SOLDIER

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

CORONATION 1953

NINEPENCE

A message

from Air Marshal Sir Thomas Williams, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C., D.F.C., M.A. Chairman, H.M. Forces Savings Committee.

At the invitation of Lord Mackintosh, Chairman of the National Savings Committee, I recently took on the work as Chairman of H.M. Forces Savings Committee, which post, as you know, was formerly held by Air Marshal Sir Richard Peck, who died in the Autumn of last year.

Sir Richard did a great deal for the Savings Movement, and under his guidance Forces Savings rose from £3½ millions in 1948 to more than £8 millions in 1952. I shall do my best to emulate his good work, and I think it would be a fine thing if we could raise our Forces Savings to the £10 million mark in this Coronation year.

I feel sure we might well succeed in reaching that figure if all Commanding Officers and Unit Savings Officers will continue whole-heartedly to support us in this important welfare work for Savings in the Services.

H.M. Forces Savings Committee, 1 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7

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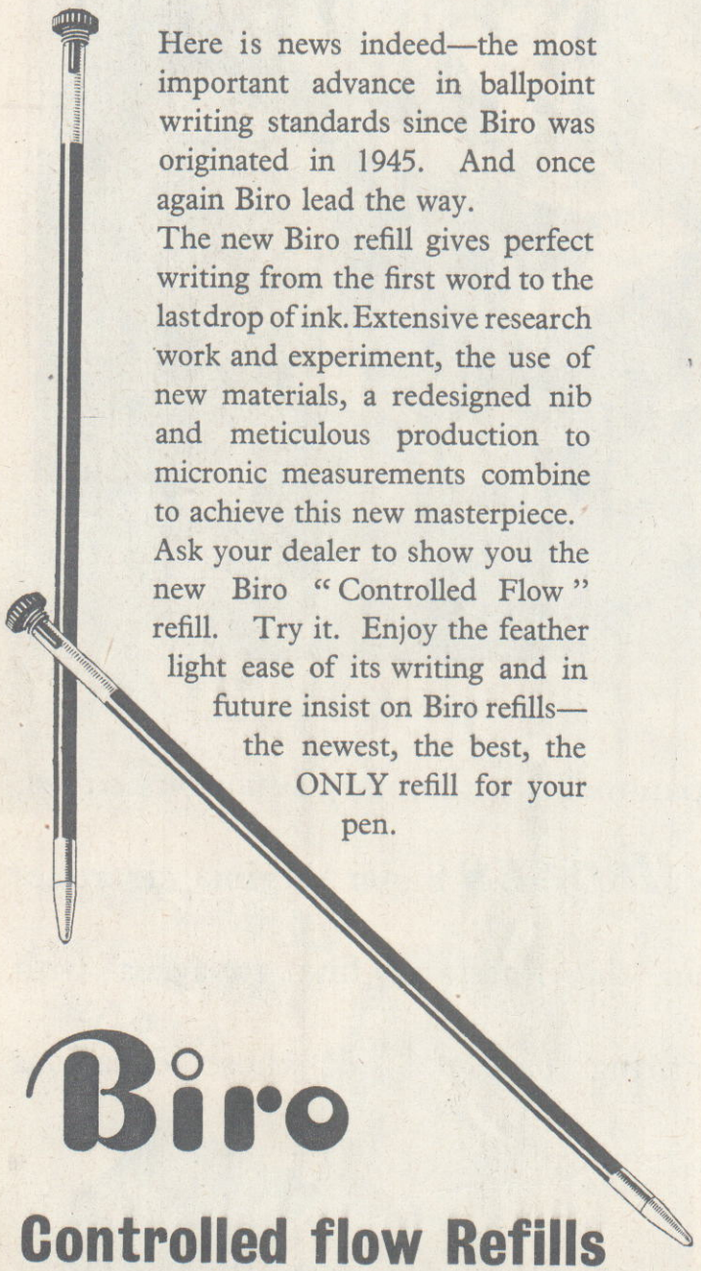

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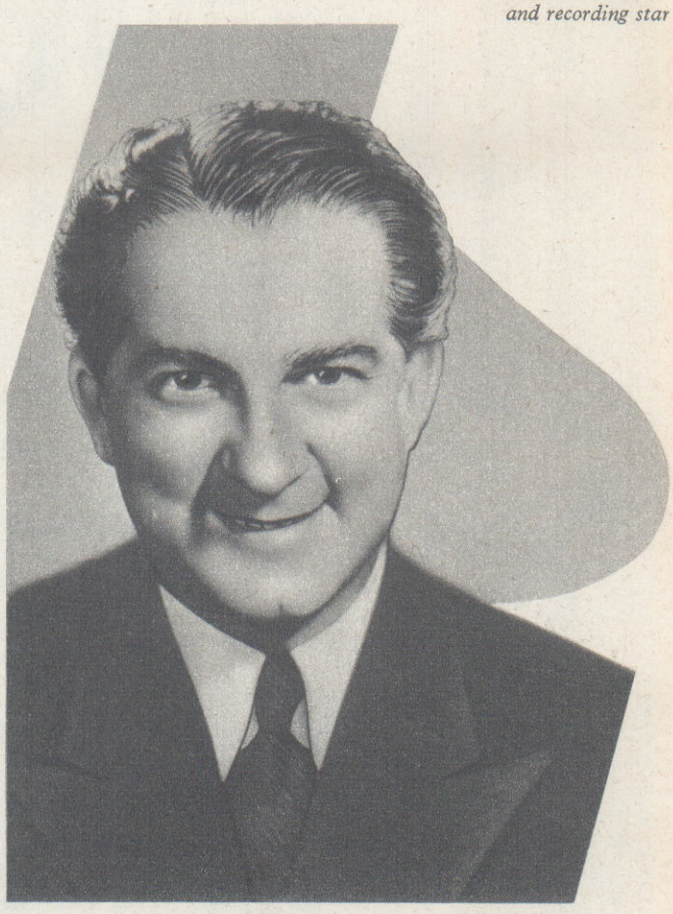
Donald Peers, famous radio singer and recording star



"The high notes are there to be hit" says ***Donald Peers***

When you start out in a job, getting to the top seems a mighty hard task. I know I felt that way. But if you put everything you've got into your work and take the chances that come your way, then you'll make the grade. It means using initiative and enterprise. It also means hard work. But it's well worth it.

WHAT'S YOUR LINE?

Whatever your job is—while there's Free Enterprise there's opportunity. So make the most of it yourself, and encourage the spirit of Free Enterprise in others all you can.

Free Enterprise gives everyone a chance and a choice

The Free Enterprise Campaign, 51, Palace Street, Westminster, S.W.1
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JUNE **SOLDIER** 1953

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

This aerial photograph of Buckingham Palace shows at top left the ballroom in which the Queen has held recent Investitures. Those summoned to attend enter the Palace under the pillars at the back of the central quadrangle.

A Soldier Goes to the Palace

On the First day of June will be announced the Coronation and Birthday Honours. Shortly afterwards the Queen will hold a series of Investitures. What happens at an Investiture? Here is an account of a visit to Buckingham Palace by a typical, but mythical, soldier: Private Albert Palmer, who has been awarded the Military Medal

"BUCKINGHAM Palace, please."

Private Palmer says it as calmly as he can. He expects the taxi-driver to raise an eyebrow at least, but the taxi-driver shows no surprise. One glimpse at Private Palmer, with that uncommonly fierce crease in his battle-dress trousers, accompanied by his girl and his mother, both wearing new hats, and the taxi-driver had a good idea where he would be ordered to drive.

Private Palmer rarely rides in taxis, but this seemed to be the day for one. He knows it is a waste of effort pretending not to be excited; his girl has just told him so. She and his mother keep stealing looks at him; that is, when they are not stealing glances in mirrors. His stock is high. And all because of that bit of a dust-up months ago, at the place with the unpronounceable name, in the Malayan jungle . . .

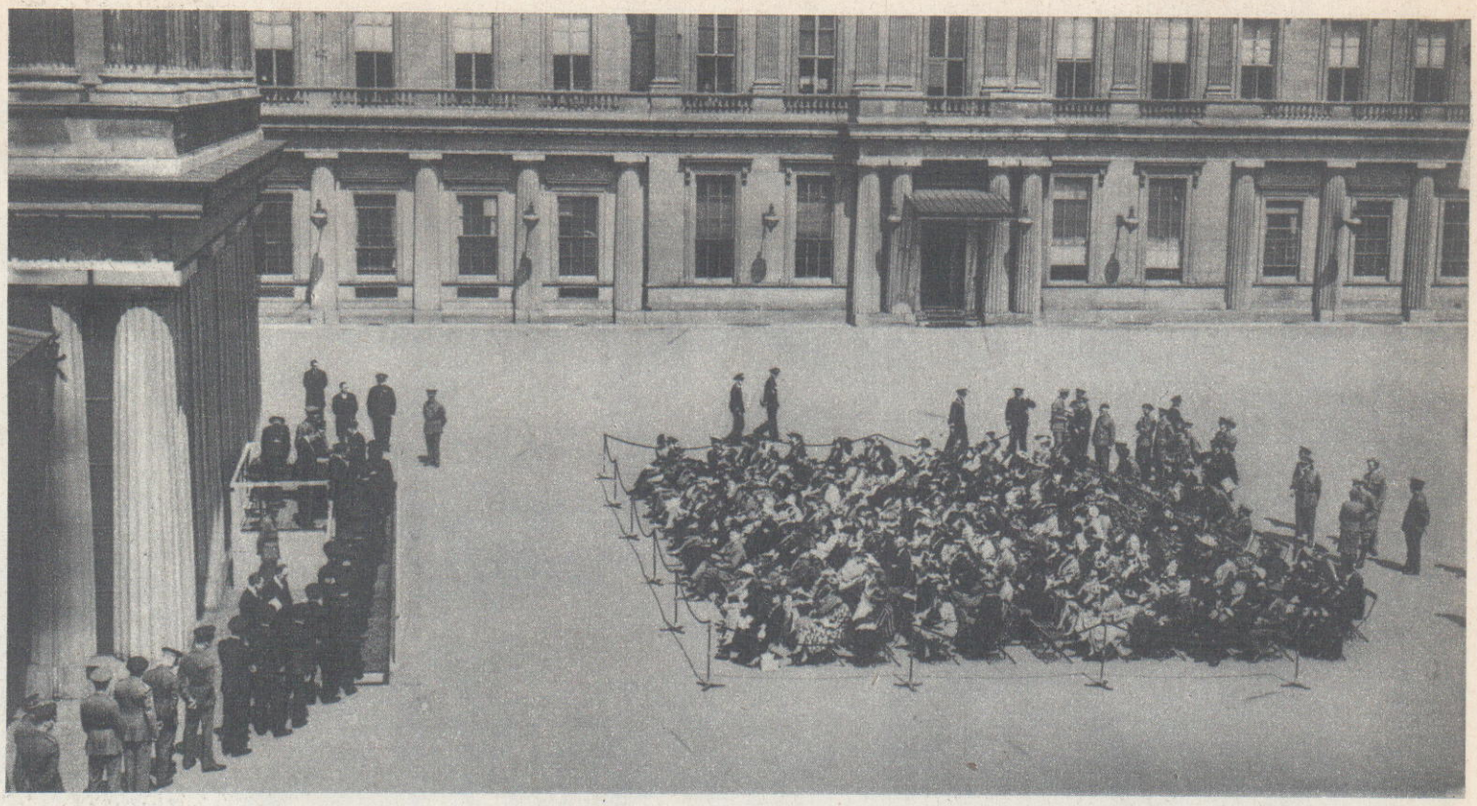
Private Palmer imagines that the taxi will set him down somewhere near the sentry-boxes, where the sightseers are. The crowd stares at him through the cab windows, for today he is one of the sights of London. To his surprise, the taxi drives straight in through the gates, into the central quadrangle of the Palace.

Private Palmer pays off the taxi and, with his girl and mother, joins a fashionable-looking stream of people passing through the main entrance of the Palace. Most of the men are in morning dress, but there are many Service uniforms among them; mayors and generals, civil servants, an air marshal, an actor, a corporal of Royal Marines, a Women's Royal Army Corps officer — and Private Palmer.

Inside the entrance, servants in livery direct spectators up a staircase to the left; Private Palmer, having identified himself, goes straight ahead. He leaves his cap in a cloakroom and, still following the stream, ascends an ornate staircase and passes through softly-lit galleries profusely hung with large oil-paintings. An official in morning dress asks him what decoration he is to receive. When he replies "Military Medal" he is directed to a corded-off portion of a long gallery where a handful of Servicemen are already waiting; other arrivals, with different honours to receive — DSO's perhaps, or OBE's — are directed into other "pens". Another official checks Private Palmer's name on a list, then pins on his left breast a small, neat metal hook. It is on this that the Queen will slip the ribbon of his medal.

There is half an hour to wait before eleven o'clock, when the Investiture begins. Private Palmer begins to talk in subdued tones to another soldier. Everyone is a little keyed up. Everyone is well-shined, well-shaved, well-trimmed, well-scrubbed.

OVER



In 1940 King George VI held an open-air Investiture at Buckingham Palace.

To the Palace (Cont'd)

There is a diversion at the other end of the gallery. A very distinguished-looking officer, wearing the aiguillette, is addressing the occupants of one of the corded-off areas. Snatches of what he is saying can be overheard: ".... really very simple, ladies and gentlemen ... right up to the Queen ... walk backward three paces ... Are there any questions, ladies and gentlemen? I'm sure there can't be."

There are no questions, and the very distinguished-looking officer approaches Private Palmer and his comrades. He assures them, as he assured the others, that what they have to do presents no difficulty. "Some of you," he points out, "have already been here." He tells them that the Investiture is being held in the ballroom. They will file in one behind the other and see the Queen on their left front. Private Palmer learns that when the name of the person in front of him is called, he himself must step forward until he finds himself abreast of an admiral, who is his "marker"; there he must halt. When his own name is called, he will step a few paces forward until he is level with the Queen, then turn left to face her. He will bow, then march right up to the edge of the dais. The Queen will attach the medal and shake hands with him. He will then step backwards three or four paces, bow again, turn right and march out.

Simple enough; but it will be the first time in his life he has bowed. How will it look? No doubt his girl friend will tell him afterwards. Private Palmer is fortified by the thought that two or three hundred more people are going to do the same thing, including elderly civilians with no drill experience, and a number of women, who have the slightly more difficult task of curtsying, instead of bowing.

Private Palmer supposes that his girl and his mother are now seated in the ballroom. Later, he learns that the spectators too were "briefed" before taking their seats. In no circumstances, they were told, must they applaud; this instruction was very emphatic.

A scene seldom photographed: an Investiture inside Buckingham Palace. King George VI is seen talking to Corporal George Lee.

Presently, as the hands of the clock near eleven, one of the officials begins to call out names from a list. In front of Private Palmer is a lance-corporal who, to judge from his blue-and-white ribbons, has been involved in a bit of a dust-up in Korea. Behind him is a Royal Marine; behind the Royal Marine, an aircraftman. The queue waits for a while. Other queues can be seen moving ahead of it. Then it is beckoned forward, halted, and from now on it edges forward inch by inch. The Investiture is in progress.

Private Palmer would like to have seen the knights being dubbed, but that is something else his girl friend will have to tell him about later. Meanwhile he and his comrades file, a little nervously, along the red carpet, eyeing the great paintings by illustrious artists, talking in whispers. Every tall mirror — and there are many of them — is an excuse for a last checkup. Private Palmer has a nasty moment when he thinks he has lost the little hook off his tunic; but it is still there.

As they near the ballroom the sound of music is audible. Somehow, Private Palmer had not imagined that the Investiture would be accompanied by music. Quite popular tunes, too; he hears a snatch of Gilbert and Sullivan, then "Smoke gets in your eyes."

At last Private Palmer's part of the queue emerges into what turns out to be the lower end of the ballroom, a high white-and-gold room of great dignity, lit by pink and white chandeliers. At the far end the Queen is standing on a dais, backed by a tall tapering red canopy bearing the lion and the unicorn — the Durbar canopy. Statuesque behind her are six Yeomen of the Guard in their Tudor uniforms. The music comes from a scarlet-uniformed Grenadier Guards band in the musicians' gallery; it is soft enough to allow Private Palmer

to hear the names of the recipients called by the Lord Chamberlain, who stands in morning dress behind and to the right of the Queen. Each presentation, on the average, takes rather less than half a minute, longer if the Queen asks questions.

Some of the spectators, mostly those with children, are sitting on raised seats at the side of the ballroom. Private Palmer does not see his girl friend and his mother; presumably they have secured seats at the front.

The queue stretches across the lower end of the ballroom, into another gallery, turns and reappears at the head of the room. In the gallery are more pictures, more tall mirrors. On the last lap, when they emerge under the pink and white chandeliers, Private Palmer keeps his eyes to the front. There must be no mistakes. Now the lance-corporal in front of him moves up in line with the impassive admiral. For the last time, an official checks Private Palmer's name.

Private Palmer does not remember, consciously, taking those steps forward, turning, bowing, advancing. Now he is standing in front of the Queen, who smiles at him in a very reassuring manner. She picks up his medal from an ornate tasselled cushion held by an Army officer, and slips it over the little clip. Then, to his surprise, she asks him questions about his service. His throat feels a little dry, but he produces the answers, and — for the first and possibly the last time in his life — says "Your Majesty." The Queen congratulates him and shakes him by the hand.

When he marches out, right, as instructed, Private Palmer is in a state of mingled relief and elation. It was not such an ordeal, really; or so he will tell people. He finds himself in another gallery where two attendants remove his medal and put it into a padded box for him, at the same time removing the little hook from his battle-dress. He goes back into the ballroom at the lower end, and finds a vacant red chair. One by one, his comrades join him, with their little black boxes.

When the last name has been called the Lord Chamberlain steps down from the dais, turns to face the Queen and bows. At that moment the Grenadiers' band strikes up "God Save the Queen." The audience rises and remains standing until the Queen has left.

The Investiture is over. In the courtyard Private Palmer rejoins his girl friend and his mother. "Was I all right?" he asks, haunted by a faint doubt. It seems he was.

"Now let's dodge the photographers," says Private Palmer. But it turns out that his girl friend and his mother have other ideas about that.

NOTE: Each Serviceman summoned to an Investiture may be accompanied by two — but never more than two — spectators.

The recipient and those who accompany him are entitled to free travel to London for the occasion.

Royal Air Force, Take it Away! (And Good Luck With It!)

Guided missiles for use against ultra-high and ultra-fast raiders are to be operated by the Royal Air Force. But the airmen may be glad of a little help from Army specialists

ANY Gunner who cherished an ambition to join the first Guided Missile (Anti-Aircraft) Battery, Royal Artillery must find himself another ambition.

The Government has ruled that the operation and manning of guided missiles directed against hostile aircraft — or hostile rockets — shall be a Royal Air Force responsibility.

The Royal Artillery will still be responsible for intercepting raiders in the lower and middle reaches of the air. But the battle at the top level is to be fought by the men in blue.

