiral Earl Mountbatten.

The last time Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery passed this way, on a comparable occasion, was in the Victory Parade of 1946; he then wore battle-dress with two badges in his cap, and rode in a jeep. This time, in blue enriched with much gold, he was in the saddle, and looking, as always, fully in command. He was separated from his one-time chief, Field-Marshal Earl Alexander, by Field-Marshal Lord Ironside. Riding with them was another desert commander, Field-Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck. Four field-marshals in a row on horseback, carrying their batons as Haig and Roberts and Wellington carried them, is quite a sight, so is that of a general, an admiral and an air chief marshal riding side by side — the three United Kingdom Chiefs of Staff.

Sprinkled among the illustrious were marching chaplains, Queen's honorary physicians and dental surgeons, and aides-de-camp festooned with aiguillettes — here a colonel-baronet, there a brigadier-knight. Gold Stick was there, and Silver Stick, and inscrutable adjutants and equerries.

Right at the end came a Farrier Corporal of Horse carrying what looked like a battle-axe, brilliantly polished. This (the wiseacres told their American neighbours) was to dispatch injured horses, but the Americans, noticing a very stylish vehicle coming up in the rear inscribed "Horse Ambulance," decided that the axe must be just another of those things that were symbolic.

It had been no easy day for horsemen, or horses. Many steeds, frightened by the crowd, elected to travel sideways, or backwards, as horses did no doubt on William the Conqueror's big day.

For the troops lining the route the parade held something of the ordeal of Queen Victoria's Wet Review. It is one thing to march in rain, it is another to stand still in it for hours on end — with misguided people trying to push sweets surreptitiously into one's numb fingers. But the crowd meant well. It went away convinced that its Army, like its Queen, was wonderful.

They escorted Sir Winston Churchill: men of the 4th Hussars, in pre-war full dress.

No overseas troops marched with more precision than the Gurkhas. Below: a corner of Olympia, transformed into a giant barrack-room for Coronation troops.

Escorting their Prime Minister: Lancers of Pakistan. Below: even the sandwiches for the street-lining troops were brought up by soldiers in Number One Dress.

A Coronation Gallery

Photographs: SOLDIER Cameramen W. J. STIRLING and FRANK TOMPSETT

From New Zealand he came to ride in his Prime Minister's escort: a trooper of the Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps.

A lancer from Pakistan — on escort duty.

This Australian rode in the Queen's Escort of Officers from Commonwealth Contingents.

SOLDIERS

HERE is a portrait gallery from the greatest military family in the world: that of the British Commonwealth and Empire.

The faces run from pink through tan to coffee, chocolate and black. There are hawk noses and flat noses, thin lips and thick lips, scarred cheeks and slit ears, but all these men have one thing in common — they serve the same Queen.

All have the same pride of bearing, the same pride of arms. Some will go back to their homes, others to serve in lands where their comrades are even now fighting the Queen's enemies.

A serjeant of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps.

With a maple leaf in her badge: a Canadian serjeant.

No mistaking his fighting arm: a Canadian Gunner.

This slouch-hatted soldier belongs to the Rhodesian African Rifles.

In the cap of a soldier from Ceylon shines the Light Infantry bugle.

From Southern Rhodesia: a warrant officer class two.

FROM FIVE CONTINENTS

This lance-corporal came from Malta, the George Cross isle.

This spectacled serjeant with the dragon flash belongs to the Hong-Kong Regiment.

A soldier of the Malay Regiment. Right: a magnificent, sculptured face from West Africa.

OVER

A Coronation Gallery
(Continued)

From Uganda: a King's African Rifleman. Below: a serjeant from Aden.

A warrior face from the Horn of Africa: a Somaliland Scout.

Under the slouch hat: a man from the King's African Rifles.

His countrymen are serving in Malaya: a soldier from Fiji.

From the north of South America: a British Guiana soldier.

An officer of the Leeward Islands Defence Force.

From Nepal, by way of Malaya: a Gurkha. His country is outside the Empire — but no soldier is more loyal to the Queen.

"Where were you on the night of the 27th?" A mock murder trial in Hamburg.

MURDER MOST FOUL

IT'S the story of a young girl whose dismembered body was found in a chicken run, 25 years ago.

Today a military court is trying the "suspect" — in Hamburg's No. 3 Higher Education Centre.

The mock trial is part of the curriculum tackled by Regular soldiers who are soon to leave the Army and become policemen.

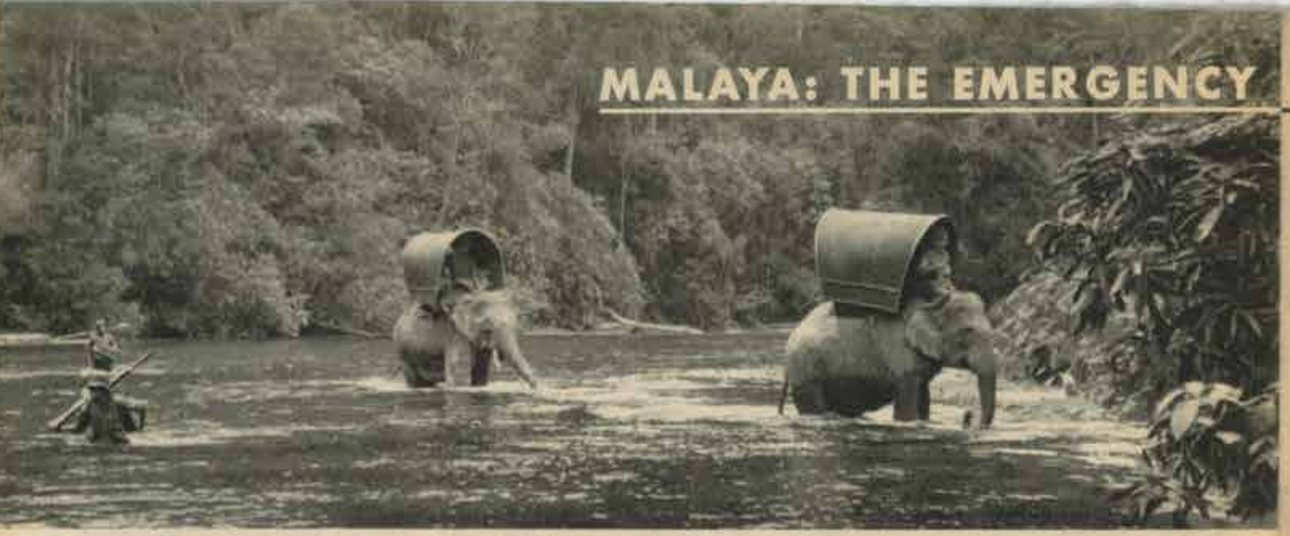
All the cast are soldiers, and some of them are well-qualified to act their parts. The impassive judge is Serjeant F. I. Hartley, Royal Army Educational Corps, a National Serviceman who obtained his criminal law degree with honours and became the youngest barrister in Britain at the age of 21, before his call-up last year.

Counsel for the prosecution and the defence are Royal Army Educational Corps officers who have studied military law and have prosecuted or defended at courts-martial. The jury, witnesses and spectators are students or members of the Centre's permanent staff.

Soldiers who take this police course spend three days with Hamburg's civil police on a dock tour, inspecting radio cars of the Flying Squad and visiting the murder museum of the criminal investigation department. At the end of the course (which also includes such subjects as English, mathematics, general knowledge and criminal law) they hear from a British Public Safety Officer some of their duties when they begin to pound a beat in Britain.

