

# SOLDIER

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

JULY 1955

NINEPENCE



AF WILES.





from Tea

A cigarette and a cup of tea—two of the minor pleasures of life, but such as few would be without. This is as true of the members of Her Majesty's Forces as of most of us.

As the official caterers to Her Majesty's Forces, Naafi has the task of ensuring that a cup of tea and a cigarette are always readily available.

So it is that Naafi serves more than 154,000,000 cups of tea a year and is one of the biggest buyers of tobacco in the United Kingdom. Behind the scenes the vast network of Naafi's buying, testing, sampling and distributing organisations deliver blended teas and tobaccos and cartons of cigarettes wherever Servicemen and their families may be.

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to Tobacco

... this many sided

# NAAFI

The official canteen organisation for H.M. Forces,

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## If you were Ken Wharton

—the famous racing driver, and had just got back to the pits after 15 laps at Goodwood,

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"Shall I buy you a ribbon, dear?"



SARGE has such a *nice* sense of humour—especially when he's being funny with someone else! He's got what most sergeants have got, too—an eye for scruffy, untidy hair. It's the one thing that really drives him up the wall!

And Sarge is dead right, you know! It does look bad, on parade and off. Very often, dry, unmanageable hair is a sign of Dry Scalp, and there's one sure way of checking that—'Vaseline' Brand Hair Tonic.

Here's a tactical exercise that's worth carrying out: gently massage a few drops of 'Vaseline' Hair Tonic into the scalp every morning. It takes only 20 seconds and it leaves your hair neat and well-groomed all day.

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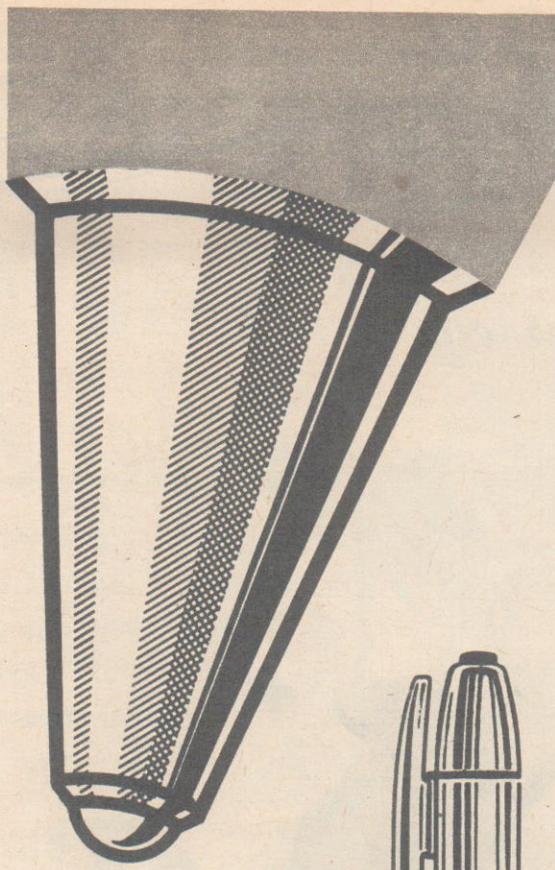


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who invented the ballpoint

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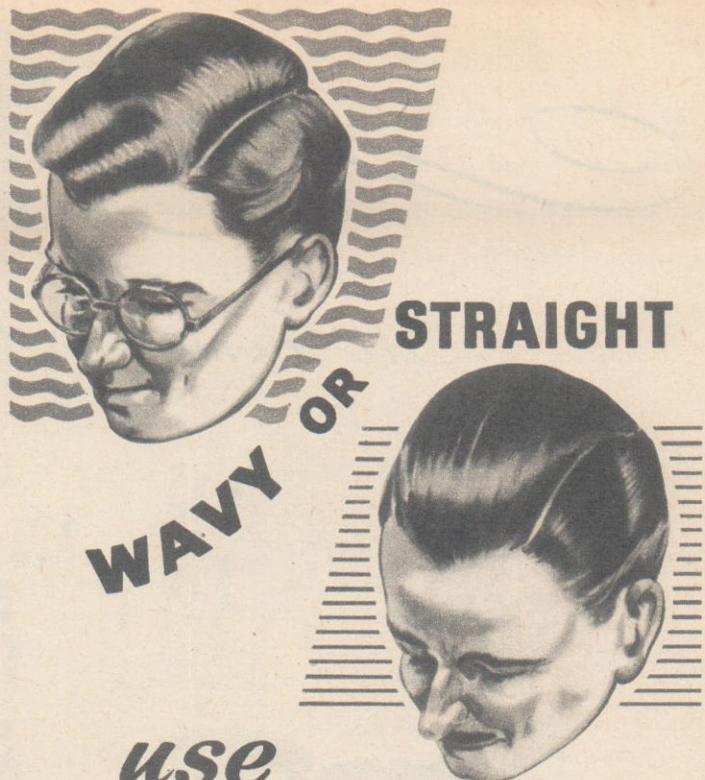
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*for Control  
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### Concentrated for Economy

Tru-gel is highly concentrated. A 'bead' of it, no larger than your finger-nail, is sufficient for the average head of hair. There are 120 such 'beads' in each tube, giving many weeks of superlative hair dressing for 2/9.

Tru-gel is manufactured by E. GRIFFITHS HUGHES LTD., MANCHESTER, and is sold by all chemists, hairdressers and stores, 2/9 per tube.



PB 26/1

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# OUT OF THE ALPS

Ten years ago three battle-hardened British divisions moved up into the wreck of Austria, jostling with Russians and Jugoslavs. Now the task is over, and the last battalion is pulling out

**B**Y early Autumn, the British soldier will have taken his last look at the Danube and the Austrian Alps.

Of all the post-war evacuations, this will perhaps be the Army's simplest. Like the ten little nigger boys, the battalions out in Austria got steadily fewer until there was only one. That one is the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment.

With the departure of the last soldier Austria will have seen the end of 17 years of occupation, including Hitler's.

Once the wreckage of war had been tidied up, Austria was a popular posting, especially for soldiers with the urge to ski. For the British Army, the main garrisons were Klagenfurt, amid lakes and castle-topped crags; Vienna, with its woods, its palaces, its Prater; Graz, the onion-towered town beyond the Alps, looking down to the plains of Hungary; and Spittal, in a picturesque valley of the Tyrol.

Surprisingly, it turned out to be a quiet occupation. The strife which arose in Four-Power Berlin rarely cropped up in Four-Power Vienna. Often the Semmering was simmering, but real trouble stayed away.

When World War Two ended, the role of occupying Austria was allotted to 6th Armoured Division, 78th and 46th Infantry Divisions, all under Eighth Army. They had moved up from Italy.

They found a large defeated German Army estimated at a quarter of a million troops, over whom their commanders had little or no control. It contained two complete corps of Cossacks and Hungarians, besides 80,000 Displaced Persons of 30 nationalities, driven into the area of the Klagenfurt valley.

It had been agreed that the British Zone should consist of the provinces of Styria and Carinthia. But as Russian troops had occupied the greater part of Styria, and Jugo-Slav forces under Marshal Tito, driving 200,000 Croats before them, were in Southern Carinthia, the situation called for careful handling. By the end of May 1945, however, most of the Jugo-Slav troops had left. Simultaneously, the American and French forces had moved into their occupation areas, negotiations had been started for the withdrawal of the Russians and the handing over to them of all Cossacks, and agreement was reached on the repatriation of German soldiers.

The main problems facing the **OVER** ➤



In 1946 the Army opened the first mountain training school in Austria. Here Corporal R. Letts, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, is being helped from a deep fissure in a glacier, below the Gross Glockner. The camera man was hanging in mid-air.

## OUT OF THE ALPS

continued

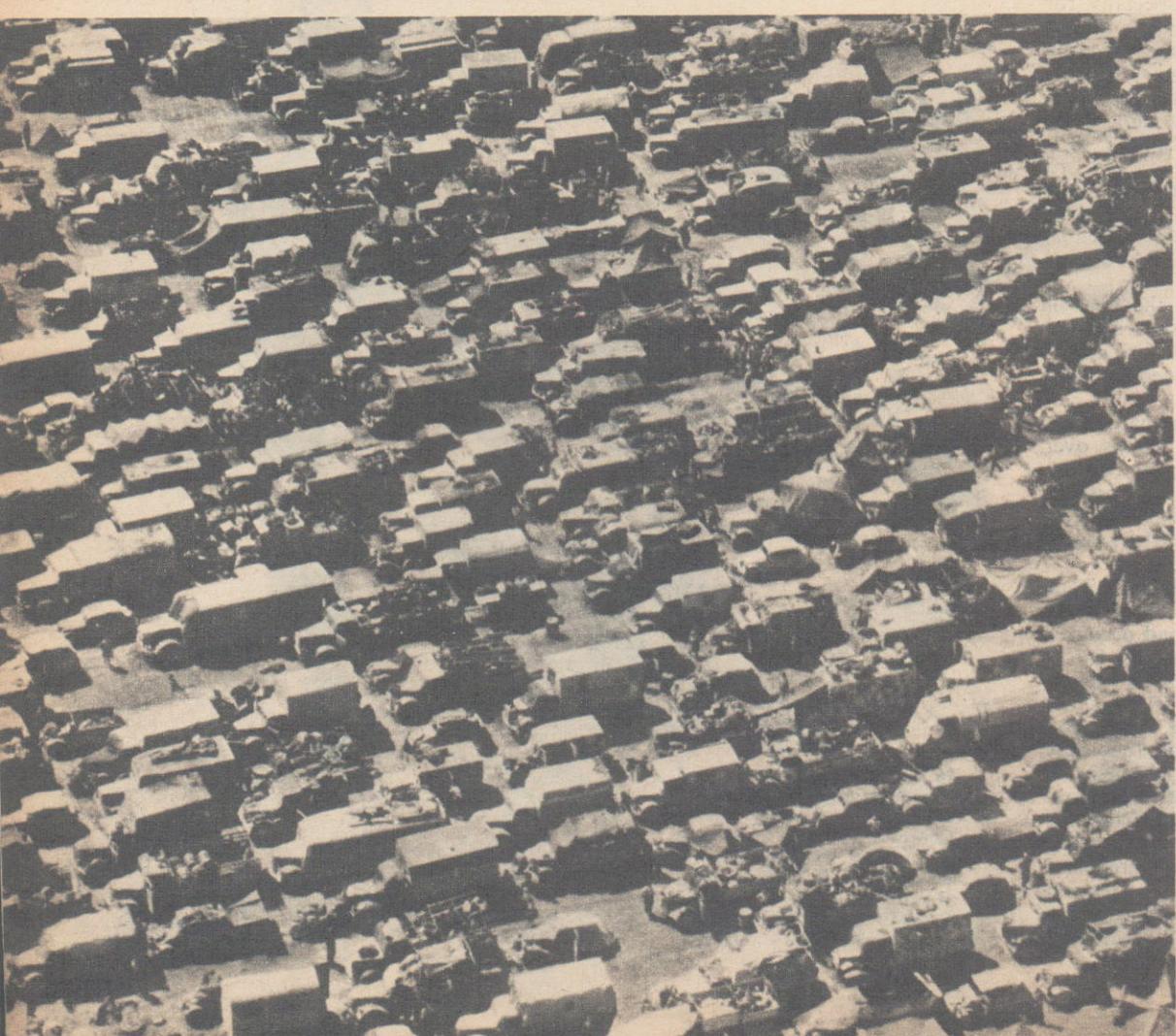


British Army, apart from rounding up the surrendered Germans and caring for Displaced Persons, were to ensure adequate food supplies, restore civilian administration and public services. Allied Military Government was set up as territory was occupied. By the end of July 1945 Headquarters Eighth Army had become Headquarters British Troops Austria and the Army Commander, Lieutenant-General Sir Richard L. McCreery appointed Commander-in-Chief and British High Commissioner. The Eighth Army "flash," a crusader's shield, was retained.

Lieutenant-General McCreery was the first of six generals to be appointed Commander-in-Chief British Troops Austria, although only four of these occupied the dual role. The other three were Lieutenant-General Sir James Steele, Lieutenant-General Sir Alexander Galloway and Major-General Sir John Winterton. The present commander in Austria is Major-General R. E. Urquhart.

The era of soldier-diplomats ended in 1950. The two appointments were then divorced; a civilian High Commissioner handled top-level political affairs in the Allied Council and the Army Commander dealt with the military aspects of occupation

**Left:** Combing the Carinthian hills for stragglers of war: a patrol of the London Irish, 1945. **Below:** a park of captured enemy motor transport.



and training.

By October 1945, when they were relieved of the responsibility of military government, British troops had done much to restore order. They were then able to settle down to their occupational role. The main tasks were frontier control, guards, internal security and restoration of communications.

They were responsible for a section of the frontiers with Italy and Jugoslavia, as well as the common demarcation line with the American and Russian Zones. They had to guard internees as well as prisoners-of-war, search for arms, arrest war criminals, investigate crimes, control Displaced Persons and restore telephone services and road and rail routes. Frontier control, later, was handed over to the Gendarmerie.

Withal, the troops found time for plenty of recreation, in a land made for pleasure. Among the abandoned enemy property they put to good use were the horses. There were thousands of these and the British constructed tracks on which to race the best of them. Others were slaughtered to make sausages for the starving population.

The British also staged the first post-war race meeting in Vienna—in the Russian sector. Another early achievement was the tattoo in the grounds of Schonbrunn Palace (the bombed roof of which the Army helped to repair).

The task of re-habilitating Austria went on steadily. Royal Engineers maintained the roads and the railways; by 1947 they had completely restored a rail system which was only 25 per cent efficient when war ended. Signallers got telephone and telegraph services working again; soldier lumber-jacks cut thousands of tons of timber to heat freezing Vienna; Army equipment cleared snow-bound roads and, in the mines, helped to increase the output of coal.

British troops earned the gratitude of the Austrians in a hundred and one ways. The observatory on the Goerlitz (6000 feet), which now houses a coronascope, and the bridge across the River Mur at Radkersburg, linking Austria with Jugoslavia, were constructed by Royal Engineers.

The abundance of snow was fully exploited for training purposes. A mountain school was opened at Mallnitz to train instructors in alpine warfare and to test equipment and clothing. For manpower reasons this school was forced to close in 1948, but Schmelz (9500 feet) kept going as a centre for training mountain troops all the year round.

By 1947 the British strength was down to four battalions and supporting troops. The battalions

continued on page 28

# SOLDIER

## *to Soldier*

"**A**s this unit is being disbanded, please cancel our order for SOLDIER with effect from. . . ."

Letters on these lines have been reaching SOLDIER from Territorial units in Anti-Aircraft Command. For SOLDIER the setback is only temporary, will be buying copies again when they join other units. For the disbanding units, the set-back is a sadder story.

The luckier ones are remaining in being as part of Air Defence, United Kingdom. Others will have two, three or even four other regiments merged into them. Others, again, will have entirely new roles. But some, inevitably, have had to go.

So involved are the threads of loyalty and tradition in Britain's volunteer forces that the task of wielding the "abhorred shears" was a most unenviable one. That is why, whenever possible, the richer, stronger threads have been carefully pulled out of the tapestry and stitched in again with others. It is no easy task to re-weave traditions, as Army reformers have found before; yet it is being ingeniously done.

Let no one suppose that those chosen for disbanding have had uneventful careers, or that they lack links with long ago. In the souvenir booklet "On Target," which pays tribute to the men and women of Anti-Aircraft Command,\* are brief "biographies" of 15 Gunner regiments which are being wound up. Three at least have roots which straggle back to the days of Waterloo. The disbanding of one heavy regiment means that the town of Wigan will cease to have a unit for the first time since 1802. Of the others one has links with the Portsmouth Submarine Mining Unit (Militia), another with the Railway Rifles.

For disbandment, too, is a unit of the Honourable Artillery Company, whose guns were the first to be landed in North-West Europe in 1944; in its proud ranks were ex-officers who preferred to soldier there rather than accept commissions elsewhere. Another doomed regiment took part in the first defence of Tobruk, and supported the New Zealanders at El Hammar by firing captured German 88 mm guns.

On paper, it looks like a simple mathematical problem to turn 626 Heavy Anti-Aircraft, 470 Light Anti-Aircraft and 525 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiments into a light anti-aircraft regiment, to be stationed in Liverpool—until you discover that 626 Regiment is the Liverpool Irish, complete with caubeen, hackle and pipe band in saffron kilts; that 470 Regiment proudly traces its descent from the 15th Lancashire

Artillery Volunteers, raised in the same year—1859—as the Liverpool Irish, and that 525 Regiment can trace its ancestry to the 8th (Scottish) Battalion of the King's Liverpool Regiment. What happens to the caubeen and the pipe-band? Which number is the new regiment to bear? How can the identities of the other two regiments be perpetuated?

The solution to problems like this come only after consultations between War Office, the local Territorial association and the units concerned. It is not unusual, in the Royal Artillery, for traditions to be kept up on a battery basis. Thus a happy compromise has been reached in 570 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, in which two batteries are now known as "Queen's Batteries" and the other two as "Surrey Rifles," to commemorate Infantry links.

Not the least problem is that of finding new parent bodies for 24 official Territorial bands of the Royal Artillery and one bugle band of the Women's Royal Army Corps. It is likely, however, that all will survive.

Outside the Royal Artillery, the task is not so difficult. The men of the big corps and the women who served in the old mixed units, can be absorbed without undue difficulty.

For individuals, as distinct from units, this is a difficult period. When several regiments are merged into one there is inevitably a surplus of some ranks, particularly the senior ones. No regiment has room for four lieutenant-colonels or four regimental sergeant-majors.

So far as possible—and geography often makes it impossible—surplus men are posted to other units of the same arm. A few will stay surplus to establishment for a time, in the hope of being absorbed as others fade away. Where this is not possible, they are being asked to volunteer for another arm of the Service. Some are already volunteering for the Mobile Defence Corps.

For National Servicemen, serving part-time with the Territorial Army, the problem is more easily solved. If they are not specialists and cannot be fitted into a Territorial unit near their homes, they can be re-badged. If they are specialists and cannot be fitted in, then they go to the Army Emergency Reserve.

The thing to remember is that units have been forming and disbanding since Charles II's day—and still the Army goes on.



British troops on guard at Schönbrunn Palace. Hitler's men were there before them, and Napoleon's before that. Below: As soon as Vienna was occupied, British troops laid down an air strip near Schönbrunn Palace.



