

SOLDIER

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CLASS B

THIS IS HOW IT WORKS

WHEN Pte. Smith J. is suddenly asked if he would care to leave the Army and go back to his peace-time job right away, on a Class B release, he hardly gives a thought to the long chain of events that has led up to it. Certainly he scarcely realises how high was the level on which this proffered hurried return to civilian status was debated before being submitted to him for his consideration.

It all starts in the sort of place where Pte. Smith J. might have been working if he had not joined the Army, and from there it climbs until it reaches the dizziest heights of the Government.

After it has been decided that Pte. Smith's peace-time work is of such importance that more men with his particular qualifications are really needed, the number required from those serving in the Forces is confirmed by the Ministry of Labour. A Ministry official then meets high-ranking officers of the Services and tells them what is wanted, say a large batch of agricultural workers and, in particular, general farm workers, which is the occupation Pte. Smith gave when he joined up. They all go into a huddle and decide how many general farm workers each Service shall provide. The Army's share, it is agreed—as it was one day recently—shall be 2,667.

Automatic Selection

A formal note turns up in an office in Hobart House, near Victoria, London, saying, "Will you please select from the WOCCI 3,333 nominees to meet a Ministry of Labour demand for 2,667 to be offered release in Class B. Main Occn Cissn 210; sub occn cissn 02. Commencing Group 27."

A bit cryptic, that note, at first glance, but easy to explain. WOCCI is the War Office Control Card Index, which is a system involving several million cards on which particulars of every man in the Army are recorded. For demobilisation there are three sets of these cards, filed respectively by

record offices, which show which arm of the service a man is in, his civilian occupation and his age and service group; within those three groups, the cards are filed in strict sequence of Army numbers; the alphabetical order of names doesn't matter.

The 3,333 nominees to meet a demand of 2,667 men is a figure which allows for refusals, since release under Class B is voluntary; "210" is the code number of Pte. Smith's main occupational qualification—agricultural worker—and "02" is his sub-occupational classification code number—general farm worker. Some occupations have as many as 30 or 40 sub-classifications.

Difficult Decisions

Given this order, some of the 350 ATS and civilians who look after the cards and the machines which punch, sort and interpret them, start to find out just who there is in the Army who conforms to the requirements of the order. The cards go into machines which produce a table showing how many men there are in each arm whose civil occupation is 210—02, and how many of them are in each release group. From this information a "master-statement" is made up and the manpower authorities examine it to decide which of the men shall have Class B offered to them.

First consideration is that the men are not due to be released in Class A—they must have at least three more months to serve before their groups come out, because early release in Class A would mean that they would be back at work in their jobs shortly anyway and would almost certainly refuse a Class B release.

Then the authorities consider which men the Army can best spare. They may want to keep back men of one Corps who are doing an important job but be eager to get rid of men in another Corps whose activities are coming to a standstill. According to this consideration it is decided which age and service groups in each arm shall be offered Class B release. Thus, there may be cases where men of one Corps in a slightly later age and service group than those in the same occupation in a different Corps may get Class B release. Subject to the three months condition, "authority" is then issued for release in accordance with the age and service groups.

These decisions made, the cards of the men whose release has been "authorised" are sent off to the record offices for checking. Some of the men may not be eligible—their release groups may have been put back because they have been in detention or they may be specialists the Army cannot spare just yet—and the record offices turn them down.

The record offices find out the units in which the men are serving and the matter is then passed to the CO of the unit who, unless he can show that the man is "operationally vital" to the

Dear Sir
B A O T
We had an argument in our
about Class B release. I said
Two men in this unit have just
got Class B release. Why can't I, for
I have so many different and
I would like to know the
real facts about Class B release
We have so many different and

Army, offers Pte. Smith his Class B release.

There is another way, and that is if his employer (or himself if he is his own employer) can prove to the Government department concerned that he is a "key specialist" needed for work that is "vital in the national interest" and that the employer cannot get anyone else to do the job. In these cases men or women in almost any age and service group may be offered Class B release.

From the time it started, last July, until the end of November, 68,097 men and women accepted release from the Forces in Class B and others are coming out in a steady stream. What makes them accept?

The main advantage is that they get out of the Services more quickly than if they waited for their release groups to turn up for Class A release. This may give them a chance to settle down earlier in their peace-time jobs, set up homes and live with their families.

For and Against

But Class B is not just a back door out of the Services for the lucky one. People who accept Class B release must give up part of their demobilisation leave—they get only three weeks instead of 56 days and extra leave for overseas service. That is the main disadvantage. Balanced against it is the fact that they will be earning civilian wages.

If Pte. Smith accepts a Class B release, he is liable to be "directed" as a worker and that may mean "direction" to work away from his home and not with his pre-war employer, but the authorities do their best to see that as many Class B people as possible go back to their old employers or, at any rate, work near their homes.

If Mr. Smith leaves his Class B employment before the group to which he would have belonged has been released under Class A, he is liable to be recalled to the Forces to wait for Class A release. But once the Class A group to which he would have belonged has come out, if he has been in his job six months, he is not liable to be recalled.

MORE OFFICERS CAN BECOME REGULARS

OFFICERS who were younger than 29 when they received their temporary commissions (33 in the case of RAOC and REME) are now eligible for permanent commissions in the Regular Army. Hitherto only officers temporarily commissioned between the ages of 21 and 23 were eligible (23 and 27 in the case of RAOC and REME).

The Army Council decided that it would be in the interests of the Regular Army of the future to admit a proportion of older temporary officers who have served with distinction in the war. It is necessary to hold a careful balance between ages and ranks to maintain efficiency and to eliminate promotion blocks; also to allow every regular officer sufficient further service to qualify for a pension.

Final selection of recommended candidates will be made by the War Office. Officers must have reached the paid rank of major (except in cases where technical knowledge rates higher than rank); must be recommended by the C-in-C of their command; must have had at least two years' commissioned service on full pay, including one year's outstanding

Snapshot (9)

on

JOB

Electrical Engineering

SERVICEMEN desiring to become electrical engineers should decide which branch of the profession they wish to enter, for the field is extremely wide and all parts of it require men with either long practical experience or comprehensive scientific knowledge—preferably both.

QUALIFICATIONS

Good general education with a scientific bias, for there is wide variance as to the type of man required. At one end of the scale is electrical works management, requiring a practical mind; at the other, research work on radio or electrotherapy, requiring the academic qualifications of the physicist.

TRAINING

Complete training usually lasts about three years, either full-time or part-time. Short courses in practical application may be obtained from many Government Training Centres, but the man who wishes to be fully qualified must devote much time and hard work to theoretical study. The professional body concerned with electrical engineering is the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, Victoria Embankment, London, WC2, from whom particulars of examinations can be obtained.

Some of the larger firms employing electrical engineers undertake to assist in further training during employment, but anyone wishing to make it his career must study at home as well.

VACANCIES

As in other professions today, it is difficult to assess vacancies, for until returning Servicemen have been resettled in their pre-war jobs even the largest concerns are cautious of giving an opinion. But a Resettlement Advice Officer in London says: "If a man comes to me and requires help to get a job as an electrical engineer, I can practically promise him a situation. I do not promise that it will suit him, of course."

PROSPECTS

It is generally accepted by the profession that more qualified electrical engineers will be required in the future. Opportunities in radio may not be great, as a relatively large number of men and women were trained in it during the war. There are openings in the radio repair and retail trades, however.

RELEASE DATES

THE War Office has announced the following further release dates in Class "A":—

MEN

Officers, exclusive of medical and dental: Group 24 will complete by March 13; Group 25 will begin on March 14.

Other Ranks: Group 26 will complete by March 6; Group 27 will begin on March 7.

WOMEN

ATS and VAD Officers: Groups 36-40, March 1-31.

Auxiliaries and VAD: Groups 44 and 45, March 1-31.

Nurses: Group 33, March 4-13; Group 34, March 14-24; Group 35 begins on March 25.

This programme maintains during the first quarter of 1946 the release of men from all causes at an average rate of over 58,000 a week, or about 8,400 a day. Under the age and service principle of release the run-down in the various arms and trades is uneven. At the same time the deployment of our forces throughout the world, long lines of communication, and the operation of release, repatriation and leave schemes mean that the commitments of certain branches—for example, Signals, Transportation, Engineer, and Supply Services—do not run down as quickly as those of other arms.

Moreover, the bulk of men of experience holding the high ranks are automatically in the earlier release groups. With the high rate of release, therefore, to ensure a reasonable standard of operational and administrative efficiency, a considerable amount of compulsory deferment of individuals in certain ranks and trades is inevitable.

service in regimental employment. In the case of RAOC, the two years' commissioned service must be in or attached to RAOC and include one year's service in

technical employment; in the case of REME, if the applicant belongs to another arm, he must have had at least a year's service in a technical appointment not below the rank of captain.

The seniority of older officers who are accepted will be dated back to their 23rd birthday (25th for RAOC and REME), with the object of granting seniority and rank comparable to that of pre-war regular officers of similar age. The seniority thus gained will count for time-promotion and pay increments.

Regular officers who received first commissions later than their 23rd birthday will have their seniority ante-dated to that date.



Three men with a load of worry—but still cheerful: Sir Arthur Street, MP, Permanent Under-Secretary of the Control Commission for Germany and Austria; Sir William Strang, Political Adviser to Field-Marshal Montgomery; and the Rt. Hon. John Hynd, British Government representative with the Allied Control Commission.

This is the meaning of

"MIL Gov"

ONE of the most difficult jobs a builder has to tackle is the rescuing of a once-mighty structure that has been allowed to fall into perilous decay. He must apply first-aid supports to make sure that the building is in no immediate danger of collapse. Then he must plan on a long-term basis to rout out the weak and bad places and replace them with a strong new fabric, while replacing his first-aid props with permanent supports.

Such is the task, infinitely more difficult when it has to be performed for a once-powerful country, which the Allies have set themselves in Germany, and that is why Mil Gov has been called into being.

It was in March last year that the first Military Government detachments moved forward into Germany in the wake of the armies. They entered a land of desolation and bewilderment. Government above the level of the parish council had ceased. Everything was in disorder; people were stunned and helpless. These detachments set to work to produce as much order as they could.

After the surrender in May the Allies set up a Control Council for Germany which assumed all responsibilities of government. In the British Zone this task is delegated to the Control Commission for Germany (British Element).

In the first few months after the surrender the zone was governed by the Army and the Military Government detachments working hand in hand and improvising to meet each emergency. The first civilian members of the Control Commission staff began to

appear last June. The initial Military Government detachments, which had included Americans, British and Canadians working under the command of Field-Marshal Montgomery's Headquarters, were "un-scrambled", and in August Military Government and Control Commission were fused into one organisation.

Since then the staff of civilian technicians who are overhauling the German industrial machine and getting the factories working again has been rapidly built up.

Ultimate Aim

The Control Commission will become increasingly civilian in composition. Eventually, direct military government will disappear, and the Commission will be the sole instrument of control. That is to say, the Germans will govern themselves subject to control at the centre by the Commission, which will also have its liaison officers at lower levels to ensure that its policy and directions are carried out. The Control Commission alone will be responsible for execution of the Potsdam Declaration:—

Complete disarmament and demilitarisation of Germany and the elimination of all industry that could be used for military production;

Destruction of the Nazi Party; and

Preparation for the eventual reconstruction of German political life on a democratic basis and Germany's peaceful co-operation in international life.

It is because the civilians who have come across to Germany to take over the job that the Army began have to live and work very like soldiers that their

**CIVILIAN
MIL Gov
OFFICER**

This article shows how "Mil Gov" and Rhine Army share the onerous administration of the British Zone.

organisation has been developed on semi-military lines. But there are differences.

Civil Control Service officials do not have ranks like soldiers but different Civil Service grades. For example, the chief of a division or a principal assistant secretary is, for the purposes of mess accommodation, etc, equivalent to a major-general—and so on down to higher clerical officers, senior technical assistants and some personal assistants, who are equivalent to captains or subalterns. There are "other ranks", and these all hold the equivalent military rank of warrant officer for the purposes of mess accommodation, etc.

The term of appointment may be for three, five or seven years, and basic pay ranges from £1,700 for the principal assistant secretary (major-general) to between £200 and £450 a year for grades with the status of captain and subaltern. Officials of OR status are paid at proportionately lower rates.

Mil Gov personnel are not subject to military discipline. They must conform to ordinary civil law and principles, and they can, if there is urgent need, resign their posts before the end of their service. The greatest care is taken in selecting staffs.

So much for the people. They come from all walks of life. The men running the coal mines of the Ruhr and the shipbuilding yards of the Elbe are experts in those jobs at home. The men and girl clerks are either civil servants who have transferred to Control Commission for a period or are skilled workers from great commercial houses in Britain. They pass tests before appointment.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



THE CHIEFS Mr. John Hynd, who, as Chancellor for the Duchy of Lancaster, is the British Government representative with the Allied Control Commission, in conference with Lt-Gen. Sir Brian Robertson.



THE POLITICIANS Mr. Hynd hears the viewpoint of the German political parties. Centre: Wilhelm Pieck, Communist leader. Right: Otto Grotewohl, leader of Social Democrats. Quarrel between these two parties gave Nazis their opportunity.



THE REFUGEES These homeless in a Berlin transit camp are awaiting transport to the west. Left: Brig. A. G. Kenchington, in charge of Refugees and DP's. Centre: Mr. Hynd. Extreme right: Sir Arthur Street, MP.



THE ARMY In a Church of Scotland canteen Mr. Hynd hears what the British soldier thinks about it all. On the Army fell much of the hard graft involved in control of refugees and DP's.



EX-WAR WORKS

The Union Jack flies over the office buildings of the vast Siemens factories. A section of the workshops is being used by REME to repair British transport.

THIS IS "MIL GOV"

There is urgent need for a very large number of clerks, typists and shorthand-typists, and applicants should communicate with the Civil Establishments Officer, Control Commission for Germany, Main HQ, Lubbecke, as early as possible.

This is Mil Gov's record eight months after Germany's surrender.

REPARATIONS:

The Reparations Deliveries and Restitutions Division, youngest of the 12 divisions, which operate within Control Commission (British Element), was formed last October. It was broadly agreed at Potsdam that Russia was to take from her zone of occupation reparations for herself and Poland, and was to receive 25 per cent of the total reparations from the British, French and United States zones. The Economic Division is making out lists of factories and plant which are surplus to the post-war economy plan for Germany. These lists are being sent to the United Nations, who make bids for what they require.

Besides the complicated problem of making a fair distribution between the Allied nations according to the losses they have suffered, the physical task of packing and removing the plant is going to present great difficulties. The Division is also searching for all the goods and property that the Germans looted from occupied countries and is sending back large quantities of identifiable goods.

DE-NAZIFYING GERMANY:

An elaborate card index of German Nazi suspects was compiled before the Allies entered Germany. This index was broken down according to the towns and areas where each individual was likely to be. Armed with these "target lists", Field Security sections crossed the Rhine with the first troops and set about their programme of arrests.

Few Nazis showed fight. Even in the German Army, commanders who were given lists of people to be handed over for arrest paraded the wanted people with scrupulous precision. One commander even provided with apologies a nominal roll of absenteers in hospital. Some 54,000 Germans have been interned in eight civilian camps in the British Zone. These, who do not include war criminals, number 2,332 members of the German Intelligence Service, 2,772 police officials, 11,463 members of SS and para-military organisations, 21,231 Nazi Party officials, 2,894 civil servants and 6,549 individual security suspects.

In the public safety field more than half-a-million people have been examined: 43,000 Germans have been dismissed from office, 27,000 have been discharged under the discretionary removal policy, and, of the 421,000 applicants for employment in the Military Government administration, 4,000 have been rejected.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS & COMMUNICATIONS:

The restoration of local self-government on democratic principles has involved the establishment of nearly 8,000 completely new authorities of about the same importance as British parish councils, 56 of equivalent size to county boroughs and 133 equivalent to small county councils. The Social Democratic Party has registered 70 branches, the Com-

GOV" (Continued from Page 3)

munists 36, Christian Democratic Party 23 and other parties 4. Elections to the parish councils should be held by the beginning of June and to the larger bodies later in the summer.

The German police and fire services have been entirely reorganised. National control has been ended and a decentralised system introduced.

To mitigate the risk of disaster this winter first priority has been given to the speedy revival of essential health and welfare services, and once the winter is over the main effort will swing to the organisation of German health and welfare services.

Although most German schools had been closed for nearly a year, by mid-November 9,228 elementary and intermediate schools—or about 74 per cent of the 1939 total—had been re-opened. More than 80 per cent of German children are now going to school. All six universities and colleges of university rank have been reopened.