Left: the judge, Sjt. F. I. Hartley, was Britain's youngest barrister when he was called up.

Major D. Closier, Chief Instructor, acts as counsel for the prosecution.



Grub coming up: Deep in the jungle is a Malay Regiment patrol — and its rations are brought up by elephant convoy.

Even Their Best Friends Hate Them

These are hard, hungry times for Malaya's terrorists. General Sir Gerald Templer has given an inspiring report on the jungle war

FORMER terrorists who have surrendered to Malaya's security forces are now volunteering to fight against the "hard core" bandits still lurking in deep jungle. Such is the measure of Britain's ascendancy after five years of the Malayan "emergency."

This announcement is made by General Sir Gerald Templer, High Commissioner for Malaya.

"The eagerness with which those who have already surrendered have assisted the security forces in operations has made it desirable that these men should be organised into fighting units," says General Templer. And so a new "Special Operational Volunteer Force" is being raised from among terrorists who have surrendered otherwise than on the field of battle. Training has already started with 180 volunteers who will operate under the command of the security forces. The men will serve for 18 months and if they are not re-engaged, and their conduct is satisfactory, they will be considered fit to resume their places in civil life.

The shooting war no longer takes up the major part of General Templer's working day in Kuala Lumpur. But in that shooting war, British soldiers are still playing a fine part. "Without the job they are doing in keeping the Communist terrorists down, now that we have got them down, we should not be able to turn our thoughts to social and economic progress, as we are doing," says General Templer. "Malaya is very grateful to them."

But the Communists are not finished yet in the shooting war. They retain a dangerous armed potential. They have changed their policy, and it is known that at the same time as they called off outrages affecting the public, they expressly instructed their followers to carry on with attacks on the armed forces and with raids to secure arms.

"From our point of view," says General Templer, "the Emergency is certainly running to schedule. The facts are that during the first four months of this year the casualties they have inflicted on the security forces amount to 22 killed and 24 wounded. Their own have been 261 killed and 110 wounded. During the same period they have lost arms to the security forces at an average of 97 per month, while security force arms losses have been negligible. And in these four months 135 Communist terrorists have surrendered. The total number of Communist terrorists who have come over to our side since the Emergency started is now over 1000.

"The monthly average of major incidents fell from 194 in 1951 to 117 in 1952 and to an average of 18 in the first quarter of 1953. We have kept up a good rate of Communist terrorist eliminations, although opportunities for contact have fallen, and in particular we are knocking out an average of 12 State, District and Branch committee members a month... So the Communist record in the shooting war is, even under the new directive, one of steady defeat."

Evidence indicates that the people who surrender were never fully indoctrinated Communists. The real hard core of the Communist terrorist organisation has been shaken by kills and internal disruption, but is not giving up. It is to some extent self-liquidating, as in the case of Ah Kuk, a member of the Central Executive, whose head was chopped off by three members of his personal body-guard who then surrendered themselves.

The hard core, with a selected semi-regular armed force, are withdrawing into really deep jungle, where they hope they will never be tracked. The rest of the so-called Liberation Army is split into small groups of between three and 15, called Armed Work Forces.

THE JOCKS OF JOHORE

THE latest Infantry battalion to leave Malaya is the 1st Battalion The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), after three years bandit hunting.

When the Cameronians arrived in Johore from Hong Kong they spent their first eight months in the Muar area, where they scored a number of spectacular successes against terrorists. Then in December 1951, they were ordered into the Segamat/Labis area where they soon came to grips with what was probably the biggest, best organised and most ruthless of the terrorist gangs in Malaya. As Lieutenant-Colonel W. M. Henning, DSO reminded the people of Segamat, when they assembled recently to honour the Battalion: "No road was safe when we arrived in Segamat; in the rubber plantations men were always apprehensive of danger and sudden death — even our homes were not safe. There was constant fear that this large and prosperous town might suffer a major attack..."

Now the Jocks have wiped out more than 100 of the terrorists, have forced them back from the main road, back from the rubber plantations, into the virgin jungle. Traffic flows freely and unmolested up and down Malaya's main road and rail arteries. The only recent incident occurred when the Jocks, co-operating closely with the police, lured a party of terrorists, in search of food, on to the road and ambushed them.

Operationally the Cameronians were on their toes until the last possible moment. The night before they left for home, the notorious Wong Piew, a high ranking Communist in the Segamat area, probably thinking that the Jocks would relax and spend their last evening packing, led four of his gang towards the village of Buloh Kasap foraging for food — right on to the Cameronians' guns: He and two of his companions were killed in the ambush and the others may well have died of wounds in the swamp where they disappeared.

As well as restoring public confidence the Cameronians won the respect and affection of the people because they entered fully into the life of the community. Small detachments of men lived in the villages and shared in the villagers' enterprises and amusements; they helped with the formation and training of the local Home Guards — Malay, Chinese and Tamil; the pipe band paid frequent visits to the villages, thrilling the elders and children alike with their music and marching; and Cameronian teams entered for all sport competitions. — *From a report by Captain F. S. Napier.*

The Record of Five Years

After paying tribute to the troops fighting in Malaya — the Federation Army, British, Gurkhas, East Africans, Fijians, Australians, New Zealanders and Rhodesians — General Templer speaks of the work being done by the Royal Navy's S 55 helicopters. "These helicopters, and the smaller ones operated by the Royal Air Force, are a godsend and have increased enormously our ability to penetrate quickly into deep jungle and to achieve surprise; so much that in Pahang an S 55 full of troops caught a bandit with his trousers down — literally. They have done many other jobs, such as 'snatch' operations to pick up a wanted man, air supply, reconnaissance, transport of senior Government officers and senior military officers, guiding rescue parties to air crashes, and we are doing trials on other more secret roles.

"It has been very encouraging," says General Templer, "to see the real gratitude of the ordinary people of Malaya to Commonwealth units like the Suffolks, the Cameronians and the East Africans when they have gone home at the end of their tour. That goodwill, built up by common experience of the Emergency, is something that I am determined that we must carry on into the phase of political development which is now coming."

SINCE the Malayan "emergency" was declared — on 18 June 1948 — some 20,000 British soldiers of 16 regiments have sought out terrorists in steaming jungle.

Five years ago the British Army in Malaya was trimming itself to peacetime strength.

On the outbreak of Communist terrorism, an SOS was sent to London for more troops to operate in support of the civil power. The 2nd Guards Brigade was soon on the way. Only once previously had Guards operated so far East — in the troubles in Shanghai in the middle nineteen-twenties. The 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, 2nd Coldstream Guards and 2nd Scots Guards, along with the 4th Hussars, brought greatly needed help. No. 3 Company, Royal Army Service Corps, arrived too and has since covered 4,000,000 miles.

Overnight, the Gunners of 25 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, became to all intents and purposes Infantrymen — and very resourceful ones. Their base was at Tampin, but so badly needed were troops that they operated far afield. The 4th Hussars used armoured vehicles, but always half the unit was patrolling on foot. As foot soldiers the Gunners killed and captured 127 terrorists and destroyed 226 camps; the 4th Hussars claimed 66 Communists and 77 camps.

In June 1948 there were two battalions of the Malay Regiment: today there are six, all at action stations. The Malay Regiment has killed and captured more than 300 terrorists.

At the start of the emergency the Brigade of Gurkhas was forming, with two battalions each for the four Gurkha Regiments which were remaining in British Service. The forming had to be speeded up, and some battalions took the field very short of men. The Commander of the Gurkhas, the late Maj-General Sir Charles Boucher, was also GOC Malaya.