Below: The Women's Royal Army Corps reached Vienna too. Here two girls are sightseeing in the Prater, famous for its giant Ferris Wheel.



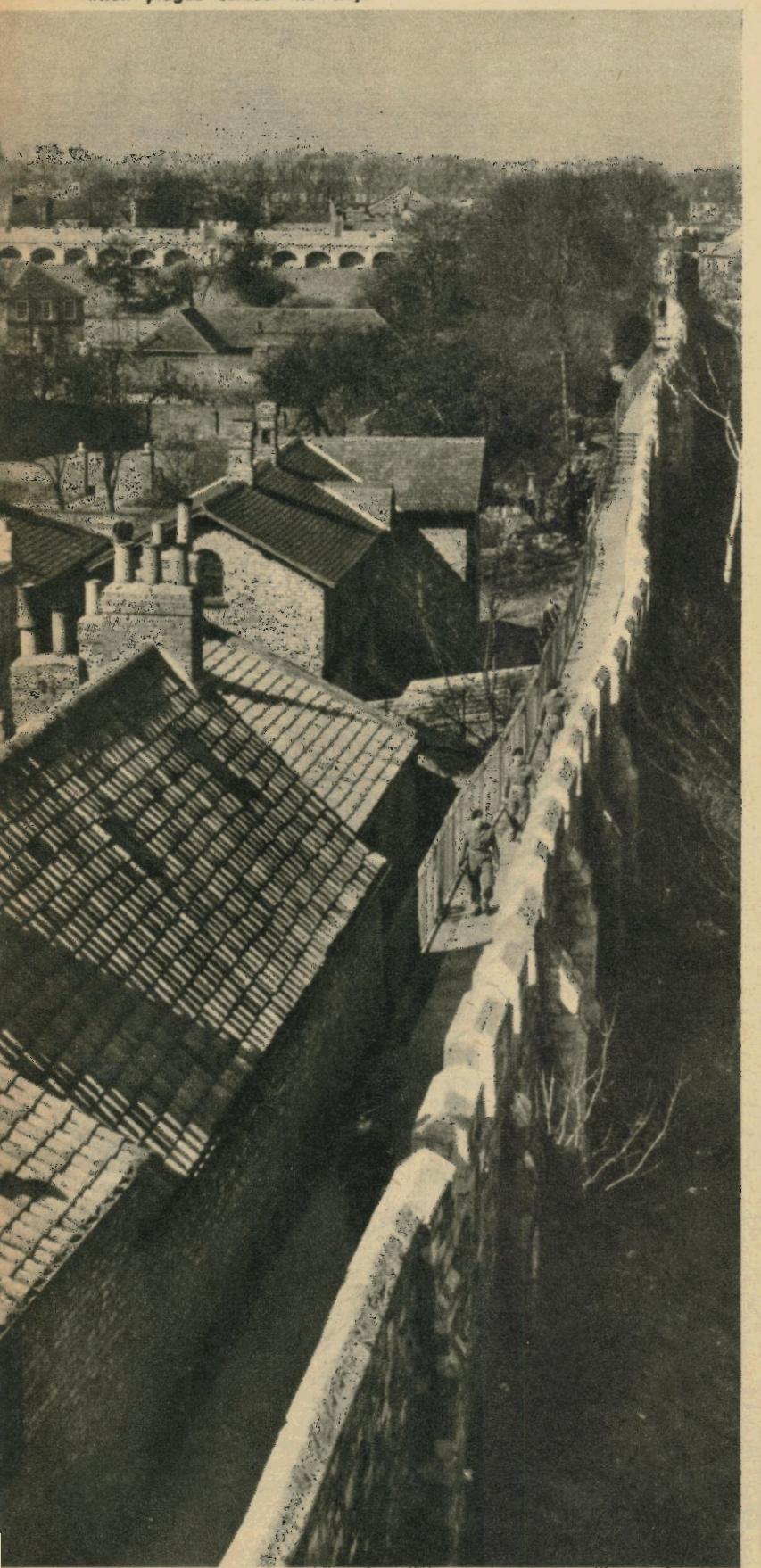
\*Published with authority and collaboration of Anti-Aircraft Command by Territorial Publications Ltd., 2s. 6d.



# 2000 YEARS A GARRISON

*The Headquarters of Northern Command is at York—as it has been, under one name or another, since Caesar's day*

Pictures: SOLDIER Cameraman FRANK TOMPSETT



Food was left at this Boundary Stone for the people of York when plague seized the city.

**T**HIS month it is the turn of York, a city which has heard the tramp of armed men for nearly 2000 years, to mount a major military spectacle: Northern Command's Tattoo, which was revived last year at Leeds.

The Tattoo will be held on the race-course at Knavesmire, near the spot where Dick Turpin was hanged. For backdrop, there will be a model of the city's famous Micklegate Bar, on which the head of Richard, Duke of York, was once set, encircled in a mock crown of paper.

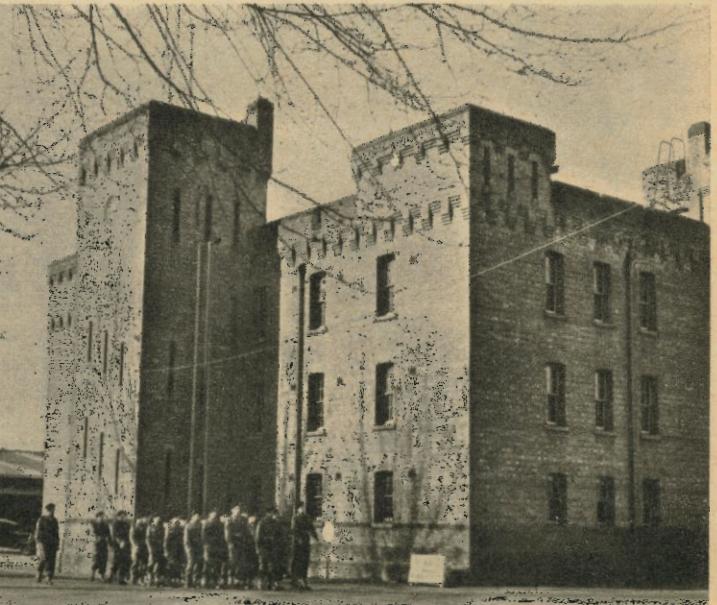
No city in Britain has a better right to stage a big military display. York grew to the sound of trumpets. Vespasian's soldiers lined its walls; William the Conqueror took it by storm; the Knights Templar had a cavalry depot there. For centuries it stood as a discouragement to the Scots.

Charles I made York his Northern Army headquarters and held court there.

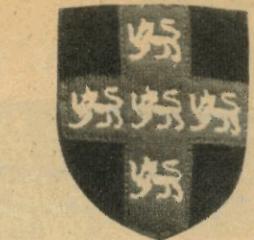
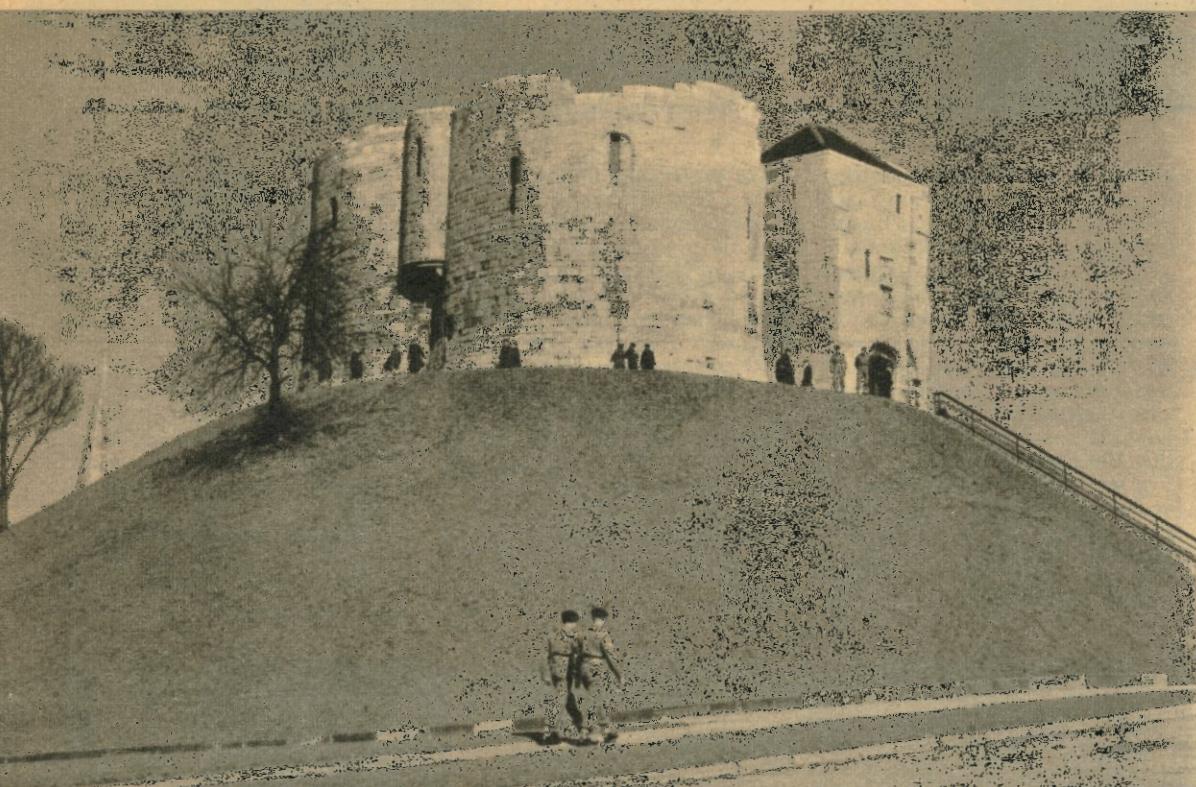
Not the least unusual incident in its history was the mass "duel," in 1328, between several thousand Hainault soldiers and the archers of Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire. The Hainaulters, who had come over from the Low Countries to attend a royal wedding, quarrelled with the archers, who challenged them to combat. Nearly 250 English archers were killed and 700 Hainaulters slain or drowned in the River Ouse. Since then, the city has shown a more friendly spirit towards strangers.

York today contains the headquarters of Northern Command. If you ask a native of York to point out the way there he may look blank. But ask him for the War Office and he will know what you mean. Even the pillar-box outside the Headquarters

OVER



Today's soldiers walk along the famous walls of York, as did the legions of Vespasian. Right: familiar to all Yorkshire soldiers: Imphal Barracks.



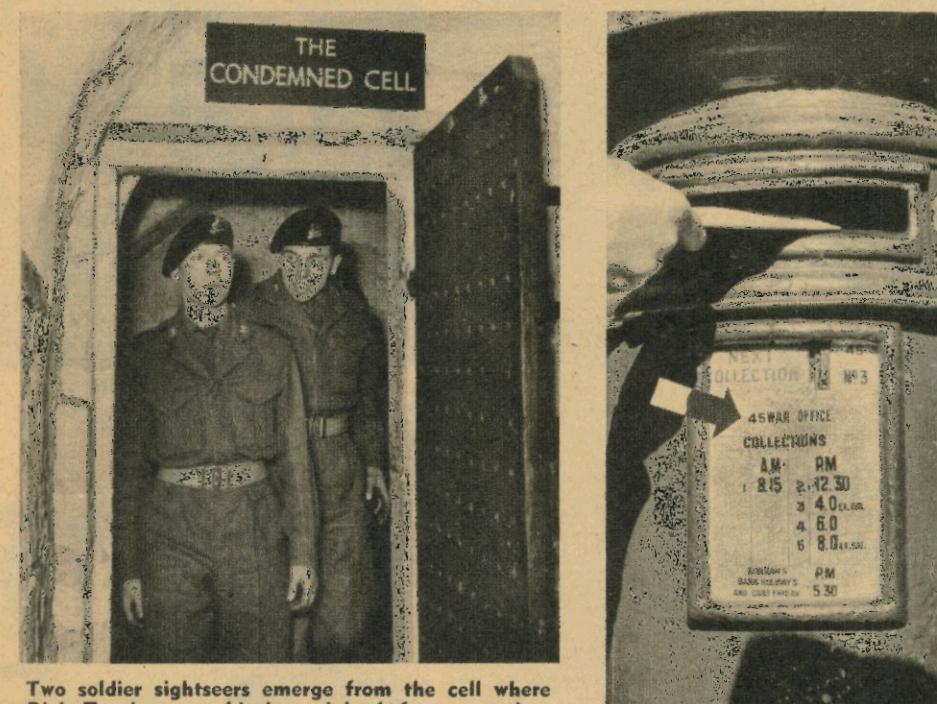
Northern Command's flash bears the arms of York.



The flash of the East and West Ridings Area (below) and (below) of the Yorkshire and Northumberland Brigade. Both are white roses.



Left: Clifford's Tower was built on the site of a Norman keep. Below: Army dinghies setting out for a sail on the Ouse.



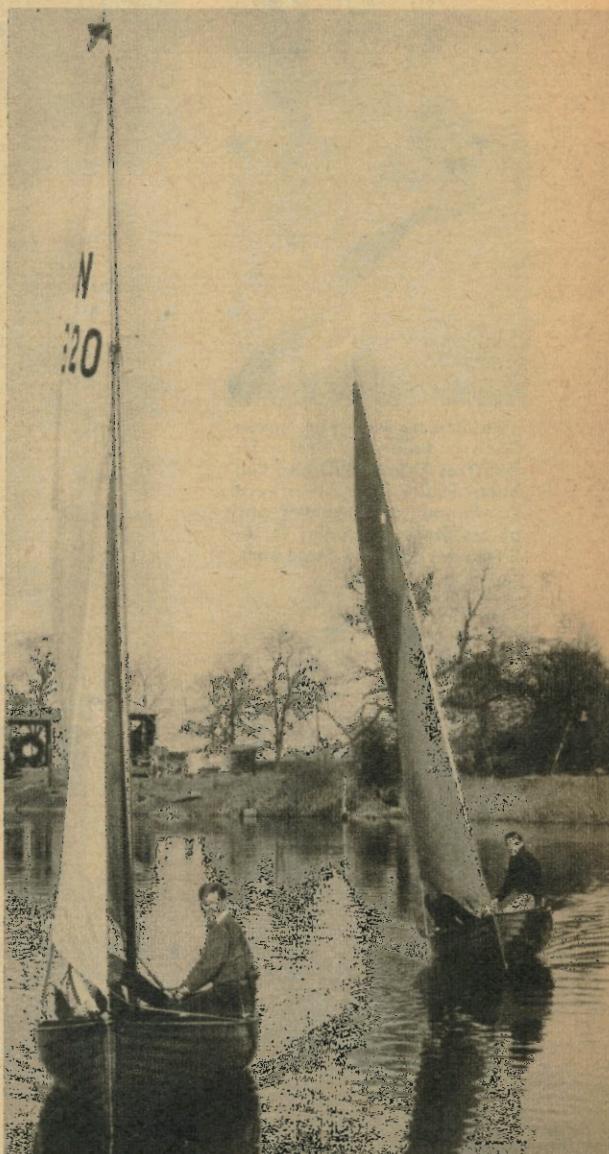
Two soldier sightseers emerge from the cell where Dick Turpin spent his last night before execution.



The Postmaster General prefers to call Northern Command Headquarters "The War Office."



Turpin's bed was made of cast iron—a prototype of early Army beds?



GOODRAMGATE

FOSSGATE

SWINEGATE

HUNGATE

SHAMBLES

WHIP - MA - WHOP - MA - GATE

## 2000 YEARS A GARRISON

continued

abroad to six different countries in which their battalions are serving—Malaya, Kenya, Egypt, Germany, Cyprus and Gibraltar. There was disappointment among the West Yorkshire recruits who had hoped to do some bandit chasing when it was learned that their 1st Battalion was homeward bound to take up new quarters in Northern Ireland. It was from Ulster in 1929 that the Battalion set out for an overseas tour which lasted for 26 years—an unusually long period these days. Since 1929 the Battalion has served in Egypt, Cyprus, India, the West Indies, Burma throughout World War

Two, Austria and finally Malaya. The West Yorkshire Regiment cannot claim a long association with its county. It was raised in Kent in 1685 and recruits were drawn from that county until 1791 when it became the Bedfordshire Regiment. Not until 1873 were the first links forged with Yorkshire. Its present title was adopted in 1881 when the depot moved to York, taking over new barracks which, although modernised from time to time, are now sadly out of date. However, plans are afoot for Imphal Barracks and the adjacent Cavalry Barracks to be included in a big, five-year

rebuilding programme for the whole Command. New two- and three-storey barrack blocks will be erected and also more married quarters. Buildings which can be brought up to date will be modernised; others will be pulled down. Across the road from Imphal Barracks is the city's former tram depot now occupied by No. 4 Command Workshops, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Here all types of vehicles, guns, small-arms and instruments belonging to units in the East and West Ridings of Yorkshire are repaired. From here, too, teams are sent out to

maintain coastal guns.

Next door is the only Ordnance Depot in Northern Command. Its sheds lie alongside a jetty which, until 25 years ago, received stores from Woolwich by ships which sailed up the River Ouse.

Because of the centuries-old associations between York and the Army it is not surprising that there exists between them a healthy understanding and mutual helpfulness. York goes out of its way to make the soldier feel at home.

The training grounds in Imphal Barracks belong to the City Council which loans them

to the Army. Senior officers are always invited to take part in civic activities. From its own financial resources the City Council two years ago set up a military museum in the old Debtors' Prison where Dick Turpin spent his last days. Until 1928 the Debtors' Prison was a detention barracks. It now houses in separate rooms historical relics of every Yorkshire regiment.

The married soldier in York is probably better off than in most other garrison towns. There is no lack of Army hirings in the city, for many of the inhabitants, having been soldiers themselves,

willingly offer their homes to those who cannot be fitted into Army quarters.

In its turn the Army helps the inhabitants of York. For some time the Military Hospital, built in 1912 and since modernised, has taken in the overflow of male patients from the civilian hospitals. Army and civilian doctors share the same operating theatre and use the same equipment. As yet they have not been called on to operate on each other's patients.