Transport is a bottle-neck. It will take years to repair the damage to roads and railways, but much is being done. By 1 November last more than two million refugees had been sent to their own countries from Germany by rail. The Dortmund-Ems Canal will, it is hoped, be opened this month, thus enabling coal to be sent by barge to Emden for shipment to Scandinavia and possibly to Northern Germany.

Then there is the final destruction of the Luftwaffe and the German Navy, the establishment of the German legal administration on a sound basis, the developing of trades unions and getting the German worker back to his job—all part of the work of Mil Gov officers, the men and women who wear the green and yellow badge.



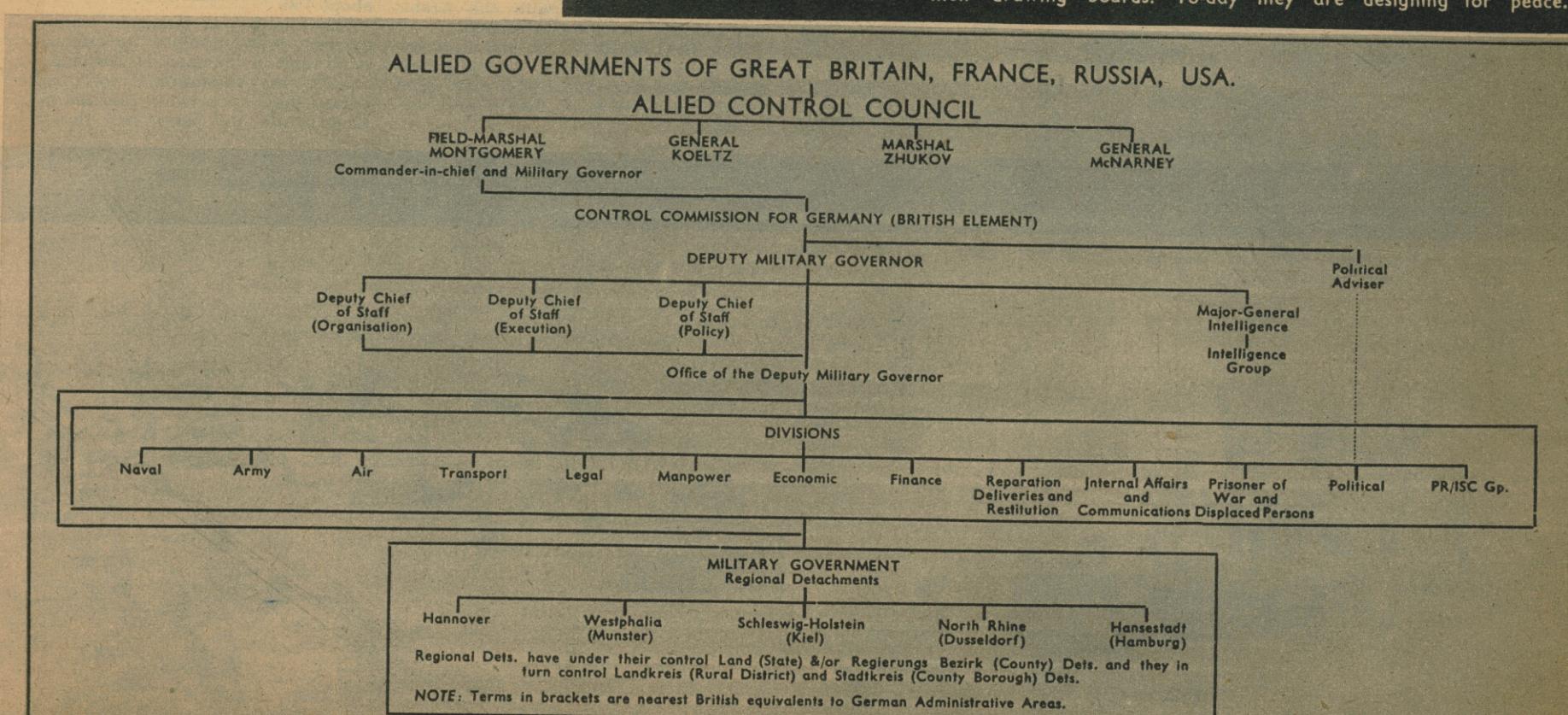
NOW ON BUSES In the Siemens works at Berlin bomb-battered trams and buses are undergoing repair. It is the Allied Control Commission's duty to ensure that the Siemens works never go over to war production again.



AND ON STOVES In most urgent demand throughout Germany this winter are simple stoves. These are now being turned out by the Siemens plant, which formerly specialised in producing high-grade instruments.



AND ON PLANS Here—still in the Siemens works—are engineer-designers at their drawing boards. To-day they are designing for peace.



Wanderers of the Waste land: LRDG

THE story of the Long Range Desert Group begins in the last war with units known as the Light Car Patrols. Equipped with Model "T" Fords, they ran far south into the Western Desert of Egypt, beyond the range of the camel explorers, to guard Allenby's rear from the then unfriendly Senussi.

Besides desert-lore, they left their successors two primitive inventions — the sun-compass and the first condensers for preserving radiator-water.

Then, in the later 1920's, a group of enthusiasts in the Middle East, led by Major (now Brigadier) R. A. Bagnold — the man who knows more about sand than anyone else — took to desert exploration by way of holidaymaking. They, too, learned the intricacies of desert travel and added to the maps of the desert, while Bagnold perfected the sun-compass and invented the prototype of the sand-mat for "unsticking" vehicles from soft sand.



LRDG unit on desert patrol. It was in grim country like this that they penetrated far behind the enemy's lines to watch his movements.



Sometimes a truck would bog down in soft sand and have to be laboriously dug out (above). At other times a treacherous patch would be crossed by "leap frogging" with special mats (below).



In 1939 Bagnold was posted from England to East Africa, but his ship collided with another one in the Mediterranean and put into Alexandria for repairs. Bagnold took a trip to Cairo, where Field-Marshal (then General) Wavell heard of his arrival and promptly had him transferred to Middle East Command.

It was not until after the Italians had declared war, however, that Bagnold was able to sell the idea of a Long Range Desert Group to higher authority. Then things moved fast.

Of his peace-time "desert-trippers" at that stage he was able to collect only two — P. A. Clayton, who had been in the Egyptian Government Survey, and W. B. Kennedy Shaw, whose book "Long Range Desert Group" has since told the full story of LRDG in Africa. The bulk of the unit were New Zealanders, whose innate qualities made them particularly suitable to assimilate desert lore.

Equipment from Everywhere

From all sorts of unorthodox sources the new unit collected its equipment — cars from the Egyptian army and the Chevrolet Company, logarithm tables from schoolmistresses, binoculars from racing men. In five weeks it was ready for duty.

Able to operate in desert hundreds of miles further from bases than any other unit, its primary task was reconnaissance behind the enemy lines, which it reached by travelling across almost unknown country far south of the coastal belt, bringing back invaluable information about the enemy, his lines of communication and the native population, and mapping vast areas that had never been mapped before.

One of its coolest efforts as a recce unit was the road watch at Marble Arch. There, for two periods in 1942, totalling nearly six months, LRDG kept a census of enemy vehicles moving along the coast road, 400 miles behind Rommel's front-line.

A patrol would hide up in a wadi and before dawn two of its men would settle down under whatever cover they could find within 400 or 500 yards of the road and stop there until nightfall. With powerful binoculars and up-to-date photographs of enemy vehicles they noted down everything that passed along the road and reported it back to Cairo.

LRDG played an important part in other people's missions, too. Its "Libyan Taxis, Ltd" transported men and supplies to points all over Libya for espionage, links with the Arabs and helping prisoners to escape.

The "taxi service" was also used by the Special Air Service before it had its own transport and LRDG men were involved in many of SAS's wild adventures.

On rare occasions patrols would cross. When they met, valuable information would be exchanged and co-ordinated.

THE WATCHER AND THE WATCHED

Lying low on a hillside the LRDG lookout would check the movements of the enemy through binoculars. Below: A lookout on the Marble Arch road watch in 1942 is seen on a parched, rock-strewn hillside. The other two pictures are actual photographs of enemy convoys going up the coast road towards El Alamein.

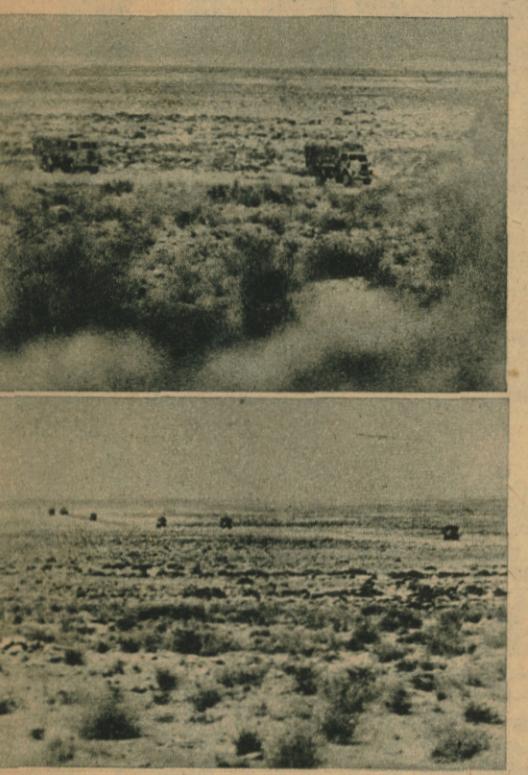


After one of these trips, the combined party set off to beat up Marsa Brega, a shallow anchorage used by the enemy to land supplies from coastal vehicles. Making up their own convoy, they mingled with enemy convoys on the coast road — the only approach — in the dark, shouting greetings to trucks driving in the opposite direction. Arriving at Marsa Brega, they opened up with everything they had on vehicles parked by the road, dropped "sticky-bombs" into trucks further away, liquidated drivers and made off along the road before the enemy could gather reinforcements.

Sting in Their Tail
To discourage pursuit, the men in the last truck laid a few mines in the road and heard seven explosions before they got out of earshot. By dawn the party was camouflaged in the desert, watching enemy planes searching for them.

But LRDG had plenty of wild adventures of its own. As part of its task of keeping the enemy guessing, LRDG linked up with Frenchmen from the Chad and attacked Murzuk, in the Fezzan, where the Italians had a small fort, a landing field and a garrison of about 150.

The attack was launched while the garrison was enjoying its after-lunch stroll and a number of Italians, including the commander, were killed before they knew what had hit them. Then, while one party kept the main



strength of the garrison busy in the fort, another went off to the airfield and destroyed the planes, hangars and equipment. Then LRDG withdrew. It was a small operation, compared with what was going on along the coast, but it took place hundreds of miles behind the fighting front and was extremely worrying to the Italians.

Fireworks at Barce

When Eighth Army was preparing its come-back at Alamein, LRDG was busy disrupting Rommel's communications and jittering his troops. Among its operations at this time was one of its best "beat-ups" — on Barce, the colonists' township that sits in the centre of a green plain in Cyrenaica.

A squadron of LRDG, approaching Barce from the south, cleaned up a traffic control post, shooting the Italian officer in command, cut telephone wires, silenced a couple of light tanks defending the road and drove to a crossroads just outside the town, where it split up.

A New Zealand patrol went to the airfield, shot down Italians who appeared at the gates, threw grenades into the mess windows, and then, with a jeep and four 30-cwt trucks, drove in single file round the airfield firing incendiary bullets at each machine while a man in the last truck used short-delay-action bombs to deal with any aircraft that did not catch fire; they definitely set alight 20 aircraft and damaged a dozen more.

As they left the airfield, they met two Italian tanks blocking the road and firing at the patrol. The officer in the leading truck promptly charged them, crashed one tank and cannoned into the other, clearing the road but wrecking his vehicle. His crew scrambled to their feet, put grenades under the tank tracks and climbed into the jeep.

Blinded by tracer, the driver of the jeep turned his vehicle over at the next corner; it was righted by the next truck and the officer was found unconscious underneath. The patrol got away, with the exception of one truck.

A second patrol — of Guards — went to the barracks, killed the sentries and stormed through the buildings, throwing grenades into doors and windows and slit trenches, from which Italians were firing wildly.

Meanwhile, the commander of the squadron and his driver, left to themselves, drove into the town looking for mischief. In Barce's small square they found two tanks which they engaged with their twin Vickers. Then, parking the jeep, the commander started

a tour of the town. In a building with colonnades, apparently a market, he found some Italians and chased them round the pillars, bowling grenades at their legs. Then he returned to his jeep and with his driver wrecked a dozen vehicles they found in a car park.

Before dawn the party were reunited outside the town, and then their troubles started. First they ran into an ambush in which three men were wounded; then there were breakdowns; and finally aircraft found them and attacked them from 11 o'clock in the morning until dusk, by which time they had six wounded men, 27 fit ones and only one 30-cwt and two jeeps. During the night both jeeps succumbed, one to a bullet hole in the petrol tank and the other to a sump punctured on a rock.

The MO, with a driver, a fitter and a navigator, set off with the wounded in the truck to a landing ground where they were picked up. The rest had to walk.

It was not the first or the last time that LRDG men found themselves stranded behind enemy lines with no vehicles and precious little food or water and still managed to get home.

That operation cost the Axis about 30 aircraft and the same number of casualties. LRDG had six wounded, all of whom recovered, and lost 10 prisoners and 14 vehicles. LRDG men were awarded two DSO's, one MC and three MM's for that trip.

The headaches of operating in the desert behind the enemy lines became routine for LRDG. They found their own tracks, made their own maps, evolved a technique of driving in the desert, established their own food, water and fuel dumps, had their own repair shops for vehicles and — partly as a counter to the constant danger of being caught, badly wounded, many days from friendly territory — their own aeroplanes.

In Eighth Army's final triumphant advance, LRDG played its full part. Mapping the country as it went, it pioneered the southern tracks into Tripolitania and Tunisia, and provided guides for each of the New Zealand Division's famous "left hooks".

Withdrawn from Tunisia in April 1943, LRDG went into training for "reconnaissance in mountainous country, moving either in jeeps or on foot."

From Sand to Skis

The 30-cwt trucks which had served them faithfully in the desert gave way to jeeps; one patrol in each squadron became a "mule patrol"; and the men who had been used to burning sands learned to use skis. They also started to take a parachutists' course, but just after it had begun most of LRDG was ordered off to action again — in the Aegean.

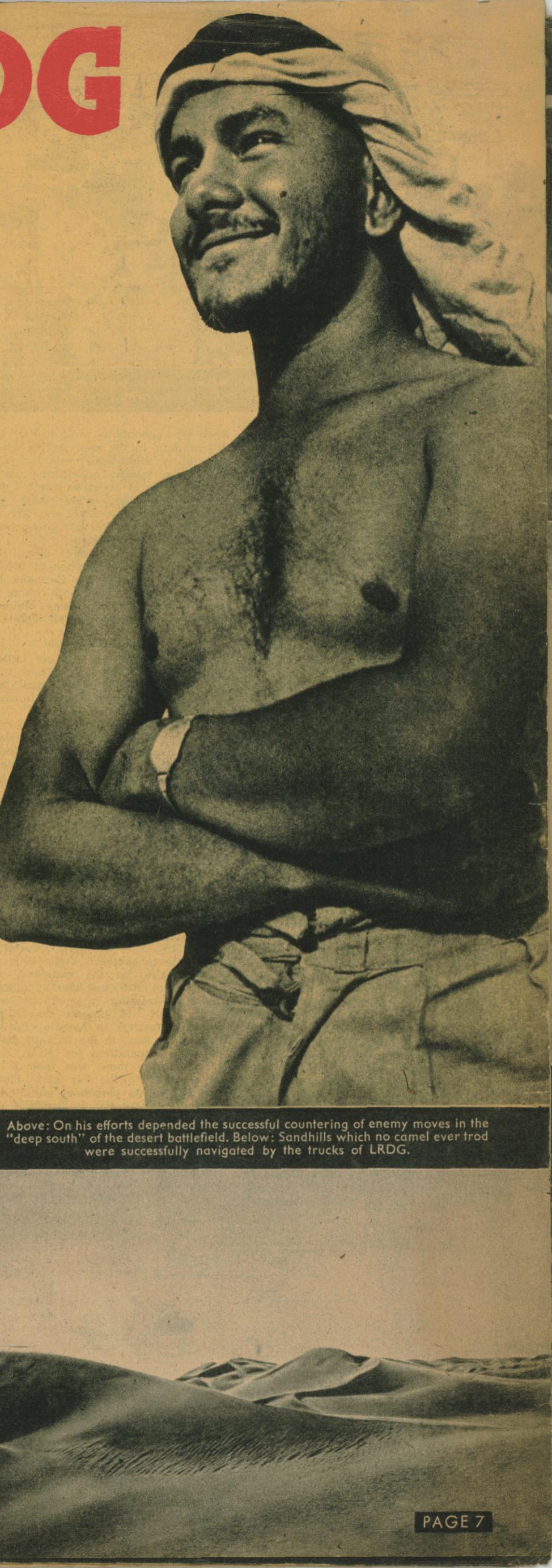
Their headquarters were established on Leros, where LRDG patrols stiffened the garrison, went out on reconnaissance trips to other islands and kept a shipping watch, similar to the Marble Arch road watch.

