

MARCH 1969

9d

# SOLDIER



THE ARMY ON  
H-BOMB ISLAND  
(See pages 5-8)





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*Issued by H.M. Forces Savings Committee*

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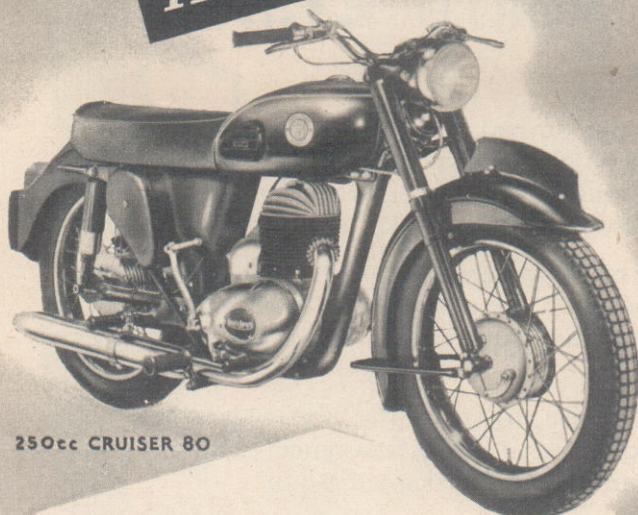
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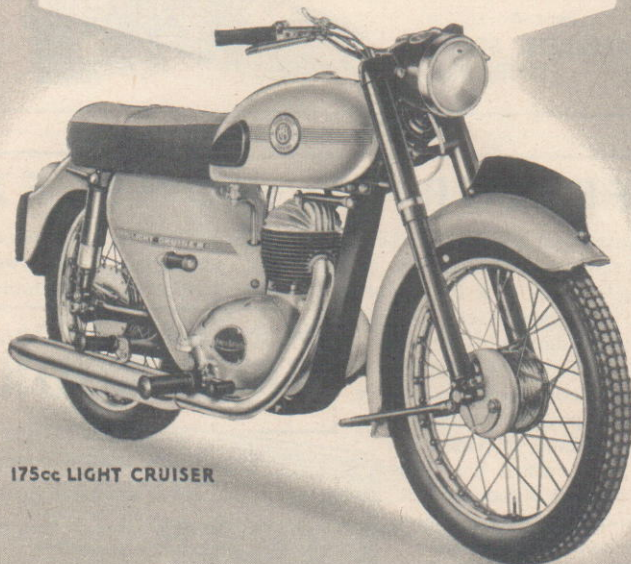


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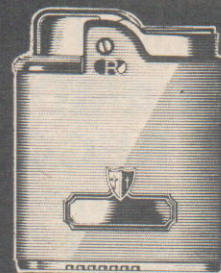
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*A Sapper of 38 Corps Engineer Regiment describes how the troops live on the Army's farthest-flung and loneliest station: Christmas Island, a coral atoll in the middle of the Pacific Ocean where Britain is testing her nuclear weapons*

# THE ARMY ON H-BOMB ISLAND

**T**HE last thing I expected when I joined the Army was to serve on a coral island. But here I am, 9000 miles from England, sitting in a tent by the sea on Christmas Island, a white coral atoll only 30 miles long and rising only ten feet above sea level in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, just two degrees north of the equator.

Until 1956, Christmas Island was practically uninhabited and contained little more than coconut palms and land crabs. Now it is Britain's nuclear weapons testing base, complete with a small modern township which has its own water and electricity supply, an airfield and a port. The Army built most of it and I am one of nearly 4000 British (including a few Fijian) soldiers, sailors and airmen helping to maintain the base and assisting the H-Bomb "boffins" in their work.

We are some of the very few people who have had a close-up

view of a megaton bomb explosion. It's an experience I shall never forget.

At 4 a.m. on D-Day the whole island is awake and after an early breakfast everyone not actively involved in the test is moved to safety. Each of the 5000 souls on the island has to be accounted for and if one is missing the bomb will not be set off.

Two hours before the bomb is due to be exploded, the scientists in their shelters make the final adjustments to their instruments. With them is a small group of

Sappers, some standing by to seal and sandbag the shelter doors, others putting the last-minute touches to the generators and cooling units they have been tending all night. When all is ready, the scientists and Sappers pile into Land-Rovers and drive to safety, keeping their fingers crossed, for if the generators are not in perfect order the instruments inside the shelters will not work and there will be no recordings.

Ninety minutes to go! The Valiant which has been "bombed up" behind canvas screens (even the Valiant's crew are not allowed to see what goes on) is ready for take-off and from now on everyone on the island is kept informed by loudspeaker of its movements.

H-60 minutes and the Valiant is airborne. Everyone in the forward areas is in position and there is a final check of heads. Even at this late stage the test will be postponed if anyone is missing.

Thirty minutes to go and two Valiants appear on a trial run over the target area. One aircraft will drop the bomb, the other, manned by the crew to drop the next bomb, will photograph it.

At H-5 we are told to turn our backs to the target. The moment of danger is near, for if anyone looks at the burst he may be blinded for life. The count-down begins and then, at last, the voice on the loudspeaker says: "The bomb has left the aircraft. Five

**OVER...**

*An aerial view of the "Port of London" which the Army built on Christmas Island. Landing craft are seen unloading cargo from ships at anchor.*





# H-BOMB ISLAND continued

... four. ... three. ... two. ... one  
... FLASH ... one ... two ...

On the word "Flash" we feel a warmth on our backs as if someone had passed an electric fire behind us. The commentator counts on and then come the words we have been waiting for: "You may turn round now and face the burst."

We turn and see a ball of fire brighter than the sun. We shield our eyes. Gradually the brilliant ball fades to yellow, deepens to orange, rising rapidly in the sky all the time and leaving behind a white column that will soon become the stalk of a gigantic mushroom. The mushroom slowly takes shape, white and fluffy, beautiful and unreal. We gaze in wonder.

Suddenly we are jerked back to reality. "Stand by for the blast," warns the commentator and we get ready for the blow. But, at that distance, all we hear is a big bang. We feel nothing more than a slight movement in the air and we continue to watch two Canberra aircraft fly right into the middle of the mushroom, sniffing out information which is vital to the scientists.

Ten minutes later the mushroom has disappeared and become

just another fluffy cloud in the sky. That is the signal for us to hurry back down the tarmac road to the forward area to repair the damage and make everything ready for the next test.

Some of us in 38 Corps Engineer Regiment have spent many hours in the forward areas immediately after a megaton-bomb explosion, wearing protective clothing to keep out radio-active dust and carrying dosimeters to record the Röntgen rays. But contamination is negligible. My total dose to date is about the same as I get from my luminous wrist-watch every fortnight in my life.

Some of the most important and interesting part of the Sappers' work on Christmas Island has been done in the forward areas where we have provided the scientists from the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston with the means for measuring the effects of the test explosions.

Some of the nuclear test "rounds" were exploded from balloons anchored to the ground and one of our tasks was to lay several miles of tarmac roads along which the "rounds" had to be transported to their cages

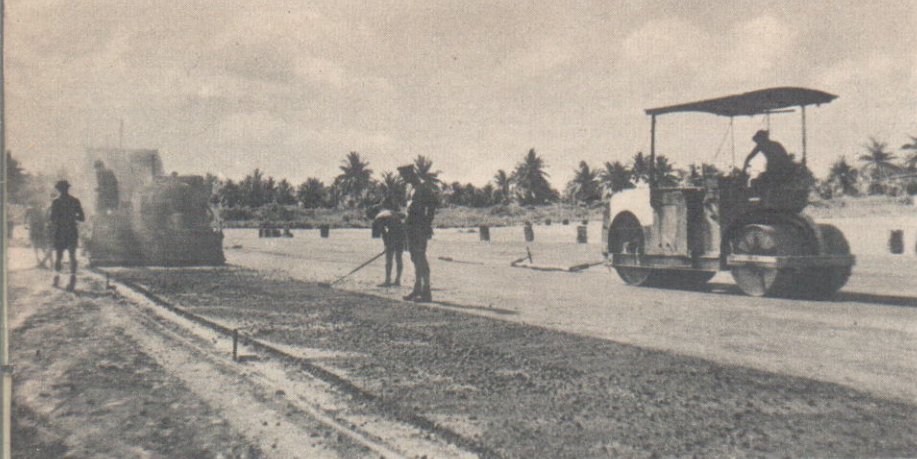
*Right: Sappers at work erecting a 150-ft. pylon for a bomb test. On top is a reflector. The pylons give valuable information before they are destroyed.*

*Left: The Sapper on the right is dressed in full protective clothing and carries a dosimeter. The man in the centre is dressed for work in the forward area when risks are slight.*

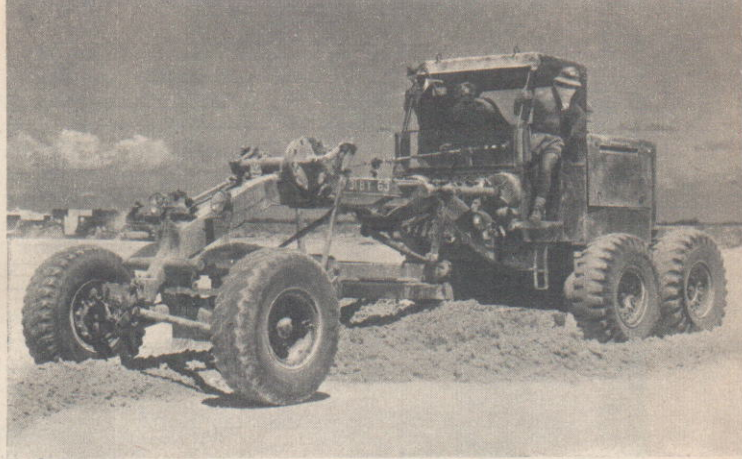
*Below: A soldier makes final adjustments to a generator before the big bang. If it fails, no records will be obtained.*







*With a bulldozer and a steam roller, soldiers lay asphalt strips on the airfield. The Sappers have also built 50 miles of tarmac roads on the Island since 1956.*



*Wearing a handkerchief to keep out dust, a sergeant directs grading operations on a new runway. Stone is dug from a local quarry.*

below the balloons. Round these, and also facing the sea where the bigger bombs are dropped from aircraft, we erected heavy steel shelters—some buried, some sand-bagged and all equipped with generators to operate machinery and instruments inside. We also equipped them with air-conditioning plant and helped to install the instruments. Alongside the shelters we put up huge steel pylons up to 150 ft. high and on top of some placed aerials and reflectors weighing several hundred pounds.

When the bombs burst the shelters and instruments all sur-

vived unharmed and so did most of the generators—but the pylons didn't. They became crumpled masses of steel a moment after the explosion but not before they had transmitted their important information to the instruments at the moment of "flash."

On one occasion, when four explosions were set off in five weeks, we Sappers had a really hectic time. As soon as the dust had cleared from one explosion and the area had been checked for radio-activity, we hurried back and put everything straight, carrying with us steel sections for the new pylons which we put up inside

48 hours. Few of us had done this kind of work before.

Most of the British soldiers here are Sappers but there are also a Royal Army Service Corps company, detachments of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and an Air Formation Signals squadron.

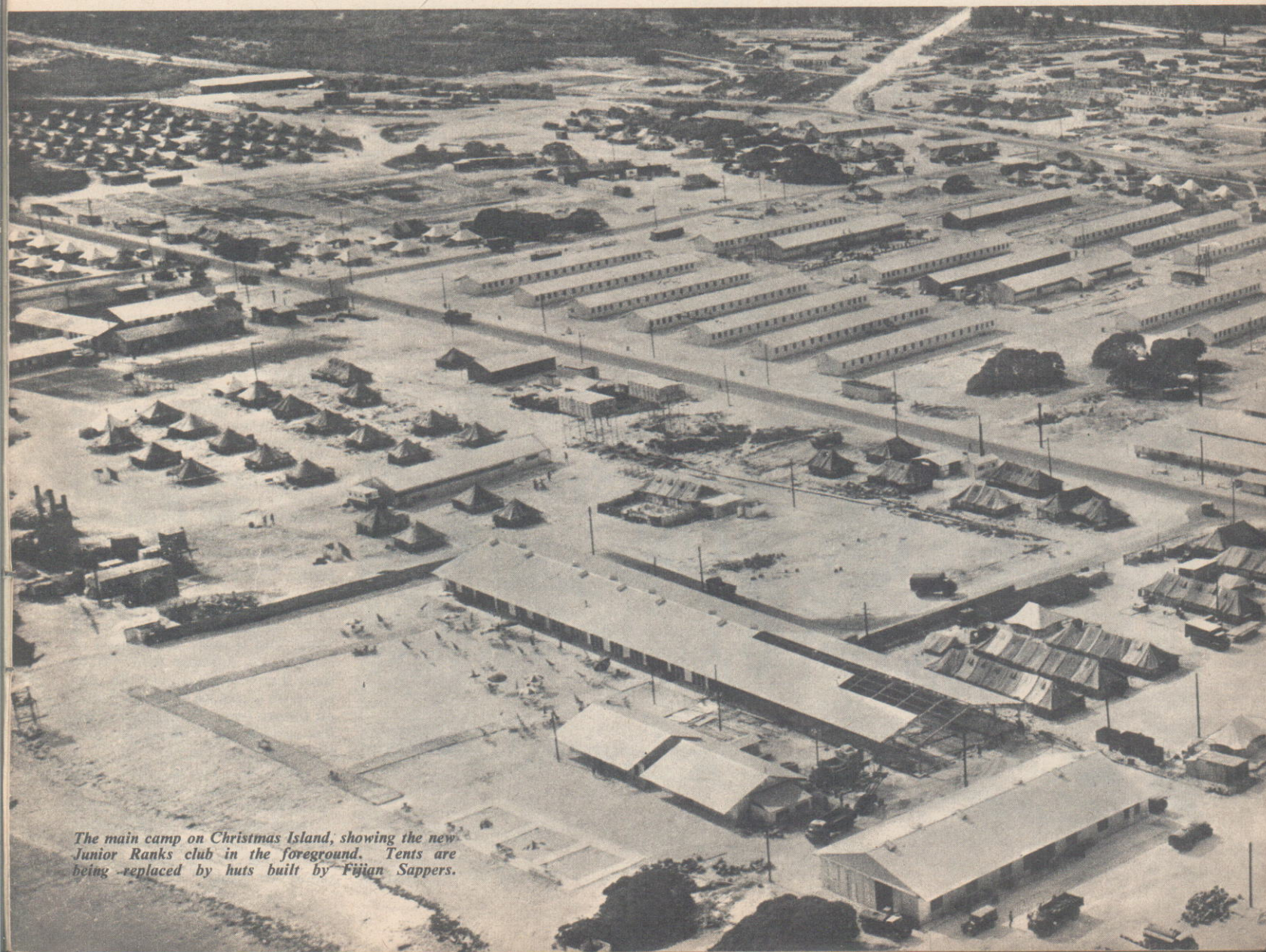
As you would expect, Christmas Island is a pretty warm place and the sun is blistering because of the fine salt spray flung up as the surf hits the coral reefs. We work stripped to the waist and some of us are as brown as the Gilbert Islanders who also work and live

here, some with their families. But when it rains it pours, sometimes for a week on end, sometimes for a month. Then, life becomes unpleasant, for everywhere you go you have to paddle through mud and puddles.

However, the rainy season lasts only two or three months; the rest of the year the weather is wonderful.

We eat, drink and relax in buildings (most of them built in the past year) which are clad in aluminium to reflect the sun's rays and with huge windows to let in the cooling trade wind

**OVER...**



*The main camp on Christmas Island, showing the new Junior Ranks club in the foreground. Tents are being replaced by huts built by Fijian Sappers.*





## Cover Picture

**SOLDIER's** front cover shows Lance-Corporal W. Anderson, Royal Engineers, making friends with children of the Gilbert and Ellice islanders who live in a village on Christmas Island and work for the Task Force.

## H-BOMB ISLAND

concluded

which blows constantly.

Most of us sleep in tents, although 800 are now accommodated in hutted barrack rooms, with a lamp at every bedside. These were built by a troop of Fijian Sappers who volunteered to serve on Christmas Island. By the middle of 1959 everyone should be sleeping in huts connected to a permanent sewerage system and equipped with wash basins, showers, toilets and hot and cold baths.

Much has been done in the past year to provide us with entertainment and welfare and we now

have a new Junior Ranks club as good as any you could find anywhere. We also have cinemas in the open air, a Sappers' club, a first-class education centre and a fine library but we have to make most of our entertainment ourselves. We have our own band, an occasional variety show and a dramatic society and have set up a broadcasting station which has now been internationally recognised. It's amazing how much talent there is among the men on the Island.

The Island itself offers many interests and pursuits and bathing in the blue lagoon is the most popular pastime. Many have become expert under-water swimmers (sub-aquatic equipment is hired) and sometimes go hunting for big fish with harpoon guns and explore the brilliantly coloured coral reefs. Big game fishing is very popular and many men have caught sharks as big as themselves with baited meat hooks on the end of a length of signal cable.

We also have a camera club and a natural history society, sailing, canoeing, water-skiing and archery clubs and all the usual sports, playing on pitches we have made ourselves with lagoon mud.

Once in a tour each man spends several days' leave on one of the more populated South Sea Islands and Honolulu (six hours flying time away) and the Fiji Islands are favourite spots. Sometimes, too, we pay duty calls to nearby islands where there are meteorological and other stations connected with the nuclear tests.

In spite of all these attractions, however, we sometimes get fed up and long for home. Families are not allowed here and there are no English girls. It's just as well the Army limits a tour to 12 months.

Anyone who thinks we spend most of our time relaxing in the sun would be hopelessly wrong. For many months we have worked a six-day week without a break and there is little time for rest and recreation.

Since the first men of Task Force Grapple—the name for the inter-Services team on the island—arrived in 1956 a tremendous amount has been done.

We have built a port where large ships can unload and are now extending and improving it. We have made an airfield, erected a meteorological station, built camps, scores of offices and laboratories, a hospital, a fuel storage depot and a refrigeration plant.