Every Army unit in York has a team in the local civilian Half-Holiday Football League and many of these games are played

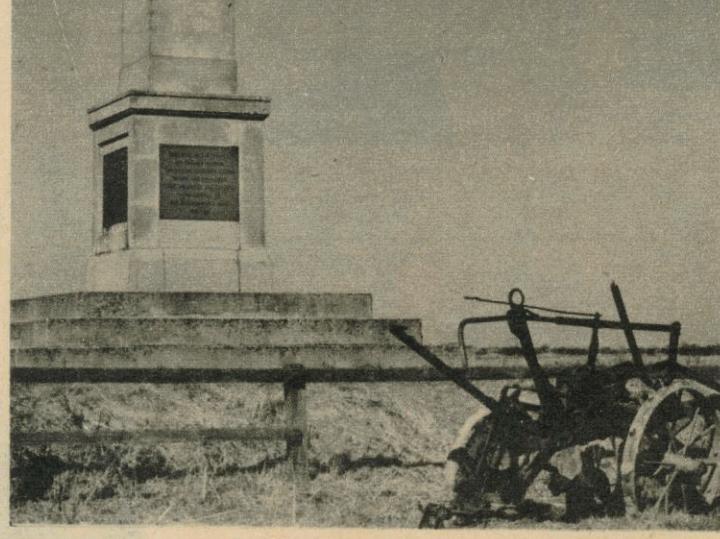
on the first-class grounds in Imphal Barracks. The Army are keen supporters of York City Football Club. The band of the 5th West Yorkshires (Territorial Army), dressed in scarlet and white (which are also the team's colours), play at many of the home matches.

The headquarters and companies of three Territorial Army battalions—the 5th West Yorkshires, with which is affiliated the 305 Women's Royal Army Corps (East and West Riding) Battalion, and the Yorkshire Hussars—as well as a thriving Home Guard Battalion—are also in York.

E. J. GROVE



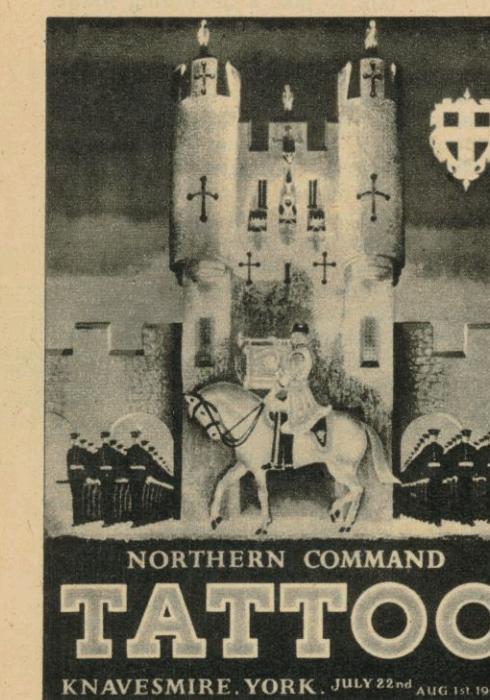
Two officers who share seven DSOs: Lieut.-General Sir Geoffrey Evans, DSO and two bars, GOC in C Northern Command, and (below) one of his Staff, Brigadier D. A. Kendrew, DSO and three bars.



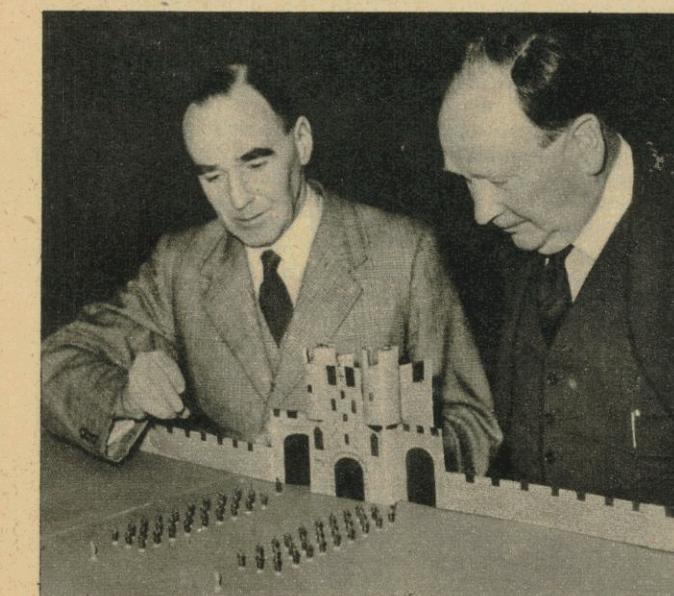
The memorial on the field of Marston Moor, where Cromwell won a famous victory, is in a field just outside York.



In York Minster a page of the West Yorkshire roll of honour is turned weekly. Below: a recruit inspects the uniform of Tom Tree, who served in the Regiment 50 years (note the service stripes).

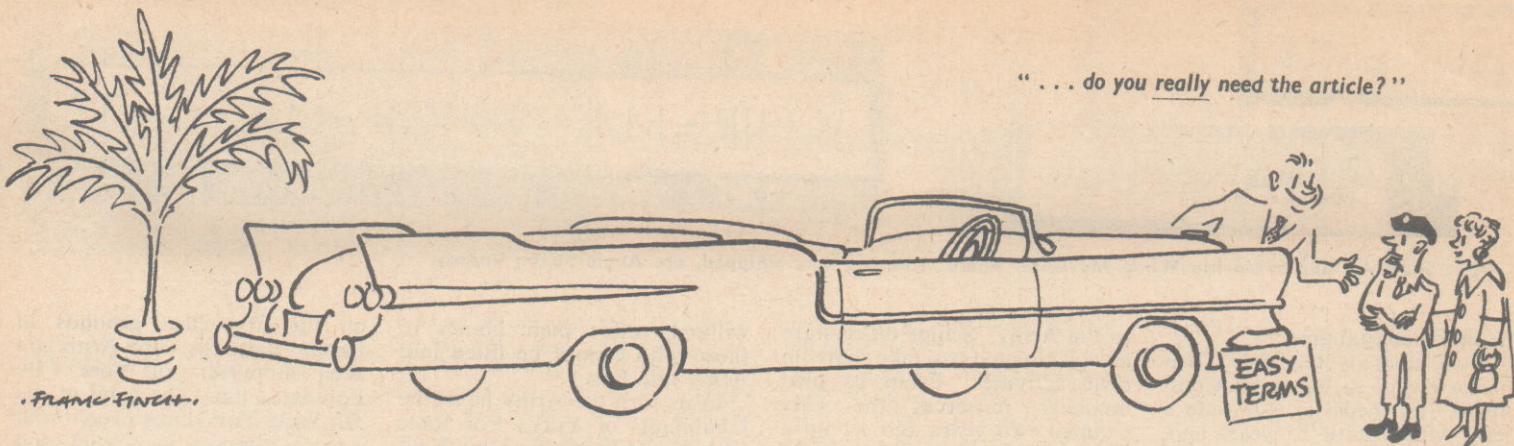


Left: Micklegate Bar, on which traitors' heads were set, as seen in the Tattoo poster—  
—and in reality, with the West Yorkshire Territorial Band.



Below: Brigadier C. Dugmore (left), Tattoo director, and Major C. Wilson plan their manoeuvres.





# THESE SOLDIERS ARE ASKING FOR IT

**Soldiers and their wives are reliable customers, say the hire-purchase trade. But there are irresponsibles who buy without thought for tomorrow, and then beg for help**

**M**ORE soldiers and their wives get into debt through irresponsible buying on the "never-never" than through any other cause.

So say the Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Families Association, which last year dealt with more applications to help pay off hire-purchase debts than ever before. Restrictions on hire-purchase were re-imposed at the end of last year, making it more difficult to obtain goods on credit, but the Association still receive more appeals for help to meet hire-purchase commitments than any other type of request.

"We have no complaint against hire-purchase if used sensibly," they say. "We concede that only half per cent of the total sum spent on hire-purchase in Britain results in bad debts. Yet month after month our branches all over Britain tell the same depressing story: of soldiers, their wives and sometimes their parents asking for help to keep up hire-purchase payments—occasionally on items which most people regard as luxuries.

"Sometimes an unexpected run of bad luck or illness is the reason. Then we do what we can and may pay part or all of the debt. But far too often the cause is sheer lack of a sense of responsibility."

The Association's files contain scores of examples of soldiers and their wives mortgaging a large part of their income to obtain non-essential items like television sets, washing machines, refrigerators and motor-cycles. One family who asked for help had only seven shillings a week left after paying off their hire-purchase accounts. Some young men had contracted to buy motor-cycles before their call-up and then found it impossible to keep up payments of nearly £1 a week out of the National Serviceman's income. In these and similar instances a man has only himself to blame and the Association can do little, except perhaps to persuade the hire-purchase firm to reduce the instalments by extending the re-

payment period.

Many soldiers get into difficulty, say the Association, by buying furniture on hire-purchase, especially Regulars about to leave the Army and set up home for the first time. This method is extravagant and not always is the furniture of good quality. The Association recommend that soldiers needing furniture should visit second-hand dealers and attend auction sales where they would be more likely

Another side to the picture, which does credit to soldiers, is painted by the Hire Purchase Traders' Association, representing most hire-purchase firms in Britain.

"In our experience soldiers and their wives are very reliable customers and often are more prompt with their payments than civilians," they told SOLDIER. "SSAFA see only the failures, for every one of which there are hundreds of fully-honoured contracts."

Not so many years ago local tradesmen used to be warned by general officers commanding large bodies of troops not to give credit to soldiers. This does not

happen today. Soldiers are as free to buy on the "never-never" as any civilian.

When a soldier wants to buy on hire-purchase he does, however, present the trade with a special problem. His wages, unlike those of civilians, are known to within a penny. But because he has few financial dealings with other traders the firms' inquiry

agents find it difficult to assess his willingness to pay regularly. Thus hire-purchase firms usually require the soldier to nominate a guarantor who is likely to remain resident in Britain and who will accept responsibility for continued payment even if the soldier is posted abroad. A soldier under 21 must nominate a resident guarantor. Some firms also require a reference from his unit.

"Officers, warrant officers and non-commissioned officers are almost always accepted without question," say the Hire-Purchase Traders' Association. "They are the least likely to attempt to bilk us, for fear that their debt would come to the ears of their commanding officers. But firms very rarely take such a drastic step—only in the most flagrant

to buy better furniture at lower prices.

This is the Association's advice to those thinking of buying on the "never-never".

Think hard: Do you *really* need the article?

If you can afford to wait, buy for cash. Hire purchase is always more expensive.

Before signing the contract compare the cash price with the hire-purchase price and work out how much you would save if you bought for cash.

If you do run into trouble ask the hire-purchase firm if they will lower the repayment rates.

Keep weekly accounts of all expenditure and income.

Never buy in expectation of an increase in pay, a gambling win or a legacy.

instances and when all other means have failed."

[The recent Select Committee on the Army Act urged that commanding officers "should not allow themselves to be used as debt-collecting agencies."]

Hire-purchase firms are reluctant to take a defaulting soldier to court. Even if they obtain a judgment against him they find he has little or no property on which they can raise money. (By law a soldier's arms, equipment and clothing, and, if he is in married quarters, the furniture and fittings, are Crown property.) But action can be taken, even against a minor. One of the test cases occasionally cited in such actions concerns an Army officer under 21 who was sued in 1913 for money outstanding on a ceremonial sword he was buying on hire-purchase. Judgment was given against him.

A wife separated from her soldier husband serving overseas is treated like any other civilian, except that, if she is likely to join her husband, a resident guarantor is required.

Very few firms will allow a soldier already serving overseas to buy goods on hire-purchase, unless he is personally known to them as a reliable customer.

"Firms would be more likely to do this if the Army had a scheme similar to that in the Royal Navy, where an able seaman can request the Fleet Paymaster to make weekly or monthly payments to any firm or individual," say the Hire Purchase Traders' Association.

SOLDIER is assured that NAAFI have never sold goods by easy payments, and are unlikely to do so.

Recently, however, for the first time since World War Two, NAAFI introduced a credit system allowing all officers overseas (except in Korea, Japan and Canal Zone) to pay their bills a month in arrears. Married men below commissioned rank, accompanied by their families, may pay 14 days in arrears. The concession, which does not apply to single soldiers, is for the convenience of those who send their servants to do the shopping.



"... not always of good quality . . ."

**Success in a land battle may well depend on the recovery crews who bring back the crippled armour for repair even while the combat rages**

**A**T the bottom of a narrow, sandy ravine on a Hampshire heath, an aged Churchill tank was wedged upside down.

Once, perhaps, it had its hour of glory on a battlefield. Now, minus its gun, it was fated to be toppled into ditches and pulled out again.

Two armoured recovery vehicles drove up the ravine from opposite ends and anchored themselves to the ground with their giant spades. Steel ropes were run out to the Churchill and winches began to turn. As one set of ropes slowly hauled the tank on to its end, the other set was paid out, ready to take the strain from the other side when the tank reached its point of balance, and let it down gently the right way up. In ten minutes, the Churchill had been turned completely over and was ready to be taken away.

Elsewhere on the heath, other vehicles were being rescued. A tank buried up to its turret in a bog was being hauled on to dry land by a tractor; another tank which had been turned on its side was being righted; a six-wheeled three-tonner was winching itself out of a ditch.

It was all part of a demonstration given during a six weeks' course run by No. 6 (Vehicle) Training Battalion, Royal Electrical

and Mechanical Engineers at Bordon to train soldiers in the work of recovery. At the same time the operations provided the justification for the Corps' boast that there is no weapon, vehicle or piece of equipment in the Army which their recovery teams cannot extricate from seemingly-impossible situations.

When the Army produces a new heavy-weight vehicle or weapon one of the first questions the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers ask is: Can we recover it? They have never been beaten yet, although it was a near thing when the new 65-ton Conqueror appeared on the scene recently. A new armoured recovery vehicle powerful enough to haul even this monster out of trouble and a new transporter to carry the tank had to be designed and produced.

Recovery teams have a long list of spectacular achievements to their credit, in both war and peace. In World War Two they performed prodigious feats in clearing roads and rescuing knocked-out and broken-down vehicles and guns, often under heavy fire. In seaborne landings they were among the first to land, keeping the bridgeheads open for follow-up troops to advance. In airborne landings a REME recovery team would be one of the first to drop.

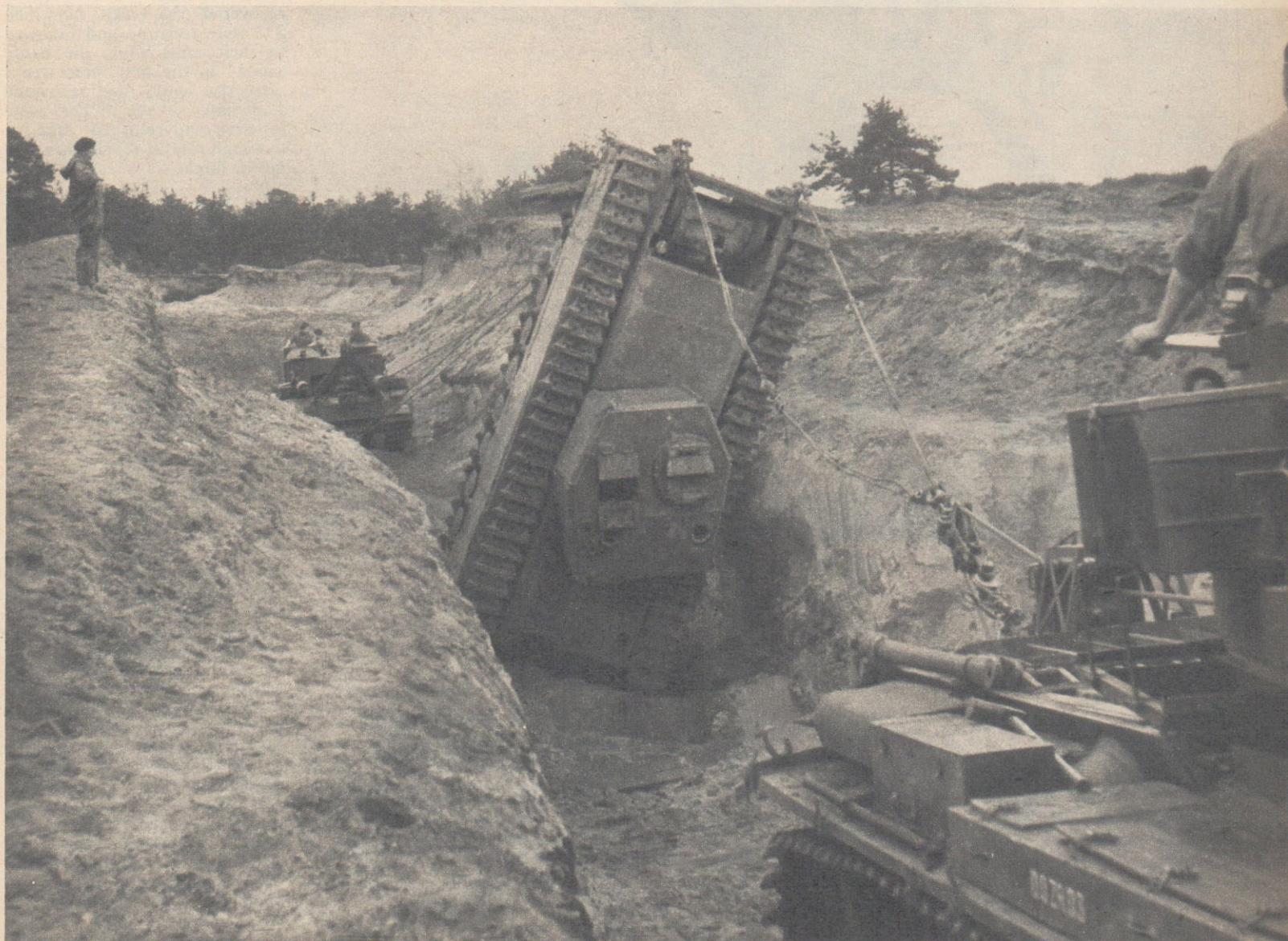
Recovery crews secured the first German radio-controlled **OVER** →

**DITCHED?  
BOGGED?**

**CAPSIZED?**

**Send for REME**

The recovery men found this old Churchill tank upside down in the ditch. Now they are putting it on to its tracks again. One winch pulls until the point of balance is reached; then the other winch takes the strain of lowering. The complete operation took only ten minutes.



continuing

# Send for REME

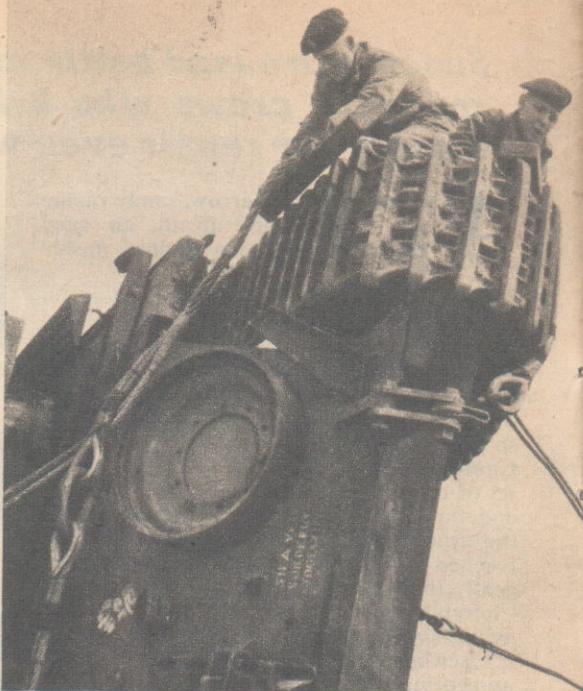
tank to fall into British hands at Anzio and the first German Tiger tank in Normandy. They have recovered crashed aircraft and overturned trains in Malaya. Recently they were called in to recover a crashed Royal Air Force helicopter in Germany. In Korea they have winched Centurion tanks to safety from perilous positions on mountain ledges (once a team towed a Churchill 120 miles before having to destroy it to avoid capture).