The late Lieutenant-General Sir Harold Briggs was appointed Director of Operations in April, 1950, and his plans for re-settling squatters in new villages have contributed much to wresting the initiative from the terrorists. After the murder of Sir Henry Gurney, the High Commissioner, in late 1951, the dynamic General Sir Gerald Templer became High Commissioner and Director of Operations and brought fresh drive and initiative to the campaign.

There have been many heroic episodes. A small patrol of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment was ambushed and defied a large party of terrorists for several hours. Twelve officers and men and three Iban trackers were killed. A private and a lance-corporal who saved the arms of their dead comrades received the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Military Medal respectively.

Last year the 1/10th Gurkhas had the "fight of seven sick men." The seven were moving back through jungle to their base by easy stages, for medical treatment. Then they heard terrorists. The sick men made immediate plans, and killed all four terrorists by working round their rear.

Improvisation has played a great part in the campaign against the terrorists. In its first year, an Army canning factory in Kuala Lumpur, which cost £30 to equip, produced 4,320,000 tins of rations for troops to carry in jungle operations.

Five intrepid British Sappers became famous for "shooting the jungle rapids" in Perak. They operated storm boats in circumstances reminiscent of the Canadian backwoods. Hundreds of troops will remember those rapids.

One unit sent 20 men by bicycle to visit a bandit's lair near a motor road. They got their man. The Devons rode to battle on a railway train of covered-in steel trucks with closed doors. A captain in 25 Field Regiment carried bow and arrows on several operations, for close fighting in the jungle.

These are among the forces which have served in Malaya during the emergency:

3 Grenadier Guards	killed	25	terrorists
2 Coldstream Guards	"	87	"
2 Scots Guards	"	111 *	"
40 Commando R.M.	"	30	"
42 Commando R.M.	"	87	"
45 Commando R.M.	"	76	"
Seaforth Highlanders	"	90	"
Royal Inniskilling Fus.	"	14	"
Devons	"	74	"
KOYLI	"	30	"
Suffolk	"	199 *	"
Green Howards	"	66	"
Cameronians	"	114	"
1st King's African Rifles	"	32	"
4th Hussars	"	41	"
28th Field Regiment	"	100	"

* includes captives.

The period of active service in Malaya of these units varied from a few months to three years. — *From a report by Capt. D. H. de T. READE, Army Public Relations.*

Ambushers' paradise: a striking photograph which shows how closely the jungle crowds the railway tracks in Malaya. The locomotive is preceded by bogey wagons designed to take up the shock of explosions.

That Once-a-week HEADACHE

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RISE AND SHINE!

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

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

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

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Civil Service
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Company Sec'y.
Cost Account'cy.
Customs Officer
Die & Press Tools
Diesel Eng.
Draughtsm'ship. (all branches)
Economics
Electrical Eng.
Electronics
Export
Fashion Drawing
Fiction Writing
Foremanship
Forestry
Foundry Work
French
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Reinforced Concrete
Reporting
Retail Shop Management
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Sales Man'ment
Salesmanship
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Secretaryship
Service Sts. & Garage M'ment
Sh. Metal Work
Shipbuilding
Story Writing
Shorthand
Sound Film Eng.
Structural Eng.
Surveying
Telecomms.
Television Eng.
Textile Tech.
Timber Trade
Time & Motion Tracing
Varsity Exams.
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SPORT

A GOOD START IN THE 'SCOTTISH'

For the first time since the war, the Army entered riders in Scotland's motor-cycling classic

ONE of the classics of the motor-cycling year is the Scottish Six Days Trial. It has all the thrills of a rally, a rodeo and a rock climb.

Only one thing is certain about the route — that it will never be recommended by the Automobile Association. True, it traverses the most spectacular and historic scenery in Scotland, but the rider is too busy to look at it; he is for ever bumping over water courses, dry or otherwise, or bucketing up corkscrew ascents with names like "Devil's Staircase" — routes which even a mule would consider a bit much.

This year — the year that the Army entered riders for the first time since the war — a particularly unpleasant hill was introduced, that of Inchriach, in the Badenoch country. There were some who thought that in including Inchriach the organisers had really over-reached themselves. Not for years had there been such an example of man's inhumanity to man.

The Army entered six riders — and they won two team prizes and six individual awards, four of which were special first-class awards. It was an impressive debut.

The six Army entrants were divided into two teams for the Services classes: "A" team, Corporal G. Norton, Corps of Royal Military Police, Lance-Bombardier J. B. Houghton, Royal Artillery, and Private B. W. Martin, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers; "B" team, Captain W. E. Dow, Royal Army Service Corps (who won a gold medal in each of the last two International Six Days Trials), Staff-Serjeant A. Nicolson, Royal Signals, and Lance-Corporal W. A. Bell, Royal Engineers.

In addition, the six riders were divided into two different groups to enter as club teams — Bell, Houghton and Martin in one, and Norton, Dow and Nicolson in the other.

The men trained for a fortnight in Perthshire on their BSA machines — three 350cc Gold Star B32 and three 500cc standard trials machines. "For light relief," according to the official team report, they took part in a local trial and won first, second and fourth places.

The Trial begins in Edinburgh, moves to Fort William for five days and then returns to Edinburgh. On the first day's run the teams made the embarrassing discovery that a full fuel tank could safely be expected to last only 75 miles, whereas the petrol check was 93 miles from the start. Several riders had to pay quick visits to civilian petrol stations, but thereafter the teams' Landrover was used as a mobile petrol-point. The Landrover also helped competitors injured in accidents and an Army three-tonner gave lifts to machines which had dropped out.

At the end of the first day, the Army riders had lost from nine to 20 marks — not a great number considering that to put a foot down in an observed section cost three marks. Out of 188 competitors, only three finished the day with clean slates.

The second day's run included Inchriach, and the riders complained that to round some of the bends they needed hinges under their saddles.

On the third day, Private Martin found a spectator sitting in front of him and was unable to avoid riding over the man — with the loss of five marks. During the fourth day's run Private Martin's back wheel lost its shape after hitting a gully. He took it out, banged it roughly into shape with a rock, replaced a few spokes and carried on without loss of marks. Corporal Norton's back wheel suffered similarly, but collapsed completely in the afternoon and he had to retire. Captain Dow bounced off a lorry into a bog, but was able to carry on.

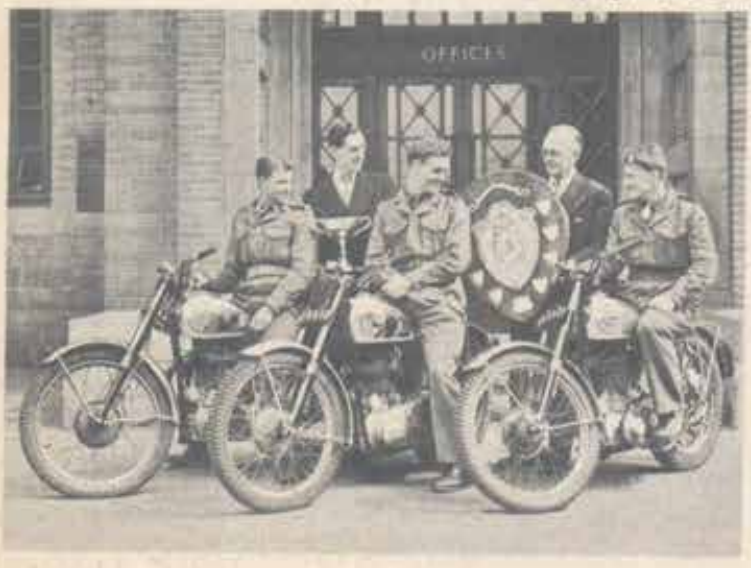
On the fifth day Lance-Corporal Bell distinguished himself by being one of the only three riders to lose no marks. At the end of the day Lance-Bombardier Houghton was leading the Army contingent with only 82 marks lost and Captain Dow, who was at the bottom of the Army list, had lost only 113.