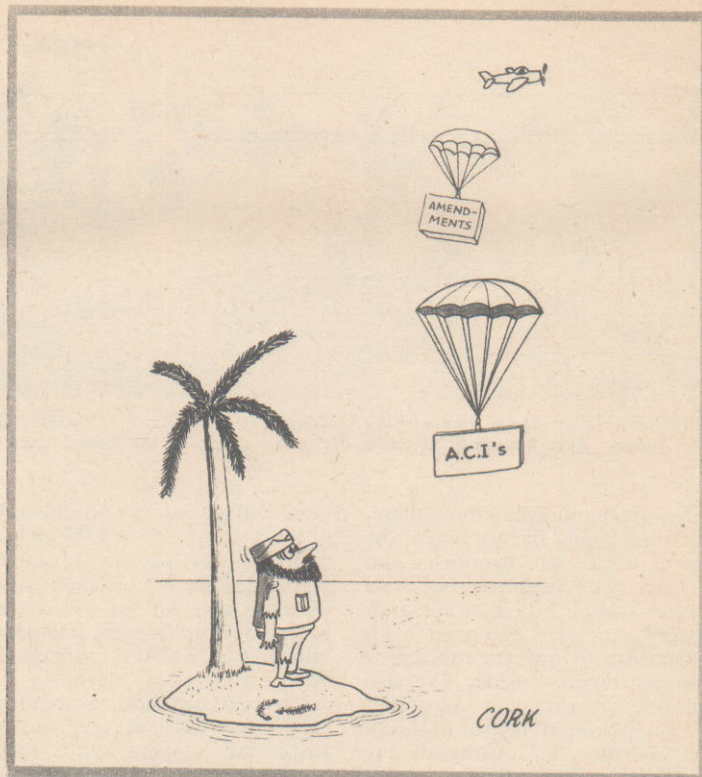
We have also installed our own electricity and water supply (including a distillation plant) and have built 17 miles of two-way tarmac roads and 38 miles of single traffic roads where barely discernible tracks existed before. This involved producing more than 1000 tons of crushed and graded stone every day from a quarry we opened on the island and mixing over 60,000 tons of asphalt and transporting it up to 30 miles away to be laid and rolled. The plant we used often mixed 600 tons of stone and 9000 gallons of bitumen in a day.

The Royal Army Service Corps has a fleet of vehicles, including DUKWs, which ply between the anchorages and the shore at the port, and they also operate a field bakery. The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers do a fine job, too, keeping vehicles and machinery in order and they have also made hundreds of spare parts for all three Services. The Royal Army Ordnance Corps look after a laundry and stores.

Men of the Air Formation Signals squadron maintain the island's local communications (there are four telephone exchanges), the special cables needed by the scientists and submarine cables linking ships to shore.

**FOOTNOTE:** Christmas Island is the largest coral island in the world and is made of millions of minute sea animals which have built themselves up over the centuries on top of an extinct volcano on the sea bed. When they reach the surface the animals die and form rock and sand.

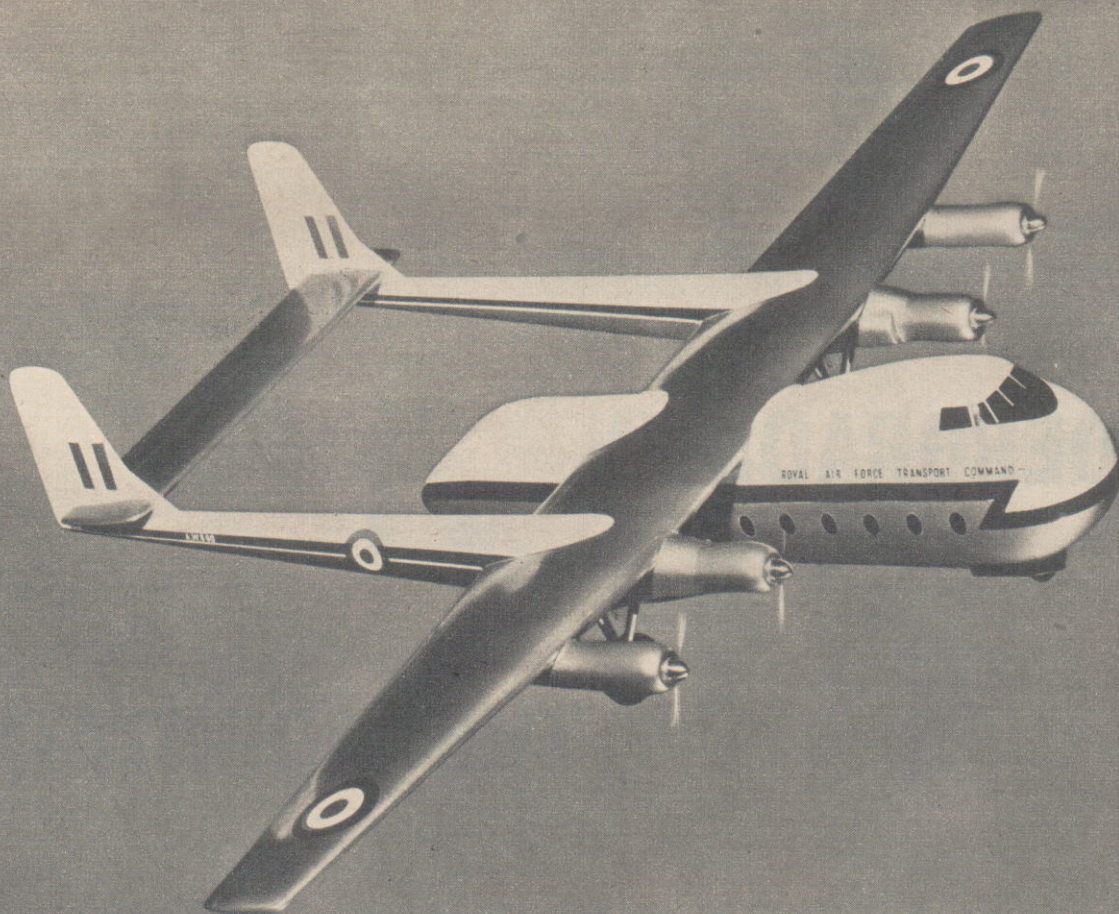
Christmas Island was discovered by Captain James Cook on Christmas Eve, 1777 (hence its name) and is one of the Gilbert and Ellice group of islands. In World War Two it was a United States Air base.



*On nearby Fanning Island, Sappers strengthen a bridge leading to the palm-fringed beach. Soldiers from Christmas Island often visit neighbouring islands to maintain instruments and meteorological stations used in bomb tests.*

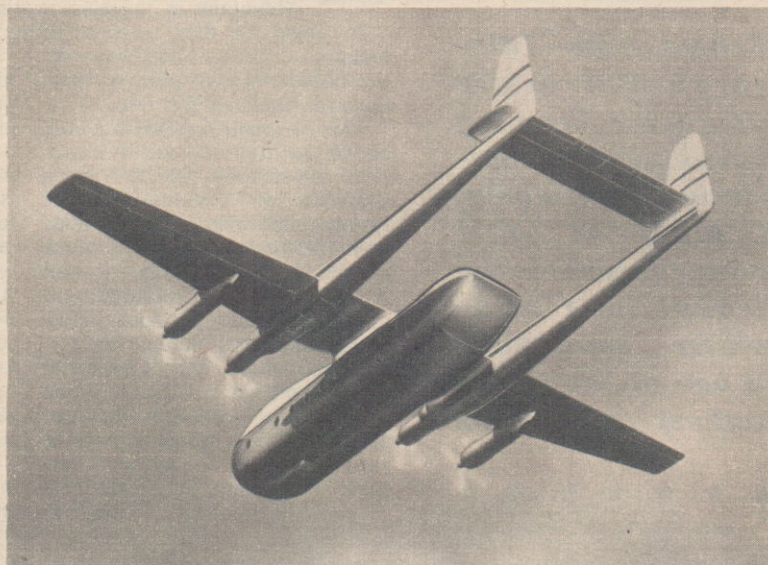






*Above: The Argosy 660 may be the answer to the Army's air transport problems. It can carry 75 armed troops and refuel in flight.*

# AND NOW THE ARGOSY 660



*A view from below of the twin-boom Argosy 660 showing the hinged rear door which acts as a loading ramp and, in flight, as a dropping platform.*

**I**N any emergency in the not-too-distant future, thousands of British troops may be flown non-stop to any part of the world up to 4000 miles from base in less time than it takes an express train to travel from London to Inverness.

They might, for instance, fly direct from Britain to East Africa or Aden in less than 12 hours and, with one stop (say Aden), to Malaya in 24 hours.

This exciting prospect is opened up by the announcement that "to increase the mobility of the Armed Forces" Royal Air Force Transport Command is to be equipped with the Armstrong Whitworth Argosy 660, a revolutionary freighter and troop-carrying aircraft which can be refuelled by

tanker planes in mid-air.

The Argosy 660, which is about to go into production, is a military version of the Argosy civil freighter and passenger air-liner which recently made its successful maiden flight. It is understood that a number of Argosy 660s will be in service this year and perhaps as many as 80 by 1963.

This new long-range military

transport plane differs only slightly from the civilian version. It cruises at 300 miles-an-hour and can carry 75 fully-equipped soldiers in a pressurised fuselage. They will sit six-abreast. Alternatively, the Argosy 660 can carry 13½ tons of freight or a combination of freight and men.

A unique feature of the aircraft is a two-ended hold for simultaneous loading at the front and rear. The rear door is hinged so that it can be opened in flight for dropping vehicles and weapons on parachutes and, on the ground, to form a loading ramp up which

vehicles can be driven aboard. The freight hold is 15 ft wide, which allows vehicles to be loaded side by side.

The Argosy 660, which is powered by four Rolls Royce turbo-prop Dart engines is a twin-boom aircraft with a wing span of 115 ft. It is 86 ft 9 ins long and 27 ft high. But, in spite of its size and weight, it can take off from semi-prepared grass strips.

The Armstrong Whitworth Company plan to produce another version of the Argosy troop carrier fitted with two Rolls Royce Tyne turbo-prop engines.



# UNDERGRADS IN

# THE MOUNTAINS

*Buffeted by a howling gale on Windy Ridge, the cadets push on towards the summit of Cairn Gorm.*

**Cadets from Edinburgh University Officers' Training Corps take their soldiering seriously. Typical of their achievements is the ascent in a mid-winter snowstorm of one of Scotland's highest mountains**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**A** THOUSAND feet above sea level five officer cadets lined up outside their log-hut base camp, checked their equipment and set off across the valley towards the snow-tipped Cairngorm Mountains in Northern Scotland.

In single file they marched along the ice-bound track and as it petered out picked their way over the boulder-strewn path winding upwards through the trees.

Two thousand feet up and well above the tree-line the five men climbed steadily up the steep shoulder of "Windy Ridge." Biting gale-force gusts whipped up loose flurries of snow. A quick glance over the shoulder—to halt is to freeze on the mountains in mid-winter—and the loch below looked like a mill-dam.

Three thousand feet. Cows and gloves fastened and heads down against the wind, the five trudged upwards. Boots crunched into the hard surface of the snow; a few steps more and the climbers

floundered into a deep drift, hacking their way out with ice-axes.

Four thousand feet and the slope levelled out to the mist-shrouded summit. The climbers could see only the man immediately ahead and the tearing wind whipped voices away and down the corries. In time the five searched for and found the cairn of stones, carefully stacked by summer walkers and carelessly demolished by winter gales, that marks the 4084-foot high summit of Cairn Gorm.

In summer, the ascent of Cairn Gorm is a pleasant 90-minute

uphill hike. In winter it takes four gruelling hours. But these tough young cadets from the Edinburgh University Contingent of the Officers' Training Corps revel in pitting themselves against treacherous peaks which every winter take their toll of unwary climbers.

For several years now the Edinburgh Corps has held both its month-long summer camp and fortnight's winter camp in the barren Cairngorm Mountains south of Inverness. This year there were so many volunteers that for the first time the winter camp had to be closed to members of other universities.

SOLDIER's visit to the unit's camp at Glenmore, a ski-ing and youth centre, was prompted by the Edinburgh Corps' reaction to a feature (SOLDIER, July 1958) about a Territorial Signals regiment which established a radio station on the 3560-foot high summit of Snowdon. "We hold wireless exercises—and in the middle of winter—on even higher mountains," said Edinburgh.

In fact, one of the schemes at this year's camp involved setting up intercommunicating wireless stations on Cairn Gorm, Ben Macdhui (4296 feet) and Cairn Lochan (3983 feet) with a link back to base. It was hoped to make direct contact with a 62-set from Cairn Gorm to the unit's drill hall in Edinburgh.

But conditions were too rough even for these hardy and experienced young climbers and the attempt failed. On one of the few days of really good weather, dumps of food and equipment were established on Cairn Gorm, Cairn Lochan and below the summit of Ben Macdhui (a nine-

*On the base camp assault course, undergraduates try out their skill at crossing rivers by roped logs.*







*Above: In the base hut, one of the pipers performs a sword dance with ice-picks.*

*Left: Rock climbing is part of the cadets' training in the Cairngorms. One instructor is a RAMC medical officer.*



*Right: From the camp in the Cairngorms, a unit Signalman tunes in to HQ in Edinburgh.*

mile trek from base camp). On the following day the Cairn Gorm party, loaded with wireless equipment, tents and sleepings bags, set off for the top but had to turn back. The Cairn Lochan group also returned, but the Ben Macdhui men, led by Lieutenant Eòghann MacLachlainn, reached their dump, were unable to climb any higher, and camped out for the night, protecting their tents with a seven-feet-high snow wall. By morning a sudden thaw reduced the wall to only 18 inches!

On almost every day of their winter camp the cadets were up in the mountains, for wireless schemes, a compass march, night exercises and instruction in rock climbing. Safety measures are rigorous, for in winter these cadets — and perhaps an occasional climber or hiker — are the only people on the wild slopes of the Cairngorms. Never fewer than five men make up a team well equipped with food, compasses and maps and conversant with mountain first aid for frost bite and broken limbs.

Lieutenant MacLachlainn, a former member of the Edinburgh Officers' Training Corps and now in 131 Parachute Engineer Regiment (TA), is the mountain warfare instructor. Last year he went with 21 Special Air Service Regiment (Artists) TA to a winter warfare course in Norway. Another volunteer at this year's camp was Captain Alastair Grieve, of the Royal Army Medical Corps and former member of Edinburgh University

Mountaineering Club, who acted as medical officer and rock climbing instructor.

This winter the unit built a new and much tougher assault course down by the river near base camp. The hazards included climbing a tree and crossing the river by rope, recrossing on a plank bridge and single scaffolding pole, travelling down a wire slide and a tree-to-tree rope walk, and recrossing the river again on swing-

*Over half-way up the Cairn Gorm the officer cadets pause for a rest and a look at the snow-filled valleys.*

ing logs and a rope sling and by walking on parallel scaffolding poles set two feet apart.

At summer camps the cadets spend more time camping out on the mountains and normal training includes wireless exercises, movement at night, map reading, weapon training, demolition instruction and watersmanship courses on the nearby Loch Morlich.

Edinburgh University Officers' Training Corps which this year celebrates its centenary, has a strength of about 160 men and 45 Women's Royal Army Corps

Cadets. All are volunteers and members of the University or its affiliated Heriot Watt Technical College. The contingent has Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Royal Signals, Infantry and Women's Royal Army Corps sub-units and a pipe band of 24 pipers and drummers, which has beat Retreat at Edinburgh Castle.

University Officers' Training Corps contingents provide officers for both the Regular and Territorial Armies and when National Service ends will become the chief source of Territorial officers.

**PETER N. WOOD**





## A PROUD DAY...



Left: On behalf of the Regiment, Major-General B. A. Coad DSO accepts one of the lost drums from the son of the man who found it.



Right: Mr. J. Pugh poses with the drum he found in a café.



Above: Two former bandmen of the 2nd Battalion who were at Dunkirk admire the new-found drums. On the right is Mr. R. Bone who played one of them 19 years ago. Below: Mr. Iversen (right) admires his silver drum.

IT was a proud day for the Wiltshire Regiment, for two tenor drums which the 2nd Battalion had to leave behind at Dunkirk 19 years ago were to be returned.

The drums lay beside the saluting base at Le Marchant Barracks, Devizes, and drawn up on the parade ground were 30 Old Comrades from the 2nd Battalion and two platoons from the Regimental Depot, the 1st Battalion and the 4th Battalion (Territorial Army).

On parade came Major-General B. A. Coad DSO, Colonel of the Regiment, who inspected the men while the band played "Robin Grey," the Regimental march. With him were Brigadier F. E. J. Moore DSO, who commanded the Battalion at Dunkirk, Major M. H. Chivers, formerly of "B" Company, and the Reverend N. Chadwick, the 2nd Battalion's padre in World War Two.

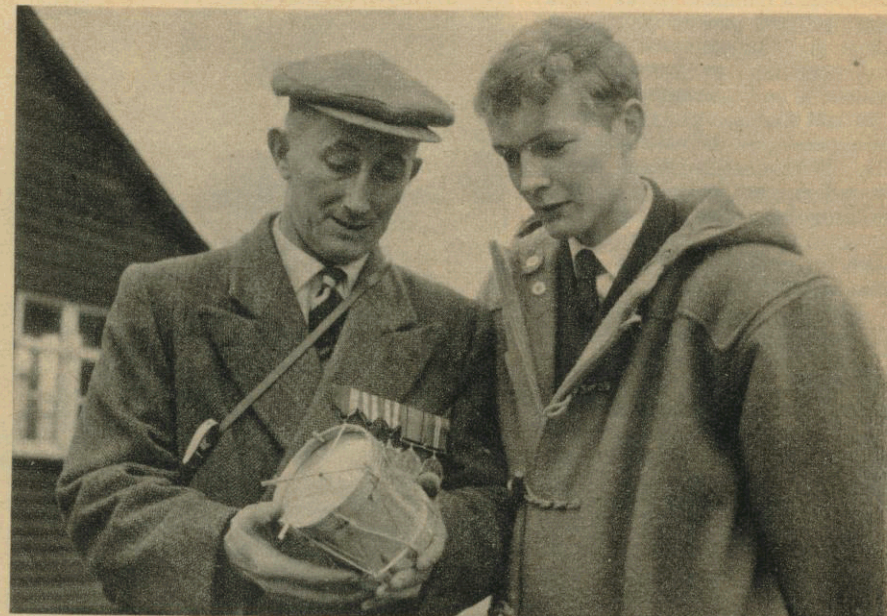
The Old Comrades and the two platoons formed square round the saluting base and two civilians—Rene Iversen, an 18-year-old Dane, and Mr. John Pugh, a railway policeman—stepped forward, picked up the drums and presented them to the General.

A drummer from each platoon marched up, received the drums from the General, rejoined the parade and beat on them a long tattoo. As the roll of the drums died away the Band struck up the National Anthem. The lost drums were back again where they belonged.

The Wiltshire's drums were two of a set of nine left at Dunkirk in 1940 because there was no room for them in the rescue craft. All trace of them vanished until some 18 months ago, when Rene Iversen mentioned to an officer in the Royal Engineers at Kiel, Germany, that his father had found one on the Dunkirk beaches and had taken it home to Denmark. Mr. Iversen senior died in 1951 and in his will instructed his son to return the drum to the Regiment.

The second drum was found by Mr. Pugh in a café at Malo-les-Bains, near Dunkirk.

As a token of the Regiment's gratitude, Mr. Iversen was presented at the parade at Devizes with a silver replica of the drum he returned and Mr. Pugh with a silver ash tray.



## ... AND A SAD DAY

IT was a sad day for the Royal Fusiliers—but an historic and unique occasion, too.

The Regiment was saying goodbye to its famous cap badge, a symbol of gallantry and tradition which its officers and men have worn in various designs for nearly 300 years. Now, it was to adopt a new badge—that of the recently formed Fusilier Brigade—on the command "Fusiliers, Change Your Cap Badges," an order never before given in the British Army.