They were called in to clear away the debris left by the floods at Lynmouth and helped to winch the Britannia air liner from the ooze of the River Severn. They even recovered a wounded elephant from Hamburg Zoo at the end of the war.

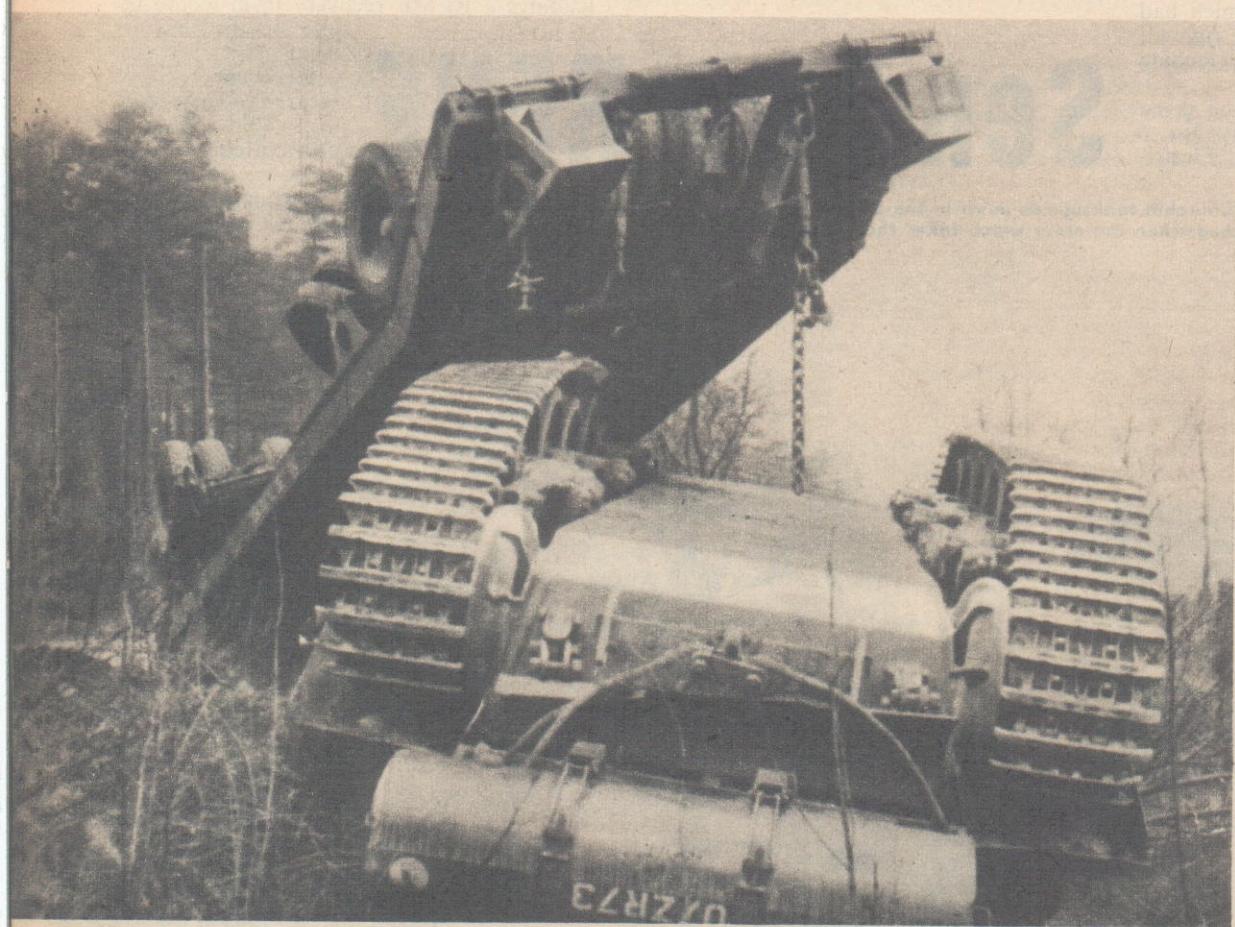
Recovery is a military art which was intensively developed in World War Two. No nation could afford, nor was it practicable, to have vast numbers of weapons and vehicles in reserve to replace casualties. The Army with the best "rescue" and repair system was the more likely to win.

Only a few months after they had been formed the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers took over the task of recovery from the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. At Alamein they adopted a new technique: instead of lying well back waiting for the fighting to die down before clearing the battlefield, recovery teams were sent immediately behind the forward troops to rescue casualties in the heat of battle. They em-

Right: To avoid damage to the tank's tracks, pieces of timber are placed under the steel cables.



Below: How's this for a little pile-up? But it takes more than a scene like this to discourage a recovery crew.



Below: Another kind of rescue work: a "drowned" Land Rover is towed ashore by an armoured recovery vehicle.



ployed new armoured recovery vehicles, which were tanks with turrets replaced by armoured super-structure to house winches and other equipment, and bearing dummy guns as camouflage. With the aid of these and Scammell recovery lorries, plus an assortment of American lend-lease wreckers, recovery crews recovered 530 tanks, of which 337 were repaired and returned to their units while the battle raged. In the first three weeks after the battle they recovered 1244 tanks, of which 1007 were repaired and returned. But for this high rate of replacement the battle might have ended differently.

By the end of the campaign in North Africa 83 per cent of vehicle casualties were being recovered, repaired and returned inside 48 hours. Before Alamein the rate was only 17 per cent.

At Anzio the seizure of the German radio-controlled tank was a combined operation. While Gunners put down a barrage and Infantrymen stood by to repel an expected attack, the recovery crews attached steel ropes to the tank and dragged it towards the British lines. It was one of the longest tows used in the war—a distance of 300 yards from the winch to the tank.

In the Normandy landings recovery crews for the first time used waterproofed Sherman tanks fitted with high superstructures which enabled them to operate in water 11 feet deep. On one beach one of these vehicles was (by error) the first ashore. Its unusual appearance confounded the Germans who reported to Hitler's headquarters that "the British are using a new and deadly tank."

In Normandy and Italy seven out of every ten vehicle casualties were recovered, repaired and returned within 48 hours. But this was only part of the recovery teams' work. Just as important, and sometimes more so, was keeping open vital roads and

bridges. This often called for knocked-out vehicles to be pushed or winched off the roads, to be collected when the advance had passed on. Especially was this the case in the Falaise Gap, where the recovery teams also had the unpleasant task of removing and burying the dead crews before sending the vehicles back for repair.

An ingenious recovery feat took place in Burma during the crossing of the Irrawaddy in 1945. A Bren carrier had plunged into 20 feet of water and there was no apparent way of getting it out. The recovery team made diving helmets out of their gas masks, to which they fitted lengths of rubber hose, air being pumped from a compressor on a workshops lorry. Under water the team attached the steel ropes to the carrier and it was then winched out. Today recovery crews are trained by the Royal Navy in shallow diving.

More than once the Army's recovery teams have been called in by the Royal Navy. When ten landing barges, each weighing 120 tons, were stranded at Bracklesham Bay in 1944, the Admiralty appealed for help to refloat them. Recovery crews, with three beach armoured recovery vehicles, five tractors and two bulldozers, took on the job and accepted wagers of five to one by sailors, who said it could not be done. By coupling up their

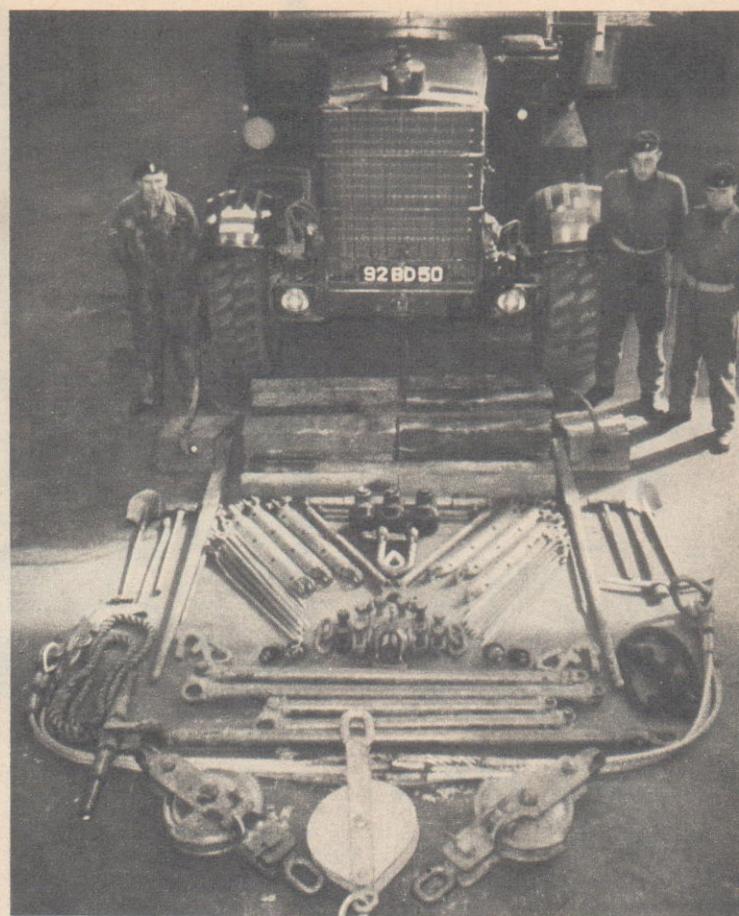
vehicles to give a combined pull, and using their bull-dozers to flatten the beach, the recovery teams hauled each barge safely to the water. The sailors paid up with good grace.

Recovery vehicles have also been used by the Admiralty to test the strength of new anchors at Portland.

The men who learn the art of recovery at Bordon must first be trained drivers. At the school they study simple mathematics, with special emphasis on ratios, proportion and percentages, which they need to know in working out the most efficient methods of winching. They study rope-splicing, first-aid, map-reading, and operating radio sets. It is necessary for them also to be able to carry out minor repairs so that, if possible, a "casualty" can be put back on the road without having to be sent back to workshops. Before they pass out they learn to drive all heavy recovery vehicles, including the Diamond-T tractor and its 32-wheeled trailer. The course includes night exercises when tanks have to be recovered in complete darkness.

On finishing the course, students become "Recovery Mechanics, Class Three" which entitles them to an extra shilling a day—not an exorbitant rate to pay the men who are always ready to save the taxpayers the cost of a £50,000 tank.

E. J. GROVE



Kit layout—for the crew of a Scammell recovery vehicle.

## AND THIS WAS ANOTHER WEIGHTY OPERATION POSTING FOR A PRINCE

THE Prince Imperial, soldier-son of Napoleon III, fought and died helping the British against the Zulus in South Africa in 1879. He was a graduate of the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, and his deeds were recognised by the erection in the grounds of the academy of a statue to his memory. Twenty-five thousand officers and men subscribed to it.

Today the statue no longer stands at the apex of that grassy triangle that sweeps down from the forecourt of the old academy, where the Prince spent so many happy days and "thoroughly assimilated the sound instruction imparted." It has been removed and re-erected at Sandhurst. Consequently, Woolwich has lost a bus stop and the "Shop" its last bit of effective "window-dressing."

Freshly scrubbed and polished, still flanked by his Imperial eagles, the Prince looks proudly out over the Sandhurst playing fields to the lake beyond. He seems glad to get away from that noisy bus stop at Woolwich. And he is back with a new generation of gentleman cadets.

The transfer of the statue was effected in stages, involving four

weeks of toil for Lieutenant J. Nobbs and 14 NCOs and men of 25th Field Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers. The heaviest piece which the bridging crane had to tackle was the pedestal, weighing six tons. (It was not the first statue Sappers had moved from Woolwich to Sandhurst—they had already had Queen Victoria dangling on a rope.)

Woolwich Borough Council had no qualms about the removal, although when the idea was first mooted some years ago protests were raised. It was felt that as he was schooled there, the Prince rightly belonged to Woolwich. But the traditions of Woolwich, it is recognised, are now merged with those of Sandhurst.

Of the thousands who asked for "a tuppenny to the Prince Imperial stop" how many knew anything at all about this gallant 23-year-old Frenchman of noble birth who gave his life for Britain?

OVER



The Prince Imperial is swung from his plinth at Woolwich by Sappers. "Run twice round the Prince Imperial," used to be a warming-up exercise for cadets.



Clearing away the base of the statue called for much hard drilling.



All together now . . . the grounded eagles appear to view this operation with disapproval.

## POSTING FOR A PRINCE continued



Re-erected at Sandhurst: the Prince who died with 18 spear wounds, all inflicted in the front of his body.

This was the man who, a few days before he died, told his commander, Field-Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood, "I would rather fall by assegai than bullets, as that would show we were at close quarters."

The Prince did not seek death, but he died the way he wanted.

He and his patrol were remounting after a rest when they were attacked by more than 30 fully-armed Zulus, who had chosen that as the most favourable moment for attack. The Prince's horse jumped just as he was mounting and his sword fell

out of the scabbard. He was vaulting on his horse in motion when the wallet on the front of the saddle broke away and he fell to the ground. Seven Zulus set upon him.

As he rushed at one of them an assegai struck him in the thigh. Withdrawing it from the wound, he kept his adversaries at bay for some minutes "fighting like a lion," to quote a native who saw the action. The Prince then fired two shots without effect and was struck in the left shoulder by another assegai. As he sank to the ground from this mortal

wound they closed upon him. In all, he was pierced 18 times—and all the wounds were in the front.

Back in England some weeks later, Field-Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood referred to "that gallant youth, the son of England's ally," in these words from Shakespeare: *Your son, My Lord, has paid a soldier's debt: He only lived but till he was a man; The which, no sooner had his prowess confirm'd In the unshrinking station where he fought, But like a man he died. . . .*

BILL COUSINS



# PLAIN-CLOTHES PATROL

**B**RITISH soldiers whom the Egyptians will be genuinely sorry to see leave the Canal Zone are the officers and men—numbering fewer than 30—who never wear uniform on duty.

Instead they carry white bands on their arms and fly a white flag, bearing a black mosquito, on their transport.

They are members of the Army's three malaria control units in Egypt who, in their fight to protect soldiers against malaria and enteric, wage incessant war against enemies common to both British and Egyptian—the mosquito and the fly.

It is a fight which has been going on since 1937 when the first malaria control unit was set up in the Canal Zone. It went on throughout World War Two and will continue until the last British units leave Egypt in the summer of next year.

How successful the work of the malaria control units has been was proved in the winter of 1953. In October of that year a sergeant and a corporal of one of the units disappeared near Tel-el-Kebir, presumably murdered by terrorists. For the first time the Army forbade the units to visit native villages as they had done throughout the many trouble periods since 1937. Within a few weeks letters were received by all three units from the headmen of many villages, pleading for them to resume their work. There was a sharp increase of malaria, too, among British soldiers in one camp near a village.

When the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty was signed last summer, the malaria control units went out again, for the first time guarded by an armed Egyptian policeman. The incidence of malaria and enteric diseases, both in the Army and among



the Egyptian population, rapidly declined.

Most of the men in the malaria control units are National Servicemen and all are volunteers, selected by the Royal Army Medical Corps. They work seven days a week and their duties include supervising and training Egyptians who will take over the job when the Army leaves.

Areas suspected of harbouring the malaria-carrying mosquito are surveyed every few weeks and samples of larvae are tested in the unit laboratories. When the malaria mosquito is found the area is sprayed with malaria oil and insecticides.

The Sweet Water Canal and the swamps beside it are danger spots. To prevent water forming into stagnant pools, gangs of Egyptian labourers are sent out regularly to dig channels along which the water is set flowing. The grasses and rushes which grow in abundance on the canal banks are kept short and regularly sprayed.

Any soldier who contracts malaria is closely questioned about his movements during the previous ten days. Usually the village or area from which he caught it is traced and the spraying team is sent into action. Sometimes the Egyptians themselves report outbreaks of malaria and request the units' help.