And they had adventures: one patrol on Stompana was let down by the Italian garrison when the Germans attacked, and hid for a month before they could get away in a caïque. Another patrol that stayed on the German-occupied island of Seriphos for nearly a month lived for the last week on a diet of beans and marrows.

On the first anniversary of Alamein a party of 50 set off to liquidate the German garrison on the island of Levita, at the request of the Royal Navy. But they ran into a strong German garrison in prepared positions and were forced out of the island with the loss of two officers and 39 other ranks.

On Leros itself 125 LRDG, scattered all over the island, saw plenty of fighting, much of it in an Infantry role, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Above: On his efforts depended the successful countering of enemy moves in the "deep south" of the desert battlefield. Below: Sandhills which no camel ever trod were successfully navigated by the trucks of LRDG.



Oasis towns in the heart of the desert were important points on LRDG maps, and familiar landmarks to the truck crews.



Halt for map-reading. Enemy transport has been reported in the area and this crew has been detailed to look for it.

LRDG (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

one party, at the top of Mount Clidi, retook the position from which they had been ejected by parachutists and held it until well after the surrender. A party of 70 got away from Leros and most of those left behind in the islands managed to filter back to freedom later; in addition, LRDG helped other troops to get away and LRDG officers returned to organise other people's escapes.

Out of the Dodecanese, LRDG prepared for operations with CMF, completing their training as parachutists. The New Zealanders left the unit and Rhodesians took their place, but some of the New Zealanders came back to LRDG in Italy.

LRDG had only one operation on the Italian mainland and that, because something went wrong with the dropping, was only partly successful. For the rest of the war their territory was on the other side of the Adriatic, from the Austrian frontier to the southern Greek island of Kythera.

Down to the Sea

Based on Adriatic islands, LRDG became semi-aquatic. A headquarters schooner, the "Kufra", named after one of their desert bases, appeared; the section which had supplied them by heavy trucks in the desert became the crew of the MV "Palma", which was skippered by a Yeomanry officer who had learned to navigate in the desert and had as boatswain an NCO who was a farmer in civil life; the light repair squadron turned its attention from vehicles to boat-building and shone at mounting jeep engines in speed-boats.

Greece, Albania and Yugoslavia became what the desert had been to LRDG. Their work, except that now they were co-operating with fighting partisans, was much the same and they even ran a "Balkan Taxi Service" on the same lines as the old "Libyan Taxi Service".

Much of their work was watching enemy shipping. Owing to Allied air superiority, vessels could move only at night and they lay up, camouflaged, in inlets, during daylight. LRDG patrols on islands and the mainland reported

their whereabouts by radio to RAF and RN stations in the area; MTB's would turn up at night and bottle the ships up in the inlets; rocket-firing planes would arrive in about 40 minutes during daylight and wipe them out. Between them the RAF and RN accounted for well over 100 vessels as a result of LRDG vigilance.

One officer stationed along the Adriatic coast had a price of £10,000 put on his head by the Germans, but none of the partisans with whom he was working gave him away, although he was there four-and-a-half months.

500 Miles On Foot

But coast-watching was not LRDG's only function in the area. There were plenty of reconnaissance trips and "beat-ups" in the old style to liven things up.

One officer with a wireless operator went from a northern Adriatic island to the mainland and on foot through the Dinaric Alps and nearly to Trieste and back—more than 500 miles on foot through enemy country.

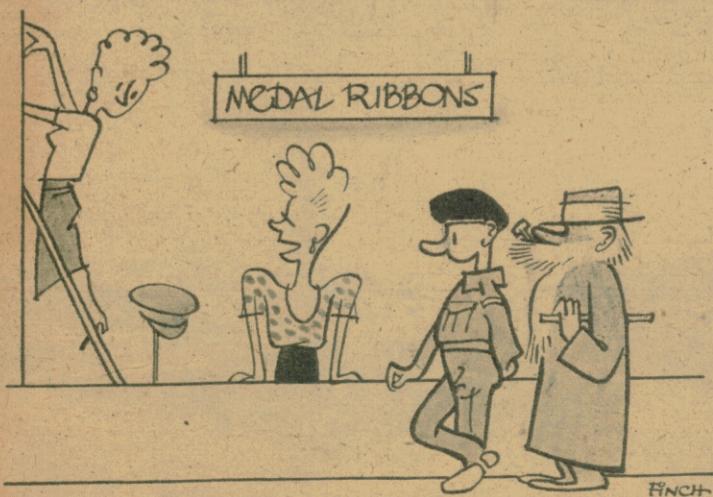
As the Germans pulled out of the Balkans, it became LRDG's job, in co-operation with other units, to hinder their retreat. A small party of LRDG, with partisans, cut and held the El Basan-Tirana road for three weeks.

Jeep-borne LRDG followed the Germans out of Greece, some of them getting as far from the Adriatic as Athens and Salonika; others went straight north from Greece to link up with more LRDG who had been dropped by parachute in southern Yugoslavia.

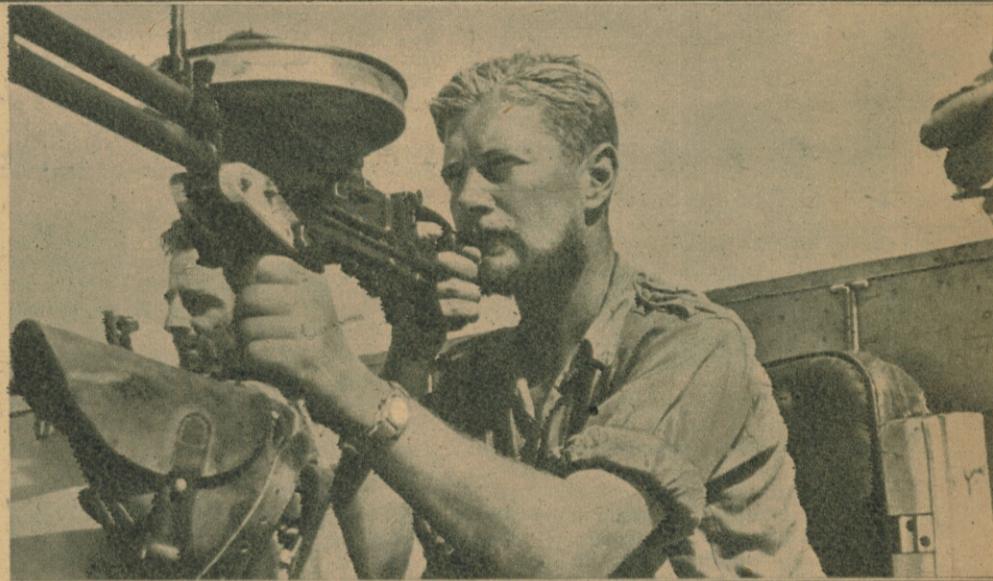
Meanwhile, on the mainland, one squadron of LRDG had been undergoing intensive training in mountain warfare, ready to operate in Hitler's mountain fortress in Bavaria. But the end of the Axis in the Balkans meant the end of operations for LRDG.

For a time there was talk of the unit's going to the Far East. Eighty per cent of its personnel volunteered for service there, but the Japanese war was nearer its end than most people realised. The story of the unit that had carried out more operations behind enemy lines than any other combatant unit came to a close, and LRDG was disbanded in July.

RICHARD ELEY (Capt.)



"One each, Africa, Burma and Italy Stars — and one Ashanti Expedition."

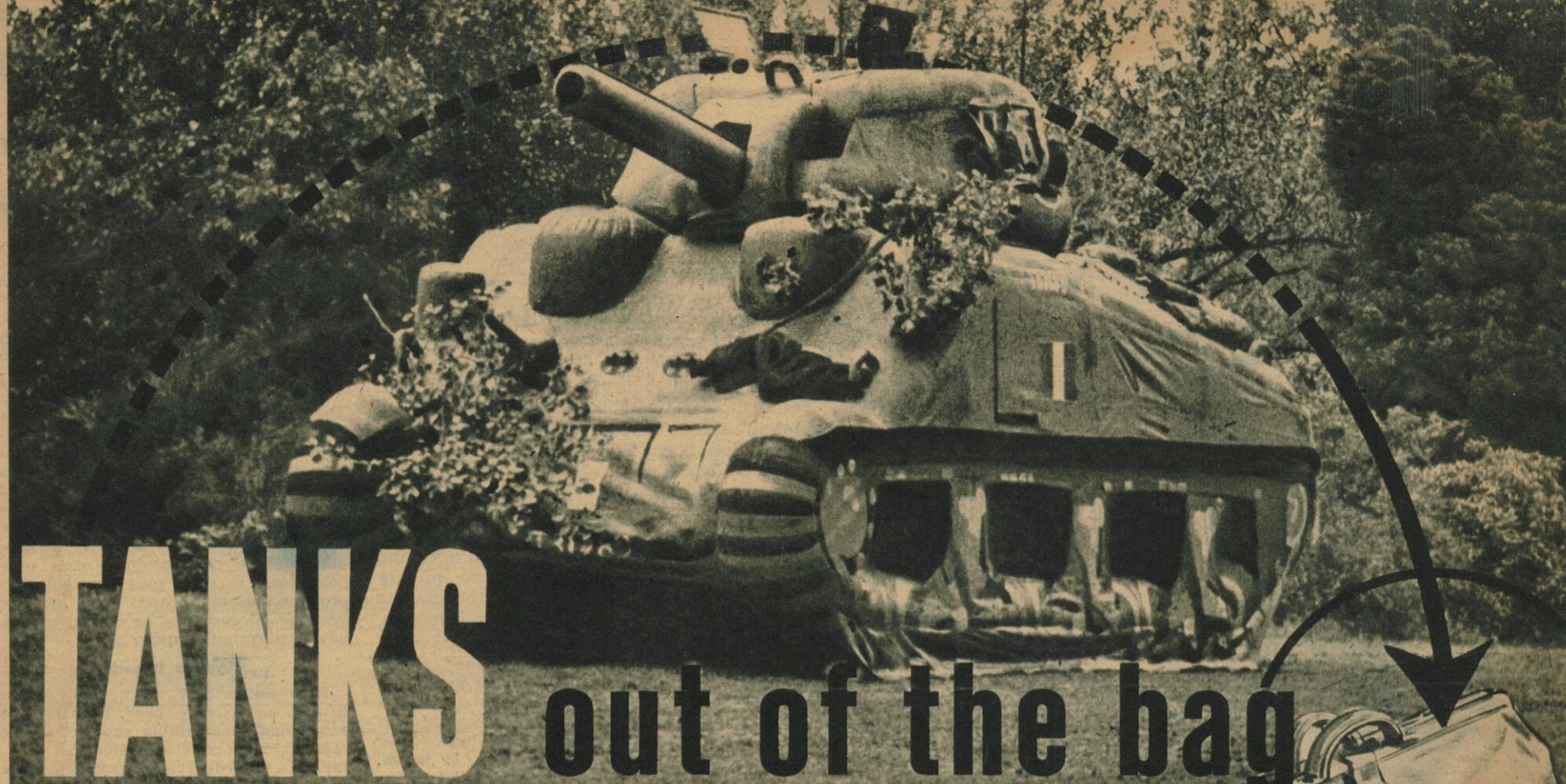


The enemy were always alert for the presence of LRDG units, and constant guard had to be kept against surprise attacks.



Above: You cannot put a sand filter on an automatic, and in the desert it has to be constantly cleaned with scrupulous care. Below: LRDG men talk of their experiences round a petrol-and-sand blaze.





BRITISH brains and British craftsmen scored another triumph during the war when they brought the art of making battle-decoys to a new high level.

Since the first primitive warrior, kneeling behind a bush, threw a stone to make his opponent think he was where the noise came from, decoys have had a part to play in warfare.

But nearly always they have been rough-and-ready improvisations, built on the spot and with a narrowly limited usefulness.

Even so, aeroplanes built from mess-tables, and telegraph-pole guns, made by Wavell's men in the

early stages of the Western Desert campaign, attracted a good many Italian bombs.

These and others, mostly wooden frames with painted canvas or hessian covers, were so successful in deceiving the enemy, both on the ground and in the air, that GHQ, Middle East, turned its attention to designing and producing them in a big way. The early models, besides being inaccurate, had the disadvantages that they were big and heavy, awkward to handle, took a long time to erect and needed constant maintenance, especially during the sand-storm season.

The Answer—Compressed Air

By 1942 these troubles had been eliminated by improvising barrage balloon material into pneumatic decoys.

The Army Camouflage Centre was working with the Balloon Division of the Dunlop Rubber Company, Manchester, and the RFD Company, Godalming, on improvements, and the next development was the invention of special materials for pneumatic decoys, strong but light.

Then came another fabric which, when proofed and made up, looked like armoured plate and gave the decoys such a high fidelity that it was difficult to tell from quite close if they were decoys or the real thing.

With this new fabric, a full-sized decoy Sherman tank could be packed into a holdall very little bigger than a cricket bag and weighed only 170 pounds, compared with the 35 tons of the real thing.

Each decoy took about five minutes to erect and inflate with a special pump, and the fabric was so strong that it was possible to anchor the decoy and keep it in position in the strongest wind.

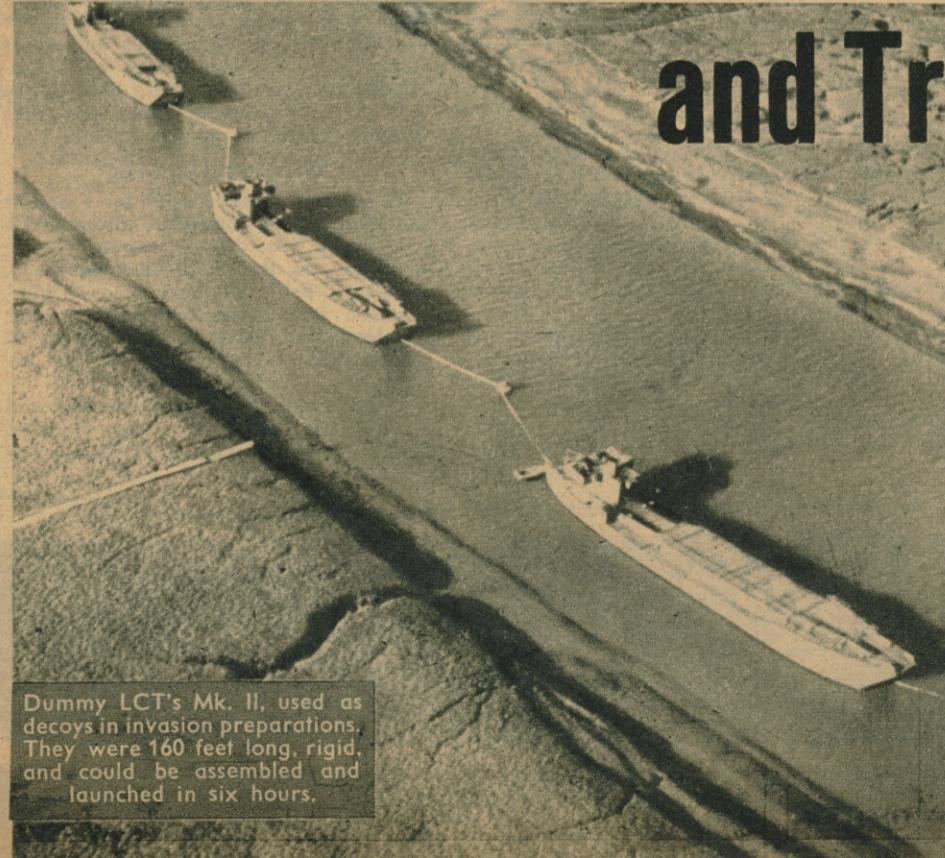
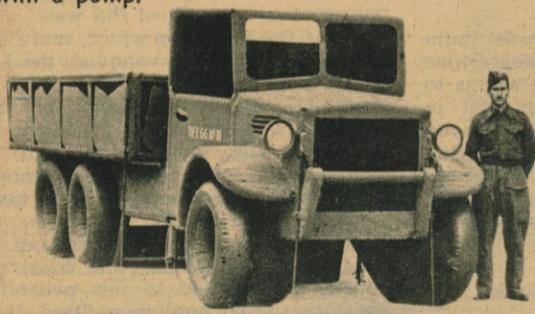
A big advantage of the pneumatic decoy was that, when it was hit by a shell or a bomb and punctured, it just collapsed and, to the airman or OEP looking for the result of a strike, there was apparently nothing left of the "tank" and no tell-tale wreckage to give away the fact that decoys were being used in the area.