Appropriately, the parade was held at the Tower of London which has long been the Regimental Depot and it was carried out with moving ceremony. On parade were officers and men from the Royal Fusiliers' Depot with representative parties from the two other regiments in the new Brigade—the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and the Lancashire Fusiliers.

The Scots Guards Band struck up "The British Grenadiers" and on to the parade ground, bearing the new badges in silver urns, marched Major H. Balmer, who has served with the Royal Fusiliers for 30 years, and Colour-sergeants L. P. Taylor and V. H. Farrer. The badges were blessed by the Reverend J. Gwinnett MC, and distributed to the men on parade.

Then came the unique command to change cap badges. The men took off their berets, removed their old badges and replaced them with the new ones. Officers received their badges, already fixed to caps, from an orderly and merely changed their headgear.

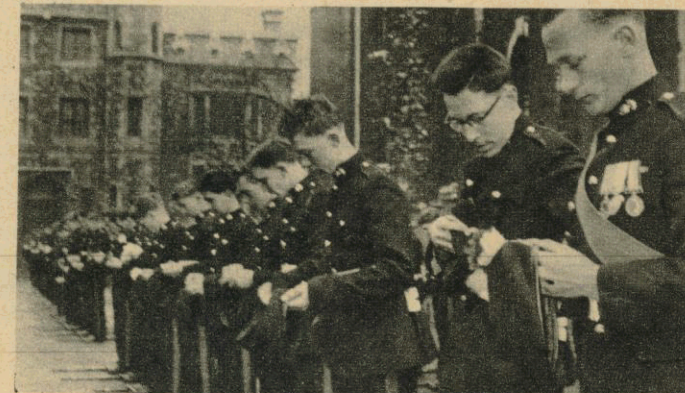
Representative badges were then collected by a Fusilier band boy, placed on a velvet cushion and, escorted by Fusiliers from the Junior Leaders Battalion, ceremoniously slow-marched in front of the parade to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne" and handed to the Curator for safe-keeping in the Regimental Museum.

Similar ceremonies were later held at the depots of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and the Lancashire Fusiliers when representatives from all Fusilier regiments were present.

FOOTNOTE: The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (now the Royal Fusiliers) was the first Fusilier regiment in the British Army. It was raised in 1685 to provide protection for the artillery and for this reason was armed with fusils (flint-lock muskets) which were less dangerous to use in gun areas than the matchlock muskets lit by lengths of smouldering wick.

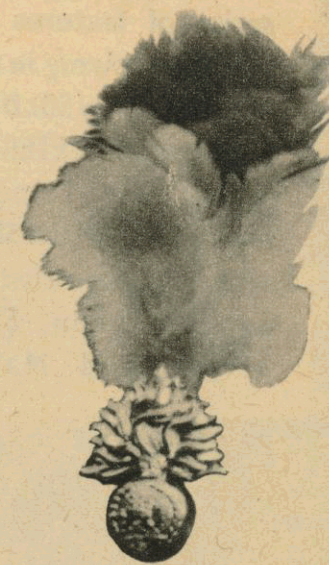
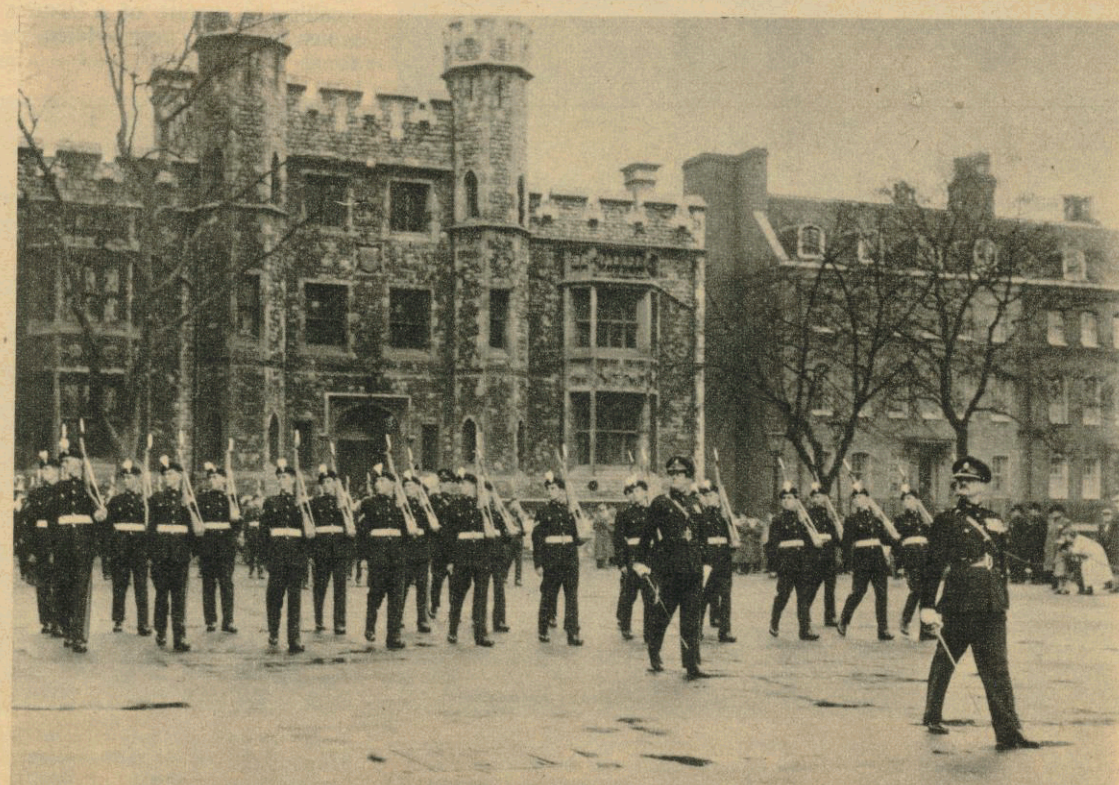


Above: The Chaplain blesses the new Fusilier Brigade cap badges which were carried on parade in two silver urns.



Right: "Change Cap Badges." On this command the men on parade removed berets and inserted the new badges.

Below: At the Tower of London the Royal Fusiliers march on parade to the tune of "The Standard of St. George."



The Fusilier Brigade cap badge is a flaming grenade, the case ensigned with the Crown and bearing St. George and the Dragon in a laurel wreath.







This is the first of a series of features on the British Army in the Middle East by **SOLDIER** Staff writer **PETER N. WOOD** and Camera-man **FRANK TOMPSETT** who have been visiting Cyprus, Aden, East Africa and Malta

# TERRORIST HUNT

*Cyprus lay quiescent under a "truce" when **SOLDIER** landed in the troubled island. **EOKA** had declared the truce but the Army, while lifting some restrictions, continued its relentless hunt for terrorists in a new campaign deep in the Troodos Mountains*

**T**HE name **EOKA** was everywhere in Cyprus, seen here and there on a wall, figuring daily in the newspapers, but most often a word unspoken and unwritten. It had become part of the subconscious for soldiers and civilians alike—a sixth sense which warned one to drive quickly through a village, to keep an alert watch rounding a corner, to stop and examine a bridge before crossing it, and to choose one's company carefully.

The terrorists had declared a truce, but it was an uneasy peace. Restrictions might be lifted, but not precautions. Incidents, although isolated, were a sharp reminder that at any minute all-out terrorism might be renewed. In the towns soldiers, still armed, found their bounds extended, and civilians, too, could move about more easily.

Except in the Troodos Mountains. There, in the north-west of the island, any vehicle, military or civilian, might run into a Security patrol or an ambush. In this area, home ground of the hard core of **EOKA**, the British Army had begun its biggest operation there for two years, an operation aimed at winking out a gang of terrorists and building up an intelligence picture of a district which has rarely seen soldiers in force.

It began as an exercise, under a security clamp. But **EOKA** soon learned, to its cost, that the "exercise" concealed an operation.

The Troodos Mountains rise to over 6000 feet and are clothed from the narrow coastal plain to the peak of Mount Olympus in forest and scrub—mile upon mile of rugged, almost uninhabited country where an entire Army might search for weeks and not flush a single terrorist.

In caves, cunningly-made holes in the rocks and in hide-outs in remote buildings, live **EOKA**'s toughest men, supplied from lonely villages and informed by a network of spies and sympathisers from coast to coast. The Troodos terrorist is a clever, better-trained and more doughty opponent than the cowardly killer of the plains.



Field Conference: Major-General Darling, Director of Operations, flew in by helicopter to get the latest information from Brigadier J. A. J. Read (left) and Lieutenant-Colonel P. C. Britten, of the 3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

# AMONG THE HILL TOPS



Left: As the helicopter hovers over a forest clearing, an RASC air despatcher throws out supplies to troops on the ground. Helicopters also carried "pathfinders" to remote positions.

Above: On a saddleback between towering peaks, a "Sycamore" helicopter prepares to land on a hastily constructed airstrip prepared by the Grenadier Guards, who cut down 40 trees.

In past operations cordon-and-search parties have sometimes discovered a hide-out, but generally only by chance or from an informer's tip-off. Now the Army is playing a new game—that of sitting, watching and waiting—a cat-and-mouse plan that keeps the terrorists guessing. The thorough but slow cordon-and-search method has given way to the three- or four-man patrol, a new technique devised by Major-General Kenneth Darling, Director of Operations in the island.

"Mare's Nest," the Troodos operation, opened swiftly with eight helicopters putting down

soldiers on the tops of ridges, in positions where they could dominate wide areas and inhibit terrorist movement. Immediately, over the whole of the operational area, **EOKA** had to go to ground—and stay there. By day, from the mountain tops, from patrols and from the air, the area was under constant surveillance. At night small ambush parties covered every path, track and road.

Within hours the first effects of the operation became apparent. Into the operations room of Brigade headquarters came radio messages: a suspect courier arrested, finds of ammunition and

leaflets, a village group leader caught in an ambush, and two men carrying arms chased by an observation group.

From the brigade's tactical headquarters, a camp of tents and caravans near Xeros on the northern coast of the island, Brigadier J. A. J. Read directed the 1700 soldiers taking part in the operation—men of four Infantry battalions, a parachute battalion, a squadron of the Royal Horse Guards and a Royal Army Service Corps transport company.

Four "Sycamore" helicopters of 284 Squadron, Royal Air Force, and four Westland "Whirl-

winds" of the Joint Experimental Helicopter Unit (the latter in their first major role since arriving in Cyprus recently) carried "pathfinder" officers who guided the helicopters to the small spotting groups. Some of the positions were two hours' walk from the nearest road, but by using helicopters a network of 16 posts was established in a time that did not allow terrorists to leave the area.

Observation posts were sited higher than ever before and much deeper into the mountains. Helicopters and donkeys helped to solve the problem of supplies. The 3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards

OVER...

Paratroopers on bicycles: Men of the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, scour the mountain tracks and culverts, searching for earth disturbance where mines might have been planted. As two men search, the others cover them against possible attack.



A "Pioneer" aircraft, used for the first time in operations in Cyprus, threads its way along a steep valley to drop supplies to the Black Watch. The "Pioneer" flies faster and carries heavier loads than a helicopter.





*At his tactical headquarters, Brigadier Read plans his next move. With him is Major A. FitzGerald, Army Air Corps, the flying control officer for the Army's helicopters. Right: In case they are needed in the hunt, men of the Royal Welch Fusiliers practise leaving helicopters by rope.*



## TERRORIST HUNT continued

had six posts, none of them accessible by road; the 1st Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers also manned six and the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch four.

From company bases the battalions sent out patrols and every 48 hours relieved the three- or four-men positions. Number 3 Company of the Grenadier Guards, occupying the only base where a helicopter could land food instead of dropping it, chopped down 30 or 40 trees to make a landing strip on a narrow saddle between peaks. "Sycamores" touching down there had only a foot or two to spare on either side of their main wheels.

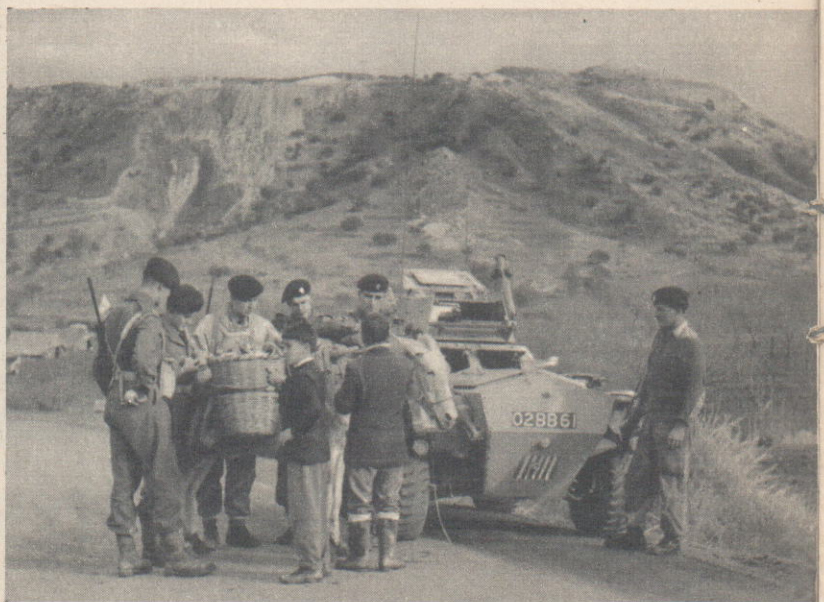
The Lancashire Fusiliers had two positions supplied from the air, two by mules and two by men carrying their loads on the frames

of Bergen rucksacks. The "Whirlwinds," troubled sometimes by turbulent air currents and restricting their loads because of altitude, took jerricans of water, ration packs, chocolate, books, wireless batteries and mail to the hilltops, running a shuttle service from battalion headquarters. The helicopters were also kept busy making reconnaissances and flying commanders over their battalion areas.

For the first time in operations against the terrorists the Brigade Commander had a direct link, through an Army Air Corps major in his operations room, with the helicopters. Two Austers of 653 Light Aircraft Squadron, Army Air Corps, made daily patrols, watching for movement. From one of these the observer



*Left: In the Kambos Valley, a Grenadier Guardsman leads two donkeys up a stony track with supplies for his company. Below: In the foothills, a Guards' patrol stops for refreshment. Oranges cost only a penny each.*





spotted a hole leading into four caves.

For the first time in Cyprus, too, a Royal Air Force "Pioneer" light aircraft, which can fly faster and carry a heavier load than a helicopter, was used to drop supplies. The experiment, in the Black Watch area, was completely successful, although to drop composite ration packs in a narrow, winding valley hemmed in by ridges rising steeply 2000 feet above the valley bottom, seemed impossible.

After making a preliminary run over the target marker, the "Pioneer" plane flew in, throttled back, dropped a pack from a height of 75 feet and on full throttle climbed sharply, skimming the trees on a spur. In eight runs the Royal Army Service Corps Air Supply despatcher dropped one pack four yards from the marker, two ten yards away and the remainder within a short radius.

While some Infantrymen familiarised themselves with setting up dropping and landing zones, others were learning the art of handling an age-old form of transport—the donkey. In the Grenadier Guards, Lancashire Fusiliers and Black Watch, donkey handlers, one to each beast, took their sure-footed charges, laden with supplies, up the narrow tracks and paths. They learned that the donkey will carry about 100 lb., that if the strongest animal leads the others will follow—and that if fed or watered while out working a donkey will sit down and refuse to budge.

Up in the peaks of the Troodos Mountains, on the southern fringe of the operational area, the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, adopted different tactics from those of the Infantry battalions. Instead of manning permanent ridge positions which could be seen, the Parachutists kept observation from camouflaged posts, then in the darkness moved on to new positions. Companies which normally patrol the area increased their activity and ski patrols stood by for action on the snow-covered mountain-tops.

At night throughout the whole area, military traffic was halted. Civilians on foot or in vehicles moved at their own risk, for ambush parties of three men, covering each other, watched roads, tracks and mountain paths, ready to challenge and open fire.

EOKA were pinned down—on the doorstep of their mountain retreat and in the very region which gave birth to these terrorist gangs.

**FOOTNOTE:** Shortly after this article went to press operation "Mare's Nest" was called off and a new spirit of hope for peace in Cyprus was in the air. For the first time in nine months British troops walked unarmed and in mufti down Nicosia's "Murder Mile," and in towns throughout the island troops delivered leaflets to Cypriots calling on EOKA to end intimidation.



Deep in the Troodos Mountains close by Mount Olympus, a section commander holds an "O" Group. Nearly 2000 soldiers took part in the operation, which pinned down the terrorists in the lairs.

## MORE NEW BADGES AND BUTTONS

Designs for three more of the 14 new Infantry Brigade cap badges—the Lowland, Home Counties and Forester—have been approved and are reproduced below. Details of the remaining two cap badges—for the Highland and Welsh brigades—are expected to be announced soon.



Left: The Lowland Brigade cap badge, all in silver, is a thistle on a cross and within a circlet inscribed "Nemo Me Impune Lacessit" ("No One Shall Attack Me With Impunity"). Regiments which will wear this badge are: The Royal Scots, the Royal Highland Fusiliers (formed by the amalgamation of the Royal Scots Fusiliers and the Highland Light Infantry), the King's Own Scottish Borderers and the Cameronians. Below (left): the new collar badge and (right) the new button of the Royal Highland Fusiliers—a golden grenade with the monogram HLI.



The present blue facing colour of the Royal Scots Fusiliers has been adopted for the new regiment.

Right: The Forester Brigade cap badge contains features of the former cap badges of all three of its regiments: a Maltese cross from the Sherwood Foresters, the antelope of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and the royal tiger of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment. The cap badge is gold and silver and the button (below), which combines the same features, all in gold.



Right: The Home Counties Brigade cap badge is a Saxon crown enfiled with a sword, all in silver. The new brigade button is in gold.

The four regiments to wear this badge are: The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (to be formed by the amalgamation of the Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) and the East Surrey Regiment), the Royal Sussex Regiment, the Middlesex Regiment and the regiment to be formed by the amalgamation of The Buffs and the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.