**Soldiers of the Army's malaria control units in Egypt go out with a white flag to fight every man's enemy. They will operate in villages and swamps until the last troops pull out.**

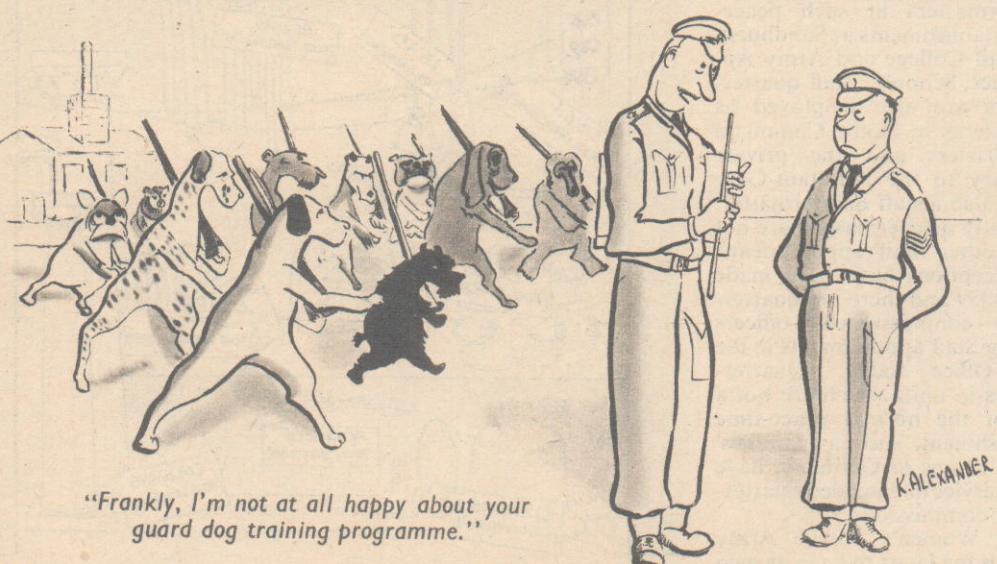
**Left: This unit sign spells death to mosquitoes. Below: Major D. H. McFerran, RAMC, inspects mosquito larvae found in an infested swamp.**



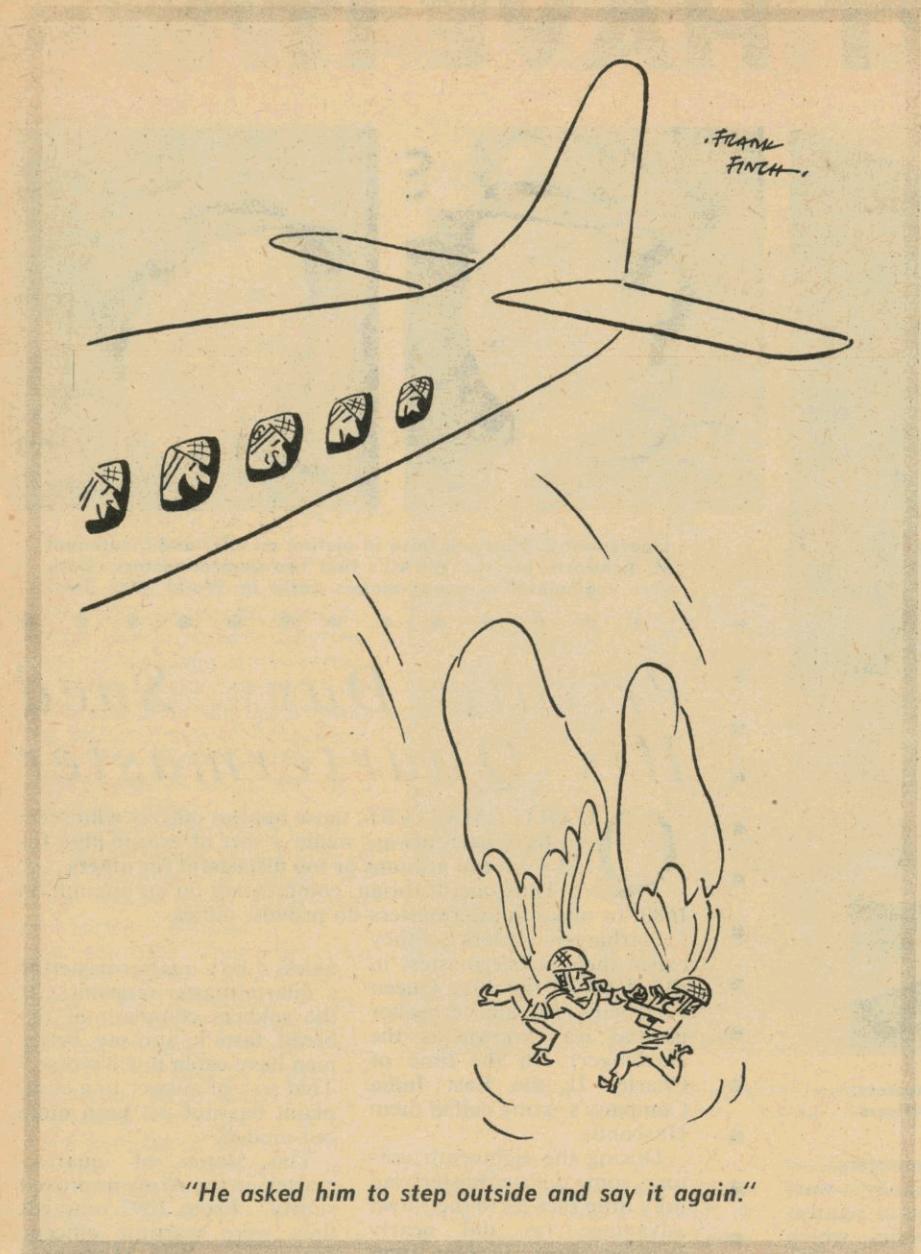
Recently the Egyptian police in Ismailia asked for their barracks to be sprayed as they were suffering from a plague of mosquitoes. No. 27 Malaria Control Unit in Moascar did the job so successfully that the police asked them to call every week.

**SOLDIER** recently accompanied Captain A. H. G. Lakin, of the Wiltshire Regiment, who commands No. 27 Malaria Control Unit, on an expedition to one of the squalid villages on the banks of the Sweet Water Canal. As his Land Rover flying the mosquito flag picked its way between the heaps of filth in the narrow streets, clouds of flies forsook the dead dog on which they had been feeding and swarmed round the vehicle, following it to the canal bank. Here Egyptians belonging to the unit were spraying the hovels, dead bugs and flies falling to the ground as they worked. Some were collecting all the rubbish they could find and burning it while others sprayed every foot of the canal bank down to the water's edge. It was not Egypt at its best.

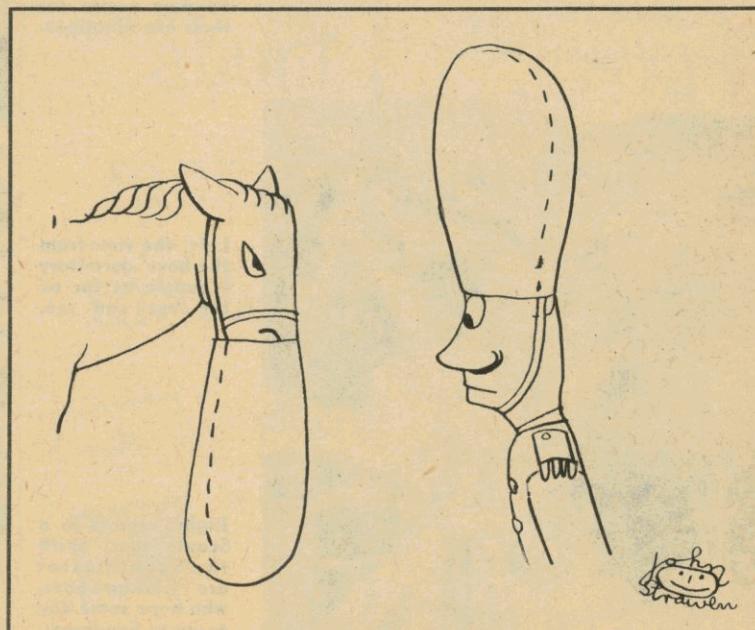
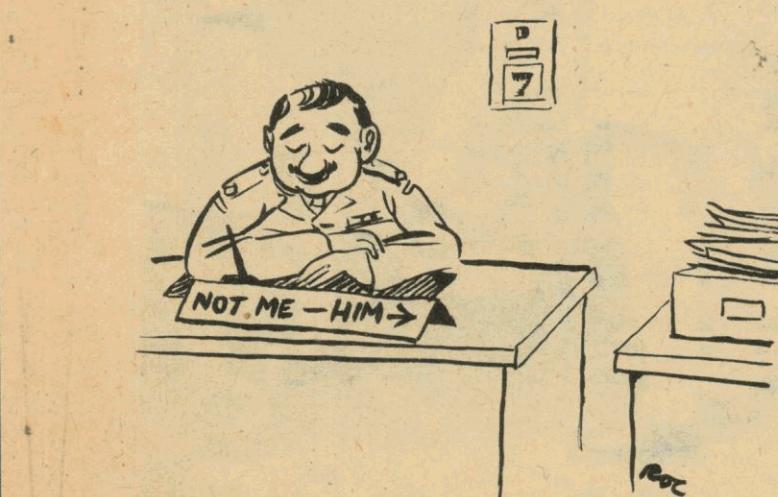
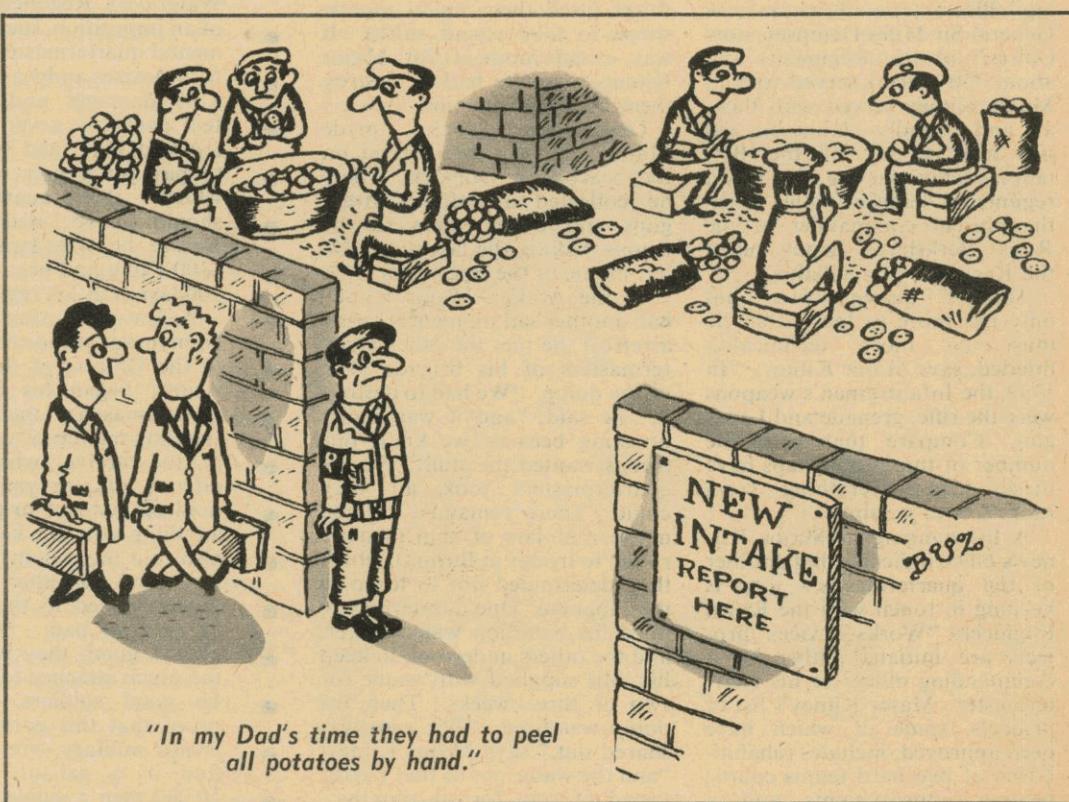
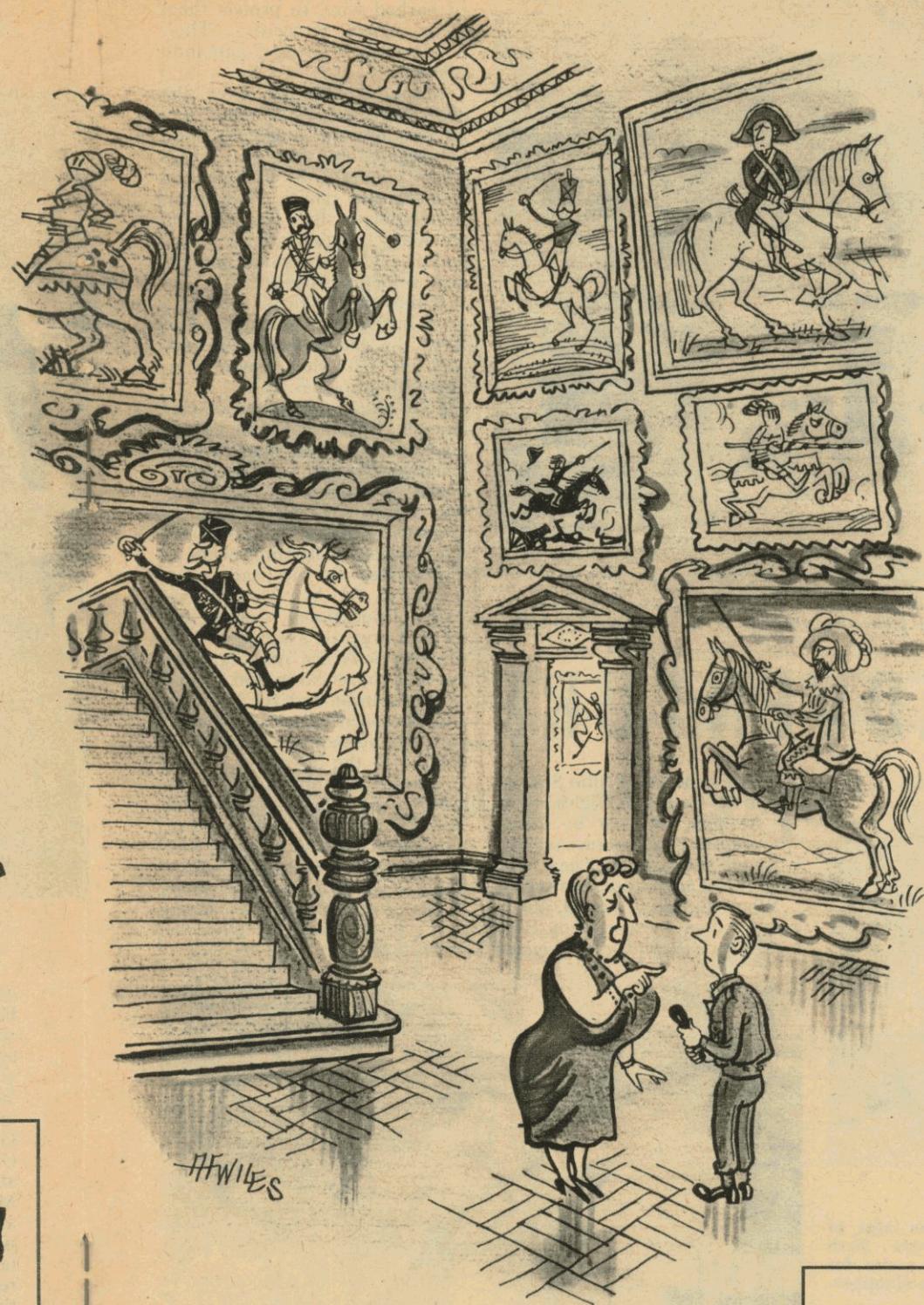
"That," said Captain Lakin, "gives some idea of the size of the job. If we didn't come here regularly to clean the place up the disease which is already rife in the village would spread far beyond it and into the Army's camps. Barbed wire can't keep out the fly or the mosquito."







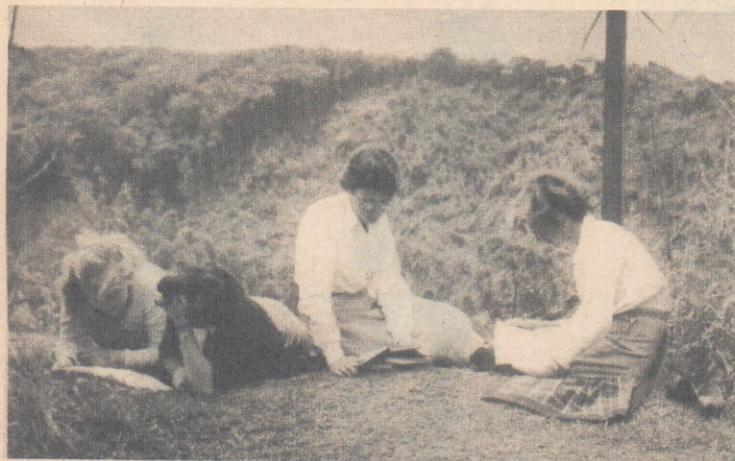
## SOLDIER HUMOUR





An armoured column forms up to take children from Tapah, in the humid plains, to Slim School, in Malaya's Cameron Highlands. Note the inquisitive heads protruding from the windows of the armoured vehicles.

## SCHOOL OF ADVENTURE



Near the edge of the jungle Sixth Formers revise for their examinations.



Left: the view from the boys' dormitory—jungle as far as the eye can see.

Right: repairs to a Scouts' den. With the Scoutmaster are Gurkha boys, who hope some day to go to Sandhurst.



a lighted and guarded perimeter of barbed wire, to protect them from jungle terrorists. Their headmaster is an ex-Commando officer.

Monkeys scamper over the roofs of their dormitories. They go out into the jungle to build "aborigine" huts or for nature study among wild orchids and insect-eating plants. The boys practise with their catapults on an Army jungle training range and play football against soldiers (and sometimes beat them).

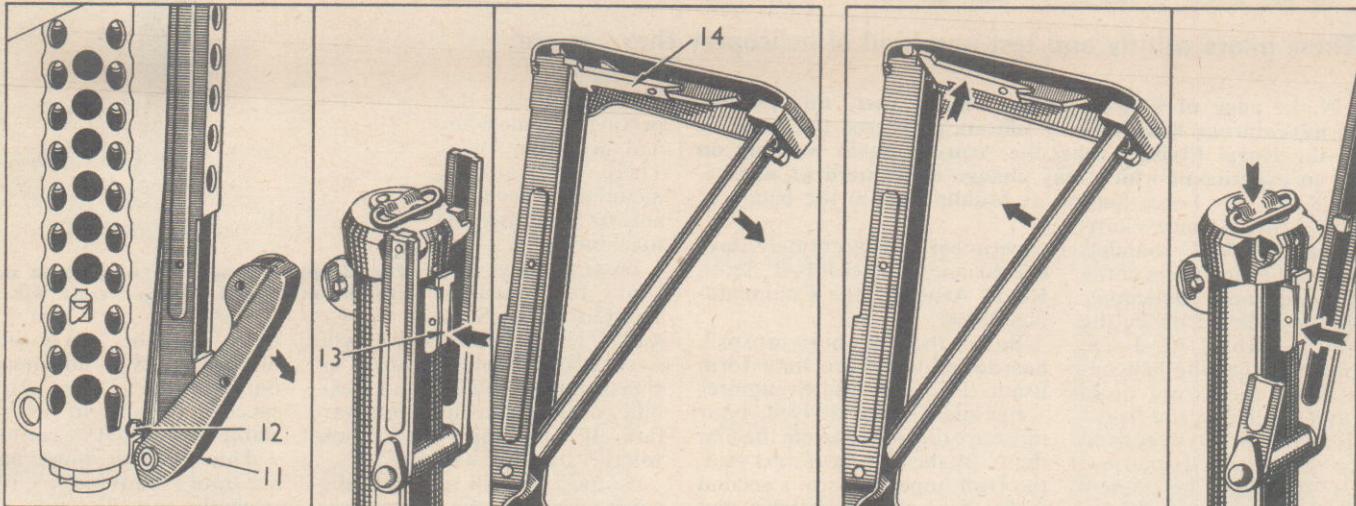
If they are taken ill, they may go to hospital by helicopter. And if, at the end of term, the railway line is flooded, they may go home by destroyer.

