

SOLDIER

THE BRITISH

ARMY MAGAZINE

Vol. 7 — No 2

April 1951



Price 6d

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(See Page 21)



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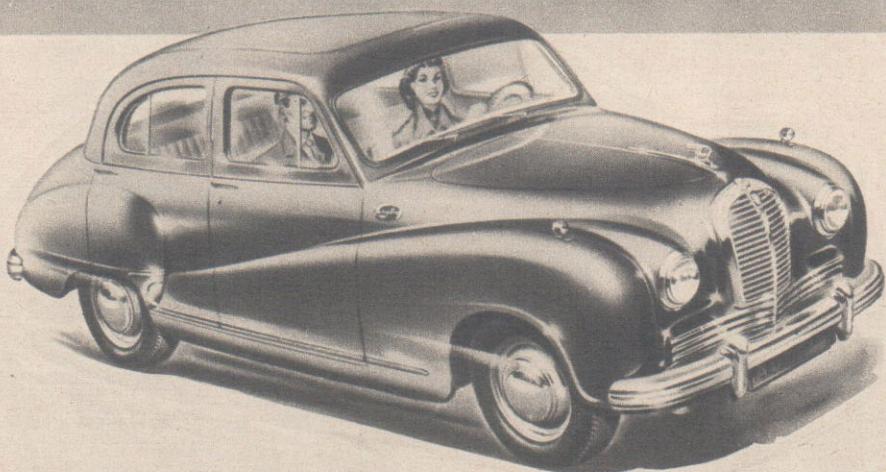
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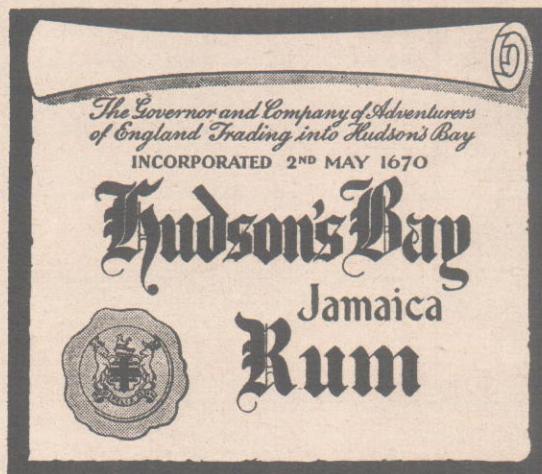
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Wearing a fencing mask, this Scout is about to snipe another Scout with a specially "built-up" air gun. The pellets sting, and a man who is hit will not lightly put himself in the way of another.

JUNGLE SCOUTS

★ THEY "POT" EACH OTHER WITH AIR GUNS

★ NO TORCHES—SO THEY USE FUNGUS

THE Malayan Scouts, formed to fight terrorists in the secret places of the jungle, are by no means the first Scouts to be awarded a special role in the British Army.

There were the Lovat Scouts, raised during the South African War, and still functioning as a Territorial unit of the Royal Artillery. There were the Tochi Scouts, who were a great bulwark against lawlessness on the North-West Frontier. There are the Somali Scouts, raised for special duties in Somaliland.

The Malayan Scouts inherit the tradition of those earlier forces. Under an Army Council ruling all such specialist raiding units now form part of the Special Air Service Regiment. Consequently the Malayan Scouts, though at present wearing their own unit badges, carry also distinctive formation shoulder signs of the Special Air Service Regiment, with "Malayan Scouts" included.

When it was decided to form the Scouts in Malaya the Com-

mander-in-Chief of Far East Land Forces, General Sir John Harding, sent for Lieut-Colonel J. M. Calvert, DSO, the famous Brigadier "Mad Mike" of

OVER

Here is Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Calvert, DSO, Royal Engineers (the one-time "Mad Mike" of the Chindits, and a former Army welter-weight champion). With him are Signalman Maxwell Hardy, of Sydney, Australia and Sjt. Leo O'Reilly, of Adelaide.



JUNGLE SCOUTS

(Continued)



A typical Scout is this tough, determined-looking Scot, about to go on an advanced jungle battle course. His weapon is an American 13 carbine.

In the operations room at the Malayan Scouts' headquarters outside Kuala Lumpur. Here is mapped information gathered from remote jungle areas. The headquarters is in radio touch with patrols.



the Chindits. After his Chindit experiences Lieut-Colonel Calvert commanded the Special Air Service in Europe at the end of the war. It was at this time that a German general and several very senior Russian officers became intensely interested in the late General Wingate's Chindits, and in the Special Air Service. "They bombarded me — unsuccessfully — for information," says Colonel Calvert.

The Malayan Scouts are a British unit, with some Australian members. Language difficulties

and the short period of time for training prevented the enrolment of Asians, though there are a few Chinese attached as interpreters. The Scouts must be volunteers. All are required to serve for at least 18 months, and those who want to join and are due for return to Britain can defer for the period of their volunteer duty.

The present trained nucleus was drawn from units in every part of the Far East Land Forces Command — Singapore, Malaya, and Hong-Kong — and some

volunteers are coming from the United Kingdom. "I chose British soldiers because I consider

them the best all-rounders," says Colonel Calvert. "They are also more flexible." Qualities required are patience, faith, and confidence in the face of disappointments and difficulties. To quote their Commanding Officer again: "They must have the outlook of long-distance runners, rather than sprinters — determined to come through in the last strides after a gruelling race to win."

Four-fifths of Malaya is jungle, and the aim of the Malayan Scouts is to carry the war into the remote sanctuaries of the bandits. Their training is based on the principle of "set a guerilla to catch a guerilla," and exemplifies the regimental motto of the Special Air Service: "Who dares wins."



Left: There is a correct way to use a paddle. These Scouts are polishing up the technique on dry land before going for a practice cruise.

Right: Seven men up a creek. Paddling into the enemy's territory can be as exciting as anyone could wish... or as dull.

In order to put the Scouts into action as soon as possible, their camp on the fringe of the jungle in Central Malaya was occupied long before it was ready. In fact, terrorists tried to get at the men building the palm leaf huts and the labourers had to live "inside."

Weapon training is obviously of the highest importance. The sergeant instructing a squad on a jungle range will fire from six different points of cover, each time while standing or sitting, to emphasise that in jungle warfare the man who is going to seek out his enemy will have neither the time nor the opportunity to fire from a lying position. A novel method of training has been evolved under which the men go out in pairs and are sent into the fringe of thick jungle 50 yards apart. They wear fencing masks and carry air guns which have been specially weighted to resemble the men's normal weapon. Slowly the two men creep up on each other and strive to obtain a hit. The pellets sting, so the lesson is to be quick on the draw, or else get out of the way.

All troops are taught to make accurate track reports, so as to build up the vitally important route information on the main maps. Little is known about the topography of many of the more remote districts and in any case tracks alter, or become overgrown very quickly if not used. If a patrol has detailed knowledge of the course of rivers and paths it can move three or four times as quickly.

The spirit of the Scouts can be gauged from the remark of one Scottish volunteer — "My home's the jungle — I return to camp if I'm sick." That was after two months of rigorous training in the forest depths. He said he enjoyed the "back-of-beyond" life, which will be his volunteer home for

most of his future days in Malaya. Despite a broad Scottish accent he made himself understood to a Chinese in a Chinese dialect. All the Malayan Scouts are learning Malay and Chinese, for they must be able to get along with any people they meet in the jungle.

The Scouts are not allowed to have torches, but they collect phosphorescent fungus which they put to a variety of uses. At night-time men mark their rifles and grenades with it, so that if an alarm is raised they can lay their hands on their weapons in a second. Nearby trees are also marked so that grenades shall not be flung at them by mistake.

Boating — in either improvised or regulation craft — is one art in which all men must be proficient, for the areas in which they will operate are full of streams. They also learn the technique of mine-detecting. And they receive special instruction in first aid.

All this training aims to produce a type of soldier who, whether he receives an order or not, will do a thing when he sees it has to be done, because he feels his commander would wish it. In the latter's own words: "I'll forgive sins of commission but not of omission."

By the nature of their service, the Scouts must be out for long periods at a time. In order that relatives and special friends shall not become alarmed at failing to receive letters for long intervals, the Scouts have started a system

whereby the Headquarters sends letters once a fortnight for the men. Letters to the men can be delivered regularly, but air supply is a one-way service.

As their first task, the Scouts will operate in some 2000 square miles of Malaya's most desolate countryside. A certain number of police officers will work with them, in order to develop some form of administration in the controlled areas. These operations of the various troops (as the sub-units are called) will be controlled and co-ordinated direct from their own regimental headquarters, where a wireless station will enable contact to be maintained with even the most distant patrols. Hitherto, bandits have enjoyed a certain degree of immunity in these remote jungle areas, but by means of such patrolling and with the help of the Royal Air Force, it is probable that they will find life increasingly difficult.

The Malayan Scouts do not pretend to be jungle supermen, nor do they claim that they will produce a quick cure to end the bandit war. They know that for nearly three years British Infantrymen have been ranging deep into the interior and can fairly claim to be jungle veterans; they know too that latterly the 3rd Royal Marine Commando Brigade has been operating in the *ulu* a long way from blue water.

The Malayan Scouts are not too proud to take a tip from the others; but in addition they are

constantly trying out new technical methods, on the principle of Field-Marshal Sir William Slim's dictum during the Burma campaign: "We should rejoice in bad conditions because we can turn them to our advantage by our technical superiority."

The Scouts are part of the "Briggs Plan." Their activities will enable other units to operate closer to communications, and so to be available at short notice for other emergencies.



When not on patrol, the Scout is as smartly turned out as any other soldier.





KOREA: THE 27th



Front-line architecture: under this shelter soldiers of the Gloucestershire Regiment catch up on their reading.

The great eaves over the gates of the walled city of Suwon make even a tank look like a toy.

AS SOLDIER goes to press, the Commonwealth 27th Brigade — which in six months has made itself a legend — is starting a new push over the muddy hills of Korea. It has been expanded, and is now in a fuller sense a Commonwealth Brigade: the Australians are reinforced, there are Canadians up at "the sharp end" and there are New Zealand field Gunners in support. The campaign is still an Infantry one, fought for the most part with short-range weapons. In both British brigades there is now a seasoning of soldiers who have shared the excitements of a bayonet charge.

Recently the exploits of the 27th Brigade were "splashed" across America in the magazine Saturday Evening Post. William Worden, the American author of this generous tribute, quoted an officer of the 27th as saying, "This isn't really much of a show. We are just a Something-for-God's Sake Brigade." And Lieut-General Sir Horace Robertson was reported as saying "Not really much of a unit, but it's made a bit more noise than ever was expected of it."

Believing that the achievements of 27th Brigade are still insufficiently realised, even by the rest of the Army, SOLDIER prints below another tribute, specially written for this magazine, by a well-known author and war correspondent, R. W. THOMPSON, who has covered the Korean war for The Daily Telegraph and whose earlier wars include the North-West Europe invasion of World War Two and the Gran Chaco War.



The sun shines, and Lance-Corporal Leslie Manley of the Gloucesters dozes on a battle-blasted hillside.

A little more than six months ago, when two battalions of British National Service troops, the Middlesex and the Argylls, each with a small cadre of regular NCO's and magnificent old-style RSM's, left their Hong-Kong station in a hurry for Pusan, little was expected of them except to show the flag, and maintain the dignity and tradition of the British soldier in whatever situation they should find themselves. They were a "token force."

Today these two battalions must be reckoned among the finest troops in the British Army, seasoned and skilled in the kind of warfare which in its essence has been a commonplace to British troops for generations.

With a stoicism and a humour and a day-to-day matter-of-factness which makes of their performance a continuous understatement, they have revealed qualities in abundance which enabled their fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers to live and fight in the midst of fierce frontier tribes ruthlessly determined on their

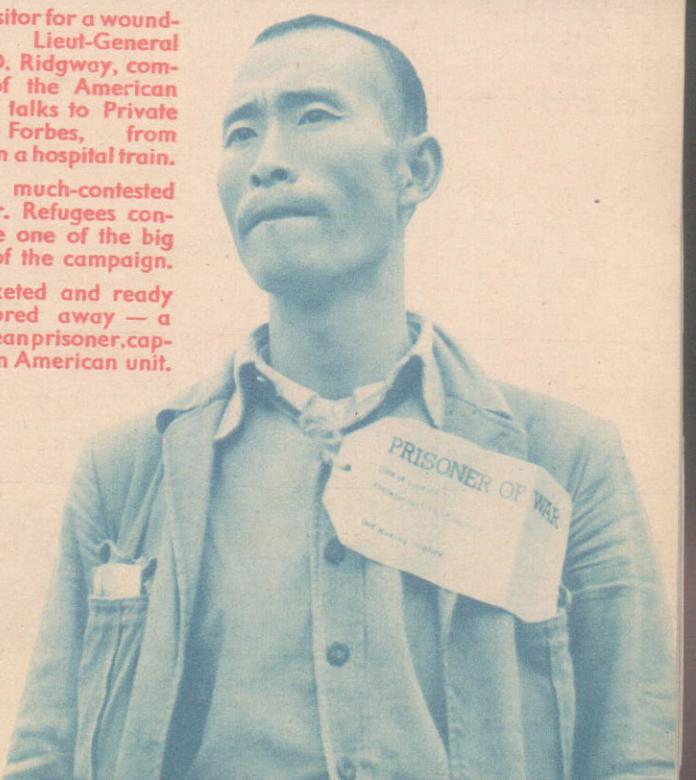
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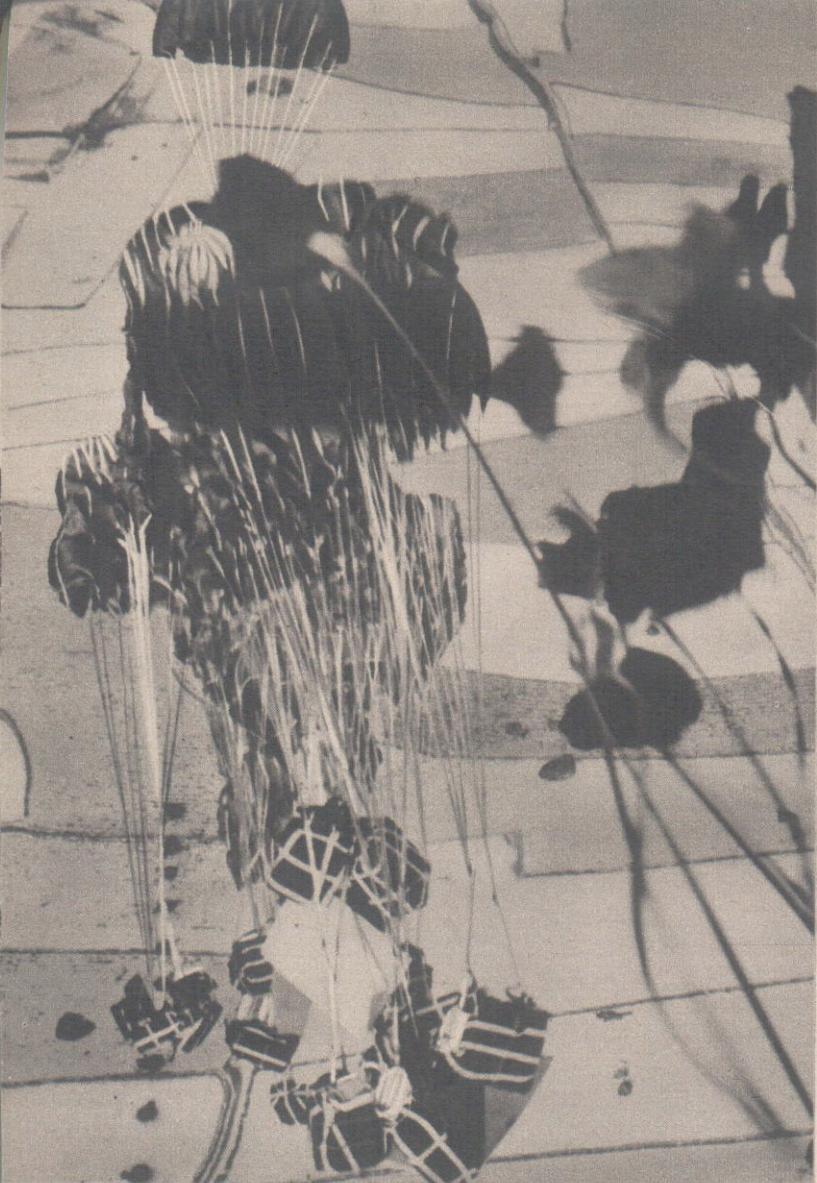


Above: Visitor for a wounded Jock. Lieut-General Matthew D. Ridgway, commander of the American 8th Army, talks to Private Donald Forbes, from Dundee, on a hospital train.

Left: The much-contested Han River. Refugees continue to be one of the big problems of the campaign.

Right: Ticketed and ready to be stored away — a North Korean prisoner, captured by an American unit.





This picture was taken from an American "Flying Boxcar" just after the cargo had been dropped. Seconds later the parachutes were separated and floating calmly down.



A tank is fitted with a new engine, with the compliments of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in Korea.

KOREA: THE 27th (Continued)

destruction, to be steadfast in defence against real "hordes" of ferocious primitive peoples, and to await resolutely, when it was demanded of them and they were "cut off," the relief column which was "sure to come," and usually did.

For the campaigning in Korea in which the Middlesex and the Argylls have excelled, has been similar in nature and conditions to the North-West Frontier campaigning which was, until recently, a part of our military heritage.

I said that little was expected of them. In the same way not a great deal was to be asked of them. They had embarked so hurriedly that they had not even brought their full battalion transport. They were simply two bat-

talions of "men only." They were never a brigade, and even the addition of an Australian battalion, also without its transport, could not make them so. Yet they have added a lustre to the word "Brigade," so that in a less romantic fashion they might earn themselves a place beside that "Light Brigade" which made history as well as poetry out of its famous charge at Balaclava.

Little was asked of them, but their demands were considerable, their performance so high, their potentialities so great, that they got what they wanted. On 4 September 1950 they went into an awkward section of the line on a loop of the Nakdong River. The enemy was behind them as well



"Gid-up thar!" An American military policeman lends a hand. The road must be kept clear for military traffic.