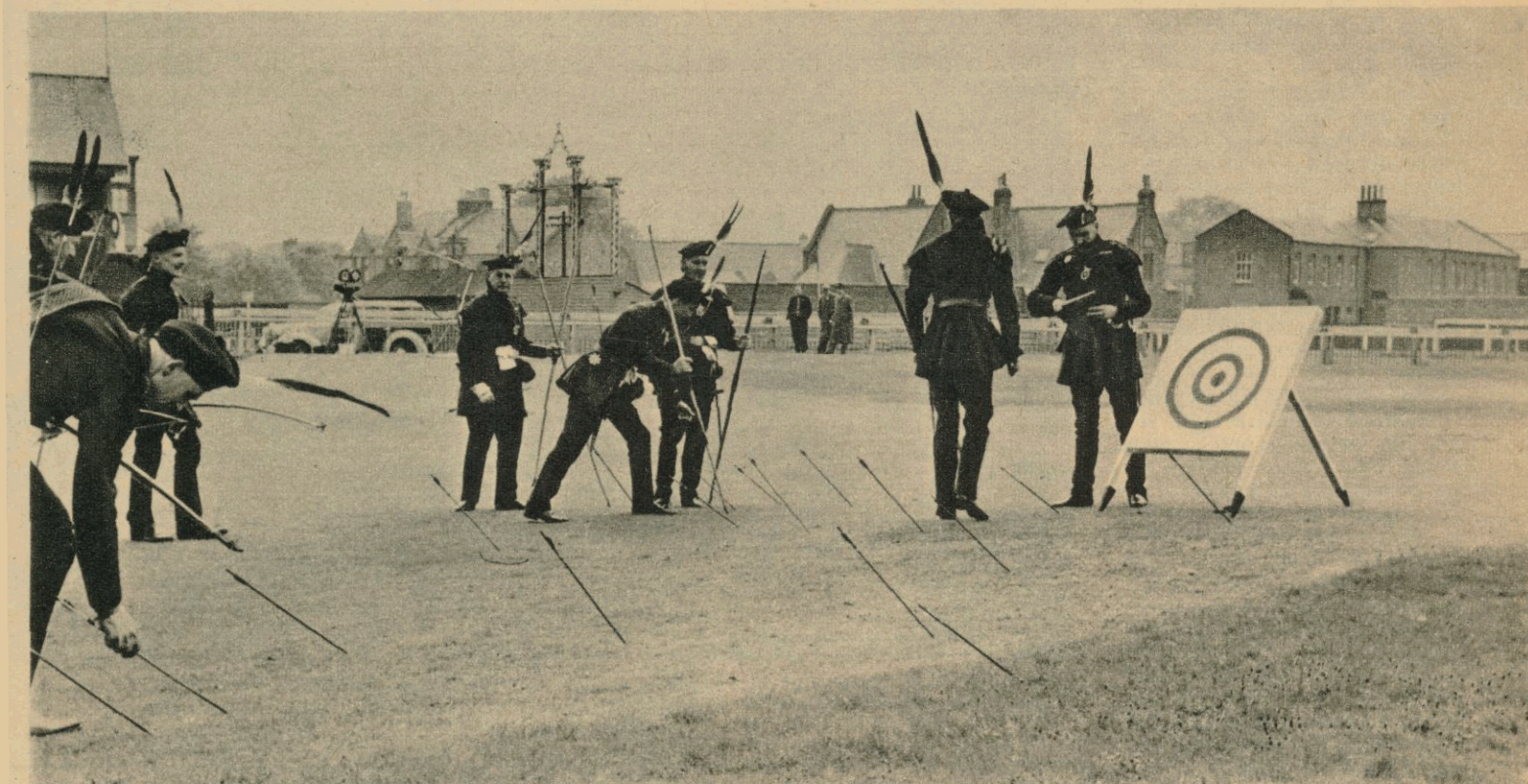
Two more new regimental collar badges have also been approved. They are those for the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (above, left) and the 1st East Anglian Regiment (Royal Norfolk and Suffolk) at right.



# SCOTLAND'S NOBLE

# ARCHERS

PEERS AND PROFESSIONAL MEN WHO PROTECT THE SOVEREIGN WITH SWORDS AND SIX-FOOT LONG-BOWS, BELONG TO A DISTINGUISHED BODY—THE QUEEN'S BODY GUARD FOR SCOTLAND, THE ROYAL COMPANY OF ARCHERS



Left: Archers collect arrows during a contest at Musselburgh. If no arrow hits the target the one which pitches nearest wins.



Right: Armed with bows and arrows and short swords, the Archers are inspected by an Ensign at Edinburgh Castle.

Left: The Reddendo, a gift of three barbed arrows in the form of a brooch which was presented to the Queen on a visit to Edinburgh.



years, but some which are 75 years old can still shoot effectively.

It takes Mr. Dowson only a day to fashion a long-bow (price £14) either from yew, which is becoming increasingly scarce, or from laminated hickory, greenheart or lemonwood. Arrows are made of pine and sapodilla (a tropical evergreen) with buffalo horn wedges and flights of turkey or goose feathers and are weighed against silver coins. A 35-yard butt arrow weighs 4s 6d and a 180-yard arrow 3s 3d.

The Royal Company of Archers was granted a charter in 1704 by Queen Anne who laid down that the members were to be allowed to use all public butts and "should not be impeded by magistrates or other zealous persons." In return the Royal Company was to render annually to the Queen and her successors a "Reddendo" (a pair of barbed arrows) but "only if asked for." This was the origin of the Reddendo which has been presented to a Sovereign on 11 occasions, the last time in 1952, in the form of a brooch, to the Queen.

It was not until 1822 that the Royal Company of Archers became the Sovereign's Body Guard, an honour bestowed by George the Fourth when he visited Edinburgh for the first time that year. The official title remained The Royal Company of Archers; The King's Body Guard for Scotland until 1899 when Queen Victoria granted it military status and reversed the title.

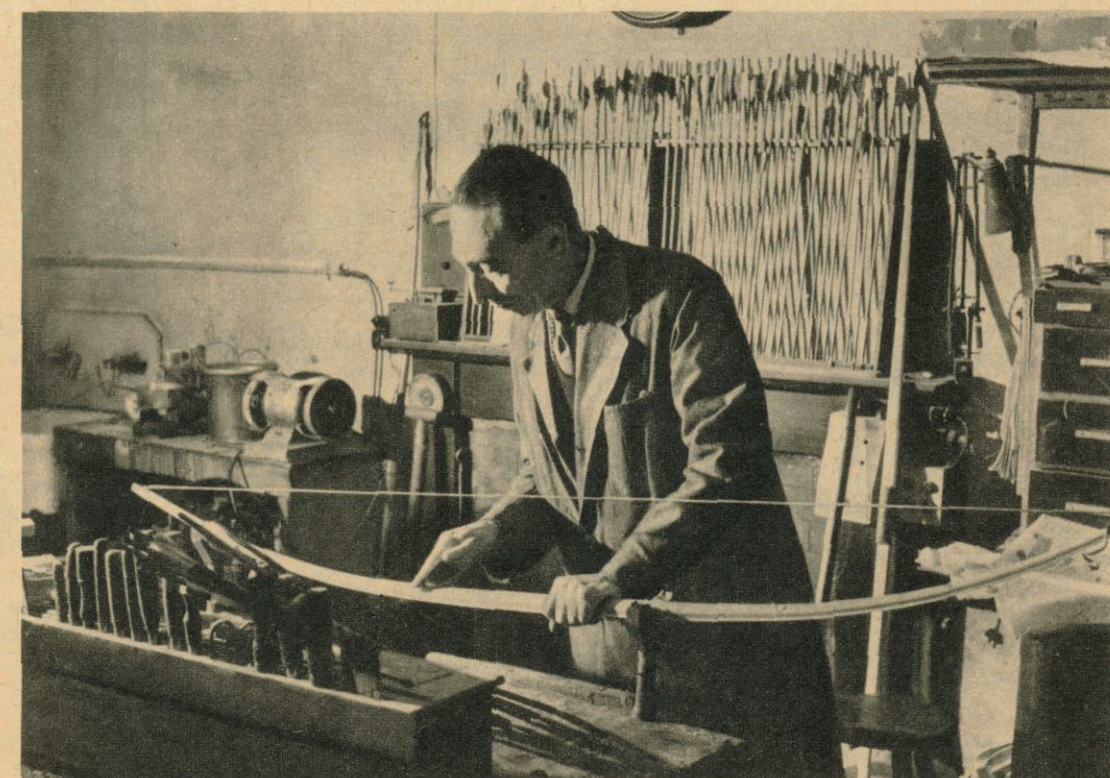
In those days each officer had the suffix "General" appended to his rank and for this reason the War Office refused permission for the unit to be included in the Army List. But Queen Victoria then laid down the present estab-

lishment and rank titles, and decreed that all appointments should be approved by the Sovereign. In 1905 the War Office capitulated and included the Queen's Body Guard for Scotland in the Army List. It now appears only in the Army Gradation List.

Archers of the Queen's Body Guard have no equivalent military rank although in World War One they claimed to be equal to lieutenant-colonels. The Council of The Royal Company said there was no authority for that assumption and that "the present was not a suitable time to raise the question."

And there for 45 years the matter has rested.

K. J. HANFORD



In his workshop at Archers' Hall, Mr. Charles Dowson shapes a long-bow from laminated wood. A bow takes a day to make and costs £14.

WHICH military unit is armed with bows and arrows, has two admirals, an air-commodore and a major-general as brigadiers (the most junior officer rank in the unit) a colonel who is an ensign and a wing-commander who is a captain?

The answer is The Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, The Royal Company of Archers—and if you don't believe it turn to page 1902 of the Army Gradation List. It is sandwiched between the Military Knights of Windsor and the warrant for the Victoria Cross.

The Queen's Body Guard for Scotland traces its history back

nearly 300 years. It is 400 strong and its members are drawn from noble Scottish families, the three fighting Services and the learned professions (Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott were Archers). There is always a long waiting list, for to belong to the Body Guard is a high honour in Scotland. The entry and promotion of officers is by selection and approval by the Sovereign.

Probably no other unit has so many titled officers. The Captain-General is the Earl of Stair, Gold Stick for Scotland, and the four captains are a duke and three earls. Of the three lieutenants one is an earl and another a lord, and of the four ensigns one is a lord and two are knights. The 13 brigadiers number among them one duke, three earls, a marquess, three lords and four knights. Many of the "other ranks," who are all Archers, are retired officers, doctors, lawyers and business men.

Wearing Border-green uniforms and black Kilmarnock bonnets adorned with eagles' feathers, and carrying swords and long bows, the Queen's Body Guard for Scotland is rarely seen on official occasions and then only when the Sovereign wishes. In 1953 officers and archers escorted the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to a national thanksgiving service at St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh.

In recent years they have also provided bodyguards for the Queen on her visits to Stirling Castle, Oban and Fife.

The six-foot long-bows, similar to those used at Agincourt and Crecy, are no museum pieces; every week throughout the year the Royal Company of Archers uses them in archery contests in the grounds of Holyroodhouse and at the Butts, the Company's 100-ft. glass-covered shooting range next to the headquarters at Archers' Hall, Edinburgh.

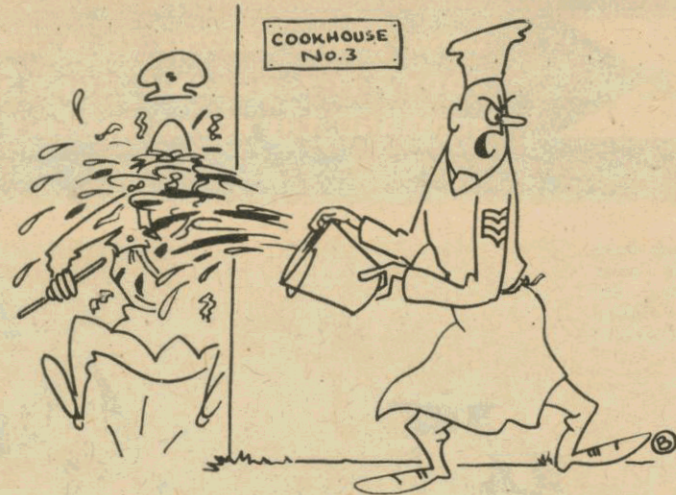
The members take their archery very seriously, as they should, for the Company was founded in 1676 by an influential body of "noblemen and gentlemen to encourage the noble and useful recreation of Archery." During the year they take part in 24 contests shot at distances up to 200 yards and every three years compete against The Woodmen of Arden in a 12-man team contest. This contest has been held since 1878 and the Royal Company of Archers has won it 13 times.

The Company enjoys the services of a resident bow-maker, Mr. Charles Dowson, who has been making bows professionally for 11 years. He told SOLDIER that most members own several long-bows, using one for a season and then giving it a rest for a year. A long-bow generally lasts ten



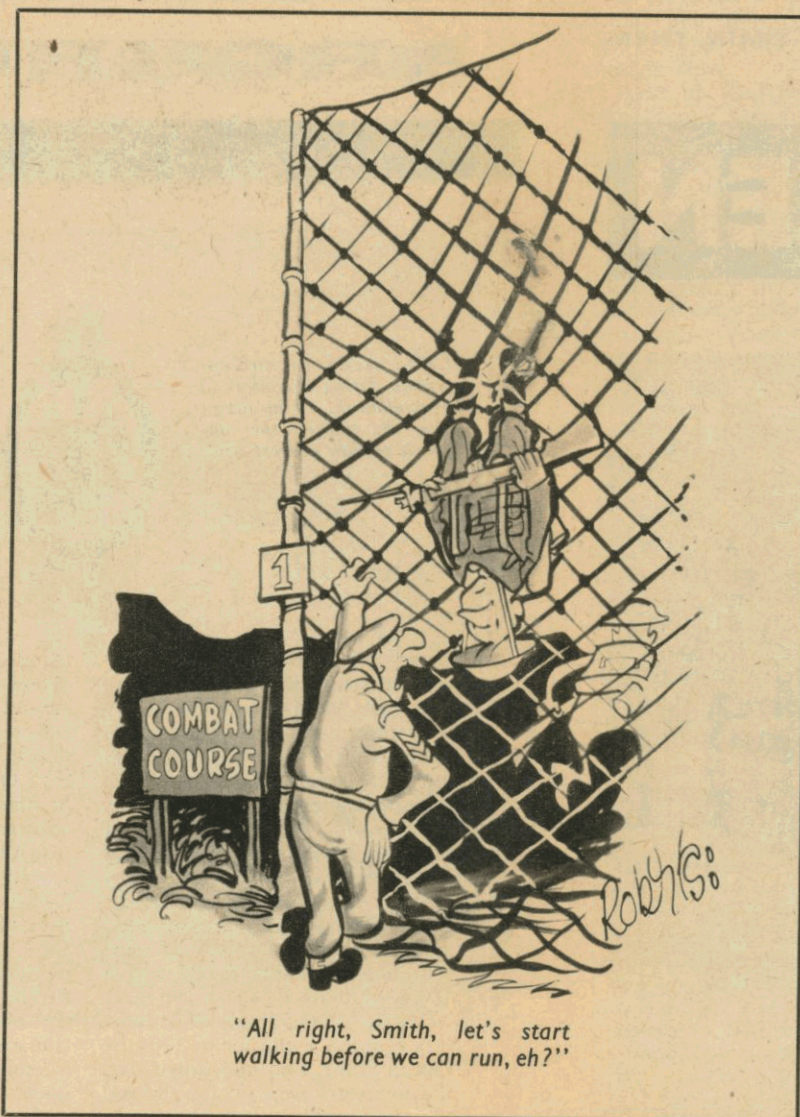
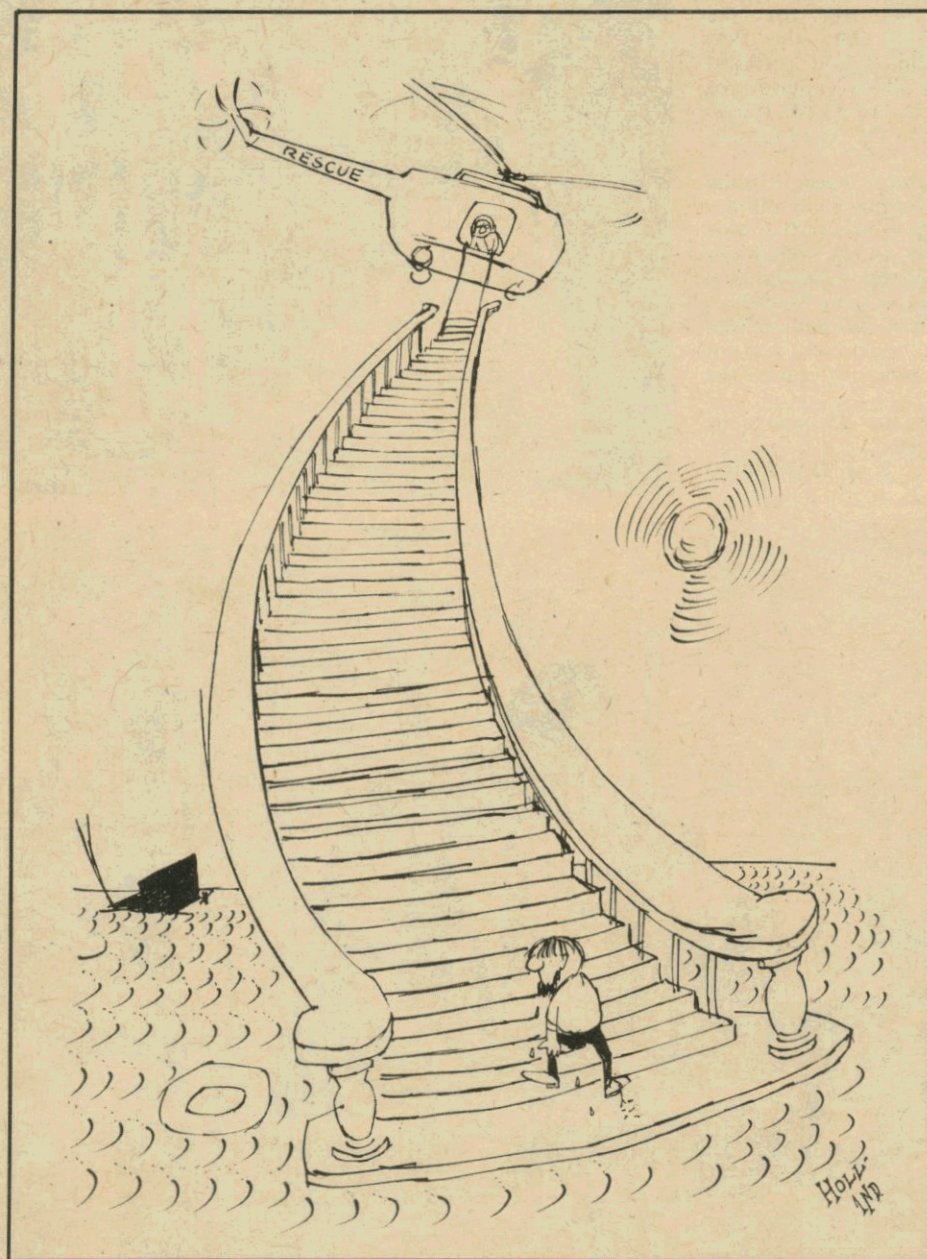
A long pull and a strong pull is needed to fire a long-bow. Brig. T. Grainger-Stewart MC, a lieutenant in the Royal Company, takes aim.