No doubt it will not be long before the Royal Artillery is consoled by being issued with surface-to-surface guided missiles for use in the field.

Earl Alexander of Tunis, Minister of Defence, told the House of Lords that the reason for handing surface-to-air guided missiles to the Royal Air Force was that these weapons were complementary to fighter aircraft, would operate "in the same air space" and should, therefore, be under the same ground control.

During World War Two the guns and rockets of Anti-Aircraft Command were under the ultimate control of the Air Officer Commanding Fighter Command. On him rested the decision whether raiders should be engaged by guns or aircraft.

The use of existing anti-aircraft guns, said Lord Alexander, would have to be closely integrated with that of guided missiles. For many years to come orthodox guns would continue to be essential to our air defence system.

According to Lord de L'Isle and Dudley, Secretary for Air, the Royal Air Force "deeply appreciates this new responsibility which is laid upon it; it in no way under-estimates the magnitude of the task." The Royal Air Force, he said, was accustomed by habit and by circumstance to the rapid march of science and invention.

No Gunner-peer was on hand to point out that Anti-Aircraft Command was also accustomed to the rapid march of science and invention. But Viscount Bridgeman said that the decision would be welcomed by those air defence units, mostly part-time, who for a long while had been wondering what role they were to play. They would be "absolutely delighted" to be given clear instructions and told to get on with the job.

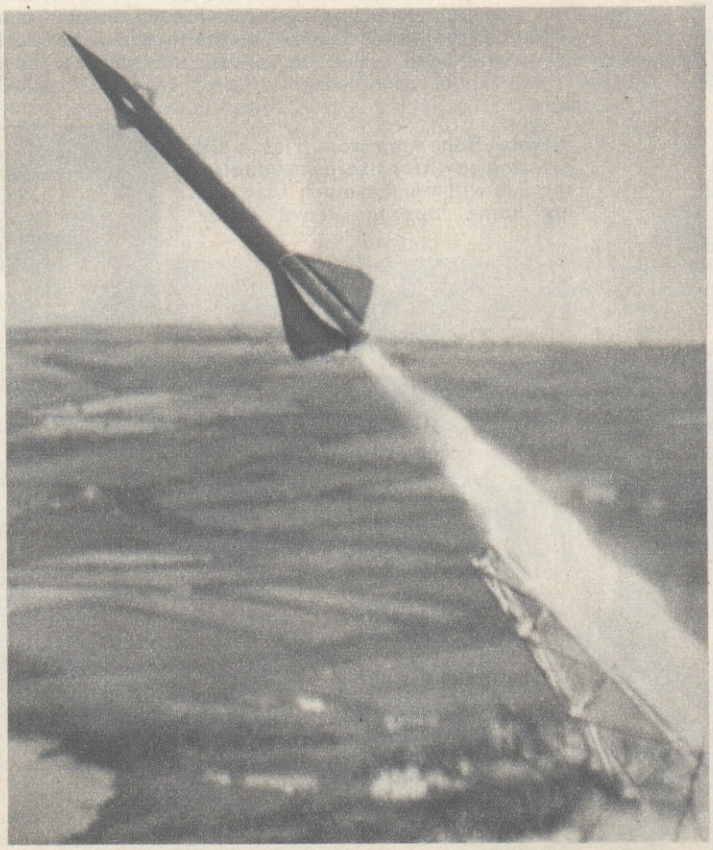
The present structure of Anti-Aircraft Command may have influenced the Government in its decision to hand surface-to-air guided missiles to the Royal Air Force. This appears to be the view of *The Times*, which thought that Anti-Aircraft Command, "predominantly a Territorial Army team with only a small regular content," was "ill-suited for pioneering work in a new and difficult field." But *The Times* made the excellent suggestion that "some of the best officers of the Royal Artillery" should be co-opted by the Royal Air Force. There is much specialised knowledge of interception techniques to be tapped at such places as the School of Anti-Aircraft Artillery.

In experimental centres in Britain, and on the Commonwealth experimental range in Australia, guided missiles travelling at several times the speed of sound are being developed at the highest priority. More than a hundred firms are engaged in research and development. The Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft company recently announced that it was setting up its own test centre for guided missiles in Australia, because there was no adequate site in Britain. A spokesman of the firm said that weapons would be "fired into the stratosphere and ionosphere and beyond."

The United States Army has retained operational control of surface-to-air guided missiles. It already has combat units trained and equipped to use "at least two kinds of guided missiles, either against aircraft or to hit ground targets at long range." One of the weapons is the NIKE (pronounced NY-kee), now being mass-produced. It is claimed that certain American guided missiles cannot be thrown off course by enemy electronic counter-measures.

The United States Air Force is well advanced in the development of air-to-air and air-to-ground guided missiles. A Matador pilotless bomber is now in production.

From the United States aircraft carrier *Boxer* numerous guided missiles have been dispatched against the enemy in Korea. One was fired from a distance of 150 miles into a valley containing a heavy concentration of anti-aircraft guns. The missile was catapulted from the carrier's deck and guided for the first part of its flight by the instruments of an aircraft on the vessel. Then for the latter part of its flight it was controlled by an aircraft already airborne, following at a discreet distance. The weapon travelled at several hundred miles an hour, and when over its target dived steeply. It may be safely assumed that no North Korean gunner saw it coming.



A 20-foot research rocket, with a speed of over 2000 miles an hour, takes off from the coast of Wales. It's all yours, Royal Air Force!

BUT NO DRESSING GOWNS IN

When you see an "inn sign" reading "The Pit Laddie" or "Cock o' the North" you know you are in the Durhams' sector of the Korean battle line

HARDENED by war and winter, the men of the 1st Battalion The Durham Light Infantry now look back with a laugh to the day when they first went on patrol in the Korean no-man's land.

Now they can tell the difference between natural and enemy noises. They have been in hand-to-hand contact with the enemy, and engaged him with grenades and small arms fire. They have crept between his positions and spied on his troops, and they have sat in their bunkers listening to shells and mortar bombs rain down upon them, and felt thankful that they had six feet of timber, sandbags and earth above them.

They have learned to live in "hoochies," which their fathers of World War One called dug-outs. They have experienced Korea's winter cold without a single case of frost-bite, thanks to strict cold-weather routine. They have had to remove the barrels of their machine-guns and heat them over open fires, to keep the guns working. The buglers were obliged to heat their bugles over a brazier when the Battalion produced a guard of honour for General Eisenhower's visit.

Private Ray Whitlie of Newcastle summed up his opinion of Korea very briefly. "There are too many hills for my liking — I'd certainly like to see a bit of flat country." With four years service behind him, he is due to leave the Army in July or August. He said that he will go out, but will almost certainly re-join. "It's the best way I know of making good pals," he said.

Working in the carpenter's shop, surrounded by shavings, makeshift furniture and signboards, was 19-year-old Private Marsden Prophet, a National Serviceman from St. Anne's, Cornwall. He was painting a picture of a cathedral for the serjeants' mess. An art student at Huddersfield Technical College before being called up, he is delighted to find an outlet for his talents in the Army. Like all artists in khaki, he has been called on to turn out many a tactical sign-board.

Each company has its own tented or log cabin canteen, and outside each swings one of Private Prophet's signs, reminiscent of home — "The Pit Laddie," "Cock o' the North," "The Dog and Gun," "The Brancepeth Arms." He once made some lifelike dummy figures, with which it was hoped to attract the attention of enemy snipers, but the Chinese were not fooled. They retaliated some days later by erecting straw dummies of their own.

The Durhams have a fine reputation in the Commonwealth Division for parade turnout, and Americans, from generals to privates have watched with amazement their Light Infantry drill. A typical example of the comradeship in the Battalion was the gift by men of the three-inch mortar platoon of a photographic album to a private who was injured by a mortar bomb. Earlier he had told his friends he was going to buy one. After he went to hospital the whole platoon "mucked in" and sent him an album, luxuriously bound and decorated on the front cover with an inlaid, coloured map of Korea.

The magnificent flow of welfare gifts from the people of Durham, for which the men are very grateful, has done an enormous amount to keep morale high. Unfortunately 40 wireless sets, bought with money donated by Durham, have been held up by the Korean customs, in spite of the intervention of Members of Parliament and the British Legation.

An impressive sight, at the ration stores, is that of boxes and boxes of fresh eggs, large turkeys, chickens and steaks. These are issued by Corporal Reg Yemm from Hereford. "Believe it or not," he said, "I still get complaints."

Corporal Alan Hope of Stockton put the complaints in a nutshell. "The grub has taken all the fun out of eating. We know what it's going to be for breakfast before we get it — eggs every day, and turkey gets boring when you have it twice a week." No doubt many of the folks at home would be pleased to change diets with him, if not billets.

A shop with a monthly turnover of £4000 to £5000 sounds like a pretty good business. This is exactly what the battalion shop is. In a corrugated iron hut, several men, under Corporal John Bell of Sunderland, sell anything from a razor blade to a silk dressing gown and from a 30s. tea set to a 124-piece dinner service costing £17. The shop arranges the shipping home of all the gifts from Korea and Japan.

Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Jefferies DSO, OBE, the Commanding Officer, is very proud of his battalion. "They are good lads," he said. "They are sensible in the line; they dig like beavers and keep their heads down when shells fall. Thus we have avoided many casualties. Their health has been fine, and most of them avoided the recent slight influenza epidemic. I'm very proud of them — particularly the National Service lads." — *Report by Major Hugh Pond MC, Military Observer in Korea.*

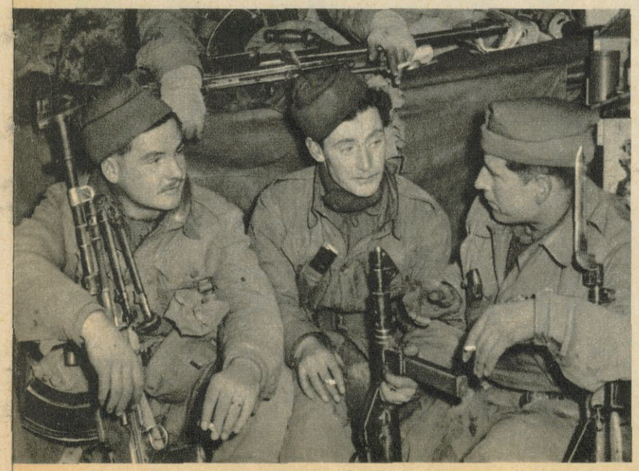
Private Bob Anderson tries a silk dressing gown for size in the battalion shop. It will not be much use until his name tops the leave roster.

The man who hands out turkeys even when it isn't Christmas: Corporal Reg Yemm. Left: The Reverend D. P. D. Patterson, the Durhams' padre, talks to some "parishioners" outside the regimental chapel — a converted jeep bay.

THE HOOCHIES

When he wakes in his dug-out, Private Jim McGee will reach for the bullet-proof vest in the foreground.

Just time for a cigarette, then these Durhams will be off on a midnight reconnaissance.



SOLDIER to Soldier

THE prime purpose of the Coronation is not to give the British Army a blaze of publicity.

It is fair, however, to point out that, viewed solely as a spectacle, the Coronation would lose about three-quarters of its attraction without the aid of the fighting Services.

The Army provides not only the colour, the music and the rhythm, but a great part of the organisation.

There have been bigger Coronations than this, reckoned in numbers of Servicemen on parade, but never — thanks, in part, to television — will so many people have seen a Coronation procession.

Orders shouted in Westminster will be heard on Broadway. Guns fired in Hyde Park will boom in Canberra. Within the next few weeks colour pictures of the British Army at its proudest will be shown on the cinema screens of five continents.

In simpler lands, more susceptible than our own to pomp and colour, those Coronation films will be shown for years to come.

Connoisseurs of Coronations will sigh at the absence of those turbaned, magnificent soldiers of the old Indian Army, though the pipes of Pakistan will shrill out along the route. From reign to reign, the composition of the overseas forces changes, but the family party still produces a rich range of uniforms and Colours, of badges and hackles.

No army stages more brilliant, more dignified, ceremonial than the British Army — even in these days of mechanisation. (Can you picture a Coronation procession sweeping along in limousines, marshalled by motor cyclists? When that day comes, the price of seats on grandstands will tumble).

The British Army is proud of the high honour which it is called on to shoulder on the Second of June. It could not hope to display its qualities on a more worthy occasion.

God Save The Queen!

*

RELEASE of wounded prisoners-of-war in times of "peace" is an even more poignant occasion than in times of war.

To those men who are now returning, Rip van Winkle wise, to a London gilded for a great event of which they knew nothing, what can SOLDIER say except, "We're glad to have you back — and we wish you a quick recovery."

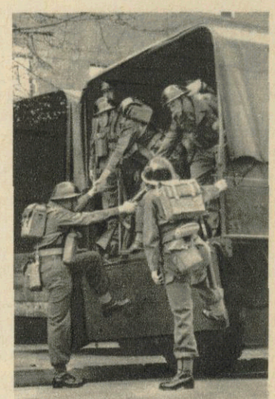
No finer news — not even the scaling of Everest — could greet the month of June than the news that the remaining prisoners-of-war were on their way home.

*

"IN the course of a year" (writes a diarist in *The Spectator*) **"I spend quite a lot of time climbing, or watching others climb, in and out of military vehicles, and I often wonder why their designers are at such pains to make this feat as difficult as they can.**

"I see no real reason why it should be almost impossible for a soldier in full kit to clamber unaided into a three-ton lorry, or why so much time should be wasted when a party is embussing because of the acrobatic exertions which this process involves. Anyone who devised the simple sort of contraption which would obviate all this inconvenience would materially increase the mobility of our land forces."

There is something in this complaint. Even Commandos who can climb vertical rocks with one-inch footholds are liable to lose skin and temper when hurling themselves into Army lorries, especially when the tailboard, with its always-too-tiny step, swings away under the lorry. However, attention seems to have been given to this problem in some of the new trucks now being issued. When the tailboard is lowered it remains firmly vertical; the soldier inserts one foot into a metal hasp at the bottom, his other foot into another aperture in the board, and hauls himself in with the aid of a rope dangling from the centre of the roof. There are four footholds in all, so that two men can mount simultaneously. Still not ideal, perhaps, but an improvement.



Why should a soldier have to be helped into the back of a truck?

*

ON at least two occasions SOLDIER has suggested that a popular turn at the Royal Tournament would be one of those displays in which a team of magicians in white overalls descend on a litter of jeep parts, fling them together and drive the result away — all in two or three minutes. Now the idea has been adopted by the organisers of this year's Tournament. If two teams compete against each other, it should be as exciting an event as any.

In the Malaya jungles Iban trackers are the eyes, ears and nose of the anti-bandit patrols. They can follow a trail of blood many hours old

RAISED FOR THE THIRD TIME: THE

IN the dark green of Malaya's forests, lean soundless Ibans (Sea Dyaks) are performing a service to the British Army comparable to that of the Red Indian guides who scouted for British soldiers in North America in the days of George Washington.

The Ibans are now the Sarawak Rangers, a force raised for the third time since 1846. The original Rangers went out of being early this century; they were formed again between the world wars, but suppressed by the Japanese, on occupation. Today's force is 400 strong.

Many of the Sarawak Rangers have already been active on anti-bandit operations during the past four years; in all, as many as 2000 Ibans have served in Malaya. Of these, some were killed on patrols.

Under their new command, the Ibans are being formed on approximate platoon and section basis for attachment to various units. The senior officers and NCO's of the Sarawak Rangers are drawn from the units to which they are attached. All the corporals, lance-corporals and men are Ibans.

Three-quarters of the trackers come from the Third Division of Sarawak on the upper reaches of the Rejang River and the rest from the up-country areas of the Second Division. They are Sea Dyaks, who in woodcraft and sleuthing are unexcelled. Incidentally, the Sea Dyaks live inland and the Land Dyaks on the coasts.

The sole officer to wear the shoulder-title of "Sarawak" is the Commandant of the Rangers in Malaya: Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Baird, late Indian Army, one of the few active men left in the Army who was at the Battle of Mons. He went to France in September 1914 in the ranks of the London Scottish.

Left: This is how an Iban tracker is dressed when he reports for duty. In the scabbard is his *parang*, a razor-sharp Borneo knife.

In his full native costume: an Iban (Sea Dyak). The men are remarkably agile dancers.

The Rangers wear the normal jungle-green uniform of the British Army. Special *parangs* are being provided for them, just as Gurkha units have their distinctive *kukris*. The cap badge of the Rangers has a *parang* and *kris*, the *kris* being a relic of the first unit when a number of Malays were recruited. Their flag is the black, yellow and red of the former Raja days. Hitherto, Ibans have worn the badges and titles of the regiments with which they served. Lieutenant-Colonel Baird hopes that Awang, who won the George Cross with the Worcestershire Regiment when employed as a tracker, will be coming to the Rangers Depot at Siginting. If so, he will work as a civilian, having been incapacitated.

WO II Bernard Simmonits (of Stoke-on-Trent) is assisting in the initial training of the Rangers. He has been lent by the Royal West Kents. The Malay Regiment has also lent instructors.

The Suffolk Regiment was very proud of its Dyak trackers, and two of their important kills were due to the exceptional brilliance of the little men from Sarawak.

In April 1949, the Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards (Lieut-Colonel T. F. C. Winnington), said of the Ibans: "They are of incalculable value and without their services a number of cunningly concealed terrorist camps

The badge of the Sarawak Rangers contains a *parang* crossed with a Malayan *kris*. Note the slit ear of this tracker.

and many stray bandits would never have been discovered."

Their success in tracking is due to an unusually highly developed sense of observation and good eyesight. They are able to follow a trail of blood several hours old, to pick out footsteps in the undergrowth and say in which direction a person went, and with great accuracy to determine how many hours or days ago a path was last used.

An officer who escorted some 20 men home to Sarawak by air after their tour of duty in Malaya was completed tells how the aircraft ran into a wild storm, which made most of the Ibans airsick; but in the short interval of quiet flying before landing they polished their badges, dusted their boots and ensured that their normal jungle-green uniforms were tidy.

There is a story to the effect that Major-General J. C. O. Marriott, of the Brigade of Guards, on a visit to a Guards Battalion in Malaya, was solemnly saluted by an Iban who addressed him as "Charlie." The tracker had had extensive training for days previously by a subaltern.

The British soldiers' respect for the Ibans was strikingly shown when an Iban discovered that he had left his *pengaroh* (sacred charms) at a stopping-place in the jungle. The officer asked his tired patrol for volunteers to go back three miles to accompany their tracker — and the whole patrol of the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards volunteered and went back.

★ Recently announced was the award of the George Medal to Lance-Corporal Menggong Anak Pangitt, serving with the Cameronians.