USA Copied Them

When the United States came into the North African campaign, high-ranking American officers were so impressed with the ingenuity and fidelity of the British-made devices that they started a system of manufacture of their own, with a different pressure and inflation system.

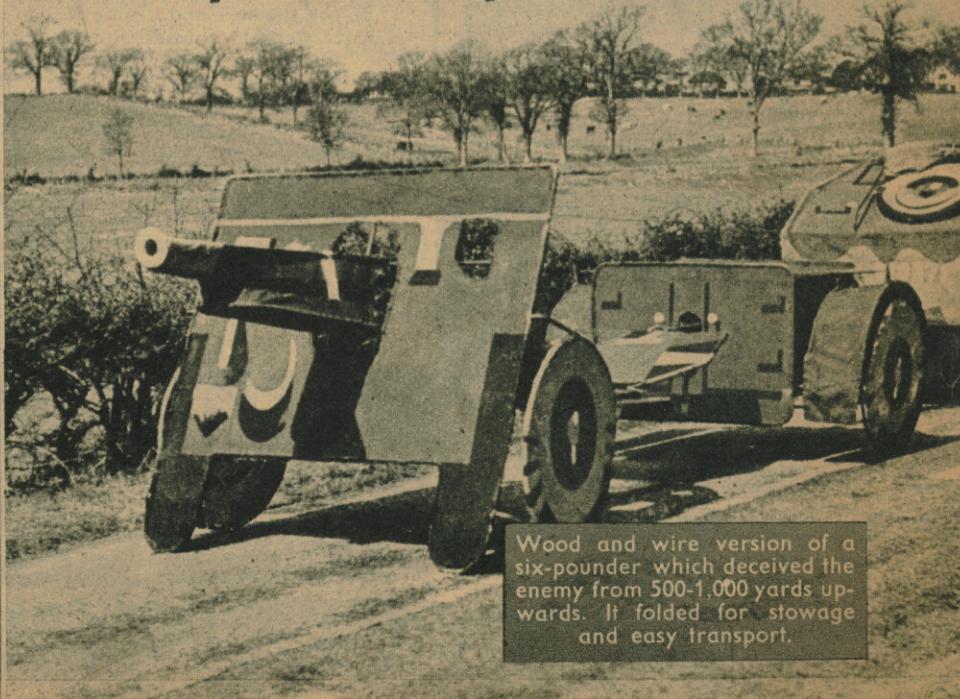
But the American models never came up to the standard of the British decoys for fidelity, robustness and general usefulness, and the work of British craftsmen in this line is still the world's best.

This three-tonner was blown up — with a pump.



Dummy LCT's Mk. II, used as decoys in invasion preparations. They were 160 feet long, rigid, and could be assembled and launched in six hours.

and Trucks, LCTs, Guns...

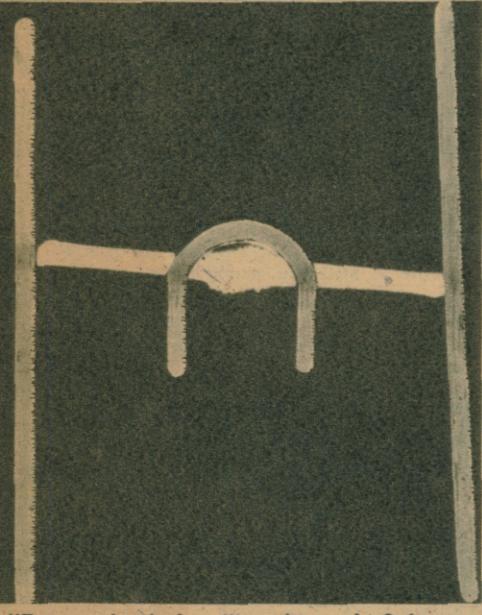


Wood and wire version of a six-pounder which deceived the enemy from 500-1,000 yards upwards. It folded for stowage and easy transport.

WAR INVENTORS AID US IN PEACE



The one-man mobile wireless station (above) performed with great efficiency in war, and could be adapted with little alteration to a great variety of peace-time uses. But the peak of technical refinement was probably reached by radar research teams, the results of some of whose achievements are seen below. Their civilian usefulness needs no emphasis.



"Enemy dead ahead" to the night fighter means "Another aircraft dangerously close" to the civil pilot.

Ground stations direct the bomber to its target, the civil airliner to its landing.

NOW that the war is over, thoughts turn to methods of improving the future by way of the inventions of war. In early days the weapons of war were beaten into ploughshares; now we are less drastic. We prefer to adapt. We try to profit from the knowledge which went to win the most mechanical war in history. While some scientists explore the civil application of the atomic theory, others are busy with less sensational discoveries. For instance, did you know that those Bren carriers which sent you bounding across Libya, or rattling down the autobahns of Germany, are now being tried out as farm tractors? The experiments are being supervised by Mr. Lloyd, of Lloyd carrier fame, and are said to be producing promising results.

Or, again, you remember the windows of that Lancaster which one day flew low over the base area? They were made of "Perspex", and "Perspex" is now the subject of experiments seeking to obtain a new line of unbreakable spectacle which will be both cheaper and more quickly produced. It is also used in the production of contact lenses, the glasses which fit inside the eyelids. These are merely two of many experiments, the sum of which will go to improve our peace-time goods.

Perhaps the most vital benefit which war stimulates is progress in medical science. It would be unfair to say that the second world war has produced a greater advance in this field than the first, but there can be no doubt that there have been some very revolutionary improvements. First, of course, comes Penicillin, the drug which is the fatal enemy of a wide range of toxins.

Penicillin was discovered as early as 1929, but in those days there were difficulties over its application. War-time science brought the research to a climax, and now the USA can produce as much of the commodity as she likes. Britain's resources will improve as the plant and labour situation becomes better, and in about a year's time we may hope for far greater supplies.

Gift to Surgery

Penicillin and improved skin grafting have lent an improving hand to surgery. Now, by means of these two facilities, the difficult two-stage closure of wounds has evolved into a simple technique. By this method the wound is thoroughly disinfected before the skin is closed over, thus removing any danger of infection which might lead to gangrene. Now that the war is over, this will be applied to street accidents and the like, considerably reducing fatal casualties.

From time immemorial hot climates have been notorious for malaria. This was before the coming of Mepacrine. Now, through the aid of this new drug, malaria is becoming nothing more than an unpleasant memory, and with it goes its deadly complication — blackwater fever.

When next you see a packet with "DDT" printed on it lying on the MI room table, take a good look at it. DDT is the bane of an insect's life. In tropical climates it controls the disease-carriers; at home it is the cure for cockroaches, beetles, and other house and garden insect pests. DDT is the crescendo of research into insecticides.

Before the war and during it, medical science derived considerable help from the electrical energy generated by short-wave therapy. This means that heat is given off by a coil, or two plates, through which passes energy generated by a transmitter similar to the type used in radio. During the war this force was applied to industry, and it was found that it was possible to heat the insides of substances without affecting the outer parts. Thus, to take a simple illustration, a slice of bacon

between two slices of bread can be cooked without toasting the bread.

This discovery opened up a new idea to industry. In jobs which required heat in one form or another, it was found that, instead of taking, say, 16 hours, the work could be done in three minutes. Such small jobs as the joining of rubber composition cases for shell fuses destined for the tropics became the simple task of a "sewing machine", which sealed the sides by means of this new form of heat.

Now, with war production almost at



Tank R/T in a new sphere — two-way radio in a police car.

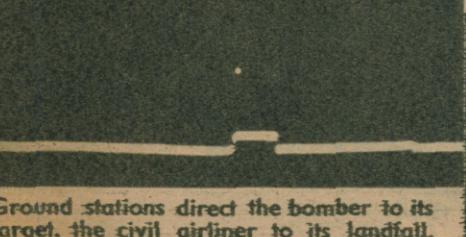
an end, we may look towards radio heating as a potential aid to peace-time industry. The textile industry begins to take note, firms with an interest in casting and joining see an improved means for hardening casts or securing the glue at joints. Industry in general is very much aware of a new force which may play an important role in post-war mass-production.

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The short "steeples" in the horizontal radar line indicate aircraft far out of sight and sound.



The weapons that war forges are not exclusively those of destruction, and the last war produced a great number of discoveries of the utmost peace-time value.

both in broadcasting and television, but these advances are too far ahead of the present-day wireless set. Consequently they must bide their time — time in which the BBC can find new equipment, and radio manufacturers can turn out a new model receiver. It must be remembered that, even when a number of new sets are on the market, the improvements will have to wait until there is a big enough majority to warrant their use.

To enumerate all the many advances in industry which this war has produced would need a longer article than this. The flame-thrower has now been adapted for farmers, and is putting in valuable work clearing weeds and bracken at a quarter of the normal time required for this task. Tanks may be put to work as tractors, and the old three-tonner may be used for carrying cement in bulk for concrete roads.

Fragments of Mulberry from coastal defences are now being used to repair the dykes of Holland. The Bailey Bridge may well find itself a job in civvy street, spanning the smaller streams. Rubber is out of date as a cable covering; a plastic material named Polivinyl Chloride now undertakes that task, and is both cheaper and better protection against water, oil and grease. Soon the petrol can, as we know it today, may be a thing of the past: compared with the jerry-can of desert fame it seems a very poor affair. The jerry-can is built in two halves with air-tight seams and an inlet at the top to abolish "gulping".

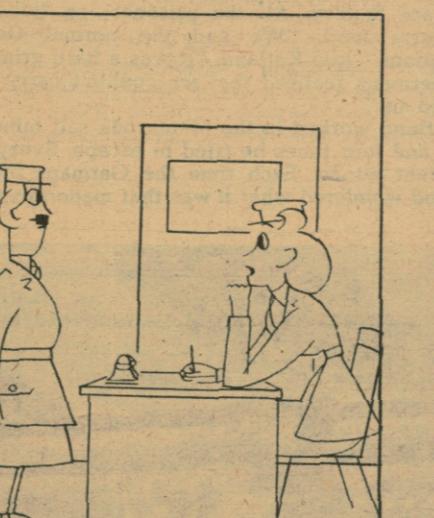
The "Walky-Talky"

Another potential use of the amphibian may be found in bus services operating in the areas of estuaries and rivers. Here a detour of several miles to a bridge may be reduced by driving the bus straight into and across the water. One bus company has already applied for a licence to purchase "Ducks" for this role. Steel, welding metal and welding technique have all improved as a result of the war.

Radar, the invention which, more than any other, helped to vanquish the Luftwaffe, is now to be used in one of the greatest life-saving schemes ever planned. Merchant ships are to be equipped with radar sets which will enable them, when in home waters, to pin-point their positions in fog or heavy weather. Experiments to perfect this device are now in progress and the radar stations around the coast will shortly be adapted to this peace-time use. Other radar equipment fitted aboard ships will enable navigators to detect objects such as land, rocks and other shipping in the same way as bombardiers over Germany were able to detect their targets on the radar dial through ten-tenths cloud.

It is possible that all these progressions will one day become superseded by some strange atomic device. That is more a matter for H. G. Wells — but, in the meanwhile, things are going ahead nicely to build a world which has "all modern conveniences."

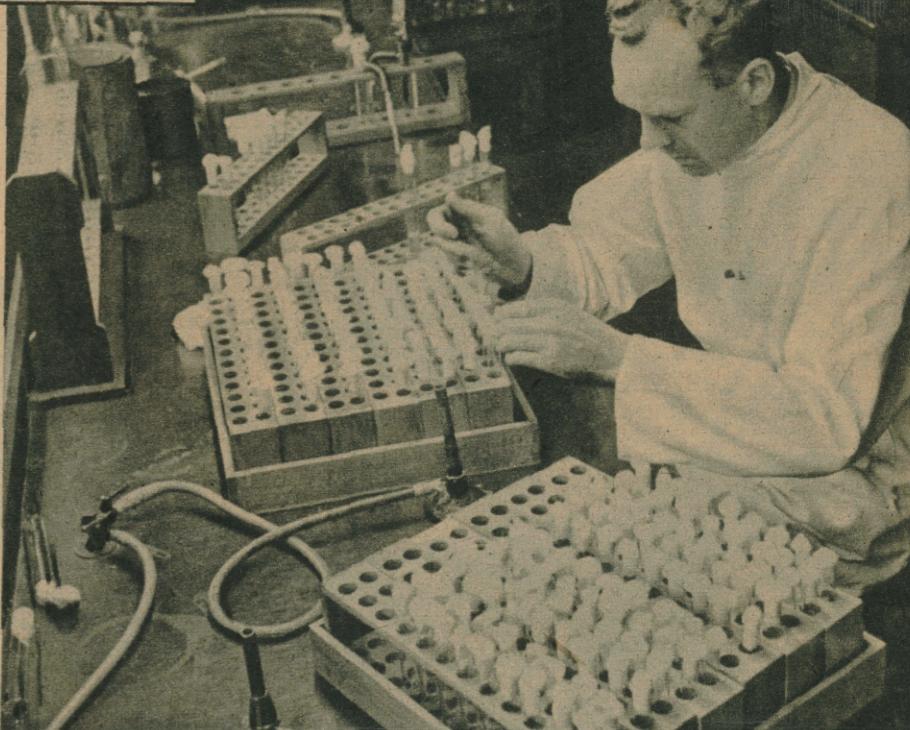
R. S. GARRETT (Lieut.)



"Don't you think you are taking your job a little too seriously, Sergeant-Major?"

1 PENICILLIN

The development and production technique of Penicillin, vastly accelerated by the war, will save infinitely more lives than the atomic bomb destroyed. Its supreme virtue of killing the germs of many deadly diseases without injuring the patient is the answer to the prayer of many generations of medical men. A batch is seen being tested for its germ-killing powers — a disease culture is introduced into one of the test tubes to see how quickly it is neutralised.



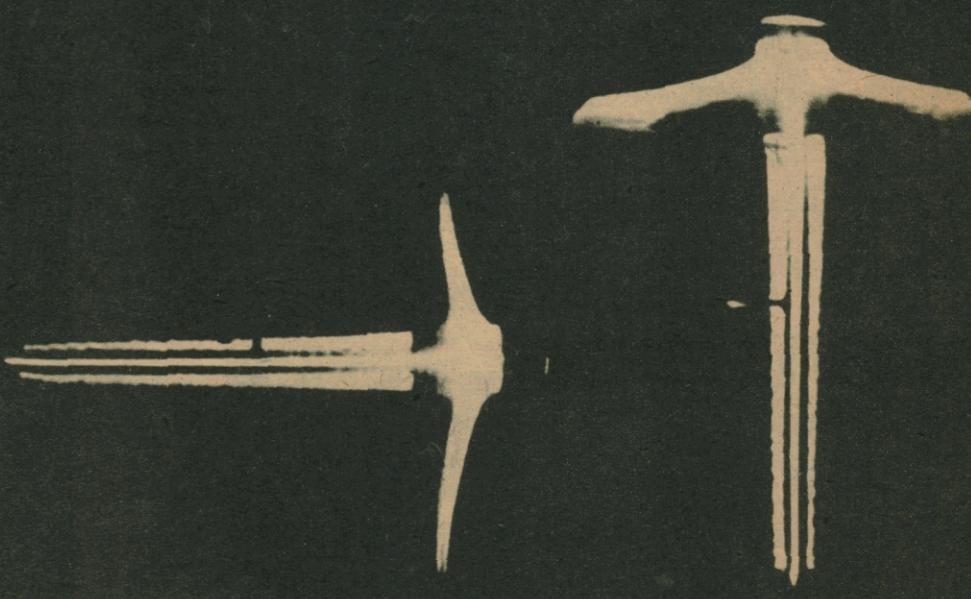
2 AMPHIBIOUS VEHICLES

As in matters of life and death, so on a lower plane — that of convenience — war provided the incentive to speedy development. The solution of problems of landing and supply was found in a successful compromise between the motor car or tractor and the boat. Ferrying and the crossing of rough and marshy country were greatly simplified. The Buffalo and the DUKW open up a new vista in the use of short cuts across water and the opening up of wild and uncharted territories.



3 RADAR

Among war-winning weapons radar held a supreme place, from the Battle of Britain onwards, and it remains the most fascinating — reaching out into darkness and space to put and keep its finger on a far-distant, fleeting target, or guiding the bomber crews out and home with undeviating accuracy. Here is a display on an interceptor set in a night fighter. One of the figures gives the target's bearing, another its elevation.



Saga of a Shopkeeper

Napoleon called us a "nation of shopkeepers". It was the finest compliment he could have paid us, judging by the story of Ralph Ketland.