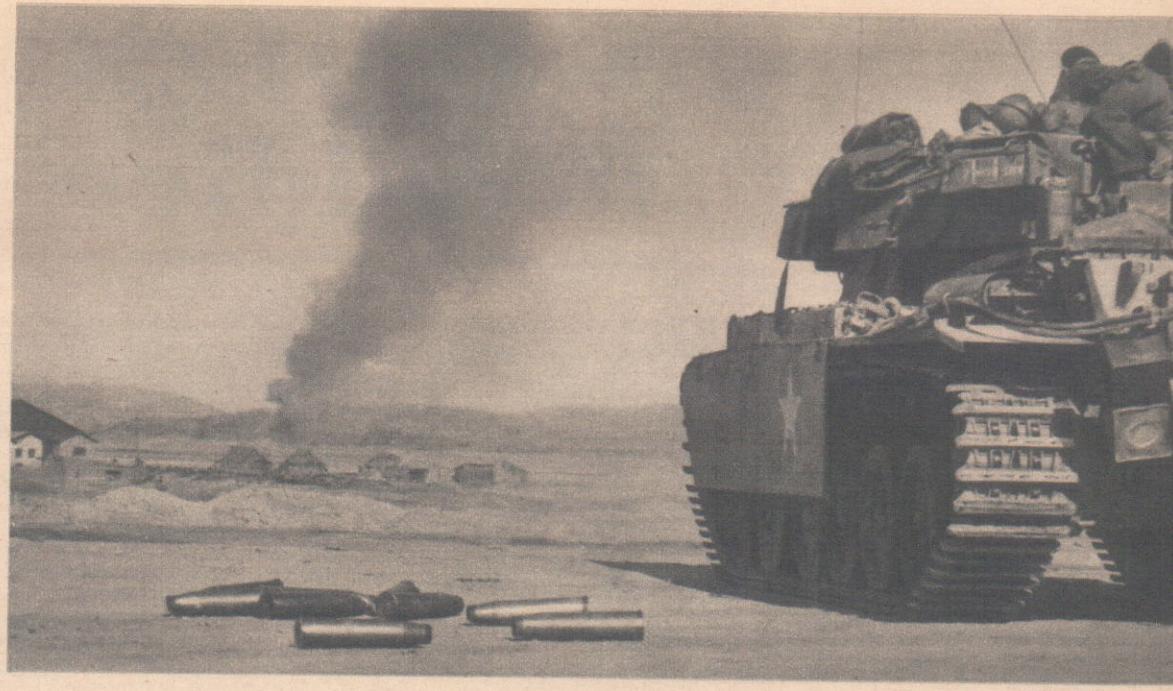
The telegraph pole becomes a sign-post. Corporal Victor Geesing of the Royal Military Police shares point-duty with an American.

as in front, and their lines of communication were under constant fire. Here the Argylls withstood the demoralising experience of being bombed in error, and withstood also the furious assaults of the enemy which followed immediately upon their terrible ordeal. The company commander who led them, Major Kenneth Muir, earned a posthumous VC. The whole brigade lived up to it.

Hamstrung by lack of transport and without supporting artillery or tanks, their energetic commander, Brigadier Basil Coad, remained undaunted and wheeled all these things out of the Americans. Nobody could have or would have blamed him had he failed. Instead, by prodigious wangles he produced his troops in the van and kept them there. From Kaesong on the 38th Parallel to Pakchon beyond the Chongchon River they were with the foremost. From Pakchon backwards they were the "hindmost." In front of them always, and behind them often, were the enemy.

Because they were a "Cinderella" force they had to make do with whatever they could get in the way of food and extra clothing, as well as transport and artillery. They endured tropical heat coupled with cold nights in September, intense cold and frozen nights in November, December and January, and mud and slush thereafter. Despite the rigours of the campaign they were never caught napping. With remarkable spirit and ingenuity they contrived warmth for themselves in a country almost devoid of shelter, digging themselves into the ground, nesting down in rice straw, and ready enough to live with their boots on, on the command of their Brigadier, rather than remove them and die in their sleeping bags.

Whatever the weather they shaved even when their shaving brushes froze in their hands, as they usually did. And they always looked like soldiers — a rare achievement in this campaign.



Near the banks of the Han river, a tank of 29th Brigade fires at an enemy position.

— as well as behaved like soldiers. In the early stages across the Parallel they astonished their allies and surprised the enemy by marching over the steep high ridges and flushing mountain guerillas in their own domain. They eschewed the heavy "Shoe paks" of the Americans because they knew that soldiers must march, and they stuck to their boots.

In October I watched the Argylls lead the Brigade into the attack which was in a few days to open the road through to Pyongyang. They did the job with a quiet efficiency which showed how villages could be captured and cleared with a minimum of fuss and ammunition. And from them on the Middlesex and Australians leap-frogged each other to the capture of Sariwon and the biggest bag of enemy

OVER →



Picture from Japan: three invalids from Korea in the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces' hospital at Kure.



Just like that NAAFI sing-song at Colchester: the men belong to 29th Brigade.



One copy of SOLDIER scanned by men of three nationalities. From left to right: American, Turkish, British.

troops the war had yielded at that time. On that October day and night in and around Sariwon the Brigade killed a genuine 200 of the enemy and captured 1500 almost without loss to themselves.

For a campaign with scarcely a battle on battalion scale against an enemy without artillery or aircraft, and consisting nine-tenths of skirmishes seldom above company strength, this was a victory. And that night the carrier platoon of the Middlesex bringing up the rear were marched into by an enemy column who greeted them as "Russkis," embraced them for joy, and began at once to exchange cigarettes. The Middlesex had on their woolly cap comforters, which, they think, explained the mistake. At any rate they played the part of "Russkis" until someone fired a shot. Then they played Act Two and won the fight.

My job was to try to cover as wide an area as possible in a campaign of very swift and sudden movements and with the worst communications in the whole history of reporting. But I saw all I could of 27th Brigade, and that was a good deal. They held the hinge at Pakchon when the first North Korean counter-attack, reinforced by Chinese, caused the Americans to withdraw almost from the Yalu on the West Coast road. Afterwards they enjoyed a game of football on the frozen, grassless ground outside the shell of a school or a barracks. Not for a day throughout the lull which followed did they relax the most energetic patrolling, making deep sorties ten miles or more into enemy territory and never permitting themselves to suffer surprise.

Again when the South Korean centre caved in, and the American 2nd Division pulled back from Kunu-ri on the Chongchon, the Middlesex held open their half of a deep Chinese road-block barring the way, and used up the whole of their medical supplies succouring and rescuing the American wounded on the frozen roads.

The Brigade was "on its own" then, and it came back at its own speed in its own time, burning the bridges of Pyongyang, and finally across the Han river at Seoul, and closing all the doors carefully behind the Eighth Army.

I remember one day on the road across the Chongchon when a famous American regimental commander of the old school was speeding along in his jeep past a spot where the Middlesex were parading under their RSM. The Colonel told his sergeant driver to stop and draw up.

"Pay attention," he commanded, "and don't ever forget this. You'll see how soldiers are made. And there's no other way."

It was a genuine salute to the British soldier, a fine tribute to the NCO's and to the RSM's. It was inspired by the performance of 27th Brigade. And never have men been better led by officers ready to share their every hardship and danger.

SOLDIER to Soldier

PRIVATE X had a trade in civil life, carried on in that trade in the Army and resumed it on release.

Lucky man.

Private Y had no trade, but learned one in the Army and found a job in the same trade on release.

Lucky man.

Private Z had no trade, and the only one he learned in the Army was handling lethal weapons. That trade does not exist in civil life.

Not-so-lucky man.

Does this mean that Private Z has been wasting his time? It does not. He has been acquiring and developing qualities which an employer ought to value. It is necessary to say "ought," for there are still employers who look on a soldier as a bonehead whose brain stopped functioning the day he signed on. But the modern soldier's training equips him for a rather better job than marshalling the "two-and-nine-pennies," and the idea is slowly getting around.

Last year the Government set up a council to advise the Ministers of Labour and Defence on the best way of ensuring "continuous service through the Services and industry."

Now the Council has made its first report. There are no spectacular concessions to announce, but much has been done, it is claimed, to make the Services, the employers, the trade unions and the educationists understand each other's difficulties. The problem of continuous employment is far from solved (in some respects it can never be solved) but "sufficient progress has been made to show the man in the Services... that there is goodwill towards him from employers and trade unions." It would be disgraceful if there were not. Some will say that goodwill is not enough — what is needed is a firm promise of jobs.

Many ideas were considered: among them, that employers should keep a fixed percentage of jobs for ex-Regulars; and that a proportion of Regular service should count towards seniority (for it is no encouragement to a soldier to know that however many stripes he earns he will have to start at the bottom again in industry). On such proposals the Council had no powers other than to recommend voluntary action in the best-suited and best-disposed industries.

It is worth noting that negotiations on 254 Service trades have been completed, and that of these 202 are recognised as giving a degree of skill which warrants a man's acceptance in the appropriate industry and trade union; and that the 52 others merit "semi-skilled" recognition.

Regulars will await the next report with considerable interest.

ANOTHER British general chosen to serve General Eisenhower — as Assistant Chief of Staff for Organisation and Training — is Major-General F. W. Festing, of whom little has been heard since he was invalided home from Hong-Kong in 1949.

His new "boss" is of a less disconcerting type than the American commander under whom he served in the Burma campaign. General Festing, then commanding 36th Division, entered his superior's presence and said, "Festing reporting for duty, sir." Without looking up (so the story goes) the American general rapped out, "Take Taungyi." As that seemed to end the interview, General Festing went out and took Taungyi. The taciturn general was "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell.

There are as many stories about General Festing and his big stick as there are about General Wingate and his alarm clock. He is not likely to develop into one of those planners who look on a chart. He has already held a War Office appointment, as Director of Weapons and Development.

TWO men have recently had their exploits front-paged, each under the headline "The Good Soldier."

One was a National Serviceman who, having fallen asleep in a train woke to find himself past his destination, whereupon he pulled the communication cord to stop the train and footslogged through a tunnel — all this in order to reach his unit by the deadline, six a.m. Because of his manifest zeal he was let off on payment of costs. The most serviceable moral to this is: "Don't fall asleep in trains" (which is about as much use as telling girls: "Don't look in mirrors.")

It is less easy to find a moral to the other story. This told how "Johnny," a former Commando, was sent to prison in Glasgow for safe-blowing. According to his defence, he had been parachuted behind the enemy lines during the war to crack safes, the secrets of which were urgently needed by the Allies. It was known, when Johnny was taken into the Commandos, that he had a certain talent in this direction.

When the news of Johnny's sentence was published, his one-time commander, Major-General R. E. Laycock, spoke up to say that Johnny had been an excellent soldier. It was obvious to anyone that he was a brave man. But he had this unhappy propensity for blowing safes...

The story of Johnny is a strange and tragic one. Some day, no doubt, it will be a seven days' wonder in a Sunday newspaper. However sensational it is told, it will be a story of infinite irony... how an "enemy of society" became, by a quirk of great events, a hero of society; how lawless "know how" suddenly became lawful. If Johnny could have remained in the Army he might have lived a useful life out of the headlines, for the Army has absorbed and reshaped such men before now.



Photographed by SOLDIER in Trieste: Major-General Sir Terence Airey.

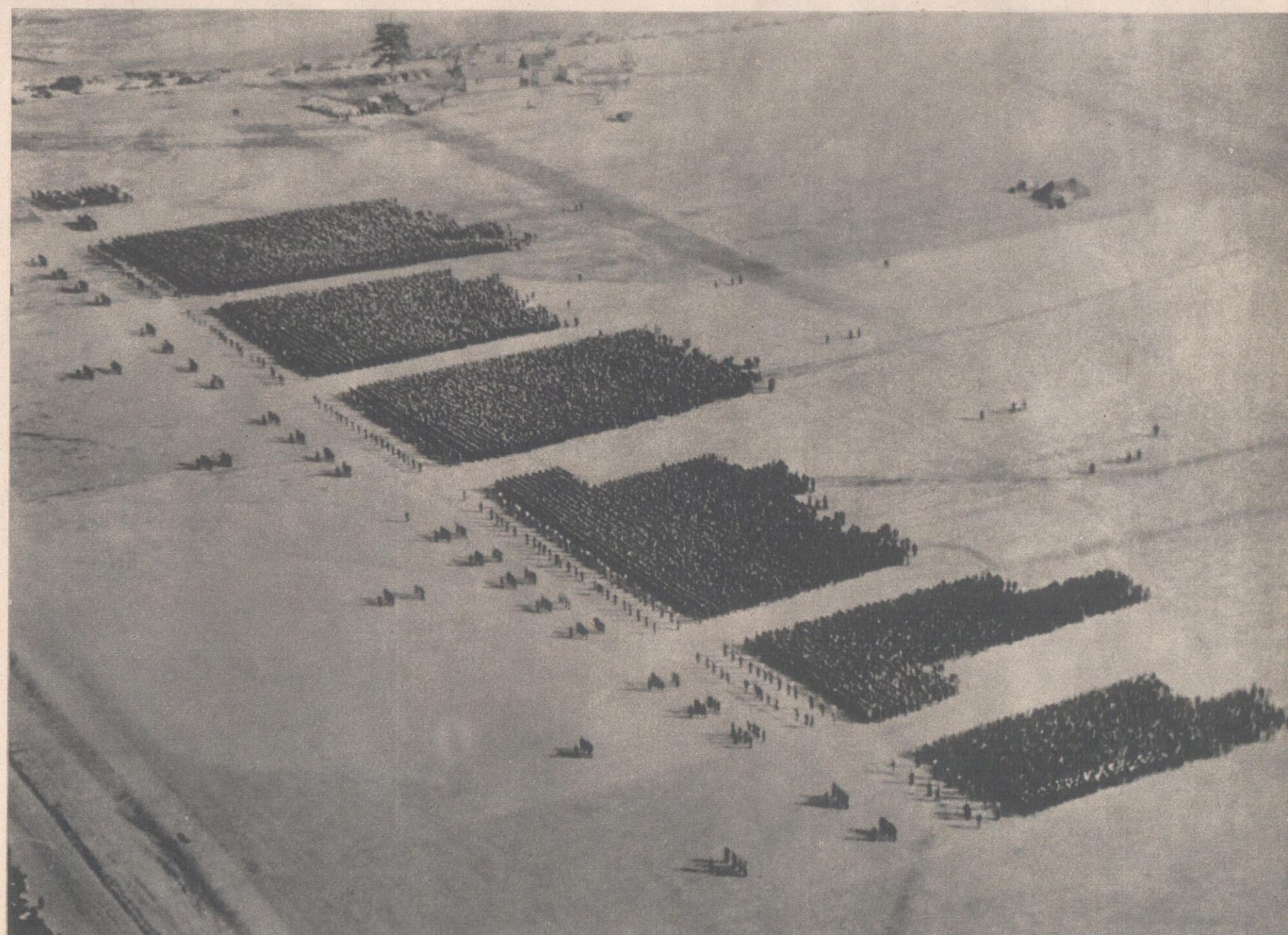
WHAT A DIVISION LOOKS LIKE

"IT is a pity" (wrote SOLDIER last December) "that the taxpayer cannot see what a division looks like. He has seen the sky black with bombers; he has seen the Fleet steaming out of harbour. But he has not seen a division, or even a photograph of one—it is most difficult to photograph a division, even if it were permissible."

Well, here is that rare thing — a photograph of a division. It was taken recently at a United States Army review at Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

An American Infantry division does not necessarily comprise the same elements as a British division, or for that matter a Chinese or Russian division. The wartime British division was usually made up of three brigades, with a variety of additional troops according to its role. An "average" division would contain about 15,000 men; or even 20,000.

On the extreme left of this photograph of the US 28th Division is the band; the first three big groups (from the left) are three Infantry regiments; the fourth group contains four Field Artillery battalions and an anti-aircraft battalion; in the next group are a heavy Tank battalion, a Reconnaissance company, an Engineer combat battalion, a Quartermaster company, a Medical battalion, and an Ordnance company; the last group includes Military Police, a Signals company and a Replacement company.



BRINGING UP THE

ARMY'S CHILDREN

The soldier's child deserves as good a break as anybody else's. In garrisons across the globe, the Army strives to give its children as good an education as they would receive at home

THREE years before Waterloo, the Army announced improvements in its plans for educating soldiers' children, who were said to be "the objects of the Sovereign's paternal solicitude."

And the aim of this solicitude? It was to ensure "a succession of Loyal Subjects, brave Soldiers and good Christians."

These objects still stand (except that education for soldiers' sons is not specially directed towards raising soldiers). It is agreed that soldiers' children shall have at least as good an education as any other British children, despite difficulties created by the soldier's wandering life.

The problem is not an easy one. Soldiers' children may live "on detachment" with their parents in tiny groups. And within those groups the children may be of different ages and at different stages of their education. Some, with foreign-born mothers, may speak little or no English; others, with a mother from one country, a father from another and a home in a third, may speak three languages quite fluently. Some may never handle shillings and pence until they are 10 or 12 years old.

The Education Act of 1944 gave every child in Britain the right to primary education from five to 11 years and to one of three types of secondary education from 11 to 15 years. It added opportunities for further education for children who could make good use of them.

It was easy enough to fit children of soldiers stationed in Britain into the scheme. They would attend schools run by local education authorities, along with the children of civilians. To

simplify matters, the schools the Army had been running for Army children in garrison towns were taken over by local authorities.

But when fathers were posted overseas and the children went too, it was not so easy. Once out of Britain, the children were outside the scope of the Education Act. The Army had a moral duty, as a good employer, to see they did not suffer.

The Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force had the same problem. So the Royal Army Educational Corps consulted the educational

branches of the other two Services and the Ministry of Education, and evolved a scheme to provide education, on the same standard as in Britain, for children overseas.

It was not a bad time to start a new scheme. During World War Two most of the Army's schools for children overseas had gone out of existence (there were exceptions in places like India where families were "marooned" by the war). When families began going overseas again, the arrangements were mostly makeshift.

The new scheme had to be elastic, since conditions vary from station to station. But the results were to be the same: a child going home to Britain should be able to fit into its proper place in a British school.

The scheme is now getting into its stride. In most places the children of Service officers and men — all children are treated alike whatever their fathers' ranks — are getting their full share of education. But there is still much to be done. With the Army's married families overseas there

are 21,375 children under 16 years of age, and the number is growing steadily as more married quarters go up.

Only in one respect does the Service plan differ from that in Britain: it does not include nursery schools or classes for the under-fives. Usually life is easier for a Service mother on a foreign station than it is for mothers in Britain, and there is not the same necessity for relieving her of looking after young children. Those nursery schools and classes which have been running in Ser-

vice schools overseas will probably fade out, but there is nothing to stop parents getting together and organising their own.