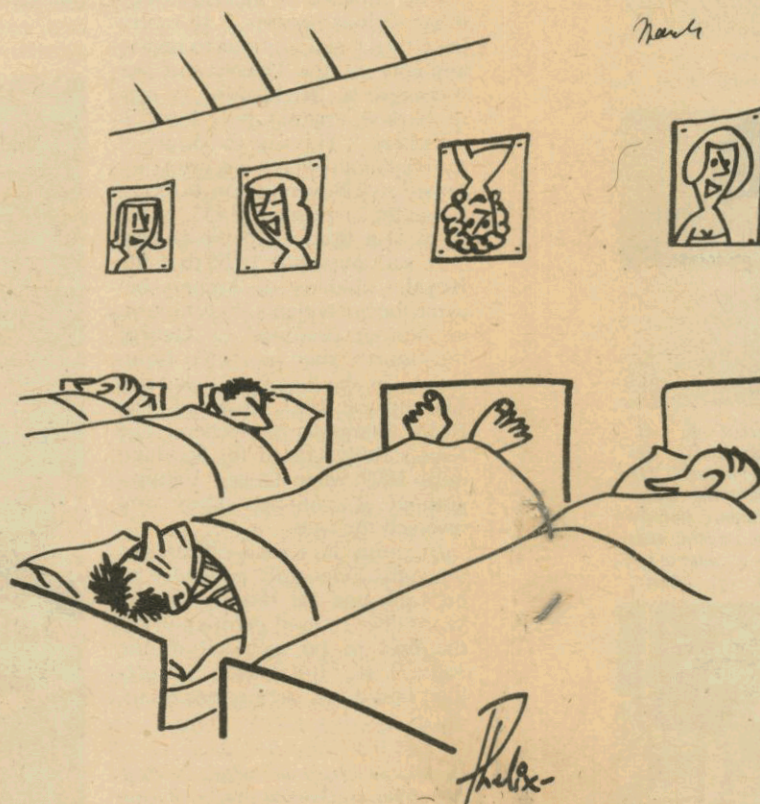


"The CO's coming round, so get rid of all those buckets of greasy water."

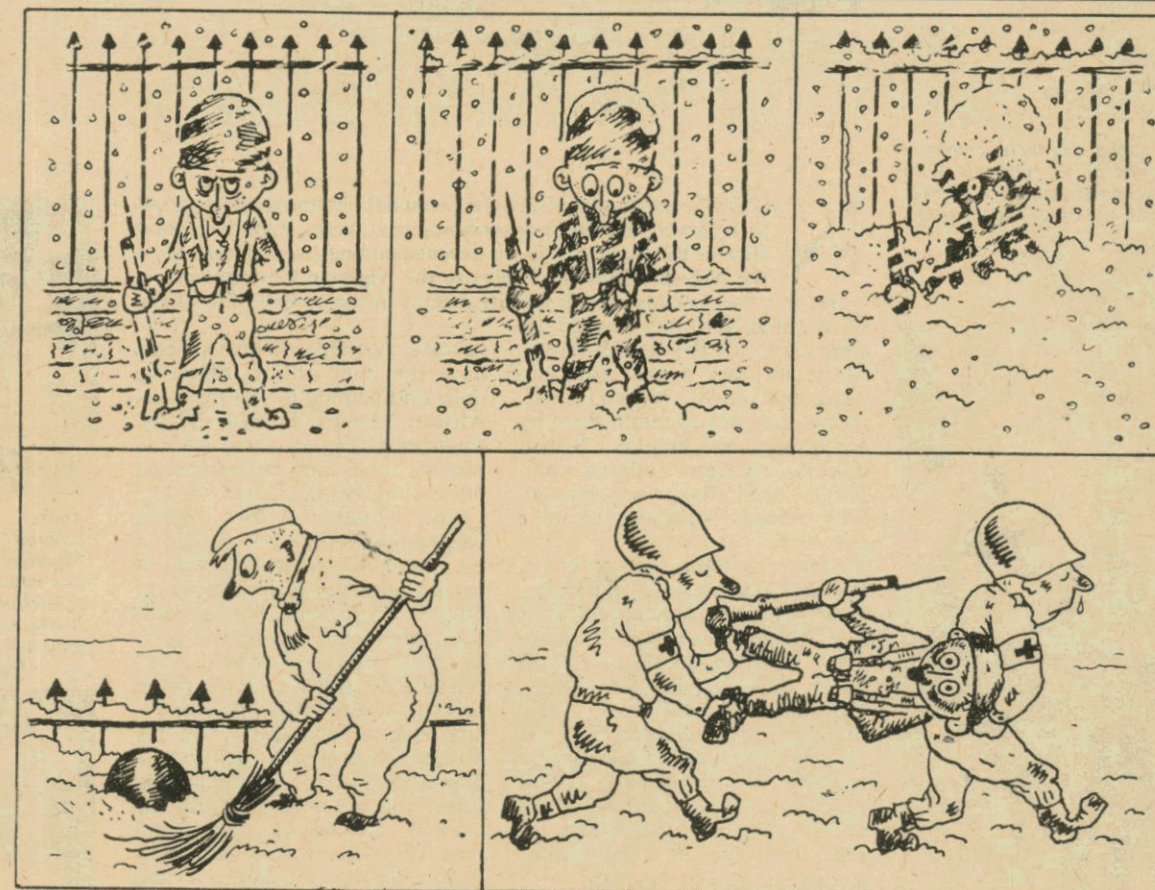
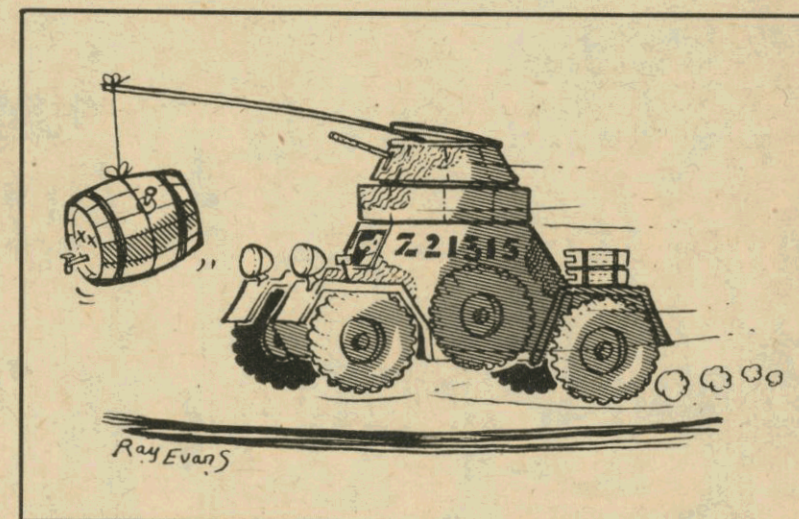
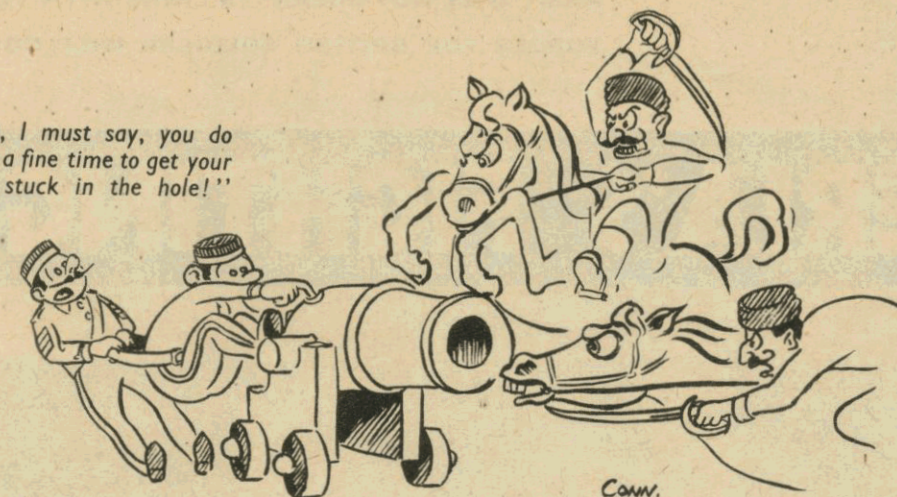
## SOLDIER HUMOUR



"All right, Smith, let's start walking before we can run, eh?"



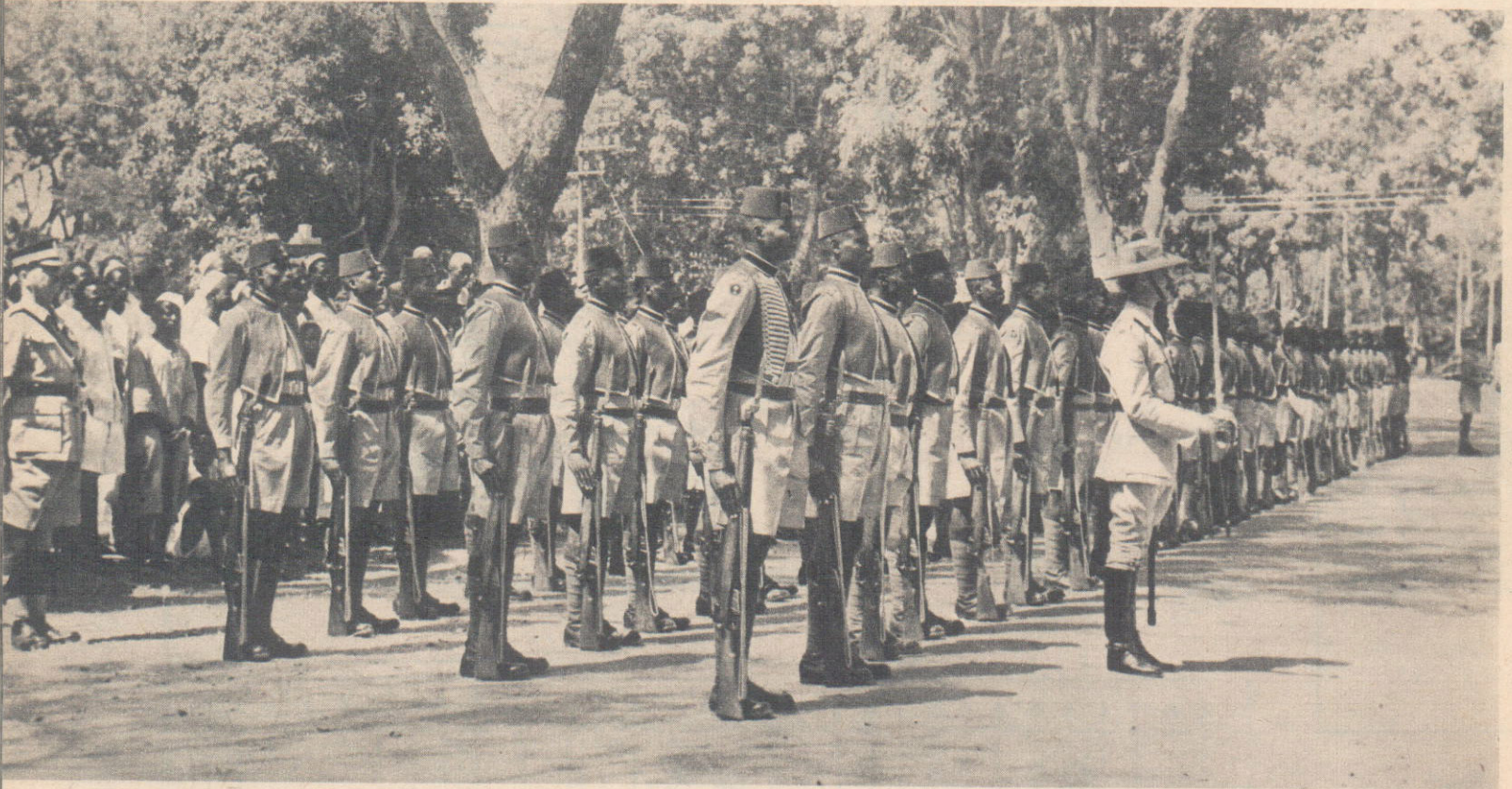
"Well, I must say, you do choose a fine time to get your finger stuck in the hole!"





NIGERIA IS SOON TO ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE BUT THE BRITISH ARMY WILL NOT BREAK ITS LINKS WITH THAT COUNTRY'S MILITARY FORCES FOR BRITISH SOLDIERS WILL CONTINUE TO TRAIN THEM

# NIGERIA'S FIGHTING MEN



*Spick and span in their colourful uniforms, men of the Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment, led by a British officer, at a passing out parade.*



*Nigerian recruits swear the oath as they touch the Regimental Colour. Many join straight from the bush.*

**N**IGERIA, the largest of Britain's colonial territories, is expected to achieve complete independence next year. One important step in this direction is the recent handing over of control of the Nigerian Military Forces to the Nigerian Government.

But this small Army, which had its origins in the suppression of the slave trade, has not severed its close ties with the British Army, whose fortunes it has shared in peace and war for 70 years. It is, indeed, anxious to retain them by continuing to employ British officers, warrant officers and NCOs until there are enough fully-trained Nigerians to take over.

Thus, for some time to come, British soldiers will hold key positions in the five battalions of the Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment and the supporting units which make up the 8000-strong Nigerian Military Forces. Until the end of World War Two the Nigerian Military Forces were entirely British-officered; now there are a few Nigerian officers and by 1961 all other ranks, except for some 50 highly-skilled specialists, will be Nigerians.

Today, many Nigerians are undergoing a three-year officer-training course (including two years at Sandhurst), but until they

become available, British officers have the dual role of officering units and helping to run the West African Training School and the Regimental Depot where African recruits and non-commissioned officers are being trained.

The Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment (the title was conferred by Queen Elizabeth in 1956) is spread over the three regions of Nigeria which, with the Southern Cameroons and Lagos, the capital, make up the Federation.

The battalions take turns in serving at each of the stations. One is at Enugu, capital of the Eastern Region, an area of vast mangrove swamps, dense tropical forest and scattered hills. In the Western Region at Ibadan and Abeokuta there are two battalions from which detachments are found for Lagos. The remaining two battalions are stationed in the Northern Region at Kaduna, while the Regimental Depot and



*Above: Major-General K. G. Exham DSO commands the Nigerian Military Forces. He was commissioned into the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Below: A Nigerian bandsman wearing traditional costume on a course at the Army School of Music.*





the Boys' Company (where African boys, many of them straight from the bush villages, are educated and trained in Outward Bound-type leadership) are at nearby Zaria.

Also at Kaduna are a field squadron of Sappers and a reconnaissance company, equipped with Land-Rovers, which was recently converted from a field battery of artillery.

As part of its training, every company carries out an annual "bush trek." In the south the high humidity, insects and dense tropical undergrowth present many problems, but in the north the hills offer plenty of scope for exercises.

The primary role of the Nigerian Military Forces is to support the Nigeria Police in maintaining law and order and to defend Nigeria's frontiers. This calls for a well-disciplined force proficient in the use of small-arms and able to move quickly by land, air or water. The Regiment is well organised and trained to do this and the independent reconnaissance company can undertake special missions where speed is vital.

British warrant-officers and NCOs play a major part in training Nigeria's Army for on them falls the task of instructing the Nigerian soldier in elementary tactics, the use of weapons, wireless sets and vehicles, and the many other duties that form part of the soldier's daily round. It is a formidable job, but a rewarding one, for the Nigerian soldier is a very sturdy, well-built man, quick to respond to leadership, gifted with a strong sense of humour and genuinely proud of his profession.

Off-duty, both Nigerians and British find plenty to do. Most military stations have a well-equipped sports field with rugby, soccer, cricket and hockey pitches, tennis courts and, in some places, golf courses. Polo, too, has a large following for Nigeria is one of the few places in the world where keeping horses (tough little ponies bred in the north by the Hausa tribe) is inexpensive. There is also plenty of big-game hunting and fishing in coastal waters and inland streams.

The wheel has turned full circle for the Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment which now bears again the role of internal security and border surveillance. Its origins were in the forces of the old Lagos Colony, the Niger Coast Protectorate and in the Royal Niger Constabulary, established when a trading company was given its charter in 1886. The Constabulary's initial tasks were to support the company's authority and to help suppress the slave trade.

During the partition of Africa a few years later, Captain Frederick Lugard (later Lord Lugard) was called in to command the force. By the end of the century it had become a disciplined corps, linked in British West Africa with Gambia, Sierra Leone



and the Gold Coast, and constituted as the West African Frontier Force.

The Frontier Force fought two short and successful campaigns against the powerful Sokoto and Kano emirates in the north, from where the Nigeria Regiment has since recruited many warrior soldiers, and in 1914 marched against Togoland and the German Kamerun Colony and later served in East Africa.

In the Ashanti War of 1900 Captain Melliss and Colour-Sergeant Mackenzie, both of the Northern Nigeria Regiment, won the Victoria Cross. Another officer of the regiment, Captain Jack Butler, won the VC for gallantry in the fighting in the Cameroons in 1914.

In World War Two the Royal West African Frontier Force served in East Africa and Abyssinia, and contributed two divisions, the 81st and 82nd, to fight in the Arakan campaign and with Wingate's second expedition in

Burma. Four battalions of the Nigeria Regiment served with 81st Division and six with 82nd Division, and of them Field-Marshal Sir William Slim said: "You have the proud distinction of being the first African formation to be used outside Africa against the enemy. The number of enemy that you accounted for and the traditional courage of your men, the lessons you have learnt in a hard school, will cause the Japs to dread you in the future."

The Japanese had indeed a healthy respect for the Nigerian and his brother soldiers from West Africa. A captured Japanese diary had this to say: "The enemy soldiers are not from Britain but from Africa. Because of their belief, they are not afraid to die, so even if their comrades have fallen they keep on advancing as though nothing had happened. They have an excellent physique and are very brave."

PETER N. WOOD

*Flashback to World War Two: Nigerian Infantry at bayonet practice before taking part in the Burma campaign. They served with the first African units to go into action overseas.*

*Below: Basket-ball is popular with the men of the Nigerian Military Forces, who are extremely athletic. All stations are liberally equipped with playing fields and tennis courts.*





# THE FRENCH FLED FROM

**OUTNUMBERED BY NEARLY TWO TO ONE, 5000 BRITISH SOLDIERS PUT THE FRENCH TO FLIGHT AT BARROSA. AMONG THE REGIMENTS CELEBRATING THE 148th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE THIS MONTH ARE THE ROYAL IRISH FUSILIERS WHO, AS THE 87th, FOUGHT MAGNIFICENTLY TO TURN NEAR DEFEAT INTO BRILLIANT VICTORY**

**W**ITH wild cries of "Faugh-a-Ballagh" (Clear the Way), 700 Irishmen, their bayonets gleaming in the Spanish sun, routed three French battalions at the Battle of Barrosa on 5 March, 1811, captured the eagle of the French 8th Regiment and earned undying fame for the 87th (later The Royal Irish Fusiliers).