WILFRED RALPH KETLAND, Gunner in the Royal Artillery, partisan fighter in Poland and Red Army soldier on the Eastern Front, killed more than 100 Germans during five years of amazing adventure in Central Europe. After failing four times to escape from a POW camp in Germany he succeeded at the fifth attempt, outwitted every trap set for him and became to the Germans another escaped "kriegsgefangener". But to his parents in England he was dead for 19 long months when there came no word from him, and in the records of the British Red Cross he was just another name on the growing list of those who had vanished.

Ketland's extraordinary travels began on 11 June 1940 near St. Valery. His regiment, the 101 Light AA and A/Tk Regt, was struggling to the coast with heavy casualties even as the Germans swept past in their victorious drive to the sea. By nightfall all hope of escape had been given up, and the next morning Ketland joined with his comrades in carrying those who could no longer walk to the cliff tops. It was on that morning that the weary remnants of the 101st, outnumbered and caught between the English Channel and the German Artillery, surrendered.

A day later the Germans began to march their prisoners along the battle-scarred road to Holland. It was a forced march, at 30 and sometimes 40 miles a day. The survivors, some of them wounded and all with the filth of battle still upon them, were given a few biscuits and thin, watery soup. This was a diet for exhaustion, and when men faltered they were shot. There were many who died along that road.

March to Captivity

"No man who was on that march will ever forget it," said Grn. Ketland, relating his experiences at his home in Queensferry, near Chester. "I believe someone has written a book about it, but no writer could have described the utter misery of those 22 appalling days."

In Holland the prisoners were loaded on to barges. Ketland, with 1,000 others, was forced to sit in a cramped position with his knees touching his chest for three days and nights during the journey by canal into Germany. They were given food but no water, and so Ketland scooped water from the canal with his bare hands. The next stop, a German barracks, was no more than a three-day halting place until Ketland was forced into a cattle truck and sent by train to Poland. Eventually he arrived at Stalag XXA. "In that camp," he said, "there were 10,000 men of varied nationality."

"We stayed there for two months, and the routine was the most depressing part of all. After reveille at 5.30 and a cup of coffee we were ordered out on to the ramparts of the old fort—which was our prison—for the whole morning. There was nothing to do but the normal camp fatigues, and at one o'clock we went back for our ration of soup. In the afternoon it was the same thing again, until at 4.30 we drew bread and jam for our last meal. We were allowed to write letters. On the whole the Germans there treated us fairly enough."

The Bluff Succeeded

In September Ketland left the camp to work in the salt mines at Menteroda. For six weeks he worked underground with a maintenance gang. Later he was transferred to the surface factory. All the prisoners on this work received extra food. "We had the normal German civilian's rations," said Ketland. "It was a hard grind and even the Germans realised that we couldn't carry on if they starved us."

Ralph Ketland worked in the Menteroda salt mines for four years, and four times he tried to escape. Every plan he made went wrong. Each time the Germans brought him back and wondered what it was that made this small,

quiet-voiced English soldier so persistent. Ketland, searching for another and better plan of escape, decided to bluff the entire camp for his fifth attempt, and it worked.

His new plan was quite simple. He began to realise why all his previous schemes had failed. Each time a man escaped, all Germans in the neighbourhood took part in the man-hunt, and they went on until either the prisoner was caught or they tired of the search. But suppose he pretended to escape? Suppose he let the Germans believe that he had got away when in reality he hadn't? When he wasn't found the search would be abandoned and that would be the time to go.

On this theory Ketland hid in the factory for three days. His friends, who knew of his plan, brought him food and water. At the end of the third day he was locked inside a railway wagon bound for Poland. He had with him supplies for seven days.

Ketland stayed in the wagon the whole of the seven days, and he did not leave it until the last of his water was gone. Then he was at a place called Tomaszow in mid-Poland. He approached a Pole, told him the whole story and explained his original idea of linking up with the Soviet armies at Lublin. After talking with the local population he found that this was impossible. Next day he was invited to join a group of local partisans.

Thus it was that Ralph Ketland took to the Polish forests and lived with an underground army. "At first," he said, "no one would trust me and the whole time during the first few weeks they regarded me with suspicion. Only after a number of 'operations' was I accepted as a comrade."

"In all there were about 100 of us, and we were armed to the teeth. New weapons and ammunition came down at night—from the sky. Small anti-tank guns floated down to us on the end of parachutes, for the RAF supplied us with nearly all we required. They dropped money and clothes and medical supplies. They brought us pocket radio sets and hand grenades. The whole organisation was magnificent. I heard that the main group of partisans, of which we were a section, was commanded by a lieutenant-colonel in the British Army, but I never saw him myself."

No Quarter

"Normally I was armed with a Bren gun, hand grenades and revolver, not to mention bayonets. We needed all we could get."

Ketland, who estimated that he himself killed more than 100 Germans while fighting with the partisans, took part in dozens of operations against the neighbouring enemy. Sabotage, ambush and armed hold-ups were a weekly routine.

"It was a merciless business," he said, "but we had become merciless men against a ruthless enemy. One of our favourite tricks was the 'fake breakdown' on a main road to the Russian front. A couple of us would dress up as a German officer and staff car driver, block the road with a captured vehicle and wait for a German convoy. When it came, guarded by a few tanks, our 'German officer' would stop the column and immediately dash for cover. Then we let them have it. About 80 of us would be hiding along the road in the forest, and most of us had automatic weapons of some sort."

"If things went well for us we took what was left of the supplies, or destroyed war materials. If they escaped our barrage and made things too hot, we had to run for the woods, taking what wounded we could carry, and then it was not so good. We had few doctors for major operations, and medical supplies were one of our worst problems."

But there came an end to this war of hide-and-seek among the Polish forests. Ketland's group was badly

smashed during a raid, and so many were wounded that it was decided to disband until the men had recovered. The partisans went back to their homes.

"But I was left," continued Ketland a bit ruefully, "because I had no home to go back to, and it would have been dangerous to live with the partisans in their own villages. It was then that I decided to reach the Red Army whatever happened."

Ketland's luck still held. A few days later, on 15 January 1945, the Russians opened a new offensive, and their patrols moved nearer and nearer to where Ketland was hiding. Finally he was able to contact a Russian unit. He was taken to a Soviet officer who heard his story and believed him. When they found that Ketland had been a Gunner, he was placed in command of a British 25-pr. gun and promoted to sergeant immediately. The Russian offensive, rolling on to the river Oder, carried its new recruit with it, and Ralph Ketland fought with 152 Russian Brigade all the way.

Displaced Person

It was at this point that a series of new troubles arose for Ketland. Caught up in the great stream of humanity wandering aimlessly back through Poland and towards Russia he lost contact with 152 Brigade, which had promised to send him home by air. The area in which he found himself contained hundreds of Germans on their way to Russian prison camps, bands of Polish partisans in search of their homes, and White Russian collaborators trying to escape. One morning, in spite of his protests, he was arrested by Soviet troops in a great round-up and found himself on the 250-mile march to Cracow.

Here he was interviewed by Soviet officers and his papers taken for inspection by security officials, but before he saw them again he was on his way to another camp at Stalino in the Ukraine. Here, after many further interviews, he was sent to an international dispersal camp south-east of Moscow, where men of 27 different nationalities were trying to prove their identity. Forty-five men in this camp claimed to be either British or American Servicemen. "But from the look of them," said Ketland, "they were not all that they pretended. Undoubtedly the Russians had many people on their hands whose identity could not be proved, and I was one of them."

At the dispersal camp Ketland was interviewed again, this time by an officer of the Soviet security organisation—the NKWD—from Moscow, and a few days later he was sent to Frankfurt-on-Oder. From here he travelled to the Russian zone in Berlin.

"One day," he said, "I happened to see a British officer of the Military Government. I went up to him, told him who I was and what had happened. He took me away in his car the same day to a Displaced Persons camp in the British Zone. Here I was questioned for almost 24 hours by security police and intelligence officers. After that they were convinced that I was Wilfred Ralph Ketland of the Royal Artillery. In Berlin they put me on a plane and I was on my way home at last."

Happy Return

Ketland arrived in England in November 1945. He had fought with the old BEF in France with weapons which, compared with today's equipment, had been almost antique, and he came home just in time for the first peace-time Christmas of the atomic age. At his home in Queensferry he received more than 75 letters congratulating him on his safe return. When he leaves the Army—he is in Group 25—he will return to his civilian job of shopkeeping.

How many other British soldiers have lived to tell of a one-man war under three flags?

ROBERT BLAKE (S/Sjt.)



The Division assisted 15 Scottish Div in the assault on Tilburg in October 1944. Above: Watching prisoners come in after the battle.

"Attack" was the first and last word in 79 Armoured Div's dictionary of war. D-Day was largely their day.



79 Armoured Div took Mr. Churchill across the Rhine.

In 1943 a military decision of far-reaching importance was made. It was resolved to collect all special assault equipment under Major-General Sir Percy C. S. Hobart, KBE, CB, DSO, MC, commanding 79 Armoured Division, which had been formed as a normal armoured division towards the end of 1942. At the end of the campaign in North-West Europe Field-Marshal Montgomery said: "This Division has been, and is, unique among all the divisions in the Allied Armies." And as a result of the Division's unique constitution and task their story is that of every big operation in the crushing of Fortress Europe.

Over and over again the initial armour, the special assault teams, which penetrated and completely defeated powerful defence positions. Their greatest undertaking was the invasion on D-Day, their next greatest the crossing of the Rhine. But in between they were concerned in almost every important action, and the technique which they developed after intensive experiments all over the UK during 1943 and 1944 has proved invincible.

The specialised equipment finally selected for the landing on the Continent included the CDL (a searchlight-mounted, one-gun Churchill or Grant tank), the Crab—flail mounted on a Sherman gun tank—the armoured bulldozer and certain new developments in armoured vehicles.

These included not only Churchill AVRE's carrying fascines, small box girder bridges, petards, bobbins, Snakes, Congers and mine-deflecting ploughs, but also the DD tank, an amphibious

Sherman capable of navigating at sea. These devices were all secret, and so well was the secret kept that not a single case was reported of DD tanks being welcomed by anti-tank fire before they landed.

D-Day Triumph

The invading British Second Army consisted of three spearheads, the right flank being taken by 50 (Northumbrian) Division. 79 Armoured Division supplied 12 teams for the initial landing in this sector, the teams coming from "B" and "C" Squadrons, Westminster Dragoons, and 81 and 82 Assault Squadrons, RE.

Despite the beach difficulties at Le Hamel and a sea which carried the craft too far east; and despite the onshore wind, which piled up the tide half-an-hour before schedule, by nightfall the teams with 231 Brigade had carried out their tasks and had rallied near Buhot.

The second group of assault teams were with 69 Brigade, just to the west



"TIP of the SPEARHEAD"

**79th ARMD.
11th IN DIV. SERIES**

entrenched behind fortifications which were natural as well as artificial. Heavy bombing opened the attack and the resulting craters were a serious problem.

However, Infantry in Kangaroos were carried forward, dismounted where the cratering prevented further advance, and occupied the area. Bulldozers were then brought up and lanes bulldozed through the devastation of the bombing to enable the armoured columns to go forward.

Valuable Prize

The assault team technique, despite the special difficulties, was once more successful. Five days after the attack was launched the core of the whole defence system was taken and a valuable prize fell to the Allies. Its capture is a fine chapter in the history of the Division which shared so largely in the operation.

During the next seven weeks life for the Division consisted of a great number of small but important actions in the peninsula: the reduction of enemy strongpoints and similar actions.

On Monday night, 7-8 August, the breakthrough which smashed the Caen hinge began. 79 Assualt Squadron, RE, was selected, and while Major I. N. Ryle, MC, the commander, went ahead to plan the action the tanks began a 400-mile trip on transporters.

Their task was the reduction of Fort Montbarey, an old casement fort with walls strengthened by earth and surrounded by a moat 40 feet wide and 15 deep. The US Engineers began by sweeping and taping, under heavy fire, a gap in the minefield. Then an Infantry company went through the gap

the second shed a track and the third stuck in a crater.

Once more the Germans plucked up courage and decided to stick, but next day, when the battle was rejoined, a troop of Crocodiles under Sjt. Dacent, MM, rolled their flame over the moat and, though surrender was not at first forthcoming, two further troops of Crocodiles (Lieuts. C. Shone, MC, and T. P. Conway), giving the fort all the flame and HE they possessed, soon produced complete surrender. This was the first of many occasions on which men of 79 Armoured Division fought in support of American units.

Soon the coast of France was clear from Brest to Calais—cleared by Canadian troops; but without the special devices of the Division the operation would have proved an infinitely more costly affair in men, machines and time. Allied shipping could now proceed in the Channel, and London and the south coast of England were no longer threatened by close-range V bombs or long-range guns from the Pas de Calais.

When it became evident that the Germans were prepared to fight hard for Brest, General Omar Bradley asked for Crocodiles. "B" Squadron, 141 RAC, was selected, and while Major I. N. Ryle, MC, the commander, went ahead to plan the action the tanks began a 400-mile trip on transporters.

Their task was the reduction of Fort Montbarey, an old casement fort with walls strengthened by earth and surrounded by a moat 40 feet wide and 15 deep. The US Engineers began by sweeping and taping, under heavy fire, a gap in the minefield. Then an Infantry company went through the gap

by medium aircraft took place. Less than 72 hours later this last great natural barrier had been so successfully handled that "B" Squadron, 11 Royal Tanks, had the honour of carrying across the Prime Minister and his party in Buffaloes. The Prime Minister told the men, "I congratulate you and your Buffaloes on a splendid job of work." To which Field-Marshal Montgomery quickly added, "Go on... ask him for a cigar!"

Armour Swam Rhine

After taking part in the opening-up of the vital port of Antwerp—in the words of the Corps Commander, the success of the operation was a great credit to the men of 79 Armoured Division and "would not have been possible without them—the Division assisted in the crossing of the Rhine.

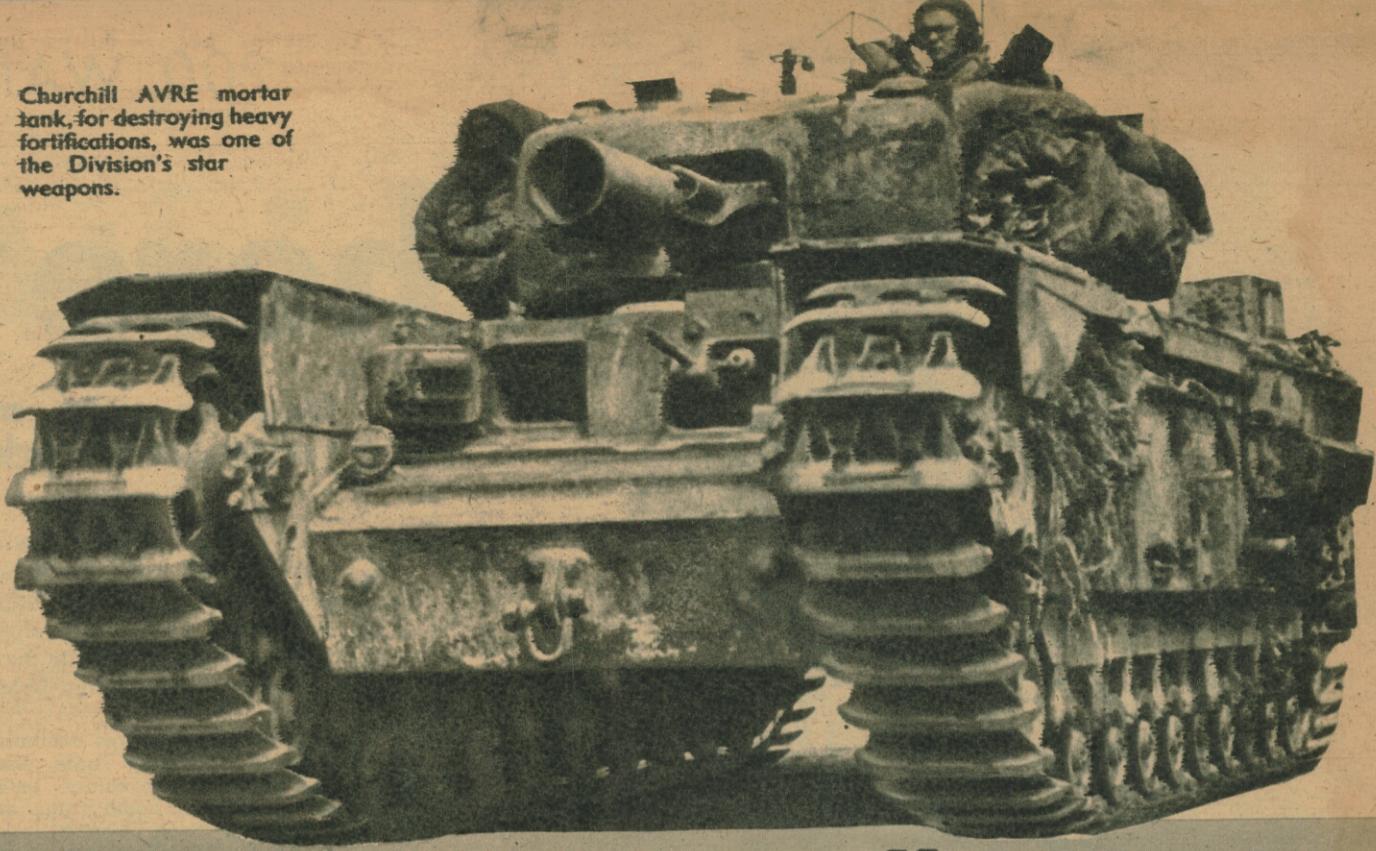
This was the most important operation undertaken by the Division since

the second world war. Capt. J. L. Cobden's Churchill went on to see if the ditch and road were passable, and on his return a troop of Crocodiles went in.