On some stations the Services

have had to start their own primary and secondary schools. Not all of them are new; some existed before World War Two. Usually the Service which provides most pupils runs the school.

Thus in Malta, where all the Services run their own primary schools, the Royal Navy operates the only secondary school.

At present there are 59 Army

other 25 have a secondary "grammar" education — they are the children with academic ability, who are likely to go on to a university or into one of the professions. The other ten take a "technical" secondary education. Which child goes to which school is decided on the "aptitude and ability of the child," to use the official phrase.

Very few stations have enough Service children to warrant running all three kinds of secondary school. So most Service secondary

OVER



A bevy from Blandford: these children, see-sawing in a playground made by soldiers, may some day go to schools in Egypt, Malaya, the West Indies . . .



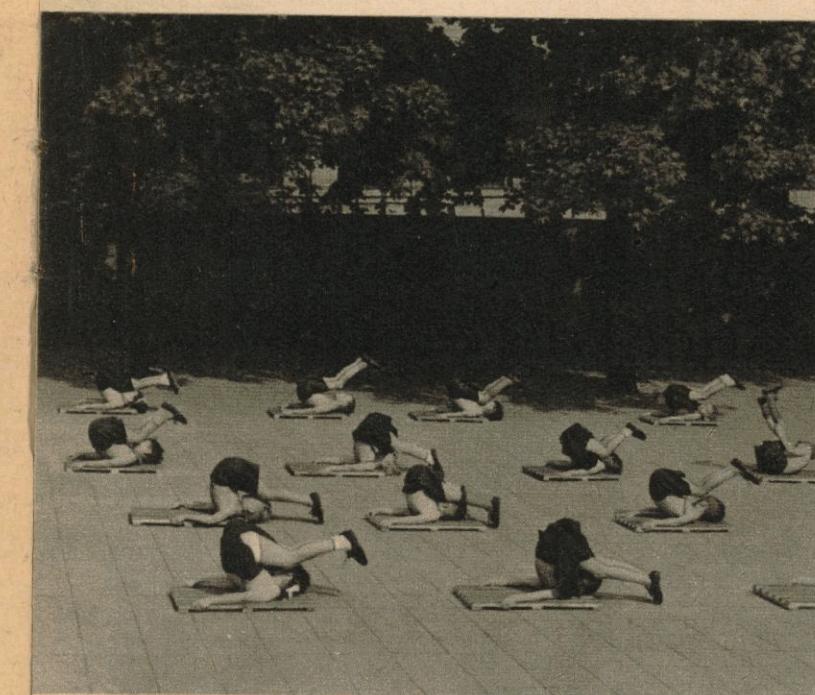
Judy was born in India, is here seen at school in Malta. Wherever she goes, a girl like Judy must be able to take up her education where she left off.



The Foreign Office controls schools for children of British Servicemen in Germany. Pupils in this school at Celle eat a mid-day meal specially prepared by the school staff.



School in Malta: Five-year-old Susan writes her name for the class to see. Right: We all know the answer to that one — well, most of us do. In Malta all three Services run their own primary schools.



The pupils at Celle are given plenty of open-air exercise—



—and for tiny tots there is an after-lunch siesta out of doors.

CHILDREN (Continued)

schools cater for the majority of children and are "modern" schools. Where there are enough children who need one of the other kinds, a special section of the secondary school may be set up for them.

If that is not practicable, the Army will pay the tuition fees at a suitable local civilian school, and may also give boarding facilities if day education is not possible.

In the Cameron Highlands of Malaya, the Army has recently started its own boarding school. At Klagenfurt, in Austria, the Army has set up a boarding hostel so that children whose parents are stationed in outlying areas can attend day school in the garrison centre.

Where local authorities overseas can provide the kind of education Service children need, the children go to local schools. Most opportunities of this kind occur in the Colonies. In Nairobi Service children attend Kenya Government schools. In Gibraltar the civil government provides education for all Service children, except technical secondary education which they get in an Admiralty school.

In Germany another authority takes a hand: the Foreign Office. It has set up a British Families Education Service which caters for all the children of Servicemen and Control Commission officials. Here, too, education takes the same shape as that provided in Britain. For senior children there are two secondary boarding schools (one of which has as headmaster Lieutenant-Colonel F. Spencer Chapman, author of "The Jungle is Neutral.") In some schools in Germany lecturers from German colleges address British children and British teachers return the compliment. And British and German children hold get-together parties.

Like their cousins in Britain, children at school abroad may receive school meals (at present



School under a thatched roof — at Kuala Lumpur, Malaya.

they are authorised by the Army only in Austria and by the Foreign Office in Germany), free transport to school if necessary, free issues of milk and medical and dental inspections. And since the Services have a way of making life pleasant for children, they have rather more parties and outings than children in Britain.

With the new education scheme have come new methods of re-

cruiting staff. No more Queen's Army Schoolmistresses are to be engaged. Instead, the good work they are still doing after more than a century is being taken over by "seconded" teachers — men and women who leave their jobs in Britain for two or three years to teach in schools overseas and then return home. Under this system, schools overseas (not only Service schools) have a

wide selection of teachers who gain experience and knowledge of the world to take back to their jobs in Britain. There are other teachers who are directly employed by the Services for specified periods.

Normally the uniformed officers and sergeants of the Royal Army Educational Corps do not teach soldiers' children; they are too busy teaching soldiers. But they will sometimes fill a gap: at Mackinnon Road, Kenya a sergeant ran a small school in a tent until a proper school was built (see SOLDIER December, 1949).

Not all soldiers' children of school age go abroad with their parents. Sometimes parents consider the climate of a foreign station unsuitable for their children. For older children it is sometimes a bad thing to change schools in the middle of their education. Also, soldiers find it difficult to look after motherless children overseas. So parents can make arrangements with local authorities in Britain for children to stay on at school. If there are no relatives with whom the child can live, he may go to a boarding school — at the authority's expense. These arrangements with local authorities are not the Army's business, but Command Education officers will help parents in their negotiations with education authorities.

For education after school, at universities and training colleges, both the State and local authorities offer scholarships to Army children who seem likely to make good use of them.

BACKWARD PUPILS WERE PUT IN CAGES

SCHOOLING provided by the Army 105 years ago was tough — tougher perhaps than in Dickens' "Dotheboys Hall." Here is an extract from a report on a visit to the Duke of York's School, then at Chelsea:

"It was school-hour, yet to and fro numbers of boys were passing along the walks and about the corridors, some laden with baskets of coal, some carrying filthier instruments, some bearing provisions, some sweeping out the colonnade in front of the building. . . . The schoolroom was a huge hall measuring perhaps 60 or 80 feet in length by 30 in breadth. Two enormous fire-places, so constructed as to burn an enormous amount of fuel without diffusing any proportionate amount of heat, testified to the good intentions of the architect. In other respects, the fitting was meagre enough.

"A single platform, whither, when the writing lesson came on, the children by classes were supposed to repair, occupied about 20 feet in the middle of the room. In addition to the cane, the sergeant schoolmasters had at their command four instruments of torture, in the shape of iron cages, each occupying the centre of the room. Observe that these cages were constructed so as to render it impossible for the little

prisoners to stand upright; who were required, nevertheless, to turn a heavy handle, and whose diligence, or its opposite, was marked by a process, which, if they did not see it, they never failed to feel.

"Four or five groups of boys were gathered round as many sergeant masters, some bawling out sounds which were not words, though they were intended to represent them; some roaring forth arithmetical tables; some repeating the Church Catechism at the top of their voices; some conversing and all shuffling and struggling among themselves. There was no order, no regularity, no attention; indeed the latter would have been impossible, inasmuch as in the heart of the classes was one, more numerous than the rest, which seemed to be taking lessons on the fiddle. As to the acquirements of these poor lads, their proficiency proved on examination to be such as might be expected. They could not read, they could not write, they could not cipher, they could not spell. They did not know whether Great Britain was an island, or how, if divided from France, the two nations were separated. 'We can't help it, sir,' said one of the sergeant schoolmasters. 'We never learned these things ourselves. How can we pretend to teach them?'



Left: A new use for a web belt — to hold the conductor's money satchel and ticket punch.

Right: The old order: the Canal Army Bus Service started with converted three-tonners.



CABS:

The initials represent the British Army's own bus service, with soldier-conductors, in Egypt

THE Army in Egypt has shown notable enterprise in organising the Canal Army Bus Service (CABS), which carries soldiers on recreational journeys all over the Canal Zone.

It operates from Fayid (the Middle East Headquarters town) and Moascar, which is 28 miles away; and its routes stretch out to places like Tel-el-Kebir, Ismailia, El Ballah, Abu Sultan, Fanara, Suez and Port Said.

The Canal Army Bus Service started in 1949. In those days, the only way from outlying stations to the towns was by military transport — usually three-tonners converted into troop-carriers. For economy, the troop-carriers were allowed to be used only once a week.

Then two neighbouring units pooled their transport to run a twice-weekly service, and the idea was followed by other units. But buses still did not run often enough.

So Army Welfare, which had once run a Welfare bus service manned by German prisoners in the Canal Zone, joined in and bought three surplus three-tonners from the Army sales at Geneifa. They were fitted to carry 20 people each and put into service . . . but still there were not enough buses.

A grant from Welfare funds was used to buy more three-tonners, and petrol and spares, so that all the outlying units could have a twice-weekly service. About this time the Canal Army Bus Service was born, with a staff of one major, two captains and 14 men to manage the unit and maintain the vehicles. In addition, 40 native drivers were employed and 40 soldiers were posted as bus conductors.

As bus-conducting is not an Army trade, it was decided that the soldier-conductors should serve only two-monthly spells, and the rule still holds. The men find it gives them a welcome change from unit routine without interfering with their military training. They are paid an extra £1 a month by the Bus Service and are given a free dinner on the last night of their two-months' engagement.

The Bus Service is a non-profit-making organisation. Fares are low, and as cash accumulates it is used to buy modern 32-seater buses to supersede the troop-carriers.

At the time of writing, the fleet consists of 22 of these new vehicles (costing £2400 each) and 57 troop-carriers. The Service operates over 43 routes, long and short. In one month recently the buses ran 192,000 miles and carried a total of 175,000 passengers. — From a report by Captain S. F. Long, Military Observer in Egypt.



The new order: a modern 32-seater passes over the bridge just outside Moascar garrison.
(Pictures by Lance-Corporal D. L. Hatton, Army Public Relations.)

ONE TANK OR TWO?

WHAT IS this tank controversy, of which echoes have been heard for the last eight years or more?

Since the Korean war began, the debate has occupied a great deal of space in the correspondence columns of *The Times* (a forum second only to the floor of the House of Commons). It has also broken out in other quarters and is expected to crop up again when Parliament debates the Army Estimates.

What it boils down to is this: Do we need one all-purpose tank, or a cruiser and a heavy? Do we need one tank or two?

Britain's latest tank in service, the Centurion, is widely regarded as an all-purpose tank. It weighs nearly 50 tons and is roughly in the same category as the American Patton and the Russian improved T 34 (the tank which turned the battle at Stalingrad). All three tanks are in service in Korea. The Russians are reported also to have stocks of heavy Joseph Stalins and German Tigers. Advocates of the two-tank policy include Lieutenant-General Sir Giffard le Q. Martel, a former Commander Royal Armoured Corps; Major-General J. F. C. Fuller, who had much to do with tank policy in its earlier days; and *The Times* itself.

SOLDIER takes no sides in the controversy, merely summarising the arguments for and against, as a matter of interest.

Note: Two factors which may affect future tank design are those very potent weapons, the napalm bomb and the rocket launcher, both of which have been "brushed up" in Korea.



Britain's all-purpose tank of today: the Centurion. The first six reached Rhine Army shortly after the war ended. In the recent Defence debate in the House of Commons the Centurion was described by the Defence Minister (Mr. E. Shinwell) as "second to none of its type in service in the world today." Brigadier A. Head contended that the tank was "typical of the British—beautifully made and of great complexity," which meant that it needed "the most skilled mechanics." To this the War Minister (Mr. J. Strachey) said: "My military advisers are satisfied that this is a very fine tank. It may have its defects... it is fairly complex... but its complexities give it very great advantages." Reports of its performance in Korea were being awaited with interest. Another speaker said that improvements would be made in the Centurion before it went into mass production.

The Case for **ONE** Tank

IN the early years of World War Two, Britain's tankmen were bedevilled by tanks which were either too slow or too light; the one could not do the job of the other, and often could not even do its own job.

Then came the Sherman — for two years a first-class, all-round tank, capable both of supporting Infantry and of exploiting a break-through.

Alamein showed that tanks could pass over swiftly, and triumphantly, from one role to the other. Churchill tanks — late on the scene, and at first grotesquely under-gunned — could do the same, witness their famous pursuit, with 6th Airborne Division, beyond the Rhine. Though the Sherman's 75 mm gun was at first inadequate against the Tiger, there was no trouble when 17-pounders were fitted. Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery (advocate of the all-purpose tank) said in Normandy: "We have nothing to fear from the Panther and Tiger tanks... our 17-pounder will go right through them." Anything bigger must be tackled by field artillery, self-propelled guns or something like the Jagd-Panther (a powerful armour-piercing, carrier-borne weapon).

The all-purpose tank may be a nightmare to the designer, but it is not such a nightmare as the under-gunned and under-armoured tank to the soldier who has to fight in it, or the ultra-heavy tank to the man who has to pick a route for it. It is far simpler to mass-produce one all-purpose tank — remember the wasteful overlapping when Vickers, Vauxhall and Nuffield were all making their different models? Also, it is far simpler to train men for one model. And it is easier, too, to plan a battle — not only for the tactician but for the quartermaster — when tanks are reasonably standard. (They can, of course, have varying armament).

One reason why we did without a heavy tank in the late war was that our strategy was amphibious. This may well be the case again. If there is to be war, it will start — on our part — as a defensive one. Fast tanks may perhaps penetrate behind the enemy's spearheads but they cannot live off the land like horses; nor can they refuel with any kind of petrol. With mastery of the air, supplies can be flown to "cut off" tanks, but mastery of the air has to be fought for. Since roving tanks and support tanks are equally liable to meet heavy guns, why weaken the first unnecessarily? Let us have a versatile tank, and avoid the perils of specialisation.

The Case for **TWO** Tanks

NO golfer confines himself to wielding only one club. The Royal Artillery is not limited to one all-purpose gun.

For tank warfare it is essential to have, firstly, a fast cruiser tank for harrying the enemy's lines of communication and exploiting breakthroughs, and, secondly, a really heavy tank capable of blasting anything to be met in positional warfare, including other heavy tanks. In fact, we had a two-tank policy from 1917 to 1945.

We won World War Two by numerical superiority of tanks, not by superiority of tank for tank. In Italy and in Normandy, especially, we should have saved ourselves much blood and sweat if we had had heavy tanks capable of knocking out German Tigers. The possession by one side of an "unbeatable" tank tends to paralyse the other side at critical moments. Heavies may or may not be needed for Infantry support (cruisers will serve equally well) but they are essential for killing other heavies. A self-propelled gun cannot replace a tank; it has too many limitations, and is unable to lend Infantry support, with high explosive and machine-gun fire.

Germany owed her initial tank successes in Poland, France and Russia (1941) to her fast Panzers. These operations could not have been carried out with heavier tanks, which require a big follow-up of fuel and ammunition — a heavy administrative "tail." The Allies' inexhaustible store of Shermans performed excellently once they broke out of the Normandy beachhead, though they eventually outpaced their supplies.

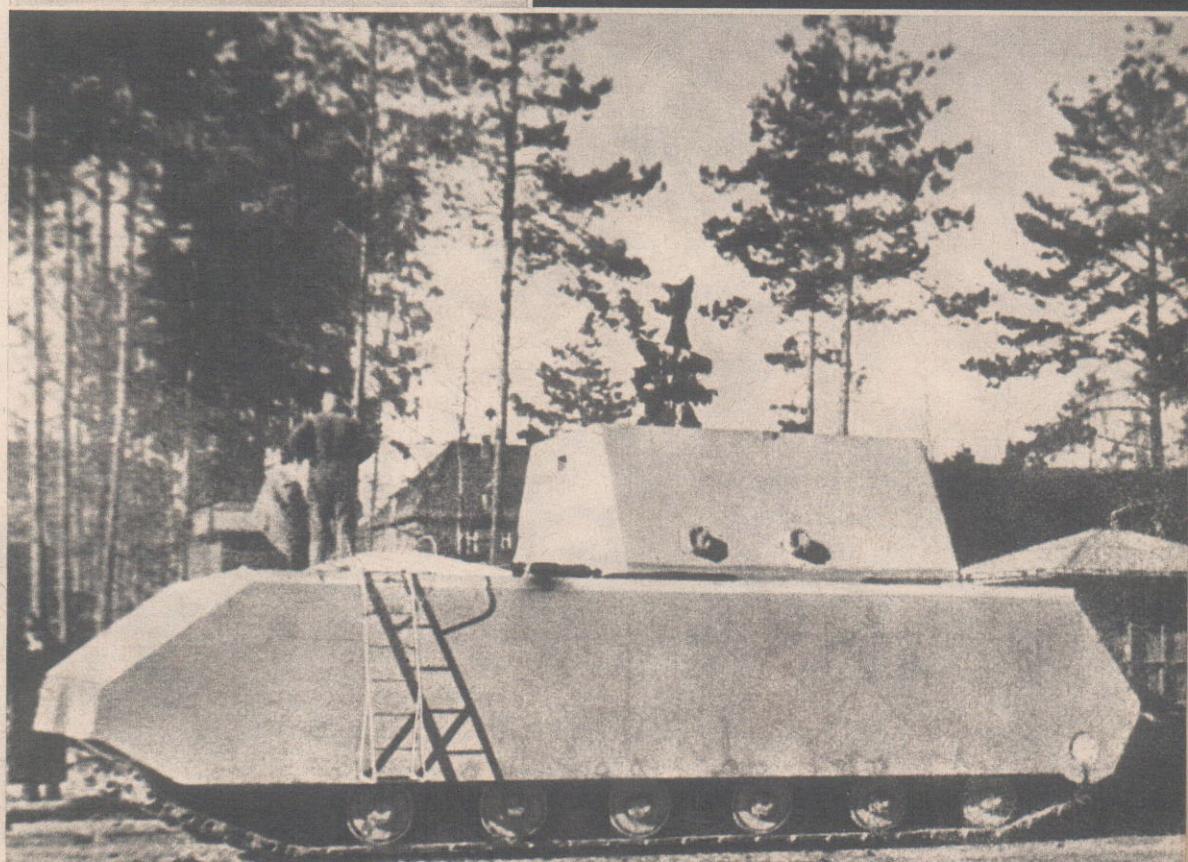
In any future war we shall be heavily outnumbered in manpower; we cannot hope to hold a line, therefore our forces *must* have mobility. We must be able to cut around and behind the enemy's advance elements, dodging his heavier armament (on the old light cavalry model). The Centurion, today's all-purpose tank, is the best-built tank in the world, but is it mobile enough for this role? Our original two-tank-policy was the right one. Let us have up-to-date models in this tradition. Here is one field in which the British passion for compromise (or economy) is perilous.