All the riders finished the sixth day, including a stop and restart test, without loss of marks.

The club team consisting of Houghton, Bell and Martin won the Meteor Challenge Trophy open to all club teams which did not include trade entrants; Dow, Bell and Nicolson won the Services team prize; Houghton won the R.A. Castle Challenge Trophy for the best performance by a Service competitor; Houghton, Bell, Nicolson and Martin won special first class awards; and Captain Dow received a first class award (he was only five marks off a special first class award).

In Germany, Rhine-Army's Royal Army Service Corps units held their own motor-cycle championships, which included this 80-foot drop into a sand-pit. Each competitor was accompanied by his own avalanche.

The men who won the club teams award, sitting on their machines. Left to right: Lance-Bombardier J. B. Houghton, Private B. W. Martin and Lance-Corporal W. A. Bell. Standing are Captain W. E. Dow, who also rode for the Army, and Mr. A. E. Perrigo of BSA.



'Safety Last', said the Colonel

THE most infamous slogan ever invented was "Safety First."

In the nineteen-thirties it was inscribed "not only on every London omnibus but on the very hearts of our country's rulers, thus denying us our Elizabethan birthright: the right to adventure in every quarter of the globe."

That is the view of Colonel W. F. Stirling DSO, MC, whose stimulating autobiography, suitably enough, is entitled "Safety Last" *(Hollis and Carter, 18s).*

Few Regular officers have had such variegated careers as Colonel Stirling. Here are just a few of the episodes in his career: He —

served as a Mounted Infantryman in the South African War; joined the Egyptian Army in 1905;

flew reconnaissance aircraft against the Turks in World War One;

was Chief Staff Officer to T. E. Lawrence ("Lawrence of Arabia");

was governor of two provinces and adviser to two kings;

served as an agent in the Balkans and Middle East during World War Two;

survived six bullets fired into him at point-blank range in Damascus in 1949.

Colonel Stirling's regiment was the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. When he joined the Sirdar's army as a *bimbashi* his pay rose from £10 a month to £50. But selection of officers for the Egyptian Army was strictly controlled. Every candidate had to be vouched for by an officer already in the Egyptian service; if he proved unsuitable, both he and his sponsor were dismissed.

Bimbashi Stirling spent five years patrolling the Eritrean and Abyssinian borders. Then, deciding that he would never pass the Staff College examination, he retired at the age of 30 — a decision he soon regretted. (He had 16 years rating for pension — "It was a ramp, of course, but I had joined very young, and in certain provinces of the Sudan, notoriously unhealthy, for pension purposes every day counted as two").

When the first world war broke out, the author was secretary of Cairo's Gezira Club. He had learned to fly, so joined the Royal Flying Corps, and took part in sorties in ramshackle machines over Sinai, when the Turks were trying to seize the Suez Canal. On one trip he crashed in the desert, narrowly avoiding capture.

When he heard that his old regiment had been cut to pieces at Gallipoli (the survivors were amalgamated with the Royal Munster Fusiliers) the author decided he must rejoin them, and did so. But not long afterwards he was ordered to join Lawrence at Akaba, and took part in the Arab Revolt. Speculating as to how Lawrence achieved his ascendancy over the Arabs, Colonel Stirling speaks of his leader's "uncanny ability to sense the feelings of any group in whose company he found himself, his power to probe into their minds and divine the well-spring of their actions." Lawrence once rode his camel 300 miles in three days; the author's record was 50 miles at a stretch — "and that was enough for me."

After the war Colonel Stirling became a governor in Palestine, later an adviser to the Albanian Government. He produced the copy of *Whitaker's Almanac* with which Albanian lawyers wrote a new constitution, and helped to settle a number of blood feuds.

In the depression of the 1930's Colonel Stirling found himself up against it. At one period he became a porter at Marks and Spencers, and was promoted to floor-walker. Then he found film employment; he was the man who chose the battlefield of Omdurman for the film "The Four Feathers" — a much better-looking battlefield than the real one. He was engaged as an adviser on a film about the Arab Revolt which came to nothing — but he got a trip to the Middle East out of it.

His next job was the curious one of checking on vice rackets in London for Scotland Yard; then came a post with an English firm in Bucharest. He returned to London for a fortnight before the second world war began, and organised censorship of telephone messages to the Continent and to Ireland. That did not keep him long and soon he was en route to the Balkans as a secret agent. Once a German traveller helped the Colonel to put his suitcase on the luggage rack in a Balkan train; it contained "limpet" devices for destroying Axis ships. On a day when Colonel Stirling was dining with General Wavell he received a letter from the War Office, in response to a forgotten application, regretting that they had no job to offer him, as he was too old, and recommending him to try civil defence. When demobilised in 1945, he says: "I had had the legitimate satisfaction of remaining on active service, in spite of the War Office, until my sixty-sixth year."

The author sighs for two projected enterprises of his which failed to come off. One was a proposal to engineer what seemed to be a desirable revolution in Liberia. His idea was to go out there ostensibly to shoot a film of "Sanders of the River," and use that as a cover for raising and drilling native levies. ("It would probably have caused more stir in the world than 'The Jameson Raid'"). The other plan was to foment a rebellion in Albania at the time of the invasion of Greece, during World War Two. Authority demurred.

The book is salutary reading for any soldier who fancies that security is the first object of a military career.

General Introduces Private Metcalfe

FROM the time of the Indian Mutiny until August 1947 the Union Jack flew without a break, day and night, from the Residency at Lucknow, in honour of the garrison which refused to surrender.

The man who had the melancholy duty of ordering the flag to be lowered, for ever, was Lieutenant-General Sir Francis Tuker, who served with the Indian Army for 34 years.

General Tuker has now unearthed from obscurity a story by a private soldier who served at Lucknow: "The Chronicle of Private Henry Metcalfe" *(Cassell, 10s 6d).* The book is dedicated "to all good Infantrymen."

Private Metcalfe served in the 32nd Foot (later the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry), at a time when the British soldier thought nothing of marching 30 miles a day, in a tight uniform, under a sun which struck general and private alike with apoplexy. Soon after arriving in India Metcalfe and his comrades undertook marches of 500 and 700 miles.

He gave the order to lower the flag at Lucknow: Lieut-Gen. Sir Francis Tuker.

Private Metcalfe's details of life in besieged Lucknow are of great interest. The defenders held no impregnable citadel, only a group of buildings, with a one-and-a-half mile perimeter, domi-

They Thought Their Lips Would Be Wired Together

MILITARY nursing sisters like the wards to be kept neat and shipshape. They are not amused when they find intruders. Cows, for instance.

At Panitola, Burma, during the monsoon, a wartime nursing sister reported: "Going round from *basha* to *basha* with a hurricane lamp, as often as not one would fall over a cow lying between two of the beds."

The story is told in "One Hundred Years of Army Nursing" by Ian Hay *(Cassell, 21s)*, a welcome record of the enterprise and courage of Army nurses, from Florence Nightingale's time to the present.