The first Crocodile (Lieut. H. A. Ward) was advancing when the second struck a 300-lb shell and blew up, but the first continued, crossing all obstacles, and started burning up machine and anti-tank gun positions and snipers.

This put the Infantry through the first two defence lines, by which time the Crocodile had exhausted every drop of burner fuel, every round of 75-mm and 20 belts of Besa. After seeing the Infantry well placed around the fort, Lieut. Ward turned for home. It was just then that the Germans, having had sufficient flame, started to come out with white flags. And at that precise moment, as bad luck would have it, the Crocodile fell into a 10-foot tank trap.

At once the Germans changed their minds about surrender, but began to change them back again as three gun tanks under Capt. Cobden came in to attack with some Engineers fighting as Infantry. But one tank fell into a trap.



Churchill AVRE mortar tank, for destroying heavy fortifications, was one of the Division's star weapons.

Flailing and bridging tanks of the Division in position for the attack on Le Havre.

Safe paths through minefields in spearhead operations were made by Sherman "Crabs".

Armoured supply and troop-carrying vehicles, though not spectacular, did invaluable work.

79 Armoured Div's Buffaloes waiting to ferry troops across for the attack on Arnhem, 13 April 1945.

Crossing the Elbe. The Division achieved rapid build-ups of armour across obstacles like this.

Crocodiles were used as hygienic units at Belsen, burning the infected ground with liquid flame.



200 WAR ARTISTS
5,000 PICTURES BUT...

Where was Tommy Atkins?

Modern war artists were faced with a
judge their work. But the men who fought

gigantic task. Perhaps only posterity can
can be among their best critics of today.

OME 200 war artists were commissioned during the war to paint approximately 5,000 pictures — an output 2,000 higher than that of the 1914-18 war. Yet among all this work — much of it of very high standard — how often does one meet the ordinary soldier, who despite mechanisation is still the most powerful factor in war — or was until the arrival of the atom bomb?

At the recent war-pictures exhibition in the Royal Academy there were many fine studies of machines, tanks, guns and planes, of bomb ruins and base areas, but there was little or nothing of the soldier crouching in his slit-trench, or sweating at his gun — the man really in the thick of things.

Critics in Uniform

Standing with two beribboned soldiers in front of a picture, rather modernist in character, SOLDIER'S staff writer heard one remark, "Well, if that's the war, just where have we been in the last five years?" True, there were paintings that held them, like Euriach's Dunkirk reconstruction — "Aye, that was it all right" — and Worsley's prison camp picture of a Red Cross parcel — "Lovely grub, chum, I could do with that klim right now" — but they were spectators all the time; they never really identified themselves in all those pictures of a war which belongs to the Age of the Common Man.

Among the outstanding pictures of the exhibition were those of paratroop officer Captain Albert Richards, who, before he was killed on the Maas, did some work of great promise, and Eric Kennington's portraits showed their usual strong, hard beauty. But the great majority had the atmosphere of the studio about them. Surely, the artist should go to the soldier — not the soldier to the artist.

Better still, the artist should be the soldier. Kennington and Muirhead Bone, famous for their paintings of the 1914-18 war, first served, like many other artists of that time, with the men whose lives and deaths they recorded so acutely. They were in fact soldier-artists, painting men they really knew because they had shared the same fears, comradeship and struggle.

What of the war artists of today? Though there are a few exceptions, most seem to have gone straight in as artists, not soldiers.

SOLDIER'S representative called on John Worsley, who is both artist and Naval officer and wears a beard that could belong to either. In uniform he looks more at home on the bridge than in the studio.

He brought out some paintings and spoke of what was probably his best work — which, alas, will never be exhibited. It was a beautifully painted dummy Naval officer, uncannily like the real thing. In a certain naval POW camp in Germany this dummy was counted and checked at roll-calls and searches, while its model escaped and headed for the coast. The Germans at length tumbled to it, and a Kultur-conscious Kommandant moved "Albert" into his office, where he became a source of astonishment to swarms of curious Nazis.

In more serious mood, Worsley discussed the criticism that war artists had not given sufficient prominence to the soldier at war.

"It's true up to a point," he said, "but remember this has been the most mechanised war of all time. Take my own service. Naval battles can seem very impersonal; you may not see the ship at which you are firing, let alone the men inside her. But I suppose that for the PBI things are sometimes very different." He was assured that such was the case.

The next visit was to Edward Ardizzone. Here again was someone, with a round face and jovial air, most unlike the traditional figure of an artist. Before the war Ardizzone wrote and illustrated children's books, among other work, and possibly that is why his soldiers have such a puckish quality and are so consistently merry. Nevertheless, Ardizzone has a sense of character and humour that brings him nearer to Tommy Atkins than any other artist, save Anthony Gross.

Paintings Should Inspire

Eric Kennington had some controversial things to say. He would have left the recording of actual warfare to the camera and confined painters to morale-raising works which could be shown in factories and cheaply reproduced for public sale.

Of his own work, Kennington has declared: "All I intended to say was how noble is the British fighting youth. Great is man when he lives and works and dies for an ideal above self-interest. Obey him, love him and justify his deeds." He thought that, in the main, war artists had failed. "We need not recording, but interpretation, illumination and explanation. Now if you can tell me how art can provide that I shall thank you."

In other words we need a modern Goya, who depicted the horrors of the

Napoleonic invasion of Spain with such savage realism and pathos.

Much of the difficulty, no doubt, springs from the attitude of modern artists to their job. Many of them will not put brush to canvas until they can first judge how the result is going to accord with the art theory of the moment.

More Talk Than Art

Once upon a time, when life was rather more simple than it is today, painters just got on with the job. The result was the Old Masters. Now in many cases they talk and read of art more often than they practise it, and are in danger of becoming slaves to those who should be their servants — the critics. Of these last let us remember the one who wrote: "All the books by all the art critics of all time are not worth a single daub by the veriest amateur."

It is arguable that artists had become so engrossed with themselves and their theories that when war put the common man into the limelight once more there existed few artists who could see him as he really was. Much of their work tells us more about the artist than his subject.

Perhaps the best is yet to come. There may be artists who have gone through this war as soldiers and have not yet given us their vision of war. Likewise, there may also be soldiers who have not yet expressed themselves as writers. Is it not true that the best books of the war to date have been written by fighting men, not by those who write about them?

But if there are no war artists of distinction still to emerge, those who come after us may well echo one of the criticisms of today: "Where was Tommy Atkins?"

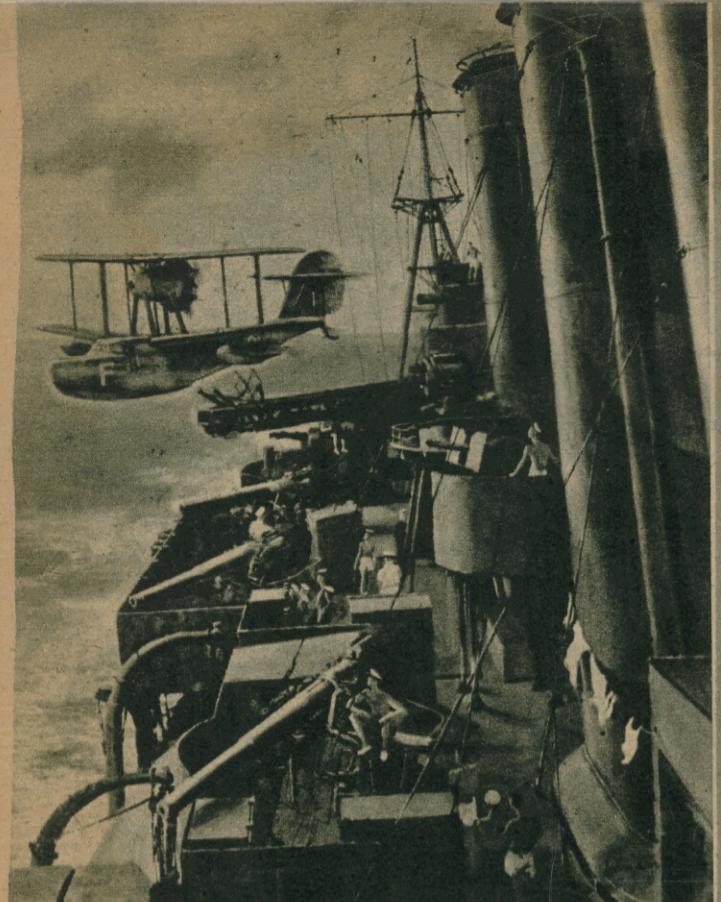
GORDON E. HOPPER (Lieut.)



"A MAN THINKING." By Sir Edward Orpen, RA.



"GASSED AND WOUNDED." By Eric Kennington.



"AWAY WALRUS." By Lieut. J. Worsley.



"THE ROAD BETWEEN ST. AUBIN AND BENOVILLE." By Capt. A. Richards.



"PRELUDE TO THE BATTLE." By Edward Ardizzone.



The shelter scenes which Henry Moore drew during the London blitz (left) are marked by the same insight as Goya's etchings of the drama and suffering which Napoleon brought to Spain (right) between 1808 and 1814.



"IN A DUGOUT, OCTOBER 1916." By Sir Muirhead Bone.

(above pictures by courtesy of Imperial War Museum)

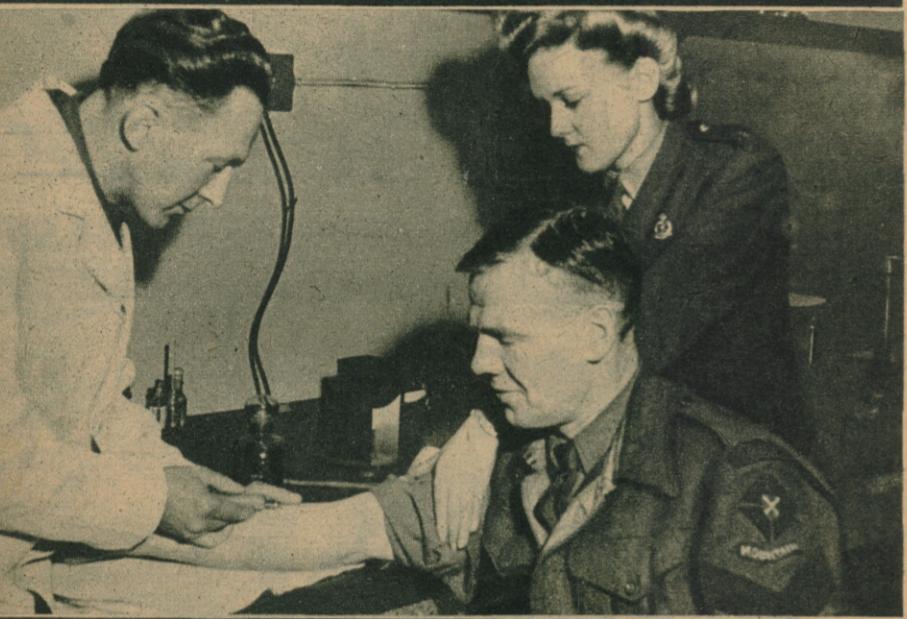
1939-1945

1914-1918

Cure for

But soldier "guinea-pigs" are still needed for testing new and perhaps even more effective remedies.

Destroyer of armies: the female anopheles mosquito, poised for a bite, may be recognised by her characteristic "stern-up" attitude.



Nowadays the hypodermic needle is used to inject test subjects with malaria. Cpl. James Garner is used to it. He took part in a previous series of tests.

Left: A typical volunteer, Rfn. Ernest Hartwell, of Islington, London, is aged 25 and is married. He was wounded in Normandy and downgraded.

Below: Artificial "ponds" in which test mosquitoes are bred. Tubes carry air to keep the water from becoming too stagnant.



In the sedate red-brick buildings of the Royal Army Medical College, off Millbank, London, 20 soldiers are risking their health and possibly their lives in order that their comrades overseas may be better protected against the scourge of malaria. These soldiers, unfit for front-line fighting themselves, volunteered to be subjected to experiments with anti-malarial drugs, though warned that the job meant infection with the illness and that their only protection against

MEPACRINE is known to the chemists as 6 chloro 2 methoxy-9.8-diethylamino-alpha-methylbutylamino-acridine dihydrochloride.

its development would be untried chemicals in experimental doses.

They were offered no inducement of any kind to volunteer—but they came. For three months they submitted to the doctors' experiments. Then they heard that there were to be more experiments and every one of them volunteered to submit again. That is why they are still at Millbank.

The story of the human guinea-pigs goes back to the beginning of the Japanese war, when most of the world's quinine-producing areas fell to the enemy. Until then a daily dose of quinine had been the Army's way of keeping down malaria. Suddenly it was faced simultaneously with the need for keeping large numbers of troops in malarious areas and with the loss of the bulk of its quinine supply.

The Germans had a substitute for quinine, called atebrine, but they had kept the method of preparing it a well-hidden secret. British chemists set to work to duplicate it, and in 1943 produced a drug called mepacrine, which they claimed was identical with the German product.

Life-Saving Tablets

But the Army's doctors had to be convinced that this was indeed the vital drug. Fifty members of the Friends Ambulance Unit and five of the Pacifist Service Unit—all conscientious objectors—volunteered as subjects for experiments. The experiments were a success and since then a daily mepacrine tablet has prevented thousands of troops, especially in the Far East and Italy, from going down with malaria.

Taken daily in small doses, mepacrine, like quinine, does not necessarily kill all the malaria germs that may get into the bloodstream, but a big enough concentration can, if it is maintained, keep the germs down, so that the patient feels no ill effects and does not even know he is harbouring the disease.

If he stops taking his daily mepacrine tablet the malaria may come up and hit him. The Army's answer to that is a "blanket treatment"—an intensive course of mepacrine when a man comes out of a malarious area, designed to kill off any malaria germs he may have in his system before he stops taking mepacrine for good.

But medical science is not content to rest at mepacrine. An anti-malarial drug should do three things: act as a preventive against infection, control the symptoms of a patient suffering from malaria, and prevent relapses. Mepacrine, like quinine, is only partly successful in the first task, very valuable for the second, but no good for the third. And so the search for new drugs goes on and a number have been evolved since mepacrine was put into general use.

Unit Tests Drugs

It was to test these drugs that the Army Malaria Chemo-Therapeutic Unit was formed by the Army and RAF—which has a malaria problem as great as the Army's. It is commanded by an RAMC major and consists of an RAF flight-lieutenant, a staff-sergeant, a flight-sergeant, three sergeants, a corporal and four privates. It works under the supervision of the Commandant of the Royal Army Medical College.

The volunteer test subjects came

THREE HUNDRED MILLION people in the world are affected by malaria every year and three million die because of it.

from Army Selection Centres, and are men who have been downgraded, many of them through wounds, and were unfit to return to combatant units. Three batches of 20 have so far submitted to the experiments, each of which has lasted three months. The first batch re-volunteered for a second experiment to last a year, and these are the soldiers who are now at Millbank.

There are four types of malaria, of which two are important from the military point of view—MT and BT, Malignant Tertian and Benign Tertian. MT is the more serious type, and BT is the relapsing type. For MT experiments the volunteers are split into four groups of five: two are used as controls, which means that they are infected with malaria but take no drugs, so that the doctors can judge the progress of the infection without the brake put on it by antidotes. The others start taking the drugs, a different-sized dose for each group, as soon as they are settled in.

After a few days they are infected with malaria. In the early days of the experiments infected mosquitoes were put against the subjects' bodies in bottles and allowed to bite through a gauze top. This method was not entirely satisfactory, however, so now the infected parts of the mosquito are made into an emulsion and the volunteers are "bitten" by intravenous injection. As soon as the malaria parasite shows in the bloodstream they are put to bed and watched carefully, but

usually they are not treated until they are seriously ill, as the MO's want to observe the course of the disease.