How right the Royal Navy was not to let itself be talked out of building battleships in World War Two!



Above: the tank which, multiplied by tens of thousands, carried the Allies to victory: the Sherman. For the Normandy invasion it was fitted with a 17-pounder gun. The versatile Sherman could support Infantry (as here, in Italy) or exploit a breakthrough with equal distinction.

Below: Britain did not design a heavy tank, as the Germans understood the word heavy. Hitler's personal idea of a heavy tank was something else again. Here is the 180-ton Mouse (three times the weight of a Tiger), on which much German time and money was squandered. Its frontal armour was 8.2 inches thick, its gun 12.8 centimetres calibre. The Mouse was never used.



INFANTRY CHASE



Like anyone else learning to use a typewriter, these soldier-clerks worry away at the test sentence — "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog." Typing is only one of the many office jobs which Infantrymen learn at Chichester

ACROSS the world, in company and battalion offices from Korea to Catterick, is a thin sprinkling of clerks who took over their jobs armed with "a little extra something."

They are graduates of the Infantry Clerks Training Centre, which celebrates its first birthday this month.

Until a year ago, Infantry clerks "just growed." They were soldiers who were sent into a unit office, placed in front of a typewriter and a pile of forms, and allowed to get on with the job as best they could. Some made a success of it; others muffed it and were sent back to their platoons.

Early last year, the Infantry began to catch up with those Corps which train their own clerks as specialists. Captain C. A. Cox, of the East Surrey Regiment, and a team of warrant officers and senior NCO's experienced in Infantry offices, went to see how the Royal Artillery trained its clerks — reputedly among the best in the Army.

Of the students, about one in ten are Regulars. They have all finished their basic training and have been recommended for clerical jobs after selection tests. About a third have had civilian clerical experience. The civilian occupations of the rest do not always suggest that they will make good clerks: they include box-maker, engineer, capstan-operator, locomotive fireman, carpet salesman, labourer, baker, roundsman, farm hand, tailor, warehouseman, butcher and re-wind boy (who rewinds cinema film). But the selection experts are not often wrong; only about one man in 50 fails the course.

"Some of the men are ex-public school boys, others have had no schooling since they were 14," says Captain Cox. "It does not seem to matter. The one may make as good a clerk as the other."

HE RAN THE REGIMENT

A famous Infantry clerk was William Cobbett, political firebrand who joined the Army at the close of the 18th century under a slight misunderstanding. He wrote:

"While I was corporal I was made clerk to the regiment. In a very short time, the whole of the business in that way fell into my hands; and, at the end of about a year, neither adjutant, paymaster or quartermaster could move an inch without my assistance. The accounts and letters of the paymaster went through my hands; or, rather, I was the maker of them. All the returns, reports and other official papers were of my drawing up."

Here are a few of the Army forms which an Infantry clerk must be able to recognise. They are displayed by QMS G. Cook.

Typing session: soldier clerks use the two-finger "hunt and peck" method (as many highly-paid Fleet Street journalists do). There is no time to teach them "touch" typing.



THAT QUICK BROWN FOX

The students work in classes of about 28, and the course covers 28 subjects, including official abbreviations, office organisation, chain of command, office supplies, telephoning, indexing, message- and letter-writing, Part Two and Part Three orders and soldiers' documents.

One lesson is put over in the form of a film "According to our Records." This shows what can happen to a soldier and his family if a unit clerk neglects the man's documents. In all, the instructors refer to 550 Army Council Instructions and 90 Army forms and Army books. Lectures have to be revised constantly as new procedures are introduced. Students are not expected to be able to quote ACI's, but they must know where to find information. It is on that knowledge that they are tested. Sometimes, when they have gone off to their units and have no access to information on some obscure topic, they write back to their old instructors at the Centre to ask for it.

The students' note-books are illustrated by sheets typed by themselves for practice — specimen Part Two orders, model letters and so on. Typing instruction is severely practical: the men are allowed to find the keys and

hit them with any fingers they like. The first exercise is to type out a list of typing "Do's" and "Don'ts," which include:

"I am not allowed to smoke in the Typing Room."

"If my machine does not appear to be typing properly I must not tinker with it but must call the instructor."

They graduate to such popular typing exercises as: "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the party" (which is an exercise in getting about the keyboard) and "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" (which contains all 26 letters of the alphabet). Then they copy hand-outs. Once a week typing progress is tested and backward students are given extra tuition. On passing out they should be able to type 150 words in ten minutes, with no more than three errors.

While learning to be clerks, the men are not allowed to forget that they are primarily Infantrymen, fit to be "forward everywhere." Each Saturday there is an inspection and a drill parade, and when their hosts, the Royal Sussex Regiment, celebrated their regimental day last year, the students gave a drill demonstration which won the approval of the stern critics of the Old Comrades Association.



And here's a flashback to the Western Desert: a soldier clerk gets down to it, with fly-swatting at the ready. In a successful campaign, a soldier may find himself using a "liberated" machine with a strange keyboard, strewn with accents and umlauts.

BRITAIN'S ROCKET LAUNCHER

THE "Bazooka," the Infantryman's tank-buster, which has enjoyed notable successes in Korea, is now being made in Britain for the British Army.

Its official name is the 3.5 Rocket Launcher, and it is almost the same as the American original, except where it has been slightly modified to suit British manufacture.

A vast improvement on the Projector Infantry Anti-Tank (the PIAT), it is the most powerful weapon of its kind. The bombs work on the same principle as those used in the PIAT, and their disruptive effect on armour or concrete is very high.

As the anti-tank weapon of the Infantry platoon, the Rocket Launcher is carried by two men, one of whom fires while the other loads. Note (in this picture) the visors which protect the eyes against blast from the rockets. When not in use, the launcher is in two parts to make carrying easier.

The two men in the picture have been demonstrating and teaching the weapon: Company-Sergeant-Major Instructor John Wilson and Sergeant-Instructor Walter Tunaley, of the Small Arms School Corps at Hythe, Kent.



The Army Hat



Cavalier 1643



Infantry 1685



Lancer 1860



Grenadier 1750



Pill-Box 1860
(11th Hussars)



Shako 1861

(North Hampshire Regiment)

THESE soldiers' hats of yesterday are reproduced from the Army Kinema Corporation's film strip, "Military Headgear," prepared by Captain Stuart Nicholson, Royal Army Educational Corps. The strip is now being used for Army lectures.

In all it shows 38 coloured head-dresses of varying degrees of brilliance and audacity—from cocked hat to shako, from cheese-cutter to bearskin.

Tracing the styles, and their correct colours, was no easy task. Museums, libraries, and picture galleries were explored; even cigarette cards were scrutinised (some of the hats shown here are from originals supplied by Messrs. John Player and Sons). The most difficult hat to trace was the Infantry one worn in 1685. Made of soft felt, it was eagerly sought at the time by soldiers' wives and girl friends to convert into hats for themselves. It is not surprising that few have survived.

"All who are alive at midnight..."

Every soldier will be asked a few personal questions this month, when the nation holds a census. His replies will be treated as confidential

ON the night of Sunday 8 April 1951 the Army is to be counted.

This is not because the Army wants to know the number of soldiers on its strength — it knows that already. The reason is that the Government is anxious to gather some vital statistics about the population at large, the Army included.

The census of Great Britain will include everyone in the British Isles (as it happens, the Irish Free State is holding its census on the same night), but it does not include British subjects overseas except those in, or closely connected with, the Services.

In Britain the census of the Army will be on a special schedule, and will include "all officers and other ranks, male and female, who are alive at midnight on the night of Sunday 8 April 1951 and who pass the night in barracks or other premises under military control or who arrive at such barracks or premises on Monday 9 April, not having been enumerated elsewhere."

Wives and families, and even relatives and friends will be included, provided they, too, are passing the night in military barracks or buildings or are due to arrive on the Monday. But troops on leave, weekend pass or

living in civilian or military married quarters outside barracks will come on to the civilian schedule; they will be approached direct by "enumeration officers" of the Registrar-General. The Territorial Army will be counted as civilians.

Soldiers overseas to be enumerated are "every British officer and other rank, male or female, who enlisted in the United Kingdom, borne on the strength of the command on the night of Sunday 8 April."

Wives and families abroad will also come into the census provided they are present at their station on census night, or arrive there by 15 April.

Troops at home and overseas will themselves supply the information demanded, but where military operations make this impossible — for example, troops in Korea engaged in battle or those in Malaya out on patrol —

details will be taken from Field Records; particulars about education may have to be left out.

There are no questions likely to bring blushes to the cheeks of any Serviceman or Servicewoman. In this respect the Forces enjoy a slight advantage over civilians.

For example, members of the Women's Royal Army Corps will not be questioned about the number of children they have had by present or previous marriages. Nor will soldiers be asked about their position in the household, or questioned about their civilian trades and employers, or household arrangements for water supply. Only troops in Britain living in quarters outside barracks will have to answer these queries. But soldiers will have to give their age, say whether they are single, married or divorced, give their nationality and birthplace, and details of their education.



"If it wasn't for men like you, they wouldn't NEED to hold a census!"

Care is being taken not to forget soldiers "on loan" to other forces including those serving with the Sudan Defence Force, Eritrean Police, Arab Legion, Somali Scouts, Amirial Guard (Cyrenaica), Ceylon Army, Brigade of Gurkhas, King's African Rifles and Royal West African Frontier Force. Nor are civilians working "in support of the military forces" overlooked. These include members of NAAFI, the Forces Broadcasting Service, Army Kinema Corporation and welfare organisations.

How the form-filling is organised is a unit's own business, but the War Office has stipulated that officers should be present, if possible.

Troopships or vessels carrying troops will have a military form for the men on board. If there is a civilian ship at sea with only one soldier on board, he will have a return to himself.

In the case of a ship arriving in port before midnight, the troops count as part of the forces at home. If the ship's commandant can get them off his hands by midnight, then they will be enumerated by the officer of the depot or barracks to which they are sent, or the householders of their respective homes.

Information on a census form is confidential. If the unit clerk happens to mention in the canteen that Private Smith was divorced, then he is liable for punishment.

Nor can information entered by a soldier be produced against him at a trial. Even an absentee or a deserter cannot have anything he writes on a census form brought as evidence in law.

The census is not a public "snoop." It is undertaken to provide the country with valuable information which it is impossible to get in other ways. The War Office does not want any information from the census except the disposition of certain age groups in various towns and boroughs. This will help those trying to estimate the number of potential Territorials in each area.

It will take the officials at Somerset House about three years to sort out the facts and figures.

Keep Your Eyes on The Road...

THE most difficult thing to teach a driver is road sense.

It is difficult, even, to define road sense: a combination, perhaps, of concentration, forethought, instinct, experience and plain common-sense. It is certainly not something that can easily be explained in a lecture-room.

"Road Sense," the latest War Office training film (made for the Army Kinema Corporation by Verity Films) sets out to help instructors. It lasts about 30 minutes and is divided into four self-contained parts, each designed to be used with a particular section of the manual of vehicle training.

Raymond Mays, the racing driver, introduces the first section with a talk on the need for concentration. From then on, the film is devoted to road conditions and incidents which a driver may have to face in the day's



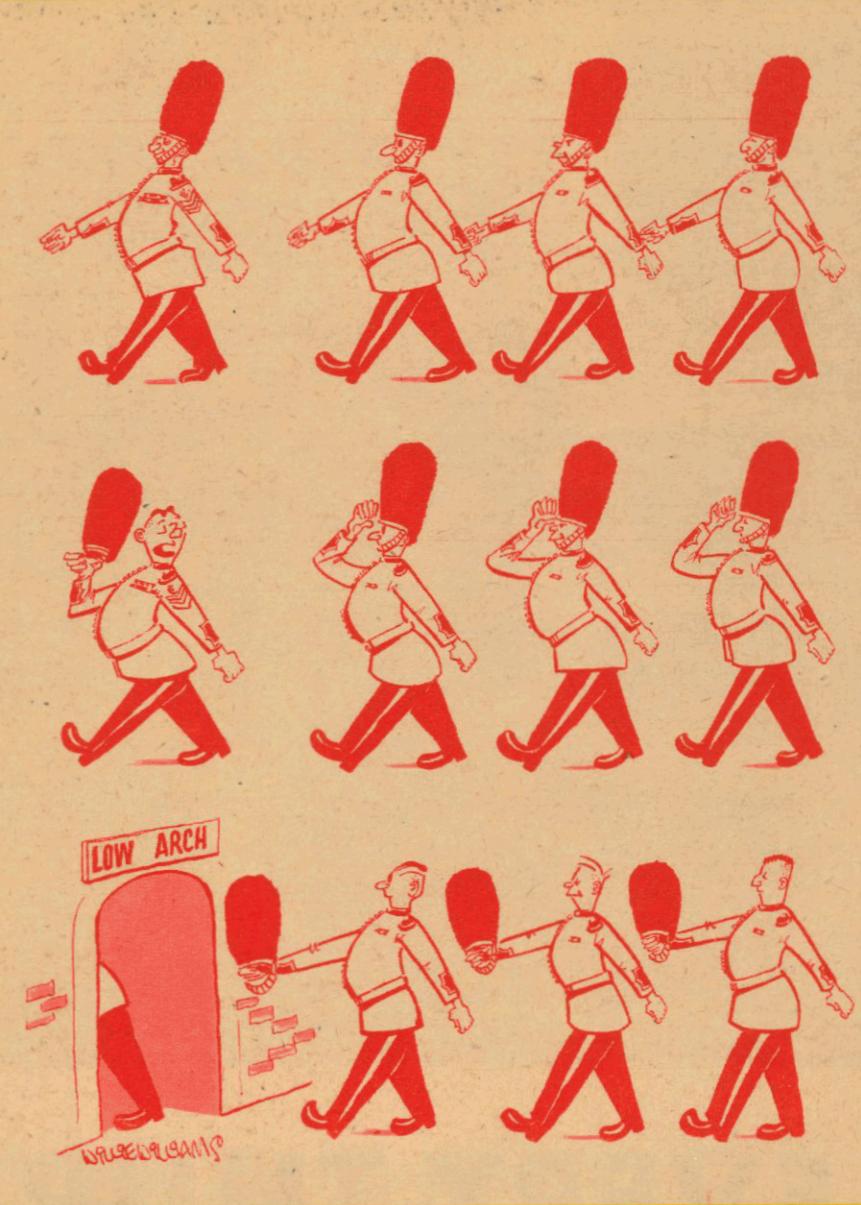
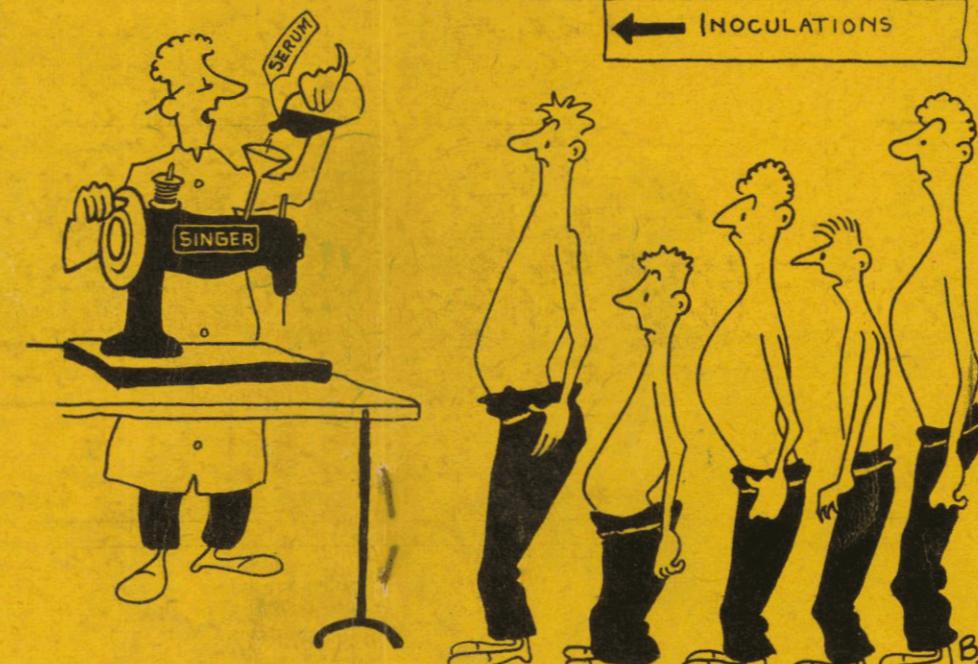
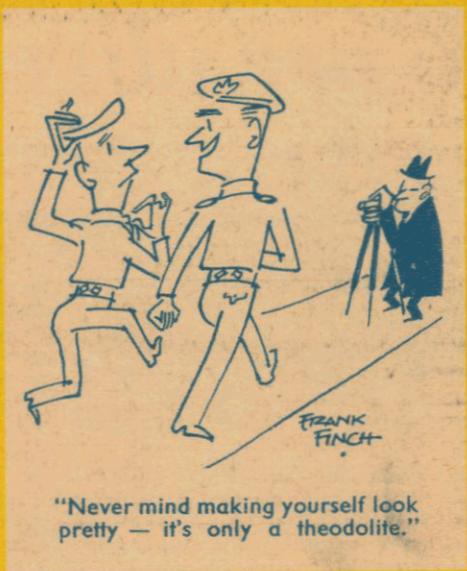
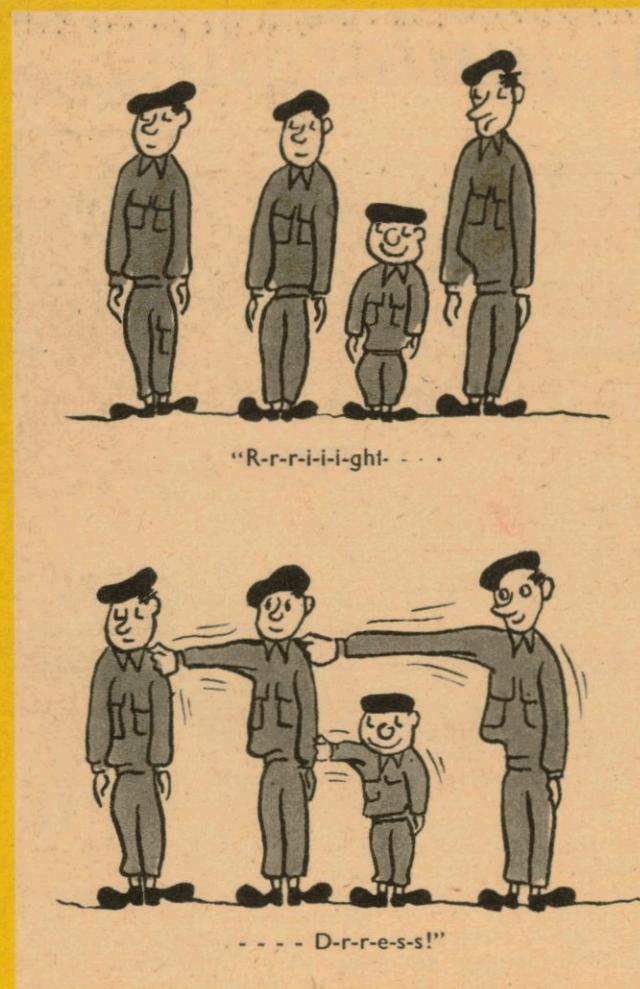
A dangerous distraction at the roadside: this scene is from a new Army film, "Road Sense."

work, and tells how he should, and should not, cope with them.