It used to be considered that a man's bedside was no place for a respectable woman, especially a young woman. But in the South African War the British soldier, especially in the base hospitals at Cape Town, suffered at one stage from too many nurses. There is a legend that some long-suffering warriors hung at the head of their beds a notice reading "I am too ill to be nursed today." Lord Kitchener, a bachelor, speedily disbanded the too-enthusiastic sisterhood.

In World War Two military hospitals were set up in the most improbable places. A notable one was in the palace built on Mount Scopus, Palestine, by the Kaiser "possibly in anticipation of the day when he should feel qualified to proclaim himself Spiritual Overlord of Christendom."

Some patients expected the worst. Captured Italian officers, who should have known better, demanded that nursing sisters should first taste all medicine before administering it, lest it be poisoned. German prisoners in the Mareth Line Hospital had been told that the British wired the mouths of prisoners to prevent them talking.

There were Italian-trained native troops in the Middle East who could not understand the purpose of pyjamas. They wrapped these round their heads, turban-fashion. On religious grounds, it appeared, members of this tribe could not go bareheaded.

At one stage nursing sisters themselves were reduced to improvising their own headwear. They were members of the first mobile military hospital, organised in the Western Desert. In the absence of official headgear, they cut the tails off their shirts and wound them round their heads. Later they adopted black berets.

In Nigeria "most of the orderlies were Christians, and the fact was responsible for a certain Biblical flavour in their official reports, thus: 'Bed 20 went to his Heavenly Home at 11.25 p.m.' A Somali warrior wanted to know whether, if he had one kidney removed, he would "still be a man and have a baby." A lieutenant in the Indian Medical Service refused to ride a bicycle because it was "against the teachings of God."

Here and there, across the world, the graves of nursing sisters are to be found in military cemeteries, in no way different from the graves of men all around. "A lonely grave, in one way," says the author, "yet what woman that ever died could have asked for a more gallant escort across the River?"

Private Metcalfe (Cont'd)

nated by houses from which the mutineers poured shot and shell into the garrison for 140 days. Among the rebels' harassing tricks was the firing of great boulders out of holes cut at an angle of 45 degrees in the ground.

The defenders made forays from time to time into houses outside the perimeter. One day Private Metcalfe helped to storm a house called Johannas Bungalow. Entering through a window, he found himself in a room containing a large flour bin. When he threw up the lid he saw three of his "sable friends" crouching inside. He shot one, bayoneted the other and the third nearly killed him; but a comrade came to the rescue.

After the relief, the 32nd moved to Cawnpore and continued harrying the mutineers. "We chased them for 15 miles after taking their camp," writes Private Metcalfe, "and had to march back the same distance the same day."

A well-disciplined soldier, Private Metcalfe yet allows himself to say of a fire-eating brigadier: "He was very severe and would not care if the regiment marched to the Antipodes so that he could be accommodated with a little fighting. Of course, these great guns get the least of the fighting and the lion's share of the prize money, and the rank and file the greatest share of fighting and the scantiest portion of prize money."

In his introduction to this story of a "cracking little chap," Lieutenant-General Tuker says:

"Could we of today hold that Residency as those men held it for those long, desperate months in 1857?

"'Hold on and do not negotiate, but rather perish sword in hand,' wrote General Havelock to Colonel Inglis of the 32nd, commanding at the Residency. Would we today write as Havelock wrote? Are we now grown content with something less than resistance to the last man and the last round? If so, we concede a great advantage to the enemy and equally deny it to ourselves."

The Non-Existent Major

IN 1950 a short novel, "Operation Heartbreak" by Sir Duff Cooper (now Viscount Norwich), told a tale of an ingenious trick played on the Germans.

A body dressed in British uniform and bearing documents calculated to deceive the enemy is floated on to a neutral shore. The documents find their way to the enemy, who is duly deceived.

One of many people who suspected that there might be a substantial basis of fact for this work of fiction was Ian Colvin. A short footnote in a book by a former German general confirmed his suspicions and suggested the scene of the operation as Spain. Mr. Colvin bought a ticket to Gibraltar.

"The Unknown Courier" *(Kimber, 15s)* is the cheerful story of his macabre search. It contains a digression on "plants" generally in military intelligence work.

After pumping former German intelligence officers who had operated in Spain and retired there, the author set out to search Spanish cemeteries and consular records for traces of a Briton who had died on the Spanish coast in the spring of 1943. A pair of thought-readers attempted, without avail, to help.

Continued on Page 34

How Much Do You Know?

1. Which of these are real publications: (a) *Autosexing Annual;* (b) *Rugby Football News;* (c) *Anti-Slavery Reporter and Aborigines' Friend;* (d) *Accordion Times;* (e) *Carpet Review?*

2. How many English counties have names ending in "-sex"?

3. Everyone has chattels. What are they?

4. The Queen recently made Sir Winston Churchill a Knight of the Garter. What Honours had been bestowed on him by previous Sovereigns?

5. A man goes into a shop and orders dried blood, fish guano, hoof and horn meal, shoddy and spent hops, to use in connection with his hobby. What is his hobby? How will he use these products?

6. "Tare," it says on the side of railway goods wagons. What does the word mean?

7. What do they call hoardings in America?

8. He died 1500 years ago this year. With an army of 700,000 men he inspired terror throughout the civilised world. He overran the Eastern part of the Roman Empire, then advanced into Gaul where, in 451, he was defeated by the combined Roman and Frankish armies in a part of France which was to become a great battlefield again in World War One. Despite his defeat he laid waste Northern Italy the following year. He was known as the Scourge of God. What was his name? Where was he beaten?

9. Is a grilse a musical instrument, a sound of mourning, a kitchen utensil, a young salmon, a wireless component?

10. A hunter fired and his bullet travelled first North, then South and killed a bear. What colour was the bear?

11. Down-the-line and skeet are terms used in which sport?

12. "Tyburn Tree" was a gallows on which many highwaymen were hanged. What London land-mark stands near the site now?

13. In this picture, is Betta St. John prone or supine?

(Answers on Page 37)

FILMS COMING YOUR WAY

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

YOUNG BESS

The first Elizabeth of England, daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, spent her youth in semi-banishment. The script-writers have delved into those years and produced a love-story which may not all have come from history-books but which makes a good film. The story ends with Elizabeth's accession. Jean Simmons plays the spirited young queen, with Stewart Granger as Admiral Tom Seymour, her supposed lover, Deborah Kerr as Catherine Parr, and Charles Laughton making a robust reappearance as Henry VIII. The Tudor court looks well in Technicolor.

INNOCENTS IN PARIS

Fun and romance in the naughty city, by a galaxy of British stars. Alastair Sim plays a Treasury official, Ronald Shiner a Royal Marine, Margaret Rutherford an artist, Claire Bloom a girl in search of adventure and romance, James Copeland a kilted Scot, Mara Lane a girl who wants to learn about life, and Jimmy Edwards an Englishman whose activities are confined to a place which sells English beer.

MOULIN ROUGE

Paris again, at the turn of the century. Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec was a crippled artist who loved to paint the night-life which made Paris Gay Paree, and who publicised the Moulin Rouge in coloured posters. His story is told in Technicolor. Jose Ferrer, who had to add an outsize nose to play Cyrano de Bergerac, has to reduce his height from just under six feet to 4 feet 8 inches to play Lautrec. Beautiful ladies in Lautrec's life are Zsa Zsa Gabor, Suzanne Flon and Colette Marchand.