If a volunteer shows new signs of developing malaria he goes under general observation and is given a job—light fatigues or, if possible, congenital work. Thus a carpenter would find his way to the College carpenter's shop and clerks make welcome temporary additions to hard-pressed War Office staffs. Volunteers have no special privileges, except a slightly larger NAAFI ration of sweets and cigarettes, but they have some well-earned sick leave after a bout of malaria. Before the experiments start they are covered by special insurance policies, but no claim has ever been made on them.

Why They Volunteered

"We have been lucky," said the major in charge of the experiments. "We have never had a fatality or anyone permanently affected—but that doesn't alter the fact that the risk was there and these men took it."

Why do men volunteer for this dangerous job? The most common answer they give to the question is that they want to do something for their comrades who are serving overseas.

Thus Pte Arthur Shorter, 26-year-old machine worker of Purley, told SOLDIER's staff writer: "I have never been overseas. I have always been in a low medical category and I thought this would enable me to do something for the chaps out there."

Some of the volunteers who have been overseas and have been medically downgraded through wounds, like Gnr. Reginald Nash, 23-year-old bricklayer's labourer of Swindon, answer simply, "I have seen men go down with malaria."

Others, like Rfn. William Spinks, of Canning Town, who served in the Eighth Army in Africa and Italy and was twice wounded in North-West Europe, say, "I was hanging round camps doing nothing and thought I might as well be doing something useful."

Home-Bred Mosquitos

One volunteer, Pte. Peter Balfour, Black Watch, who was wounded in Normandy, has a very good personal reason for volunteering. "I'm particu-

larly interested in this sort of thing," he said. "You see, my father died from the after-effects of malaria he contracted in Mesopotamia in the 1914-18 war."

Malaria germs for infecting the soldiers who volunteer as subjects for the Army's malaria research come from the Horton Emergency Hospital, Epsom, where anopheles mosquitoes are bred in specially heated buildings all the year round. Mr. P. G. Shute, Assistant Malaria-ologist to the Ministry of Health, is in charge. Mr. Shute, who has been engaged in malaria research for many years and in many countries, has had so many bouts of malaria that he has lost count of them.

Dissecting the malaria-carrying glands of a mosquito is a critical job. Mr. G. Shute, who is in charge of the work at Epsom, Surrey, uses a magnifying glass and special instruments. The glands will be made into an emulsion for injection.

NO ANIMALS or birds can be injected with human malaria, which is why experiments have to be carried out on human test subjects.

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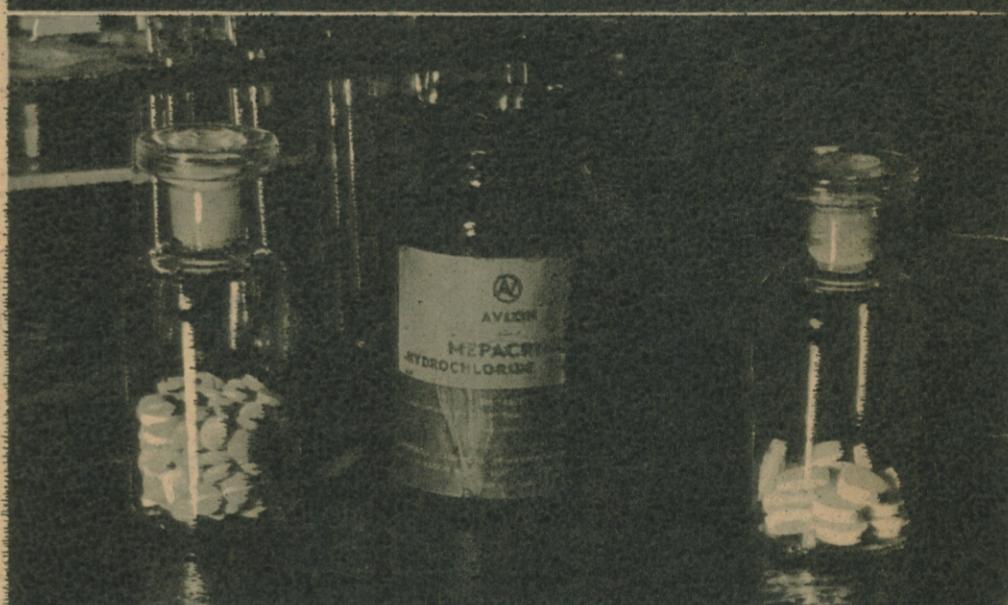
methylbutylamino-acridine dihydrochloride =

MALARIA

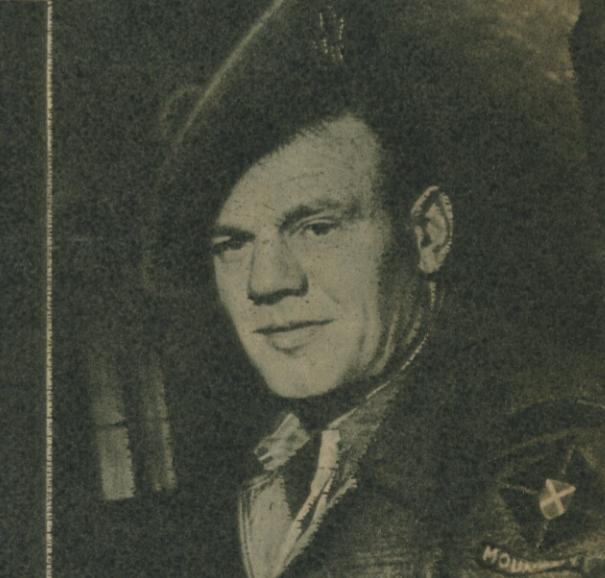


Above: Glass jars contain "clean" mosquitoes which are biting the arm of a malaria patient.

Below: Mepacrine with two of its rivals, both on the secret list and known only by numbers.



Cpl. James Garner (see opposite page), of the Cameronian Scottish Rifles, is a regular soldier with 25 years' service. He is aged 45, served in Madagascar during the war, and says, "If there are any more experiments they can count me in."



The GOLDEN GATES Are Open Again

says Paul Jevins



The crowd overflowing on to the pitch at the first Wembley Cup Final in 1923. Bolton Wanderers beat West Ham 2-0.

£
ENGLEN, Suzanne: the biggest tennis attraction of all time, famous alike for her play and temperament.

AWAY back in the days when Jack Dempsey whirled his fists, Suzanne Lenglen lashed that little white ball over the net on Wimbledon's Centre Court, Harold Abrahams burned up the track to win an Olympic sprint title, and the manikin we knew as Steve Donoghue booted home his Derby winners — away back in those days, I say, the sports customers believed they were living in the Golden Era.

Never, they argued, could there be just such another period in the crazy world of muscle — that world peopled by boxers, wrestlers, cricketers, swimmers, footballers and the rest. It simply wasn't possible.

Perhaps you are old enough to remember it all. World War I had not long been over. Men and women, still suffering from the hangover of the mud and the blood and the slaughter, were desperately seeking emotional release.

Sport was a way out. So, for a decade, the world went rocking into a mad whirl of pleasure. Everything boomed. Boxing touched the million-dollar mark in the States; people cheerfully paid £25 to see a smiling, sleek-haired Frenchman knock out an English champion in less than a minute; nearly 200,000 football fans scrambled into Wembley Stadium and tried to see the 1923 Cup Final; and queues were formed in the dawn before the turnstiles of Lord's and Wimbledon.

A great era for sport, to be sure. When it ended, as it did round about 1930, those of us who had watched from the sidelines and the ringside seats said there would never be its like. We were nearly right. It has taken another world war, anyway, to produce all the signs that a second vintage season will soon be on us.

sandwiches and soda pop. Anything that will sell at the fight will be sold, and there are plenty of people in the States waiting to pay the promoter for the privilege of being the vendors.

Mike Jacobs is to charge £20 for ringside seats next June. Not such a lot of money, relatively speaking, once you know £25 was obtained for a single ticket when Georges Carpenter knocked out Joe Beckett in less than a minute at the Holborn Stadium more than 20 years ago.

The London arena could only hold 2,500 people. Many paid 10 guineas to be allowed to stand at the back of the building. And the promoter cleared a round £31,000 at the box-office.

Even bigger money was that from the New Jersey contest between Jack Dempsey and Georges Carpenter on 2 July 1921. Here was the arrival of the million-dollar gate. It was the first of five in the history of boxing — and Jack Dempsey figured in all of them. Indeed, the old Manassa Mauler drew a total of 10 million dollars through the turnstiles for shrewd Tex Rickard, from whom Mike Jacobs learned the business.

Now, as I say, the record is set to be broken. Expect, also, to find this year that the £31,000 taken by C. B. Cochran at the Carpenter-Beckett bout will be beaten.

Million-Dollar Punches

Take the States. There, sitting in his office on Broadway, is a bald, shrewd-eyed gambler now ready to throw the dice for three million dollars, which is an impressive amount of money in any language. He is Michael Strauss Jacobs. Yes, the Mike Jacobs who leads the list of world boxing promoters on the strength of his brain and his nerve.

The dice which he will throw one night next June are heavily loaded. Weight to make them roll the way of Jacobs is given by Joe Louis, with his world fight title and terrific punching power, and dashing, handsome Billy Conn, whose left hand hitting nearly brought him a points victory over the champion in 1942.

Promoter Jacobs has a Louis-Conn return fight all nicely sewn up. He estimates that it will bring three million dollars through the turnstiles, thus surpassing the cash takings for the second Dempsey-Tunney fight in 1927 by nearly a million dollars — or about £200,000.

How will this money arrive? Most of it will be taken at the turnstiles, but Jacobs also includes in his calculations the film, radio and television rights, and the cash from concessions such as programmes, hot-dogs, hamburger

TEX RICKARD

The promoter for whom Jack Dempsey drew five million-dollar gates.

England's Test Captain

Cricket? The fact that the Lord's gates were closed when Australian Services played England last summer is sufficient guarantee that the official Tests against India will be money-spinners. The Indians have made doubly sure by licking the Australians good and handsome this winter.

Who plays for England? Will Walter Hammond captain the side? Where are our left-arm bowlers to replace the late and great Hedley Verity? Which men will do well enough to go into the team to visit Australia next winter? The questions are intriguing. So intriguing, that our summer game is due for its biggest boom since Warwick Armstrong brought his eleven to England after World War I.

It is much the same concerning Wimbledon. Australia is to send us her latest sensation, Dennis Pales; Pancho Segura, volatile Latin American with the Jean Borotra acrobatic-clowning tricks at his command, will

be there; so will William Moss, son of a Birmingham blacksmith, who may be the natural successor to Fred Perry.

Move to St. Andrews. The British Open golf championship is certain to be a grand show, the best since Walter Hagen and Bobby Jones were at the peak of form. Why? Because Byron Nelson, winner of £16,500 in last year's American tournaments, is to challenge Henry Cotton and Co. for the title.

Nelson is to go on a match-play tour with Bobbie Locke, the South African champion, and I anticipate they will draw more crowds — and more cash — than was the case when dazzling Walter Hagen was making about £25,000 a year from golf.

Thus it goes. Bringing up the rear, but in point of fact our greatest sport of all, is League football. All the pointers are that Soccer will return to promotion and relegation next season, with a real FA Cup competition to give suds to the good fare.

Dismal folk say the game can never come back to its old glory. That's nonsense! There is nothing wrong with Soccer that new blood cannot cure. I know this better than some, having watched the up-and-comers footing it overseas.

Soccer is certain to share in the sports boom, never fear. There will be "gold in them thar tills." Gold for all on the inside of our fun and games. This year is only the beginning — as you will see.



RYDER CUP

Renewal of the British-American golf series is promised. C. A. Whitcombe (above) was British captain in 1935.

How Much Do You Know?

- Who's Bessie Braddock? Is she: (a) founder of the Spinster's League; (b) a Liverpool woman MP; (c) the author of "Trees"; (d) first girl swimmer to eat a meal under water?
- What were: (a) Operation Barbarossa; (b) Operation Bartlecorn; (c) Operation Stork?
- Who were the two modern artists whose paintings have just caused a storm of criticism in London?
- The sentiment expressed in the following verse —

"I do not like the human race,
I do not like its stupid face,
I wish, when introduced to one,
That I could say, 'What jolly fun'."

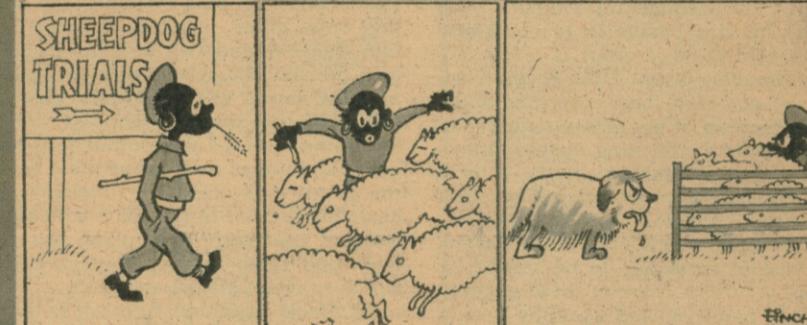
- are those of (a) misogyny; (b) misanthropy; (c) misprision. Which?
- Which of these is not a murder play: "Arsenic and Old Lace"; "Pink String and Sealing Wax"; "The Ringer"; "Madame Louise."

(Answers on Page 23)

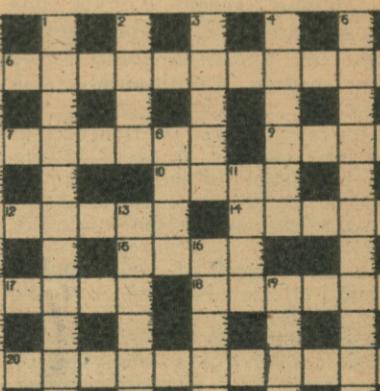
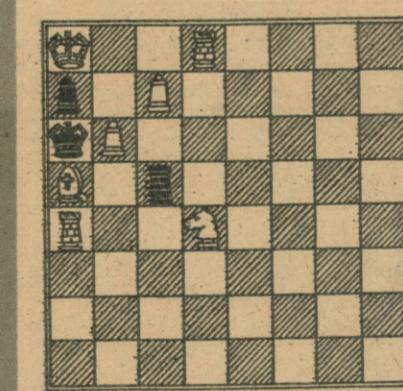


12. The men in this picture are: (a) preparing to submerge; (b) preparing to print; (c) operating the world's largest rolling mill; (d) working on the atom bomb. Which?

KID OGO ...



CHESS AND CROSSWORD



ACROSS. — 6. Traversed by those proceeding to and from SEAC otherwise than by air (two words). — 7. I slave to make some officer's luggage. — 9. The shape of the Po Valley. — 10. Would the 14th Army recognise this as the perfume of hot toddy? — 12. Ransack on return to get a seat of some sort. — 14. Dials to get a signal-lamp. — 15. You get no OK when in this sort of corner. — 17. Native groom. — 18. Merchant who gives little credit to REME. — 20. Lead-swingers.

DOWN. — 1. One of the PBI. — 2. — one of the New Zealanders. — 3. Notes get mixed somehow in the attack. — 4. Where troops may go when on a course, or course. — 5. 6 Dragoon Guards. — 8. Old battle gives us a game. — 11. Party mistaken. — 13. What a junior subaltern sports, an apple can usually go at least one better! (two-words). — 15. Letters from a home garrison town. — 19. Unusual combination of Gunners and Sappers.

(Solutions on Page 23)



"Escort dismiss"

He Had to Buy His Breakfast

A Field-Marshal's
First Day in the Army

REGIMENTS were still mainly composed of old soldiers who, although very admirable comrades in some respects and with a commendable code of honour of their own, were in many cases — not in all — addicted to rough behaviour, heavy drinking and hard swearing. They could not well be blamed for this. Year in and year out they went through the same routine, were treated like machines — of an inferior kind — and having little prospect of finding decent employment on the expiration of their 21 years' engagement, they lived only for the present, the single bright spot in their existence being the receipt of a few shillings — perhaps not more than one — on the weekly pay day.

Recruits were Fags

These rugged veterans exacted full deference from the recruit, who was assigned the worst bed in the room, given the smallest amount of food and the least palatable, had to "lend" them articles of kit which they had lost or sold, "fag" for them in a variety of ways, and, finally, was expected to share with them at the regimental canteen such cash as he might have in the purchase of beer sold at 3d. a quart.

It so happened that I joined the regiment on pay day, and accordingly the greater number of my newly-found companions spent the evening at the canteen — then a mere drinking saloon — or at the public-houses in the town. On return to quarters, if not before, old quarrels were revived or new ones were started, and some of them had to be settled by an appeal to fists. One of these encounters took place on and near the bed in which I was vainly trying to sleep, and

Here are recollections of soldiering in the seventies by the late Field-Marshal Sir William Robertson, the first man in the British Army to rise from the ranks to be a Field-Marshal.