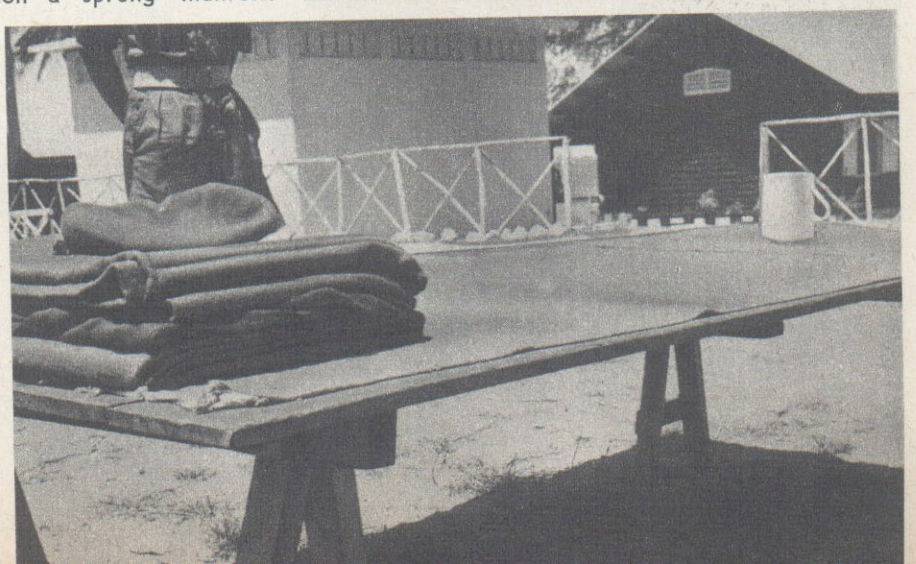
He was second-in-command of an Iban platoon operating in Johore, under Lieutenant R. R. G. Bald. In an attack on a bandit position the officer was killed by the enemy's first burst of fire. Menggong took command and ordered his men — outnumbered ten to one — to charge. Opposition was fierce, so he led his reserve section in a series of charges on the flank. Step by step the enemy were driven back; at last, demoralised, they yielded the battlefield. Then, to warn his company commander of the presence of this large band of terrorists, Menggong walked alone, without compass, for 4000 yards through enemy-infested jungle to report.

D. H. de T. READE

Company Serjeant-Major B. Simmonits, Royal West Kents, goes over the rifle with a Sarawak Ranger.

Right: Only officer to wear a "Sarawak" shoulder-title: Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Baird, late Indian Army, Commandant of the Sarawak Rangers. He has a Mons Star.

Below: You thought it was a table; it is a tracker's bed. He would rather sleep on the ground than on a sprung mattress.



THE YOUNGEST CORPS

Men of the Royal Pioneers have been a permanent part of the Army for only three years, but their traditions were built up in two world wars. Today the Royal Pioneer Corps will "have a go" at anything

ASK the man next to you to name the Army's youngest Regular corps, and he will probably say the Women's Royal Army Corps.

He is wrong. The answer is the Royal Pioneer Corps, now a lusty three-year-old.

Its Depot has passed, with praise, the critical eyes of the War Minister and the Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

Its first Regular officers have taken their places in its ranks. Its companies, in Britain and the Canal Zone, are doing a stout job. So are its teams which are recruiting and organising civilian labour from Germany to the Far East.

In Army shooting and sport it is making its mark. Its hopes of an official Corps band are still in the uncertain future, but meanwhile it has an admirable substitute in a volunteer corps of drums.

Its history, of course, is longer than its life as a Regular corps. The Corps was in existence in World War One, when the present badge was devised. Its rebirth dates from 1939, when a number of Cavalry reservists reported back to the Colours and found their units mechanised. Somebody had the idea of forming them into labour companies, until they could be trained for tanks.

From these companies was formed the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps, which turned into the Pioneer Corps in 1940 and the Royal Pioneer Corps in 1946. Meanwhile, the Corps had grown hugely. In 1945 it had 12,000 officers, many trained in its own officer cadet training units, and 116,000 British Pioneers. Under its wing were some 400,000 Pioneers from other parts of the Empire, 1,074,000 civilian workers and 173,000 prisoner-of-war workers. Much of this development was due to one man, Major-General A. L. I. Friend, an old Cavalryman who came out of retirement in 1939 and was Director of Pioneers and Labour at the War Office from 1940 to 1945 and then Colonel-Commandant of the Corps.

After World War Two, the future was bleak and uncertain for the Royal Pioneers. The Army was running down, and it looked as though the Corps might go out of existence. Its "users," however, put in a strong plea. In February 1950, the Army Council decreed that the Royal Pioneer Corps should become part of the Regular Army, with a strength of about 2000. The Army and its commitments were growing again, however, and the Royal Pioneer Corps is today several times 2000 strong.

There was stern competition from short-service officers of the Royal Pioneer Corps and from other arms for Regular commissions in the Corps. The Corps is not old enough to have reared many of its own senior officers — although the last Director of Pioneers and Labour, Brigadier H. H. Blanchard, had joined it as a second-lieutenant in 1939 and risen to the top as a short-service officer — and some have been "imported." The present Director of Pioneers and Labour, an appointment which includes that of Inspector of the Royal Pioneer Corps, is Brigadier R. A. T. Eve, formerly of the King's Royal Rifle Corps. He had not served with Pioneers before.

The "born and bred" Pioneer officers, who rank up to lieutenant-colonel, and the new officers have set to with enthusiasm to fit their Corps into the Regular Army, and they have been helped by an energetic Colonel-Commandant, General Sir Frank Simpson.

Warrant officers and senior non-commissioned officers have mostly seen service with other regiments and corps. An inducement to transfer is that the Royal Pioneer Corps is one of those which offer older men a chance of serving on, provided they are fit for service in any part of the world, though not necessarily for the front-line.

At the Corps Depot, the recruits — Regulars and National Servicemen — receive purely military training, and learn that they are soldiers first and Pioneers second. There are plenty of stories in the Corps' World War Two records to illustrate this lesson — of Pioneers who fought during the retreat to Dunkirk; who held a gap in the line in Tunisia; who landed on the first tide on D-Day

"I suppose one day someone'll have a crisis what the poor ——— Pioneer Corps don't have to clear up."

Reproduced by courtesy of the Daily Express.

Giles, the famous cartoonist, served in the Royal Pioneer Corps during World War Two.

and rounded up German marines before getting down to their scheduled tasks; who went into Arnhem with the Airborne troops.

The World War Two record also shows that the word Pioneer can mean Jack-of-all-trades. When a Canadian Corps was being moved from Italy to Holland, Pioneers erected and ran transit camps and rail halts. Pioneers turned themselves into policemen and stopped the theft of 10,000 tons of coal a month in Belgium. Pioneers, in those days, ran the Army Fire Service and salvage units. And when "employing services" were overstretched, Pioneers turned themselves into specialists and built bridges and roads without help or supervision. To show that they took this sort of thing in their stride, one unit put up a sign which read, "This bridge was built by — Pioneer Company, and there is nothing special about it."

Paradoxically, increasing mechanisation of the Army has brought a demand for more and more labour. Machines eat up stores. Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery has said that the role of the Pioneers is "as important and as vital to the Army as ever it was."

Today, the Regular companies of the Royal Pioneer Corps in Britain undertake "anything they are asked to do." At Harwich and Tilbury, they help to load and unload travellers and freight. In Ordnance installations they move ammunition and other stores, lay railway lines and handle guard-dogs. In the Command workshops at Bicester they work alongside men of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, stripping guns for reconditioning. In Royal Army Service Corps petrol depots they keep fuel on the move. In the summer they put up Territorial and cadet camps and help to administer them. This year, they have been working on the camps for troops visiting London for the Coronation. In emergency, they are available to move strike-bound meat or to sandbag breaches in sea-walls.

In the Middle East, companies of the Royal Pioneer Corps are made up of men from the islands of the Indian Ocean. They are mostly Mauritians, but from time to time a troopship from Mauritius, where there is a depot, visits the Seychelles Islands and the island of Rodriguez. It brings with it Pioneers whose service has expired, Pioneers on leave, and a recruiting party. When it returns, it carries the leave-men, and the recruiting party, with new Rodriguais and Seychellois recruits.

The men are not Colonial troops but part of the British Army — and proud of it. Most of their officers are British. The companies are split between the Canal Zone, Tripolitania and Cyrenaica and devote much of their time to guard duties. Their drill display, at a Canal Zone tattoo, won lavish praise, much quoted in the Corps, from a senior Guards officer. The companies muster artisans, such as carpenters and plumbers. Mauritians, Seychellois and Rodriguais, wearing the Royal Pioneer Corps badge, also work in Middle East units of other Corps.

During the Canal Zone "troubles," the islanders gave up their guard duties to concentrate on labour activities. In addition, the Corps ran camps for loyal Egyptian workers and other workers imported into the Zone.

As a temporary measure, at the same time, new pioneer companies were hurriedly recruited in Kenya, where the war-time East African Pioneer Corps had been disbanded. They were sponsored by the Royal Pioneer Corps which, as luck would have it, was able to supply a number of officers and NCO's direct from the MacKinnonRoad project, then closing. These East African companies are still doing good work in Egypt.

Elsewhere overseas, small Pioneer civil labour units, consisting of officers and NCO's with a few civilian clerks, organise civilian labour forces. The biggest civilian force is in Germany, where every civilian employed by the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, Control Commission, the Canadians and, in some cases, by the American forces, is engaged through the agency of the Royal Pioneer Corps. The civilians include skilled technicians, clerks, domestic workers and NAAFI employees.

In Austria, Trieste, Malaya, Hong-Kong and Korea, officers of the Royal Pioneer Corps are responsible for recruiting and administering civilian labour. In places like Malta and Gibraltar, where there are suitable government labour organisations, this work is not necessary.

The Royal Pioneer Corps has no Territorial units. Its spare-time soldiers and its National Servicemen on part-time service join the Army Emergency Reserve and turn out for annual camp. Reserve units include smoke companies, successors to the war-time Pioneer Companies which screened Liverpool, Birmingham, Southampton, Algiers, Bone, Bizerta, the Normandy beaches and the Rhine crossing.

In the Middle East, recruits from islands in the Indian Ocean—Mauritius, Seychelles, Rodriguez—serve in the Royal Pioneer Corps. Here is a Mauritian soldier.

Emergency Reservists are given military training and instruction in as many skilled tasks as possible, including mine-laying, road-making and airfield construction.

The fountain of all Pioneer activity is the Corps depot, near Wrexham. It is in two parts, one in a former militia camp and the other at Horsley Hall, Gresford, a former stately home, embattled with Nissen huts.

"If anybody is rude to us, we send him to see our Depot," says Brigadier Eve. The Depot recently earned the unstinted praise of the Chief of the Imperial General Staff for its showing in a surprise "Hedgehog" exercise. It can also put on a smart ceremonial parade.

For passing-out parades, to which relatives of National Servicemen are invited, the 20-odd members of the volunteer corps of drums emerge from offices, stores and workshops. They play, among other pieces, the Pioneer March, written by a war-time officer of the Corps, Captain Norman Demuth, a well-known composer and writer on musical subjects.

The rifle association of the Corps had its first team at Bisley last year; a Depot rifle team was fifth in the Army Rifle Association Corps Shield, non-central (at home) competition, and has done well in Western Command shoots.

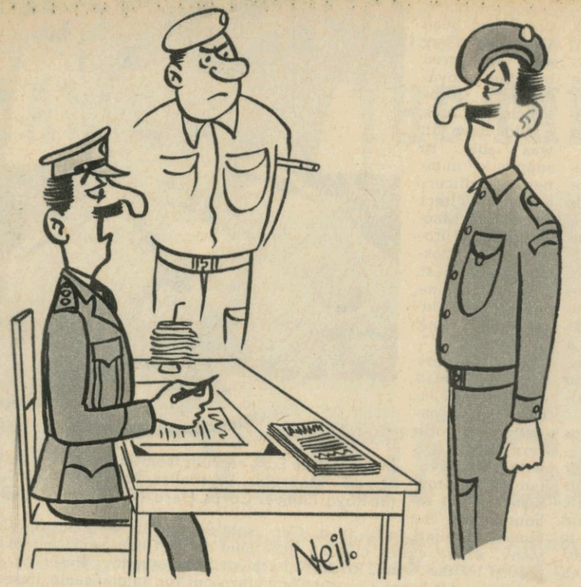
In the 1951-2 season, boxing Pioneers reached the semi-final of the Army team championship, and the Corps has done well on the football and hockey fields. The Depot amateur dramatic society has entered local drama festivals and won four awards.

"The Royal Pioneer Corps is small," says Brigadier Eve, "but it will have a go at anything."

RICHARD ELLEY

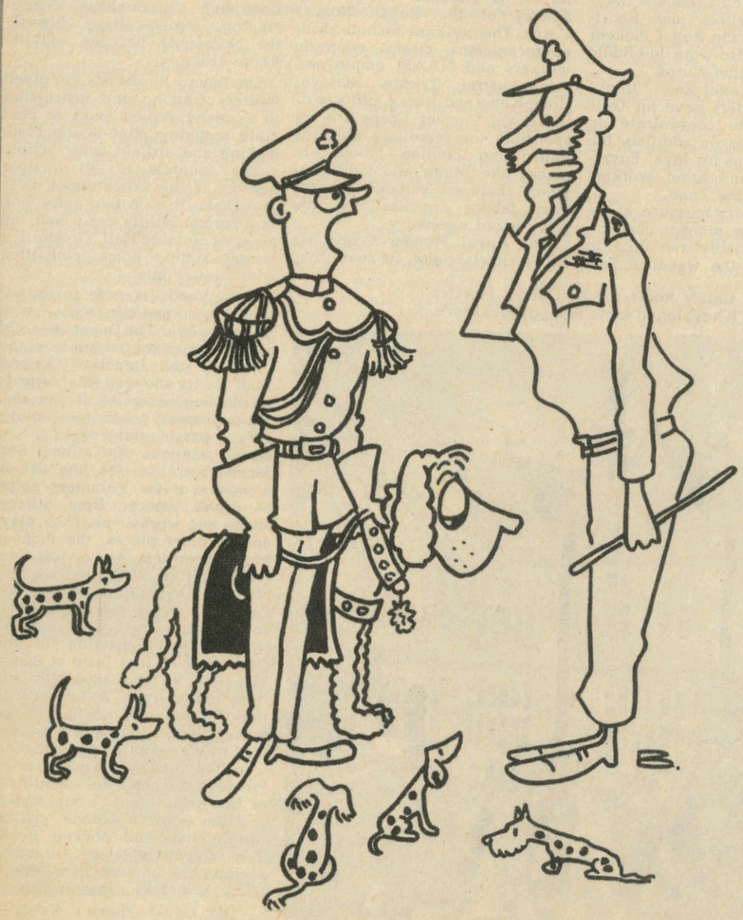
The Royal Pioneer Corps has a stately home for its Depot: Horsley Hall, Gresford (near Wrexham). It has staged some fine parades there.

Soldier Humour

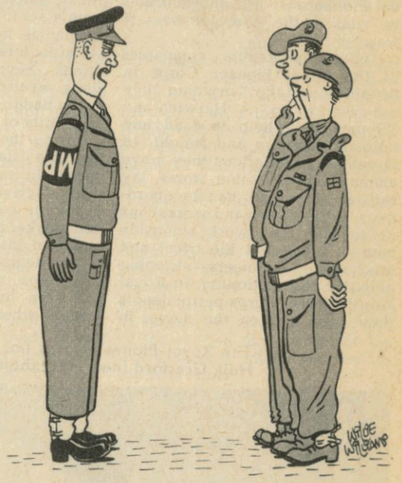


"Impersonating an officer, eh? What made you think you could get away with it?"

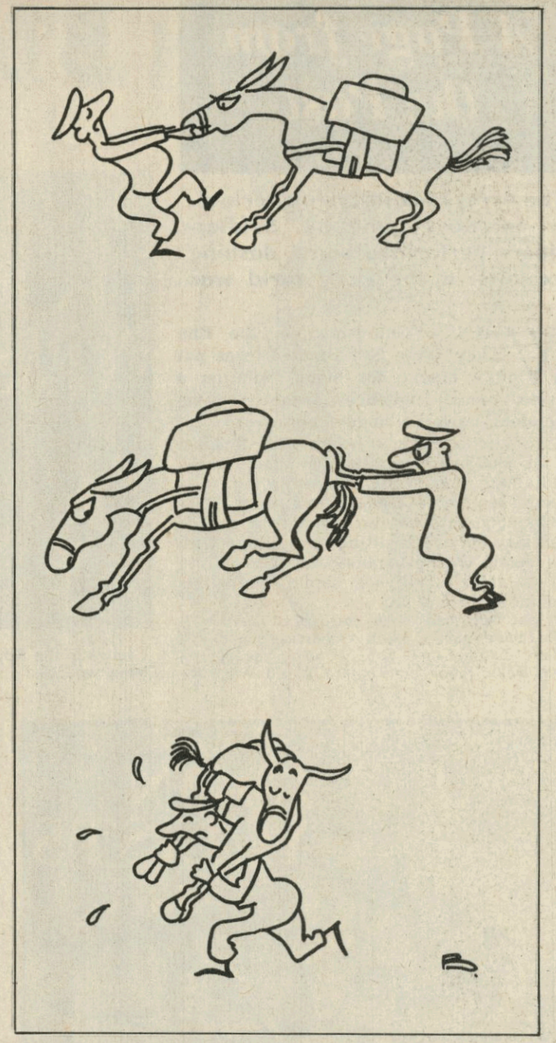
"So that's what they call a flanking movement!"

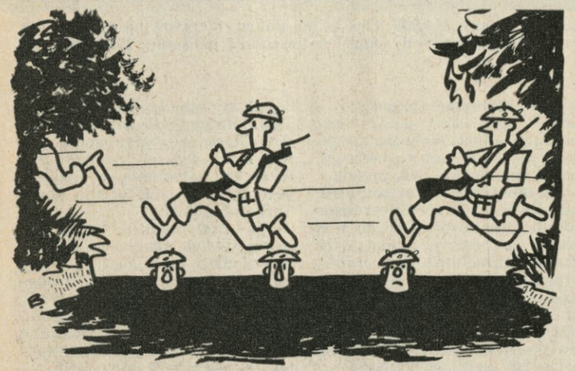


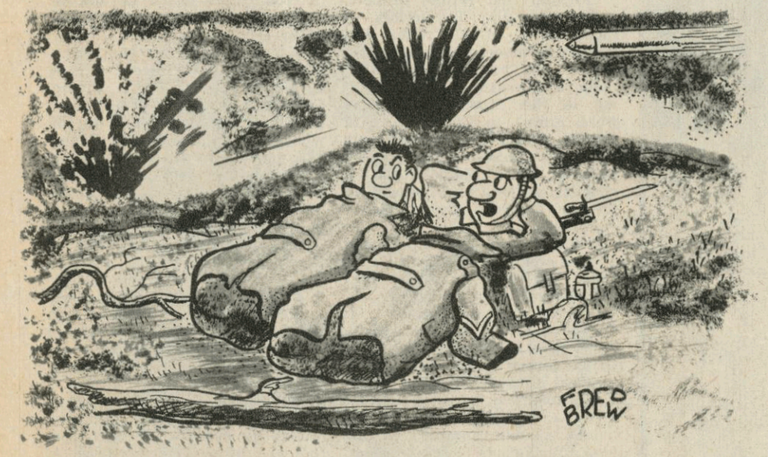
"She went absent without leave, sir."