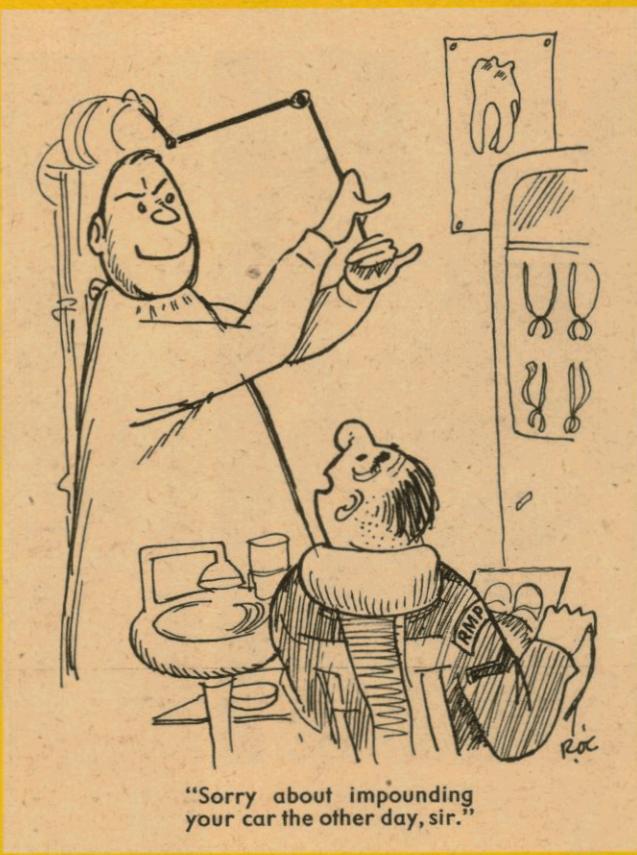
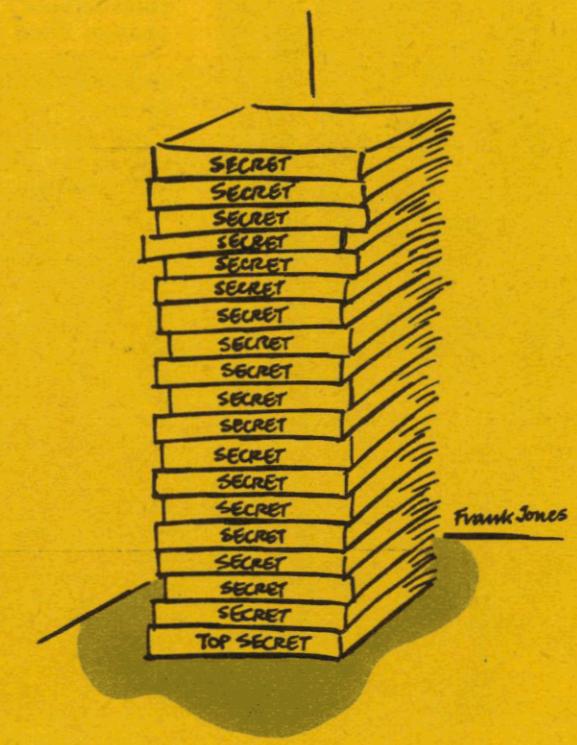
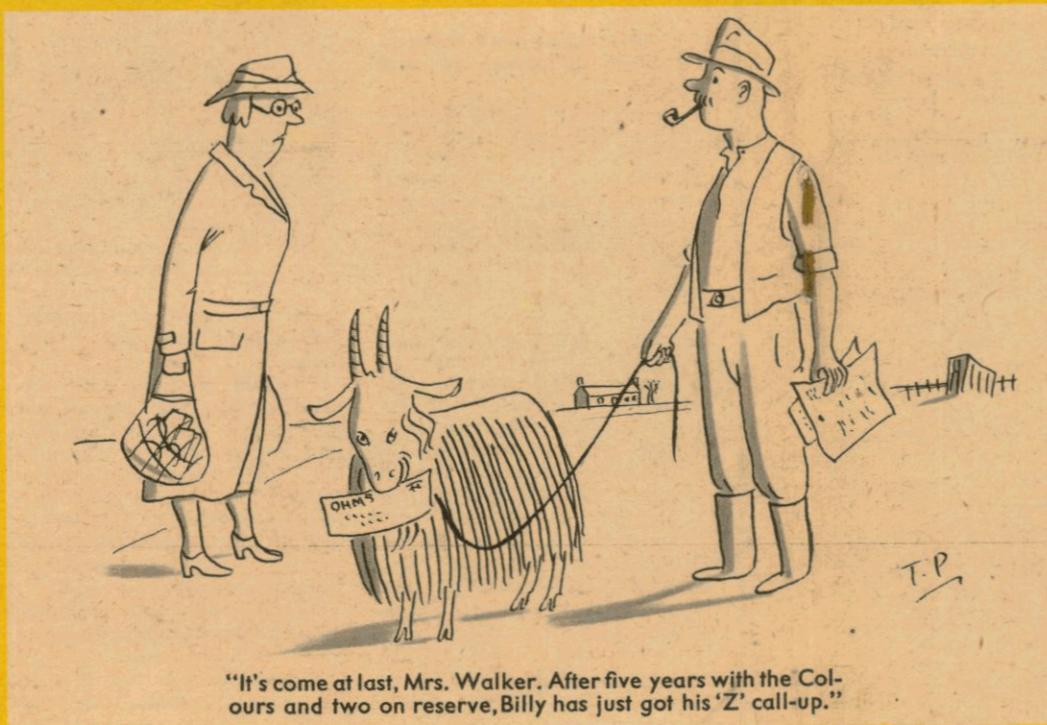
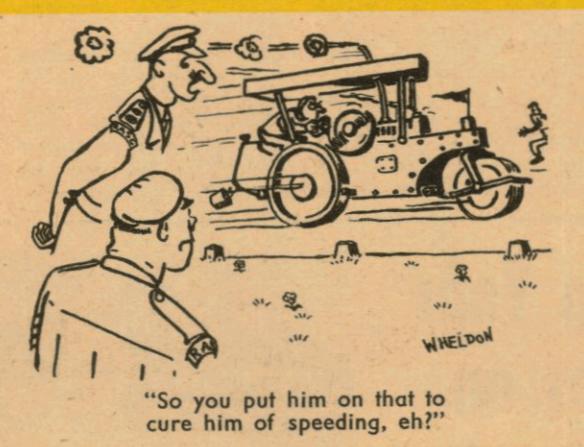
The part dealing with the need to obey road signs ends gruesomely with a disobedient driver slumped through his shattered windscreens, while blood gushes from his mouth over the bonnet of his vehicle. But there are light touches, too, and the whole thing is realistic.

For the men who learn to drive in the Aldershot area — quite a large proportion of Army drivers — the film is the more realistic because

the incidents were shot on their training grounds — that tricky corner by the Dover Arms at Ash, for instance; the narrow, but temptingly straight Hog's Back road; the Stoney Castle circuit, where thousands of Military Police learners have put a motor-cycle into third gear for the first time; Farnborough and Deepcut: Captain A. S. Jones, of the Army Mechanical Transport School, who supervised the making of the film, told SOLDIER that work was held up several times by convoys of learners passing the locations.



SOLDIER HUMOUR





Shape of things to come—perhaps: A monitoring team leads the rescue party and locates radio-active areas with a dose-rate meter. One man is in radio touch with headquarters, another tapes off danger spots, a fourth records affected areas on a map.



Listening for sounds from buried casualties under a mound of rubble. Water and gas pipes make good "ears."

EVERY THURSDAY AN

ATOM BOMB FALLS...



It is safer to open a door with a stick of wood, like this... otherwise the ceiling may collapse on one's head (right).



AT lunch time every Thursday an "atom bomb" destroys the village of Haustenbeck in the Westphalian Plain of Germany and wipes out most of the inhabitants and the local Civil Defence forces.

An emergency call is sent out to the Army and shortly afterwards a military mobile column is rushed up.

Monitoring teams, in advance of the rescue sections, grope their way through the smoke and debris to seek out with a dose-rate meter any radio-active areas, which they cordon off with white tape. They report by radio to their headquarters all the information they can gather and then rejoin the column outside the village where the rescue teams are now ready with picks and shovels, ropes, crowbars, stretchers and blankets to comb the village for casualties.

Carefully and methodically the rescue teams set about their job. First, all the surface casualties are collected and taken to waiting ambulances after being questioned for information which may lead to the rescue of people trapped in

OVER



In a ruined village in Westphalia the British Army of the Rhine is learning how to help the Civil Defence in a major emergency

(Photographs by H. V. Pawlikowski)

Left: A casualty is carried from a blitzed shelter. He must be Handled With Care.



Fireman's lift: here practised by Corporal G. Cain, Royal Horse Guards.



It is easy to get jammed trying to carry a stretcher down a narrow staircase. A better plan, if it can be done, is to tie the casualty to a stretcher and lower him through a hole in the floor...



...like this. It is important to tie the right kind of knots and the rescuers are given plenty of practice with lengths of cord.



EVERY THURSDAY AN ATOM BOMB

(Continued)

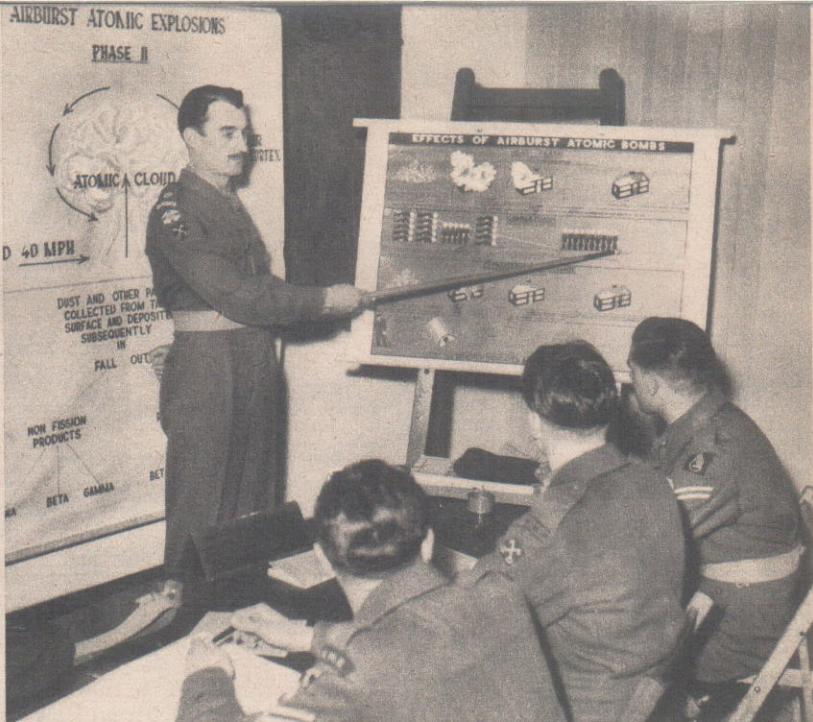
shattered buildings. While some of the men douse small fires, others are organised into search squads, picking their way over heaps of rubble, climbing gingerly up broken stairways and squeezing through small openings in smashed cellars to bring out survivors.

Every step a man takes is a hazard and every pile of ruins a possible hiding place for a buried person. Cracked walls may topple or floors collapse without warning. But the rescue teams are trained to accept and guard against these risks and to carry on until the arrival of the fully equipped Civil Defence mobile column, who are trained to deal with the more dangerous and difficult rescue work.

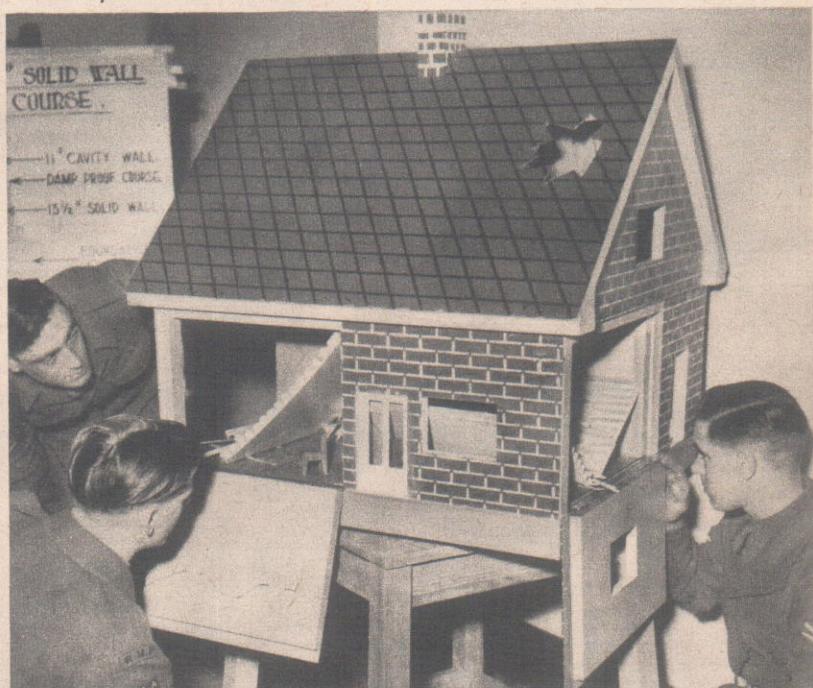
Haustenbeck is a real village of bombed-out houses at Rhine Army's All Arms Training Centre and the rescue teams are officers and non-commissioned officers who are being taught to become instructors in elementary rescue training when they return to their units.

Elementary rescue is the name given to this additional and highly important role which the Army may be called upon to carry out in Britain and overseas in the event of atom-bombing or very severe high explosive bombing. While the Army's chief function will continue to be the defeat of the enemy by offensive means it is foreseen that Army rescue teams can give valuable help in an emergency to the Civil Defence organisation, the efficient operation of which will be vital in securing Army bases and maintaining civilian morale. The amount of rescue work the Army will be able to undertake will be limited by military commitments.

On the outbreak of any future war it is planned that the Army shall provide mobile columns of rescue workers who will, in the beginning, act as a cover until the Civil Defence is fully mobilised. Later, these mobile columns will remain available to move at



The kind of lecture that had to come some day: Major W. G. Vickers shows what happens when an atom bomb explodes. Below: the School's own doll's house is used to show some of the ways in which a floor can collapse, trapping those under it.



a moment's notice to any stricken area, but only if urgently required.

This role will not present any very difficult problem to the Army, whose organisation, transport, and equipment are well suited to carry out this new job. Fortunately, too, the soldier's military training and personal equipment will enable him to perform most rescue tasks. But, from now on, his normal military training will include instruction in elementary rescue. Every unit will have at least one officer highly-trained in such work and non-commissioned officers able to teach their men and lead them into action as rescue squads.

The urgent need today is for trained team leaders. Rhine Army is helping to provide the answer in its strenuous three-day course. In an early lecture the Chief Instructor, Major W. G. Vickers, describes with the aid of coloured charts and diagrams the various types of damage and injury that an atom bomb can produce. The

students learn that in a future war they may be required not only to rescue people from devastated towns and villages but to help clear roadways, assist the civilian fire services, control and feed streams of panic-stricken refugees, give first-aid treatment and search for and decontaminate radio-active areas.

Light rescue is practised in the classrooms before the climax of the course when students are sent out to the "atom-bombed" village.

"It is not our job to teach physics or to deal more than briefly with the atom bomb," Major Vickers told SOLDIER. "But we do teach the fundamental principles of the jobs the Army's mobile columns may be called upon to do so that if there is another war the Army will be able to save life and minimise the risk of further damage and casualties. When the course is over the students are sufficiently trained to pass on their knowledge to their men."

E. J. GROVE

... IN ENGLAND IT FALLS ON SUNDAYS

IN Britain the Army has recently taken part in major atom bomb exercises.

One was held in Bristol, on a Sunday — in a snow-storm.

The Civil Defence forces in the city and neighbourhood were assumed to have been wiped out; ordinary communications had been obliterated. And there were 70 victims buried in the rubble of Bristol's shopping centre which was blitzed in World War Two. The victims, when dug out, proved to be sacks, with broken bones (provided by a local butcher) protruding. Once dug out, they were replaced by live volunteers, ranging from a six-year-old girl to members of an operatic company, with grisly wounds painted on in grease-paint. One victim removed his glass eye to present an "injury" and was taken to a dressing-station where, to his surprise, he was dealt with by two men who had seen him lose the eye it replaced — in World War One.

Phials of radio-active material were hidden in the exercise area and ferreted out by radiation-meters.

While 1500 troops — Regular and Territorial Infantry, Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Engineers, Royal Army Service Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers — moved into Bristol by road, their commander, Colonel J. T. Gough, arrived by helicopter.