The late Field-Marshal Sir William Robertson.

which was itself of an unattractive and uncomfortable nature. Argument and turmoil continued far into the night and I began to wonder whether I had made a wise decision after all...

The barrack-room arrangements for sleeping and eating could not be classed as luxurious. The brown 'bed-blankets' were seldom or never washed; clean sheets were issued once a month; and clean straw for the mattresses once every three months. Besides the beds the only other furniture consisted of four benches and two deal tables. The men polished their boots on the former, and the latter were used for cleaning the remaining articles of kit as well as for dining-tables. Tablecloths there were none, and plates and basins (paid for by the men) were the only crockery, the basin being used in turn as a coffee-cup, tea-cup, beer-mug, soup-plate, shaving-mug, and receptacle for pipeclay with which to clean gloves and belts.

The food provided free consisted of one pound of bread and three-quarters

of a pound of meat, and nothing more of any kind. Groceries, vegetables and all other requirements were paid for by the men, who had a daily deduction of 3½d. made from their pay of 1s. 2d. for that purpose. The regulation meals were coffee and bread for breakfast; meat and potatoes for dinner, with soup or pudding once or twice a week; tea and bread for tea. If a man wished to have supper or something besides dry bread for breakfast and tea he had to purchase it from the barrack hawkers or canteen.

— And Don't Squander It

Putting the cost of this at 4½d. a day, he thus had to expend a total of 8d. a day on his food, besides which he was subjected to a further daily charge of 1d. for washing. This left him 5d. a day or about 3s. a week, and even this was not all clear pocket money, for after the first free issue he had to keep up the whole of his underclothing, as well as many articles of uniform, and also supply himself with cleaning materials, such as polishing paste for brasses, oil for steel equipment, and soft soap for saddlery.

A beneficent regulation, recognising these drains on the unfortunate man's pay, laid down that in no case should he receive less than 1d. a day!...

Uniform was of a very unpractical kind, especially the undress part of it. This comprised skin-tight overalls, an equally tight "shell-jacket" cut off short above the hips, and a forage cap about the size of a breakfast saucer, which was kept in its place immediately above the right ear by a narrow chin-strap worn under the lower lip (never under the chin in the Cavalry, except on mounted parades)... Later on the forage cap became a "free issue" and was thoroughly disliked by everybody because of its ugly shape and abnormally large size as compared with the regimental pattern.

(The above extracts from F.-M. Robertson's "From Private to Field-Marshal" are published by permission of Messrs. Constable & Co., Ltd.)

Last Stop Brussels

AS I got in the Brussels train at Ostend, three o'clock one afternoon in September, I thought the trip was going to be another boring Continental train journey.

I was wrong. It was far from boring: That train stopped at every village with a population of more than two. Every time it did so a mass of shouting, pushing civilians exploded into the carriage.

At seven o'clock it was getting dark, and I attempted to doze. Suddenly I was aroused by a mass of arms and legs descending upon me. A group of civilians, looking like a family off to the big town for the evening, crowded on to the two vacant seats in my corner. When they had untangled themselves and I'd taken one child's foot from my pocket, I looked at them.

Next to me was a woman, obviously Mama, with a solemn-eyed child on her lap. He was sucking a piece of wood about as big as a pencil. When he saw me looking at him he stopped sucking and examined me with his mouth open and the wood in mid-air. Then he pushed the wood almost into my face, thinking perhaps I might be hungry. I gently but firmly put the wood back into his mouth.

Opposite me sat Papa, with a couple of big children on his lap and a wicker basket between his knees. The fourth child, a baby, seated on the floor, looked around, first at his mother, then at his father, then at the rest of the

family, then at me. When he came to me he started to bawl lustily. Mama seemed to be used to this, for she removed the wood from the child sucking it and pushed it into the baby's mouth. This had the effect of stopping his row for exactly two seconds; then the wood shot out of his mouth like a V. 1 taking off. He bawled again.

They had another remedy up their sleeve, however, for Papa opened up the basket and with the air of a magician inserted his hand and brought forth a healthy, full-grown, struggling chicken. Upon catching sight of this the baby's reaction was immediate. He stopped crying and started to stroke the chicken's head, first with his hand, then with the piece of wood. Then he began whacking it.

In the middle of all this the inspector entered the carriage and in the confusion of his shouting, the family's arguing, the soldiers' swearing and the chicken's crowing, I dropped my fountain-pen on the floor. I fished around in the gloom (there were no lights on) and retrieved it. Just at that moment the train pulled up with a jerk and everybody tried to get off at once. I found out that we were at Brussels, so I gathered my things together and went to the RTO's office. In order to collect some parcels I had to sign a form.

Wondering why my pen felt a bit wet I glanced at it.

It was the baby's wood.

K. R. SPARKE (Cpl.)

YOUR
First Day in the Army
PRIZES

ABOVE you may read a Field-Marshal's recollections of his first day in the Army — in the seventies.

What happened on your first day — and night — in the Army?

Did you share a double-tier bed with a millionaire?

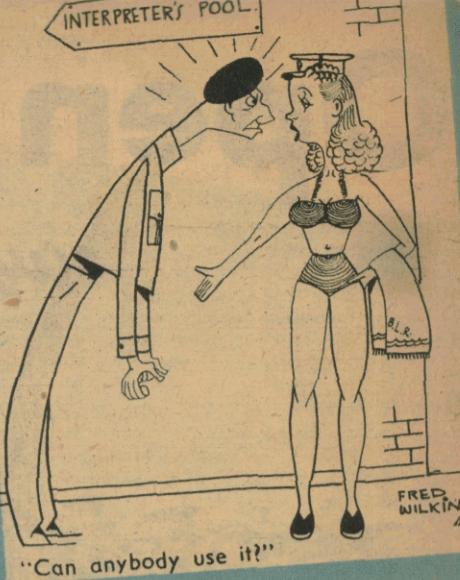
Were you the man no quarter-master could fit out?

Did you find yourself in the same squad as the old school chum who borrowed a pound from you 10 years before and never paid it back?

SOLDIER will pay two guineas for the best story submitted by a reader on "My First Day In The Army," a guinea for the next best, and 10 shillings for all others published. Stories may be humorous or serious. But keep them short and snappy.

No contributions should exceed 300 words. Address entries to the Editor-in-Chief, SOLDIER, AWS 3, 60 Eaton Square, London, SW 1, marked "Story Contest."

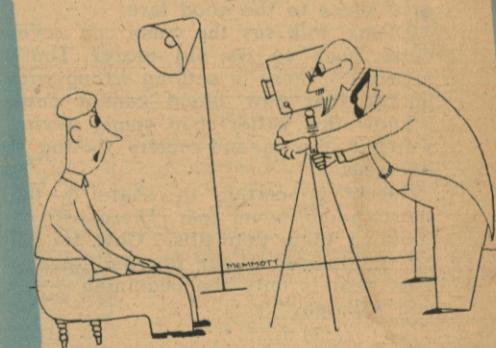
All entries must arrive by 31 February 1946.



BAOR Writers and Artists



"Which one of you chaps works in the QM Stores?"



"Smile, please." — "What, and me in Group 56!"

QUARANTINE KENNELS
FOR DOGS OF SERVICEMEN



"Which dog did you say was yours, Guardsman MacConachie?"

LETTERS

T. U. MEMBERSHIP

Before the war I worked for a private firm as chauffeur-mechanic; but, not having served an apprenticeship, could not become a member of a trade union. I joined the Army in January 1940 and have since served as a motor mechanic.

Can I, on my release, become a member of a trade union for that trade? If so, what is the procedure? — Sjt. P. Newbery, "C" Sqn, 49 (WR) Recce Regt, RAC.

★ You are eligible for membership of the Transport and General Workers' Union. On your release, when you have a job, you should apply to them for membership, at Transport House, Smith Square, London, SW 1. They will get in touch with your local branch. — Ed., SOLDIER.

THE KING'S ENGLISH

I have a criticism to level at the British Forces Network.

We get more than our quota of North American accents on the films, not to mention the American Forces Network. Surely it is not too much to ask for an announcer on the BFN who speaks the King's English, without an American, Canadian or — for that matter — a Cockney or Glaswegian accent? If it is popularly supposed that one must talk with an American accent to be "slick" or "snappy", then the sooner we British explode that theory the better. — Major B. E. Sykes, R. Sigs, 22 Armd Bde Sigs Sqn.

DUTY-FREE "RATION"

Why not start a scheme allowing each man who wants them say 50 or 100 duty-free cigarettes from the UK each month? This would help those in BAOR who want duty-free cigarettes for their own consumption without providing an opportunity for large-scale black marketing.

Consignments might be issued through NAAFI, who could repay the manufacturers.

As previous letters in SOLDIER have pointed out, it seems very unfair that the entire BAOR should be deprived of duty-free cigarettes because a certain element indulges in the black market. — Sgmn G. S. Plummer, 1 Special Wireless Gp, R. Sigs.

★ NAAFI reply: "It is regretted we cannot undertake such a scheme. In any case, the ceiling figure of cigarettes is controlled by the Board of Trade and the War Office. NAAFI issue has now been raised to 75 cigarettes a week per man." — Ed., SOLDIER.

PLUMBER'S POSER

I am in Release Group 34. In civilian life I was a plumber, with 24 years' experience. My former employer has applied three times for my release under Class B, but has failed because the Ministry of Labour say he is not engaged on Government work. There are several men in my company who are in Group 40 and over who are getting released. Yet their employers are not doing Government work. — Pte. T. Harley, RASC (address supplied).

★ A plumber cannot be released on the application of his employer. All Class B releases in this trade are made in bulk. It is possible that a mistake exists in your records and that you have therefore been passed over. You could ask your CO to have this checked. — Ed., SOLDIER.

CHURCH PARADES

King's Regulations, Para. 1605, state: "No officer or soldier will be obliged to attend the service of any religious denomination other than his own." Can he be ordered to attend the parade of another denomination and be given the option of waiting outside the church? — "Infidel" (name and address supplied).

★ The ruling is that, whereas you can be ordered to attend any church parade, you cannot be compelled to enter the church of a denomination other than your own. Accepting the idea that the parade part of a church parade comes to an end and recommences at the door of the church, the OD's in the parade will presumably wait at the church entrance. — Ed., SOLDIER.

ATS AND MUFTI

Can you explain why ATS are not allowed to wear civilian dress off duty



in BAOR, while they are in all other parts of the world? — Sjt. M. Pearson, 1 Corps District Sigs.

★ The War Office has ruled that ATS may wear civilian dress when off duty except when they are stationed in occupied enemy territory, where, for obvious reasons, such a privilege would be impracticable. There must, however, be one rule for all places in which BAOR personnel are stationed, and so, even if you were stationed in a liberated country in a unit of BAOR, you would not be permitted to wear civilian dress when off duty. — Ed., SOLDIER.

NAAFI WERE THERE

On page 4 of the Christmas Number of SOLDIER the following statement appears in the final article referring to Christmas 1941. "NAAFI was nonexistent."

To the best of my knowledge, a NAAFI service in Tobruk was available not only at Christmas 1941 but throughout the whole of the siege during that year, and it was not until the capitulation of Tobruk in June 1942 that NAAFI ceased to function.

NAAFI are rightly proud of their effort in Tobruk and the Western Desert, and while it is admitted that, through no fault of our own, we were unable to obtain sufficient supplies during the siege, it does not alter the fact that NAAFI were there, and the troops in Tobruk and those who subsequently relieved them were supplied to the best of our ability.

We have in BAOR two officers who were actually in Tobruk during the siege. One, Capt. Faraday, was relieved during the siege by boat, and I am confident that the other, Capt. J. S. Walker, remained there throughout the siege and for some time after it was relieved. — Major E. Randall, 13 Sub HQ, EFL.

GET YOUR SOLDIER REGULARLY

SOLDIER will reach you regularly by post if you fill in the form below. It may be ordered in bulk by Unit PRI's or individuals on a three- or six-month subscription, payment being made by British Postal Order or by cheque on a UK bank. Cheques and Postal Orders should be crossed "Command Cashier" and made payable to "British Army Newspaper Unit". An order form is given below. Subscription rates are:

1 copy	for next 6 issues	(6 copies)	1/4d
2 copies	"	"	2/8d
3 "	"	"	4/-
6 "	"	"	8/-
12 "	"	"	16/-
24 "	"	"	32/-

Note: (1) Stamps cannot be accepted. (2) BANU cannot undertake to post copies of SOLDIER to other than BAOR personnel. (3) Back numbers are not available.

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Please supply _____ copies of _____ issues to (Block Capitals)

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Enclosed please find Postal Order/Cheque for _____

Rank _____ Unit _____

Signed _____

THE TWO TYPES

BY JON



BETTER DESIGNS?

Is there any chance of the general standard of taste in British domestic architecture being improved by our enforced travels abroad?

While on leave I have been talking to a friend who is now taking orders to design houses for people to be built when building becomes possible, and he says: "It seems impossible to get people to buy decent designs. They are asking me for the same sort of thing that was popular before the war — eight rooms built in a red brick square and some imitation castle turrets or stage scenery stuck on in front as decoration."

When we first got to French North Africa, many of the men I was with re-

actual rates? — Gnr. E. Maidment, BD Sec., GHQ, 2 Ech.

★ These rates are determined by a committee made up of the members of the United Nations concerned. There is no difference between the Service and actual rates, but the black market in Europe alters the purchasing power for various currencies. For instance, if a man chooses to disobey the currency regulations he can carry the majority of his money into, say, France and sell it "behind the scenes" for a very much greater sum than he would obtain through changing it into francs in the normal manner. Needless to say this proceeding is illegal, since if it were done on a large scale it would affect the value of the pound. — Ed., SOLDIER.

Answers

(from Page 21)

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

1. A Liverpool woman MP.
2. (a) Hitler's attack on Russia; (b) Rhine Army's transfer of ex-Wehrmacht to land; (c) Rhine Army's transfer of German children from Berlin.
3. Picasso; Matisse.
4. Misanthropy.
5. "Madame Louise".
6. The office is vacant.
7. Newfoundland.
8. £1,100,000,000.
9. Waterloo Bridge.
10. Mental state of an accused person.
11. All America's gold is kept there.
12. Preparing to print SOLDIER.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS: — 6. Indian ocean. 7. Valise. 9. Oval. 10. Otto. 12. Stool (rev.). 14. Aldis. 15. Nook. 17. Syce. 18. Mercer (cr. REME). 20. Malingers.

DOWN: — 1. Infantryman. 2. Kiwi. 3. Onset. 4. School. 5. Carabiners. 8. Solo (Loos). 11. (mis)Take(n). 13. One pip. 16. Omega. 19. RA—RE.

CHESS

Key-move: R-Q, Kt 8.

TWO-MINUTE SERMON

The many young people who have watched the apparent miracles wrought by psychiatrists in healing battle-strained minds and, who, in their own search for knowledge, have read books written by men who have spent their lives studying the human mind are sometimes inclined to ask:—

"If all these new ideas are accurate, what are we to think of the old religious writers and the old religious ideas about human personality?"

But are the old writers, talking about "Sin", "Temptation", "The Devil", really very far from the psychologists when they talk about the effects of a childhood experience or the "unresolved conflict in the subconscious mind" that follows an experience in adult life?

The old writers described simply, but poetically, what they felt happen within their minds. If they offended against the code they knew to be right, they knew that they were unhappy. The psychologist describes that feeling of unhappiness in

greater detail but he has not changed its nature. "The sins of the fathers . . ." may result in an unhappy home environment which marks a child. But the child, according to the psychologist, can throw off these effects later in life, if he is wise and well-taught and helped.

The mind-scientists of today have gone far but they are still like a man who is stripping an onion, layer by layer. The mystery of human personality still lies, round and untouched.

As a famous English Archbishop said when challenged that his sermon to a congregation in a humble church was differently phrased when repeated in another place: "God reveals Himself to all men in His own way."

And the simplest of minds can understand the Christian philosophy, but it takes a trained and high degree of intelligence to follow the scientists, even when they are saying the same things as the Bible has taught for 2,000 years.

SOLDIER

THE BRITISH



ARMY MAGAZINE



Pte. Vera Nimmo, ATS

Why should we write a caption for this maid?

When Master Shakespeare said it all before:
"Beauty itself doth of itself persuade
The eyes of man without an orator."

ROLL IT UP
AND
SEND IT HOME



NAME

MAS J. HARPER.

ADDRESS

2, CROWN. VILLAS. LUDDERSHALL.
N^o ANDOVER. HANTS. ENGLAND.

As SOLDIER
weighs more than
two ounces, a
penny stamp must
be affixed here.