This co-educational secondary boarding school has a big advantage over the day schools elsewhere in Malaya. Because it is nearly 5000 feet above sea-level, the climate is cool enough to allow the children to be busy all day, instead of finishing work at lunch-time. So the headmaster, Major R. V. M. Benn, Royal Army Educational Corps, and his staff organise a wealth of out-of-class activities ranging from musical appreciation and boxing to make-and-mend for the girls and "pioneering"—cutting steps and making paths to the playing fields—for the boys.

Among the pupils are seven Gurkha boys, sons of Gurkha soldiers serving in Malaya. Their aim is to attain a standard of education which will enable them to apply to become cadets at Sandhurst.—*From a report by Major L. E. Bitton, Military Observer in Malaya.*

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#### TO CLOSE BUTT:

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SOLDIER visits

# A SMALL UNIT WITH A BIG FUTURE

These pilots will fly and test any kind of helicopter they can get

**O**N the edge of Salisbury Plain, where early this century adventurous British Army officers pioneered the path for the Royal Flying Corps, the Army is again working on an experiment which may change the pattern of war.

At the Royal Air Force Station at Middle Wallop the badge of the Royal Army Service Corps set between two RAF roundels proclaims the headquarters of the Joint Experimental Helicopter Unit. It has been set up by the Army and the Royal Air Force to discover whether the helicopter can make the Army more mobile and flexible in the field.

This is a unit with its eyes fixed firmly on the future. Its purpose is to test the bigger helicopters which are not yet coming off the production line, machines capable of carrying three or four tons now flying only as prototypes. It will also be prepared to fly any other aircraft which may be candidates for the role the helicopter now looks like filling—machines of the Rotodyne type, vertical take-off aircraft and fixed-wing aircraft which can take off and land in small spaces.

Meanwhile, the Unit has to be content with the smaller Bristol Sycamore (carrying a little more than 1400 pounds) which other units are using in light liaison and air observation post roles. With these machines, which are as capable as any other helicopters yet in production, they can

experiment very accurately, says Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. T. Scott, Royal Artillery, the Commanding Officer.

So far, the Unit, born in April, has done little more than form itself. Two Mark 14 Sycamores—the latest—have arrived. Four more are due to complete the first flight. By the middle of next year, the Unit hopes to form a second flight, if money is available, but even by then the three-tonners are unlikely to be ready.

Besides Lieutenant-Colonel Scott, there are six Royal Army Service Corps officers, a Gunner officer, and five Royal Air Force officers, including the second-in-command and the technical and equipment officers. All the pilots, Army and Royal Air Force, have taken helicopter "conversion" courses.

Also in the Unit are 45 picked men of the Royal Army Service Corps, including Regimental Sergeant-Major V. Sugden. They have all had previous experience with aircraft and all but three are Regulars. Their duties will include loading and unloading

helicopters, and dispersing, concealing and defending them. There are 37 airmen, including technicians, to look after the machines.

Describing the Unit's role, Lieutenant-Colonel Scott said: "The helicopter gives you a very good potential means of increasing the mobility and flexibility of the Army in atomic warfare. It is my unit's job to show whether it can be worked."

So the Unit will set out to discover whether the Army can operate large numbers of helicopters in forward areas in all weathers, how far this will contribute to cutting down the Army's "tail" and what sort of "tail" the helicopters will need themselves. It will be necessary also to count the cost of using helicopters, bearing in mind that there may be some operations which can be carried out only by helicopters, however expensive they may be.

At the same time, the Unit will work out how helicopters should be commanded and administered in the field, and will try to solve some of the pilots' problems. As built at present, a helicopter, though it can cruise forwards at

The Bristol Sycamore is at present used for experimental work. Bigger craft will follow.

up to 100 knots, can go sideways or backwards at an airspeed of only about 15 knots. At higher speed it is liable to become unstable and go out of control.

Thus a pilot must have an accurate knowledge of the strength and direction of the wind before hovering and touching down. This makes night flying, or flying in fog or bad weather, extremely difficult, and these difficulties the Unit will set out to tackle. Already, in a corner of its hangar there stands a partly-completed, illuminated wind-direction indicator which the pilots will try out for night-flying.

The Army's first helicopter unit was set up by the Royal Artillery in 1945, for air observation post work. It had American machines. The run-down of the Army and the end of lease-lend cut its life short, but the Gunners began flying helicopters again in 1947.

## "WHO'S DRIVING THIS, ANYWAY?"

**A** SHINY new Army three-tonner, climbing a sandy slope, came to a halt half-way up. The soldier at the wheel cast a bewildered glance across the cab at a civilian in the passenger seat.

"It's all right. I stopped her," said the civilian.

For the first time since before World War Two, Army learner-drivers are taking lessons on dual-control vehicles.

It is all part of a six-months experiment during which a civilian organisation—the British School of Motoring—will show

In these stationary "dodgems" Army drivers learn the feel of brake, clutch and accelerator.



Suitable non-commissioned officers to act as instructors are scarce; and the number of civilian drivers employed to help out must be limited because they cannot take part in the purely military duties of a training unit. Perhaps handing over the job to an outside organisation will

prove to be an economical solution.

The British School of Motoring is also handling the maintenance and servicing of the training vehicles. If this, too, proves a success, the Army may be relieved of another burden.

As the School goes ahead with the training of 1000 National Service drivers, cost accountants are watching every move. At the same time, other cost accountants are scrutinising the training of another 1000 drivers by Army methods.

The School, which trained 90,000 Royal Air Force drivers in World War Two, began by hiring 40 new three-tonners from the Army and adapting them with partial dual-control (clutch, footbrake and accelerator) which it uses for its civilian pupils. The Army once tried complete dual-control before World War Two and considered it was not a success.

Then two training units went out, one to Yeovil, to 6th Training Battalion, Royal Army Service Corps, and the other to Aldershot, to 4th Training Regiment, Royal Engineers. The

Aldershot team is headed by an ex-Regular warrant officer of the Royal Army Service Corps, Mr. H. S. J. Siford, and includes two supervisors and 17 instructors.

After lectures, demonstrations and sessions on static trainers, the learners go off to a "nursery" course, where they practise on roads, rough tracks and slopes with bad surfaces. Any driver who does not settle down to the controls here may be taken off the three-tonner and given training on a more easily handled light car until he is ready to tackle the heavy vehicle again. The supervisors step in and check learners' progress at odd times during the training, and then adapt the course to suit the man.

From the nursery, the drivers graduate to three courses on the highway, each about eight miles long and each busier and more difficult than the last. Then they are ready to take their test—by an Army examiner.

Over a month, a man spends about 30 hours at the wheel. The School's civilian pupils spend only 12-15 hours driving. "But then," said an official, "the Army's standard is much higher."



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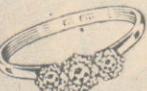
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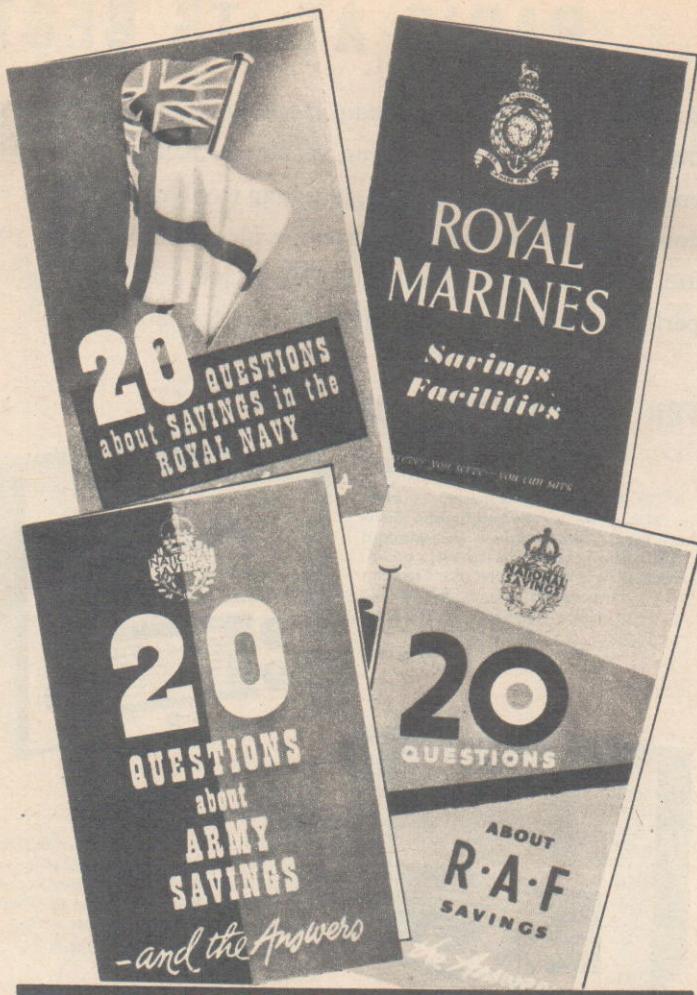
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*Chairman, H.M. Forces Savings Committee*

**To: All Serving in Her Majesty's Forces**

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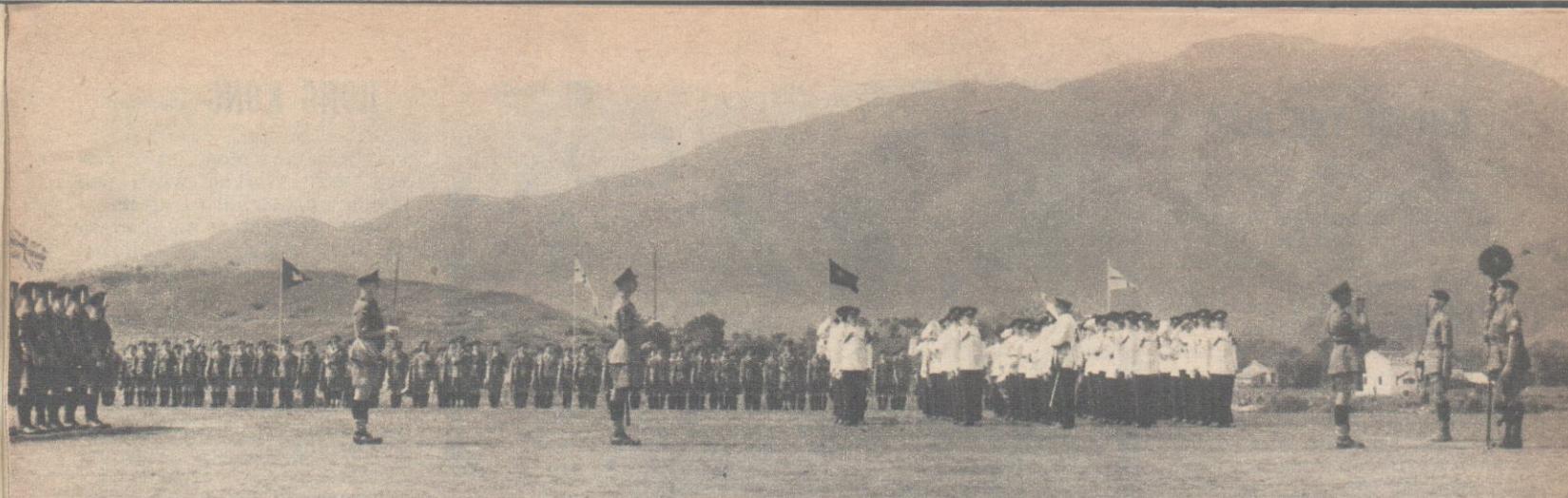
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The harsh hills look down on a sparkling parade by the King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster)—the Fourth of Foot. Below: troops march past with their FN rifles, gripped by the butt handle.

# HONG KONG SHOWS HOW

On the soil of Asia, a British Infantry Battalion Troops the Colour—with the new FN Rifle



**O**N the threshold of China, in the New Territories of Hong Kong, the 1st Battalion The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) Trooped the Colour on St. George's Day with the new .300 FN rifle.

In so doing, the Regiment con-

founded the sceptics by proving that the new rifle can be used, ceremonially, with as much precision as the Lee-Enfield.

The parade took place at the Regiment's barracks, Beas Stables, only 2000 yards from the Sino-British border, and facing the rugged hills on which

British troops trained so rigorously for Korea.

The thousand-strong audience included members of Hong Kong's Government and representatives of the three Services, headed by Lieutenant-General C. S. Sugden, commanding British

OVER

The Corps of Drums, in white tunics, slow march to the Regiment's traditional airs on St. George's Day.



concluding

## OUT OF THE ALPS

took it in turns to garrison Vienna, where Main Headquarters remained installed in Schonbrunn Palace until July 1948. As the tour of duty in those days was of six weeks duration, the change-and-change-about caused much domestic upheaval.

Not until 1951 was the old order changed. In the following year the Dorsets were installed long enough to be able to prepare for and celebrate their 250th anniversary in Vienna.

With the steady scaling down of the number of British troops and the handing back to the Austrians of more and more civilian property there came a time when Headquarters British Troops Austria were between the devil and the deep blue lakes. The peace treaty was always "just around the corner." Unable to go in for long-term planning, they yet had a housing problem of their own. So they decided to build on a limited scale. Up went flats and houses at various points; barrack blocks were repaired and given a fresh coat of paint; the buildings on the airfield at Zeltweg were made ship-shape for the Middlesex Regiment, who were the first to occupy them at battalion level.

This was at the beginning of 1953, when a company of soldiers sufficed in Vienna to do guards and ceremonials. The International Guard at the Palace of Justice, mounted once every three months, was almost all the Viennese saw of the British Army. By this time the famous international police patrol, drawn from the Four Powers, had deserted the jeep for the limousine and were less conspicuous.

The three British battalions in the Zone were separated by long distances, and each battalion was spread out over a big area. Hence field exercises were few.

It was possible to travel many miles in the British Zone of Austria without seeing a single British uniform. The Austrians would say: "What we like about you British is that you are so unobtrusive." It was the soldier's job to remain so.

Vanishing point had almost been reached by late 1953. After further freedom had been restored to the Austrians by the removal of the inter-zonal boundary on the Semmering Pass, two further battalions withdrew.

This spot on the Semmering had been a source of friction for years. Without the appropriate grey card a soldier was certain to be hauled off the train in the night by the Russians—a fate suffered by many unwary trippers.

The Army's night train service to and from Vienna was withdrawn long before the barriers on the Semmering came down, but not as a concession to the Russians—only as an economy measure. A day coach, attached to the Klagenfurt-Vienna ex-



The British lost no time in organising a race meeting in Vienna. Sharing this table are General Sir Richard McCreery and Marshal Koniev. Below: Bandmaster C. H. Jaeger, 4th Hussars, conducts the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, 1945.



press, was substituted and so began the days of "seeing the Russian Zone in daylight."

Troops from almost every county in Britain served in Austria during the past 10 years. Austria will always remember the colourful Irish Brigade and their saffron-kilted pipe bands.

Other highlights that SOLDIER recalls were the first leave trips to Britain by the overland route from Villach; the MED-LOC train which in its latter years was one of the finest troop trains ever run; the farm set up at Spittal for agricultural students; the concert tour by the band of the East Yorkshire Regiment in the Russian Zone; the stable at Schonbrunn Palace which was converted into a British chapel; and the dedication of a stained-glass window in Christ Church, Vienna, as a memorial to Eighth Army troops.

British troops can be proud of their achievement in Austria.

BILL COUSINS

## HONG KONG continued

Forces in the Colony. Also present were Gurkha wives and families, colourfully arrayed.

Sixty per cent of the men on parade, under Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Underwood, were National Servicemen.

The military music was largely traditional to the King's Own. "Shall Trelawny Die," the Regimental slow march, honours the Trelawny family of Cornwall, two members of which commanded the Regiment in its first 22 years.

"Glopriaug," a stirring slow march, to which the officers and warrant officers join their guards, was the music of the Bleu and Orange Society. This organisation was founded by officers of the King's Own about 1733 and the "Glopriaug" was sung by officers when sitting down to dinner. Another piece played was the Imperial Russian National Anthem in which the Regiment has a traditional interest. There was a certain piquancy in the fact that Communist China was almost within earshot.

The brief drill instructions issued with the new rifle did not cover the extensive range of movements required for Trooping the Colour. The Regiment evolved, after much experiment, procedure by which to carry out the "recover" and the "port."

The Regiment have a high opinion of the new rifle. "A splendid weapon," a young subaltern called it. "As near foolproof as modern ingenuity can achieve," said a senior officer.

The King's Own claim also to have mounted the first guard of honour with the new rifle in any colony, the occasion being a visit by the Governor of Hong Kong. —Report by Major K. C. Harvey, Army Public Relations, and Major T. A. M. Twaddle, The King's Own Royal Regiment.



Vienna's fountains played again for the opening of Russia's war memorial.



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Guinness to wash it down. How perfectly Guinness goes with food. The clean, smooth flavour's so *refreshing*. You finish your meal feeling better, happier, and thoroughly satisfied.





## HE SAW THE COMIC SIDE

**T**HE year was 1937. Northland was chasing Southland over the Quaintocks. During a lull, a young Yeomanry subaltern was rash enough to offer a cigarette to a fierce-looking major with a cavalry moustache.

"We never smoke during battle," said the major angrily.