The exercise showed that the Army was working, basically, on the right lines but there were still plenty of details to be sorted out with the civilian authorities.

Some of them were dealt with when troops carried out a similar exercise at Portsmouth on a later Sunday. Here they were given a World War Two blitzed house to pull down. The exercise had a name with an apt Biblical association. It was "Macedonia," from the passage: "And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us."



Above: Bristol on a sleety Sunday morning. Troops and Civil Defence workers lower a casualty from the shell of a building.

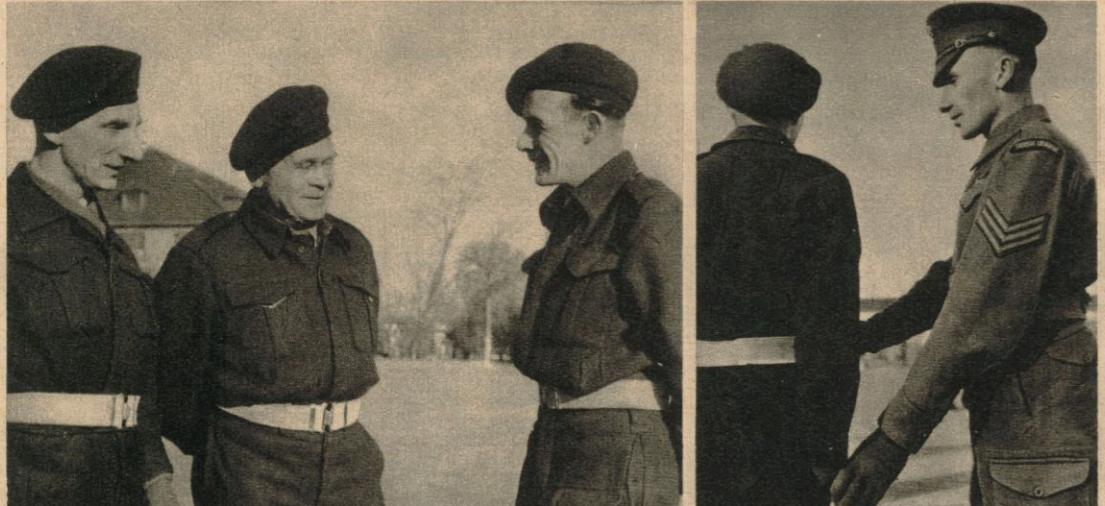
Left: Just another job for the Army. Here are a few of the 1500 soldiers (some bearing stretchers) who took part in an atom bomb exercise at Bristol.

German volunteers drill with British rifles, and obey orders in English, in the recently formed Watchmen's Service in Rhine Army. Their job: to guard military installations

Pictures by H. V. Pawlikowski



Above: Captain T. A. Russell checks his parade roll with a German liaison officer, who was once an officer in the German Army. Below: a squad of German instructors are coached in the British rifle by a Guards sergeant.



Left: Potential instructors—a former colonel, a major and a lieutenant, now in the Watchmen's Service. Right: Sergeant C. Weir shows a German how a British soldier holds a rifle when standing at attention.

MEN IN BROWN

FIVE platoons of Germans, dressed in British battle-dress dyed nigger brown, marched past a group of British and German press correspondents and photographers and wheeled on to the barrack-square.

British Guards sergeants took command and, giving their orders in English, instructed the men in arms drill with British rifles and Guards' foot drill movements.

This was an unusual occasion. The lie to Communist rumours that the British Army of the Rhine that a new German Army was being built up in secret in the Watchmen's Service of the German Service Organisation — and at the same time helping to give

The "secret army" was, in fact, the five platoons on the barrack-

square — the only Germans in the British Zone allowed to carry weapons on duty (apart from a few forest masters).

The 150 Germans in the brown uniforms were volunteers from the German Service Organisation (which carries out essential maintenance duties like building, driving, labouring and railway operating). They were being trained as potential instructors for squads of German watchmen, whose job will be to guard military installations so that Rhine Army can concentrate on its own training.

The need for Germans to carry out some of these guard duties arose partly because the number of Displaced Persons, who until recently supplied all the watchmen through the Civil Mixed Watchmen's Service, had dwindled through emigration and absorption into the German community. As their numbers decrease further and Rhine Army's commitments increase more German watchmen will be required.

The German watchmen will all be volunteers and they will remain civilians. They will be paid wages equal to those paid to German civilians doing similar jobs. Later they will be given a special uniform (the present brown battle-dress is only temporary). The squads will come under the command of the British units to which they are attached.

In offering contracts of between one and three years to German volunteers, Rhine Army has made it clear that there will be no discrimination in favour of former Wehrmacht officers or NCO's although inevitably many will have served in the German armed forces. Two potential instructors are, in fact, former colonels in the German Army; another was a gunner on board the *Graf Spee* at the Battle of the River Plate and several were *Luftwaffe* pilots.

In charge of the training is Captain T. A. Russell, of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, a professional hunter before he joined the Army. His experienced warrant officers and Guards sergeants have little difficulty in adapting the Germans to British methods. All words of command are given in English, but this causes no problem as all the Germans understand some English.

As well as rifle training and drill the Germans are given English lessons, and they have their own barrack library, reading-room and canteen. Several periods a week are set aside for physical training and sport.

"They seem to prefer the British drill to the German," one Guards sergeant told SOLDIER. "They are particularly pleased about the absence of heel clicking."

Homeless men of five different nationalities also belong to the Watchmen's Service. They include former doctors, labourers, soldiers and airmen

MEN IN BLUE

ON the same barrack-square where Germans are being trained in guard duties for Rhine Army, men of five other nationalities — Poles, Jugoslavs, Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians — are being taught the same job by British Army instructors.

They are some of the thousands of Displaced Persons who, unable to return to their own country, have volunteered to join the Watchmen's Service of the Mixed Service Organisation. For five weeks they are trained in rifle and foot drill and guard duties and then are sent by platoons to military units throughout the British Zone.

They, too, are wage-earning civilians who at 28 days notice can end their contracts with Rhine Army. They wear dark blue battle-dresses and berets. The leader of a platoon is called a superintendent (equal to a lieutenant), his three assistant wardens are equivalent to NCO's and the rest are watchmen.

All the platoon leaders can speak good English and some of the British NCO's can make themselves understood in several languages. CSM Denis McCready, of the Highland Light Infantry, for example, can speak a smattering of Polish and Jugoslav.

In the watchmen's ranks are a surprising variety of types. Middle-aged men who before the late war were doctors, architects, business men, journalists and clergymen train alongside labourers, carpenters and farmhands. There are also young men who had not reached their teens when they were brought with their families to Germany for forced labour during the war.

A 55-year-old Latvian, now a liaison officer for the Baltic watchmen, has served with seven different armies. In World War One he fought with the Czarist forces and in 1917 joined the Finnish Army. A year later he joined the Latvian Army and when Latvia was invaded by the Russians he escaped to fight with the Baltic *Landeswehr* (underground army). In 1940 he was on the Latvian General Staff and when the Latvian Army was conquered he was forcibly transferred to the Russian Red Army. He escaped to Germany in 1941, becoming chief Latvian interpreter with the German Army.

A young Jugoslav still proudly wears the silver wings of his country's air force with which he served as a fighter pilot for five years. A former lieutenant in the Polish Army, who escaped from Russia in 1941 only to be captured by the invading Germans, is now a superintendent.



Right: The Displaced Persons provide their own instructors, like the Jugoslav seen drilling his fellow countrymen. Left: This Pole has the rank of Superintendent. He was taken to Russia in 1941, escaped, was captured by the Germans. Below: CSM Denis McCready, Highland Light Infantry, discusses the British rifle with (left) a Latvian, who has served in seven armies (see story) and a former Jugoslav fighter pilot.



The Day the Cookhouse Became



"My dear! When you're not cooking for a family, you're cooking for a regiment. Still, it's nice to get hold of a decent-sized shoulder of mutton for once, isn't it?" This may or may not have been the gist of the conversation between these members of the winning team from Lancashire. Below: Bun-making team hard at it.



NEWS

WITH THE WRAC TERRITORIALS



"And what do you think of Army rations?" The Daily Sketch asks a few questions. Below: "Any complaints?" The winning team are seen with one of their "guinea pigs," Driver Alan Crispin.



USUALLY the cookhouse is OUT OF BOUNDS. But one recent Sunday morning the whole world — or so it seemed — looked into the cookhouse at Fulwood Barracks, Preston, Lancashire.

The attraction? A cookery contest between Territorial members of the Women's Royal Army Corps in Lancashire and Cheshire.

Some of the competitors were accustomed to spending Sunday morning cooking for their own families, but this time they were preparing a big-scale dinner for the Army. And their dishes had to undergo tasting by a grave and critical posse of colonels. The Army Catering Corps was there (to pick up a few hints?). The Royal Army Service Corps was there (to see the miraculous transformation of its rations). And the Royal Army Medical Corps was there (just why was the Royal Army Medical Corps there?).

The winners were 320 East Lancashire Battalion, Women's Royal Army Corps. They received a shield of honour from Major-General V. Blomfield, who commands the North-West District. Afterwards the men set to and devoured a memorable meal of soup, roast and stuffed shoulder of mutton, two veg., cauliflower au gratin and sweet.

Below: Colonel W. C. MacKinnon (right) decides that the food is eminently fit for human consumption. (Photographs: SOLDIER Cameraman DESMOND O'NEILL).



These students of London University belong to one of the newest Territorial units of the Women's Royal Army Corps. They are hearing a lecture by CSM K. M. Sexton.

UNIVERSITY GIRLS TAKE THE OATH

GIRLS training to be doctors, scientists and language specialists at London University have now followed the lead of Oxford, and formed their own company of the Women's Royal Army Corps.

Once a week, in the basement of Imperial Institute, South Kensington, they turn up for drill and leadership training. The aim is to encourage as many as possible to become Regular officers or take emergency commissions in the Territorial Army.

The company is part of 327th County of London Battalion of the women's Territorial Army. Each girl is addressed as "Cadet."

Their company commander, Captain Betty Paget Clarke, is a Regular. She encouraged recruiting by visiting ten women's colleges in the university and lecturing on the Army. She explained that although minimum service was for two years, the War Office would release any girl who left the university before the two years were up.

Captain B. Paget Clarke attests a new recruit. Girls are encouraged to train for a Regular or a Territorial commission.

The girls must do 40 training hours in their first year and 15 days at camp. Some of their time will be spent at the Women's Royal Army Corps training centre at Guildford. Many of the girls put in "overtime" in order to train in driving and 22 shooting — subjects which are not taught in normal training hours.

Some of them come from military families. Said Cadet Christine Spendlove: "My grandfather was a Cavalry major, and my father ran away from school to join the 7th Dragoon Guards."

Another, Cadet Pamela Barber, lived in India and Burma, where her father was a colonel.

The girls' Commanding Officer is Lieutenant-Colonel Diana Thorne CBE, daughter of General Sir Andrew Thorne, liberator of Norway in 1945.





SOLDIER SCRAPBOOK OF WORLD WAR TWO

PHOSPHOROUS: Flushing Japanese from fox-holes near Pagan, Burma, Sikh troops throw in phosphorous grenades, follow up with cold steel.

FLAME: Like fire-walkers, British Infantry advance over the Crocodile-scorched earth in the assault on St. Joost, during the drive through the Netherlands.



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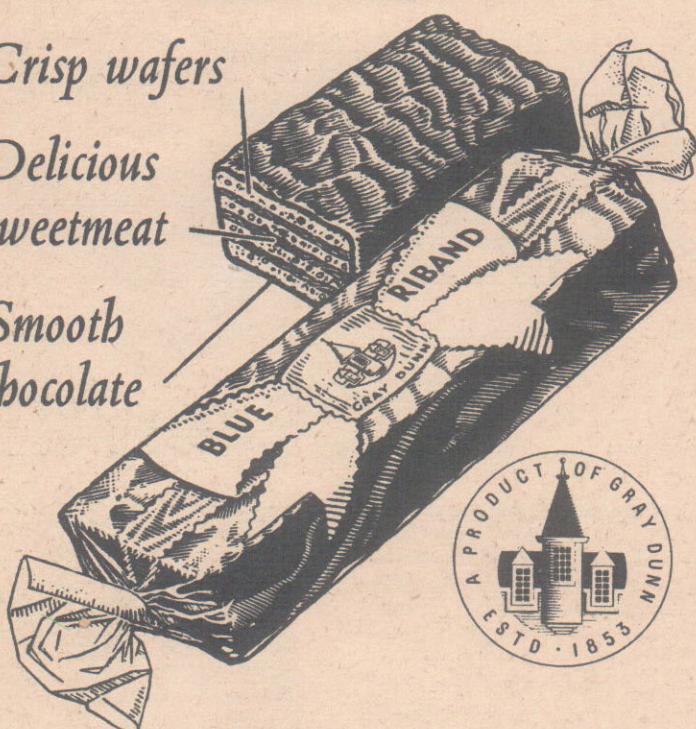
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CANADIAN SQUIRREL COATS	£285	£115
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SILVER FOX CAPES	£49	£27
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in these shoes?

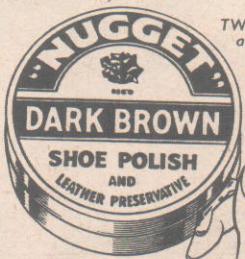


Off the set, he's an outdoor man. He likes his garden; enjoys cricket and riding. And he chooses outdoor shoes that are strong and smart. His name? Trevor Howard, famous British star of "The Clouded Yellow."

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Foul Play at Sandhurst

SOLDIER BOOKSHELF

WHO murdered the unpopular serjeant-major at Sandhurst? His body is found under the bars, ropes and nets in the "confidence area" of the Academy grounds — and it is obvious he has not died through excess of exercise.

That is the problem set in "Secrecy at Sandhurst" (Hurst and Blackett, 8s 6d), a detective novel by Charles Barry.

The unfortunate serjeant-major was not really the right type for a Sandhurst instructor, but what Sandhurst does not know (and the reader does, from the outset) is that he was planted there by Security. Was he murdered by an exasperated officer cadet, by an officer or a civilian lecturer? Or even by a jealous comrade from the married quarters (the victim, it seems, was "a hell of a lad for the women, and there's some real handsome bits o' goods over in the married quarters — saucy, too.")

Some embarrassment is caused to Sandhurst when every man in the place is required to write down what he was doing on the night in question. Many, alas, were "doing things they didn't oughter — drinking after hours, and that sort of thing." One officer at least had a good alibi — he had been detained in a raid on a London night-club and identified in a West-end police station.

The air of suspicion does the morale of the Academy no good... but the knave is winkled out. The Commandant has the last word in the book: "What we've got to do here at the RMAS is to forget the whole dam' thing."

The Poet Who Took a Bashing

IT was the year 1944. Lance-Corporal James Horton had written some poems which he was determined to see in print. But he was serving in a benighted station in North Africa, leagues from the nearest publisher. His only hope seemed to be to get to Algiers — but how?

Then Lance-Corporal Horton, who was a very plucky poet, had an idea. He put down his name for a regimental boxing contest in that city, though his knowledge of boxing was nil. He duly sustained "ten min-

NOVEMBER, 1918: the Armistice with Germany was about to be signed. To the famous Richthofen "Circus" came an order to surrender its aircraft — to the French.

"I am afraid you will have to comply," the commander of the "Circus" told his fellow air-crews, "but make sure that the French shall not get what they expect."

Germany's crack airmen took the hint. One by one they clumsily crash-landed on Strasbourg airfield, many of the planes being almost completely wrecked.

"A very successful operation" was the verdict of the commander. His name was Hermann Goering.

A generation later, after another world war, the same Hermann Goering was able to cheat his conquerors again — by swallowing a cyanide phial which saved him from a rope at Nuremberg.

The strange story of the rise of the "Nazi Nero" is told by Willi Frischauer in "Goering" (Odhams, 12s 6d). The author travelled widely in post-war Europe to piece together his most readable biography of a man whose guilt was described at his trial as "unique in its enormity." He talked to Frau Goering, General Karl Koller, General Karl Bodenschatz and the valet Robert Kopp.

Had Goering died in aerial combat during World War One, he would have been remembered with pride by the few instead of with execration by the many. His service with the Richthofen "Circus" was his "finest hour." One British airman who engaged in a dog fight with Goering's purple-and-yellow aircraft was Captain

utes bashing," but, in his own words, "It was worth it, for I got some of my poems published."

This heroic episode inspired a leading article in *The Times*, which said: "The trumpets have sounded on Parnassus for less devotion... and midnight oil seems a poor thing to burn and sacrifice compared with the blood that flowed from the lance-corporal's nose."

The Times leader is quoted in full in "The Noble Art" (Hollis and Carter, 12s 6d), an entertaining anthology about boxing by T. B. Shepherd.

This exclusive photograph from SOL-DIER's file shows Lieut. Hermann Goering (reclining) with a fellow officer of the Richthofen "Circus" in World War One. Goering was credited with shooting down 22 Allied aircraft. See review below.

chivalry; he could be good-natured; he was a poser and sometimes little more than a buffoon; he could show great dignity, and he could be a cry-baby. All in all, his character was one of great complexity.

Goering seems to have been a broken reed for a major part of World War Two. Hitler had little time for the *Luftwaffe*, of which Goering was the head, after its failure against England. And Goering had little time for Hitler's gangster entourage. At an early stage he began to neglect his duties; he would not sign papers or give much-needed decisions;

he kept himself hard of access, either in his extravagant pleasure-dome of Karinhall or in his armoured train. Much of the time he should have spent on affairs of state he devoted to ransacking the conquered lands of art treasures. And in his last years he was drugging himself hard — a habit of which he was finally broken by the prison doctor at Nuremberg.

One little-known story about Goering revealed in this book is that he visited London by air in 1937 for the Coronation. Ribbentrop, knowing what Britain thought of Goering even at that time, hushed up the news of his arrival and bundled him back. Goering's face was saved, but his pride was deeply wounded.

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Life in a Slap-Happy Army

HERE is a very odd book indeed. It is a first-hand description of life in the ranks of the Japanese Army, by a Japanese who was a conscript in the war against China, and who later served against us in World War Two.

His name is Hanama Tasaki, and his book is "Long The Imperial Way" (Gollancz, 12s 6d), printed, as written, in English.