LILI

Lili is a young orphan who falls in love with a magician in a travelling carnival. But magicians can be as phoney in love as in magic and things look bad for Lili until the puppets start telling her that somebody else cares. Cast: Leslie Caron, Mel Ferrer, Jean Pierre Aumont, Zsa Zsa Gabor and Kurt Kasznar.

THE DESERT RATS

Richard Burton, Robert Newton, Chips Rafferty and James Mason in the film about the Australians at Tobruk. Reviewed in last month's SOLDIER.

BOOKSHELF (Cont'd)

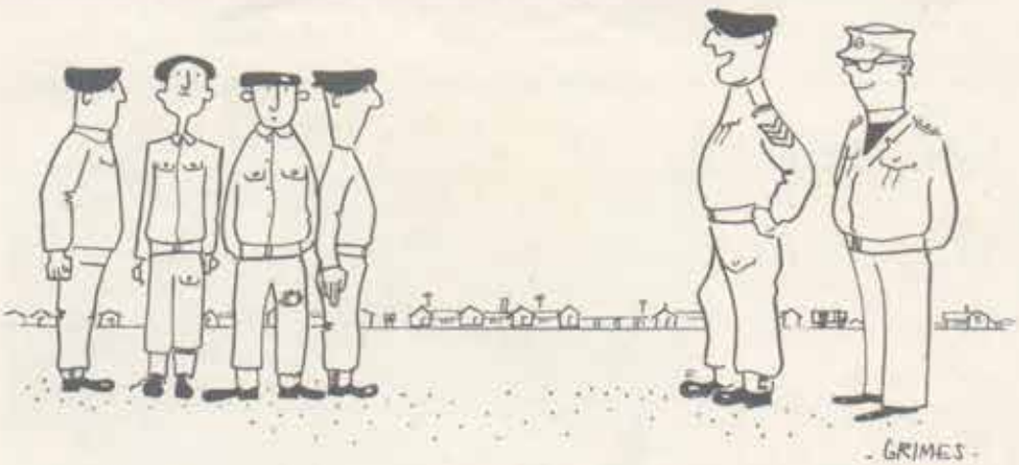
In Huelva the author discovered the grave of a Major William Martin, Royal Marines, whose death was recorded as having occurred early in 1943. Back in London, Somerset House was unable to produce records of Major Martin's birth, and the Royal Marines Office had never heard of him until a few days before the author's enquiry. At last, with reservations, the authorities agreed to answer some questions and the author was shown files gruesomely marked "Operation Mincemeat."

The secret, or much of it, was out. When "Major Martin" was slipped from a special container by the officers of a submarine, he carried carefully prepared private documents to build up his "personality." In a case chained to his wrist were letters signed by General Sir Archibald Nye, Vice-Chief of the Imperial General Staff, and Lord Louis Mountbatten, head of Combined Operations, and addressed to General Sir Harold Alexander and Admiral of the Fleet Sir Andrew Cunningham. The first indicated that an operation against Greece was planned, and that any move against Sicily would be a feint. The second was an introductory letter.

These letters were apparently photographed before they were handed over by the Spanish authorities to the British vice-consul. Hitler himself appears to have been convinced by the photostat copies — and, no doubt, by other stratagems still unrevealed. A German armoured division and ships were despatched to Greece. As for Sicily, "The very efficient cover plan and the deceptive routeing of convoys had played their part," wrote Admiral Cunningham.

The story of Major Martin is complete but for one thing. Who was he? That is just another intelligence secret which will probably never be revealed.

Another book on the Major Martin plot, by the Hon. Ewen Montagu (who helped to direct the operation), will shortly be published.



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LETTERS

DESERT RATS

Your review of the film "Rats of Tobruk" has again raised the question of the origin of the title "Desert Rats." I submit that the claim of the 7th Armoured Division and the 9th Australian Division are many years too late. In 1936 I was with 25th Company, Royal Army Service Corps in Mersa Matruh, and the unit was using the title "The Desert Rats." All our sports notices and mess chits bore this title, together with an etching of the now famous little animal. — **Capt. (QM) J. Perrins, 50th (N) Infantry Divisional Column RASC (TA), Walton Street Barracks, Hull.**

"BLANKETY-BLANK!"

I am surprised to find SOLDIER (in the article on swearing) subscribing to the heresy that it was Marlborough's troops who "swore terribly in Flanders." Tristram Shandy undoubtedly saw Uncle Toby and Corporal Trim play their "war games" during Marlborough's War; but it was in Dutch William's time that they served, and of which Uncle Toby spoke.

The error is not one only of literary reference but also of historical fact. Marlborough's most assiduous biographer, Ledlard, is positive and picturesque in his testimony: "As no indecent expression ever dropp'd from his (Marlborough's) lips, so he was imitated by the genteel part of the Army. Cursing, Swearing and Blustering were never heard among those who were reckon'd good officers, and his Army was beyond all contradiction the best academy in the world to teach a young gentleman wit and breeding. The poor soldiers who were (too many of them) the refuse and dregs of the nation became . . . tractable, civil, orderly and clean, and had an air and spirit above the vulgar."

Leave would no doubt willingly be given soldiers to swear their souls away (by all save Cameronians, perhaps) provided their country's service were to benefit thereby. There is also no immediately apparent correlation between talent for killing and refinement of language. The moral aspect of John Churchill's leadership, however, was as important as the more technical side, and the improvement in his troops' conduct over that of his predecessors', even in such an apparently trivial matter as discrimination in the choice of "strange oaths," was in itself an indication of their increased self-respect and self-confidence which made them, as Sir Winston Churchill has written, "the talk of Europe." — **Captain R. E. Scouller, Royal Signals, Sierra Leone Signal Squadron, Freetown, West Africa.**

● SOLDIER welcomes letters.

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

Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published.

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

RECRUITING IDEA

The Army's problem is winning over potential National Servicemen to Regular engagements. I imagine that all recruiting serjeants are Regulars who have never themselves been National Servicemen. I suggest that picked National Servicemen nearing the end of their full-time service should be encouraged to re-enlist for a further three years in order to serve as recruiting serjeants. They would be able to point out to civilians awaiting their call-up the advantages of being a Regular soldier, and the fact that they have sampled both call-up and Regular service should carry considerable weight. — **Bdr. D. Paul (National Serviceman), 15 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery, Rhine Army.**

CANADIAN IDEA

I suggest that the British Army takes a hint from the Canadian Army in cleaning web equipment. The Canadians' liquid cleaner, a solution called "IT" or Khaki Web Cleaner No. 7, always shows up evenly no matter how it is applied to the webbing. It can be left a dull colour like our own or it can be brushed up to an amazing shine. The effect lasts for weeks and not even a hard rub with the hand will make any mark. — **Cpl. T. A. Brownlow, RAMC, Korea.**

★ *The War Office is experimenting with a new type of web equipment cleaner which has the appearance of boot polish and is applied in a similar manner.*

DIGGING TUNNELS

I am writing to point out that there is such a person as the Sapper out here in Korea. I am referring to your article in which the Black Watch got the praise for all the tunnels which played such an important part in the defence of the Hook. Actually they were dug by the Royal Engineers. — **"Indignant Sapper" (name supplied) Korea.**

EXTRA PENSION

Most reputable firms and organisations like the Civil Service now provide a superannuation scheme for their established servants. By this means they attract a good type of employee who is encouraged to remain in their service and to win promotion, for higher salary means a greater contribution and eventually a bigger pension. When he retires the employee knows he will be entitled to a pension which will maintain him in the standard to which he has become accustomed.