"You men ought to look in the mirror before you come out!"







"So I said, 'I don't mind signing on for twenty-two, provided I retain my rank.'"

"And we can have some little junior NCO's."

A Page from the Past

BY BICYCLE INTO BATTLE

The Army took its cycling seriously in days gone by. Soldier-riders performed some dashing exploits in the first world war

Cyclists in the Royal Tournament of 1909. One of the linked riders towing the gun has been 'wounded'; a reinforcement gallantly leaps into the saddle, jettisoning his own steed.

WHEN a Guardsman in the film "They Were Not Divided" was put on a charge for being "idle on a bicycle," most audiences laughed. Some spectators, however, nodded approval.

The Guardsman in the film was slouched on his saddle, had only one hand on the handle-bars and wobbled. According to a Guards regimental serjeant-major of SOLDIER's acquaintance, the proper way to ride a military bicycle is sitting upright and with both hands on the handle-bars. The rule is that a rider shall *not* salute while his machine is in motion.

If that rule had been introduced earlier it might have saved much embarrassment to a certain distinguished soldier who was also a Royal Duke. Some time before World War One he was appointed colonel of a new cyclist unit and, being thorough about such things, decided he must learn to cycle before attending his first parade.

On the big day he set forth, rather wobbly, from Government House, Aldershot and on his way passed an orderly cycling in the opposite direction. The orderly saluted and fell off. The Duke tried to return the salute and fell off on top of the orderly.

There were no Royal Dukes and there was no ceremonial at the first military parade of cyclists at Canterbury in 1887.

This gathering was composed of Regular and retired officers, Volunteers (the Territorials of those days) of all ranks and civilian members of cycling clubs. Those who had uniforms wore them, adapted to cycling according to their own ideas. Some were armed to the teeth with swords, rifles, bayonets, revolvers and field glasses; others carried nothing more lethal than a spanner. After a few hours drill, they set out on a reconnaissance exercise.

It was so successful that within a week one of the retired officers asked the War Office for permission to raise a unit of Volunteer cyclists, to be known as Cyclist Guides, complete with band. Five months later, the War Office agreed on the understanding that no public money was to be forthcoming, at least for that year. And there was to be no band; Whitehall balked at the idea of musicians pedalling, steering and playing at the same time.

The new unit was the 26th Middlesex (Cyclist) Volunteer Corps, which later became the 25th (County of London) Cyclist Battalion of the London Regiment. This Battalion still appears in the Army List, the only cyclist unit to do so, but no members are listed and a footnote says: "Converted into a unit of the Royal Corps of Signals."

The first cyclist Volunteers were divided into troops according to their machines. "Ordinaries" (penny-farthings) and "Safeties" (the present kind) were in one troop, tricycles in the second and tandems in the third. Mounting an "Ordinary" with a rifle swinging on one's back took skill.

Other kinds of cycles joined the unit for its first manoeuvres in 1888. There was a section on "Clavigers," safety bicycles worked by a crank instead of a chain and propelled by working one's feet up and down instead of in a circle. There was also the "Flying Sapper," a Victoria tandem consisting of six or eight pairs of wheels coupled together and carrying up to 16 men, trailing a large box of engineering tools. It broke down. So did the unit's Maxim machine-gun mounting, a multicycle ridden by two men. Later, a Maxim mounted on a motor-tricycle joined the unit.

The cyclists went from strength to strength. By 1894 the original unit was performing in the Royal Military Tournament. Meanwhile, Volunteer Infantry battalions were including cyclists in their establishments.

In 1903, Lieutenant A. H. Trapman published the first book on tactics for cyclists. He was soon followed by writers overseas. A Frenchman advised cyclists to defend themselves against Cavalry by forming a hollow square, turning their machines upside down and spinning the front wheels to frighten the horses. An American suggested that cyclist scouts should hide their machines under haystacks or "in ponds of water, preferably turgid." At the War Office a staff officer demanded that cyclist soldiers should all have the same gear ratio on their machines so that they would not only be able to ride at the same speed but to keep "in step" as well.

In growing numbers, cyclist Volunteers joined the Regular Army on manoeuvres. In 1909 they evolved a patrol consisting of a motor-car towing four cyclists (one on each side and two clinging to the rear). Two riders eluding the enemy Cavalry on exercises twice swam the Thames — with their bicycles.

In 1909, Sir Gerald du Maurier staged a play in London showing what would happen to Britain if the Germans invaded. A cyclist was prominently featured, so all the advertising space in the programme was bought up for recruiting announcements.

They were tough, those early cyclists. They were not worried by "marches" of 70 to 100 miles in a day, with rifles and full kit, over roads prolific with punctures. They were quite happy to operate where there were no roads.

Trained as they were, the Territorial cyclists, to their chagrin, were not to take their machines overseas in World War One. Most of the cyclist units were turned into Infantry. The 25th London Battalion went to India, where its badge, incorporating a bicycle wheel, remains carved in solid rock on the North-West Frontier. Meanwhile Yeomanry cyclist brigades were formed to guard the coasts of Britain.

In 1915, the 1/25th London Battalion (the 25th had multiplied with the coming of war) sent an officer and two NCO's to Windsor to train 250 men of the Household Cavalry in cyclist drill and general training. These men went to France as the divisional cyclist company of a Guards Division — an assignment the Territorial cyclists would have appreciated.

In the early stages of the war, divisions in France and Belgium each had cyclist companies, some of which, as in Britain, were provided by Yeomanry units. In 1914, one such company came unexpectedly on to the flank of 200 German Guard *Schützen* and compelled them to lay down their arms in five minutes.

Later, the divisional cyclist companies were formed into battalions of the Army Cyclist Corps, and each army corps had a battalion of cyclists which, with a regiment of Cavalry, formed the corps mounted troops. The official history of the France and Flanders campaign has frequent references to cyclists being rushed to bolster up some part of the line. There is special mention of the 11th Cyclist Battalion which operated in partnership with 1st King Edward's Horse; on one occasion, the two were almost surrounded and lost half their numbers, the cyclists coming out of the engagement with a lieutenant in command.

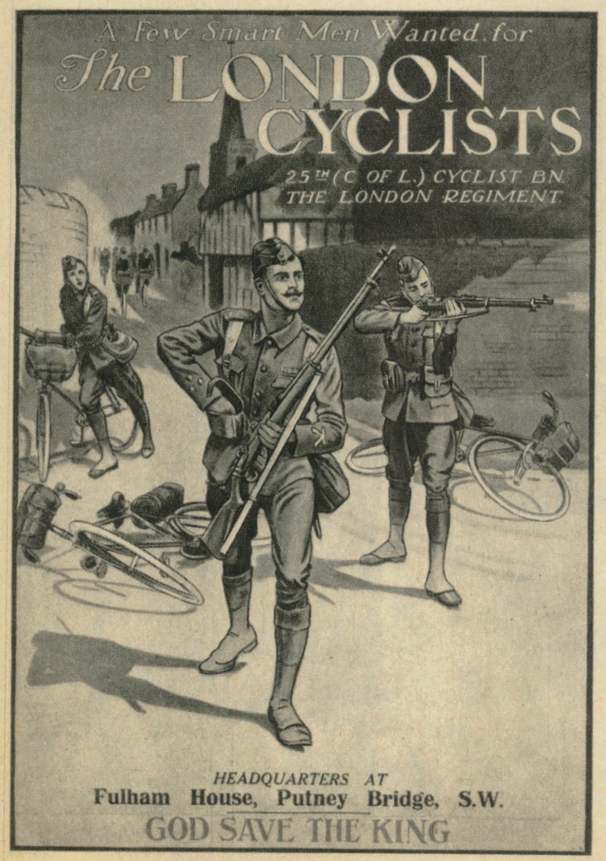
It was in advances that the cyclists came into their own, pursuing the Germans and sometimes engaging German cyclist rearguards. On Armistice Day, a cyclist patrol arrived at a railway station at the same time as the news of the armistice, and found a German officer and 20 men there. The corporal in charge of the cyclists called on the Germans to surrender, but they refused and the corporal then offered to fight them for the station. The Germans withdrew.

The end of the war meant almost the end of Army cyclists as a body. In 1919 and 1920 the cyclist units were disbanded.

The gun goes over the top . . . This display was given by the 25th (County of London) Cyclist Battalion.

Anything a horseman can do, a cyclist can do. Here a casualty is evacuated.

Trick stuff: this rider thrilled the crowd by picking up a casualty without even dismounting. Try it some time...



The recruiting poster which pulled them in.

A MORAL IN EVERY LINE

A warning shot fired in the direction of a suspected person at a depot abroad set fire to a stack of stores. The shot proved to have been a tracer bullet and investigation showed that such bullets had been mixed in a box of loose ammunition. When and by whom this was done is not known.

THIS curious little story is told by Sir Frank Tribe, the Comptroller and Auditor General in his report on how the Army spent £486,439,648 14s 8d in the financial year 1951-52.

Sir Frank, as is his duty, pokes about in some unwholesome corners. He probes fiddled imprests, faked store books. Sometimes, he records, the guilty men cannot be found; but very often they are caught — and punished. His report has a moral in every line.

That tracer mishap cost the Army £5435 worth of stores. More expensive was the fire which destroyed a building and its contents worth £27,218. The cause was the fusing of a power cable, and disciplinary action was taken against a warrant officer who had made a faulty joint in it.

Two non-commissioned officers were charged with theft from an ordnance depot abroad; one committed suicide, the other was court-martialled and found guilty, but his sentence was not confirmed. The loss to the Army: £4154.

Sometimes there was carelessness as well as dishonesty. Stores worth £1270 were stolen from a unit abroad "by persons unknown." An officer who failed to make adequate guard arrangements paid £10 towards the loss. A non-commissioned officer "considered to have been negligent" had £4 stopped from his pay when £795 worth of blankets were stolen.

Some "losses" were losses on paper only, thanks to inaccurate stock-taking and accounting, or because of inexperience, inefficiency or the impossibility of carrying out the work properly in emergency conditions.

Family allowance and pension totalling £800 were issued to a woman whom a soldier (since killed) had falsely declared to be his wife. An officer unwittingly contracted a bigamous marriage and obtained £2172 in allowances and free passages abroad costing £171, to which he was not entitled. The Army retrieved £197 from his credits.

This Kikuyu drummer has served with British forces since 1924.

"Thirty Shillings, Please" said the Witch-Doctor

A bandmaster in Kenya had a little problem which was solved in a time-honoured way. He has other problems too

THE Kenya Government recently employed witch-doctors to help combat Mau Mau influence, but the Kenya Band of the King's African Rifles had found occasion to call in a witch-doctor long before.

It happened when an oboe clarinet was missed. No amount of investigation could find it, and it seemed that the bandsman who had lost the instrument, a young Jaluo tribesman, would have to pay for a replacement.

The other Jaluos in the band asked permission for a *mchawi* (witch-doctor) to be called in, and Bandmaster J. E. Kinsman, who is in charge of the band, agreed. An old man duly turned up with the tools of his trade — pieces of horn, a strip of tree bark, a smooth stone, herbs and other apparently harmless odds and ends.

The bandsmen filed in to undergo the witch-doctor's tests, one of which was to slide the smooth stone up and down the piece of bark, while the witch-doctor made chanting noises. The stone moved for everybody, except one man. Nobody could shift it while he stood near, but when he stepped away, the stone moved again. This was the witch-doctor's "evidence," and as it turned out, the man for whom the stone would not move was one of the only three who could have taken the clarinet.

"I could hardly march the witch-doctor, his stone and his bark in front of the Officer Commanding, so there the matter rested," says Bandmaster Kinsman. "However, all was well with the Jaluos: their honour was unsmirched. All was well with the witch-doctor, too, and he came up smartly and said, 'Thirty shillings, please.'"

Bandmaster Kinsman, who enlisted in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry as a bandboy in 1926, arrived in East Africa in 1946 and was in charge of a combined band of East African Regiments, which he conducted in front of the Royal Family during their South African tour in 1947. Later that year the band was divided. The Kenya band, which was formed out of the split, is shared by four battalions of the King's African Rifles.

The band travels thousands of miles over some of Kenya's worst roads, arriving at its destinations covered in red murram dust. It has played in many places where no bands have been heard before. Its only overseas trip has been to Mauritius, which it toured for three months in 1948.

When there were troops at MacKinnon Road, the band entertained them regularly, on 14-day visits which called for 50 programmes. So many soldiers finishing their time in the Royal Pioneer Corps asked for their regimental marches that Bandmaster Kinsman suggested they should conduct these themselves. The idea was so popular that once it took three hours to play through all the requests. Now, whenever the band visits officers' or serjeants' messes, the members are invited to conduct their own regimental marches.

The band was not easy to build up. Only two of its musicians were playing before 1946: the African bandmaster, Warrant Officer Class One Inyasi and Band-Serjeant Alfred. In days well before Bandmaster Kinsman's arrival, one bandmaster used to teach his men the value of notes by using coins. The Africans have come a long way since then, however, and bandboys who enlist now are literate. When Bandmaster Kinsman arrived, training was carried out in Swahili (he worked with a Swahili book in his hand); now Swahili is used only to make sure the men understand the English version. Italian musical terms cause complications: *con moto*, meaning that a piece should be played with even motion, confuses the bandsmen for whom the word *moto* means "fire" in Swahili.

Would-be bandboys are persistent. One, small and obviously not much more than ten years old, approached Bandmaster Kinsman and claimed he was 12. He was sent away, but returned the next day and reported that his father said he was 14. He was sent away again. Less than a year later, having grown considerably, he returned with written support for a claim that he was 16. He was in. Few Africans know their ages, and guesses have to be made for records.

Once a bandsman returned from leave with his wife, family, bundles, saucepans, primus stove and small bath. "*Bwana*," he said to Bandmaster Kinsman, "you are my father and I ask you to find my family somewhere to live." And he left the family in the Bandmaster's front garden until the Bandmaster was able to arrange for them to move into an African married quarter. — *From a report by Captain Stanley F. Long, Military Observer, East Africa Command.*

Bandmaster J. E. Kinsman: his band travels prodigious distances, — arrives covered with red dust.

The age (they cried) is drained of pride,
The rose has lost its sheen . . .
Yet Knight and Captain out they ride
In tribute to a Queen.

The breastplates dazzle in the Mall,
A ringing day is this —
Of sacrament and carnival,
Of blazon and of bliss.

The trumpets blast (still unsurpassed
That sound!). The guns reply.
The Regiments are marching past
That die — yet never die.

The great men tread the halls of God;
They come, each glittering lord,
With Orb and Sceptre, Staff and Rod,
With Standard and with Sword.

A thousand shining years are here,
A thousand years of State.
This day shall slay that craven fear —
The "fear of being great."

May we, the heirs of chivalry,
Stand firm, beyond reproach!
Let pride be in our eyes, as we
Salute a golden coach!

"With This Sword..."

ALTHOUGH the Coronation is a religious ceremony, its ancient origins reflected more the sovereign's position as a military leader.

In pre-Christian Europe, a king was inaugurated by being carried round on a shield, for his people to see, and then handed a sword and a diadem (regal headdress).

The crown itself was, in early English coronations, a helmet, and both the sword with which the sovereign was girded, and the spurs which touched his heels were military symbols.

An 11th century Coronation order, probably used for the coronations of Harold and of William the Conqueror, includes this passage: "Receive this sword, which is bestowed on thee with the blessing of God, wherewith thou mayest have strength by the power of the Holy Ghost to resist and cast out all thine enemies, and all the foes of the holy Church of God, and protect the Kingdom committed to this charge."

The military symbols became later symbols of the King's knightly functions as the champion of the defenceless. In the modern ceremony, the sovereign is charged: "With this sword do Justice, stop the growth of iniquity, protect the holy Church of God, help and defend widows and orphans, restore the things that are gone to decay, maintain the things that are restored, punish and reform what is amiss and confirm what is in good order."

Following the precedent of Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth will not be girded with the sword, as male sovereigns customarily are. She will go alone to the altar and offer it to the service of God. The gold spurs were not touched on the heels of Queen Victoria, as in the case of a male sovereign; she touched them with her hand.

Famous Soldiers on Duty

Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein will carry the Royal Standard.

Field-Marshal Earl Alexander of Tunis, Minister of Defence, will carry the Orb.

The Lord High Constable

FIELD-MARSHAL Viscount Alanbrooke is Lord High Constable of England for the Coronation. The Lord High Constable is one of the Great Officers of State, and formerly commanded all the forces of the Crown. The 800-year-old office is now merged with the Crown and revived only for the day of a Coronation.

By virtue of this appointment, Lord Alanbrooke will be in command of all Servicemen on duty in London on Coronation Day—a total of 29,200 marching in procession or lining the streets, and 6700 reserve and administration troops.

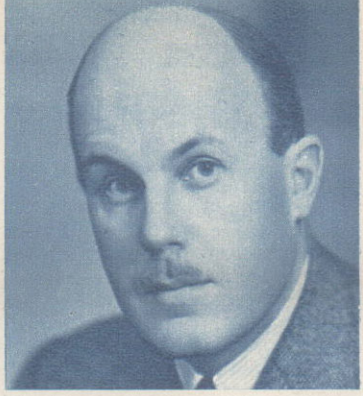
Field-Marshal the Earl of Cavan held the appointment at the 1937 Coronation and commanded 2953 officers and 35,565 men. The two previous holders, Field-Marshal Lord Kitchener in 1911, and General His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught in 1902, each had more than 60,000 officers and men under command.

The Duke of Wellington attended three Coronations as Lord High Constable — those of George IV, William IV and Queen Victoria.

Maj-Gen. J. A. Gascoigne, commanding London District, will ride in front of the Queen's coach.

Capt. J. L. M. Dymoke, Royal Lincolnshire Regt., hereditary Queen's Champion, carries the Union Standard.

Lord de L'Isle and Dudley, Air Minister, who won the Victoria Cross in Italy as a Guards officer, will carry the Standard of Ireland.



Maj-Gen. R. G. Feilden, general manager of NAAFI, Chief Gold Staff officer in command of the 400 ushers in the Abbey.

Colonel B. J. O. Burrows, Inspector of Trooping, War Office, will lead the Queen's procession to the Abbey and the return procession.

Colonel W. A. G. Burns, Lieutenant-Colonel commanding the Coldstream Guards, will be chief marshal of the processions.

These Were On Duty Last Time

In 1937, staff-captain to the Yeomanry detachment. Now, General Sir Charles Keightley, C-in-C, Far East.

In 1937, a captain in the Life Guards and Silver Stick Adjutant. Now, Brigadier Antony Head, Secretary of State for War.

Then, a captain in the Highland Light Infantry and a marshalling officer. Now, Major-Gen. R. E. Urquhart, commanding in Austria.