The 2nd Battalion of the 87th were among 9000 British and 18,000 Spanish troops holding the island city of Cadiz against 14,000 Frenchmen under General Victor. Napoleon with most of Europe in his power had turned to Spain and Portugal for fresh conquests. His brother Joseph, whom

he had put on the Spanish throne, took Seville in 1810 and marched on Cadiz. The Spanish Government appealed to Britain and, eager to strike a blow against their old enemy, British troops answered the call for help.

In command at Cadiz was

Major-General Thomas Graham, who had served with Sir John Moore at Corunna. To break the ring around Cadiz he decided to send part of his force to land at Tarifa, 50 miles south-east, and to attack the French in the rear. To save time and bickering, he agreed to serve under the Spanish General Lapena, who was to reveal himself at Barrosa as one of the most inefficient commanders in history.

A 5000-strong British force,

including the 87th, sailed from Cadiz on 21 February, but rough seas prevented them landing at Tarifa, so they disembarked at Algeciras, 15 miles away, the following day. When Lapena landed at Tarifa with 7000 troops six days later Graham and his men were there waiting to march towards Cadiz.

Where would Lapena attack? From the east or along the coast road? That was General Victor's problem. He sent 3000 troops to Medina Sidonia, 15 miles inland, in case the Spaniard should attack from the east, but Lapena had bungled even before the battle began. He told General Zayas, commanding the Cadiz garrison, that he would reach the defences of Cadiz on 3 March. On the night of 2 March Zayas put a bridge of boats over the Santi Petri river and established a bridgehead on the mainland—but Lapena failed to arrive, and Zayas was forced back to the island.

Victor now knew that Lapena would use the coast route, so he withdrew his men from Medina Sidonia, and from the high land near Barrosa watched the long straggling column marching wearily towards him. Despite Graham's protests, Lapena had insisted on all-night marches and as they approached Barrosa the British and Spanish troops were sadly in need of sleep and food.

From the crest of Barrosa hill on the morning of 5 March, the Allied armies could see no sign of the enemy hidden in the dense pinewoods. But as they descended towards Cadiz the Spanish cavalry caught sight of French troops of Villatte's Division, 3000 strong, formed up on a long, narrow ridge between the sea and Almansa Creek at Bermeja.

Still unaware of Victor's main force, Lapena sent his three leading brigades under Brigadier-General Lardizabel to attack Villatte and fierce fighting took place until Zayas re-laid his bridge across the Santi Petri and Villatte withdrew.

The Spanish broke through the French lines and linked up with the Cadiz garrison and all went well until Lapena ordered Graham

# THE "FAUGHS"

to evacuate Barrosa hill and join Lardizabel in Bermeja. Graham realised the value of Barrosa and wanted to hold it in strength. His protest had little effect on the stubborn Spaniard, although he agreed to leave on the hill Lieutenant-Colonel Browne's mixed battalion of 475 men of the 9th, 28th and 82nd Regiments (later The Royal Norfolk, The Gloucestershire and The South Lancashire regiments), four Spanish battalions and the Spanish cavalry.

Reluctantly Graham followed the Spanish main body into the pinewood, his troops led by Colonel Wheatley's Brigade which included the 87th, the 67th (later The Royal Hampshire Regiment) and the 28th.

Now was the moment for Victor to strike. Leading the troops of General Ruffin's Division, he climbed the rear of Barrosa hill and swept the Spanish rearguard towards the sea. Browne retreated slowly, sending word to Graham for orders. The reply came in one word, "Fight."

Graham turned quickly and as he left the pinewood he saw Ruffin's Division on the summit of Barrosa, the Spanish rearguard in full flight and a third French Division commanded by General Leval close to his own flank. Lapena was nowhere in sight.

Graham had no choice but to counter-attack. He ordered Wheatley's Brigade to form up at the edge of the wood and fight Leval, while Brigadier-General Dilkes' Brigade of Guards and two companies of the 95th (later The Sherwood Foresters) were to retake the hill. Lieutenant-

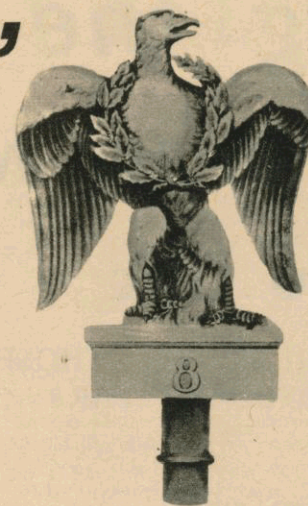
Colonel Barnard's Battalion, consisting of nearly 600 men of the 95th and the 47th (later The Loyal Regiment), were to skirmish in front of Wheatley's Brigade and Browne's Battalion was to have a similar hazardous task in front of Dilkes' Brigade.

The ten guns of the British artillery were rushed into action and quickly poured fierce fire into Leval's column. Barnard's men bravely attacked the shaken Frenchmen and then fell back on Wheatley's line.

Both British and French moved forward, the British in line and the French in column. Leading the French were the two battalions of the 8th Regiment, who came on at the 87th. At 60 paces the deadly fire of the 87th caused the whole French front rank to fall and into the jumbled mass of dead and wounded charged the Irishmen, yelling "Faugh-a-Ballagh." It was the first time in the Peninsula that the 87th had been within bayonet reach of the enemy. Their blood was up and they took a fearful toll, the French 8th losing 700 men, more than half the regiment.

The 87th were determined to capture the 8th's eagle. Mounted on an eight-foot staff, the gilded copper eagle was a symbol of Napoleon's power and at a vast parade in Paris in 1804 representatives of the 8th had sworn never to yield it.

In the bloodiest fighting of the battle the ensign bearer was killed and the eagle was snatched from his hand by Sergeant Patrick Masterson. The French, rallied by their officers, fought desperately to regain the eagle, but Master-



Above: A drawing of the French eagle captured by the 87th. The emblem was stolen more than 100 years ago and has never been found.

Right: The Governor of the Royal Hospital returns the replica of the Barrosa eagle to the Colonel of the Regiment, then Major-General Sir Gerald Templer, in 1947.



son hung on grimly. Leval sent in a fresh battalion, but the charging Irishmen, led by Major Hugh Gough (later Field-Marshal Viscount Gough) proved too much for them and they turned and ran. A battalion had routed an enemy three times its strength.

Meanwhile Browne had attacked Ruffin's column at the summit of Barrosa and continued the fight until Dilkes' Brigade of Guards, who had to scramble through a ravine, charged up the hill. After fierce fighting the enemy was forced from Barrosa—5000 British had beaten 9000

French, while the main body of Lapena's troops did nothing.

After the brilliant victory at Barrosa, the 87th's gallantry was recognised by the Prince Regent when he renamed them The Prince of Wales's Own Irish Regiment. He also approved their bearing "as a badge of honour, on the Regimental colour and appointments, an Eagle with a Wreath of Laurel, above the Harp, in addition to the arms of His Royal Highness, in commemoration of the distinguished gallantry of the 2nd battalion, particularly at the Battle of Barrosa."

Sergeant Masterson was given an ensigncy in the Royal York Light Infantry Volunteers for capturing the eagle. He later rejoined the 87th and served with the 1st Battalion in India.

Two months after it had been captured, the Barrosa eagle was paraded in London before the Dukes of York, Cambridge and Gloucester and taken to the Chapel Royal. In 1835 it was transferred to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, where, in 1852, a thief ripped it from its staff and made off with it. It has never been found.

A replica was made in time for it to be carried at the Duke of Wellington's funeral later in 1852, and it remained at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, until 1947, when it was presented to the Colonel of the Regiment, then Major-General Sir Gerald Templer. It now occupies pride of place in the Regimental Museum.

K. J. HANFORD



Left: This rare print of the Battle of Barrosa, by Alpenny, shows Sgt Masterson wrestling the eagle from a French ensign.

Right: "The Battle," an aquatint by Duborg, depicts the 87th fighting hand-to-hand with the French at Barrosa in 1811.

Pictures by courtesy of the Parker Gallery.





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# WHEN THE ROMANS RULED BRITAIN

**F**OR 350 years—from A.D. 43 until the closing years of the fourth century—England and Wales were occupied by a foreign army. For twice as long as the British ruled India, Britain was a province of Rome.

Who were these soldiers of Rome? Where did they come from? What were their conditions of service; how were they armed and equipped; what did they eat?

Apart from the Praetorian Guards—the “Household Troops”—the Imperial Armies of Rome consisted of two main types of troops. First, there were the legions, formations of heavy Infantry, each about 5000-strong, all Roman citizens and magnificently disciplined and trained. Second, were the cavalry and light infantry auxiliary troops, drawn from the provinces and organised in wings or cohorts of 500 or 1000 men. They were under command of a legion for a major action.

The invasion force sent to Britain in A.D. 43 consisted of four legions and a number of auxiliaries, totalling between 40-50,000. After the initial period of conquest which lasted some 40 years, the legions were reduced to three, stationed as strategic reserves at York, Chester, and Caerleon, in Monmouthshire, while the auxiliaries kept watch and ward on the frontiers.

The auxiliary units in Britain were drawn from many parts of the Roman Empire. In Wales there were a cohort of Nervians from Belgic Gaul, another of Sunici from lower Germany, and two or three from Spain. On Hadrian's Wall there were many different nationalities, including Dalmatians, Thracians, and Ham-

ians from Syria. Apart from the stationing of a cohort of Cornovii from Shropshire on Hadrian's Wall in the latter part of the occupation, little is known about the use of locally raised troops in Britain, although a considerable number served with distinction in other parts of the Roman Empire.

By the first century A.D. the legionary's arms and equipment had been standardised and remained virtually unchanged during the occupation of Britain.

The upper part of the body was protected by armour fastened over a leather jerkin under which was a woollen tunic. The armour was usually a series of curved metal plates riding over each other to give freedom of movement, but sometimes scale armour and chain mail were also worn. A helmet of stout bronze reinforced with an iron band protected the head and neck. Side pieces and a brow-ridge covered the sides of the skull, the eyes and nose. Leather breeches were worn in cold weather, but otherwise the legs were uncovered and partly protected by a shield, a curved rectangle of leather mounted on plywood and bound with metal. Sandals were studded with hobnails. In wet weather a thick brown cloak was worn.

The legionary's weapons were a javelin and sword. The javelin had a long shank of soft iron

*The Roman legionary wore a suit of armour over his leather jerkin and carried a short sword, a leather shield and a javelin.*



which, after lodging in the enemy's shield, bent under the weight of the wooden shaft and thus permitted the legionary to close with his short, double-bladed sword.

The auxiliaries were more lightly equipped, wearing a leather jerkin without armour. Although they were usually armed with long thin swords and thrusting spears, many units were encouraged to use their native weapons.

On the march each legionary carried an entrenching tool, cooking pots, rations, and two wooden staves used for making the pallisade round the camp. For each section of eight men there was a mule to carry the leather tent and the heavy stone querns for grinding the corn ration.

The Roman soldier's diet was monotonous. The staple food was wheat, eaten as bread or porridge, with cheese and a variety of vegetables, all being washed down with a draught of crude wine. Meat was not popular with the Roman Army, but, when it had to be supplied in place of corn, pork was the favourite.

Service in both the legions and the auxiliary forces was for 25 years. It was the general custom for a man to contract an unofficial marriage locally and on retirement to settle in the province of his service. His marriage was then legalised and his family given Roman citizenship. In Britain there were four special *coloniae* for ex-soldiers—at York, Lincoln, Colchester and Gloucester.

Barracks were heated in winter, sometimes by coal, but more usually by wood. Outside the forts, bazaars and family camps quickly grew up and sometimes—as, for example, at Caerleon—these *vici* became imposing towns and senior soldiers stationed nearby were often allowed to live out of barracks. Major garrisons had amphitheatres which served as parade grounds and were used for sports and gladiatorial shows.

The regimental baths also acted as soldiers' clubs.

From the Roman soldier's pay deductions were made for rations and the replacement of clothing and equipment. There were also stoppages for the “burial club” and for certain feasts such as at Saturnalia, the pagan equivalent of Christmas. From his “stipend”—paid three times a year—the soldier could expect to see at least a third in cash. In addition to his regular pay he also received a donation on the accession of a new Emperor. Half of such gifts were given to the man and the remainder placed in his provident fund obtainable on retirement. Land was often granted in lieu of pension.

Hygiene and medical services played an important part in the Roman Army and there was an elaborate system of decorations for valour and good service.

ALEC MacMUNN



*When a Roman auxiliary was discharged he was given a diploma (left) inscribed on two bronze plates. This certificate, discovered in Cheshire, grants Roman citizenship to Reburus, a Spaniard who served in the 1st Pannonian Cavalry Regiment in Britain.*

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## WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

**T**HIS month SOLDIER again offers three recently published books as the prize for winning the Quiz contest.

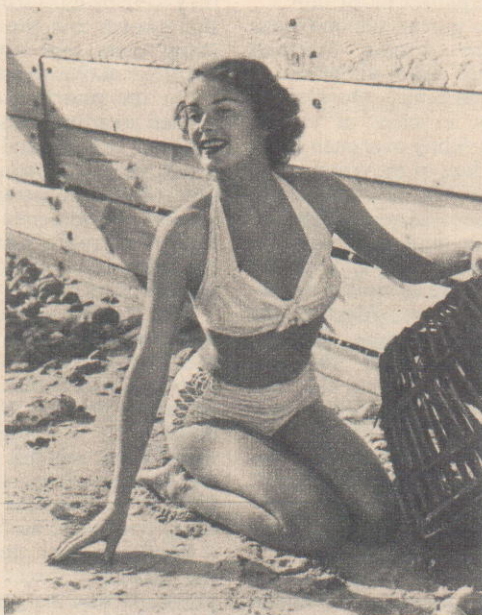
All you have to do is to answer the questions set out below and send your entry to reach SOLDIER's editorial offices by Wednesday, 25 March.

The winner will be the sender of the first correct solution opened by the editor. He or she may choose any THREE of the following books: "Traitors' Gate," a Dennis Wheatley novel; "Unexploded Bomb," the story of bomb disposal by Major A. B. Hartley, RE; "Double Webs," a secret agent story by Jean Overton Fuller; "Love and The Loveless," a novel by Henry Williamson; "The Greatest Raid of All," the story of the famous raid on St. Nazaire by C. E. Lucas-Phillips; "Gateway to the Khyber," the story of a journey in Pakistan by Robin Bryans; a collection of three cookery books by Philip Harben; a bound volume of SOLDIER, 1957-58.

### RULES

1. Entries must be sent in a sealed envelope to  
The Editor (Competition), SOLDIER, 433, Holloway Road, London, N.7
2. Each entry must be accompanied by the "WIN THREE BOOKS—10" panel printed at the top of this page.
3. Competitors may submit more than one entry but each must be accompanied by the "WIN THREE BOOKS—10" panel.
4. Any reader, serviceman or woman and civilian, may compete.
5. The Editor's decision is final.

1. Rewrite the following sentence in four simple words: "The majority of the male sex achieve considerable satisfaction in performing osculatory exercises with members of the female sex."
2. Pilliwinks is (a) a new game sweeping Mexico; (b) a ballet movement; (c) an instrument of torture; (d) the stage name of an American actress; or (e) an insecticide. Which?
3. A Second Division football club was recently defeated by a non-league club in the third round of the FA Cup. What were the teams and the score?
4. In the third Test Match England made the best opening stand in the recent series against Australia up to that time. Who were the opening batsmen and how many runs did the stand produce?
5. What is the piece of fisherman's equipment on which this shapely young lady is resting her left hand? →

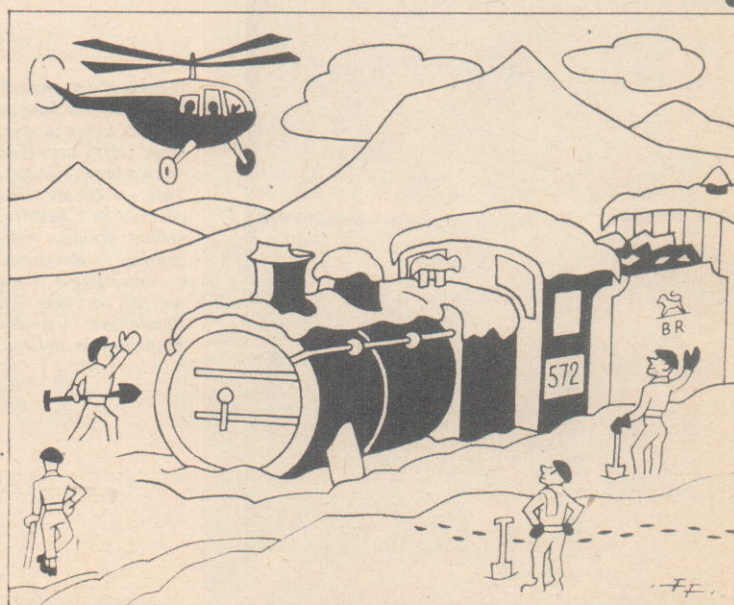
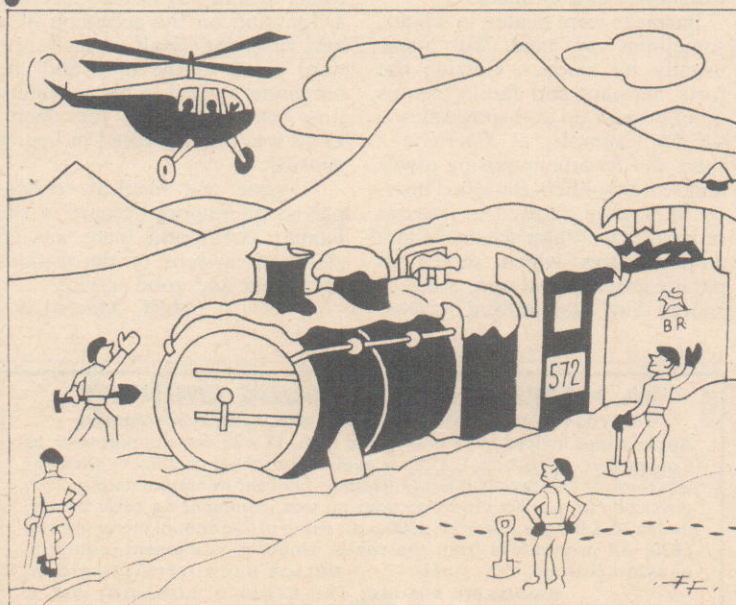


6. Summer time was introduced in Britain in (a) 1854; (b) 1936; (c) 1896; (d) 1916. Which year?
7. Which regiments are known by these nicknames: (a) "The Irish Giants"; (b) "The Wild Macraes"; (c) "The Elegant Extracts"; (d) "The Old Stubborns"; and (e) "The Old Agamemnon's"?
8. Link these names and subjects: William Webb Ellis, Pasternak, Wernher von Braun, Sir Alexander Fleming, Subba Row, Sir William Rootes—penicillin, cricket, rockets, literature, rugby, motor-cars.
9. Complete these: (a) Ball is to soccer as puck is to —; (b) Expand is to contract as inhale is to —; (c) Oak is to acorn as pine is to —; (d) Churchill is to Winston as Macmillan is to —.
10. Which is the intruder here: Furlong, mile, inch, acre, yard?