What made Japanese troops march into a river and drown themselves rather than surrender? Or hurl themselves from a cliff? This book gives an insight into the dedicated mind of the Japanese soldier, a man who, in order to become a Private First-Class, had to be able to memorise the Emperor's Rescript, which said (among many other things) "... Be resolved that honour is heavier than the mountains and death lighter than a feather..." He had to be able, not only to recite the Rescript on demand, but to believe it, utterly. He had to have no spiritual doubts when summoned with his comrades to the deck of a troopship at dawn in order to present arms to the rising sun.

The soldiers of the late Japanese Army were rank-conscious to a surprising degree. Less than the dust was the First-Year Soldier, or recruit, who addressed the Private First-Class as "Honour-

A casualty of the Imperial Way: a Japanese soldier who surrendered in New Guinea. Others jumped off cliffs . . .



able Senior Soldier." Then there were the Regulars and the Reserves, who looked down on all the others. The advantage of being a Private First-Class was that you could slap the recruits under you (in turn you could be slapped by those over you). This ritual slapping was an astonishing, and to Western minds degrading, institution. A Private First-Class who had a bone to pick with the recruits would simply parade them and walk up and down the ranks slapping each man with his full strength on the cheek, as many times as he felt inclined. Officers slapped their men too. The military police, the hated *Kempei*, went much further than slapping; this book tells how they beat up a soldier who committed the crime of visiting the wrong brothel.

The slapped knew better than to nourish a grievance against the slapper. They continued to say "Thanks for your trouble" and "Please sleep well," like polite soldiers of the Emperor. At the end of it all (says the author) "They had the courage to charge a thousand enemy, but not the determination to stand up for a single individual right."

Tasaki describes the day-to-day life of occupation soldiers during the "China incident" — their ceremonies; their simple, and

often lewd, recreations; their pursuit of guerillas; their *saké* orgies; their officers' geisha parties. There is a battle in which a lieutenant who loses his nerve recovers it sufficiently to commit *hara-kiri*. Now and again a Japanese soldier is killed; when this happens his comrades burn his body and carry the ashes around with them until these can be sent to his relatives.

Tasaki writes simply and engagingly, and does not abase himself before the reader, as he might so easily have been tempted to do. According to his publisher, he wrote the book in the hope of raising enough money to buy a pedigree boar for his pig farm. By now he should have realised that ambition.

Wiring In Two Wars

THREE times Brigadier L. H. Harris campaigned in France. The first time he was a linesman in the Australian Army in World War One; the second time a Territorial major in the Royal Signals; and the third time a brigadier on the Anglo-American staff of Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force.

He tells of these excursions, and of his years between as a Post Office engineer, in "Signal Venture" (Gale and Polden, 18s).

A member of 44 Division, Major Harris shared in the heart-breaking adventure of Dunkirk. He recalls that one officer in his unit, lacking other means of booby-trapping his Signals installation, fell back on the schoolboy method of leaving the door ajar with a pile of books balanced on top.

Between Dunkirk and D-Day, the author helped to build up communications for the defence of Britain and then to prepare for the invasion of Europe. The latter task was not easy in 1941, when there were no operational plans to work on. But —

"If we had waited for a plan of operations we would have missed the boat completely. Typical of this situation was the question of the restoration of submarine cables to the Continent. Such cable can be manufactured only at the rate of a few miles a week, and several years would be re-

quired for the hundreds of miles that we should use."

And when all was ready, there occurred an incident which, the author says, spoiled his appetite for thrillers: one of his staff left the complete signal plan for the invasion of Europe, "one of the Topmost Secret documents of all time," in a taxi. Luckily the taxi-driver found the brief-case containing the plan in his vehicle and returned it intact.

After D-Day Brigadier Harris helped build up the immense signals network from Normandy to Germany, linking up with nearly 200 cross-Channel telephone circuits. The last war-time signal in North-West Europe — the surrender message — had nearly 200 addresses on it, including those of 92 Allied divisions. Brigadier Harris reports that it was cleared without effort by the SHAEF signal centre.

FOOTNOTE: Brigadier Harris had a hand in building up one of the war's hardest-to-pronounce sets of initials: AEFLLC, which stood for Allied Expeditionary Force Long Line Control.

THROUGH the eyes of a succession of characters, Ned Calmer in "The Strange Land" (Cape, 12s 6d) tells the six-day story of a fruitless American assault on the Siegfried Line.

Each character in turn pours out a "stream of consciousness" — his unspoken thoughts as well as his spoken ones. It is no book for an absent-minded reader, who may still be identifying himself with a man-hungry, irresistible WAC when he should have switched to a go-getting, ambitious general; or with a down-trodden private soldier instead of an iniquitous war correspondent.

The advantage of the technique is that it gives a full documentation of the operation in question. Perhaps the story (by an American) does not show up the American Army in too happy a light; it may suggest that the two things which we can well do without in war are women and war correspondents. But as a study of a combat force with frayed nerves it has its points, and the atmosphere of the "briefing room" is cleverly conveyed. What will needle many readers is the conviction of nearly all the characters that the British out there on the flank are pulling their punches.

WETHER they like it or not, the Guards owe something of their glamour to an erratic, passionate woman novelist who, under the pseudonym "Ouida," wrote romantic novels about them in mid-Victorian times.

"Ouida" (Maria Louisa Ramé) had a violent love affair with the Brigade in the late 'sixties. According to Eileen Bigland, authoress of "Ouida" (Jarrold, 16s) "she loved their moustaches, their gold lace, their medals, their skin-fitting uniforms... To her

they were one and all members of ancient houses, champion amateur steeplechase riders, welcome visitors at Court, patrons of the arts, and honoured guests at any European embassy."

"Ouida" used to invite the Guards (the officers, not the Palace sentries) to sherry. She told her all (or nearly all) she wanted to know. Her love affair with the Brigade caused a certain amount of scandal; because she stayed on with the men after

dinner when they smoked, she was accused of taking part in orgies.

Her most famous book was "Under Two Flags." It was about the Hon. Bertie Cecil, of the Life Guards, "the handsomest man in all the Household Regiments," who was forced to join the French Foreign Legion, where he fell in love with a little charmer called Cigarette. Bertie was known in the Brigade as "Beauty." He had "a face of as much delicacy and

brilliance as a woman's, handsome, thoroughbred, languid, nonchalant." His hair was "of the softest, silkiest chestnut"; his mouth was "very beautifully shaped"; and his eyes had a "gentle, mournful, love-me look."

That was "Beauty" . . . and he lived (until the cash ran out) in an Aladdin's Cave of a flat in Piccadilly, amid ivory whip stands and silver dressing-cases. The public fell for this lush picture of a Guardsman in a big way, and "Ouida" was famous. So were the Guards.

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The start of the Army cross-country championships for 1951.

(Photographs: SOLDIER Cameraman Leslie A. Lee)

Six Miles Hard

TWENTY-NINE years old Serjeant John Bernard Hiney, officers' mess steward to the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment at Barnard Castle told his regimental team before the Army cross-country championships: "We are going to win this race."

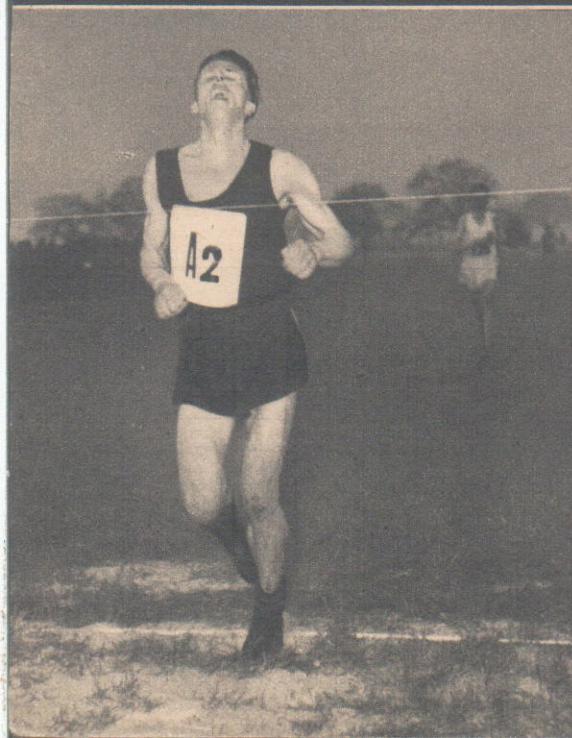
And at Lichfield they did, with Serjeant Hiney repeating his 1947 performance by coming in first in just over 33 minutes. But afterwards he said: "It was hard going."

Although the course was only six miles long (cross-country runs often extend to ten miles) recent heavy rain and newly-ploughed fields combined to curb speed.

Last gasp of the race for the winner, Serjeant J. B. Hiney, as he crosses the line. Then...

... after collapsing, he is helped away to get his breath back before...

... being awarded the individual challenge cup. His recovery seems complete.





Champion team was that of the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment, representing Northern Command. Here they receive their medals from Lieut-General A. E. Percival, Colonel of the Cheshire Regiment.

For Serjeant Hines it was quite a feat. In 1949 he came in third, last year only 19th. The first half-dozen out of a field of 85 runners arrived almost in a bunch.

Southern Command's Parachute Regiment were second in the inter-unit championships. Individual second place went to Private F. D. Sando, Royal Army Service Corps, a well-known Kent County runner. Serjeant-Instructor J. Bromley, Army Physical Training Corps from the Royal Military Police Depot was third and Lance-Corporal J. Price of the Cheshires was fourth. Lance-Corporal G. Weeks-Pearson of the Home Counties Group Training Centre, who was seventh, is a protégé of the world-famous runner, Sidney Wooderson.

Notable Army athletes who took part in the championships were Lieutenant A. K. Maughan of the 37th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, who is the Army Steeplechase champion; Captain R. A. Morris, Royal Engineers from Kidderminster, who holds the Army record for the mile; and 2/Lieutenant D. C. Birch, Royal Signals, who raced in the 10,000 metres event in Paris last summer.

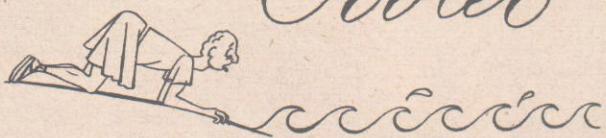
Present to congratulate the Cheshire Regiment on their achievement was their Colonel, Lieut-General A. E. Percival, GOC Malta in 1942.

Serjeant Hiney received his cup from General Sir Gerald Templer, GOC-in-C Eastern Command who is president of the Army Athletic Cross-country and Road-walking Association.

As they finished, the runners were sent, in order of arrival, through the "Funnel" to record points for their teams.



Classical Cooler



Do you remember an ancient by the name of Tantalus? In punishment for some unacceptable piece of behaviour he was placed by a river, but whenever he tried to drink, the water moved away from his lips. He worked up a sensational and eternal thirst, and incidentally gave his name to a decanter devised to baffle unauthorised parties trying for a drink. There are times when we all feel as dry as Tantalus. So when thus tantalised, make the most of the enjoyment to come. Let your mind dwell on the Rose's Lime Juice bottle, the slim lines and cool colour. Think of the long glasses, the clear water and tinkling ice, the reviving tang. And when you actually feel this most famous of cooling drinks flowing through your parched being, remember: if you ask for Rose's, thirst becomes a privilege.



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How Much Do You Know?

1. The "Hundred Days" was a very tense period in Europe's history. What happened then?

2. If your neighbour is a xenophobe, he doesn't like: sport, foreigners, meat, doctors, crooners—which?

3. Can you name an island off Africa with two "Z's" in it?

4. From what type of wood did the Britons like to fashion their long bows?

5. He was one of the world's greatest conquerors. He drove the Turks out of Asia, he ravaged southern Russia and northern India. He over-ran China twice, and died when invading it a third time. All who met his funeral procession were slaughtered, so that the news should not reach his homeland. Who was he?

6. Are any of these statements correct:

- (a) Sponges are vegetable;
- (b) A quagga is an Australian bog;
- (c) The Great Pitch Lake is in Bermuda;
- (d) SOLDIER is printed by photogravure.

7. J. B. Priestley has written another very long novel "in the manner of 'The Good Companions.'" Its name?

8. When Americans talk about the victrola, what do they mean?

9. Who plays Delilah in the current film version of "Samson and Delilah"?

10. Where is the Black Museum? What would you expect to find in it?

11. An English inn called "Help The Poor Struggler" has a celebrated landlord. What is his name?

12. Who wrote:

*Vice is a monster of so frightful mien,
As, to be hated,
needs but to be seen;
Yet seen too oft,
familiar with her face,
We first endure,
then pity, then embrace.*

13. If a man calls you bibulous, he means:

- (a) you talk too much;
- (b) you sleep too much;
- (c) you drink too much;
- (d) you eat too much.

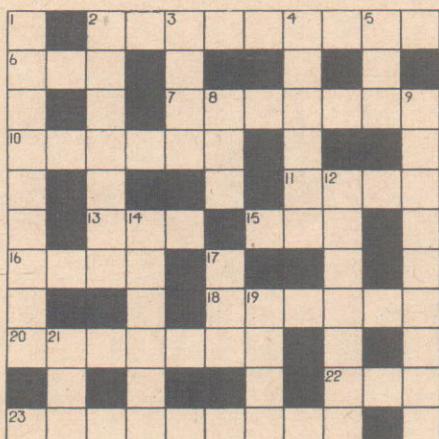
Which?

14. Odd that such a distinctive young actress as this should be called Smith. But her first name is distinctive enough. What is it?



(Answers on Page 45)

CROSSWORD



tale. 18. Pea in a short month. 20. A sticker. 22. Not your. 23. "True print" (anag.).

DOWN: 1. Produce of sugar-fed fat-stock? 2. Fresh headland, perhaps. 3. It's smart in Icelandic hickory. 4. Cats in grotesque postures. 5. Girl from Lake Success? 8. Nothing gross about this. 9. They are proverbially worthy of their hire. 12. One with no possessions (two words). 14. Yes, yes, sailor! (two words). 17. Lap up. 19. South American country. 21. One up to the cricketer.

(Answers on Page 45)

ACROSS: 2. "Curing AAA" (anag.). 6. Little Scotch. 7. Sign shortly. 10. Two-thirds of this girl is pleasant. 11. A river fish. 13. Trench. 15. There are four dozen of them. 16. Midshipman hero of boys'

FILMS COMING YOUR WAY

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

THE ELUSIVE PIMPERNEL

Baroness Orczy's Scarlet Pimpernel, in full colour, dashing gaily from the London of Regency bucks into the middle of the French revolutionary Terror to rescue aristocrats from the guillotine. David Niven plays the lead with Margaret Leighton as Lady Blakeney. Cyril Cusack is the monster Chauvelin, who counts sheep leaping a stile to get to sleep, then has a nightmare about aristocrats with long hanging white curls leaping over the same stile to safety. Jack Hawkins, as the Prince of Wales, competes with the hero in a coach race, filmed in and around Saverne Forest.

MURDER WITHOUT CRIME

This film starts off like the first act of a stage farce. Husband and wife quarrel; wife rushes off into the night; husband hits the bottle, takes glamour-girl home; telephone rings: wife wants to make-up and is coming home right away; glamour-girl refuses to leave. But from there on it becomes serious; there is a corpse hidden in the ottoman and a black-mailer. With Dennis Price, Derek Farr, Patricia Plunkett and Joan Dowling.

THE BREAKING POINT

In this case, the breaking-point is when poverty forces the skipper of a small boat to turn to crime, with violent results. The film is based on a story by Ernest Hemingway and the stars are John Garfield and Patricia Neal.

WALK SOFTLY, STRANGER

Joseph Cotten and Valli, who appeared together in "The Third Man," are together again. Cotten plays one of those gangsters who determine to go straight, only to have their past catch up with them.

TEA FOR TWO

Memories of one of the most popular musical shows of the 'twenties, "No, No, Nannette," are revived in colour. Some extra songs are thrown in for good measure and Doris Day and Gordon MacRae head the cast.

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LETTERS

MORE THAN 22 YEARS

I have read in a newspaper that the rules which affect signing on for more than 22 years have been altered. Can you give accurate details, please? — "Ten Years A Regular" (name and address supplied).

★ Certain changes are foreshadowed in a memorandum accompanying the new Army Estimates. The Secretary for War says:

"We are endeavouring to make soldiers' careers in the Army more attractive by changes in the conditions under which men may volunteer for long service. We now allow soldiers below the rank of sergeant to apply to re-engage for 22 years service after they have served nine years, whereas hitherto they could not make such application until they were serving the last year of a 12-years engagement. I propose to ask the House to agree to an amendment to the Army Act to allow soldiers, who have re-engaged, to apply to continue in the service beyond 22 years, when they have completed 15 years service. This modification will, we hope, attract more Regular soldiers to undertake long-term engagements."

Existing rules say that a soldier may undertake service beyond 22 years in the last year of his 22-years engagement.

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

Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published.

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

education abroad, where necessary. Such assistance should be equally available where boarding school education at home is necessary for the children of Service people stationed abroad. By extension of this principle, it should also be available for children of parents stationed at home when the children are of an age when movement from one school to another would be harmful to their education.

Financial assistance with boarding education should at least be equal to the cost of the normal State tuition which is not properly and continuously available to them — I believe £35 and £65 a year for primary and secondary education respectively. — Major R. J. A. Hockenhull, RASC, Perth.

★ This subject is touched on in an article on pages 14-16.

WINCHESTER '73

May one of the lesser breeds without the law stick in his two cents' worth? If Private Seymour re-reads the letter which roused his wrath he will find that there was no suggestion that the British Army should adopt the Winchester '73, but that it should adopt a rifle of this type, or any type capable of a higher rate of fire than the bolt-action rifle now issued. Personally, I think the idea a good one. There is a certain rifle of .30 calibre, three-and-a-half feet long and weighing nine-and-a-half pounds. It is air-cooled and semi-automatic, loaded in clips of eight rounds each. Its mechanism is gas-operated, each shell being ejected as soon as it is fired, by the expanding gases of its own explosion. At the end of eight rounds the empty clip is also ejected and the bolt held open to facilitate quick reloading. The rifle is capable of a sustained rate of fire of 150 rounds a minute, which is about as fast as a man can pull the trigger and reload. Its range, with ball cartridge, is 5500 yards. It can also fire .30 calibre light machine-gun cartridges, including armour-piercing, incendiary and tracer. The name of this weapon? The United States Army rifle M-1, sometimes known as the Garand.