Then, a captain in the Royal Horse Guards and a marshal. Now, Major-General R. E. Laycock, former chief of Combined Operations.

Then, a major in the Loyal Regiment. Now, General Sir Gerald Templer, High Commissioner in Malaya.

Then, a Gunner major among the marshals. Now, Lt-Gen. Sir Cameron Nicholson, new C-in-C Middle East.

Then, a lieut-colonel of the Royal Ulster Rifles. Now, General Sir James Steele, a former Adjutant-General.

A Division (Cont'd)

including the Army Council, field-marshals and commanders-in-chief of home commands.

The mounted band of the Royal Horse Guards and two divisions of the Sovereign's escort of the Household Cavalry come next, followed by Major-General J. A. Gascoigne, the London District commander and deputy commander of the troops on Coronation parade. General Gascoigne rides with the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, Sir Harold Scott, immediately in front of the Queen's coach.

Immediately behind the coach rides Field-Marshal Viscount Alanbrooke, with staff officers.

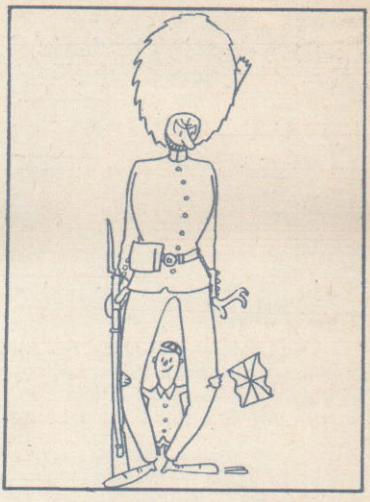
The Duke of Gloucester and Earl Mountbatten follow, with another group of mounted officers, and the rear is brought up by the third and fourth divisions of the Sovereign's escort of Household Cavalry.

Outside Westminster Abbey, a triple guard of honour of the three Services will await the Queen. The Army's contribution will be found by the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards. Three officers and 50 men of the Queen's Company, Grenadier Guards, with the Queen's Company Colour, will be on duty in the Abbey. So will 20 trumpeters of the Royal Military School of Music who will sound fanfares during the service.

For the crowds in the streets, the major spectacle of the day will be the return procession to Buckingham Palace.

Colonel Burrows will again lead, followed by four Household Cavalry troopers. Behind will come the first group of bands, then the Colonial and Commonwealth contingents, followed by the Royal Air Force.

All representatives will march in reverse order of seniority, so that the junior corps and regiments lead and the senior will be nearer the Royal coach. The Home Guard and University Training Corps will come first, then the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, the officer-cadet schools, the Honourable Artillery Company, the Women's Royal Army Corps (Regular and Territorial), Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps (Regular and Territorial), the specialist corps and services (Regular, Territorial and Army Emergency Reserve), the Territorial Infantry battalions and the Brigade of Gurkhas.



Next come the men of the 75 Regular Infantry battalions, then those of the Royal Corps of Signals. The Yeomanry will lead the Royal Armoured Corps contingent, followed by the Regular regiments, then the Royal Horse Artillery and the dismounted Royal Horse Guards and Life Guards.

The Royal Navy contingent follows the Army, and then comes the Queen's procession, as it went to the Abbey.

On the route to the Abbey, the Brigade of Guards will line the Mall from Buckingham Palace to the approach road to the Horse Guards, and officer-cadets from Sandhurst will line part of Parliament Square. Regular, Territorial and Army Emergency Reserve troops will line long sections of the return route. Each Territorial Army battalion Queen's Colour will be with its street-lining detachment. The Army will provide 12 of the 20 bands stationed along the route. They will all play the National Anthem as the Queen's coach passes, and compliments to other personages entitled to them.

IF THE CORDON BREAKS

Field-Marshal Viscount Alanbrooke's orders for Coronation Day include these points: —

TROOPS lining the route will prevent crowds from breaking through on to the route if the police cordon is broken. They will help the police to restore the cordon but will not pursue people who do break through the line.

"Fainting is very catching," warn the orders, " and platoon commanders must keep a constant watch on their men." Any man showing signs of distress while awaiting the processions is to have his head held down between his knees until he has recovered. Anyone who faints while the processions are passing will be looked after by medical staff. There will be 25 medical aid posts on the route and two veterinary posts.

In narrow streets, it may be necessary to lower Colours at an angle instead of to the front, as compliments are paid.

The Chief Signals Officer, London District, Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Stoneley, will be stationed in Westminster Abbey. As the Queen is crowned — Z-hour — he will give the word "Fire" over a special telephone system, and another Signals officer will relay it over a wireless network. In Hyde Park, at the Tower of London and in Windsor Great Park, Signals officers will drop flags, and Gunners of 23 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, the Honourable Artillery Company and 345 Medium Regiment, Berkshire Yeomanry, will begin to fire salutes of 41, 62 and 41 guns respectively. Troops on the route will be called to attention for the duration of the salute, about seven minutes.

HOW THE ARMY PLANNED THE DAY

For more than a year, a special branch of the War Office has been working on the Army's part in the Coronation

THE Army began its Coronation preparations last year with the experience of past Coronations as guide.

The officers in charge of Coronation arrangements in 1902, 1911, and 1937 had bequeathed long and detailed reports on their work (though none so imposing as the 412-page report on the Coronation Durbar at Delhi in 1911).

These reports showed that the War Office established a special Coronation committee in 1911, but not in 1937. The London District commander of 1937 complained that much time was wasted by War Office branches working independently.

The War Office heeded this complaint, and in May 1952 a special Coronation branch of the War Office was set up: A. G. 4 (Coronation). It was headed by Lieutenant-colonel V. A. P. Budge and Major H. C. Hanbury MC, both of the Grenadier Guards, and Major R. W. T. Britten MC, Royal Engineers, working under the Director of Personal Services, Major-General M. B. Dowse. At the same time, the Staff of London District Headquarters also got down to details. The Army was working closely with the Earl Marshal's office, the Metropolitan Police and the other Services. By November, the first rehearsal of the Coronation procession was held.

From the record of 1937, the planners of A. G. 4 (Coronation) were able to see that they might be facing problems like these:

Replacing Territorials' sand-blasted bayonets with polished bayonets to match those of the Regulars;

obtaining concession rates on the railways for visiting Dominion and Colonial troops;

working out a special rate of ration allowance for nine West Indian and African senior NCO's;

negotiating special rates of pay for cooks in Coronation camps;

providing 88 heating stoves for Coronation camps when the weather turned cold at the last moment.

The big tasks, of course came first. Not much could be done until the size of the Army representation at the Coronation had been calculated. Then came the process of working out the size of the representation of units and corps. This was complicated by claims from some units that they should have special representation on traditional grounds. A committee was set up to consider their claims.

With the broad plan settled, the problems of putting it into practice came thick and fast. Detachments of men had to be moved to Britain from all over the world and from all over Britain towards London. Concentration areas were arranged in the Home Commands and great camps in London.

A problem for planners: traffic islands. This picture shows that the ones in Oxford Street did not spoil the Guards' dressing in 1937.

The issue of Number One Dress to Coronation troops had to be speeded up. Men in the Territorial Army and Army Emergency Reserve wanted to know whether Coronation duties counted as part of their training liability (those on duty eight days or more may count the period as annual camp to qualify for a bounty). Horses had to be found for 70 senior officers and trained at the Royal Army Veterinary Corps depot at Melton Mowbray and in London (some were borrowed from police forces). Seating in Westminster Abbey for senior officers had to be arranged.

A total of 60 Army officers had to be found to act as marshals to the procession, along with officers of the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force. A Royal Corps of Signals wireless and telephone net was established, for the control of the procession. Stewards were found for the Army's own stands on the Coronation route. Receptions for visiting Commonwealth and Colonial troops were arranged. Hundreds of reserve, administrative and traffic control troops were provided and briefed.

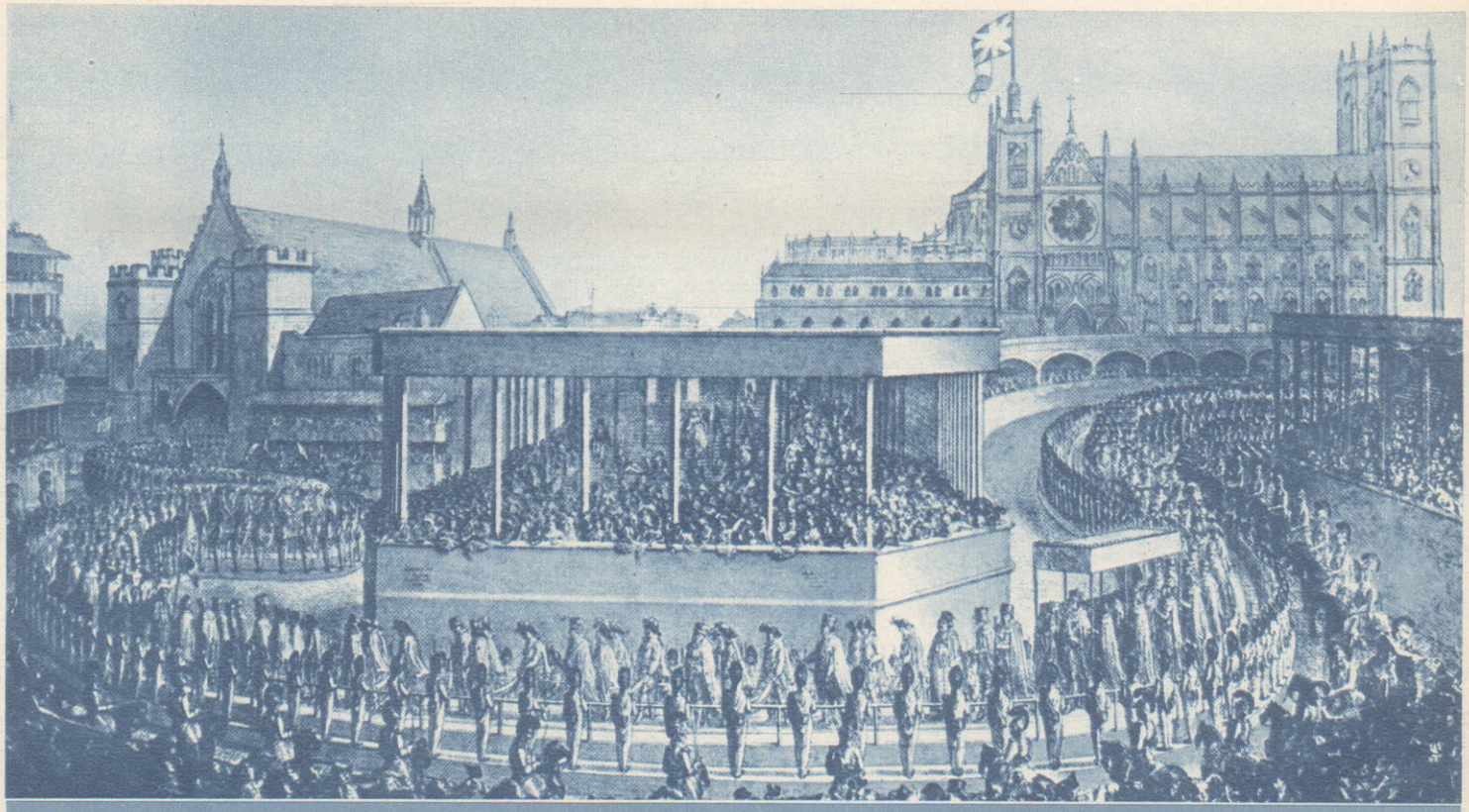
An example of the care to ensure that nothing shall go amiss is a circular issued to bands from the War Office. The circular was prepared by Major G. E. Shelley, a retired officer of the Grenadier Guards who was responsible for Army band Coronation arrangements in 1937. The circular lays down the strength of the various bands in the procession and along the route and suggests their instrumentation. It details the placing of the bands in the procession and of the stationary bands and how long they will play. For the bands in the procession, "only standard marches will be played and care will be taken that those with word or song accompaniment are omitted. Marches with a marked foreign connection will not be played." For the static bands, a list of suggested pieces, ranging from marches to musical comedy, is provided, and exact instructions as to when the National Anthem is to be played. The 30 trumpeters from Kneller Hall, who will sound fanfares for personages in the processions to the Abbey, are instructed to finish them when the leading horses of the carriage are 50 yards away, to avoid frightening the animals.

Musical preparations also included rehearsing Scottish, Irish, Gurkha and Pakistan pipers together in Edinburgh.

Much detail of another kind has been arranged by the Army Catering Corps officers of London District. To their normal strength of 200 officers and men, 564 have been added from all over Britain for the Coronation period. Contractors and NAAFI have been engaged to cook for officers in the three big London camps, and for one serjeants' mess. Cooking equipment has been hired from the Ministry of Works, and the Army Catering Corps cooks will feed all the soldiers camped in London, except a few from overseas who provide their own cooks for religious reasons. In addition, the Army Catering Corps cooks for 2000 civilian policemen who move into Woolwich when the Colonial troops move up to Kensington Gardens. Hundreds of Gunners are acting as waiters and "general duty" staff in the dining-rooms and cookhouses at Olympia, Earl's Court and Kensington Gardens. NAAFI is operating six acres of tented canteens in Kensington Gardens camp and will pack 33,000 haversack lunches for Coronation Day.

Nothing which could possibly be planned has been left to chance. Like General Eisenhower's staff on D-Day — nine years ago almost to the day — the Coronation Day staff will be watching the meteorological reports. Rain will not stop the Coronation, but on those reports will depend whether 30,000-odd waterproof capes stay in reserve or go into action.

As It Was In 1838: Colours are lowered before the young Queen Victoria as she rides to Westminster Abbey to be crowned. This was the first of the modern Coronations, at which the British Army turned out in strength



This old print shows the entire route of the Coronation procession of King George IV (1821). A serpentine "boardwalk" was laid from Westminster Abbey to Westminster Hall, and lined by troops. The Sovereign walked from Hall to Abbey for the ceremony, then returned the same way to attend a banquet. The next monarch, King William IV, dispensed with both "boardwalk" and banquet. However, he drove ceremonially with his Queen to the Abbey, giving London a modest glimpse of the pageantry which was to attend later Coronations. It was the Coronation of Queen Victoria, in 1838, which first brought out big numbers of troops in all their splendour.

Troops Belaboured the Crowd

Early Coronations did not always go according to plan—and not everybody dressed as a soldier was a soldier

THE congregation at the coronation of William the Conqueror, when asked, "Will ye have this prince to be your king?" answered with such enthusiasm that a nearby Norman garrison, thinking the English were rising in revolt, set fire to several houses.

* * *

CHARLES II made a spectacular progress to Westminster the day before his coronation, in 1661.

From Temple Bar to Whitehall, the streets were guarded "with the two Foote Regiments of the Duke of Albemarle and of his Majestie" — now the Coldstream and Grenadier Guards. Tower Hill was guarded by the "Regiment of the Hamletts."

The Duke of Albemarle himself — the redoubtable General Monck of the Civil War — led a spare horse of State behind the King, a duty which was described thus by Samuel Pepys: "My Lord Monck rode bare after the King, and led in his hand a spare horse as being Master of the Horse."

The Cavalry in the procession made a brave show. The King's Horse Guards were "all well mounted, having Buff Coates with white Armour, their Horses furnished with Hooses (being a short Footcloth) with red Scarfes and Plumes of Red and white Feathers, Commanded by the Gallant Lord Charles Gerard of Brandon."

Among other troops were the Duke of York's Horse Guards, "all haveing black Armour, Red white and black Feathers and Red Scarfes, with Belts of his Highnesse Livery."

Luckily for all this finery, especially the feathers, the chronicler was able to record, "the Sunn shined gloriously all that day."

* * *

SOLDIERS, Horse and Foot, belaboured the heads of the crowd at George IV's coronation with broad-swords, muskets and bayonets. They took bribes to allow people through the line of horses to approach the platform, then officiously turned them back again. Even ticket-holders could not reach their places without tipping a guard to clear a way through the crowd.

For this coronation men of the Honourable Artillery Company paraded at midnight and were under arms until eight o'clock in the evening. It was George IV's acceptance of their offer to take part which established the precedent on which the Company has based its claims to take part in subsequent coronations.

Spectators complained that the soldiers lining the route were an encroachment on their view. They were surprised to see officers "familiarly conversing" and walking arm in arm with the men until someone revealed that the "soldiers" were really gentlemen who had put on uniform to obtain a good place.

Soldiers presented arms to Queen Caroline, George IV's divorced wife, as she drove to the Abbey, but a door-keeper turned her away in humiliation.

* * *

AN old print shows Army officers — or persons dressed as Army officers — scrambling for Coronation medals on the floor of Westminster Abbey while William IV was being crowned. The medals, allegedly, had been scattered there by the Treasurer of His Majesty's Household.

* * *

WITHOUT seeking to do so, the Duke of Wellington stole the show at the coronation of Queen Victoria. *The Times* said:

"There was no comparison between the plaudits lavished on the 'illustrious' Duke and those which *any* other person could elicit from the surrounding spectators. The Queen was in some measure on her trial. The Duke of Wellington needs not any human ordeal to establish him as the rightful owner of the national confidence and esteem."

Marshal Soult, one of Napoleon's commanders and an opponent of Wellington in the Peninsula, attended this coronation and was well cheered.

* * *

IN South Africa, blockhouses which a few months before had been on active service against the Boers, were decorated for the coronation of Edward VII in 1902.

* * *

WHEN King George V and Queen Mary appeared on the balcony at Buckingham Palace after their coronation in 1911, "the troops around the Palace, regardless of discipline, joined in the cheering."