John Verney, the subaltern, who was an assistant film director, found himself a fish out of water in the pre-war Yeomanry, in which so many of the officers set out to be more Regular than the Regulars. He gives a diverting but unmalicious account of his comrades and himself in "Going to the Wars" (Collins, 12s 6d), a most refreshing book.

His regiment went to Palestine with the Yeomanry Division—"our own choice Yeomanry Division" for which Mr. Churchill was so anxious to provide some real fighting. For long they faced stagnation, waiting to be mechanised. So it was not very helpful when one of their number at Christmas received a parish church circular which said: "The curse is stagnation. A change of life is a new experience, a new opportunity... THUMBS UP! TIGGERTY-BOO! UP THE BIBLE CLASS!"

The Yeomanry eventually took part in the first war against the French for 135 years (in Syria), and then entertained the defeated French officers in their mess. The author was anxious not to wound the French officers' feelings, but the fierce-looking major had the better technique. "What do you mean by fighting against us, you silly —?" he asked them. Then they all found a common topic in hunting.

John Verney became adjutant, then major. His second-in-command was an ex-sergeant-major who had once roundly rebuked him on drill parades. Says the author:

"Once a man has been able to address you as, 'You, there, sir, supposed to be an officer' for a fortnight, he has gained an ascendancy which even the reversal of your situations cannot eliminate."

With a vague idea that he might more easily qualify for a

spell of home leave, the author joined a private army disguised by the name of Bomfrey's Boys. He was put in command of a raid on Sardinia, the object being to sabotage aircraft which might be used against the Allied troops landing in Sicily. The aim

was to go by submarine, but as it turned out, Verney and others dropped by parachute. They wrecked several aircraft, then were captured, eventually escaping and making their way back through the British lines in Italy. The commanding officer of the Infantry battalion through which they crept unseen was annoyed at this reflection on his battalion's alertness.

"Can't think why they didn't shoot you. Remind me to have a word with the Company Commander about it," he added to his Adjutant."

John Verney is modest about his cloak-and-dagger exploits. He recalls:

"A general in the War Office,



"You'll be surprised at the change in Henry since his call-up."

one of the rugged sort, whose co-operation I was seeking to include two pretty ATS sergeants on an establishment, once told me that in his opinion all irregular formations and private armies like Bomfrey's Boys contributed precisely nothing to Allied victory. All they did was to offer a too-easy, perhaps romanticised, form of gallantry to a few anti-social, irresponsible individualists who sought a more personal satisfaction from the war than that of standing their chance, like proper soldiers, of being bayoneted in a slit-trench or burnt alive in a tank...

"I never argue with generals... Besides, I thought he was perfectly right."

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## "Not For A Gentleman"

**I**N an age when parental advice counted for much in matters military, a certain field officer chose to ignore what his father told him and, as a result, became the first Superintendent of Army Gymnasia at Aldershot.

His father had urged him not to hardy fit for a gentleman, much less an officer, who aspires to military distinction." It speaks highly for Major F. Hammersley that he was prepared to sacrifice a successful military career to cultivate this new field.

The story of physical training in the Army was told in a long article in *SOLDIER* in January 1954. Now comes a full-dress "History of the Army Physical Training Corps" (Gale and Polden, 21s) in which Lieut-Colonel E. A. L. Oldfield has tackled a difficult task with skill and no little patience. Very few records of the Corps before 1919 exist, possibly an example of too much emphasis being placed on muscle to the exclusion of staff work.

In mid-Victorian days the correct wear for gymnastics was the ordinary uniform without jacket. At one time troops faced a pre-breakfast run of 10 or 15 miles cross-country once a week. Comments the author: "It says much for the discipline of the victims

that this did not lead to mutiny."

In 1882, a party of officers studied the Danish system of physical training and as a result new ideas crept in, but slowly. The old system of building up muscle to the virtual exclusion of all else did not disappear until the twentieth century was well advanced.

Long before those bulging muscles and heaving chests had begun to retract, the Army gymnastic staff had gained official recognition by the grouping of the officer members in the Army List as a distinct body, although there is no record of an Army List being solemnly torn in twain as a demonstration of prowess to celebrate the event.

Much of the book is devoted to the part played by the Corps in the two world wars. At Arnhem 26 physical training instructors jumped with the men they had trained, and fought alongside them. Four were killed.

**J**AN BAALSRUD made a spectacular landing in his native Norway when he arrived there as an Allied agent in 1943. Two months later, he made a spectacular exit.

In between, he survived such hardships that David Howarth, who reconstructed the story on the spot with him, admits in "We Die Alone" (Collins, 15s) that he is afraid of being accused of exaggeration in telling it.

Jan Baalsrud was one of the brave Norwegian patriots who escaped from their occupied country through Russia and America to Britain.

He underwent special training in Britain, and was one of four agents, who, with a crew of eight, were on the fishing boat *Brattholm* when she anchored in a quiet bay in one of the islands off

## He Won DCM—No Reason Stated

**O**N a Moscow airfield in September 1941 a Red Army band was playing the British National Anthem. The Russians were giving an official send-off to the Allied Mission, on which were General Lord Ismay and Lord Beaverbrook.

Almost unnoticed as he climbed aboard one of the two aircraft bound for Archangel was Lance-Corporal James Allan, a British military policeman, in tattered civilian clothes and with a prison hair-cut.

For Lance-Corporal Allan the flight was the first stage of his journey to freedom. Only the day before he had been released from Moscow's Lubyanka Jail.

In "No Citation" (Angus and Robertson, 12s 6d) Lance-Corporal Allan, who was captured at Dunkirk, tells how he escaped from a German prison camp in Poland and, with the help of the Polish Underground, was smuggled into Russia, then neutral.

There were no bands to welcome him as he stepped on Russian soil after swimming the River Vistula. Instead he was hustled into prison. The suspicions of the Secret Police that he was a spy were heightened by the fact that he could reel off many Russian phrases learned from his Polish friends. Later, when they discovered from his AB 64 that he had once belonged to the Scots Guards, they accused him of having been sent to Russia by MI 5.

Despite his denials the Russians remained convinced. The author describes how he was beaten up with rubber truncheons and sentenced to long periods of solitary confinement in an effort to get him to talk. Allan refused to give in and never divulged the names of the Poles who had helped him escape.

Then one day he was taken from prison in a car, dropped outside the British Embassy and told he was free. Fearing that he would be shot as an escaping prisoner he ran wildly, weaving and dodging, across the road and up the Embassy steps, where a Canadian asked, "Are you Allan? We've been waiting for you."

# ESCAPED INTO SWEDEN IN A REINDEER STAMPEDE

Norway's Arctic coast. Treachery brought a German warship to the scene. The *Brattholm* was blown up by the agents and they and the crew made for shore. One was killed by a German bullet; ten were captured, some wounded, to die three days later at the hands of the Gestapo — some after torture.

That left Jan Baalsrud. Scrambling up a snow-covered slope, he paused to shoot two pursuing Germans. Then, with one foot encased in a seaboot and the other bare and with half the big toe shot away, he escaped across

the island. Through the icy sea, he swam to the next island, then the next. As he lay exhausted on the shore two children found him. Their mothers clothed and fed him and gave him a spare seaboot.

Eventually he reached the mainland, where his adventures included crashing down a hillside in an avalanche. Blinded by snow-glare, delirious from concussion, his toes gangrenous, he fell among friends. On a sledge, prefabricated in a school-house where Germans were billeted, he was painfully hauled up the hill-

side to the plateau which stretches from the Norwegian Arctic into Sweden and on to Siberia.

On the plateau, men from a second village were to take charge of him. Before they could do so a storm blew up and he was buried by four or five feet of snow under which he lay several days. He was found alive, to his own and others' surprise. Soon afterwards he amputated nine of his toes with a blunt pen-knife. He finally became so despondent that he decided to kill himself, but his pistol was rusted and stiff and he lacked the strength to pull the trigger.

Then one day two primitive Lapps, bribed with brandy, blankets, coffee and tobacco, arrived with a herd of 500 reindeer, loaded him on to a reindeer-drawn sledge and headed for Sweden. The end of the story is unique among narratives of this kind. Jan on his sledge was swept across a thinly-iced lake to Sweden in a stampede of reindeer, as a ski patrol, firing rifles, endeavoured to intercept him.

It is a story which ought to be read by anybody who thinks he is tough.

Incidentally, the book sold 65,000 copies before publication, which shows that the appetite for war adventure stories is still far from sated.



Lance-Corporal James Allan escaped in Poland — and ended up in Moscow's Lubyanka Prison.

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The whiteness of this girl's teeth is here being measured. The "whiteness-meter" showed that they were shades whiter after one brushing with Macleans.

# Scientists prove teeth whiter with MACLEANS

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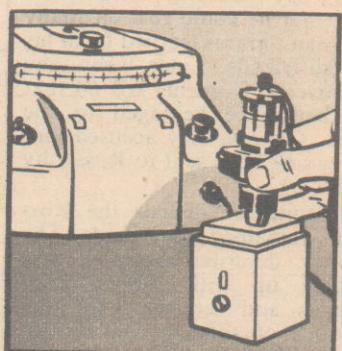
AFTER one brushing with Macleans your teeth are  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 degrees whiter. That is a scientific fact. It was proved in every single case after hundreds of tests with a spectro-photometer, or "whiteness-meter".

Dental authorities agree that to avoid

decay teeth must be really *clean*. Brushed regularly with Macleans (you'll love its clean, fresh flavour!) they'll be cleaner, whiter, healthier — and your gums will be firmer, too. Millions are proving for themselves that Maclean-white teeth are healthy teeth.



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To measure the whiteness of human teeth, a solid block of pure magnesium oxide was used as a standard of whiteness. The spectro-photometer was then set to this standard and the degree of whiteness of the teeth measured on the scale shown above.



A pole vault of 13 feet 6 inches is Corporal Geoffrey Schmidt's best so far. He won't rest till he's topped 14 feet. Right: discipline in flight.

Here's a Young Soldier with—

## VAULTING AMBITION

**A**NATIONAL Serviceman who is likely to jump into the headlines this summer is Corporal Geoffrey Schmidt, a physical training instructor with 5th Training Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers at Arborfield.

He is a young man whose life is dedicated—to pole vaulting. There is not much doubt that he will lower the Army record in the Individual Championships this month. Already he is challenging the best pole-vaulters in the country. Soon he will be challenging the best in the world.

At present Corporal Schmidt is rated the third best pole-vaulter in the country with a jump of 13 ft 6 ins in a civilian competition at Wealdstone last year. The national record is held by Flight-Lieutenant G. M. Elliott, of the Royal Air Force, with 14 ft. Norman Gregor, a Maidstone policeman, has cleared 13 ft 6½ ins.

Corporal Schmidt is the present Army champion with 12 ft 6 ins, and he hopes to go at least a foot higher this month and so break the Army record of 13 ft, set up by Lieutenant T. D. Anderson, Royal Army Medical Corps, in 1952.

As a youngster in India, Corporal Schmidt was fascinated by the spectacle of pole-vaulting, in which even a mediocre athlete can propel himself high above the heads of the spectators. (For the benefit of the uninitiated, the base of the pole is thrust into a sunken box which "traps" it, thus enabling the vaulter to swing himself aloft. The pole falls away without fouling the cross-bar.)

But Corporal Schmidt never got his chance until he came to England and went to the John Fisher School, Purley, Surrey. There the Headmaster, the Reverend A. Maclean, saw his potentialities and encouraged him. He became champion of his school in 1950 at the age of 14; and three years later, while still at school, he broke the British junior record with a vault of 12 ft 8 ins.

With the subsequent help of the great Austrian coach, Franz Stampf (who advised Dr. Roger Bannister) he progressed inch by inch until he was jumping more than twice his own height.

Soon after joining the Army Corporal Schmidt won the Army Individual Championship but was beaten by the national cham-



pion, Flight-Lieutenant G. M. Elliott, in the inter-Services meeting.

Already Corporal Schmidt has taken part in notable international meetings. Last year he represented England against Belgium, and then appeared for London against Moscow. The latter occasion, under the flood-lights of the White City, was a memorable one in Corporal Schmidt's career. Though he came only fourth, he cleared 13 feet, a difficult accomplishment under artificial lighting. Elliott won with a vault of 14 feet (which gave him the British record); two Russians cleared

13 ft 9 ins and 13 ft 6 ins respectively.

If Corporal Schmidt can approach the 14 ft mark he is regarded as a near-certainty to represent Britain in the Olympic Games in Australia next year.

Pole vaulting is an art that takes many years to acquire. Its devotees often do not reach maturity until they are in their thirties. So if Corporal Schmidt clears 14 feet in the next year or two it will be a dazzling feat for a young athlete.

*Note.* The world's pole vault record is held by the American, C. Warmerdam, who jumped 15 ft 7½ ins in 1942.

## NOT CRICKET, HE SAYS

**T**O a cricketer (and not only to a cricketer) the spectacle of footballers hugging each other after scoring goals, or boxers shaking hands with themselves as the mob cheers, is a nauseous sight.

Cricket has a more fastidious etiquette. A retired lieutenant-colonel of the Worcestershire Regiment has been at pains to produce a handbook entitled "Cricketing Courtesy" setting out the customs of the game.

Bobbie Burlton, as the author styles himself, answers questions like: When and how should a player acknowledge applause?

He says a batsman should pay no attention to applause when he leaves the pavilion. When he has scored 50 runs "courtesy demands that he should acknowledge the people's pleasure by at least touching his cap if he is wearing one or by raising his bat

if he is not." He should do the same if applauded on his return to the pavilion.

The man who bowls him out, or the fielder who catches him, must not acknowledge applause.

"Another of cricket's delightful habits is the applause by the fielding side for a six. If you are the bowler who enables the big hit to happen, be the first in your applause," says the writer.

The author does not tell batsmen how they should acknowledge barracking. He does, however, instruct the crowd when to exclaim "Well stopped," "Well held," "Well taken," "Well put down," "Well backed up" and "Well run."

The sort of things the author dislikes to see in cricket include: throwing unwanted garments at the long-suffering umpire; bowlers sitting down unconcernedly while the batsman licks his

wounds; batsman picking up the ball and returning it to the bowler without asking "Shall I?"; fielders "ambling" to their positions ("Not only does it waste time, but it gives an impression of lethargy or even insubordination.")

A "most untidy habit" is that of the fielder stopping the ball with his foot. "It is far more in accordance with the spirit of the game to give away runs if you feel that you cannot get your hand to the ball." Yet the author insists "Always start the game with a determination to win." Must a fielder sacrifice the game by declining, in emergency, to use his foot?

That is a question, presumably, for every cricketer's own conscience.

"Cricketing Courtesy" is published by the author at Chittenden, Hawkhurst, Kent, at 5s.

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Personnel Manager (82701/13-M),  
Messrs. Kodak Ltd.,  
The Works, Headstone Drive,  
Wealdstone, HARROW, Middx.

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

Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published. • Please do not ask for information which you can get in your orderly room or from your own officer.

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

## CAMPAIGN MEDALS

The rules governing the award of campaign medals have always been something of a mystery to serving soldiers and the announcement that the Africa General Service Medal is (very properly) to be granted to those who have served in the anti-Mau Mau operations reminds me of three comparable "rebellions," in which casualties occurred, namely (a) The "Irish Rebellion," 1920-22; (b) Sudanese rebellion or mutiny, 1924; (c) The Arab rebellion, 1936-39.

In the first two campaigns, medals were not awarded, but the third was recognised by the award of the General Service Medal with "Palestine" clasp. Moreover, there were combatant as well as non-combatant decorations, whereas in (a) there were only non-combatant decorations and (b) combatant decorations.

There must be a rule which applies to all three episodes. In the days of Indian Frontier wars the criterion for issuing a medal was the opening of fire by the artillery. "Takma milgya—we've got the medal" the Indian soldiers would shout as the first round went off. This was a simple rule, but was it ever official? Did it apply elsewhere? What is the rule today?—G. I. Malcolm, Lieut. - Colonel (retired), Pottaloch, Lochgilphead, Argyll.

★ Campaign medals are granted "in commemoration of an arduous campaign or other well-fought operation entailing danger to life from enemy action or other exceptional risk or hardship"; also for "specified service in a non-operational command during a state of war." Each claim must be assessed on its merits. It seems probable that a "quarrel in the family" like the Irish Rebellion was regarded as an unsuitable occasion for awarding a medal.

**SOLDIER** has no knowledge of the Indian Frontier custom mentioned.

## NO MYTH?

It is quite true there are plenty of known Army myths (Letters, May), but as the Dutch are a level-headed people it is unlikely that responsible Dutch officials would spread reports like the following, without some foundation: "German parachutists were disguised in French and British military uniforms as well as in the uniforms of Dutch military and police. Others were dressed as civilians,

# LETTERS

priests, peasants and schoolboys. Young boys dressed as girls were also dropped. Girls dressed as nurses, wearing the uniforms of the hospitals near which they landed, and servant girls landed in areas where they had previously worked. Those dressed as girls (both men and women) carried baskets full of hand-grenades, made to look like provisions, in addition to automatics hidden under their clothing. Some carried poisoned cigarettes and chocolates."

The above is an extract from a pamphlet, marked "For the attention of all officers," setting out the methods used by parachute troops in Holland. The date of it is August 11, 1940, and it came into my possession when I was orderly room corporal in the 6th (HD) Battalion The Leicestershire Regiment, engaged in defence of aerodromes.—S. H. Calan, 96 Narborough Road, Leicester.

★ The document which this reader sends does not, unfortunately, bear the name of the issuing authority. There is no mention of disguised parachutists in the official history of the 1939-40 campaign in France and Flanders, by Major L. F. Ellis.

## BLAZER BADGES

I served with Combined Operations in North Devon for six months during 1953. Am I entitled to wear the Combined Operations badge on my blazer?—"Searchlight" (name and address supplied).

★ **SOLDIER** is often asked questions about badges on blazers. It is not a matter on which the War Office lays down rules, but one for individual regiments or headquarters to decide. Anyone in doubt about unit or formation blazer badges should consult his old comrades association.

## BLACK PUTTEES

I was interested in the detail concerning the uniform of the Civil Service Rifle Volunteers (**SOLDIER**, March). My father's old unit, the 6th (Rifle) Battalion The King's Regiment (Liverpool), were the last to wear black puttees and, being affiliated to the King's Royal Rifle Corps, their cap-badge was a black bugle horn and not the white horse of Hanover. The Battalion later became the 573rd (M) HAA Regiment, RA (TA). It is a pity that with the end of Ack-Ack Command, so many fine regiments of the Territorial Army will have to lose their identity.—P. T. Stevenson, Horsham, Westmorland.