The answers and the name of the winner will be given in SOLDIER, May.

## HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

These two pictures look alike but they vary in ten minor details. Study them carefully and if you cannot detect the differences turn to page 38





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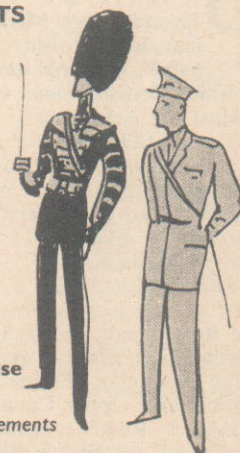
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## The Battle of the Bombs

**T**HE crux of the matter is what makes the — pop,” said a bomb disposal expert of his trade.

Discovering what made the —s pop, and then stopping them from popping, was, and still is, a hazardous business. It provides scores of hair-raising anecdotes for Major A. B. Hartley, MBE, RE in “Unexploded Bomb—The Story of Bomb Disposal” (Cassell, 21s).

Britain entered World War Two little prepared for bomb disposal, but the Royal Engineers soon built an effective organisation. In the last three and a half months of 1940 (when records were first kept) more than 10,000 enemy bombs were recorded in Britain. Altogether, something like one in ten of the bombs dropped by the Luftwaffe did not go off.

Trial and error in those early days cost the Sappers many casualties. An officer straight from civilian life enquired why he

and other newly commissioned officers with technical qualifications little relevant to the job were posted to bomb disposal. He was told it would be spend-thrift to post officers who had received long and expensive regimental training to work in which the expectation of life was ten weeks, when newly commissioned officers would do as well!

It was an arduous struggle with the German armourers who fused the bombs, the bomb disposers developing new techniques to cope with fuses as they appeared and the armourers producing new devices to prevent the bombs being de-fused.

Gadgets used for beating the bombs included liquid oxygen for freezing the batteries of electric devices; a solution which set solid after being pumped into mechanical devices, thus gumming up the works; X-rays to discover what type of fuse lay in a bomb; and steam pumps to melt the explosive fillings of bombs which could not be de-fused.

Most hated of all was the clockwork fuse, an unreliable piece of mechanism liable to stop and start again for no apparent reason. It became axiomatic never to trust a clock. A magnetic clock-stopper was developed which worked admirably on a bomb with a single clock; then the Germans produced bombs with

two independent clocks.

One enemy anti-withdrawal device was discovered by Lieutenant B. S. T. Archer in a most spectacular way. Called to deal with four unexploded bombs in a burning oil refinery near Swansea, he chose to start work on one buried under a tank which had not caught fire. While he and his men worked in short shifts, because of the heat from nearby fires, two of the other bombs went off. After four and a half hours, they reached their bomb and Lieutenant Archer found it damaged. He wrenched away the fuse pocket and, examining the contents, found two sets of apparatus—one a clockwork fuse and the other a booby-trap, each of them with enough explosive to kill him. For his gallantry under the oil-tank he received the George Cross.

Oil-tanks were not the only awkward places in which bombs lodged. One came to rest under the 700-foot research water-tank of the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington. The tank could not be emptied, for fear of distorting its delicate measurements. It took 9800 man-hours to burrow under the tank, remove the bomb and replace the soil, but it was done. The tank remained, to test the models of Mulberry harbour and the Mohne dam bombs.

Apart from the hazards of bombs exploding, the disposal teams (who included a courageous contingent of conscientious objectors of the Non-Combatant Corps) had also to face the dangers of shafts dug in wet or



Sappers tackle an unexploded bomb in London, 1940. One in ten German bombs dropped on Britain were duds.

unstable ground and the possibility of the bombs having exploded underground and left a cavity filled with carbon monoxide under pressure, ready to leak out and poison them in a few breaths.

Perhaps the greatest nuisance value was created by the butterfly bombs which the Germans showered on Grimsby and Cleethorpes in 1943. They brought the towns to a standstill and caused terrible accidents among children. They caught in trees and overhead wires, roofs and attics, and one landed in a seven-way sewerage junction.

Since they were so unreliable, these dangerous little bombs were normally blown up where they fell, but even this was tricky since one bomb blown up could set off others in its vicinity. By ingenious improvisation, the bomb disposers removed those most likely to cause serious damage and cleared no fewer than 1500 from the area. The author wonders why the Germans did not make more use of this weapon against concentrations of troops.

The reactions of the public were not always as friendly as might be expected. One farmer objected to having his field dug up as he thought weeds might follow. The staff of a golf-club carefully turfed over the entry holes of two bombs for fear of having the greens dug up, and only later bombs persuaded them to say what they had done.

The men faced the dangers and discomforts of their task with splendid morale, but there were some things some of them could not stand. A sergeant emerged white-faced from a shaft near the Serpentine and stopped all work until a terrier could be brought to deal with a rat!

Besides bomb clearance in Britain, inevitably the most important part of his story, the author deals with the problems faced by bomb disposal teams overseas, with the methods of the Germans and Japanese, and with the work of clearing minefields in Britain after the war—a task which cost 140 killed up to May 1947, and which is still going on.



## The Brigadier Was A Red Indian

**P**RAIRIE DU CHIEN, Thames River, Michilimackinac, River Raisin—forgotten names, but these were battles in which British troops took part against the Americans.

The battles come to life again in “The War of 1812 in the Old Northwest” (Michigan State University Press, and Ryerson Press, Toronto, 6 dollars 50 cents) by Alec R. Gilpin.

The author takes a close-up view of a part of the war, that on the British right on the Canadian border—Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Upper Canada.

British Regulars, mostly the 41st (now the Welch Regiment), and Canadian militiamen had as allies Red Indians along both sides of the border. They were led by the great Shawnee, Tecumseh.

Their numbers and their fight-

ing ability made a mark in the bigger battles. In the sparsely settled territories, their scouting was admirable; their guerrilla forays played havoc with American supplies. So often did they capture American mails that in the early stages the British commander knew more about the American forces than did the American commander himself.

The threat by a British commander that if a battle were fought it might not be possible to control the Indians persuaded more than one American general to surrender after scant resistance. They knew the likely fate not only of their men but also of the civilians in the area if the Indians got out of hand.

Tecumseh, when he was present, could control them, and he had the respect of the Americans as well as of the British. It is not clear whether he held a commis-

sion as a brigadier in the British service, but he was certainly treated as one. He was killed in the Battle of the Thames.

In the early stages of the war the American commander found his militiamen even more difficult to handle than the Indians. They had little discipline. The officers whom they had elected refused to obey orders, and the colonels hatched a plot to overthrow their general. The men themselves frequently ran away.

Small wonder that the British were victorious at first. They captured Detroit, the major town in the area, and the American Northwest Army. The Americans produced a new Army, however. Detroit was retaken and the British in their turn were thrown back. When this indecisive war came to an end, the Americans were in Upper Canada, both sides were planning further offensives.



# "Slash Away" Said The General

**A** WOUNDED soldier had to be tough to survive the grim attentions of rough-and-ready Army surgeons a century ago.

One of the toughest was General Sir David Baird who was injured in his left arm at Corunna. He sat at a table on which he rested his right arm while the other was removed at the shoulder socket. Only when it was finally severed did he cry out in pain.

Another was General Sir Harry Smith who hobbled about with a ball embedded in his foot before reporting to the surgeon with the order, "There it is, slash away." Five minutes later, including a delay when a pair of forceps broke, the jagged ball which had partly grown into the foot, had been extracted.

"There were examples of equal courage among the lower ranks," says E. S. Turner in "Call The Doctor" (Michael Joseph, 21s), "but there was rarely a chronicler standing by." But "to keep the whole business in perspective, it is worth remembering that the pain from the initial incision from lithotomy was probably no greater than that sustained from one blow of the lash—and an errant soldier might be ordered to receive 500."

Mr. Turner, a former editor of SOLDIER, has dug deeply into the archives to produce a fascinating account of the social history of medical men, among whom the Army's surgeons, in the days

before the Royal Army Medical Corps was established to make medical officers respectable members of society, figure prominently.

For long, the battlefield was

the medical man's only university and a rough-and-tumble school it was, for the Army surgeon (in the days of Henry V he ranked only one higher than a washer-woman and below a shoemaker) had to turn his hand to every task. His routine duties included "bleeding, poulticing and treating venereal disease" and unfortunate soldiers who went to him for treatment got short shrift—many

surgeons kept two lancets; a blunt one for other ranks and a sharp one for officers!

In the 1800s there was considerable opposition to the proposal that women should become doctors and one who must have chuckled privately was Dr. James Barry who joined the Army as a hospital assistant in 1813 and in 1858 became Inspector-General of the Army Medical Department.

When Dr. Barry died in 1865 it was discovered that "he" was a woman!

## Courage in Kokoda

**A** FAMOUS Allied leader in World War Two has said that it never pays to fight the first battle or even the second.

The proper time to come in is for the "avenging" battle when there are adequate resources.

Be that as it may, someone always has to fight the first battle and, almost without exception he has to fight it with makeshift forces and on ground and at a time of the enemy's choosing. "Retreat from Kokoda," by Raymond Paull (Heinemann, 30s), tells the story of such a campaign.

In June, 1942, the Japanese had swept across the Pacific on a tide of conquest that carried them to the north coast of New Guinea. There they found Australia's New Guinea Force, a Militia Brigade of raw troops, mostly youngsters in their 'teens, only semi-trained and unskilled in jungle warfare. Reinforcements of the Australian

Imperial Force, seasoned soldiers of the Syrian campaign, duly arrived, but all were handicapped by breakdowns in supply.

Outnumbered by at least four to one they stood alone astride the Kokoda Trail, between a ruthless enemy in the full flush of victory and his objective—Port Moresby.

This is a story of the fantastic courage and dogged devotion of the soldier, defying defeat and extending the limits of human endurance in the most appalling conditions of climate and terrain,

to accomplish the ultimate downfall of a relentless and skilful enemy.

Cut off with a small party and forced to leave the trail, Corporal John Metson, of Victoria, refused a rough stretcher that had been constructed for him and, with a leg shattered by Japanese machine-gun fire, cheerfully crawled through the jungle alongside his column for nine days, starved, soaked, chilled and tortured by the agony of his wound.

Private Bruce Kingsbury, who won the Victoria Cross, was with a fighting patrol which encountered a party of Japanese preparing to attack. Blazing away with his Bren gun, Kingsbury charged into their midst and

**OVER...**

## CYPRUS AMBUSH

**T**ERRORIST ambushes in Cyprus are nasty affairs, and the one invented by James Wilson for "Interrupted Journey" (New Authors, 15s), is nastier than most.

An officer and four men of the Royal Signals (in which the author spend five war years) leave a road in their Land-Rover to chase a gunman. They hit a mine, and soon they are stuck in a hollow in a wilderness, besieged by EOKA terrorists. One of them is wounded, and dies lingeringly. In the dark, the survivors try to make a break for it, but only the officer survives.

That is half the novel. The other half deals with what happens to the officer afterwards. There is a court of inquiry, the officer's unsuccessful attempt to shield the innocent parents of a terrorist because they sheltered him and the search for the guilty men.

In addition, the officer is tidying up some of his private affairs on which he reflects, as soldiers in novels do, while poised over a Bren gun in the hollow. There is his affair with an amusing nurse whose main failing is that she will call a spade a bloody shovel, and there is a happy ending to his search for a cabaret girl whom he had known in Cyprus during the war.

If you take it a little less seriously than the author does, it makes good entertainment. It does not, however, shed much light either on the troops in Cyprus or on their opponents.



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## BOOKS *continued*

swept the enemy with his fire until the patrol, close behind, finished what he began.

Neither Metson nor Kingsbury survived the campaign. Unable to rise and defend themselves, Metson and five wounded com-

panions were murdered by the Japanese in a native village whilst awaiting evacuation, and Kingsbury was killed by a sniper's bullet.

The author devoted more than three years to the accumulation of every scrap of relevant material, Australian and Japanese, in writing the story of this comparatively little-known campaign.

## One Man's War

**G**EORGE LEGGETT is a young Infantryman in the American Army who lands in Normandy in August 1944, still a civilian at heart, ignorant of the practical aspects of warfare and nervous about his own capabilities in action.

The story of his metamorphosis from a bewildered recruit into a full-seasoned soldier, a painful and sometimes perplexing process, is told in "End of a War," by

Edward Loomis (*Heinemann*, 15s).

Leggett experiences his first battle, his first killing, the death of a comrade and his own wounding and convalescence. At the end of the war, having found how difficult it is to become a fighting machine, he learns how difficult it is to stop being one. His manifold problems are reflected in his changed relationship with his comrades and with a derelict German family he has befriended, before he finally attains peace.

This is the story of one man's war; it does not rely on blood, mud and crude "realism" to ram home the savage truth, but rather on the feelings, actions and reactions of the individual soldier.

## Plot And Counter-Plot

**W**AS "Gilbert" a loyal Frenchman working for Britain or was he a traitorous German double agent?

This is the 14-year-old riddle—which may yet be answered if the files of Special Operations Executive are made public—raised in Jean Overton Fuller's intriguing account of underground activities in France in World War Two: "Double Webs" (*Putnam*, 15s).

"Gilbert" was a Frenchman employed as an Air Movements officer with one of the SOE groups, in France which, according to Miss Fuller, was penetrated by German counter-intelligence agents who used the group to send

misleading information back to Britain. As a result many agents—British and French—were captured by the Germans almost as soon as they joined the organisation.

One of the few who escaped was "Gilbert" whose activities convince Miss Fuller that he was

a key double-agent who enjoyed the confidence of the British but was, in fact, one of the most valuable sources of information to the Germans. In her opinion "Gilbert" was a professional spy deliberately sent by the Germans to work for SOE.

Not the least remarkable thing about this book is an epilogue written by "Gilbert" himself who says, cryptically, "Today I am rich in the friendship of the people who know what I did. I can't and won't say more."

## BOOKS IN BRIEF

**T**HE ghosts of soldiers who perished in World War One live again in the pages of Henry Williamson's latest novel "Love and the Loveless" (*Macdonald*, 16s), which tells of the adventures of a young transport officer during the darkest days of that "old-fashioned" conflict.

The hero, a veteran of the 1914 campaign is "punch-drunk" with the horrors and cruelties of war but, with the help of whisky, the memory of the girl he loved, a desperate idealism and, not least, the unfailing friendship of his comrades, he endures.

This is a moving story which

vividly recaptures the atmosphere of the war-to-end-all-wars for which millions died in vain.

**A** USEFUL book for the "axed" Serviceman who will soon be returning to civilian life in search of a living is "Your Business Matters," by

F. A. J. Couldery and A. J. G. Sheppard (*John Murray*, 12s 6d).

It tells how best to set about acquiring a small business and gives much helpful advice on matters like legal affairs, the problems of selling, buying, distributing and advertising, keeping accounts and debt collecting.

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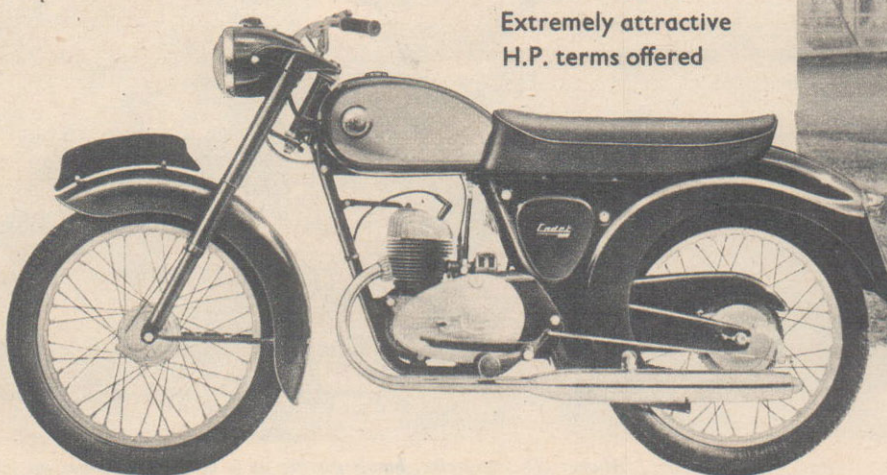




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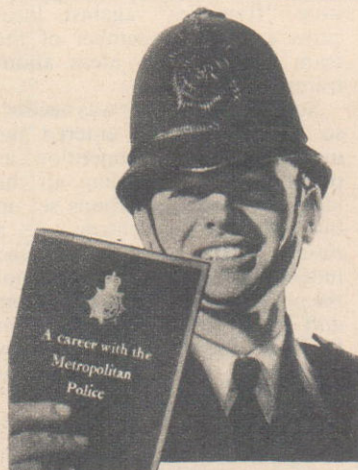
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## SWIMMING

# TEAM WORK TOOK THEM TO THE TOP



*Above: This exercise, hands resting on a cork float, tones up leg and thigh muscles and develops stamina. Below: Major R. Mathews with some of the trophies his team has won. He is holding the Norman Gilbert memorial trophy.*

**B**y plunging competitively into events outside the Army and pooling their ideas on training methods, the swimmers and water polo players of 9 Battalion, Royal Army Ordnance Corps at Donnington, have had their most successful season ever.

Probably no other Army team can equal their record. They were the Army's and Western Command's inter-unit team champions, they won the Shropshire County championships, the Birmingham and District water polo league and team race and were voted the club with the best performance in the Midlands. For this latter achievement the 9 Battalion team were awarded the Norman G. Gilbert memorial trophy commemorating swimmers who lost their lives in World War Two.

Much of the team's success was due to Major R. Mathews, of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. When he became swimming officer of the unit in 1957 he found plenty of talent but a lack of serious competitive spirit.

Most matches in preparation for the Army championships were "friendlies" against local clubs and every member of the team had his own ideas about training.

Something different was needed, so Major Mathews entered the unit for as many competitions as possible and by pooling all the ideas on training methods set up his own training scheme. As a result, team training replaced individual effort and throughout the next few months the swimmers and water polo players went through their paces regularly together in the indoor baths at Wellington.