* * *

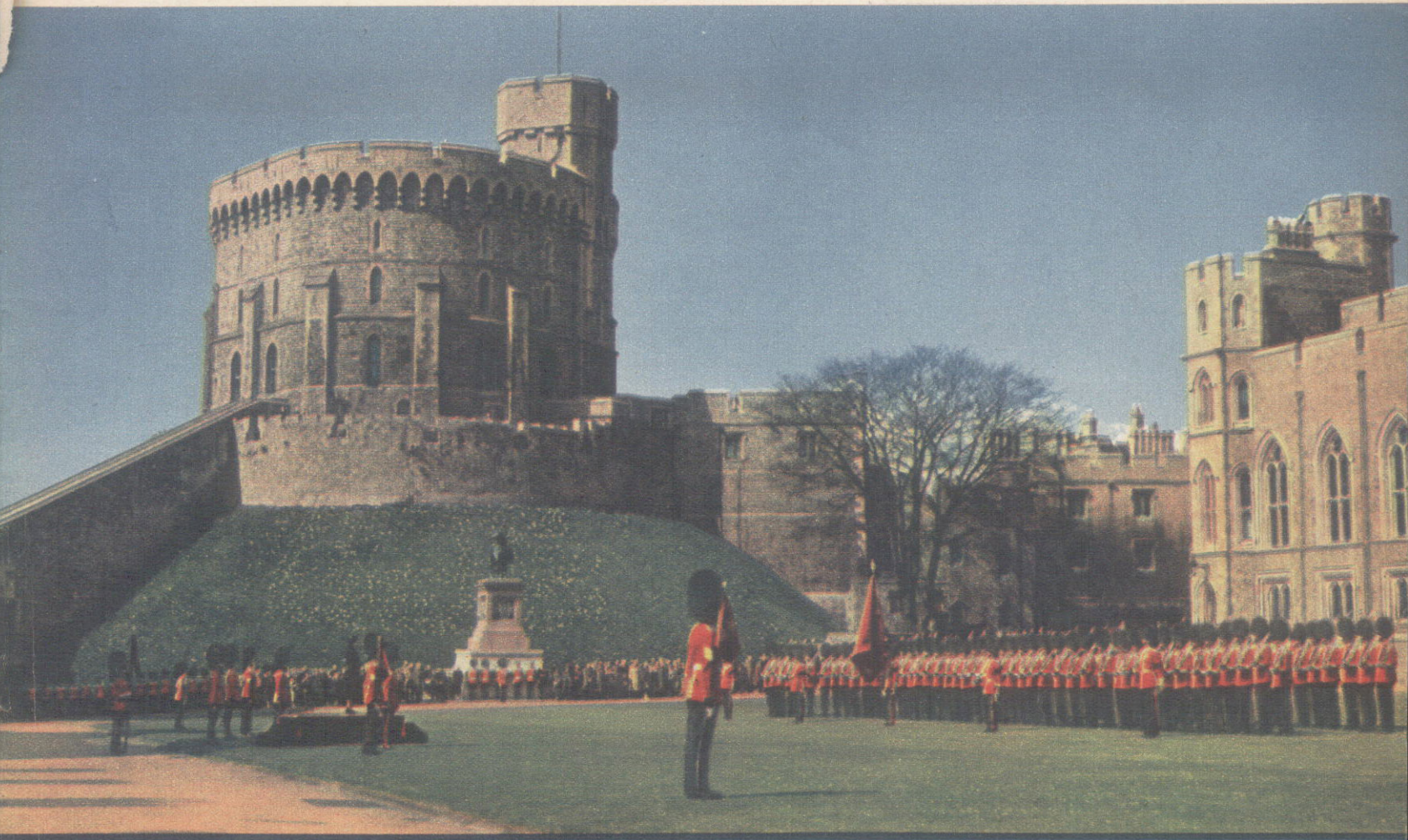
AN influenza epidemic in Yorkshire in January 1937 held up production of materials for blue uniforms needed by troops taking part in King George VI's coronation procession. As a result, some were fitted at the last minute, but every man got his suit. The suit was an experimental walking-out dress, and men who received it were allowed to keep it. A surplus was sold to others at reduced prices.

Heavy rain spoiled many full-dress uniforms. As the order had been to parade "uncloaked," compensation was paid for damage.

Bearskins and Plumes

At Windsor Castle, Household Troops parade before the Queen

(Colour picture: SOLDIER Cameraman W. J. Stirling)



The Queen presents her new Colour to the Queen's Company, Grenadier Guards at Windsor Castle. This Colour will be carried

Early sunlight in Hyde Park picks out highlights on men and horses alike. Below: Horses which will be mounted by generals in the Coronation Procession are exercised in the park.

From the World Over

AS SOLDIER went to press, Servicemen from the Commonwealth and Colonies were arriving in Britain for the Coronation.

When the build-up is complete, these forces will total about 2500 soldiers, sailors, airmen and policemen. Officers from Commonwealth and Colonial contingents will ride in the Queen's mounted escort, and a Canadian Army band and Pakistani pipers will be in the procession. There will also be Commonwealth troops lining the streets.

From the Canadian Army will come veterans of Korea and a group representing 27 Canadian Infantry Brigade in Germany. General H. D. G. Crerar will ride in the procession as an Honorary Aide-de-Camp General to the Queen.

The Army section of the Australian contingent will include four holders of the Victoria Cross. New Zealand's contingent will have Maori troops and men from Korea.

The South African contingent will represent the Permanent Force, the Active Citizen Force, the Rifle Commandos and former members of the Union Defence Force. Southern Rhodesia and Ceylon will also be on parade.

Commonwealth troops were scheduled to mount guard at Buckingham Palace during May and June.

From the Colonies come 82 Army officers with 306 men. Biggest single party is from the Royal West African Frontier Force — 35 officers and 107 men from Nigeria, the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone and Gambia.

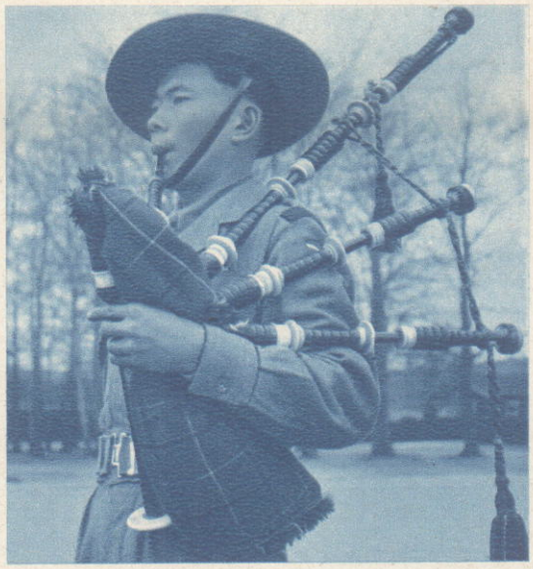
Next biggest is the King's African Rifles party, from Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika and Nyasaland; others will have come from Malaya.

Most of the other detachments are small, as are the forces they represent. The Barbados Regiment and the British Honduras Volunteer Guard send one officer and three men; the Leeward Islands Defence Force one officer and two men; and the Falkland Islands Defence Force three men without an officer.

Colours will be carried by the Royal West African Frontier Force, the King's African Rifles and the Malay Regiment.

The visitors' entertainment is in the hands of the British Empire Service League, which administers the Overseas Troops Entertainment Fund.

The men will visit seaside resorts, a patent food factory and a car factory, a model farm, a Test match, Windsor Castle, Hampton Court, Blenheim Palace and other famous buildings, the Port of London, dance halls, race-meetings, special displays by the Magic Circle, the Nuffield Centre, an ice-show, the Spithead Review, the Trooping the Colour rehearsal and entertainments by British units.



Among the first overseas arrivals for the Coronation were the Gurkhas and the Pakistan contingent. Their pipers went to Edinburgh to practise with Scots pipers. Above: a Gurkha piper. Below: a magnificently moustached Pakistani.

THE MEDAL

THE silver Coronation Medal will be issued as a personal souvenir from the Queen to "persons in the Crown Services and others." Those selected will receive it as soon as possible after the Coronation.

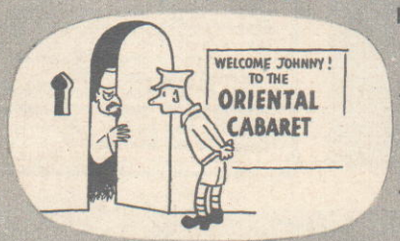
The Medal, one-and-a-quarter inches in diameter, will bear the Queen's effigy on the front and on the reverse the Royal Cypher and the words "Queen Elizabeth II, Crowned 2nd June, 1953."

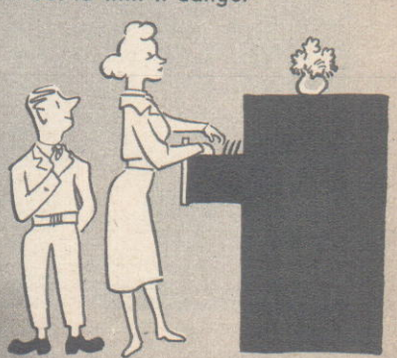
It will be worn after war medals, Jubilee and previous Coronation medals, but before Efficiency and Long Service awards.

Why the cheer? These are officers and men from the Far East arriving in Britain for Coronation duty. On this ship were men from Korea, Hong-Kong and Malaya.

IT'S A DIFFERENT ARMY TODAY

1937 **Here's a list which shows a few of the differences between the Army as it was at the last Coronation and as it is today. Not every old soldier will agree that *every* change is for the better... but on the whole it seems to have improved!** **1953**

1937	1953
HE did not wear collar and tie	HE wears collar and tie
.. was not issued with pyjamas or sheets	.. is issued with pyjamas and sheets
.. had to wear a solar topee in hot climates	.. wears his ordinary cap in hot climates—and is none the worse
	
He spent much time struggling with puttees	.. wears easily-fitted anklets
.. drew basic pay of 2s a day	.. draws basic pay of 7s a day
.. drew minimum pension (after 21 years) of 18s 4½d a week, but no terminal grant	.. draws minimum pension (after 22 years) of £1 6s 4d, plus £100 terminal grant
.. could not enlist as a married man	.. can enlist though married
He had to wait until he was 26 to receive marriage allowance—and then only 7s a week	.. can draw marriage allowance at 18—at the rate of 42s a week
.. did not qualify for married quarters until he was 26	.. can qualify for married quarters at 22 (though he may have a long wait)
.. had to join for at least five years with the Colours, with seven years Reserve obligation	.. can join for three years, with only four years Reserve obligation
.. could extend to 12 years with the Colours only if there was a vacancy	.. can join for 22 years with the option of leaving after three years
.. had to serve a minimum of six years overseas	.. serves an overseas tour of three years
.. was obliged to attend church parades	.. attends church voluntarily after his recruit training
.. could be awarded pack drill as a punishment	.. cannot be awarded pack drill
.. could not appeal to a civil court from a court-martial decision	.. can appeal to a civil court
.. received no training in current affairs	.. attends frequent current affairs sessions
.. was at the mercy of unit-trained cooks, often had monotonous food	.. has the benefit of Corps-trained cooks, more varied meals, and the cafeteria system of serving
.. peeled his own potatoes	.. (if lucky) has his potatoes peeled by civilians
.. was X-rayed only after he became ill	.. is now X-rayed as a recruit
	
He had no NAAFI club to visit if stationed in a big garrison	.. finds NAAFI clubs in many garrisons; also the Nuffield Centre in London, and families' clubs where he may stay with his family
.. had no Army-organised supply of films to follow him everywhere	.. has films brought to him by the Army Kinema Corporation
.. had to find "live" entertainment as best he could	.. has "live" shows brought to him, periodically, by Combined Services Entertainment
He was the "forgotten man" of broadcasting	.. is linked with home, in most stations, by Army broadcasting, which often provides special programmes for him
.. saw home newspapers (if overseas) weeks late, or not at all	.. has daily newspapers flown to him in many overseas commands, or Sunday newspapers in more distant commands
.. had no Army magazine	.. has SOLDIER
.. found no Army-sponsored bookshops overseas	.. finds Service bookshops in many garrisons
.. took part in few sports other than boxing, football, rugby, cricket and athletics	.. can take part in ski-ing, cycling, gliding, yachting and motor-cycling
.. could not take an Army correspondence course	.. can take such courses in almost any subject
.. had small chance of being visited by a near relative, if taken dangerously ill at a distant station, or being rushed home to a near relative dangerously ill	.. can have a near relative flown out to him if dangerously ill; or can be flown home to a dangerously ill near relative if his presence is likely to help the patient
.. often trained unrealistically, with dummy equipment, knocking off at the end of the day, no matter what the state of the manoeuvres	.. trains, day and night, sometimes for a week at a time, with real weapons and equipment and is better prepared for the 'real thing'
.. had a slender chance of being commissioned from the ranks	.. has as good a chance as anybody if he has the qualifications (all officers serve in the ranks)
.. never saw a girl in uniform	.. may find feminine glamour in his unit.



Tobruk is relieved — and so are they.

THE RATS OF TOBRUK

A new film about the war in the Western Desert pays tribute to the Australians in Tobruk. This was Rommel's first defeat

WHY didn't we make our own film about the Desert Rats?

It's a fair question, and there does not seem to be a good answer to it.

The Americans have done the job for us, and they have done it well. Those who feared to find a screen Tobruk being defended by a flamboyant "Flynnforce" need not have worried.

It is the Australians who find themselves in the limelight. Some would have preferred a little more attention to be devoted to the British, Polish and Indian units which also withstood the nine-months siege by the Germans and Italians. But the 9th Australian Division, still raw, found the bulk of the garrison for the first half of the siege and well earned a celluloid tribute. And after all, the film does not set out to be a documentary — though it does contain shots taken by British Army frontline cameramen during the campaign.

For the rest of the out-door shots, the makers found a piece of American desert which was so like that of Cyrenaica that a distinguished general who fought with Eighth Army is alleged to have said he thought he recognised certain features. A scene in which German tanks advance through a sandstorm is well done.

Richard Burton is the star. He plays a taut, experienced British Infantry officer who is given a command of almost untrained Australians — no job for a weakling. As is well known, Australian discipline differs from British, and American discipline differs from both. So the film makers took on quite a problem there . . . Anyway Richard Burton knocks his men into shape, though they think him uncommonly callous when he tears strips off them for gathering sentimentally round a wounded "cobber," in defiance of the order to string themselves out.

Not for the first time Robert Newton appears as a drunken private, and a cowardly one to boot. Before the war, this coward was the officer's housemaster, so the rigid disciplinarian has to fight down a temptation to say "sir" to the company scallywag.

Chips Rafferty is thoroughly at home as an Australian serjeant and so is James Mason as Rommel (his second appearance in the role). In 1942, when the Rommel legend was at its most dangerous, Eighth Army was reminded that Rommel was the man who failed to take Tobruk. "The Desert Rats" is another reminder. Tobruk was Rommel's first defeat.

The title of the film may set off a controversy among desert veterans. Who were the original Desert Rats? The claim of the 9th Australian Division is based on the taunts of "Lord Haw-Haw" that they were caught in Tobruk like rats in a trap. But from very early days anyone who served in the Western Desert was proud to answer to the name. The Seventh Armoured Division, which was in the desert before there was a battle, adopted for its flash the jerboa, or desert rat, which had no especial associations with Tobruk. Where *did* the name begin?

The captain (Richard Burton) and the serjeant (Chips Rafferty).
Below: The defenders of Tobruk as they really were: a 1941 picture.

HERE THEY HELD D-DAY REHEARSAL

There is a stretch of sand in Devon which was stormed in force by Americans on New Year's Day, 1944

(Post-war pictures by W. J. STIRLING)

A block-house under broken trees. Metal splinters in the timber prevent it being sawn up.

Left: Rusty fangs on a bloodless invasion beach. They have now been cleared away.

Below: Holiday-makers on Slapton Sands now have other things to occupy them. The bay has fulfilled its role in history.

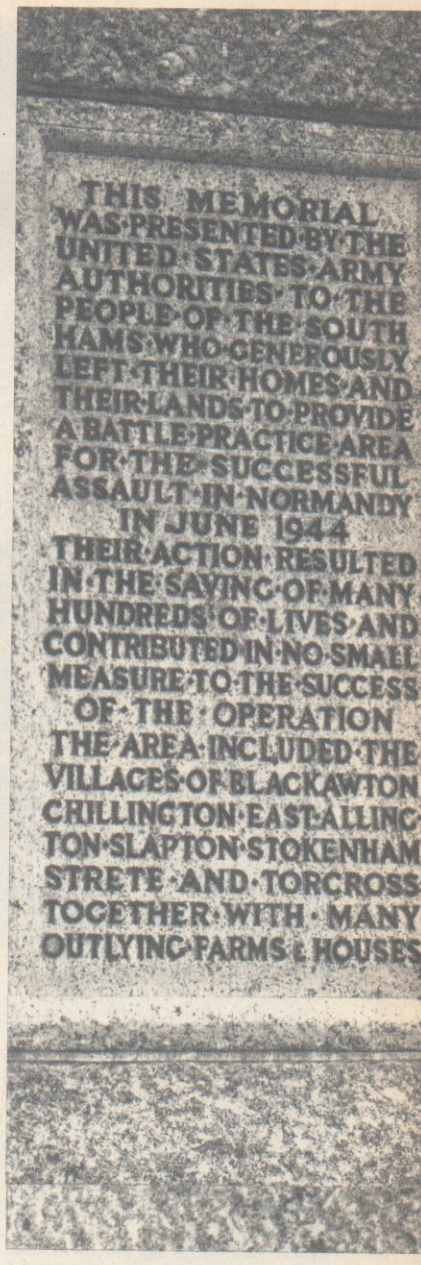
SHELL-torn twentieth-century battlefields are few and far between in Britain. The best-known of them is the region around the Wiltshire village of Imber, which is still in use by the School of Infantry.

On the South Devon coast, however, there is a stretch of beach which deserves equal place with Imber in the history of World War Two. It is Slapton Sands, between Start Point and Dartmouth. Here American soldiers, backed by British, Canadian and American warships, practised the landings they were to make in Normandy.

Slapton Sands had previously staked their claim to fame in a more romantic way. On the landward side is a stretch of fresh water, known as Slapton Ley, for which, according to the guidebooks, there is no known natural explanation. Only a narrow strip of sand, on which runs a road, separates the Ley from the sea. It is said that Slapton Ley is the lake referred to in the legend of King Arthur. From its waters supposedly emerged a hand bearing the famous sword, Excalibur. No other stretch of water (so it is claimed) answers the description given in the legend.

It was no legend, however, which brought the Americans to Slapton. The beach was like a Normandy beach; the country behind, known as the South Hams, was similar to the *bocage* country in which they would be fighting after the landing.

Left: Slapton Church, photographed shortly after it was damaged by naval shells. It is now repaired. Above and right: The monument set up by the Americans to the villagers who gave up their homes.



Where "all day long the noise of battle rolled." The Ley — whence Excalibur is said to have arisen — is seen on right of picture, separated from the sea by the spit on which houses stand.

From this area, 3500 men, women and children moved out at the end of 1943. Their homes in the villages of Blackawton, Chillington, East Allington, Slapton, Stokenham, Strete and Torcross, and on the outlying farms, were deserted. More than 25 square miles of rich soil were left fallow. On New Year's Day, 1944, the first "assault" went in across the six-mile stretch of beach and cliffs.

By August of that year—with the real invasion well under way—London Civil Defence workers went into the area to repair homes. The first residents allowed to return were the farmers; the rest trickled back as their homes were made habitable.

There are still souvenirs of the assaults on the area. Splinter-pocked concrete block-houses are decaying under blasted trees. A few ruins indicate where a hotel used to be. A manor house, shell-wrecked, stands derelict near the sea.

Mostly, however, the South Hams are back to normal. Slapton Church, which was damaged by naval shells, is fully restored. The Church House Inn at Stokenham, which had a direct hit from a naval shell, is as good as new. In Slapton village occasional tell-tale patches of recent-looking masonry show where cottages were damaged. At Strete there is a new women's institute to replace the one which stood near the centre of the assault area, and was burned down.

By the centre of Slapton Sands, the American Army has erected a memorial to "the people of the South Hams who generously left their homes and their lands" to provide a battle-practice area for the Normandy assault. In the history of war memorials it occupies a unique place.