## BURMA BET

During the last war a friend of mine received Japanese campaign pay at the rate of a shilling per day but never went up to Burma; he stayed in India until the end of hostilities. I insist that he was officially in the Burma cam-

paign, but he will have it otherwise. There is a substantial sum depending on the answer and it will be given to an ex-Service charity.—D. O'Driscoll (ex-REME), Cleveland, Transvaal, South Africa.

★ Although Japanese campaign pay was granted to those serving in India, only service in one of the qualifying land areas, Bengal or Assam, counted for the Burma Star.

## SNIPED

The article on sniping (**SOLDIER**, May) was most interesting, but I beg to differ on the point that the Americans developed the sniperscope. The Germans used this to good effect during the latter part of the last war. My main sources of information are a national daily newspaper, published in 1945, and the book "German Research in World War Two." The newspaper article states that the German unit using the infra-red ray equipment surrendered as a unit on condition that the equipment was sent to Britain. Whether or not this is true, it would appear that the Germans developed the idea and that our authorities had it offered to them.—E. Davey (ex-RAF), 199 Barrack Road, Christchurch.

## THE GREYS

Lady Butler's picture of the charge of the Royal Scots Greys, to which reference was made (**SOLDIER**, May), is now the property of Leeds Corporation and is to be seen in their art gallery. Much of the data was provided by a veterinary surgeon serving with the Greys. A number of coloured prints of Lady Butler's pictures are still to be seen in the homes of rural England.—Capt. Ivor Hughes, High Street, Coleshill, Warwickshire.

## £8 FOR HIM

For domestic reasons I was obliged to apply for a free discharge after 16 years service. I was discharged in March, 1954. Was I not entitled to a civilian suit or cash in lieu?—R. Lucas, Minster Cottages, Partridge Green, Horsham.

★ This reader was so entitled and has since accepted the £8 cash settlement. His query was made following the publication of the letter "Five In One" (March). He writes: "Many thanks to **SOLDIER** for the valuable information given and service rendered."

## TYPE "T"

I completed my 22 years' engagement in April 1950 and took my discharge. Three months later I received notification that I was liable to recall, giving the name of the unit to which I would have to report. My final discharge came through on 7 February, 1951. In March of the following year I re-enlisted on a type "T" engagement



The Africa General Service Medal, with the "Kenya" clasp, which is to be awarded to troops operating against the Mau Mau. The Medal is in silver, bearing the Queen's head. The reverse, except for the inscription, is similar to that used in 1899 for the East and Central Africa Medal. It has appeared on the Africa General Service Medal since the medal was instituted in 1902. The ribbon is yellow; the two narrow stripes are green and the stripes at the edges black.

for four years. Do I qualify for the bounty introduced in November 1950?—Sgt. W. G. Ringrose, 69 Hackbridge Road, Hackbridge, Surrey.

★ This NCO's notification of recall to the Colours in 1950 was doubtless due to the Korean emergency. No bounty was payable in respect of such a recall to men who had already completed an engagement of 22 years, nor was one awarded for re-enlistment on a Type "T" engagement.

## PURPLE HEART

Will **SOLDIER** settle an argument over the American medal "The Purple Heart"? For what purpose is it awarded and what is its position in relation to other American decorations and awards?—"Schoolie" (name and address supplied).

★ The Purple Heart is awarded to any American Serviceman wounded either in action or against an armed enemy or as a direct result of an enemy act. It is also awarded posthumously and sent to next-of-kin. In the list of American military decorations it occupies eleventh place.

## THE FIRST?

Relying to a correspondent (Letters, May) **SOLDIER** stated that the 77th Company, Royal Army Service Corps was believed to be the first unit to be mechanised. Have you not overlooked the 45th Company, Royal Engineers? Steam road transport was first used by this unit in the South African War (1899-1902) and was handed over to the Army Service Corps.—T. A. Goodwin, Captain RE (AER), 269 Nantwich Road, Crewe.

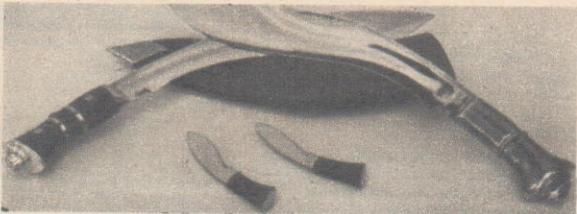
As a lance corporal on a signals course, I have a vivid recollection of seeing traction engines at Aldershot in 1902. They belonged, I think, to the balloon section of the Royal Engineers and were driven by junior NCOs, wearing spurs! The lurid comments which invariably greeted the drivers as to the suitability, or otherwise, of spurs as an aid to mobility firmly fixes the fact in my mind.—Capt. H. Fletcher (late Coldstream Guards), Waterlake, Stalbridge, Dorset.

An Army traction engine with its supply train in South Africa.—See letter: "The First."



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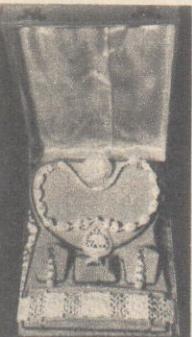
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Write, giving details of age, qualifications and experience, to Staff Manager, Imperial Chemical Industries Limited, Billingham Division, Billingham, Co. Durham, quoting advertisement reference J.10.

## MORE LETTERS

### OFF THE PIER

Is there any truth in the story that a body of Commandos once marched off the end of a pier because nobody gave the order to halt?—“Bob Bet” (name and address supplied).

★The author of “The Green Beret” says: “There is on record the story of the officer commanding the Scottish Commando who, at the head of his men on the day after Hogmanay, reached the end of a pier and, forbearing to give the order to halt, marched steadily over the edge until he and every man behind him had plunged into the icy waters of the Clyde.”

This was cited as a slightly extravagant example of “the close union between commanders and commanded.” Was any reader of SOLDIER a member of that little party?

### SOLDIERING ON

I completed 22 years with the Colours and was released on 13 October 1954, but re-enlisted for three years supplemental service, which is not pensionable. Do I lose three years pension or can I draw it? Am I entitled to my bounty on release from my Regular engagement?—Corporal V. Hill, Dorset Regiment, att. RAPC, Canterbury.

★On completion of his supplementary service engagement this NCO will be given the following options—(a) Pension and terminal grant assessed on 22 years reckonable service and gratuity in respect of his supplemental service; or (b) Pension and terminal grant assessed on the whole of his service, that is, 25 years reckonable service.

### SINGLE MEN

Most of the unmarried Regulars of my acquaintance were glad to see that SOLDIER published two letters from

## films coming your way

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

**ABOVE US THE WAVES:** The exciting story of the Royal Navy's attacks on the German battleship “Tirpitz” in a Norwegian fjord during World War Two. The first attempt, by human torpedoes, is frustrated by storm. The second, by midget submarine, succeeds. Crews of two of the midgets are held prisoner on the great ship while the time-fuzes are at work on the charges they have put under her bottom. Cast: John Mills, John Gregson, Donald Sinden, James Robertson Justice.

**BAD DAY AT BLACK ROCK:** Spencer Tracy arrives in an isolated Western town to deliver a medal, but finds the recipient has been murdered and that most of the town is involved. In one hectic day he clears the matter up. Also in the cast: Robert Ryan, Anne Francis.

**DEEP IN MY HEART:** Latest in Hollywood's list of musicians' biographies. Subject this time is Sigmund Romberg, composer of such works as “The Student Prince,” “Auf Wiedersehen” and “Lover Come Back to Me.” Jose Ferrer, Merle Oberon and Helen Traubel lead the cast and a series of “guest stars” perform Romberg numbers.

**GREEN FIRE:** What happens in South America when a young man's emerald mine threatens the welfare of his girl-friend's plantation. Floods, jungle beasts, subsidence and explosions. Stars: Stewart Granger, Grace Kelly and Paul Douglas.

**MAN WITHOUT A STAR:** There's fighting on the range and the beef stampedes. Stars: Kirk Douglas, Jeanne Crain and Claire Trevor.

single warrant officers, protesting at the apparent difference in conditions of living offered to married and unmarried Regular soldiers.

The reasons for giving the married Regular the best available conditions and every encouragement to continue his career are generally appreciated and, I think, not disputed. I do not think that the average unmarried soldier wishes any reduction to be made in the standard of living and rates of pay or curtailment of any minor privileges that his married comrade-in-arms may obtain. It is also appreciated that the married man suffers more than the single man in a theatre of operations where married accommodation is non-existent.

However, there is a growing feeling amongst the unmarried that they are being somewhat left behind in the progress of the modern Army towards making military life a fine career that will attract to the Colours sufficient recruits to enable careful selection of only the very best men and women. It is felt that there is an element of injustice in the differences revealed in the modes of living of the single and married men. “Justice must not only be done. It must be seen to be done.”

It does not, for example, seem fair that a single warrant officer is required to live in one small room about the size, approximately, of a Dartmoor cell, while a sergeant who works with him may return after duty to a comfortable married quarter with three or four rooms.

The suggestion that dissatisfied single men should improve their conditions by marrying does not seem very helpful. Perhaps most unmarried Regulars consider themselves already married—to their Army careers!—Single Pad (name and address supplied).

### SKEAN DHU

One aspect of the dress of the modern Highlander puzzles me. What has happened to the skean dhu (stocking knife)? One rarely sees a Highlander nowadays wearing what at one time was an important part of the Highland dress. Do regulations now forbid it or is economy the reason for its absence? If authorised, is it worn by all ranks?

To the civilian the Household Cavalry, Brigade of Guards and Highland Brigade provide the few splashes of colour to be seen in the modern Army. I hope the Highland regiments continue to fight to retain their picturesquely dressed.—E. C. Brown (ex-Black Watch), 11 Bramford Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk.

★The skean dhu is now worn only by the pipe-major and pipers on the establishment of Highland and Lowland regiments. This limitation, SOLDIER understands, is an economy measure.

### ACCOMMODATION

I completed 23 years continuous Colour service in 1954 and re-enlisted the following day as an instructor with the Territorial Army, on a four-year Type “T” engagement. May I claim my discharge, having completed 16 years’ Colour service, or must I serve out my full term?

A friend, who is retiring through ill-health, has offered me his business as a grocer and baker for £1500. How much of my pension can be commuted and what amount could I expect? I have written to Chelsea before about commuting my pension, but they have referred me to my Battalion Orderly Room. This sort of information is not readily available in a Territorial unit. “T Type” (name and address supplied).

★This NCO cannot claim his discharge, as he has already been discharged from his previous Regular engagement. Nor may he apply to purchase his discharge from his present engagement until he has completed three years of it, unless there are compassionate grounds.

Commutation of pension cannot be considered until discharge has been effected and pension entitlement confirmed. Application should then be made to the Controller, Army Pensions Office, London Road, Stanmore, Middlesex.

## REPATRIATION

Before the 1939-45 war soldiers were allowed to complete the last 12 months of service in the United Kingdom. This privilege has been partially restored to pensionable men by granting the last six months of service at home.

The Army has had heavy commitments, but with the present re-deployment of the Service is there any likelihood of consideration being given to restoring this pre-war concession to long-serving soldiers?

Like most men on leaving the Service, I need a home. At present I am corresponding with the building contractors. Corresponding is one thing, but I would like to see the site, talk over the plans, consult a solicitor and have the home built by the time I leave the Service.—

"Tokyo" (name and address supplied).

★ Regulars on 21- or 22-year engagements may spend the last six months in Britain. The privilege may be extended subject to the exigencies of the Service as decided by the overseas command concerned, to Regulars serving for 12 years with the Colours or those serving on 22-year engagements who elect to leave the Colours after 12 years, or more, by giving notice. Only in exceptional circumstances will soldiers taking advantage of this privilege be accepted for further spells of service. No general change in the regulations is at present contemplated. See ACI 188/53.

LETTERS CONTINUED OVERLEAF

## THE FAMILY TOUCH

"BORN into the Army" is a phrase which is not so often heard these days.

For Major Francis Bird, quartermaster of the British Military Hospital at Rinteln, in Germany, the phrase might be "Born into the Royal Army Medical Corps." He has served 31 years with the Corps, and other members of his family who have worn the same badge are his father and his uncle (who were both staff-sergeants), both his brothers (who were Regulars) and three of his cousins. In addition, his three sisters all married members of the Corps.

Major Bird's son, John, who has recently applied for entry to the Royal Military Academy, looks like breaking the family tradition. "If he goes to Sandhurst, I think it will be Infantry or Tanks for him," says Major Bird. "A pity, but the link must be broken some day."

ARMOURER Quartermaster-Sergeant W. A. C. West, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, pictured here receiving his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal at Weybourne Camp, is one of four members of his family to qualify for the award. The other three, all members of the Royal Corps of Signals, are his father who is still serving, after 41 years, as a major; his uncle, who was a company sergeant-major; and his brother, who has recently qualified for the award.



## Beginner's luck calls for it



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Dart teams deserve it  
The landlord will serve it  
And you will observe it

is **Good wholesome beer**

What's Yours? Do you like a 'mild and bitter' or a 'black and tan'—stout and mild? There's infinite variety in beer, you know. What about trying something different tonight? You may be missing something.



# Good wholesome beer!



### HODSON'S HORSE

As the last British Commandant of Hodson's Horse I would like to draw your attention to an error in Hodson's christian name as given in your May number.

The name should read: "William Stephen Raikes Hodson."

The Regiment is now an armoured regiment of the Indian Army. Hodson's grave is maintained in excellent condition by a gardener paid by the Regiment; it is located in the grounds of La Martiniere College, Lucknow.

The Indian Army of today has appreciated the great importance of tradition.—Colonel W. J. Shoolbred OBE, Beachley, Chepstow, Mon.

★ The grave bears the inscription: "Here lies all that could die of William Hodson."

### NEWER RENOVATOR

I have read the correspondence under the heading "Give Us Blanco" (Letters, June). Perhaps SOLDIER could tell me where in the Edinburgh area I could obtain a supply of the new web-equipment renovator.—"Recently Commissioned" (name and address supplied).

We find that if only a small quantity of the web equipment renovator is used and scrubbed well into the webbing a smooth, dry surface is obtained. This will last for a whole week without even "touching up." The webbing can be scrubbed with ordinary soap and water whenever required and a fresh start made.—Pte. D. Paterson, Depot Highland Light Infantry, Maryhill Barracks, Glasgow.

★ The consumption rate of the new

Out of uniform: girls of the three Services practising at Hammersley Barracks, Aldershot, for the Royal Tournament.

renovator having been under-estimated, the stock of the present composition on sale by NAAFI was almost used up by May last.

Since publication of the correspondence SOLDIER has been informed that, before the new renovator was put into general use; it was subjected to extensive laboratory and troop trials with Home Commands. It was eventually approved by the War Office and the specification was prepared by the Ministry of Supply. Before the specification was passed over to NAAFI for manufacture and distribution, a change was made in it by the Ministry of Supply which, it was hoped, would improve it in certain ways, in particular making it more suitable for use in tropical climates. Unfortunately, as could not be foreseen at that time, the change has resulted in the product proving unsatisfactory in use.

Production of a renovator in accordance with the original specification approved by War Office has been arranged and it is confidently expected that the difficulties and complaints of the past will be eliminated.

### THAT CIVVY SUIT

I am a special size and will require a civilian suit made to measure before I leave the Army. How long will it take to make? Shall I be given an extra fitting? Are there patterns from which to choose? And can I have a cap instead of a trilby hat?—Hefty" (name and address supplied).

### CLANGER

In my regiment, the Glosters, warrant officers and sergeants wear the sash over the right shoulder—not the left (Letters, June).—Sergeant K. Jeyes, Lower Tuffley, Gloucester.

★ SOLDIER'S apologies for a silly slip, which many readers spotted. Only the Somerset Light Infantry wear the sash over the left shoulder.

### DO NOT MISS SOLDIER!

If you are a serving soldier, you will be able to buy SOLDIER from your unit, your canteen or your AKC cinema. Presidents of Regiments Institutes should enquire of their Chief Education Officer for re-sale terms.

If you are a civilian, you may order SOLDIER at any bookstall in the United Kingdom.

Those unable to obtain the magazine through the above channels should fill in the order form below.

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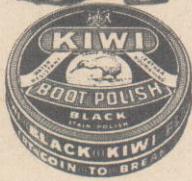
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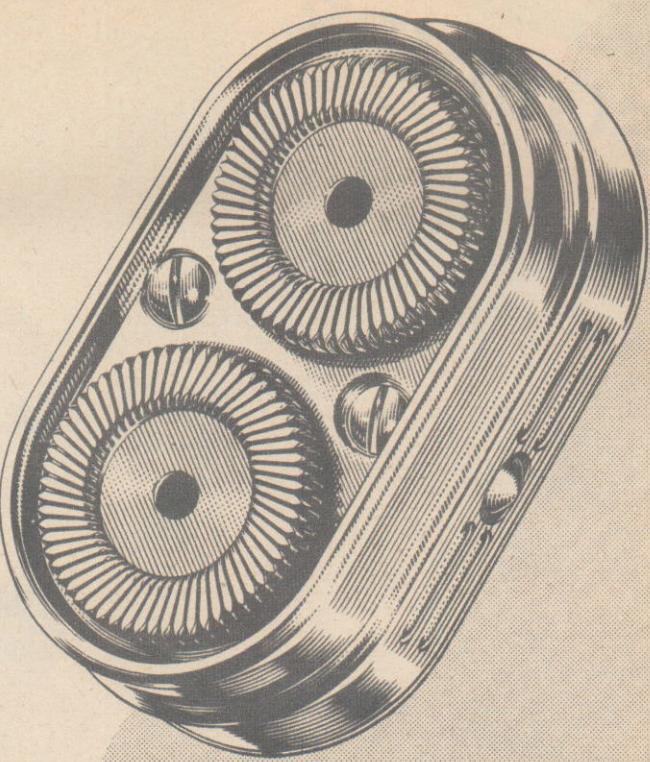
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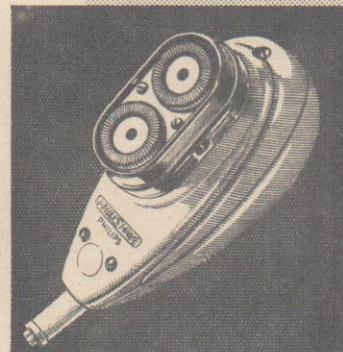
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