Has such a scheme ever been considered for the Regular soldier? I am convinced the majority would be only too glad to pay something each week, on a sliding scale according to rank, especially now that the "career for life" has been introduced. The present "gift" pension is neither good nor bad. — **WOII R. H. Jones REME, Arab Legion, Amman, Trans-Jordan.**

★ *Civil Servants do not pay into their pension which, like the Army's, is not contributory. They may make voluntary payments in to a pension scheme for their widows and orphans.*

When the recently introduced Forces Family Pension Scheme was planned, the suggestion of troops paying a weekly contribution was discarded when it was found that few Servicemen were prepared to make payments.

SOCIETY OF WIVES

It was with great interest that I read Major F. E. Dodman's report (SOLDIER April) on the kind of Army that Rhine Army wives want. It is stimulating to discover that so many wives hold the same opinions.

When in England, and a regular listener to "Woman's Hour" on the BBC in which so many sections of women's life are represented, I felt the need for the formation of a society for Army wives, and I am even more convinced of its necessity since coming overseas. I think it would help to keep a stable Army if wives had some corporate way of showing their opinions. One of the most frustrating things about being an Army wife is the feeling that one is alone, and can do nothing individually about one's difficulties. — **Mrs. C. Patricia Benson, Up Park Camp, Jamaica, British West Indies.**

POINTS SCHEME

As the mother of two young children and the wife of a corporal serving in the Far East, I understand married quarters will be allotted to me out there on a points system. Can you give some indication of how this points scheme works?

I feel that we wives are not helped by the fact that so many quarters here and abroad are occupied by civilians, or by discharged soldiers waiting for civilian accommodation to turn up. — **"Hopeful" (name and address supplied).**

Do we or do we not get points for separation? It does not seem right that we are allowed ten points for each child but apparently none for being parted. My husband, who has 17 years' service, was sent to the Middle East in November 1951, and yet we have no hope of a quarter. We have only one child. New arrivals from Britain, I understand, are considered for quarters within three months because their bigger families bring them 20, 30 or more points. — **Mrs. C. Coulon, Folkestone.**

★ *The points system is explained in ACI 118 of 1952 and every husband should acquaint his wife with the procedure. Points are awarded for each month of separation or in private accommodation. Unless a wife is living in official married quarters in Britain while he is abroad (other than Europe), a soldier is given three points for each month of separation. If the husband is in Europe while his family is in Britain, he gets two points. A family separated in the same country abroad earns two points; separated in Britain, one point. Husband and wife living together in private accommodation overseas earn three points; together in private accommodation in Britain: one point.*

For each year of service a private soldier earns two points, and the scale increases to six points for a warrant officer class two and seven for a warrant officer class one. For each child up to a total of three, five points (not ten) are allotted.

Certain officers and men have priority for quarters — for example, a formation commander, a commanding officer of lieutenant-colonel's rank, a unit quartermaster and a regimental serjeant-major. Also the commander on the spot may, at his discretion, allot priority in exceptional cases. Some quarters are reserved for key civilians who have to live near their work. Soldiers who, on their discharge, continue to live in married quarters are classed as irregular occupants, and if they do not leave after a reasonable time, legal action is taken against them.

PLANNING THE DAY

I was most interested in the article "How the Army Planned the Day" (SOLDIER, June) but I must confess I detected little difference in the War Office set-up for the present Coronation and the one that existed in 1937. Practically the whole of the arrangements for 1937 fell on AG4c, and this department dealt with exactly the same kind of problems as those handled by AG4 (Coronation) this year.

I imagine the difficulties faced in 1937 were somewhat more complicated than those of 1953, if only because some 20 years had elapsed since the previous Coronation, and there had been a considerable upheaval in the British Army following World War One. Even the status of some Dominion troops had altered. The question of radio broadcasts arose for the first time, of course, and the number of troops on parade, I believe, was far bigger. — **G. P. Walsh, Norfolk Road, Brighton.**

★ *The official War Office report on the 1937 Coronation stated that the War Office did not set up a Coronation Branch. Instead the AG branch which dealt with normal ceremonial took on most of the work. There had been a Coronation Committee in 1911 and the lack of a similar body in 1937 was remarked upon by the GOC, London District. There was, he felt, too much time wasted in getting points of administration approved by various War Office branches who were working independently.*

CLASPS AND EMBLEMS

Please solve this problem. A soldier serves in Palestine in 1936. He is awarded the General Service Medal. He fights in the war and earns campaign medals. He then serves in Malaya and qualifies for the General Service Medal again. Does he receive two of these medals and if so where are they worn in relation to the war medals? If he earns a Mention while in Malaya, where is the oak leaf emblem worn? — **"AA" (name and address supplied).**

★ *As the General Service Medal was awarded before the war, it would go before the war medals. It would bear the clasp "Palestine." A second clasp, "Malaya," would be added to the same medal and placed above the first clasp. The Mention emblem would also go on this medal.*

No individual may be granted more than one General Service Medal. The clasp (not the emblem) indicates the campaign in which he took part; the emblem denotes that an individual was Mentioned in Despatches during the service which qualified for the particular medal with which it is worn, and is not intended to indicate the territory of the operation. The same considerations apply to the Victory Medal and War Medal 1939—45.

"Don't jab it too deeply doc, I don't want you to spoil my Cherry Blossom shine."

IN MALAYA WATERS

Early in 1949 I was in the Merchant Navy, serving a ship taking troops to Singapore. Recently I heard that members of the Merchant Navy trooping to Korea were eligible for the Korea Medal and on these grounds I made application for the General Service Medal (Malaya clasp). Although the Army Order listing individuals eligible does not mention merchant seamen, it does include such civilians as NAAFI employees, the YMCA, Bible readers and so on, and my commanding officer kindly put up my application. He was informed that as the Order did not name the Merchant Navy, and it was an award for land fighting against terrorists, it was regretted I was ineligible.

Naturally, this official reply must be regarded as final, but I cannot help feeling there must be some explanation. Having visited Singapore at the height of the emergency, I recall seeing all sorts of people — the Women's Royal Army Corps, for example — wearing the ribbon. They included people who no more fought bandits than did Cock Robin. — **L/Corporal J. D. Shaw, 7th Armoured Division, Germany.**

★ *The General Service Medal with Malaya clasp was instituted in respect of land operations against terrorists. It is not possible to insist that every individual eligible should actually have fought a bandit. Staffs of headquarters, members of ancillary units, all play a part and are liable to proceed in active service areas as part of their duties. If merchant seamen were involved in these risks, then it was open to the Ministry of Transport to submit a case to the Honours Committee. This they did in the case of Korea. Seamen may apply for the Korea Medal provided they have spent 28 days in Korean waters.*

MALAYA MEDAL

I served in Malaya from 1947 to 1950 and thereby qualify for the General Service Medal (Malaya clasp). I wear the ribbon but still await the medal. I notice that the Brigade of Guards stationed in this area have been granted it. — **"Military Policeman" (name supplied) Rhine Army.**

★ *The delay in issuing the medal is due to the large numbers involved. There are more than 100,000 individuals entitled to this medal with Malaya clasp. Men who have left the operational area may apply through their units.*

LAST MOVE

Can a Regular soldier on his discharge claim removal expenses from his last place of duty in Britain to the town or county where he intends to settle down? — **"Regimental Serjeant-Major" (name and address supplied).**

★ *No.*

Letters Continued Overleaf

Answers

(From Page 31)

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

1. All except (b). 2. Three — Essex, Sussex and Middlesex. 3. Movable possessions. 4. Order of Merit and Companion of Honour. 5. Gardening; they are fertilisers. 6. Weight when empty. 7. Billboards. 8. Attila, the Hun; he was defeated beside the River Marne. 9. A young salmon. 10. White. This could happen only if the man shot across the North Pole, therefore the bear must be a polar bear. 11. Clay-pigeon shooting. 12. Marble Arch. 13. Supine (prone means face downwards).