SIGNALS LIFT THE CUP

There was a record entry for this year's Army Football Cup competition. Once again the trophy went to Catterick

FOR the first time, the Royal Corps of Signals have won the Army Cup.

Last year, 7 Training Regiment, Royal Signals, from Catterick, made the Corps' first appearance in the final, to be beaten two-one by their Catterick neighbours, 67 Training Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps.

This year, 7 Training Regiment were back at Aldershot again, facing 28 Battalion, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, from Bramley, and won by three goals to two. Prospects had seemed good for the Ordnance team: in the seven matches leading to the final, they had scored 49 goals and conceded only six, while the Signals team (who had one walk-over) had scored 24 and had 13 scored against them.

It was no cake-walk for the Signals. Lance-Corporal A. Quixall, the Sheffield Wednesday star, opened the scoring after 20 minutes with an accurate free-kick which would have been easy enough to clear if Lance-Corporal R. P. Brewer, in the Ordnance goal, had not been dazzled by the sun. Five minutes later Lance-Corporal C. Barker, the Middlesborough amateur inside-right, beat Brewer again with a terrific shot.

Before half-time, Private V. A. W. Keeble (Newcastle United), at centre-forward, sent one in for the Ordnance. With a quarter of an hour to go in the second half, Barker made the most of a weak clearance to put the Signals further ahead. The Ordnance team rallied, and following a free kick,

OVER

The victors and the spoils. The Army Cup was made in 1838, replica of an ancient vase, and purchased with unit subscriptions.

Left: The Adjutant-General, General Sir John Crocker, meets Lance-Corporal A. Quixall of the Signals team.

Below: Lance-Cpl. J. Spiers, the Signals goalkeeper, is airborne. Lance-Cpl. F. Rutter (3) and Lance-Cpl. J. Cameron (2) cover the goal.

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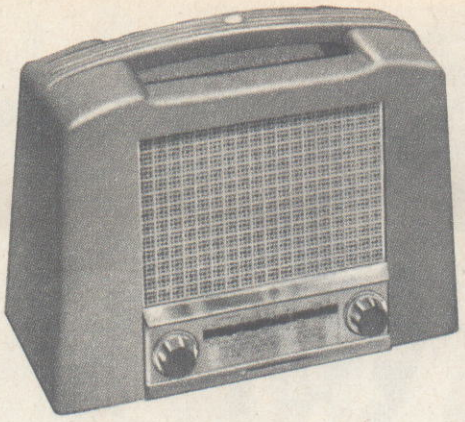

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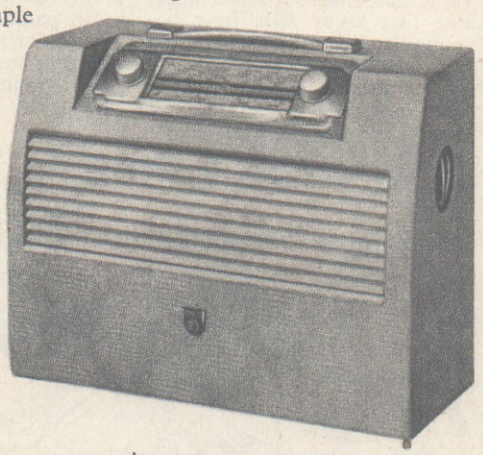

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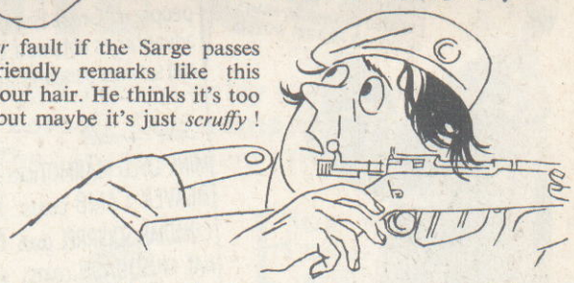

If your hair won't stay in place, or if you get dandruff in the parting or on the collar—your trouble's probably Dry Scalp. Get some 'Vaseline' Brand Hair Tonic from the NAAFI, and massage your scalp for just 20 seconds every morning. Before long—what a difference! Your hair'll be tidy and easy to comb, and I'll bet Sargy won't notice even if it is a shade longer than his own. Oh... and when you next go on leave, they'll be dating *you* for a change!

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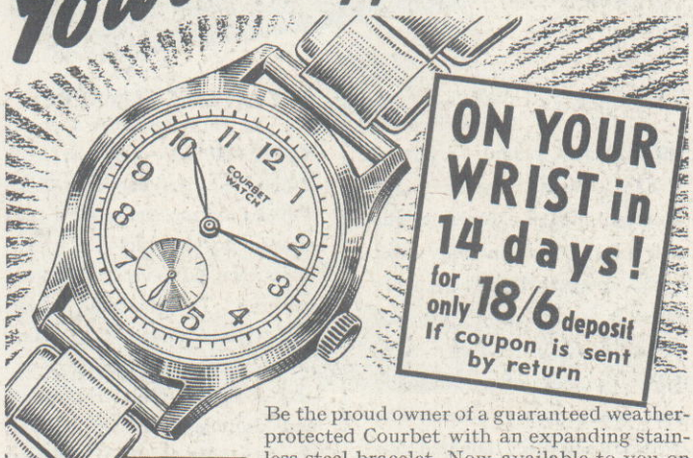

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Close work in front of the Signals goal. Right: L/Cpl. J. H. Giles, Ordnance left back, gets his head to the ball in front of his goal.

SIGNALS LIFT THE CUP

Keeble headed in their second goal. They had chances after that, but the Signals team managed to hang on to their lead. (Continued)

Other notable players included Signalman A. Finney (Sheffield Wednesday), Lance-Corporal J. J. Cameron (Dumbarton), Signalman R. Wood (Barnsley) and Signalman B. Frear (Huddersfield) on the Signals side, and Private P. E. Gunter (Portsmouth) and Private A. V. Marchi (Spurs) on the Ordnance side.

By a coincidence, John Charles, the Welsh International who did much to give the victory to 67 Training Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps, last year, was going on to further glory while this year's final was being played. He was in Dublin, where he scored two of the three goals by which Wales defeated Ireland.

This year's Army Cup competition, the fifty-first, had a record entry of 260 — 158 from Britain, 97 from Germany and five from Austria. The total was two more than last year, and reflects the great increase in the competition's scope since it was started, with 44 entries, 64 years ago. Entries cover a wider area than any other football competition except the World Cup.

For the first time since World War Two, no member of the Royal Family was present, because of Court mourning for Queen Mary. Instead, Signalman R. Wood, the winners' captain, received the cup, and both teams their medallions, from General Sir John Crocker, the Adjutant-General.

High-jumper is Pte. V. Keeble, the Ordnance centre-forward. Below: Confident clearing by (left) Spiers of Signals and (right) L/Cpl. R. P. Brewer of Ordnance.

WHY DOES THE ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS HAVE ALL THE BEST FOOTBALLERS?

The Editor of SOLDIER received from a reader a letter criticising the composition of the Army Football Team. It was submitted to the Army Sports Control Board for their comment. The letter and the reply appear below.

EVERYONE will have noted that the Army Football Team consists of the following representatives: — Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers — one; Infantry — one; Royal Artillery — one; Royal Signals — two; Royal Army Medical Corps — one; Royal Army Ordnance Corps — five.

No one denies that the Royal Army Ordnance Corps have a great many good footballers, and I have no doubt that the selection for the team is perfectly fair. What causes one to reflect is how so many good footballers get into the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Does this Corps offer preferential terms for professional footballers e.g. guaranteed home service and leave to play for their civilian clubs or does it not? It would seem highly improper if such is the case and distinctly inimical to a good fair competition in the Army Cup.

— the Army Sports Control Board say:

DON'T CRITICISE — CONGRATULATE!

THIS is a hardy annual. Even as long ago as 1920, when the Royal Army Medical Corps had five Regular soldier players selected to play for the Army against the Royal Navy, the criticism was that the RAMC held their sportsmen in one particular unit and did not send them overseas. There were no congratulations.

Many other cases can be quoted, including the Infantry; for instance, when the Sherwood Foresters carried all before them for years and won the Army Cup three years in succession — the only unit ever to accomplish this feat.

It is very doubtful if the Royal Army Ordnance Corps has any more professionals than certain other arms of the Service, but it is natural that if some of those already in the Corps are contented with their lot they will certainly tell others due for call-up to opt for that Corps.

As far as the Army Cup is concerned, five professionals only are allowed to be included in any one team. The five RAOC players who were included in the Army team belonged to three different RAOC units, so that the question of "packing" for the Army Cup does not arise. There is no evidence to show that players in RAOC units are granted any more facilities to play for their civilian clubs than units of other arms of the Service.

There would undoubtedly be more Infantrymen in the Army team if there were an equal number of such units stationed in Britain, but these are mostly serving in Rhine Army and other overseas stations. Two players from Infantry units have been brought back from Rhine Army to play for the Army, and there are others there who would be considered, but the cost per head is extremely heavy. Selection is, therefore, generally confined to players stationed in Britain, and the majority of units in Britain are Corps units.

Criticism has been levelled at other units because of their marked success at some particular sport; for example, the Royal Signals at rugby, and 67 Training Regiment, Royal Artillery in athletics.

In football no particular corps or unit has had marked success, and if the winners of the Army Cup are analysed it will be found that since National Service was instituted no unit has won the Cup more than once. This in itself is surely an answer to the writer's question.

It is to be hoped that no matter which unit wins the Army Cup or which arm of the Service has more than the average number of players in an Army team, it will be a matter for congratulation and not a subject for criticism. — **A. R. Aslett, Brigadier, Director, Army Sports Control Board.**

Two at a time: Serjeant-Major Ernest Chadwick teaches his pupils how to parry.

SOLDIERS' SONS LEARN FENCING

IN Bad Oeynhausen's *Salle d'Armes* a fencing class is run for soldiers' sons. The youngest pupil is barely seven years old and the oldest is 12. They use foils which have been shortened and modified, and wear cut-down fencing jackets re-fashioned by their mothers.

Serjeant-Major Ernest Chadwick, Army Physical Training Corps, believes in teaching fencing at a very early age. "It gives the children self-confidence and self-control, and teaches them how to stand alone against an adversary. And above all, it teaches them the meaning of chivalry."

The Serjeant-Major exacts strict discipline from his young pupils. They know that slovenliness in dress — uncleaned shoes or a dirty jacket — will mean expulsion from the class for the evening, so they take no chances.

Although the Rhine Army Headquarters Fencing Club was started three years ago, it is only recently that fencing has achieved its wide popularity in the British Zone. In the last few months more than 50 instructors have been trained to teach elementary fencing in their units.

The Club's permanent membership of nearly 60 includes all ranks from brigadier to private, a dozen wives and nearly a score of members of the Women's Royal Army Corps, most of whom have trained regularly three or four evenings a week.

This year, the physical training staff of Rhine Army plan to improve the standard of fencing to such a point that in the near future — and Major C. W. V. Hankinson, Rhine Army's Master-at-Arms, thinks this may be sooner than most people expect — British Army teams will be able seriously to challenge the present supremacy of Continental teams. It is expected that a team will be sent, as last year, to compete in the inter-Allied fencing championships at Luxembourg, against well-known swordsmen of the French, Belgian and Luxembourg armies.

Meanwhile, Rhine Army have decided to standardise the method of instruction by teaching only the French style in the early stages.

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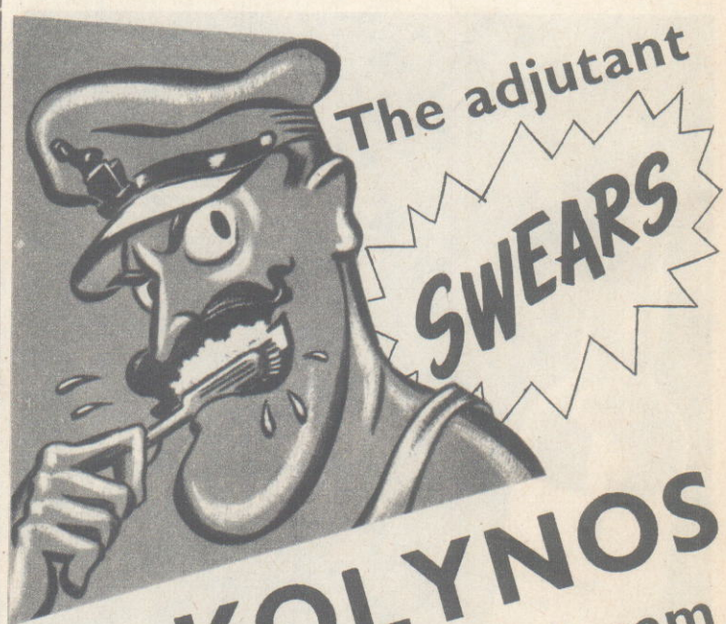

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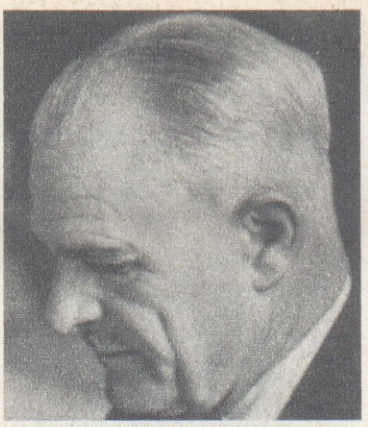
'Damn Your Writing, Mind Your Fighting'

A British general, "who rose to high command and played a considerable part in the conquest of our Indian Empire," is said to have known no other verse but the two lines quoted in the heading. He composed them himself, and never tired of repeating them.

He is quoted by the late Field-Marshal Earl Wavell in a talk on Army education reproduced in "Soldiers and Soldiering" *(Cape, 8s 6d)*, an anthology of the Field-Marshal's work, some items of which have appeared in earlier collections.

Brilliantly written operation orders do not win battles, Lord Wavell pointed out, unless backed by the valour and endurance of the men on the ground. For a soldier, physical and moral toughness must always be of more importance than mere learning.

Among soldiers of an earlier day there was a prejudice against book learning. Yet education for the soldier had to come, and must continue. Kipling had said that for butcher's work uneducated blackguards led by gentlemen were the most efficient; you could not educate a man to think *for* himself without causing him to pass through the stage of thinking *of* himself; and Kipling implied that a man who thought of himself was likely to take cover at the critical moment instead of going forward. Kipling's forecast was that "about 30 years hence, when we have half-educated everything that wears trousers, our Army will be a beautifully unreliable machine; a little later, when we have educated it up to the standard of the present officer, it will sweep the world."



Field-Marshal Lord Wavell

He said: City-bred men need toughening.

But the midway men were not to be trusted alone.

Kipling's prophecy for "about 30 years hence" — about 1918-18 — was falsified by the results of World War One. But it was Lord Wavell's view, in 1948, that special steps had to be taken to toughen the modern educated city-bred man and make him battle-worthy — steps which would probably not have been required in Kipling's time. And in many ways, Lord Wavell thought, we were still in the "half-educated period of democracy."

Other items in this book include Lord Wavell's well-known essays on generals and generalship, and the good soldier; his appreciations of Belisarius, Rommel and Montgomery, and of three unorthodox soldiers, T. E. Lawrence, Orde Wingate and Spencer Chapman.

Seeker of Lost Cities

"NEW Light On Colonel Fawcett Riddle" has been a recurring newspaper headline since 1925, the year Lieutenant-Colonel P. H. Fawcett vanished in the South American jungle.

Colonel Fawcett was in the long and gallant tradition of Army officers who seek adventure in other fields when there is no fighting to be done; a tradition which includes Captain L. E. G. Oates, who died on Scott's expedition to the South Pole, and is maintained today by those officers who are attempting to climb Mount Everest and exploring North Greenland.

It was not until his disappearance that Colonel Fawcett's name became widely known, yet for years he had adventured in the classic style of explorers, seeking lost races and surviving astonishing hardships. The record of many of these expeditions is in "Exploration Fawcett" *(Hutchinson, 16s)*.

The book, edited by his second son from Colonel Fawcett's letters and papers, tells of meetings with giant anacondas, deadly bushmasters, man-eating fish, vampire bats and cannibals.

Colonel Fawcett was a Gunner officer who was lent to the Bolivian Government, to work on a boundary commission, from 1906 to 1910. When that period was up, he resigned from the Army, to continue exploring and mapping South America.

In 1914 he returned to the Army, held commands and Staff appointments in France, earned the Distinguished Service Order and four mentions in despatches.

The war over, Colonel Fawcett went back to exploring South America. Between trips, he had plenty of other interests. A book of reference lists his recreations thus: "all sports, exploration, surveying and prospecting, artist (exhibitor Royal Academy in black and white), archaeology, philosophy, yacht designing, building and navigating, motoring."

With him, on his last trip in search of a hidden city, he took one of his sons and a young friend. All vanished. One expedition in search of him was led by Peter Fleming, the author.

BOOKSHELF

"Send Out a Patrol"

"LITTLE to report; some patrol activity."

It's a wry joke among Infantrymen — that sort of message. For to the men taking part in it, a patrol is just as much war as the big offensive.

Any writer who can convince the general public that patrolling consists of rather more than wandering out into no-man's-land and there falling out for a smoke is doing a simple act of justice, as any Infantryman in Korea will agree.

A one-time officer in the Lancashire Fusiliers, who served in North Africa, Sicily and Italy and was awarded the Military Cross, goes some way to performing this service in a new novel "Patrol" *(Longmans, 9s 6d)*. He is Mr. Fred Majdalany, now a film critic, who wrote an excellent novel *The Monastery*, based on the battle for Monte Cassino.

Mr. Majdalany is perhaps more concerned to remind the Staff, rather than the public, what a patrol means. The patrol in his story is suggested casually, and for no particular reason, by a young Intelligence officer. His light-hearted suggestion is approved by the general, who does

Continued Overleaf

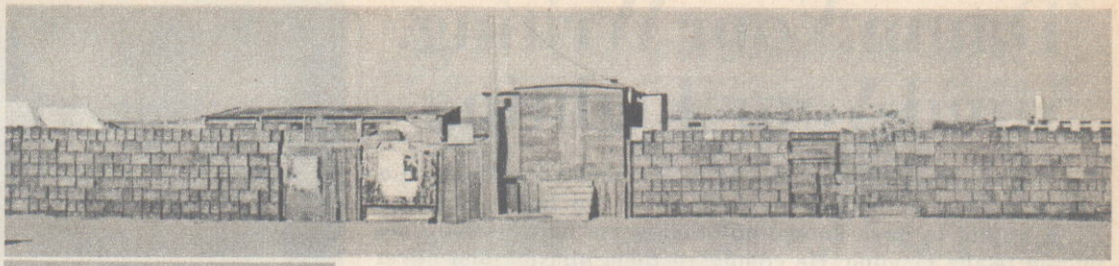
not want his men to become "defence-minded," and a battle-weary, depleted battalion is ordered to reconnoitre yet another enemy position.