I am not advocating that the British Army adopt the M-1 rifle, but I am using it to illustrate and reinforce the statements of many of Britain's great military leaders, including Field-Marshal Sir William Slim, "that greater emphasis should be placed on the individual weapons of the soldier and the part the soldier has to play in modern warfare, rather than on great masses of heavy weapons."

Having submitted my two cents' worth I shall now dig myself a fox-hole in preparation for the brickbats which I expect will be hurled in my direction. — Cpl. Don McGreevey, S-3 Br., Berlin Military Post, APO 742, US Army Europe.

In February's **SOLDIER** Private Seymour criticises the Winchester



Joke idea and drawing submitted by B. Velvarsky, Tangmere, Sussex.

CB/X. 4/3

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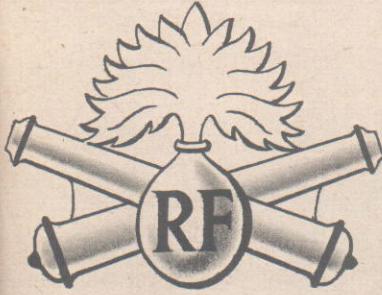
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'73. As a collector of these rifles I would like to point out some errors he made. He says that no tubular magazine lever-action rifle will handle powerful military cartridges. The Winchester '71 is regarded as the fastest and most powerful heavy calibre, hand-operated rifle in the world. With a 150-grain bullet it has a muzzle velocity of 2920 feet per second.

I have never experienced any discomfort or fatigue when using a '73, nor have I found it difficult to use in a prone position. While the '73 was never accepted as a military weapon it is interesting to note that its big brother — the Model '76, was the official rifle of the Royal North-West Mounted Police until 1914. — F. G. Aylott, 62 Pondcroft Rd., Knebworth, Herts.

FOUND IN SINAI

I found the badge sketched here while on manoeuvres in the Sinai desert. It seems to be quite old, and



no one in the unit has seen one like it. Can you tell me what badge it is?

— Gnr. M. Hall, MT Section 186 Bty.,

71 HAA Regt. RA, MELF 15.

★ The badge depicted in the sketch is worn by French Artillerymen on the front of their steel helmets. It was introduced about 1916. RF stands for Republique Francaise — as well as Royal Fusiliers.

THAT NEW DRESS

In the February issue of SOLDIER is a picture of a girl wearing the new dress issued for service in the Far East. The article says that no one-piece dress has previously been issued to the Women's Royal Army Corps or its predecessor, the Auxiliary Territorial Service. May I point out that when the first ATS embarked for the Middle East on 3 September 1940, their uniforms were replaced by dresses. These were of a woollen material, not nearly as smart as those now issued. They were all badly fitting and the party, of which I was one, spent the first few days at sea wearing overalls while the dresses were altered by hand.

During our stay in the Middle East the dresses were found to be impracticable — not warm enough in winter and too warm in summer. We were later issued with khaki drill and I do not think the dresses were seen again.

I would like to emphasise the fact that the first ATS went to the Middle East in 1940. Credit for being the pioneers is usually given to the much larger party that went out late in 1941. — Mrs. J. Cockram, 8 Penyghent Avenue, York.

TANK SHIP CREWS

I read with interest your article in the December SOLDIER on the good work done by the RASC Fleet. As a member of that fleet, at present serving on LST's (Landing Ships, Tank) I would like to point out that these vessels are manned by Merchant Navy crews, not Army crews as those reading the article might think. — H. Osmond, Chief Electrician, SS Snowden Smith, c/o 98 Coy RASC. ★ SOLDIER's article said: "There are British and Malayan soldiers and civilians as skippers, coxswains, marine engineers and deckhands."

BANDMASTERS

There has been some argument in our mess about the rank and status of a Bandmaster. Is he an honorary member of the Warrant Officers' Mess? Would he be next senior to the Regimental Sergeant-Major? Is he, in fact, a civilian? — Cpl. A. Simmons, Band, 1 Bn. East Yorks Regt., BAOR.

★ The Bandmaster is a Warrant Officer Class I and a soldier, in all respects subject to military law. He would be a full member of the Warrant Officers' Mess and would take precedence there according to seniority. The Regimental Sergeant-Major, or his equivalent, would be Mess President, however; the Bandmaster would not. It is nearly 100 years since Army bands had civilian Bandmasters, although there is a comparatively recent case — in the 1920's — of a civilian being specially enlisted with a view to appointment as the conductor of a Regular Army band.

CROIX-DE-GUERRE

The January SOLDIER mentions that the 5th Field Battery RA is one of three units which have just received permission to wear the Croix-de-Guerre ribbon. When I became BSM of that battery in January 1947 all ranks were already wearing the ribbon under the badge in their hats. Later I remember hunting in the shops of Karachi for a further supply. Copies of the citation hung in the dining hall and messes. The colours of the ribbon were painted on all gun shields. The medal itself, as presented to the Battery, was in a beautiful silver casket and was on show on all ceremonial days. Croix-de-Guerre day was a holiday with sports and dances.

The letter to the unit announcing the award was signed by a Major B. L. Montgomery, Brigade Major. He is now Field-Marshal Montgomery and the letter is among the Battery's treasured possessions. — WO II V. R. Flint, No. 1 Maintenance Unit RA, Shrapnel Bks., Woolwich.

In your article "Three More Units Wear This Ribbon", SOLDIER, January, no mention is made of the 7th Battalion The South Wales Borderers, who were awarded the Croix-de-Guerre in 1918. This battalion was disbanded in 1919 and reformed in 1940 when permission was obtained by me, as Commanding Officer, for the ribbon to be worn on our sleeves immediately below the shoulder title. The battalion wore it the whole time they were in existence. — Lieut-Col. E. M. G. Earle, Brynglas, Cradoc Rd., Brecon.

★ SOLDIER is informed that although the 7th Battalion The South Wales Borderers was cited in French Army Orders and the citation was republished in British Order 216 of 1919, no record can be found in the War Office of an emblem being awarded.

ON TO UNIVERSITY

I have been accepted by Durham University for the term beginning in October 1951, but because of the extra six months added to whole-time National Service I am now not due for release until December. Is there any way in which I can get premature release?

If I do go to university, how am I going to complete my part-time Territorial training? — Sjt. W. R. Porteous, c/o Sjts' Mess, HQ Scottish Command, The Castle, Edinburgh.

★ National Servicemen who joined for service on or before 13 April 1950 and who have been accepted for whole-time vacancies in approved universities and colleges for the year 1951/52 may apply for premature discharge in order to attend the autumn term. Applications must be supported by evidence of acceptance to the university. The balance of

whole-time service will be added to the part-time service.

The final policy governing the part-time service of National Servicemen who go to a university on completion of their whole-time service has not yet been decided. Provisionally, a limited number will be allowed to do their part-time service with the University Training Corps (TA) (See War Office Memorandum 9/Gen/4014 (M. P. 3), dated 5 October 1950).

THE FIRST VC

Can you please tell me who was the first VC of the 1939-45 war and who was the first man awarded the VC for service in the Middle East? — Cpl. C. S. Taylor, 339 Plant Park Sqdn. RE, BAOR 5.

★ The first Victoria Cross of the 1939-45 war was posthumously

Answers

(from Page 42)

How Much Do You Know?

1. Within 100 days in 1815 Napoleon escaped from Elba, returned to France, was beaten at Waterloo.
2. Foreigners.
3. Zanzibar.
4. Yew.
5. Genghis Khan. His homeland was Mongolia.
6. (a) wrong — sponges are skeletons of minute creatures; (b) wrong — a quagga is an animal of the zebra type; (c) wrong — the Great Pitch Lake is in Trinidad; (d) right.
7. Festival at Farbridge.
8. The gramophone.
9. Hedy Lamarr.
10. Scotland Yard; crime relics.
11. Albert Pierpoint, the executioner.
12. Alexander Pope.
13. You drink too much.
14. Alexis.

Crossword

ACROSS: 2. Nicaragua. 6. Wee. 7. Initial. 10. Eunice. 11. Chub. 13. Sap. 15. USA. 16. Easy. 18. Appear. 20. Treacle. 22. Our. 23. Interrupt.

DOWN: 1. Sweetmeat. 2. Newness. 3. Chic. 4. Antics. 5. Una. 8. Net. 9. Labourers. 12. Have not. 14. Aye. Aye. 17. Pal. 19. Peru. 21. Run.

awarded to Captain B. A. W. Warburton-Lee R.N. for service in HMS Harvey at the first Battle of Narvik on 10 April 1940 (published in the London Gazette on 7 June 1940).

The first VC awarded for service in Middle East Command went to Second-Lieutenant Premindra Singh Bhagat of the Corps of Indian Engineers, who was attached to the Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners. The award was made for services at Mettema on 31 January and 1 February 1941 (published in the London Gazette of 10 June 1941).

Captain E. C. T. Wilson of the East Surrey Regiment, attached to the Somaliland Camel Corps, was awarded the VC for service on Observation Hill in Somaliland, the award being published on 11 October 1940, but although Somaliland might be included in the general term "Middle East," it was not part of the Middle East Command.

THE KING'S MEDALS

What medal ribbons does the King wear? — "Interested" (name and address supplied).

★ He wears those of the GCB, GCSI, GCMG, GCIE, GCVO, GBE, 1914-18 Star, General Service Medal, Allied Victory Medal with Mention, 1939-45 Star, Italy Star, France and Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal, Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee, King Edward VII Coronation Medal, King George V Coronation Medal, King George V Jubilee Medal, Territorial Efficiency Decoration with clasp, Order of Saint Vladimir of Russia, Norwegian War Cross, Greek Gallantry Medal, USA Medal (Operations), French Croix-de-Guerre.

The Territorial Efficiency Decoration with clasp has only recently been worn by the King, as he has just completed 18 years as honorary Colonel of the 4th Battalion Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

Letters Continued Overleaf

WEEKLY OVERSEAS MAIL HOME AND FORCES EDITION

THE
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MORE LETTERS

STAR BADGE?

To give incentive to every soldier below the rank of sergeant, star classification awards should be denoted by a badge worn on the left sleeve of the battle-dress blouse. As the pre-1939 soldier wore his special proficiency badge above his good conduct chevrons, so the soldier of today should wear the number of stars he has attained. I would suggest gold or white stars on a black background, the number of stars being equivalent to the wearer's pay classification. The enforced wearing of this badge would encourage all ranks to gain the maximum award and a more highly trained Army would result. — Cpl. H. Warren, 1 Bn., The Royal Fusiliers, BAOR 24.

EXTRA GRATUITY?

I am serving on a short-service engagement and am being held under the ban on release to serve beyond the end of my engagement. Will I get any extra gratuity for the extra time served? — Gnr. Hudson, c/o 7 Jubilee Bldgs., St. John's Wood, London NW 8.

* This question was discussed in the House of Commons on 22 November 1950. The Minister of Defence, Mr. E. Shinwell, said that the normal rule for men serving on engagements of this type was that no additional gratuity was payable for the continued service. Some doubt had arisen, however, as to how this rule applied to other ranks serving under the special post-war bounty schemes. The matter was under consideration.

There has been no further announcement since then.

NO BOUNTY

I have completed a 12-year engagement, plus three years supplementary service, making a total of 15 years pensionable service. If I now re-engage to complete 22 years, will I receive £100 re-engagement bounty as laid down in ACI 672 of 1950? — CQMS J. Garlick, 6 Highfield Rd., Chilwell Depot, Notts.

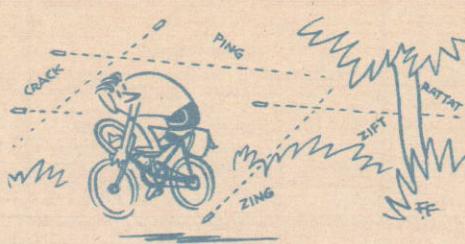
* As CQMS Garlick has more than ten years to count towards pension from his former engagement he cannot "re-engage" to complete 22 years. He can only "extend" his current supplementary service to complete 12 years with the Colours, thus giving him 24 years for pension. Therefore he cannot be eligible for the £100

bounty granted to men who re-engage to complete 22 years.

Men who extend their current engagements to complete 12 years with the Colours are normally entitled to £50 bounty, but this is regarded as an advance and is deducted from their terminal bounty if they do not re-engage after completing the 12 years. In this case the soldier will be retiring with a pension after completing 12 years on his current engagement and will be precluded from re-engaging. It has therefore been decided that in cases such as this, no extension bounty can be issued.

CYCLING IN MALAYA

I was gratified to read in SOLDIER recently that at long last there is an Army Cyclists' Union. I made several abortive attempts to establish cycling in the Army back in 1929, but racing successes in all parts of Britain and in Ireland had virtually no effect on Army Sports Boards. Nor did my organisation of China's first cycling club (The Shanghai Wheelers) in 1933 and the Hong-Kong Cycling Club a year later, besides a splendidly supported cycling section in the Chinese YMCA at Hong-Kong. I stayed in the China station until 1939



and of the 40-odd road records garnered there only one has so far been broken.

Malaya in 1939-41 presented me with a different problem. Road racing already enjoyed some popularity, except among Servicemen, but had a "shamateur" flavour. Cycle agents "supported" the leading riders who advertised their machines, equipment and so on. A handful of us had almost achieved an amateur-professional split when the Japanese intervened. Since the war, both road and track racing in the Federation and Singapore have increased in pop-

ularity and fortunately there are few signs of its pre-war "shamateurism." European participation is at present confined to Singapore Island, but this is not to be wondered at when road races promoted by the Selangor and Perak Cycling Associations are sometimes cancelled because of bandit-infested routes!

I know of no Service cycling organisation in the Federation, but there is a RAF cycling section on Singapore Island, where it was possible until recently to ride a "century" (100 miles) without giving any thought to the vagaries of the Malayan Communist Party. An offer of free Machines for Service cyclists would bring scant response up-country, where armed escorts are needed on all roads outside town limits. My own training ground is a difficult six-miles circuit on the outskirts of Taiping and Kajang in Perak, but I have been over the 110 miles Taiping to Ipoh and back route recently.

Although the foundations of the Army Cyclists' Union must remain with the unit clubs in Home Command, we hope it will make every effort to influence cyclists the world over through the best of all ambassadors — the soldier. — Capt. H. A. G. Keates, RASC, HQ North Malaya Sub-District, Taiping, Perak.

GURKHA POLICE

It was good to read in the article "Fighters From the Himalayas" that the British Army is to retain Gurkhas in its line of battle.

The article states that for the first time Gurkhas are being trained to take their place in the Corps of Royal Military Police. I would like to point out that when I was CQMS of the 2nd Indian Base Provost Company CMP in Baghdad in 1945 there was a considerable proportion of Gurkha Other Ranks on the strength of the company. Then, as now, they wore the Gurkha hat with red puggaree and CMP badge. — Lieut. K. M. Ellis, 51 (H) Inf. Div. Provost Coy., RMP (TA).

ENGLISH PIPERS

I have read the correspondence about the pipers of the Middlesex Regiment in the January and February SOLDIER. The names and numbers of eleven pipers will be found in "The Pipes in War" by Colonel Bruce Seton and Pipe-Major John Grant, published in 1920. I believe that the 16th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, was the first English regiment to have a pipe band. As a matter of interest the 23rd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, also had a pipe band, according to my information. — H. G. Harper, 5 Craigs Avenue, Edinburgh 12.

NEW BADGE

THE King has authorised a new badge for the Royal Army Educational Corps. It incorporates the traditional Torch of Learning.

The existing badge shows an open book superimposed on crossed rifles and crossed lances, with the Corps scroll below.

The Torch has already appeared on flashes of training units in Britain and Rhine Army, and is also found on the flash of Aldershot District, which contains many training establishments.



WIDOWS' FUND

I believe there is a fund which, for an annual subscription, pays £1000 to the widow of an officer who dies while serving overseas. Can you give me details? — Capt. I. D. Hart RE, Officers' Mess, School of Infantry, Hythe, Kent.

* The Military Widows' Fund is open to all officers holding commissions in the Regular Army, including short-service commissions, if they are serving overseas. An annual subscription of £3 will ensure that a widow receives £900 if the officer dies while on the strength of an overseas command. Widowers with dependent children may become subscribers, the benefit being payable to the children. The benefit is payable regardless of where the widow or children are residing at the time of the officer's death. Full details can be obtained from The Secretary, Room 634, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London W 1.

HOME TO WED

My fiancée is serving with the Women's Royal Army Corps in the Middle East. Can she return to Britain to get married? — Drummer B. Donable, Drums, 1 Bn. Irish Guards, Chelsea Barracks, London SW 1.

* A member of the WRAC (but not an officer) may apply to be posted to home establishment. ACI 1074 of 1947 says that an engaged woman serving abroad may be posted to the home establishment provided she can satisfy the overseas command that her purpose in returning to Britain is to get married as soon as possible after her return.

"A POEM FOR KOREA"

SOLDIER is always magnificently produced and full of excellent things. But I doubt whether you have ever published anything more splendid than "A Poem For Korea" (February). I feel I must at once write you and the anonymous poet a word of thanks for it. Have we at last found a poet who can write of the heroism of ordinary men out of a compassionate heart and with the voice of real inspiration?

Published separately as an illustrated broadsheet this moving poem would have an immense circulation. — The Rev Frank S. Jarvis, Senior Chaplain, Northern Ireland District.

CLANG

In the January SOLDIER the 8th Hussars in Korea are stated to be equipped with flame-throwing Cromwell tanks. Allow me to point out that the only Crocodile (flame-throwing) unit out here is Charlie Squadron, 7th Royal Tank Regiment. The tanks are not Cromwells but Churchill. — Cpl. J. R. Casey, "C" Squadron, 7 RTR, BAPO 3.

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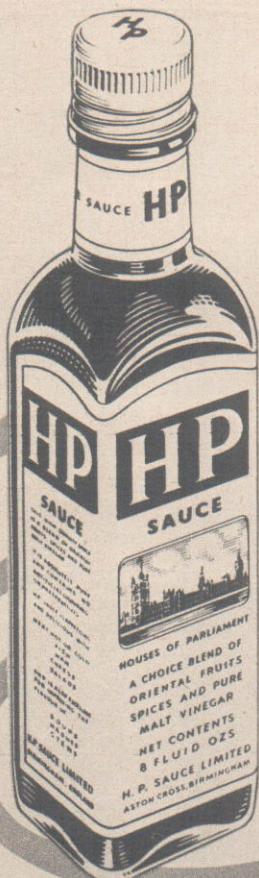


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DIANA DORS

— J. Arthur Rank

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On a crocus?)



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