In the summer every man prac-



tised twice a day—once before and once after duty—in the swimming pool at Donnington Camp and twice a week they took part in inter-club matches. They

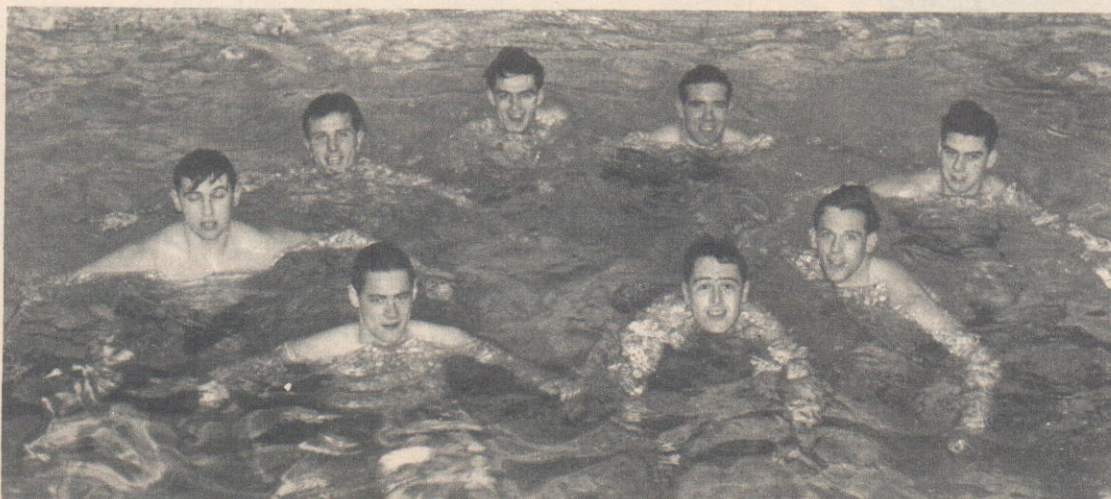
went in for weight-lifting and cross-country running and spent hours in the unit gymnasium strengthening arm and shoulder muscles. Several times a week they jog-trotted over fields and meadows to build-up their leg muscles.

The most successful member of the team was Private H. P. Milton who broke three records in the Army championships—the 220, 440 and 880 yards freestyle events. He also swims for the Otter Swimming Club and has represented England. Private T. Lofthouse also retained his 100 yards backstroke title in the Army championships.

Five members of the team—Milton, Lofthouse, Lance-Corporal L. Mettam, Private G. Wheeler and Private L. Thornhill—represented the Army and Lofthouse and Milton were also selected for the Combined Services in the match against the Amateur Swimming Association.

As Major Mathews says: "It's team spirit that counts."

*Eight of the 9 Battalion team take time off from training. On the extreme left is Private H. P. Milton and on the extreme right Private D. Kennedy. The three at the rear are (left to right) Private D. Jones, L/Cpl K. Brookes and Private T. Swinderman and in front are (left to right) Privates B. Booker, G. Wheeler and T. Lofthouse.*





# New Champion Is A Cadet

**W**HEN the Army's squash rackets championships opened in London the No. 2 seed was Trooper N. H. R. A. Broomfield, of the 16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers. When they ended the Trooper had become an officer cadet and had added another title to the two he already holds as British and South African champion.

Officer Cadet Broomfield won the Army title after a stern struggle with Captain M. J. Perkins, of the Royal Horse Artillery, who had held it for five successive years—a record for the event. It was the best final for many years and Broomfield had to play superbly well to beat Perkins in five games: 9-5; 10-8; 7-9; 5-9; 9-1.

Early in the second game Broomfield strained a muscle and Perkins drew level with some sparkling play in the third and fourth games. But Broomfield rallied strongly in the fifth game and romped home.

Captain Perkins, now posted to Hong Kong, will not have a chance for revenge for at least two years and Broomfield, a 20-year-old Regular soldier, should equal, if not surpass, his fine record. However, Captain Per-

kins, who is an English international and Surrey squash player, had the compensation on the day after the squash final of playing for the Army hockey team for the first time.

The two finalists, with Captain I. C. de Sales la Terriere, a losing semi-finalist and former Army champion, and Second-lieutenant J. B. Howcroft, achieved further success when the Army won decisively, for the fourth year running, the Inter-Services championships. The Army beat the Royal Air Force 3-2 and the Royal Navy 5-0.

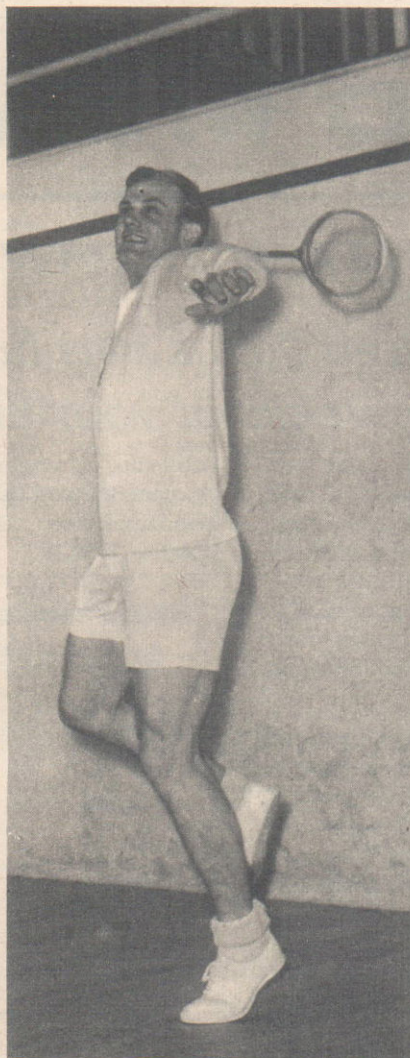
Another outstanding feat at this year's Army squash championships was the performance of 54-year-old Brigadier G. O. M. Jameson in winning for the fifth successive year the Veteran's title. He beat Major Sir J. P. Johnson easily by 9-3; 9-1; 9-0.

*Right: Officer-cadet Broomfield, the new champion, makes a back-hand drive. He won, in five games, the best Army final for many years.*



*Right: Capt. M. J. Perkins, who lost the title he had held for five years, shapes for a smash. An all-round athlete, he plays hockey for the Army.*

*Below: Brigadier G. Jameson won the Army Veteran's title for the fifth year running. He is a former Army champion.*



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# LETTERS

## THE REAL SOLDIER

In your very informative report of the Grigg Committee's recommendations for making Service life more attractive ("A New Deal for the Army," January) you mention that voluntary recruiting is best in units which demand strict discipline and a high degree of smartness.

In this context it is interesting to recall the words of the French Marshal Bugeaud more than 100 years ago. He said: "Some think that teaching a man drill is enough to make him a good soldier. That is a mistake. Drill is the last thing in a soldier's education. A man is not a soldier till he has got over his home-sickness; when he loves his Colours; when he is ready to take sword in hand whenever the honour of his number is attacked; when he has

confidence in his chiefs, and his right-hand and left-hand man; when they have eaten their soup a long time together. This, gentlemen, is what makes a real soldier."—"Twenty-Two."

## THAT MEMORIAL

What a pity that the Victory Monument from Luneburg Heath has had to be "hidden" away at the Royal Military Academy where it will be seen only by a very few ("A Memorial for Sandhurst," January).

The surrender of the German forces in north-west Europe was the culmination of six years' achievement by every Briton—sailor, soldier, airman and civilian alike—and the monument commemorating that famous victory should be placed in a London public square for all to see.—"One of Monty's Boys."

## OFFICER TYPES

The officer who classified officers as (a) the brilliant and industrious; (b) the brilliant and lazy; (c) the stupid and lazy, and (d) the stupid and industrious (SOLDIER, Letters, January) was General Baron von Hammersteiner (Egurd), Commander-in-Chief of the Reichswehr.—Colonel N. F. Nilsson, RAOC Records, South Wigston, Leicestershire.

★ A similar letter was received from Colonel C. R. Buchanan, of Beech Road, Haslemere, Surrey.

## LYING DOWN

According to Arthur Bryant in his book "Years of Victory," the first troops ordered to lie down in battle (Letters, January) were the six battalions holding the Cerro de Medellin at the battle of Talavera in July, 1809. The Duke of Wellington is reputed to have given the order.—Junior Under Officer E. J. Estcourt, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

★ Mr. Bryant wrote: "When the shot tore gaps in the ranks, Wellesley made the six battalions holding the Cerro de Medellin withdraw beyond the brow of the hill and lie down with their arms in their hands. . . . As the French neared the summit with loud shouts Hill's battalions rose as one man, doubled forward in perfect formation and, taking their time from their officers, poured volley after volley into the surprised columns. Then Sir Arthur called to them to charge and, as the 29th (now the Worcestershire Regiment) and 48th (now the Northamptonshire Regiment) rushed forward, 'a wall of stout hearts and bristling steel,' the triumphant cries of 'Vive l'Empereur!' changed to 'Sauve qui peut!' The victors of Austerlitz had again under-estimated the discipline and fire-power of the British line." Lieutenant-General Hon. Sir Arthur

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

Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published.

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

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

Wellesley later became Field-Marshal Duke of Wellington; Major-General Sir Rowland Hill became General Viscount Hill.

## BERLIN PRICES

Why is local overseas allowance not payable in West Berlin? The prices of goods in Berlin, at both NAAFI and German civilian shops, are at least the equal of and often more than those in West Germany where the allowance is paid.—WOII H. Yorke, Headquarters, Berlin (British Sector).

★ Local overseas allowance is paid where the overall costs which have to be met by Servicemen are greater than in Britain. The War Office state that the need for a local overseas allowance for married Servicemen in West Germany has been established, but not for those in Berlin where, partly because of the retention of certain occupation benefits, the overall cost of living is not so high.

NAAFI state that none of the prices charged by them in Berlin is higher than in West Germany and the vast majority are lower. Moreover, families in Berlin, unlike those in West Germany, are able to buy food from Service stocks at roughly British prices.

## RIVER RAN RED

The caption to the Sobraon picture (SOLDIER, February) states that Sergeant McCabe rescued the regimental colours which had been captured.

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### THREE SMART SAPPERS

ON California Street, San Francisco, I was delighted to see (on 11 December, 1958) three unidentified ORs of the Royal Engineers make an excellent impression on American passers-by. As a British resident here, I was proud of them. Their Corps and their countrymen have every reason to be, too.

Although their uniforms perhaps are not so well tailored or glamorous as those of the U.S. Armed Forces, this trio was an eye-catching—and to me, a heart-warming—sight.

They obviously had spent a great deal of time and care on their appearance, for walking briskly, three abreast on the wide pavement, heads and shoulders back, arms swinging, cap badges gleaming, webbing and gaiters blanketed, trousers knife-pressed, berets at regulation angle and polished boots pounding, their effect on the Americans-in-the-street was most interesting.

People nudged one another, stopped, read the shoulder flashes and stared after them. All comment was laudatory, with special emphasis on the Sappers' crisp smartness and bearing. I heard people wondering what the "Tommy" soldiers were doing in San Francisco.—**Marjorie Beech Freeman, Bank of America, PO Box 3415, Rincon Annex, San Francisco 20, California.**

★ This letter was sent to Mr. Duncan Sandys, the Minister of Defence and passed to SOLDIER. It is believed that the three smart Sappers belonged to 36 or 38 Corps Engineers Regiments who were on their way to or from Christmas Island, Britain's nuclear-bomb testing ground.

At no time during the battle of Sobraon were the colours of the 31st Foot ever in danger of capture. During the assault, Lieutenant Tritton, the officer bearing the Queen's Colour, was shot through the head and Ensign Jones, who carried the Regimental Colour, was mortally wounded. As the Regimental Colour fell to the ground it was seized by Sergeant McCabe. Rushing forward, he crossed the ditch and planted the Colour on the enemy ramparts. Seeing this, the men drove the beaten enemy before them into the river.

After the battle, Sergeant McCabe was appointed an Ensign in the 18th Royal Irish Regiment of Foot by Queen Victoria. Sobraon Day (10 February) has become the Regimental Day of 1 Battalion East Surrey Regiment and is commemorated by the sergeants in remembrance of Sergeant McCabe's gallant action.—**Major R. C. Taylor, Depot Commander, East Surrey Regiment, Kingston.**

### NO BORROWING

Can I borrow money from Army funds to purchase a new house and repay by deductions from my total assumed credits up to the day I leave the Army in three years time?—"Cook Sergeant."

★ No.

### MOTOR CYCLING

In your article "A Tough Test for Two-Stroke" (December) you mention the Army Motor Cycling Association. What is the main function of the Association and what, if any, qualifications are required for membership?—**Corporal E. W. Norfolk, RAOC, Greenford.**

★ The Army Motor Cycling Association was formed in 1951 to improve the standard of driving and servicing of Army motor cycles by sponsoring trials and controlling the entry of Service teams in trials held outside the Army. All soldiers, whether Regular, Territorial or Emergency Reserve, are automatically members of the Association and participation in civilian events is covered by the affiliation fee paid to the Autocycle Union. The Association charges no entrance fee.

### MESS TINS

As a collector of Army mess tins and waterbottles I have discovered that the British "D"-shaped Infantry pattern is the oldest of all. Was it still in use in World War Two?—**A. N. Hvidt, Koldinggade 14, Copenhagen.**

★ The "D"-shaped mess tin was associated with the 1888 pattern valise equipment, 1903 bandolier equipment and 1908 web equipment but in World War Two it was replaced by the rectangular aluminium mess tin which is still in service.

### TERCENTENARY MEDAL?

I agree with "Miles" (Letters, December) that the issue of a tercentenary medal to Regular soldiers of British Army in 1960 would be a very fitting tribute.

I do not agree, however, that every British officer and other rank serving on the occasion of the 300th anniversary should receive the medal; it should be given only to Regular soldiers who have been recommended.—**T. Sharland, 2 Fingest Cottage, Lane End, High Wycombe.**

### ROGERS' RANGERS

Lieutenant-Colonel The O'Donevan is wrong in trying to trace the ancestry of the 60th Rifles to Rogers' Rangers (Letters January).

On 8 July, 1755 General Braddock was defeated and his force annihilated by the French and their Indian allies on the Monongahela River, Ohio. As a result of this and other failures in North America it was decided to add ten new battalions to the Army. Special arrangements were also made for commissions to be granted to foreigners, mainly Swiss, Tyrolese and German, who had settled in North America. Of these battalions four were 62nd Royal American Regiment of Foot, which was renumbered 60th the following year. Christmas Day 1755 is accepted by the Regiment as its birth date, although the actual order for raising the Regiment bears the date "4 March 1756."—**Ernest J. Martin, Harrow Weald, Middlesex.**

In 1755 Rogers was requested by General Shirley to raise an independent company of Rangers, who later became the scouting arm of the British Army. From 1756-58 their area of warfare was in and around Lake George, where occurred what has more recently become known as "The Battle on Snowshoes."

Rogers was then a captain and he and his men destroyed the St. Francis training establishment in 1759. There is no connection between Rogers' Rangers and the 60th Royal American Regiment of Foot. When the War of Independence broke out Rogers was granted a commission as Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant to raise the Queen's Rangers. His drunken habits however, got the better of him, he disgraced the Service, settled in London and died in Southwark in 1795.—**S. R. Sellwood, The Moorings, Scatterdells Lane, Chipperfield.**

The King's Royal Rifle Corps from its inception in 1755 was numbered as a regiment on the British establishment although the 4000 men of the four battalions were American colonists.

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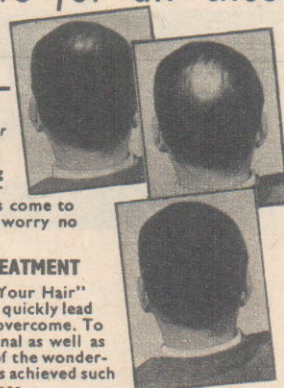
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Letters continued

Rogers' Rangers were also "provincials," but the company numbered only 112 men when, with the Louisbourg Grenadiers and five other companies of Rangers, they took part in Wolfe's assault on Canada. In the embarkation return for Wolfe's attack, quoted by Major-General J. F. C. Fuller in "Decisive Battles of the Western World," the 2/60th are shown as being in the second brigade, the 3/60th in the third brigade and Rogers' Rangers as being attached to no particular brigade at all, which surely proves that Rogers' Rangers and the 60th Foot were distinct units.—WOI R. H. Boyes, Royal Army Education Corps, Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Crownhill, Plymouth.

## GORDON RIOTS

I always thought the Gordon riots ("When the Mobs Ruled London," January) were in 1790—or was it 1780?—and not 1700 as you state.

In 1927 General Sir George Higginson, then 100 years old, could well remember that on the occasion of the Queen's Guard in 1845, the year he joined the Grenadier Guards as an Ensign, he had as a dinner guest an officer who was in the Bank picket during the riots.

If the riots were in 1700, Sir George's dining companion must have been roughly 165 years old in 1845 and not 75, as was actually the case.—Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. W. Ellison (rtd), 67 Elizabeth Street, London, S.W.1.

★ **SOLDIER's error.** The Gordon Riots were, of course, in 1780.

## JUBILEE MEDAL

This Queen Victoria jubilee brass medal in my possession has at the top the regimental number "52773." Does



anyone recognise it? The medal was recovered from a fire and the ribbon had been destroyed.—A. W. Reed, 51 South View, Ludgershall.

★ **SOLDIER believes the medal might have been issued by a regiment.**

## RECORD REMOVAL

My letter "For the Record" (January) offering my late father's collection of military prints, photographs and

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(See page 28)

The drawings differ in the following respects: 1. Shape of right-hand mountain. 2. Side window of engine driver's cab. 3. Spade handle of second soldier from right. 4. Helicopter's left window. 5. White edge at left of engine's funnel. 6. Length of top left soldier's spade. 7. Helicopter's lower right rotor-blade. 8. Width of engine's dome. 9. Gap between engine and tender. 10. Size of figures 572.

cuttings caused me to be overwhelmed with requests. There were at least 400 applicants, some of them from America.

I would like to thank all those who sent in requests for the collection or made suggestions as to its disposal. It is impossible to write to all of them.—William Whiteley, 34 De-Lacy Mount, Kirkstall, Leeds 5.

## GOORKHA VCs

The 1st Battalion, 2nd King Edward's Own Gurkha Rifles, is anxious to trace the whereabouts of the two Victoria Crosses awarded to General Sir Herbert Taylor in 1857, and Lieutenant-Colonel Donald MacIntyre in 1872. Both were officers of 2nd Goorkha Regiment.—Major P. Richardson, Norwegian Farm Camp, Hong Kong.

## GSM CLASPS

What is the greatest number of clasps worn with the General Service Medal?—Peter Fairclough, 170 Lytton Boulevard, Toronto 12, Ontario.

★ Although a dozen different clasps to the General Service Medal have been issued since it was instituted in 1918, six of these on one ribbon is possible, but would be exceptional. Claimants for the highest number should inform **SOLDIER**.

## SOLDIER's COVER

Congratulations on your new cover title. It is very attractive and more eye-catching than the old one. I also find the magazine most interesting and informative.—Geoffrey Burgess, 77 Philbeach Gardens, London.

My compliments on the new cover; it is excellent.—S. R. Sellwood, The Moorings, Scatterdells Lane, Chipperfield.

I enjoy reading **SOLDIER** and congratulate you on the new cover.—Philip W. Nailon, 44 Kensington Garden Square, London, W.2.

Your new front cover is a great improvement.—A. Parkhurst, 38 York Road, Windsor.

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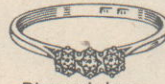
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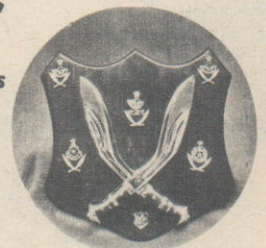
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