No doubt the man in the front line sometimes suspects that his assignments are dreamed up in this frivolous fashion, but conscientious Staff officers who know what it means to go out on a patrol, will shake their heads sadly at the author's notion of how operations are laid on.

Mr. Majdalany has some vivid descriptive passages. Fighter aircraft sweep on the patrol: "The white-hot glow-balls spurted from the Messerschmitts' cannon with the glib profuseness of Roman candles, with the lightness of fairground ping-pong balls cascading joyously on jets of water."

The tense atmosphere of night in no-man's-land and of the "sacred and miraculous moment" when dawn comes up is skilfully conveyed. The author gives the whole "feel" of the patrol, and of the responsibility that weighs on the officer, implicitly trusted by his men. His soldiers are all plausible and real.

The whole book, incidentally, is not about the patrol. There is a long flashback sketching disreputable and deluding joys in Algiers.



THIS HAS BEEN REPLACED BY THIS

NEON LIGHTS IN THE DESERT

ADVERTISING its existence in neon lighting amid desert sands at Abu Sultan, in the Canal Zone of Egypt, is a newly opened Army Kinema Corporation cinema.

This near-to-luxury building replaces one which had been ingeniously built by the troops with old ammunition boxes filled with sand. The new cinema is in two parts; it has an open-air section, which will be used for eight months of the year, and an indoor one with a fully equipped stage for live shows. Each portion will seat about 440 persons. With its completion, the Army Kinema Corporation has now 22 cinemas in the Canal Zone showing 35 mm films.

The new cinema is called "The Erskine" after Lieut-General Sir George Erskine, recently General Officer Commanding British Troops in Egypt. It will have four changes of programme each week, plus two changes of news reels which are flown out from Britain.

The Corps They Nearly Strangled

THE British Army's signals organisation today is one of its proudest possessions. Few soldiers, however, realise how much of its equipment and efficiency is due to hurried development during Hitler's war.

In "The History of British Army Signals in the Second World War" *(published by the Royal Signals Institution and obtainable from Gale and Polden, 17s 6d)* Major-General R. F. H. Nalder describes the frustrating years between 1920, when the Royal Corps of Signals was born of the Royal Engineers, and 1939.

Cheese-paring economy interfered with development. The Corps (like the rest of the Army) had to use unsuitable vehicles because it was cheaper to give the Army commercial chassis than to build special ones. To obtain signal equipment which was not on the commercial market, the Army often had to wait four years, with the result that the equipment was out-of-date before it could be used. Tank designers were particularly unco-operative; they neglected to provide space for the rather large wireless set specially evolved for tanks.

The result was that the Royal Corps of Signals spent much of the early part of the war improvising. There were many lessons to be learned and, to anyone who has seen post-war Signals in action, it seems some of them were learned late. It was not until 1942, for instance, that the problem of "tropicalising" signal equipment was tackled, and it was two years later before the results were seen.

Meanwhile the Royal Corps of Signals was getting on with the war, using what equipment was to hand. It expanded from just over 10,000 Regulars and 24,000 Territorials and Reservists to a total of more than 150,000 by the end of the war. The Auxiliary Territorial Service was called in after war started and the girls, says the author, "displayed the utmost tenacity of purpose and endurance." In 1940, after the Dunkirk evacuation, Auxiliary Territorial Service girls on duty with the Advanced Air Striking Force were the last British troops to leave Paris.

FILMS
COMING YOUR WAY

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

THE CRUEL SEA

The jungle may be neutral but the sea is hostile. Nicholas Monsarrat's international best-seller, filmed by Britain, makes as stirring a picture as most people would want. It is a war-time story of the corvette "Compass Rose" pitted against U-Boats. Jack Hawkins is the tough skipper faced with a decision of whether to kill his own men as he kills the enemy. There is a woman in the film (though not on the corvette) — Virginia McKenna.

NIAGARA

If you read the critics, you will have gathered that the chief attraction here is the way Marilyn Monroe wiggles as she walks. Of course, there is a waterfall as well, for those who like waterfalls. The story is the eternal triangle. Joseph Cotten and Jean Peters are in it.

THE TITFIELD THUNDERBOLT

Gunners at Tonfanau (Wales) have good reason to know the Tal-y-Llyn railway — the oldest surviving steam-hauled, passenger-carrying, narrow-gauge railway in the world. It inspired this entertaining story about a community which is obstinately determined to keep its own railway running in the face of "progress." One of the funniest railway stories since Buster Keaton's "The General." With Stanley Holloway and Naughton Wayne.

DESERT LEGION

Alan Ladd, soon to appear wearing a red beret, here wears the peaked cap of the French Foreign Legion. He leads a patrol which is wiped out, but he himself survives, thanks to the beautiful Arlene Dahl who befriends him. His commanding officer refuses to believe this story (well, would you?). Honour is saved in the end.

THE LUSTY MEN

A story of rodeo men on circuit, riding horses, Brahma bulls and anything which offers. It is a calling "apparently heroic and exciting, yet basically taudry." The men won't give it up even for love of Susan Hayward. Robert Mitchum plays a one-time star on his way out.

LETTERS

● ***SOLDIER welcomes letters.***

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

Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published.

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

ARMOURED PANTS

If armoured vests are as useful in Korea as they appear to be, why not armoured trousers?

I agree an Infantryman has to be mobile, but cannot something be done to protect him in the region of his belly and loins, where some of the more unfortunate wounds occur? — **J. C. C. (name and address supplied).**

★ *Experimental "armoured" shorts have been worn by men of the United States 7th Infantry Division in Korea. They are said to have been effective in intercepting those small particles of metal which often cause painful injuries. The shorts are made of nylon.*

AUTOMATIC RIFLE

Many Dutch readers of SOLDIER would be pleased to hear more about the already famous EM2 rifle (the ·280 automatic).

I wonder if the designers were inspired by the German FG42 automatic rifle. — **P. A. Q. Riesselmann, Centraal Militair Hospitaal, The Hague, Netherlands.**

★ *The German FG42 did not in any way inspire the design of the new 7 mm rifle. In the German weapon, the magazine is horizontal and the bolt locks by rotation.*

The designers of the EM2 based their plans on the requirements of the modern Infantryman, and one of the biggest improvements on orthodox rifles was the replacing of the old-style butt with one placed immediately behind, and in line with, the action of the rifle.

THAT ALLOWANCE

In our orders we have read: "A new class of local overseas allowance with special rate for unaccompanied married officers and other ranks is being introduced. It is not admissible in Korea."

We have 50 free cigarettes a week and free cinema shows, but we have to pay just as much in the NAAFI as men do in Japan, where we hear the allowance is available. Why are we left out? — **Cpl. L. Runeckles RAMC, attached Royal Fusiliers, Korea.**

★ *Brigadier Antony Head, Secretary for War, was asked in Parliament on 14 April why troops in Korea were not to receive this new benefit.*

He described the allowance as "an increased local overseas allowance for the married unaccompanied officer or soldier, to meet the extra expenses when serving at a high-cost overseas station. It applies, therefore, only to areas where local overseas allowance is paid. The allowance is tax-free . . . The object of this allowance is to compensate men who might normally expect to have a married quarter and who have not got one owing to various difficulties." After further questioning, he said: "The object was that a man stationed in an expensive station, where a local overseas allowance was justified by a high cost of living, should have an extra amount, so that in living his single life he should not be at a disadvantage in relation to a bachelor because he had another home to keep up in England or elsewhere."

Asked whether he did not think an injustice had been created in Korea, the Secretary for War said: "No. I do not think anybody would argue that the actual cost of living in Korea is very high: there is practically nothing on which to spend money. That is why there is not a local overseas allowance."

IMPROVING ARMY

I read with interest of the improvements in Army life suggested by wives of Rhine Army (SOLDIER, April).

A soldier has economic security while serving. Afterwards, if he is a tradesman, he is safeguarded to a certain extent, but the Infantryman is in a less enviable position. At around 40 he is forced to return to study at night school in order to get a good job, otherwise he is doomed to spend the next 30 years as a night watchman or caretaker. His pension will only just pay his rent or the instalment on his newly bought home. Faced with the need for making a fresh start, it is not surprising that a soldier may be tempted to leave the Army while young enough and adaptable enough to learn new arts.

The ambitious man has little, if any, chance to better himself under the present styles of promotion. There should be examinations, practical as well as theoretical, at regular intervals. If a man were smart enough to pass one examination soon after another, he should not be held back to serve for years under warrant officers with lesser qualifications.

Once a rank is given to a man, it should not be lost except for misconduct. At present, rank is often lost when the holder moves to a new station. He must write to his friends in civilian life asking them no longer to address their letters by the previous rank, but by a lower one. The friends think he has done something wrong. Who can blame men treated in this way for leaving the Service?

I have found that living conditions for families abroad are better than at home, although the home position is improving daily. However, could not more be done to make life pleasant in the old quarters which must still be occupied for some time to come? Surely it is the big and cumbersome articles which should be provided — those which we cannot easily pack. If this were so there would be no need for the Army to store our furniture, as has been recommended by one wife. I am provided with an egg

Continued Overleaf

LETTERS (Cont'd)

whisk but not a wringer. I am given curtains but not the rods or fitments to hang them on; tea spoons but no coal bunker. The coal we must keep in one of our packing-cases outside our front door unless, like some neighbours, we keep it in the broom cupboard, which means the coalman has to walk through the living-room.

I think a word about troopships would not be out of place. It would be greatly appreciated if NCO's below warrant officer rank were allowed to eat with and use the same sitting room as their wives. My husband and I spent a month on a ship from the Far East. If I wished to sit on deck I had to use a part out of bounds to my husband. — **Mrs. Hazel Christie, Johnston Terrace, Edinburgh.**

WIFE'S STATUS

Whenever I read or hear of anyone lightly dismissing the idea of the married quarters roll and all that it meant I feel an urge to butt in.

In no other walk of life are married men told that they will be repeatedly separated from their families. (Merchant Navy? — Editor.) It is a major error to throw the responsibility for the upbringing and discipline of children, especially boys in their teens, on the poor wife, and expect her to do all the packing and escorting of the children, and to attend to all the other chores, when moving from a station.

It should be possible to reintroduce the married quarters roll by degrees and thus return to the time when a wife had a status in the Army and was always looked upon as being "on the strength." If the number of soldiers entitled to quarters were limited to the number of quarters available, then everyone would know where he stood The married man not entitled would know that when he eventually joined the roll he would always be all right. — **SSM E. Lewis, HQ Scottish Command, Edinburgh.**

NAAFI PRICES

We think it is about time that wives in Austria joined those in Germany in protesting against high prices. For instance, we find prices of clothing in NAAFI so high that it is cheaper to buy direct from Britain. Food costs are getting fantastic. A fortnight ago I bought a tin of meat for 2s 11d. Last week the price was 3s 5d. Ground coffee jumped from 6s 5d to 6s 11d. Is anything being done to bring prices down? — **"BTA Wife" (name and address supplied).**

★ *NAAFI state that in the past they have endeavoured to meet requirements for too wide a range of clothing and footwear, with the result that hundreds of articles have been stocked but with incomplete size and price ranges. A revised provisioning procedure is now being introduced whereby selected ranges of "standard lines" will be stocked thoroughly at prices to suit all pockets.*

NAAFI food prices in Western Europe rise in parallel with price increases in Britain, and customers in Austria are only experiencing the same price difficulties as people at home, state NAAFI.

An inter-Services working party recently investigated NAAFI prices in Germany where they found prices justified, except in four cases which have since been adjusted.

BACK AGAIN

When I was 17 I joined the Army for three years, but after six weeks bought myself out. Will those weeks be deducted from my present National Service? — **Private B. Hedges, RASC, Aldershot.**

★ *Yes. This will be done automatically by Records Office.*

BOYS' EXAMINATION

My son sat for the examination for the Army Apprentices Schools in Cyprus last November. We have been told he has passed but are surprised to have received no instructions, as we thought he had to enlist and join a school within a few months. — **"Mother" (name and address supplied).**

★ *Boys who took the examination in certain overseas stations are not due to join a school until next September. Only those who sat the examination at home and in Europe had to report by February.*

RELEASE COURSE

I have enquired about a pre-release course but it appears that I shall have to forfeit my release leave. Is there some regulation that overcomes this? — **"Lance-Corporal" (name supplied) MELF.**

★ *Applications for release courses should be made three months before a release date. If the soldier is abroad and his application is successful, he is returned to Britain several weeks before his release leave in order that the course can be arranged. If his return is delayed by the exigencies of the Service, he may defer his release until after the course is finished. His 28 days' leave is not affected either way, since the course must end before terminal leave starts. All details are given in ACI's 150, 444 and 697 of 1952.*

CADET MEDAL

When my National Service is over I would like to resume instructing in the Army Cadet Force, in which I rose to the rank of company serjeant-major. Will my two years' compulsory separation from Cadet Force be counted as broken service, with the result that I shall have to start all over again for the Cadet Force Medal? — **Sigmn M. Parkinson, GHQ, Middle East Land Forces.**

★ *A cadet company serjeant-major cannot count service with the Army Cadet Force as qualifying for the Cadet Force Medal, which is awarded only to adult instructors. A National Serviceman who joins the cadets during his part-time service starts to qualify, but as the qualifying service is 12 years, he must be prepared to continue serving after his part-time service has ended.*

HIS WINGS

Following my National Service I joined the Territorials, attended a parachute course and qualified for my wings. Now that I am a Regular may I wear these on my uniform? — **Lance-Corporal F. W. Wilson, Cambridge Barracks, Woolwich.**

★ *This soldier may wear the parachutist badge.*

GERMAN ACE

Although this might appear to be an RAF question, I hope that you will be able to help me. The German air ace of World War One, Baron Manfred von Richthofen, won universal admiration for his exploits. Originally buried at Bertangles in 1918, his body was later moved to Berlin where a monument was erected over his grave. Does this monument still exist, or was it destroyed in the last war? Also, can you tell me if Max Immelmann's notorious three-gun Fokker monoplane is still in Dresden Museum? — **Stuart V. Tucker, Woodfield Lane, Ashtead, Surrey.**

★ *Von Richthofen was finally buried at Berlin's Invaliden-Friedhof (Military Cemetery). His grave, although not destroyed by air raids, was smashed — supposedly by Communists — after the German surrender in 1945.*

Max Immelmann's Fokker monoplane is believed to have been destroyed during an air raid on Dresden in February 1945. However, no confirmation of this is available as Dresden lies in the Russian Zone of Germany.

UBIQUE

Some controversy exists in our serjeants' mess over the mottoes or motto of the Royal Regiment of Artillery. Is "Ubique" just an honour and not a motto, or can it be classed as both? Various publications, including the Royal Artillery diary, classify it as one of the mottoes of the Regiment.

We have decided to abide by your decision. — **WO11 F. C. Parsons, 566 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment RA, Sutton, Surrey.**

★ *By a General Order of 13 July 1832, the Sovereign granted the Royal Artillery permission to bear on its appointments the Royal Arms together with a cannon and "Ubique" and "Quo Fas et Gloria Ducunt." The following June another General Order amended the one of 1832 so as to make it clear that "Ubique" was a separate motto to "Quo Fas et Gloria Ducunt." The former was to replace all terms of distinction previously borne on any part of the dress or appointments of the Regiment. By the use of the words "motto" and "distinction" in the Order of 1833, it seems clear that "Ubique" is both a motto and an honour.*

TO KOREA? NO

I have just been discharged to the Reserve. I now want to take a position with RASC/EFI to serve in Korea. But when I asked Records for permission to leave the country they said it "could not be granted in this case." I thought any Reservist could get permission to go abroad. — **S. Slater, Kidderminster, Worcs.**

★ *Yes, when the Reservist goes abroad as a civilian. But when it entails his enlistment on a special type of short-service engagement, which in turn necessitates his discharge from a long term Reserve liability, permission can be withheld.*

APPOINTMENT, PLEASE

An incident at a pay parade brought about an argument now raging in our mess. The pay serjeant called out "WO1 Blank." Immediately "Blank" reprimanded him and said his rank was conductor, and that he should be addressed as such. Many people hold the view that conductor is not a rank but an appointment, and that the serjeant was correct in using the rank. Others disagree. Can you please solve this one? — **CSM A. Cochrane, Tessendorf, Austria.**

★ *Queen's Regulations say that the rank is warrant officer class one and conductor is the appointment.*

It is customary for the individual to be addressed by his appointment. The regimental serjeant-major prefers to be addressed as such instead of by his rank, and even a lance-corporal (which is an appointment) would object to being known by his rank (private).

PAY PARADE

Is not pay parade, as organised in most units, a waste of valuable man-hours? In my unit it starts at 1730 hrs. All ranks must parade ten minutes beforehand. Anyone absent may have to wait until the following week. Pay is never given on a fixed day; it varies from Wednesday to Friday. Surely a method of payment similar to that operating in most civilian firms would do away with all this hanging about? — **"Serjeant" (name and address supplied).**

★ *The Army's pay parade enables a soldier to check his money and to sign the acquittance roll — as proof that he has received his pay — in the presence of an officer.*

It is nevertheless true that in many large units a great deal of time is wasted paying out — just as it is true that in many civilian firms employees have to queue for their pay.

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RISE AND SHINE!

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

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

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

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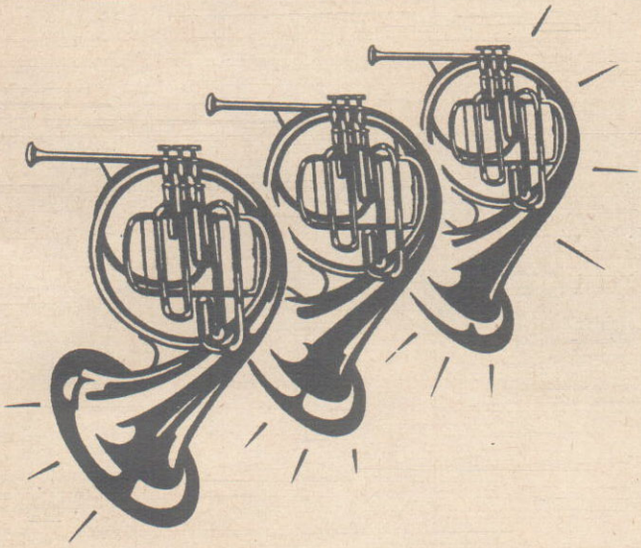

"We're French horns! Shining brass! Bright and gay! You might almost be tempted to say—when the cymbals go clash, and we glitter and flash—we were teaching the sun how to play!"

BLUEBELL

LIQUID METAL POLISH

Umbro and the Army

"Umbro" accompanies the troops from Northern snows to tropical Malaya. The fields of Normandy and the hills of Palestine knew "Umbro", as do the sands of North Africa, the battle areas of Korea and the sports fields of Hong Kong and Kowloon. "Umbro" is international in more ways than one.

OF LEADING SPORTS OUTFITTERS ALL OVER THE WORLD