An "honor guard" of the 169th Infantry, carrying the United States flag and the regimental Colours, which bear the regimental motto *Armis Stant Leges* (law is maintained by arms).

AMERICAN REGIMENT ONCE SERVED THE BRITISH CROWN

MAJOR Grismond Davies-Scourfield, King's Royal Rifle Corps, may have thought the United States 169th Infantry a trifle slow-moving since his regiment marches everywhere at 140 steps per minute, but he paid many sincere compliments during a recent three-weeks exchange visit to Furth, in the American Zone in Germany.

A member of the 60th Rifle Regiment, founded first in 1755 as the 62nd and re-named the 60th, Royal American Regiment, two years later, he found himself with a United States regiment older than the American Army itself.

The 169th was first formed in 1672 to defend the British Crown as the Regiment of Hartford County, Connecticut Light Infantry.

It has seen much action since then. From the staff of the regimental colours fly 24 battle streamers — equivalent to British battle honours — from the American Revolution to the Pacific campaigns of World War Two. For much of its history, the unit was known as the First Regiment of Militia. Its present name dates back to 1921.

At Luzon, during the Philippines campaign of World War Two, all three line battalions of the Regiment won the Presidential Unit Citation — the award the Gloucesters received after the battle of the Imjin River. Every member of the battalions today wears the "blue chip" — a blue ribbon edged with gold — over the right breast pocket to commemorate the award (the Glosters wear their "blue chip" at the top of the sleeve).

Major Davies-Scourfield, who won the Military Cross at Calais, was captured and made two escapes (one from Colditz), told the 169th of twelve Americans who in 1940 volunteered to fight with the British, later being commissioned in the King's Royal Rifle Corps. Even after America entered the war, these 12 stayed on, some being killed in action.

DONALD MAINWARING

MORE LETTERS

REGULARS' LANYARDS

Recently one of your readers suggested that Regulars should wear something to distinguish them from National Servicemen. While serving with a county regiment in Malaya, I found it was the custom to make Regulars wear a coloured lanyard, but to deny this to National Servicemen.

I agree with your comments that the case against giving Regulars a distinguishing mark is a strong one, and in this particular battalion it led to some odious comparisons being made. I found that National Servicemen were as competent as Regulars when it came to a real job of work. — **"Old Regular" (name and address supplied).**

AIDING THE ADJUTANT

Territorial Army officers often complain that much of their time is taken up with drill parades, correspondence not applicable to training and other administrative duties. There are many regimental serjeant-majors who fail to obtain a quartermaster's appointment, but who would like an opportunity to increase their pension rates. Could not they be given a quartermaster-type commission and allotted to Territorial sub-units where they would be responsible for all stores, pay and administration, thus freeing the adjutant for training? Alternatively, could not they be given their pension, plus consolidated rates of pay as a civilian quartermaster? — **"WO1" (name and address supplied).**

UNFAIR?

The review of "Soldiers and Soldiering" by the late Field-Marshal Earl Wavell which you publish in the June SOLDIER seems to me to be an unfair and prejudiced report.

"Damn Your Writing, Mind Your Fighting," as the review is called, is devoted almost entirely to a commentary upon Lord Wavell's Haldane Lecture "Minerva's Owl, or Education in the Army." Several passages of this lecture are chosen for quotation and, being printed out of their context, give the impression that Lord Wavell whole-heartedly disapproved of Army education. That this is not true is well-known in our Corps. The passages which you quote were simply put up by Lord Wavell as arguments which he subsequently attacked and destroyed.

Even his assertion that operation orders do not win battles was followed up later by these words: "There is one quality above all which seems to me essential for a good commander, the ability to express himself clearly, confidently and concisely in speech and on paper; to have the power to translate his intentions into orders and instructions which are not merely intelligible but unmistakable, and yet brief enough to waste no time. My experience of getting on for 50 years service has shown me that it is a rare quality amongst Army officers, to which not nearly enough attention is paid in their education."

Bearing these considerations in mind I suggest that your most selective and therefore prejudiced review gives a totally erroneous impression of Lord Wavell's opinions and so does a great disservice to him and to the cause of Army education. — **Lieut-Col. C. H. Davies, Royal Army Educational Corps, HQ Northern Command, York.**

★ *SOLDIER is surprised to learn that its review could be read as suggesting that Field-Marshal Earl Wavell disapproved of Army education. If the review was "prejudiced," that must mean that SOLDIER is prejudiced against Army education; which is far from correct.*

FAMILY PENSIONS

I am on the old 21-year engagement. Do my family benefit from the widows' pension scheme in the event of my death? — **"Warrant Officer Class Two" (name and address supplied).**

★ *The scheme applies only if the soldier is on a 22-year engagement.*

BANTAMS

Was there ever a regiment or corps known as the Bantams? If so, was it for short men and is it true they wore two cap-badges? — **Sjt. A. Price, British Military Hospital, Tripoli.**

★ *Early in World War One, before compulsory service started, various regiments formed battalions intended to attract different types of men. Bantam battalions were fairly common. They were for recruits who were under the normal size for the Army.*

Some regiments ran football battalions, sports battalions and public school battalions. The Royal Fusiliers had an Empire battalion. There seems no reason why they should have worn two cap badges.

"SIXPENCE A WALK"

The writer, who enlisted in 1900 and served for 22 years, never heard of girls paying soldiers to walk out with them (SOLDIER, June) and doubts whether it ever occurred.

If so, what could we have made when our pay was only 1s per diem! Just fancy, sixpence for a plain walk! How boring it must have been! And how long a walk did the contract stipulate? Perhaps someone could enlighten the writer on this. — **A. Arthur (One of the Old Contemptibles.)**

It is quite true that the Light Dragoon, the Dashing Hussar and the Indomitable Infantry of the Line had little difficulty in walking out with the pretty nursemaids and girls of the late Victorian and early Edwardian era. I do not recall any men cashing in on their scarlet, but as you no doubt know there were plenty of songs about "Tantalising Tommy" on the music halls, and it is also true that girls would treat one if one allowed them to do it. Yes, those were the days — plenty of music, plenty of swagger and picturesque uniforms, and it was the uniforms that did it.

"...girls would treat one if one allowed them to do it."

I enlisted in 1904 and wore scarlet complete with white gloves and swagger cane. I adored the swagger parades which took place on Saturday mornings before going on week-end leave. — **S. H. Calow (late Royal Leicestershire Regiment), Narborough Road South, Leicester.**

★ *A Member of Parliament recently said that in days when soldiers wore scarlet, girls used to pay them to walk out as escorts.*

FROM DOWN UNDER

I was particulary interested in your article on the Royal Army Service Corps. It was a real reminder to me of the Corps in which I spent some very happy times even if we did get some pretty sticky work to do sometimes. — **Cpl. C. L. Edwards (ex-477 Coy RASC, 6th Armoured Division), 15 NS Training Battalion, Puckapunyal, Victoria, Australia.**

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ELIZABETH TAYLOR

— Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

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